



LONDON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW RULE BOOK



QUALIFIERS ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

Updated 05/01/2026

BSPS CLASSES AT THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

CLASS CLASSIFICATION AND MARKING

BSPS Junior Performance Pony, Mare or Gelding, 4 years old or over not exceeding 138cms. Plaited ponies. Riders not to have attained their 13th birthday on 1st January in the current year.

BSPS Performance Pony Mare or Gelding 4 years old and over, not exceeding 148cm Plaited ponies. Riders not to have attained their 17th birthday on 1st January in the current year.

BSPS Performance Pony Stallion, Mare or Gelding 4 years old and over, not exceeding 158cm Plaited ponies/horses. Riders any age.

BSPS Performance Coloured Native/Cob/Traditional Horse/Pony Class. Stallion, Mare or Gelding, 4 years old and over. Ponies must be registered with either the Coloured Horse and Pony Society or the British Skewbald and Piebald Association. Riders any age. Unplaited

BSPS Performance Coloured Non-Native Horse/Pony Class. Stallion, Mare or Gelding, 4 years old and over. Riders any age. Ponies must be registered with either the Coloured Horse and Pony Society or the British Skewbald and Piebald Association. Plaited

Marks:

Performance	70 Marks
Manners and Way of Going	10 Marks
Rider, Presentation and suitability	10 Marks
Type, Freedom of Action and Condition	10 Marks
TOTAL	100 Marks

Method of judging for Performance Classes

Exhibitors will go round the ring as whole group, (no pull in). They will then undertake an individual display (rather than a show) where they need to show certain movements which will include walk, trot, canter on both reins, a canter circle, canter transitions on the straight, extension in canter on one rein and free walk on a long rein and halt. Competitors in these classes will not be stripped. Shows may put on a Championship for the two highest exhibits in the performance classes.

BSPS Heritage Lead Rein Working Sports Pony

Mare or Gelding, 4yrs old and over, Mountain and Moorland registered ponies and non-registered mountain and moorland type ponies not exceeding 128cms. Ridden by a child to have attained their 4th birthday on the 1st January in the current year and not to attain their 10th birthday on 1st January in the current year. Any suitable snaffle bridle.

In Lead Rein WSP classes the Judges will be looking for a pony suitable for a child to begin their future in Working Sports Pony classes. Ponies will be shown unplaited and to their breed standard.

Marks:

Manners & Style whilst performing the test (including go round and jumping)	60 Marks
Type and Freedom of Action	20 Marks
Presentation, condition and suitability of pony for the rider	20 Marks
TOTAL	100 MARKS

Criteria

The Leader must be 16 years old or over and may only lead one pony in a class.

The rein **MUST** go directly from the bit to the rider's hand, with no extra aids or attachments to or on the saddle.

Handles on saddles are permitted but the reins must not be attached to the handle or to the saddle.

The Lead Rein must be affixed to the noseband on which it must remain while the pony is in the ring.

Whilst in the ring ponies must always be led by the leader.

The Leader must lead on the near side with the lead rein in the left hand.

RIDERS - Hats in accordance with BSPS Rules, Tweed Jackets, Beige or cream jodhpurs, Shirt, tie, boots and gloves.

Body protectors are compulsory in this class.

No Buttonholes

LEADERS Country attire, Gentlemen Trilby Hats or Caps, Ladies modest hats.

Method of Judging

Ponies will enter the ring at the walk, they may be trotted altogether at the Judges' discretion.

They will be pulled into line in any order and asked to perform an individual test around obstacles, minimum of 5, maximum of 7, including jumping a maximum of three small upright fences not exceeding 30cms. Course to include a change of rein. No spread fences. Water will not be included. Ponies will not be asked to walk on artificial material e.g. plastic sheeting during the test. *Riders will not be asked to dismount.*

Judges will penalise refusals, knockdowns or taking the wrong course at the judge's discretion.

A stride or two of canter over the fences will not be penalised.

There will be NO conformation marks. **Ponies must be shown unplaited and in accordance with their breed standards.**

BSPS HERITAGE FIRST RIDDEN WORKING SPORTS PONY

Mare or Gelding, 4 years old and over. For registered Mountain and Moorland ponies and non-registered Mountain and Moorland type ponies not exceeding 128 cm. Ridden by a child to have attained their 5th birthday on the 1st January in the current year and not to have attained their 12th birthday by 1st January in the current year. Any suitable snaffle bridle. Ponies to be shown unplaited.

In First Ridden WSP classes the Judges will be looking for a pony suitable for a child to begin their future in Working Sports Pony classes.

