



Rulebook.

SEIB Search For A Star Championship Horse of the Year Show 2025

Could you be a champion this year?

The SEIB Search for a Star has numerous top show horses to its credit. Amateur only ridden classes for Working Horse, Working Pony, Show Hunters, Riding Horse and Hacks, Show and Maxi Cobs and Traditional Gypsy Cobs (all colours). Qualify for Horse of the Year Show.

www.seib.co.uk/competitions

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The Absolutely Genuine Company Limited. Registration No. 07221286. VAT No. GB124901241

SEIB
insurance brokers.

1. General

- 1.1. The Search for a Star competition (the "Competition") consists of a round of qualifying events held at various venues, with the Search for a Star Show Championship taking place at the Horse of the Year Show ("HOYS").
- 1.2. These terms and conditions (the "Rules") apply to the Competition. By submitting an Entry (as defined below) the owner ("Owner") and rider ("Rider") (the Owner and Rider each an "Entrant") named as such on the Entry Form (as defined below) agree to be bound by these Rules.
- 1.3. The Competition is organised by The Absolutely Genuine Company Limited (the "Organiser") whose registered address is The Stables, Moneys Farm, Bottle Lane, Mattingley, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8LJ.
- 1.4. The Organiser reserves the right at any time and from time to time to modify or discontinue, temporarily or permanently, the Competition with or without prior notice due to reasons outside its reasonable control.
- 1.5. The Entrant warrants that all information provided by the Entrant to the Organiser in the Entry Form (as defined below) and such other information that the Entrant may provide to the Organiser during or before the Competition is up-to-date, true and accurate. The Entrant must not provide any information which he or she knows or reasonably believes to be false, inaccurate or out of date. The Entrant accepts that the Organiser may conduct checks to verify the information that the Entrant has provided to the Organiser. Including through a competitors social media profiles.
- 1.6. These Rules have been developed to ensure that competitors in the Competition may compete against one another under fair and equal conditions. They cannot, however, cover every eventuality; matters that cannot be resolved by interpreting the Rules to the letter will be resolved by following the spirit of the text to obtain a solution that is fairest to all competitors in the Competition.
- 1.7. Paragraph headings shall not affect the interpretation of these Rules.

2. Submission of Entry Forms

- 2.1. All entries are online and the competitor must agree to the systems already in place. Entries for Riders under 18 must be made by their parents or legal guardians. Except for Entries submitted by parents or legal guardians of children under 18 years of age, Entries on behalf of another person will not be accepted.
- 2.2. By submitting an Entry, the Entrant agrees to abide by the systems, rules and regulations of the Competition and these Rules. An Entry for a Rider under the age of 18 must be made by one of the Rider's parents or legal guardians. Except for such an Entry, an Entry on behalf of another person will not be accepted. The Entry Form must be fully and correctly completed. Incomplete or inaccurate Entry Forms or Entry Forms that are received without the Entry Fee will not be accepted.
- 2.3. The closing date for Entry (the "Closing Date") is as specified on the schedule to these Rules. Subject to paragraph 2.5, payment of the Entry Fee for each Entry must be received by the Organiser in cleared funds by no later than the Closing Date.
- 2.4. An Entry must be made in the appropriate class or classes for which the horses or ponies ("Horses") are eligible. Except for an Entry made in accordance with paragraph 2.5 (which may be accepted at the discretion of the Organiser) no entries will be accepted after the Closing Date. No amendments or substitutions may be made to any Entry submitted by an Entrant without the Organiser's prior written consent (which may be given or withheld at the Organiser's absolute discretion).
- 2.5. Any Entry made after the Closing Date may be accepted by the Organiser at its absolute discretion if:
 - 2.5.1 the late Entry if submitted to the organisers by the Secondary closing date;



Immediately following qualification at the competition, a qualified rider must bring their horse's original Equine identification document (passport) to the secretary of the Organiser to be checked. The passport must be correct and in the name of the horse and owner on the Search for a Star entry form. Failure to comply with this ruling will mean disqualification.

- 2.5.2 the class that the Entrant wishes to enter is not full;
 - 2.5.3 the Entrant agrees to pay the Organiser a late entry fee of £20 plus the entry; and
 - 2.5.4 no entries will be accepted on the day that have not been pre-agreed with the organisers.
- 2.6. The Organiser does not accept any liability for any Entry which is lost, delayed, misdirected or incomplete or which cannot be delivered or entered for any reason
- 2.7. Unless the Organiser agrees otherwise, an Entry will not be deemed to have been accepted until the Entry Fee has been received and the Entrant has received an acceptance email from (or on behalf of) the Organiser confirming that the Entry has been accepted.

