



DARTMOOR PONY SOCIETY - BYE LAWS

March 2025

The Dartmoor Pony Society Reg. Office: Birks Cottage, Heddon on the Wall, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 0HF
Registered No: 3240342 England and Wales
Registered Charity No: 1207460

The undermentioned Byelaws at present in force shall remain until such time as they may be amended or rescinded by the Council of the Dartmoor Pony Society (DPS)

A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in Devon at a suitable venue to be decided by the Council.

B. COUNCIL

1. Not more than one member of a family (immediate*), partner or partnership may serve on the Council concurrently.
2. Council Elections - In accordance with the Representation of the Peoples Act 1949, in the event of a tie, the final decision will be made by drawing names from a hat or by the toss of a coin.

C. MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENTS

Membership of the Society is divided into the following categories: (a) Full Members, or (b) Life Members, or (c) Honorary Life Members, or (d) Associate Members, or (e) Overseas Associate Members, or (f) Overseas Associate Life Members, or (g) Junior Members, or (h) Family Members

- 1 Full or Life Membership may be applied for by individuals over the age of 18 and such membership shall be granted subject to the approval of the Council Members, which shall be in their absolute discretion. Honorary Life Members may be elected by the members in General Meeting upon the recommendation of the Council.

Full Members, Life Members and Honorary Life Members are entitled to:

- i) Vote at the Annual General Meeting, Extraordinary General Meetings and Council elections.
- ii) Apply for Grants and Premiums (providing at least two years' consecutive subscriptions have been paid by the due time, including the current year).
- iii) Register ponies in the Stud Book or Supplementary Register at reduced fees.
- iv) Exhibit at the DPS's Championship Breed Show.
- v) Compete for the Society's special rosettes and trophies awarded at shows
- vi) Receive the Society's magazine, newsletters and other free publications.
- vii) Stand for Council (after 5 years consecutive membership).

- 2 Associate Membership may be applied for by individuals over the age of 18 and such membership shall be granted subject to the approval of the Council Members, which shall be in their absolute discretion.

Overseas Associate Membership may be applied for by individuals over the age of 18 who reside abroad and such membership shall be granted subject to the approval of the Council Members, which shall be in their absolute discretion. Full Members who move abroad shall automatically be deemed to be Overseas Associate Members. The decision of the Council as to the place of residence of a member shall be final and binding.

Associate Members, Overseas Associate Members and Overseas Associate Life Members are entitled to:

- i) Exhibit at the DPS's Championship Breed Show.
- ii) Compete for the Society's special rosettes and trophies awarded and in the DPS Annual Awards.
- iii) Receive the Society's magazine, newsletters and other free publications.

- 3 Junior Membership may be applied for by individuals under the age of 18 on the first day of January in the relevant year and such membership shall be granted subject to the approval of the Council Members, which shall be in their absolute discretion.

Junior Members are entitled to:

- i) Exhibit at the DPS's Championship Breed Show.
- ii) Compete for the Society's special rosettes and trophies awarded and in the DPS Annual Awards.
- iii) Receive the Society's magazine, newsletters and other free publications, unless the junior is linked to an adult on a reduced fee.

- 4 Family Membership may be applied for by partners and their children under the age of 18 and such membership shall be granted subject to the approval of the Council Members which shall be in their absolute discretion. Family Membership conveys upon its two adult members the rights and privileges of Full Members and upon its minor members the rights and privileges of Junior Members.

D. REGISTRATION

1 GENERAL

- i) All registrations for the DPS Stud Book should be made through the Registration Secretary of the Society by the Breeder. A charge will be made which shall be fixed by the Council. If it is impossible for the breeder to register their foal then the person wishing to register the foal must pay for DNA typing of the sire, dam, and foal at the discretion of Council.
- ii) Any application to register a pony may be refused if the Council is not satisfied with the accuracy or sufficiency of information supplied or if the pony has not been microchipped by a veterinary surgeon prior to application.
- iii) Once registered, the name of a pony cannot be changed.
- iv) A stallion may not be used as a sire until it is 2 years of age (see below).
- v) The age of a Dartmoor pony is determined from January 1st each year and not from the date of foaling.
- vi) Progeny may only be registered from a stallion or colt in possession of a DPS Stallion License at the time of covering, otherwise the progeny will be registered in Section X of the stud book,

unless the sire is licensed prior to registration of the progeny and a) a late stallion licensing fee set by Council is paid and b) Parentage testing of sire, dam and offspring before registration of foal, at a cost set by Council, is paid.

