



***AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
SADDLEHORSE ASSOCIATION
(ANSA) INC.***

***Rules, Regulations, Panel,
Selection, Validation and
Guidelines***

REVISED- 24th July 2024

Aims of A.N.S.A.

- To promote the breeding and recognise the qualities of the saddlehorse.
- To further the objectives of the Association and to promote the improvement and popularity of saddlehorses in Australia and elsewhere.
- To promote in any way whatsoever the interests of breeders and owners of ANSA horses.
- To adopt such means of making known the objects and benefits of the Association as may seem expedient.
- To compile, print and publish whenever considered desirable any registers of, or relating to ANSA horses including foal recordings, transfers or any other ancillary records considered necessary.
- In furtherance of the objects of the Association, to support and assist in the progress and development of any agricultural show, to promote competition, to award prizes and to make contributions for that purpose.
- To appoint judges for and maintain a list of persons competent to act as judges for the Association at any show whether promoted or sponsored by the Association or otherwise.
- To hold and promote shows, exhibitions, or sales of ANSA horses and to offer prizes in respect of competition between ANSA horses or between ANSA horses and other breeds or cross breeds.

All ANSA shows are closed to members, ANSA registered horses and ANSA accredited judges. The program should cater for all categories with slight variations to suit localities and with ANSA Judges.

1. Membership

- All Riders and Handlers in ANSA Classes at all shows, Royal Agricultural Shows; Championships and State Titles need to be financial members on the day of nominating and on the day(s) of these events

a) Adult Membership:

- An Individual 18 years and over.
- Eligible to register/ transfer/ Compete ANSA horses & eligible to vote.

b) Youth Membership:

- Individual under 18 years.
- Eligible to register/ transfer/ compete ANSA horses. NOT eligible to vote.

c) Family Membership:

- For direct family members only. Two Adults (Partners) & up to four Youth (under 18 years) residing at the same address. Partners of under 18-year Youth are not to be included
- With one elected nominee eligible to vote.
- Eligible to register/ transfer/ Compete ANSA horses, eligible to vote.

d) Honorary Life Membership:

- An Individual 18 years & over (if individual is in a Family membership it is only the individual in receipt of the life membership)
- Eligible to register/ transfer/ Compete ANSA horses & eligible to vote.

2. What is an ANSA Horse

a) Registration

Horses must be registered with ANSA to compete in ANSA classes at any show.

b) Type and Conformation

- Soundness is paramount.
- Strong functional conformation should be visibly evident reflecting good breeding and free from hereditary defects.
- There should be no signs of coarseness or commonness.
- Good straight even gait
- They must have the characteristics to produce a comfortable and pleasurable ride.
- Versatility is highly valued and encouraged.
- Over 14hh

c) Registration– to be eligible for ANSA Competition:

- Horses presenting for all ANSA competition are to be registered with ANSA from the age of 2 years or Foal Recorded.

d) Two ways for a horse to be registered.

- Foal recorded – progeny of ANSA Registered horses. Foal recorded registration ceases when the foal is recognised as being 4 years of age.
- Inspection by Classifier or video sent for classification with classifier or office
- For more information pertaining to the classification and registration of ANSA Horses consult the 'Classification of ANSA Horses' document.

e) Judging criteria

- Horses and Riders presenting for ANSA Classes must be correctly attired in ANSA attire including the saddlecloth in accordance with ANSA Rules at all shows and preference given at Agricultural shows
- Conformation first and foremost
- Good calm temperament – bad behaviour (e.g. rearing/striking/kicking/ spinning will not be accepted. (And will result in elimination from that class)
- An ANSA horse must be a comfortable riding horse.
- Must be ridden or led in a snaffle bit only.
- No artificial aids
- The workout to be in both directions at all paces.
- Whips are permissible only in led classes. The whip isn't to exceed 75cm including flap

f) Conformation of the Saddle Horse

- Judges should always assess the ANSA horse specifically as a saddle horse or specifically for Stallions and Mares as breeding stock for the purpose of producing saddle horses.
- While the registry contains everything from Andalusians to Walers, each breed has its own standard, it is important to remember to return to the ANSA Judging Criterion to assess the preferred qualities of the ANSA Horse.