3. Disqualification and refusal of entry

- 3.1. The Organiser has the right to refuse an Entry for any reason and at its sole discretion, including (but not limited to) if the class to which the Entry relates is full.
- 3.2. The Organiser may, without liability, disqualify and prevent any Entrant from entering, attending and/or otherwise participating in the Competition immediately by giving notice to the Entrant, if:
- 3.2.1 the Entrant breaches any of these Rules;
 - 3.2.2 the Organiser and/or the judges of the Competition (the "Judges") have reasonable grounds to believe that the Entrant has breached any of these Rules; or
 - 3.2.3 any person who assists, represents or acts on behalf of an Entrant or who is in the employment of any Entrant during the Competition conducts himself or herself in such a manner that were he or she an Entrant he or she would himself or herself be in breach of any of the provisions of these Rules.
 - 3.2.4 Any person or animal that the Organisers believe to be a risk to the judges, themselves or other competitors.

4. Refund of entry fee

- 4.1. If an Entrant withdraws its Entry it shall not be entitled to a refund of any Entry Fee paid by it unless the Horse or Rider that is the subject of the Entry is unable to attend the Competition due to ill health, and, no more than 7 days after the Competition, a written application to withdraw the Entry is received by the Organiser and is accompanied with a valid certificate from a veterinary surgeon or doctor. The Organiser reserves the right to charge a fixed fee of £12 per class for administration costs associated with the withdrawal of the Entry and may deduct this fee from any Entry Fee it refunds to the Entrant.
- 4.1.1 Alternatively an Entrant may transfer to another venue if they are unable to compete due to veterinary medical issues. Transfers can only be performed once and if after that the Entrant, Horse or Pony are still not fit to compete no refund will be offered.
- 4.2. Refunds (less any administration charges) will only be paid to the person who submitted the Entry via the same method they paid. No refund of any Entry Fee will be given for any disqualified Horse, Rider or other Entrant.
- 4.3. Any Entry Fee which has been paid by the Entrant shall be refunded in full if an Entry is refused by the Organiser because the class to which the Entry relates is full.
- 4.4. In the event that a Competition is permanently discontinued in accordance with paragraph 1.4, the Entrant may be refunded (less any administration charges), but any such refund shall be at the Organiser's sole discretion (acting reasonably). The Organiser shall not, under any circumstances, be responsible for travelling or associated expenses.
- 4.5. Once a horse has qualified for Horse of the Year Show the Organisers reserve the right to remove an entry and refund the entry fee in full for horse and rider to Defender Burghley Horse Trials Racehorse to Riding horse competition, should they have entered Defender Burghley Horse Trials qualifier before they qualified for Horse of the Year Show.

5. Eligibility of entrants

- 5.1. This Competition is for amateur riders only. Any Rider who in the reasonable opinion of the Organiser is a professional may not enter the Competition and will be disqualified from competing.

