



# RULE BOOK

## 2021

The Veteran Horse Society  
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Alex Williams, Ringside Stud

Alex stood Reserve Picton Novice Champion at the NPS Summer Championships 2019 with Christine Williams' Welsh Section D London Glamour Girl.

*Photo credit: Equinational*

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**All competitors, officials and judges are to abide by Veteran Horse Society rules at all times.**

*All rule amendments for 2021 are show underlined in italics*

### **The Veteran Horse Society Supreme Finals 2021** 3rd October 2021

### **The National Veteran Championships 2021** 1st - 3rd October 2021

Arena UK, Allington Lane, Allington  
Grantham, Lincs NG32 2EF

*(Incorporating Scotland)*

## A. GENERAL RULES

1. Horses and ponies shown in-hand or ridden must be 15 years old or over.
2. All horses and ponies must be in a sound and healthy condition. Any veteran showing signs of distress or lameness will be asked to leave the ring. The judge's decision on lameness of a horse/pony may not be contested.
3. The Society does not accept any liability for any accident, injury, loss, damage or illness to any riders, handlers, spectators, horses, ponies or to any property whatsoever and howsoever caused.
4. All membership, showing and dressage cards will be signed by the VHS Secretary and shall remain the property and copyright of the Veteran Horse Society.
5. Equine passports must always accompany the horse/pony when travelling or competing and must be produced on request.
6. All personal membership will run annually from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.
7. Show cards run annually for the showing season and are valid until the final day of the National Veteran Championships in that season.  
*i.e. 2021 showing cards are valid from 4th October 2020 - 3rd October 2021.*
8. Dressage cards run annually for the dressage season and are valid until the final day of the British Dressage Associated Veteran Horse Championships. *Please refer to the BD website for the qualification period.*
9. All membership/registration fees are non-refundable.
10. Please be aware that dope testing may take place at any show affiliated to VHS. The rules and policies of the show will take precedence over VHS rules.
11. All competitors in VHS affiliated classes must have valid public liability insurance, covering the veteran that they are competing. Personal insurance is also strongly recommended.
12. Excessive use of whips/showing canes or misuse of any equipment will result in immediate exclusion from the show ring. Membership will be revoked with immediate effect and no refund will be made.
13. Remedial shoeing is permitted and will not be penalised, providing the horse/pony is sound.
14. A show may only amend scheduled classes and/or judge(s) with prior approval from VHS Head Office and must provide public notification of the changes by website, social media and/or notices at the event. Unapproved changes will invalidate any qualifications provided at this show.

## GDPR TERMS & CONDITIONS

15. Entries to VHS affiliated classes are to be made directly with each show. By entering a VHS affiliated class, competitors consent to results including their name and their veteran's name being listed on the VHS website.
16. Online entries to the National Veteran Championships are made using a third party which is GDPR compliant, these terms and conditions are available on their website.
17. The VHS will hold your personal information within our systems for an indefinite period as a unique membership number is used for the rider/handler, not the horse. Paperwork will only be held for 2 years if membership is not renewed or additional information added.

## B. WELFARE

1. Competitors are discouraged from travelling or competing any veteran that has undergone any major illness or surgery within the past 6 months. Should they wish to travel and compete, written consent from the treating veterinary surgeon must be given stating that the veteran is fit to do so.
2. The judge will ask the competitor to leave the ring should the welfare of the veteran, handler/rider or any other competitor or official be compromised.

# **WELCOME TO SAXON DRESSAGE GROUP**

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*We welcome competitors of all ages and for our younger participants we run Junior classes at all our shows, which includes lead rein classes for those under 10 years of age and we have developed our own dressage tests for them*

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**COMPETITIONS FOR VETERAN / ROR**

**CONTACT KIM EVANS 07712484371  
WWW.SAXONDRESSAGEGROUP.CO.UK  
OR FACE BOOK.**

3. In extreme weather, the judge may stop the class at any point. It is advised that in extremely hot conditions, the veteran may be offered natural cover in the ring if this is available and competitors may remove their jackets, provided riders have long shirt sleeves and handlers have shirt sleeves covering shoulders as a minimum. In heat of 35 degrees or more it is expected that the judge may cancel the class for the welfare of the veterans. This however, is by decision of the judge on the day. In severe wet or cold conditions protective rugs may be worn in the line-up. Grooms will be permitted to enter the ring to place the rugs over the horse/pony, and must be appropriately attired.
4. If any horse is deemed to have welfare issues, the judge must consider suspending the class if imminent harm is feared. If the judge is of the opinion that there is a welfare issue with an exhibit, be it in relation to size/weight of either equine, rider/handler or any combination; or another welfare issue, the judge will mark their score sheet accordingly and may disqualify the competitor. There may be no appeal against dismissal from the ring for welfare reasons.