- Hence it is expected that an ANSA Judge will possess and cultivate a good working knowledge of conformation and its effects on the saddle horse.
- Judges are expected to have their own opinions and views as to what they expect in a quality saddle horse, but their views should be in line with the ANSA characteristics.

g) Best Presented ANSA Horse and Rider

- A ridden workout to be judged on a combination of the following:
 - Conformation and suitability
 - ANSA attire, saddlery, and presentation
 - Reflective of the characteristics of an ANSA horse
 - Rider's ability
 - Horse's paces, manners, and ability

3. ANSA Attire

a) Competitors must wear at Royal Agricultural and Feature Shows,

- This is not always practical at all shows hence Judges will acknowledge these situations and demonstrate practical and flexible attitudes regarding rider's attire and saddlecloths.
- Ridden ANSA Horses will always be exhibited in snaffle bridle with cavesson and without whips or spurs.

b) Correct Attire for Ridden ANSA

- ANSA tie
- ANSA embroidered long sleeve shirt.
- Approved head wear including felt hats.
- Top hats are not acceptable in any ANSA competition or show. Australian Standard approved helmets and Stockmen Felt Hats will be accepted by ANSA but the convening Show Society's rulings on acceptable headwear will take precedence and it is the Competitors responsibility to ascertain which rule applies.
- Juniors must wear an approved standard safety helmet.
- Fawn or light-coloured stockman cut trousers, jodhpurs or breeches.
- Riding boots may be long or short – gaiters may be used – refer to Classic or Traditional Coat/ Jacket is optional. Colour optional
- ANSA saddle cloth
- Australian or English Saddle - see rulings on Classic and Traditional
- Single Bridle with snaffle bit - Cavesson noseband only.
- No artificial aids
- Riding Gloves are optional.

• Correct Attire for Led ANSA

- As per Correct attire for Ridden ANSA or
- Smart Dress Attire suitable for the class entered with a hat or Fascinator.
- Men – Long sleeve shirt/tie/trousers or Suit
- Attire should always be clean, tidy, and appropriate for the competition.
- Suitable enclosed footwear at all times
- Handler should be neat and Tidy.
- Windcheaters, tee shirts, jeans, thongs etc are not considered to be acceptable standards of dress.
- Exhibitors should select to present as either Classic or Traditional - not a mixture of both.
- When presenting with an Australian/stock saddle and bridle the rider's attire should be stockman's pants with felt hat or helmet – similarly when presented in English saddle and bridle rider's attire should be breeches/jodhpurs with approved standard helmet. The rider may choose between long or short (with or without gaiters) boots.
- Headwear will always be ruled upon by the convening show committee: i.e. the acceptance of approved helmets, felt hats or velvet caps. It is the competitor's responsibility to ascertain which rules apply. Top Hats are not acceptable.



Quick reference guide:

Classic

- English Show or dressage style saddle
- Snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband – embellished or ribbon browbands allowed.
- ANSA Saddle cloth
- Approved standards helmet
- ANSA blue chambray shirt with logo
- Navy blue ANSA tie with logo
- Coats optional
- Fawn or light-coloured breeches or jodhpurs
- Long or short boots – short boots with gaiters
- Riding Gloves optional

Traditional

- Australian/stock saddle – stirrups to be Ox Bow or 4 Bar
- Australian bridle – embellished or ribbon browbands allowed.
- Cavesson nosebands permitted.
- ANSA Saddlecloth
- Stockman's breastplate
- Approved standard helmet or Felt Hat
- ANSA blue chambray shirt with logo
- Navy Blue ANSA tie with logo
- Stockman's pants with short boots
- Ladies may wear jodhpurs with short boots.
- Coats optional
- Riding Gloves optional

c) Dealing with the incorrectly attired ANSA Horse.