- 5.2. For the purposes of the Competition, "amateur" has its ordinary dictionary meaning and includes any person:
- 5.2.1 who is not within the category specified in paragraphs 5.4.1; and/or
 - 5.2.2 who does not engage in the activities specified in paragraphs 5.4.1 and 5.4.3 and has not engaged in these activities within 10 years preceding the date of the Competition; and/or
 - 5.2.3 who does not advertise himself or herself as providing the activities specified in paragraph 5.4.3.
- 5.3. For the purposes of the Competition a "professional" has its ordinary dictionary meaning and includes any person:
- 5.3.1 who is within the category specified in paragraphs 5.4.1 and/or
 - 5.3.2 who engages in the activities specified in paragraphs 5.4.1 and 5.4.3 or has engaged in these activities within 10 years preceding the date of the Competition; and
 - 5.3.3 who advertises himself or herself as providing the activities specified in paragraph 5.4.3.
- 5.4. Without prejudice to paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2, no Rider or Owner within the following categories may compete in or enter an animal in the Competition:
- 5.4.1 Anyone on a show horses judges panel since 2015 (including carriage driving) that have been registered with or judged for any association, organisation, society, club or other legal entity involved in equestrian show horse competition (including any showing association or breed society) whether they have been paid or unpaid, registered or unregistered with the organisation they have judged for;
 - 5.4.2 anyone who produces, grooms, teaches, rides, schools or works with show riders, show horses or show ponies in any capacity for financial remuneration, or other reward;
 - 5.4.3 anyone who has ridden exhibited or owned a horse in any show class at HOYS since and including 2015;
 - 5.4.4 a parent, partner or sibling of a SFAS competitor who has competed at HOYS (but only in SFAS) may compete in the Competition on a different horse or pony if they meet all the other SFAS rules and regulations. Not open to parents, partner or siblings of a competitor that has competed in showing classes, other than SFAS at HOYS since 2015. It is understood that a horse or pony competed by a child or different sibling may be registered with the same parent if the child is under 16 years of age on the date of the Competition.
 - 5.4.5 the immediate family of a resident at the same address within the category specified in paragraph 5.4.1; and 5.4.2.
- 5.5. For the avoidance of doubt, these rules are specific to showing and any competitor engaged in any other discipline, for example, dressage, showjumping or eventing or equestrian business such as retailer, riding school, livery yard, breaking and schooling horses for another discipline other than for the showing of horses is eligible to compete in SFAS.
- 5.5.1 Entrants that have judged a show horse class at an unaffiliated local show may compete in Search for a Star, only if they were unpaid and the show was unregistered and unaffiliated to any other showing Organisation or Horse Show and does not provide qualification for any other competition.
- 5.6. A Rider must meet any minimum age restrictions for the relevant classes of the Competition as set out in the Schedule.
- 5.7. Competitors cannot promote or represent a company or individual as Brand Ambassador or by being their Sponsored Rider, even if no money changes hands since 31 December 2024 until after 30 November 2025. Junior Competitors (under 16 years of age) with Parents or Guardians who promote a company or individual through Sponsorship or as a Brand Ambassador are not eligible to compete in SFAS.
- 5.8. Once disqualified from competing in a Search for a Star class the Owner/Rider/ Horse will receive a lifetime ban from competing in the Competition. This does not include disqualification due to passport or vaccination issues.

- 5.9. All riders must be suitably mounted for the type/height of horse/pony they ride. Riders should be suitably mounted with weight including tack and clothing at or below the 20% guideline and they should fit the horse/ pony with the rider having a correct stirrup length.
- 5.10. Judges have the right to disqualify a Competitor if in their opinion the rider is not within or below the 20% guideline in rule 5.9.
- 5.11. Competitors that have taken part in the TSR Masterclass at Horse of the Year Show are eligible to compete in Search for a Star.

6. Eligibility of animals

- 6.1. The following Horses are not eligible to be exhibited at the Competition:
 - 6.1.1 any Horse produced in a professional showing yard although it may have been purchased from a Professional before January 2025. A Horse that has been owned from a youngster by the owner stated on the Entry Form may have been sent to a Professional to be backed and ridden away before January 2025 but the Professional must not have exhibited the horse or pony in the ring either in-hand or in ridden competition;
 - 6.1.2 any stallion or entire;
 - 6.1.3 any Horse that has qualified for HOYS before 1st March 2025, except in Search for a Star when the Horse failed to finish the class at HOYS in a previous year;
 - 6.1.4 any Horse that has been exhibited at any show by anyone the Organiser reasonably believes to be a Professional; and
 - 6.1.5 A Horse may have qualified for Royal International Horse Show ("RIHS") but must not have been placed top 8 in any class, including amateurs, before 1st March 2025 except for M & M's in UK Horses and Ponies RIHS amateur class at RIHS.
- 6.2. If a height certificate is requested by the Organiser or Judge, it must be produced to the Organiser within 14 days of the request.
- 6.3. A current valid Equine Identity Document (passport) or certificate of ownership (accompanied by the Equine Identity Document.) must be held for the Horse that is entered for the Competition, and must bear the same name as the Horse that is entered for the Competition and same name(s) and address of the Owner(s) named on the Entry Form. Every Entrant must be able to produce the original (or official duplicate) passport for their Horse to the Organiser at any time on request of the Organiser. Foreign passports can often be updated by the British Equestrian. Please visit: www.britishequestrian.org.uk/equine/passports/national-passports
- 6.4. The Horse must be up to date with all vaccinations generally recommended by veterinary surgeons and if the venue requires 6 monthly vaccination it will be up to the competitor to comply and to check the requirements. The Organiser cannot be held responsible for any late changes regarding vaccination requirements.
- 6.5. Each Horse must comply with the eligibility criteria applicable to the class in which the Horse is entered as shown on the Schedule to these Rules
- 6.6. Each Horse taking part in the Competition must be healthy and able to compete on its own merits.
- 6.7. All Search for a Star rules must be adhered to until and during the Competition at HOYS
- 6.8. Hunters must be shod all round. Horses in other classes do not have to be shod but no remedial shoeing or pads will be accepted and the frog of the horse must be visible on each foot.
- 6.9. Horses must be shown in a snaffle, double or Pelham bridle. In working show horse/pony, the tack cannot be changed after the jumping section and any suitable bridle may be used, except a running gag or bitless bridle. Excessive lever action of bits is actively discouraged and running gags, bitless bridles, fixed solid/ metal curb chains are not acceptable in any class. Any form of blinkers, amended bridle or nose nets are not acceptable in any class.
- 6.10. Only tack that is accepted during the competition can be worn in the warm-up.

