



Welsh Pony and Cob Society Young Judges Competition Support Document



Competitors should make every effort to familiarise themselves with the format of the competition and the specific skills being assessed. Many Associations organise training sessions where potential competitors can learn and develop the skills and also undertake interview practice. It is not sufficient to just place the animals in a preferred order, but competitors must be able to give reasons for their placings when interviewed. The interview will also contain set questions.

How does the competition work?

A maximum of 100 marks is awarded by the assessors as follows:

- 25 marks for competitor's placing *
- 40 marks for competitor's accuracy and observation
- 25 marks for competitor's comparative rather than descriptive comment
- 10 marks for competitor's interview presentation

** (The 25 marks for placing will be derived from the scoring system commonly used within Young Farmers competitions **however please note the interview will not follow the usual Young Farmers format.**)*

Competitors will be scored by the assessors on their ability to:

- describe type, conformation and movement of the animals using appropriate terminology
- compare animals in terms of conformation, type and movement
- give constructive reasons for their decisions
- communicate their judgement of the animals in a coherent manner.

A score card will be provided and there is tear off part for competitor's individual comments; however, it is recommended that competitors bring a clip board and paper for their use and remember a spare pen or pencil. The score cards will be collected but all notes remain with the competitor; everyone is encouraged to use their notes in the interview.

What happens on the day?

Competitors should arrive by 12.45pm for registration ready to start the competition at 1:00pm. On arrival all competitors must register with the steward. They will be briefed by the steward and the assessors introduced to the competitors. Competitors will be issued with their score card. Please note that this session is for competitors only and family and friends will not be able to be present in the area but will have a separate area allocated for the duration of the competition should they wish to stay. Health and safety issues remain a top priority for the organisers. At no stage should competitors handle the ponies and at all times they must follow the direction of the steward in charge.

The Judging

The steward will escort all the competitors and the assessors to the centre of the judging ring. The Competition will run as an in-hand showing class for four Welsh Part Breds. The equines will be identified by letters A, B, X or Y. No competitor will be allowed to talk to anyone outside the ring during the judging. The Assessors will view the ponies at the same time as the competitors.

Competitors will observe the animals in walk before each pony is trotted. The ponies will be lined up. Competitors will be divided into groups and each group will have approximately 2 minutes to view each pony. The animals will then walk away and trot back. This procedure will be repeated until each group has assessed all the ponies. The ponies will then be walked as a class and the competitors will mark their placings 1st to 4th on the score card using A, B, X and Y before handing it to the steward. A presentation will be made to the handlers supplying the part bred and a group photograph taken before the competitors leave the ring and return indoors.

The Interview

Competitors will then be interviewed individually in a previously drawn order and interviews will last for approximately five minutes. It is important that all competitors are treated fairly and that includes having the same amount of time. One assessor will start interviewing the 14 -17 years group while the other will interview the 10 -13 years group before moving on to the 18 - 21 years and 22-25 years group. The Assessor will have the competitor's score card with the placings; assessors will question competitors on their placings and their observations on the ponies forward. During the interview the assessor will be accompanied by a timekeeper whose sole responsibility is to advise the assessor on the timing of the interviews. Once a competitor has completed their interview, they are free to go but will be required later for the presentation.

After each interview the Assessor will complete the competitor's score card awarding scores for each of the elements. The total scores awarded will be the basis for the placings; should two or more competitors tie on marks then the final decision will lie with the assessor. For the overall award assessors will confer and may ask to interview some of the competitors again.

The Presentation of Awards

The presentation of awards will be made on the showground at around 6.00pm where friends and family will be warmly welcomed. The presentation is part of the competition and competitors should remain dressed as they were earlier – casual wear would not be appropriate.

Prior to the presentation the assessors will give their placings of the ponies and their reasons. Score cards will be returned to the competitors and the assessors will be available after to answer any competitor's questions on an individual basis. Competitors are encouraged to ask the assessors any questions which will help them in their development as judges.

The Young Judge of the Year is also welcomed to accompany a judge the following day.

Need further help or information?

The Welsh Associations have been a backbone of this competition through training, assessing and encouraging young people to take part. In a recent development, the competition was widened to include young people from overseas and also those not involved with an Association who can now enter on an individual basis. Some competitors might not readily have access to training and support, and they may find the following publications helpful:

WPCS Judging Welsh Ponies and Cobs Conference 2008 DVD

WPCS Judging and Showing Handbook 2023 (this can be found on the society website)

An Introduction to Welsh Ponies and Cobs – Wynne Davies (Chapters 1 and 7)

Any further requests for support should be addressed in the first instance through the WPCS Office.