## C. SHOWING GUIDELINES.

1. All competitors aged 16 years and under will require a person with parental responsibility's signature on their membership application/renewal.
2. Lead rein riders (3-7 years of age). No child under 3 years old may compete. Lead rein riders are not to have attained their 8<sup>th</sup> birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.
3. Lead rein exhibits must be shown in a snaffle bridle. The lead rein must be attached to the noseband at all times during the class. Riders of lead rein ponies are not permitted to carry whips, with the exception of side-saddle exhibits, where SSA rules apply.
4. Lead rein handlers must be competent and must have attained their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.
5. Riders/handlers 16 years and under may compete in VHS affiliated classes but **must** be competent enough to ride/handle their veteran without assistance.
6. All competitors in ridden classes must be capable of walk, trot and canter (with the exception of lead rein combinations who are not required to canter). First ridden combinations do not have to take part in the group canter.
7. The person with parental responsibility for any child on a first ridden pony not wishing to take part in the group canter must inform the steward accordingly before the class begins.
8. Riders/handlers of stallions must have attained their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday before the first of January in the current showing year. They must be of an appropriate size and competency to handle the stallion.
9. All Stallions must display a stallion bridle badge.
10. Mares in foal or with foals at foot are not permitted to compete in VHS classes.
11. Competitors must be amateurs - horses/ponies must be produced and shown by a competitor who has not been involved with professionally producing for the show ring at any time, past or present. The VHS expects all competitors to respect this amateur status in the spirit intended. The VHS definition of a professional showing producer: A person who produces (including preparation and schooling), rides or handles equines for the show ring for financial gain. A person who earns finances from a general equine career does not apply i.e. riding school, livery, instructor etc.
12. Riders/handlers may not exhibit under any judge who has, in the past 3 years, had financial interest in that equine, or any other equine belonging to the rider/handler. This includes producing, riding, schooling, instructing, livery, selling, buying, breeding etc.
13. Riders/handlers may not knowingly exhibit a horse/pony which has been bred by the judge.
14. Late entries will not be allowed into the ring once the initial order to trot has been given.
15. Competitors may not leave or return to the show ring without the judge's/steward's permission. Where a competitor has been granted permission to leave the ring, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure they return before final judging. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
16. Any fall of horse and/or rider/handler will result in disqualification.

**Vikki Hayton MA BHSI**  
**College Farm Equestrian Centre**  
**British Dressage Chairman Northern Region**  
**BE Trainer BD Trainer and Judge**  
**BHS Lead Assessor and BHSI**  
**British Dressage Accredited coach holding the UK Coaching Certificate**  
**Level 3 (Dressage specific).**

Vikki is British Dressage Accredited coach holding the UK Coaching Certificate Level 3 (Dressage specific), Paras and Youth Assessor. She is also BD list 3 Judge, BHS Chief Assessor and FEI Eventing judge. Vikki has also competed to Prix St. Georges level & trained numerous dressage & event riders from grass roots to FEI Team Selection and Grand Prix.

Being a qualified teacher (Cert Ed) with an MA in Teaching and Learning completed at Nottingham University, she is able to coach riders with empathy and insight into the best ways of presenting information and guidance, with horse welfare paramount throughout.

Ready for some intensive training? Have you thought about taking an intensive dressage course? Come and stay at the farm, arrival on Day 1 with 2 ridden sessions (1st is a general assessment, session 2 working on identified areas for development) and 1 feedback session to include your aims and goal setting plus feedback from the sessions; strengths and weaker areas to work on at home with helpful exercises given, followed by dinner. Day 2, 2 ridden sessions; 1st session working on areas identified in the feedback session, 2nd session test riding plus feedback. The price includes stabling, bedding, hay and water, plus hook up for a comfortable stay in your lorry or trailer. Price £245.00

Preparations for BHS exams, Dressage Test Riding, pole work, clinics and general coaching available. Horses also taken in for schooling and holiday livery.

Also available for clinics off site, if 3 or more riders, otherwise travel costs are incurred.