- 6.11. Horses must be warmed up by the Rider that will compete on the Horse in the Competition.
- 6.12. If a Horse has qualified for Search for a Star at HOYS 2025 and is advertised for sale following or during the qualification and before the Competition at HOYS the Horse will be disqualified from competing at HOYS. The Owner or Rider of the qualified Horse that is advertised for sale will not be welcome back in the Search for a Star competitions with another Horse and will automatically be disqualified.
- 6.13. Any Horse liveried in a show horse producer's yard whether DIY or full livery is not eligible to compete in Search for a Star.
- 6.14. The eligibility criteria referred to in Section 6 applies irrespective of whether the Horse is owned, leased or on loan.
- 6.15. No horse may compete in the Competition that due to any infirmity physical or temperamental may be a risk to itself or other competitors.

7. Showground rules

- 7.1. All Entrants must familiarise themselves with any applicable rules of the showground where the Competition takes places and must comply with such rules.
- 7.2. All children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times whilst on the showground.
- 7.3. It is expected that competitors clean up after their horses particularly within the parking areas and anyone seen mucking out their transport vehicle onto the venue parking or not cleaning up after their horses around their transport will not be welcome back into the Competition at a later date.

8. Conduct of participants at the competition

- 8.1. All persons entering the arena must be smartly and appropriately dressed.
- 8.2. Riders and grooms must comply with the clothing requirements specified in the Schedule to these Rules.
- 8.3. Riders must wear hard hats fitted with a safety harness and to an approved and accepted British standard and correct footwear with a heel while mounted on the showground at all venues and at all times.
- 8.4. Grooms must wear hard hats at all times when in the arena.
- 8.5. Horses must be plaited except for show cobs that should be hogged and traditional/M & M types with full mane, tail and feather as appropriate.
- 8.6. Persons who do not comply with paragraphs 8.1 to 8.4, or are otherwise inappropriately dressed, and Horses that do not comply with paragraph 8.5, may be refused entry to the arena or asked to leave the arena.
- 8.7. Entrants and any accompanying adults and children must be polite and civil at all times during the Competition and must not conduct themselves at the Competition in a manner which is discourteous, offensive, or uncivil to the public, or in a manner which is liable to bring the Competition and/or the Organiser into disrepute.
- 8.8. It is the responsibility of the Entrants to abide by the rules of Search for a Star.
- 8.9. Entrants must not argue with the Judges or use abusive or threatening language or behave in a manner which is discourteous, uncivil, abusive or threatening towards the Judges, the Organiser (including any employee of the Organiser) or any steward or other participant at the Competition. Entrants who do not comply with this paragraph may be refused entry to or asked to leave the arena and/or disqualified from the Competition.
- 8.10. Entrants must not treat any animal at the Competition, whether inside or outside the arena, in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to the animal and, in particular, (but without limitation), must not use the bit, whip or spur in such a way as to punish an animal, or use a whip or spur excessively on any animal.
- 8.11. No person who is, or who the Organiser reasonably believes to be a professional may attend a Horse in the arena or otherwise assist a Rider during the Competition. This includes professional help with plaiting or turnout at the Search for a Star competition.