Marks:

Manners & Style whilst performing the test (including go round and jumping)	60 Marks
Type and Freedom of Action	20 Marks
Presentation, condition and suitability of pony for the rider	20 Marks

TOTAL

100 MARKS

Criteria

Martingales are permitted.

RIDERS - Hats in accordance with BSPS Rules, Tweed Jackets, Beige or cream jodhpurs, Shirt, tie, boots and gloves.

Body protectors are compulsory in this class.

No Buttonholes

Method of Judging

Ponies will enter the ring at the walk, and then trotted altogether at the Judges' discretion. They will be pulled into line in any order and asked to perform an individual test around obstacles, minimum of 5, maximum of 8 including jumping a maximum of three small upright fences not exceeding 30cms. Course will include a change of rein. At the end of the test, they will canter down one side of the arena to finish.

No spread fences. Water will not be included. Ponies will not be asked to walk on artificial material e.g. plastic sheeting during the test. *Riders will not be asked to dismount.*

Judges will penalise refusals, knockdowns or taking the wrong course at the judge's discretion.

Cantering over the fences will not be penalised.

There will be NO conformation marks.

Open Cradle Stakes Class Mare or Gelding, 4 years old and over, not exceeding 123cms.
Suitable to be ridden by a rider not to have attained their 12th birthday before 1st January in the current year. Ponies must be plaited.

MARKING

PHASE ONE

Jumping 50

Style & Manners while Jumping 20

PHASE TWO

Manners and way of going 10

Conformation, Type & Freedom of Action 20

TOTAL 100

PENALTIES - PHASE ONE

Jumping Knock Down 10

First Refusal 15

Second Refusal 20

Third Refusal Disqualification

Fall of pony or rider in any phase Disqualification

Open Nursery Stakes Class Mare or Gelding, 4 years old or over, not exceeding 133cm.
Suitable to be ridden by a rider not to have attained their 13th birthday before 1st January in the current year. Ponies must be plaited

MARKING

PHASE ONE

Jumping 50

Style & Manners while Jumping 20

PHASE TWO

Manners and way of going 10

Conformation, Type & Freedom of Action 20

TOTAL 100

PENALTIES - PHASE ONE

Jumping Knock Down 10

First Refusal 15

Second Refusal 20

Third Refusal Disqualification

Fall of pony or rider in any phase Disqualification

Method of Judging

This is a judged over a course of WHP fences individually with a separate conformation section and then all ponies come together for the final result. Body protectors are compulsory.

Shows may put on a Championship for the two highest placed classes in The Cradle and Nursery Stakes.

The BSPS/LIHS Working Sports Pony 148cm, for mares or geldings, 4 years old and over, not exceeding 148cm. Riders not to have attained their 18th birthday on the 1st January in the current year. (Height of fences 85cm) Ponies must be shown plaited, running plaits providing the forelock is plaited, are permissible. To be ridden in any suitable bridle, including a correctly fitted running martingale.

The BSPS/LIHS Working Sports Pony 158cm for stallion, mare or gelding, 4 years old or over not exceeding 158cm. Riders any age. (To ride a stallion, refer to rule 62 for age of riders in LIHS Performance Class) (Height of fences 95cm) Ponies must be shown plaited, running plaits providing the forelock is plaited are permissible. To be ridden in any suitable bridle including a correctly fitted running martingale.

Competitors may compete two ponies in each qualifying class. The highest placed pony will count for final placings. The same pony/rider combinations can only qualify in one class. Competitors can compete in both classes, but will qualify for the final in the first class they qualify in. Riders can only qualify one pony in each class.

There will be 15 qualifying rounds. The highest placed pony not already qualified will qualify for the final providing the pony, owner and rider are registered with the BSPS within seven days.

A JMB height certificate is not required.

All other rules for competing in WHP classes apply in these classes. All BSPS rules apply to these classes.

BSPS LIHS Working Sports Pony Method of Judging.

The class will be judged by one judge.

At the final the height of fences will remain at 85cm for class 1 and 95cm class 2.

The course will consist of a minimum of 10 fences, maximum of 12 fences.

Riders will enter the ring individually, and present their pony to the judge, who will assess the pony's conformation, freedom of movement, (asking the rider walk and trot back before commencing their jumping round) type and athleticism. Awarding a mark out of 10.

The judges will award up to 30 marks for style, technique and athleticism whilst jumping.