- At all Royal Show or ANSA Feature Show all competitors will present correctly attired otherwise are deemed not eligible for judging
- Snaffle bridle mandatory.
- At many regional or smaller shows competitors will be moving from one ring to another while juggling a multiple of classes requiring gear or clothing changes.
- Practicality and flexibility should be observed however competitors must be given the opportunity to change bridles, remove spurs or flash nosebands and not carry their whip.
- Judges are not to be put in an adversarial position and, if after being asked to change any gear, the rider chooses not to then the Judge will take the incorrect attire into their considerations and show preference for those correctly presented.

d) **Equipment in ANSA Competitions.**

- Ribbon and embellished browbands are suitable for the ANSA classes whether in a Classic or Traditional presentation. For Hunter Classes in the National Titles Program it is necessary to note that all Hunter Horses in hunter classes exhibited at an ANSA National or State Show will wear a plain unadorned Browbands in accordance with acceptable Hunter Horse presentation.
- Bitting – snaffles are the only acceptable bit in ANSA competition.
 - For the purposes of the ANSA show ring and restricted ANSA Competition a snaffle bit is described as a jointed bit and the types of bits acceptable include Egg Butt or loose ring snaffles.
 - Snaffle bits such as a 'KK' with an extra piece added to the middle of the bit to create two joints in the mouthpiece are also acceptable.
 - Snaffle bits with cheeks such as Fulmer or Tom Thumb are acceptable. Mullen mouth snaffles may be accepted.
 - At no time will a twisted wire or gag bits be accepted.
 - Chains through the mouth are prohibited. Sweet iron bits may be used. Bits must be constructed of just one metal through the mouth i.e. no rollers or bands. In the interests of safety and for the purposes of control Rearing Bits used in conjunction with a bridle may be used when showing horses in led classes should a handler/owner deem it as necessary but must be clipped to noseband under the jaw.
 - It is expected that when using a snaffle bit a single rein attached to the rings of the bit will be used.
 - Bitting rules in accordance with Equestrian Australia will apply for events conducted under Equestrian Australia rules i.e. Open or restricted dressage or eventing.
 - Bridles with double bits/Weymouth or double sets of reins will not be considered as correctly attired when presented for ANSA Competition - either for Led or Ridden Classes.
- Headwear is clearly stated in the judging criterion.
 - Felt hats and approved standards helmets are appropriate when horse is presented in Traditional Attire with Australian saddle and bridle and rider is also attired in stockman's pants without or with a jacket or coat. Ladies in an Australian/stock saddle may wear jodhpurs with short boots in place of trousers.
 - Juniors (under the age of 18yrs) must wear approved standard head gear.
 - Approved helmets are appropriate to a horse presented in an English saddle and bridle.
- Australian National Saddlehorse Association classifies the following items as artificial aids and therefore not acceptable in the ANSA Show Ring or in ANSA Restricted Competition.
 - Whips and canes (see points below for exceptions to rule)
 - Spurs
 - Martingales
 - Flash or Hanoverian nosebands
- Exceptions to the rules:
 - Whips – a stock whip may be required in a Working ANSA Horse workout however this should be stated in Event Programs as to whether the class will be worked with the whip.

- Whips (only for led classes) not exceeding 75 cm including tassel or flapper are appropriate for handlers.
- Stockman's Breastplate is appropriate on a horse presented in Australian attire but without rings. A number holder breastplate is appropriate at shows where exhibit numbers are distributed.
- Dressage whips (120 cm) are allowable in dressage competitions, open or restricted, when run in accordance with Equestrian Australia rules.
- Biting rules in accordance with Equestrian Australia will apply for events conducted under Equestrian Australia rules i.e. open or restricted dressage or eventing. Spurs rules in accordance with Equestrian Australia will apply for events conducted under Equestrian Australia rules i.e. open or restricted dressage or eventing.
- Boots, wraps and bandages are allowed when competing in such events as Yarding, Camp Drafting, Eventing and Showjumping.

e) Conflict of interest.

It is not appropriate for judges to judge:

- Their own Students or Instructors
- Family members
- Business partners or Persons with whom they have had recent business dealings including provision or receipt of services, purchased a horse from or sold a horse to as well as horses that they recently sold, etc - within a period of not less than 6 months.
- Horses in training or have been in training with that judge, on behalf of its owners – within a period of not less than 6 months.
- Persons providing accommodation for judges before an event at which they are scheduled to compete under that judge.
- It is always the competitor's responsibility to find out who the judge is and not present for competition if there is a conflict of interest.