- 8.12. No Rider may compete side saddle at the Competition.
- 8.13. No Rider or Horse may compete at the Competition where the Rider and/or Horse are not in the reasonable opinion of the Organiser and/or the Judges fully qualified, fit or eligible. Entrants accept that the Organiser and/or the Judges may refuse to allow a Horse and/or Rider to compete and/or may ask a Rider to leave the arena where the Organiser and/or the Judges reasonably believe that the Horse and/or Rider are not fully qualified, fit or eligible or are unsafe either to themselves or to others.
- 8.14. The Organiser may (or somebody may on the Organiser's behalf) ask an Entrant to remove its Horse from the ring if the Horse is badly behaved or dangerous.
- 8.15. The Organiser and Judges have the right to disqualify any Horse which appears to them (acting reasonably) to be lame, over- worked, in distress or injured.
- 8.16. No Horse may enter the competition arena on the weekend of the Competition before the start of the Competition.
- 8.17. All class time and venues are for guidance only and the Organiser may amend these at any time. If there is a large number of Entries to a class the Organiser reserves the right to split the class.
- 8.18. Riders must declare 30 minutes before the published start time of each class at the Competition.
- 8.19. Entrants will be told the time at which they will compete at the declaration. The declaration will take place at least 30 minutes before the published time of the class.
- 8.20. Entrants acknowledge that Horses may be ridden by the Judges (at the Entrants' own risk) and/or required to give an individual show.
- 8.21. The Judge has the right to refuse to ride any Horse at any time.
- 8.22. Entrants must comply with all reasonable directions issued by the Organiser (including its employees agents and sub-contractors), and the Judges/ring stewards.
- 8.23. Any Rider who has had a fall or sustains a serious injury anywhere in the Competition venue must see a doctor/medic and be passed fit to ride before continuing the Competition.
- 8.24. No lunging is permitted at the Competition, anywhere on the showground.
- 8.25. No draw reins, standing martingales or side reins will be allowed to be used on the Horse anywhere on the showground including during warm up.
- 8.26. Cane not exceeding 30" and spurs may only be worn by adults. No rider under the age of 15 at the HOYS Championship 2025 may wear spurs at any time in the Competition.
- 8.27. No Rider may wear jewellery.

9. Winners

- 9.1. In this paragraph references to a "Qualified" or "Qualifying" Horse, Rider and/or Owner means a Horse, Rider and/or Owner who is placed first or second in the Competition depending on the class see entry form on Showing Scene for more information.
- 9.2. Please see the schedule to confirm how many horses or ponies qualify for the championship. All competitors will receive a rosette unless they are disqualified.
- 9.3. Judges will pay particular attention to manners and any Horse deemed not to stand quietly in line or during the prize giving may be asked to leave the arena. Any Horse that does not accept the prize giving in a mannerly fashion will be disqualified and rosettes removed.
- 9.4. Exhibitors are under the jurisdiction of the Judges until asked to leave the line, after rosettes have been presented. Judges should consider behaviour at prize giving and should take action if appropriate.
- 9.5. Qualifying Riders and Horses who are invited to attend HOYS must comply with the rules applicable to HOYS.
- 9.6. An Entrant (Owner and Rider) may enter more than one qualifying class at more than one Competition venue but can only take up qualification in one class with one Horse at HOYS.