Based at College Farm Equestrian Centre, West Markham, Tuxford near Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG22 0GT

17. The judge may disqualify any horse/pony from the class that is not sufficiently under control or is deemed a danger to other competitors or officials.
18. Should a horse/pony mis-behave during presentation of final awards, this may result in demotion or disqualification at the judge's discretion.
19. Mobile phones are not permitted in the show ring.
20. Judges must refrain from physical contact with any horse or rider during judging.
21. The judge's decision is final. Confrontation with a judge official or another competitor, in or outside the ring, is strictly forbidden and will result in disciplinary action and may lead to membership being permanently revoked. This also includes all social media forums and chat rooms.
22. Should a competitor be physically unable to trot the horse/pony up in hand, a runner may be allowed to enter the ring at the judge's discretion to do this on behalf of the competitor. The runner must be turned out correctly and fully compliant with VHS rules, including amateur status.

#### **D. SHOWING GUIDELINES (HORSES and PONIES)**

1. Horses/ponies that have suffered injuries in the past resulting in scarring or blemishes will not be penalised within the marking system, providing the horse/pony has completely recovered and is showing no signs of discomfort.
2. Discreet enhancement of natural features is permissible but it is recommended that use of makeup and body oils is kept to a minimum. Overuse may be penalised in the marking system. White scars or any blemishes will not be marked down.
3. The judge will not ride. An individual show is expected, this may or may not be set by the judge. Stripping of ridden horses/ponies is not expected at an Area Qualifier.
4. Galloping is not allowed in any VHS classes. Any intentional galloping will lead to disqualification.
5. Each competitor will be asked a brief history of the veteran by the judge, where ring time allows.

#### **E. SHOWING GUIDELINES (TURNOUT and TACK)**

##### **All riders/handlers**

1. Riders/handlers must wear suitable smart attire.
2. All breed exhibits may turn out in attire according to breed and type.
3. Foreign breed turnout and tack is acceptable in VHS Qualifiers and at the National Veteran Championships. A hat disclaimer may be required by the show.
4. Golden ticket qualification - should a competitor gain a Golden ticket qualification to the VHS Supreme Final, they may compete in the attire and tack they qualified in, with the exception of no spurs allowed. For full entry rules see National Veteran Championship Schedule.
5. Long hair to be neatly fastened and contained within a hair net. Juniors may wear long plaits but loose pony tails are not allowed.

##### **Handlers**

6. Jacket and/or waistcoat to be of plain colour or tweed.
7. Long sleeve or short sleeved shirt of a discreet colour with tie or stock.
8. Gloves should be worn.
9. Jodhpurs or smart trousers.
10. Suitable, smart and safe footwear.
11. No visible jewellery or piercings to be worn as these pose a potential risk of injury. Marks will be deducted if worn.
12. Suitable hats to be worn. No baseball caps.



13. Showing canes/whips exceeding 76cm will not be permitted (with the exception of Welsh Section D exhibits where breed rules apply).

## Riders

14. Spurs or spur bands may not be worn under any circumstances, including side saddle and foreign breed exhibits. This includes riding in before VHS classes.
15. Jacket to be of plain colour or tweed.
16. Shirt of a discreet colour with tie or stock. In the event of extreme heat where the judge permits riders to remove jackets, shirts must have long sleeves.
17. Gloves should be worn.
18. Jodhpurs to be plain, beige or canary yellow in colour.
19. Jodhpur boots or long riding boots.
20. No visible jewellery or piercings to be worn as these pose a potential risk of injury. Marks will be deducted if worn.
21. It is **mandatory** for all competitors in VHS affiliated classes to wear correctly secured riding hats to the current approved BSI or European standard, with the exception of side-saddle or foreign breed exhibits where relevant governing association rules apply. However, the hosting Show's hat rules will take precedence and may require side-saddle and foreign breed exhibits to sign a hat disclaimer, or may insist that safety hats are worn. It is the competitor's responsibility to check with the hosting show.
22. Showing canes/whips exceeding 76cm will not be permitted (with the exception of side-saddle exhibits where SSA rules apply).

## Grooms

23. Jacket and/or waistcoat to be of plain colour or tweed.
24. Jodhpurs or smart trousers. Jeans or shorts are **not** permitted.
25. Suitable, smart and safe footwear.
26. No visible jewellery or piercings to be worn as these pose a potential risk of injury. Marks will be deducted if worn.
27. Suitable hats to be worn. No baseball caps.
28. Marks will be deducted (max 10 marks) for poorly turned out grooms and they may be asked to leave the ring.