At end of the jumping round the rider will gallop the pony down the long side of the ring, for which a mark out of 10 will be awarded

Riders will then canter, trot, walk and halt, demonstrating, manners, correct paces and training, for which a mark of 10 will be awarded.

A final mark of 10 will awarded for the style, position and effectiveness of the rider.

Marks

Points remaining after jumping max 50

Style, technique and athleticism whilst jumping max 30.

Gallop at the end of jumping round max 10

Canter, trot, walk and halt after gallop, (manners /way of going) max 10

Style, position and effectiveness of rider max 10

Conformation, freedom of action, type and athleticism max 10

Total 120

In the event of tie the total jumping and style mark takes precedence, followed by the style and position of the rider and then conformation.

Penalties

10 penalties for each knock down

15 penalties for first refusal

20 penalties for the second refusal

3 refusals or fall of pony or rider elimination.

MEMBERSHIP

Open to members and non-members for the qualifying classes but will need to join within seven days of qualifying to enter the Final or the qualification will pass down the line.

The winning pony in each class will qualify, qualification will go no lower than 3rd place.

Horses/ponies do not need to have a JMB height certificate to compete in these classes. The BSPS can request any animal to be measured at their discretion.

All riders must have their hats tagged to compete in these classes at the final.

Ponies can be shown in any suitable bridles except Bitless bridles and running gags which are not permitted in any classes.

In the Coloured Classes the pony must be registered with either the British Skewbald and Piebald Association or Coloured Horse and Pony Society. Riders and Owners must join the BSPS within seven days of qualifying to compete in the Final.

SHOW AND JUDGING RULES

All BSPS Classes will be judged under the BSPS Rules and the classification for the class. The BSPS Rulebook can be downloaded from the website www.bsps.com

Judges may only judge one qualifying round in each class.

Any BSPS Judge can judge the Performance Classes, the BSPS Heritage Lead Rein Sports Pony and BSPS Heritage First Ridden Working Sports Pony Class, but must be on the WHP Panel to judge the Cradle and Nursery Stakes and Working Sports Pony classes.

Judges must take account of the suitability of the bridle for the type of pony when judging the class.

Judges will be asked to provide a profile of their experience and equestrian history for use by the commentator.

Judges may be expected to comment on their placings and result with the Commentator. At County Shows this is to inform the competitor and the audience and enhance education for showing and the classes being judged.

The Cradle Stakes height of fences is 65cm. Nursery Stakes height of fences will be 75cm will as per the BSPS Rule Book.

All classes will be marked, in the event of a tie the performance marks take precedence.

RULES FOR COMPETITORS

In all Pony and Coloured Performance Classes competitors may use any suitable bridles including Micklem bridles, flash or grackle nosebands and a correctly fitted running martingale.

Coloured or plain browbands can be used depending on the type of pony/horse being shown. In the Performance Pony Classes and the non-Native Coloured Horse or Pony Class animals must be plaited. In the Coloured Native/Cob/Traditional Class animals will be shown unplaited or hogged. Mountain and Moorland Ponies will not be penalised in the Performance Classes for having non pulled tails and feathers, but must be plaited. Running plaits are acceptable, but the forelock must be plaited.

Judges should ask the age of the animal and what class the rider competes their horse or pony in e.g WHP, Pony Club, Sports Pony/Eventing, Dressage or Showing etc.

Judges will penalise riders who miss out a movement in the Performance Classes e.g not cantering a circle by **10 points per movement**. The rest of the display will be marked based on the qualify and correctness of performance for the type of animal being judged based on rewarding a strong performance, penalising mistakes, not cantering on a straight line, heavily penalising bad manners and vice e.g bucking, rearing, napping etc

In the Mark section for **Rider, Presentation and suitability** judges will consider the overall turnout. Marks will be deducted if the rider is unsuitably mounted. Presentation must consider and reward horses and ponies that are “fit not fat” and “fit for purpose” for their type, e.g an event/sports pony may carry less overall condition than a Show Hunter Pony.

In the Mark Section for **Type, freedom of action and condition** judges will be awarding ponies that are the right type for the classification it is being shown in e.g WHP/Sports/Event/Hunter Type. Show Pony and in the Coloured classes traditional versus Cob or Native type. The movement of the pony must correspond to its type and way of going must be in accordance with the class it would mainly compete in.

Anyone entering the ring on foot during any classes must be wear suitable attire.

No competitor will be allowed to compete the same horse/pony in the International Arena and the New Horizon Plastics Arena on the same day. If an entry is submitted via the relevant Showing Society for an International Arena class, the entry in the London Showing Series class will automatically be withdrawn and refunded.