- 9.7. If a Qualifying Horse and Rider are invited to attend HOYS but are unable to complete the class in the first round at HOYS they may at the discretion of the Organisers, and if the Organisers organise a "Search For A Star" competition on a subsequent year, be permitted to enter a "Search for a Star" competition organised by the Organiser on a subsequent year provided that they submit a letter with the new entry form explaining the circumstances and meet the eligibility requirements for that competition.
 - 9.8. A Qualifying Horse and Rider may be invited to compete at HOYS. Qualifying in a class in the Competition does not automatically entitle a Horse and Rider to an invitation to compete at HOYS. An invitation to compete at HOYS will be issued only if the judges consider the Qualifying Horse and Rider are suitable to appear at HOYS. For the avoidance of doubt, no Horse or Rider who might have been placed first, second or third but for the presence of the Qualified Horse or Rider, will be entitled to compete at HOYS unless invited to do so.
 - 9.9. The Judges' decision is final and no correspondence or appeals process will be accepted or entered into.
 - 9.10. If a Qualified Horse and Rider is invited to compete at HOYS, the same combination of Qualified Horse, Owner(s) and Rider must compete at HOYS and for the avoidance of doubt the Qualifying Horse must remain with the same name, the same Owner(s) and the same Rider as it had at the qualifying Competition and no change or substitution of rider will be allowed.
 - 9.11. If a Qualified Horse or Rider is invited to compete at HOYS but cannot compete at HOYS no cash or credit alternative will be offered.
 - 9.12. The Entrant accepts any invitation to compete at HOYS subject to the Entrant's full compliance that the rules of HOYS and entry to HOYS may be refused, or the Entrant may be disqualified from competing at HOYS, if the Entrant fails to comply with the rules of HOYS.
 - 9.13. Immediately following qualification at the Competition, a Qualified Rider/Owner must bring their Horse's original Passport/ Certificate of ownership/Equine identity document to the secretary of the Organiser to be checked. Non disclosure at the event will lead to disqualification.
 - 9.14. The Checking of Passports is a service supported by SEIB to ensure that all the information re: name of horse, owner and residence given by the competitor is correct as per DEFRA criteria, on the day of the qualifier. The checking of Veterinary records including vaccinations details and height certificates must be the responsibility of the Owner and Rider and is not the responsibility of SEIB.
- Immediately following qualification at the Competition, a Qualified Rider must take their Horse's original passport to the secretary of the Organiser to be checked. The passport must be correct and in the name of the horse and owner on the Search for a Star entry form. Failure to comply with this ruling will mean disqualification.**
- 9.15. At the absolute discretion of the Judges a Horse and Rider who have been placed second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth in the Competition may qualify to compete at HOYS if the Qualifying Horse and Rider have already qualified to compete at HOYS independently of this Competition.
 - 9.16. At the absolute discretion of the Judges, if a place becomes available at a SFAS class at HOYS, the place may be filled by any horse or rider (meeting the criteria of the competition) from any venue. Qualification does not automatically go down the line.

10. Stabling

The Organiser is not responsible for arranging for stabling of any Entrant's Horse. Entrants must arrange stabling for their Horses directly with their venue of choice or through the published link (depending on the venue).

11. Health, safety and security

All Entrants must comply with such health, safety and security policies as are notified to them from time to time by the Organiser.

12. Insurance

All Entrants must hold public liability insurance covering risks associated with their attendance and participation at the Competition.

13. Publicity and intellectual property

- 13.1. The Competition may be recorded and videos, photographs and other recordings may be taken where an Entrant may be captured participating in the Competition. The Entrant agrees to the publication of such photographs, videos, recordings and/or likenesses of the Entrant (whether edited, adapted, modified or copied) and their use by the Organiser and those authorised by the Organiser, without prior notice or compensation, in any way which the Organiser may see fit now or in the future including but not limited to film, broadcast, radio, TV, publications, social media, future events and publicity. The Entrant acknowledges that the Organiser has the full right to sell and/or profit from the commercial use of such photographs, motion pictures, recordings and/or likenesses of the Entrant.
- 13.2. Any audio, visual or audio-visual recordings that are made by (or on behalf of) the Entrant of the Competition or any part of it are for personal use and cannot be published or used for any commercial purpose without the prior written consent of the Organiser.
- 13.3. The Entrant accepts and agrees that, if they win, the Organiser may announce their names, age and town of residence on the Organiser's website(s) and may use the same for publicity purposes which may include sharing and/or using the Entrant's details with the press and the Organiser's PR advisers.
- 13.4. The Entrant agrees and acknowledges that nothing in these Rules grants the Entrant any rights in or to any intellectual property owned or controlled by the Organiser.

14. Complaints

- 14.1. If any Entrant has any knowledge of a Qualified Horse or Rider that does not meet the criteria for qualification or entry for the Competition, please email as soon as possible to: N MacKenzie at info@absolutelygenuine.com with your name, address and telephone number. Your details will remain strictly confidential.
- 14.2. Any objection or complaint must be made in writing, signed and submitted to the Organiser. No anonymous complaints will be actioned. No personal details will be disclosed but the full name, address and telephone number of the complainant must be supplied for the complaint to be considered.
- 14.3. Any complaint regarding the Competition at HOYS will be subject to the HOYS complaints procedure and no complaints will be accepted after the show has ended.
- 14.4. The decision of the Judges and Organiser is final and there is no appeals procedure or board of appeal for disqualified competitors to apply to.
- 14.5. By entering the Competition the Entrant accepts that if there is a complaint against them, the Organiser will not share the details of the complaint or contact details, name or address of the complainant with the Entrant.