## Horse/Pony

29. Tack must be in good, clean condition and correctly fitted.
30. Stallions must be bitted. Correctly fitted stallion harnesses are acceptable but not compulsory.
31. No item of tack can be removed or exchanged whilst a class is in progress without the judge's permission.
32. Plain, discreet protective boots may only be used in very exceptional circumstances. Written veterinary advice to do so must have been given along with written approval from head office.
33. Boots may also be used for the jumping phase of Working Veteran and Style & Performance classes (National Veteran Championships)
34. Bits – any suitable showing bit is acceptable. A lip strap must be present if a curb chain is used. Bit-less bridles are permitted. Children under the age of 12 years are not permitted to use a double bridle or double reins but split reins or pelham roundings are permitted.
35. Should any form of tack not be recognised as commonly used attire, please gain written permission from head office and this should be submitted to the judge/steward on entering the ring. This may only be acceptable if it is for the welfare of the veteran.

36. The age of the horse/pony must be clearly displayed on the offside of the bridle. VHS age badges are supplied with showing cards in the first instance and are also available from head office (for members and non-members).
37. A correctly fitted Newmarket lead rein is permitted.
38. Nose nets required for welfare reasons are permitted.
39. False plaits and false tails are permitted providing they do not compromise the welfare of the veteran. Glue-in false plaits or glue-in false tails are not permitted.
40. Grackle, flash and drop nosebands are only acceptable in jumping classes e.g. working veteran classes.

## F. SHOWING MARKS SYSTEM

1. Conformation is not scored within the VHS marking system.
2. Both in-hand and ridden classes will be marked as follows:
 

a. Performance and manners	50 marks
b. Condition for age, suppleness and turnout	50 marks
3. In the event of a tie, the 'b' mark will take precedence.  
For the National Veteran Championships Supreme Finals please see also rule H(v)7.
4. Marks are only awarded for walk, trot and canter. Any other movements will not be marked (see also rule D4).
5. Over-weight or under-weight horses will be marked down (see also rule B4).

## G. SHOWING CLASSES

### Foundation classes - In-Hand

- CLASS 1F     **DIAMOND VETERAN IN-HAND** (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 2F     **VETERAN IN-HAND** (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 3F     **PRE-VETERAN IN-HAND** (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

### Foundation classes - Ridden

- CLASS 4F     **DIAMOND VETERAN RIDDEN** (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 5F     **VETERAN RIDDEN** (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 6F     **PRE-VETERAN RIDDEN** (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

### Foundation classes - Combined age (Area Qualifiers only)

- CLASS AF     **COMBINED AGE CLASS IN-HAND** (15 years and over).  
To be run as one class but judged as separate age categories: Diamond Veteran (25 years and over), Veteran (20–24 years) and Pre-Veteran (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS BF     **COMBINED AGE CLASS RIDDEN** (15 years and over).  
To be run as one class but judged as separate age categories: Diamond Veteran (25 years and over), Veteran (20–24 years) and Pre-Veteran (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.



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## **H. THE VHS SHOWING SERIES – (*incorporating Scotland*)**

Competitors living in Scotland may qualify in a VHS Qualifier situated in England or Wales and vice versa.

### **H. (i) Area Qualifiers (Round 1)**

Area Qualifiers (Round 1) are held throughout the UK, usually at local level shows. Foundation classes. Members and non-members may compete.

**Rosettes optional (not supplied for combined classes): 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> place (members and non-members)**  
**Regional Final qualification (red cards to non-members): 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place (members and non-members)**

1. Foundation Classes – Regional Final qualification will be awarded from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place in each age category (1F - 6F). This includes combined classes (AF and BF) where all competitors will be placed in the final class order but the judge will award 4 qualifications in each age category.
2. Should any competitor have already qualified, then qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum to 6<sup>th</sup> place.
3. Qualifying members carrying their valid membership and showing cards will have the Regional Final section of their showing card signed by the judge in the ring. This allows entry to any Regional Final(s) (Round 2). It is the responsibility of the competitor to hand the showing card to the judge in the final line up. No cards may be signed after the competitor has left the ring.
4. **Non-members** placed in a qualifying spot will be given a **red** non-members qualification card. This must be completed and submitted to head office, together with a membership and showing card application and fee. It is advisable to retain a photocopy of any card sent by post. A signed showing card will then be sent out with the membership pack, allowing entry to Regional Final(s) (round 2).

### **H (ii) Regional Final (Round 2)**

Regional Finals are open to qualified members only. Foundation classes. It is not mandatory for shows to hold championships, although they may choose to do so.

**Rosettes: 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place (each class)**

**Supreme Final qualification: 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> place (each class)**

**M&M Supreme Final qualification: Highest placed M&M (each class)** to be awarded at the judge's discretion. Must be a registered breed and hold a valid M&M Breed Society Passport.

