



Judging Guidelines CHSNZ and RAS Judges

Always: Judge from the **POSITIVE**, not from the **NEGATIVE**.

Always: Be friendly, Judges are not infallible.

Always: Judge others as you would have them judge you.

“Whilst we know that judging horses and ponies will always be “subjective”, there is a set of rules to follow which set a standard of fairness and ethics. “

On the day: Arrive early. Report to the Secretary’s Office and make yourself known, make sure you are available for all pre briefings.

Stewards: If possible, meet your steward, as soon as possible, go and look at your ring. In these times, quite often the stewards are unfamiliar with the running of the ring, explain how things are run and the steward’s responsibilities, (the steward is in charge of the ring), but keep an eye on what is going on.

Remember:

It is about giving a Fair and Impartial assessment of the animals that are before you on that day. To make it enjoyable for the Competitors, Stewards, Event Organizers, and the Public and lest we forget, Yourself.

Get out there, have fun and enjoy.

NZ Clydesdale Horse Society Breed Standard

Height: Average height 16.2HH – 17HH.

Colour: Predominantly bay, bay roan, blue roan or black with varying amounts of white on face and legs. Dark legs and splashes of white on body less common but acceptable.

Head: Broad between eyes, open forehead, straight profile, wide muzzle, and bright intelligent eyes. Brown eyes the norm, blue eyes acceptable.

Neck: Long and well arched.

Shoulders: Sloping, with withers clearly defined.

Body: Back short and strong (mares longer to allow room for carrying foal) ribs well sprung, with good depth of barrel.

Rump: Muscular, broad, well-rounded rump.

Limbs: Straight, with forearms set well under the shoulders. Pasterns set at 45 degrees.

Hind legs close together, muscular thighs, points of hocks turning inwards with canon bones close and parallel straight down to the fetlock (for power) – **Not** cow hocked.

Cow hocked is when the cannon bones are not parallel but angle outwards making the feet further apart, thus causing the horse's loss of power.

Leg bone should be hard, and flat; tendons should be clearly defined. Hair on back of legs (*feathers*) and around the feet (*spat*) to be silky and fine.

Feet: A good hoof head, wide, open heels and strong quarters. Each foot should be lifted cleanly from ground with under side visible from behind.

Overall appearance: The best Clydesdale combines size and weight with great activity and tractable disposition.



In the ring:

Presentation:

Stallions 3 years and over: Look proud, mane plaited with flights, a bit in his mouth with a check rein on the offside running to a roller (surcingle), tail plaited up into a bun with sprigs at the top of the tail, a ribbon around the bun, tied in a bow.

Mares 3 years and over: Mane plaited (optional), tails plaited up into a bun with sprigs at the top of the tail, a ribbon around the bun, tied in a bow.

Yearlings & two-year-olds: Mane well brushed. Sprigs at the top of the tail, longer ribbon around dock and tied in a bow looped up over the sprigs. Tail left down.

Geldings: Mane well brushed (plaited optional), tail plaited up in a bun with sprigs at the top of the tail, a ribbon around the bun tied in a bow.

Some geldings may be plaited if they have harness classes following.

Handlers: Clean, tidy clothes, (skirts, dresses, or trousers for women are optional), boots or sensible shoes with no open toes, tidy sensible hat optional. Cane/Whip and gloves optional. Make sure the outfit is easy to move in, safe and doesn't obscure the horse.



2-year-old and under



Stallion



Undocked tail with sprigs



Undocked tail option

Do Run your hand down the horse's legs, the hair can hide imperfections.

- The Clydesdale is a very active horse and so must have "*action*". The horse should walk forward with purpose.
- Generally, for a workout, the exhibitors walk out, turn, walk back, turn, trot out, then trot back and back up 3-4 steps. Also refer to Clydesdale Horse Society Standard workouts.

All turns should be to the right or away from handler. The turns at the top should have the horse turn sharply and cross with the front feet as if in a set of shafts.

If short on time, to walk out and trot back is sufficient to see straightness of movement.



Check H&S and Welfare guidelines on the CHSNZ website.

Alternative workouts are available on the website.

A more comprehensive booklet is available to Society members. Members wishing to receive a copy are to contact the CHSNZ Secretary - secretary@clydesdale.org.nz

Harness classes:

Safety must be the number one consideration in the judging and showing of harness classes as competitors are in the public arena.

Plaiting of Manes with or without flights, for Mares, Geldings, and Stallions, in Harness Classes is optional.

Judge to check that harness is – Functional, set for purpose, safe fitting and well adjusted

- Check Collar fit
- Check all straps are supple, with no frayed stitching
- Buckles (check tongues and keepers)
- Serviceable hooks and chains

Must always have the horse under full control.

Check H&S and Welfare guidelines on the CHSNZ website.

PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS:

General:

- Competitor to follow judge's instructions
- Work on both reins, i.e. can ask for figure of eight
- Halt and move off in a regular rhythm
- Fan left and right, turning tightly and front legs crossing over

Vehicle Classes:

Vehicle classes may be divided into:

- Single hitch
- Multiple hitch

There are many different styles and makers of horse-drawn vehicles, both old and modern. Therefore, judges should not assume there is only one correct style.