15. Data protection

- 15.1. By submitting your personal details you consent to us using this information in the ways described in our Privacy Policy, which includes sending you emails from time to time about our business partners specified in our Privacy Policy, and from ourselves, including, telling you about offers, discounts or other information which we think may be of interest to you. You can opt out at any time.
- 15.2. Our privacy policy can be found at showingscene.com or by writing to us at our registered office address.
- 15.3. By entering this Competition, you consent to us sharing your personal details with HOYS, as well as the press, the Judges and Organisers of the Competition, and our PR advisers for the purpose of enabling you to compete at HOYS.

16. Liability

- 16.1. Nothing in these Rules excludes or limits the liability of the Organiser to the Entrant for death or personal injury caused by its negligence, fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation, or any other liability that cannot be excluded by law.
- 16.2. Subject always to Clause 16.1, the total liability of the Organiser to the Entrant for any loss or damage arising from the Competition or any breach of these Rules will be limited to the Entry Fee.

17. Governing law and jurisdiction

17.1. These Rules and the Competition will be governed by English law.

17.2. The Organiser and Entrant irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

18. Tests for prohibited substances

In common with other similar bodies, the Organiser of the Competition takes a very serious view of the use of Prohibited Substances (as defined below), whether intentional or unintentional, having particular regard to the safety of children and vulnerable adults.

Entrants should be aware that many proprietary feeds and preparations contain Prohibited Substances as do many foods such as chocolate. Prohibited Substances can be absorbed through the skin and they are also contained in some homeopathic and herbal remedies including calmers. It is the responsibility of the Entrant having custody of a Horse, particularly in the twenty four hours before the Competition, to ensure that nothing is fed, administered or applied to a Horse that contains a Prohibited Substance. Ignorance is not an adequate defence.

The Organiser is not authorised to give guidance to Entrants but the Organiser follows the Equine Prohibited Substances List ("EPSL") as published from time to time by the Federation Equestre Internationale ("FEI").

Where appropriate, the Organiser will adopt threshold levels published in the EPSL. Please note that the EPSL includes any other substance with a similar chemical structure or similar biological effect(s) as substances specifically mentioned on the list. All substances on the list, whether indicated as "Banned" or "Controlled", are prohibited substances under the Rules. Also prohibited are "metabolites" of the substances and "markers", both terms being defined below; save and except that Altronogest/synthetic progesterone is NOT a prohibited substance (e.g.Regumate) so long as it is not in Stallions or Geldings and that FEI Rules are adhered to:

(A) Use of Prohibited Substances

Any changes to these rules for testing for prohibited substances will be published on the website

- (i) Any Horse taking part in classes judged under the Competition Rules will be liable to Prohibited Substances Testing (as defined below) in accordance with the Prohibited Substances Testing procedure laid down by this Rule. A refusal to submit an animal for Prohibited Substances Testing shall constitute a breach of this Rule.
- (ii) The presence in the tissues, body fluids, excreta, hair or skin of a Horse of a Prohibited Substance (as defined below) shall constitute a breach of this Rule by the Owner and/or Rider and/or any other person within involved with the animal.
- (iii) **"Prohibited Substances Testing"** means the examination of a Horse by a duly qualified person appointed by the Organiser and includes the taking of samples for subsequent analysis of all or any body fluids, excreta, hair or skin scrapings at the discretion of the person conducting the examination.
- (iv) **"Prohibited Substance"** means any quantity of any substance listed as a "Banned" or "Controlled" substance on the EPSL as published by the FEI and in force from time to time excluding any quantity of any substance under any threshold level specified in the EPSL but including any other substance with a chemical structure or similar biological effect(s) as any substance on the EPSL and also including any metabolites of such substances and any markers. The terms metabolite and marker shall have the same meaning as in the FEI Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations as published by the FEI from time to time.
- (v) Any person who administers or attempts to administer or allows or causes to be administered or connives at or promotes or encourages the administration to a Horse of a Prohibited Substance shall be guilty of a breach of this Rule.
- (vi) The Organiser reserves the right to refuse entry to the Competition and/or to disqualify A Horse, Rider and Owner in the event that the Horse has previously tested positive for any Prohibited Substances following an examination by a duly qualified person at any other competition, whether organised by the Organiser or any other organiser, association, society or body.