1. To compete in a Regional Final you must be a fully paid up member of VHS with valid membership card. You must also have a VHS showing card with a valid Regional Final qualification signature.
2. You will be asked to show both of these cards to the steward on entering the ring and will **not** be allowed to enter without them.
3. No substitution of horse/pony or rider/handler will be allowed.
4. Competitors may attend up to 4 Regional Finals in any one year, providing they are within an acceptable travelling distance. If a competitor is seen to be 'chasing' Regional Finals, this may lead to their membership being revoked.
5. Supreme Final qualification – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed competitors in each class will each qualify for the Supreme Final and will have the Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the judge in the ring. Entries to the Supreme Final **must be made within 21 days of the qualifying show date**. Late entries will not be accepted. If a competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.
6. M&M Supreme Final qualification, to be awarded at the judge's discretion – The highest placed registered M&M in each class will qualify for the M&M Supreme Final at the National Veteran Championships and will have the M&M Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the judge in the ring. It is possible for an M&M to qualify for both the Supreme Final and the M&M Supreme Final. **Entries to the M&M Supreme Final must be made within 21 days of the**



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**qualifying show date.** Late entries will not be accepted. If the competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.

7. Horses/ponies will be stripped.

#### **H. (iii) Direct Qualifiers (Round 1 and 2 combined)**

Direct Qualifiers are a direct route to the Supreme Final. Foundation classes only.

Members and non-members may compete at these, non-members must purchase day membership.

It is not mandatory for shows to hold championships, although they may choose to do so.

***Rosettes: 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place (each class, members and day-members)***

***Regional Final qualification: 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place (each class, members and day-members)***

***Supreme Final qualification: 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> place (each class, members and day-members)***

***M&M Supreme Final qualification: Highest placed M&M (each class, members and day-members)*** to be awarded at the judge's discretion. Must be a registered breed and hold a valid M&M Breed Society Passport.

1. Non-members wishing to take part in a Direct Qualifier must purchase day membership from VHS head office, 2 weeks in advance of the show, at a cost of £20. They will then be provided with an age badge and a day membership card which they will need to carry in the ring. Day membership will apply to that show and that day only. Any day-member qualification signatures will be recorded on the day membership card by the judge. This card must be submitted to head office **within 14 days of the show**, together with a full membership and showing card application and fee. It is advisable to retain a photocopy of any card sent by post. A signed showing card will then be sent out with the membership pack in order for the qualifications to become valid for use.
2. Current Full VHS members are not required to obtain a day membership to enter these classes.
3. Regional Final qualification – Regional Final qualification will be awarded from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place in each class. Qualifying competitors will have the Regional Final section of their showing card signed by the judge in the ring. This allows entry to any Regional Final(s) (Round 2). Should any competitor have already qualified, then qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum to 6<sup>th</sup> place.
4. Supreme Final qualification – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed competitors in each class will each qualify for the Supreme Final and will have the Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the judge in the ring. Entries to the Supreme Final **must be made within 21 days of the qualifying show date** (day-members will need to become full members to do so). Late entries will not be accepted. If a competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.
5. M&M Supreme Final qualification, to be awarded at the judge's discretion – The highest placed registered M&M in each class will qualify for the M&M Supreme Final at the National Veteran Championships (day-members will need to become full members to enter). Qualifying competitors will have the M&M Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the judge in the ring. It is possible for an M&M to qualify for both the Supreme Final and the M&M Supreme Final. Entries to the M&M Supreme Final **must be made within 21 days of the qualifying show date**. Late entries will not be accepted. If the competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.
6. Horses/ponies will be stripped.

#### **H. (iv) Golden Ticket Qualifiers**

Golden Ticket qualifiers (in hand and/or ridden) are offered to specially selected breed and specialist Championship Shows at the discretion of the VHS. All Golden Ticket qualifying shows will be listed on the VHS website.

1. Supreme Final qualification – as advertised in the qualifying schedule, champion and/or reserve champion will each qualify for the Supreme Final and be awarded a golden ticket qualification card. This card must be completed and submitted to head office, together with a membership and showing card application and fee. It is advisable to retain a photocopy of any card sent by post. A signed showing card will then be sent out with the membership pack, allowing entry to the Supreme Final.

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2. Entry into to the relevant age category of the Supreme Final (in hand or ridden, as qualified), **must be made within 21 days of the qualifying show date** (non-members will need to become full members to do so). Late entries will not be accepted. If a competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day** to a maximum of 4<sup>th</sup> place.
3. For turnout and tack rules at the Supreme Final, (see rule E4).
4. Competitors must ensure they comply with all VHS rules before entering the Supreme Final, this includes amateur status, (see rule C11).
5. Should a VHS Golden Ticket qualification be awarded to a professional, the placing will stand but the VHS qualification must be passed down to the highest placed amateur. This may happen retrospectively.