This also applies to different harness styles, including:

- Colonial (New Zealand and Australian)
- UK
- American
- Modern and vintage styles

Overview:

- Does the vehicle look proportional?
- Not too big/small for the horse/horses?
- Not too heavy/light?
- Would the horse struggle or run away with it?



Two examples of Dray Harness



Spring cart harness

With single axle vehicles check the balance of the Shafts, this is done by lifting the shafts just forward of the harness saddle, you don't want the shafts to be too heavy and bang on the horses back, or too light and lift on their own which will tighten the belly band on the underside of the horse's belly.

When the horse is in Draft (with the leather traces or chains tight) the tips of the shafts should be just forward of the collar an inch or two, to prevent the shafts from going inside the collar when the horse turns.

Breeching:

The breeching is the strap that sits around the horse's hindquarters. It helps the horse slow down or brake the vehicle. The breeching should be wide enough to be comfortable for the horse. The hip straps should be adjusted so the breeching sits just below the point of the buttocks. It should not be too high, as it may slip up under the horse's tail, or too low, as it may pull the horse's hindquarters out from underneath him when slowing or braking the vehicle, especially when travelling downhill. There should be enough room for the horse to move freely, but not so much that the vehicle can push its hindquarters when the horse finishes working.



Bridle:

Closed Bridle, (winkers), Half Closed, and Open bridles are all acceptable.

Reins:

Reins should extend past the hand 1.5 to 2.0m. but not be too long as to risk being tangled. They may be attached to the bit with either a buckle or by way of a snap clip (snap facing inwards). Ensure they are not worn where they attach to the bit, or where they pass through any rings. Check leather reins that are stitched, have no frayed stitching and are soft and supple, with no cracks.

Vehicles:

- Vintage vehicles: Must be sound and free from rot.
For original tall wooden wheels, check for major cracks, splits, rot, or gaps between the metal tyre and wooden rim. Push the tyre at the top to check that the tyre and spokes are tight. Some movement at the centre hub is acceptable.
- Modern vehicles: Pneumatic tyres must be sound, with no cracks or bald spots. Check all wood for rot and metal for rust.
- Horse attachments: Shafts, poles and swingle trees must be sound and secure.
- Multiple-horse vehicles: Centre poles, three-abreast or double shafts for multiple teams are acceptable.
- Paintwork: Original paint in good condition and well-restored paint are both acceptable. Cracked or badly scuffed paint is less desirable.

Safety: Breeching is essential on single-horse vehicles. It is recommended on multiple-horse vehicles; if not used, a brake is required.

Workouts:

Keep them Simple! You are looking for a horse/horses that are going forward kindly and in control.

Multiple horse teams should go together as a coherent, unified team that are all listening to the driver. Horses can trot in the wagon if the harness allows – dray saddles do not allow a trot as the chain can bounce out of the bridge. Ask the exhibitor if they are comfortable trotting with their harness.



Sledge Course:

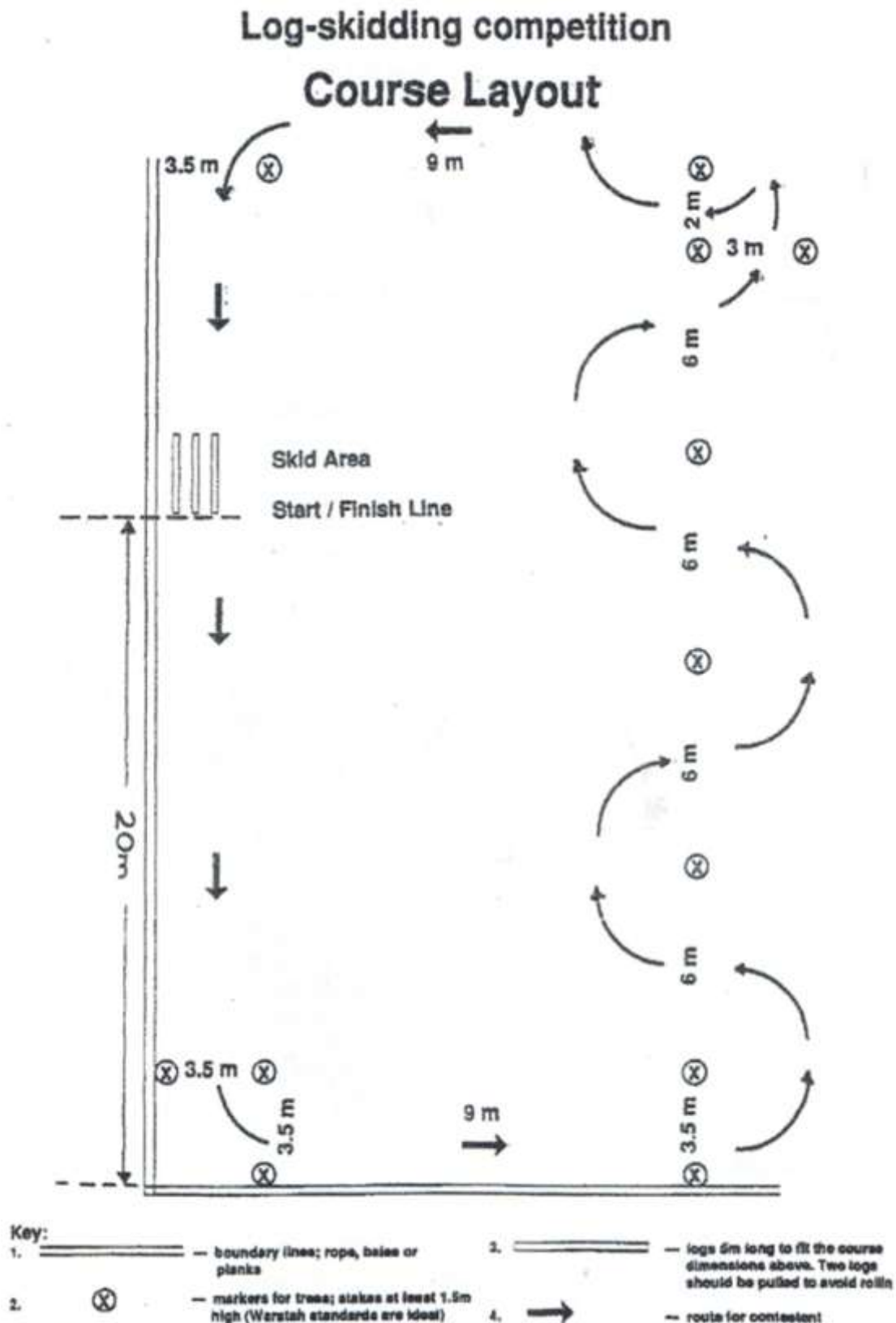
CHSNZ offers courses on their website to help. Look for a horse that moves forward kindly and obediently, with lightness, suppleness and freedom at the walk.

Check H&S and Welfare guidelines on the CHSNZ website.

Log-skidding

Log-skidding with horses in New Zealand is primarily used for production thinning, where selected logs are removed while protecting the remaining trees and minimising disturbance to the forest floor. While it is not practical to replicate true forest conditions at an A&P show, a well-designed course can effectively test these skills and provide an entertaining spectacle for the public.

Success of the course relies on the skill, care and teamwork of the horse and driver with particular emphasis on the horse's steadiness, responsiveness and obedience, the driver's calm and precise handling and safe, careful use of the harness and chains. If a show has the log skidding class, the equipment should be provided and a team on hand to help set up.



SCORE SHEET

Competitor (No/Name) _____

Serial	Phase	Possible	Awarded	Critical Points
1.	Entry	10		Horse and driver to move positively. Harness clean, suitable and fitting.
2.	Hook-Up	10		Horse stops and stands properly. Reins handy, chain fitted to 2 logs securely, then to tow hook.
3.	Start of Pull	10		Move horse into weight steadily and pull smoothly and straight. Action to be sure and brisk and feet lifted cleanly. Driver's control to be clear and concise.
4.	First and Second Corners	10		Entry to be sure and within boundary. Watch for striking "trees". Corners to be taken in one move. Note driver's communication to horse.
5.	Slalom	10		Horse must respond to clear commands. Watch "tree" strikes, fluid movement and driver's avoidance of logs.
6.	Third Corner	10		Controlled stop. Turn back to be sure, chains must not be fouled. Smooth restart. Watch "tree" strike.
7.	Fourth Corner and Skid Stop	10		Corner to be taken wide and approach to skid straight. Logs to stop in line with marker (crossways at head). Un-hook horse, then logs. Horse to stand until exit time.
8.	General Impression	10		General impression of control and teamwork of horse and driver. Would they suit a forestry operation?
TOTAL		80		

Ridden/ Ridden obstacle class:

Acceptable Style of Saddlery:

- English
- Stock
- Western
- Side saddle

Riding attire:

- Helmets. RAS tagged helmets must be worn (on all RAS affiliated grounds), riding clothes, appropriate to style for saddlery chosen
- Back protectors may be worn
- Turnout, neat and tidy appearance of horse and rider

Horse:

- 3 years old and over
- Obedience
- Paces – walk, trot and if the rider is confident a canter, all with an even rhythm.
- Rein back
- Manners

Performance guidelines:

- To move forward freely and willingly
- To bend with the head facing the direction of travel
- Rider to sit tall and be in balance with horse

Ridden obstacle ideas:

- Halting next to an object with the horse's shoulder in line with object
- A couple of trot poles
- If cones are available (judge to contact the show to check) a slalom course can be created
- A small jump if riders and horses are competent and willing
- If a sledge course has been used, it can be used for the ridden as well to save on setup time



A day brightens up considerably when the horses look well, competitors look happy and smile, a judge greets each pleasantly but doesn't chit-chat with familiarity and the steward knows what the job is all about.

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