(B) Sampling Procedure

- (i) A duly qualified person will be appointed by the Organiser to undertake the Prohibited Substances Testing.
- (ii) Prohibited Substances Testing should take place as soon as possible after the participation of the Horse in its class provided that it does not interfere with its programme in which case the Prohibited Substances Testing should take place as soon as possible after the Horse has completed its programme on that day.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the Horse whether it be the Owner or the Rider or other such person to supervise the Horse from the time of notification of selection for Prohibited Substances Testing until completion of the Prohibited Substances Testing. It is also the responsibility of this person to witness the sampling procedure and to sign a declaration to the effect that he/she has witnessed the collection and sealing of the test samples. Refusal or wilful obstruction by any person to submit a Horse for sampling or refusal to sign the abovementioned declaration is a violation of the Rules and will be subject to the same sanctions as a positive sample result.
- (iv) All samples taken on behalf of the Organiser will be kept in a secure place and dispatched to the laboratory selected as soon as reasonably possible after collection.
- (v) The sample must be divided into two parts hereinafter referred to as Sample A and Sample B. The initial analysis will be done by the laboratory on Sample A.
- (vi) If the result of analysis of Sample A is negative then the laboratory may forthwith destroy Sample B. The Owner or Rider will be notified within 14 days of the Organiser receiving any negative result.
- (vii) If the result of analysis of Sample A is positive then the Owner and/or Rider must be notified in writing by recorded delivery post and may require confirmatory analysis of Sample B provided that a written request for such confirmatory analysis is received by the other Organiser within 14 days of dispatch by the Organiser of notification of a positive analysis of Sample A.
- (viii) The Owner and/or Rider may request that findings be made in respect of particular matters during the analysis of Sample B on the basis that they will be responsible for all additional costs incurred whatever the result of the analysis of Sample B.
- (ix) Upon receipt of a valid request for confirmatory analysis of Sample B, the Organiser shall inform the laboratory immediately and the laboratory shall carry out the analysis of Sample B.
- (x) If the result of analysis of Sample A is positive and no valid request for confirmatory analysis of Sample B is received, the Owner and/or Rider shall reimburse the Organiser the cost of analysis of Sample A forthwith upon demand.
- (xi) If the analysis of Sample B is positive then the person requesting the analysis shall reimburse the Organiser the cost of analysis of Samples A and B forthwith upon demand.

(C) Penalties

- (i) If the presence of a Prohibited Substance in the tissues, body fluids, excreta, hair or skin of a Horse is confirmed by laboratory analysis carried out pursuant to this Rule then the result of the Prohibited Substances Testing shall be reported to the Organiser.
- (ii) The Organiser shall investigate the matter and decide within 28 working days of the date of notification of a positive Prohibited Substances test to the Owner and/ or Rider whether or not to institute disciplinary proceedings for a breach or breaches of this Rule and decide to disqualify the Horse.
- (iii) The Organiser may impose any or all of the following penalties:
 - a. The Horse shall be disqualified from any class, competition or championship in which it took part on the date of the Prohibited Substances Testing and any subsequent class, competition or championship for which it qualified on the date of the Prohibited Substances Testing and shall forfeit any placings, awards and prize money.

- b. The Horse shall be suspended from being entered or shown or otherwise taking part in any Search for a Star or Racehorse to Riding Horse competition.
- c. The Owner and/or Rider of such Horse may be suspended from entering and/or competing in the Competition or any future Search for a Star competitions.

19. Social media and internet policy

(A) Introduction

The Organiser acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and all other forms of electronic communication ("**Social Media**") and the role which Social Media plays in the day-to-day lives of Entrants in, and attendees of, the Competition.

(B) Using Social Media

- (i) You should be aware that the Organiser may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the Competition.
- (ii) Search for Star images are the subject of copyright and should not be used in Social Media save as provided in the Search for a Star website.
- (iii) You should ensure that any material that you transmit or post to Social Media is clearly stated to be your personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the Organiser.
- (iv) You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the Search for a Star competition, or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the Competition or the Organiser.
- (v) You must not post or transmit any material relating to the Search for a Star, competitors, former competitors, their horses, or which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the Organiser:
 - a. that is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress or inconvenience; or
 - b. which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of these Rules, or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in the UK or any other country in the world.
- (vi) Any breach of this paragraph 19 may constitute a breach of these Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.

(C) Disclosure Under Law or Regulation

You should be aware that the Organiser will fully co-operate with any law enforcement authorities or court order requesting or directing the Organiser to disclose the identity or locate anyone posting any material in breach of this paragraph 19. If the Organiser is requested by the police or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities to provide your personal information, the Organiser is entitled to do so.

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