#### **H. (v) The VHS Supreme Final**

##### ***Arena UK, Grantham on Sunday 3rd October 2021***

1. Entries to Supreme Finals must be made within 21 days of qualifying show date.
2. Entries must be for the same combination of horse/pony & handler/rider as per the qualifying rounds.
3. No substitution of horse/pony will be allowed under any circumstances.
4. Substitution of handler/rider may be considered in exceptional medical circumstances only. Medical certificates must be submitted for approval by the VHS committee no later than 7 days prior to the class.
5. For full rules and class formats, please see the National Veteran Championships Schedule, available on the VHS website.
6. Any competitor qualifying for the Supreme Final for a second time in the current showing year, with the same horse/pony, must hand the qualification down on the day.
7. In the event of a tie in the Supreme Final classes at the National Veteran Championships, the 'a' mark for Performance and Manners takes precedence.

#### **I. NATIONAL VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

National Veteran Championships hosting the VHS Veteran Horse of the Year 2021.

1st - 3rd October 2021 at Arena UK, Gratham, Lincolnshire.

This is a unique weekend of competition dedicated purely to veteran horses and ponies. It is open both to members and non-members and aims to provide a wide variety of classes which cater for all. We pride ourselves on creating a friendly and encouraging atmosphere for all to compete and have fun with their veterans.

Scottish Members are now fully included within the National Championships and all Scottish Regional Finals will hold qualifications to the National Veteran Championships 2021.

Full rules for the National Veteran Championships can be found in the schedule.

Schedule and entry details will be published on the VHS website [www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk](http://www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk).



## J. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social networking sites are popular with both members and non-members for communicating and sharing information and pictures. The VHS encourages the use of forums such as these in a positive, inclusive and respectful manner.

Inappropriate and offensive comments of any nature will not be tolerated under any circumstances - this includes inappropriate or disrespectful remarks about the Society, judges, members and non-members this will include comments about placings or horses.

Any person associated with the VHS; judge, competitor or otherwise, found to be making any such remarks in a VHS owned or associated group will be removed from the group without warning.

Any member found to be making such remarks in any forum will be subject to the VHS disciplinary procedure which could result in membership or association being revoked.

The VHS is a family orientated organisation and as such, full respect should be shown at all times.

## K. DRESSAGE

### **Associated Championships (Veteran Horse)**

#### **Full information available directly from British Dressage**

1. The Veteran Horse Associated Championships are run in partnership with British Dressage (BD). They form part of the British Dressage Veteran Horse and Rider Championships and will be run in accordance with BD rules.
2. The qualifying year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.
3. Veteran Horse Dressage is open to all horses/ponies 15 years and over and will be in split into two age categories: 15-19 years and 20+ years.
4. The levels included in the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships are as follows:-

Intro	Elementary	PSG
Prelim	Medium	
Novice	Advanced Medium	
5. Both horse and rider must be eligible for the level they are competing at.
6. Combinations are able to qualify in different levels but can only compete within two levels at the final Championships. Combinations must be eligible for Bronze, Silver or Gold sections for the level they wish to qualify in accordance with BD Rules.
7. Riders must be full members of the Veteran Horse Society and have a VHS Dressage Card in order to be eligible to qualify for the Championships (horses/ponies must be registered with the VHS in order to obtain a VHS dressage card – registration is free of charge).  
VHS membership / dressage cards can be applied for at any time. Early application is encouraged.
8. Combinations must achieve three scores of 60% or above at the same level to gain qualification to compete in the Veteran Horse Dressage Championship. Off shore is 2 scores over 60%.
9. Qualifying scores can only be achieved at regular BD affiliated competitions, Team Quest or My Quest fixtures.
10. Riders must have full BD membership (Club for Intro level) and horses must have Full BD registrations (Club for Intro level) to be able to compete within the Championships. To gain qualification you are able to be: Intro-Prelim Bronze: Club/Full/Ticket/Trial then Prelim Silver, Novice and above- Full/Ticket/Trial.
11. More information can be found on the website [www.britishdressage.co.uk](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk) .
12. For VHS related dressage queries, please email [info@veteran-horse-society.co.uk](mailto:info@veteran-horse-society.co.uk) .

## L. PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The purpose of the Performance Awards Scheme is to encourage and reward the capability and versatility of the veteran horse and pony by offering a wide range of classes and activities in the equestrian world. Cards will be issued up to 31<sup>st</sup> July of each year. Year 2020 will now roll on into 2021, due to Covid restrictions.

1. This competition is open to all horses and ponies 15 years old and over.
2. Riders/handlers must be a fully paid up member of the VHS. Horses/ponies must also be registered with the VHS.
3. The Performance Awards competition will run from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Those applying after the start date can only gain points from the date their membership fee has been received.
4. Any horse/pony sold during the competition may transfer any points gained to the new owner providing they are a fully paid up member of the Veteran Horse Society.
5. Entry is open to all VHS members, the fee is to be included with Membership or renewal of Show/Dressage Card and a results card will be included in your membership pack.
6. Extra results cards can be obtained free of charge by sending an A5 SAE to head office.
7. All entrants must register in one of the following groups:
  - Pre-Veteran (15–19 years)
  - Veteran (20–24 years)
  - Diamond Veteran (25 years and over)
8. Competitors must fill in their cards and keep total of their score.
9. Results cards must be signed by the judge/secretary.
10. Completed results cards must be returned to head office no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> December. No late entries will be accepted.
11. It is advisable to keep a photo copy of your results card before posting. Recorded delivery is recommended for your postage of the results cards. Please send an SAE if you require acknowledgement of receipt. The Veteran Horse Society cannot be held responsible for any results cards lost in the post.
12. Scores will be checked and results will be calculated.
13. The organiser's decision is final and binding at all times.
14. Winners will be notified by post by 1<sup>st</sup> February and results will be posted on the website.
15. 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> placed in each age group will be awarded a rosette and the winner of each age group will receive a prize and certificate.
16. Score System: Eligible events (photographic competitions are not eligible)

Veteran Ridden	Dressage	Show Jumping	E-Showing
Veteran In-Hand	Side Saddle	Working Hunter	E-Dressage
Ridden Showing	Horse/Pony club	Hunter Trials	Driving
In Hand Showing	Combined Training	Eventing	Le Trec/Pleasure Rides

Place	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6th
Points	6 points	5 points	4points	3 points	2 points	1 point

## **M. COMPLAINTS / DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

1. The attention of officials, judges and members is drawn to the complaints provisions of the VHS. Whereby the VHS has powers to discipline officers, judges, members and/or any competitor in the event of a failure to observe any rules and regulations made by the VHS or acts in such a manner that brings the VHS into disrepute.
2. Managers/Directors  
VHS Veteran National Championships - VHS Director/Administrator  
Membership - Membership Secretary/Director  
General Showing Complaint at any VHS organised / managed show – the Show Manager/Secretary  
General Showing complaints at any other show must be made in writing within 7 days of the show stating: name of show/date of show/VHS judge/full nature of the complaint together with appropriate fee (see rule M5)
3. Malicious complaints made solely with the intent to discredit another will not be tolerated. If made and discovered, the complainant will then be subject to disciplinary investigation themselves and may face expulsion – if a member then no refund of membership will be paid.
4. An official complaint should be made in person to the Manager as set out above, and he or she will endeavour to resolve the matter immediately. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Manager then he or she must put the complaint in writing to the VHS Head Office within 7 days.
5. The complainant should make it clear in writing to the VHS that the grievance procedure is being invoked and must ensure that the necessary payment of £30.00 is made at the same time (payable by cheque or card payment to VHS Head Office).
6. On receipt of the complaint the Directors and nominated Senior Representative/s will engage in a meeting and discuss the complaint. The VHS Directors and nominated Senior Representative/s will then deal with and resolve with the complaint within 28 days (or as soon as reasonably possible given the circumstances).
7. The complainant will then be informed of the decision within 28 days of the meeting.
8. If the complaint is upheld, the payment of £30.00 submitted with the complaint will be returned to the complainant.
9. The Directors decision will be final and binding.

## **N. NEW JUDGES APPLICATIONS**

We welcome and encourage all new judge applications. From those with an extensive level of showing knowledge and experience, to those who have a passion and interest in veteran horses.

To apply to join the VHS Judges Panel, please send a completed application by email or post to *the VHS Judges Co-ordinator to the address stated on the application form.*

The minimum age requirement for full VHS panel judge status is 21 years. Applications are accepted from potential judges from 18 years of age to become a trainee VHS panel judge whereby they can begin supervised judging with a view to applying for full panel judge status on the year of their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

More information and application forms can be found on our website [www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk](http://www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk).

## O. JUDGES RULES & GUIDELINES

1. All judges must be members of the VHS judges panel.  
Judges' membership runs annually from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. Renewals are due 1<sup>st</sup> December of each year, with applicable fee. Late renewals will incur a late payment fee and any judge not renewed for a period of 2 years or more will be required to attend a judge's assessment.
2. All judges will receive an updated judges pack at the beginning of the year containing the following:
  - Rulebook
  - VHS stewards guidelines (to hand to their steward)
  - VHS score sheet (as an example).
3. Judges must acquaint themselves with all aspects of the VHS rulebook and keep their copy of it with them for reference during the show.
4. It is the judge's responsibility to ensure that all VHS rules are adhered to.
5. Judges must not request or allow galloping in any instance in the class. Any intentional galloping must result in immediate disqualification.
6. The VHS reserves the right to remove from the panel any judge found to be guilty of misconduct. This includes making inappropriate comments on social media sites.
7. Judges are required to wear suitable smart attire whilst carrying out their VHS responsibilities.
8. Judges are requested to arrive at the show at least 30 minutes prior to the class starting, to acquaint themselves with the steward and ensure the steward is familiar with VHS rules and qualification cards. This has also been included in the stewards guidelines which will be sent to all shows.
9. If you accept a judging appointment, please do your best to keep it. If you do have to cancel for whatever reason, please make sure that when you contact the show you are able to give them the name, address and telephone number of an alternative judge who is willing to take your place. You must also inform head office.
10. Judges must not knowingly judge any veteran that has been bred by them or that they have had a financial interest in during the past 3 years, (see rules C12 and C13).
11. B panel judges are eligible to judge at Area Qualifier level only. A or A\* panel judges are eligible to judge at any level.
12. Assessments and upgrades for the 2021/2022 please visit [www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk](http://www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk) for further updated information.
13. Any potential judge that is required to probation will be provided with a list of A / A\* judges. The probationer must contact judges to do their probationing with, depending on how many probations are required. It is also the responsibility of the probationer to contact the show secretary for permission to accompany the listed judge on the day. Probations must be completed within a maximum of 2 years.
14. Judges may not judge more than three Direct Qualifiers / Regional Finals in any one year.
15. Judges invited to judge the Supreme Finals may only judge at Area level for that year.
16. Judges may not judge more than 3 shows for the same organisation (e.g. a particular Riding Club) in any one year.
17. Judges may not judge or compete in VHS classes at a show for which they hold a position of show secretary or similar.
18. Judges must have attended a minimum of one VHS judges conference within the past four years (for this year only) in order to remain on the panel.

## **WELFARE**

19. It is paramount that the welfare of the veteran is given full consideration at all times, (see Section B)

## **MARKING SYSTEM**

20. Judges are required to ask a brief history of each veteran and take this into account when marking.
21. Conformation is not scored within the VHS marking system.
22. Both in-hand and ridden classes will be marked as follows:
- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| a. Performance and manners                   | 50 marks |
| b. Condition for age, suppleness and turnout | 50 marks |
23. In the event of a tie, the 'b' mark will take precedence.  
For the National Veteran Championships Supreme Finals please see also rule H(v)7.
24. Marks are only awarded for walk, trot and canter. Any other movements will not be marked (see rule D4).
25. No half marks allowed.
26. Any marks noted incorrectly/inadvertently by the steward may be adjusted and must be signed/initialled by the judge.
27. Over-weight or under-weight horses should be marked down (see also rule F5).
28. Scars or blemishes will not be penalised (see also rule D1).
29. Makeup and oils - Discreet enhancement of natural features is permissible. Overuse may be penalised in the marking system (see also rule D2).
30. Marks are to be deducted for poorly turned out grooms (max 10 marks), see section E for turnout guidelines.
31. Score sheets must be completed clearly, dated and signed by the judge for all classes at all shows. These must then handed back to the show secretary for return to VHS head office.
32. It is the judge's responsibility to ensure all appropriate rosettes qualifications are awarded (see section H for details). Please remember to ask competitors if they have already qualified and hand qualification down the line as appropriate.
33. Area Qualifiers – red qualification cards must have class type and position circled on the card and be signed and dated by the judge. Competitor details may be filled out by the competitor after the class.
34. Regional Finals and Direct Qualifiers – show cards must be signed **in the ring** for qualification to be valid. No card in the ring means no qualification. Please ensure you remember to ask your steward to check competitors have their show cards on them when they enter the ring to avoid problems in the final line up.

## **P. VIRTUAL SHOWING**

1. In the event of the Society hosting virtual qualifiers, full VHS rules must be adhered to. Any additional rules will be stated on the website or related Social Media pages.

THE VETERAN  
HORSE SOCIETY

NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

2021

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