- vii) Mares must be at least 4 years or over at the time of foaling. It is recommended that a mare should not be covered until it is 3 years of age for welfare reasons. The progeny of fully registered mares under 4 years at time of foaling will be entered into the X Section of the Main Stud Book.
- viii) Every application for registration of a foal must be accompanied by a Service Certificate signed by the keeper of the stallion, unless the foal's breeder has used their own stallion.
- ix) Foals must be registered by December 31st of the year of foaling, in the Southern Hemisphere 30th June.
- x) Late Registrations: -
 - (a) Progeny of fully registered sire and dam not conforming to Byelaw 1 ix will be entered into Section X unless a late registration fee set by Council is paid and parentage is proven by DNA testing of the sire, dam, and offspring. Costs of DNA tests to be set by Council and paid on application.
 - (b) Progeny of registered sire and Supplementary Registered Dam will not be accepted for registration unless a late registration fee set by Council is paid and parentage is proven by DNA testing. Costs of DNA tests to be set by Council and paid on application.
- xi) To enable foals to be registered at members rates, membership fees must be paid before registration, and membership approved by Council.
- xii) Ponies in Section X or their offspring cannot be upgraded from Section X.
- xiii) No pony in Section X is eligible for any of the Society's Grants and cannot be shown in classes against animals in any other Section of the Stud Book.
- xiv) All colts accepted for upgrading to the Stallion Register must be DNA tested in accordance with the Society's procedures.
- xv) The Council reserves the right to DNA test at random to verify the pedigree of ponies in the Stud Book, or applying to be registered. All relevant ponies will be tested at an approved laboratory. The cost will be borne by the DPS if the pedigree is verified. The cost to be borne by breeder if the pedigree is not verified.
- xvi) Once a DNA sample has been received by the DPS it becomes the property of the DPS.
- xvii) The breeder of a pony is defined as the one who is the registered owner, or lessee, of the mare at the time of foaling.
- xviii) Notice of transfer of ownership of a pony must be completed before any of its progeny are born, in order for the progeny to be registered in the new owner's/lessee's name.
- xix) Lessors and Lessees of ponies must complete a DPS Lease/Loan form and send the same to the Registration Secretary before any registration can be considered. The owner of the pony being leased should ideally send it's Passport to the Registration Secretary as soon as possible to be officially recorded before the lease can take effect.
- xx) A prefix may only be used on stock bred by the registered owner of the prefix.
- xxi) A member may only use a prefix once, after which it must be officially registered with the Central Prefix Register, arranged through the Registration Secretary of the DPS, at a fee fixed by Council.

xxii) Part Breds:- To be registered as a Part Bred Dartmoor, ponies must be a minimum 25% Dartmoor and that no other pure breed may exceed the % of Dartmoor blood. Naturally, both parents must be registered, and stock must be by a licensed stallion.

xxiii) At no time will a photocopy or facsimile be accepted as a valid identification document. The original Passport must always accompany the pony.

xxiv) Artificial Insemination – Artificial Insemination Rules for the use of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen Semen

The following rules must be strictly adhered to for Artificial Insemination by licensed Dartmoor pony stallions. Failure to comply with these Rules will result in the offspring being ineligible for registration in the full Stud Book. Members are advised to contact their veterinary surgeon with regard to complying with the 'Guide to the Use of Artificial Insemination in Horse Breeding' which must be followed. This guide is published by the British Equine Veterinary Association, Mulberry House, 31 Market Street, Fordham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5LQ. Tel: 01638 723 555 Email: info@beva.org.uk .

Rules:-

a) Semen may only be collected from licensed, DNA tested stallions.

b) Insemination of mares must be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or approved AI technician who must complete and sign two copies of the Certificate of Insemination clearly marked showing the date of the insemination. One copy should be given to the mare owner for submission to the Society with the foal registration application and one copy given to the semen owner for retention.

c) The cost of registration of a foal conceived by AI is the same as a foal from a natural covering.

d) Mares and their foals conceived by AI will not normally have to be DNA tested.

xxv) Embryo transplant - is permitted. Please apply to the DPS Registration Secretary for the latest regulations.

xxvi) It is no longer possible for the DPS to issue dual passports to ponies bred in EU countries.

2. MOORLAND NEWTAKE SCHEME

i) Only mares born on Dartmoor and owned by a current Dartmoor Pony Society member, with a holding number within the National Park, are eligible to enter the Scheme.

ii) When an unregistered mare has been inspected and approved as a potential SRD she will become eligible for an SRD passport once she is selected to enter the Newtake and run with a DPS fully registered stallion.

iii) No inspections for the first Supplementary Register status (SRD) are allowed except for the DPS British Moorland Scheme on Dartmoor only.

iv) The progeny of SRD mares are potential SRD1 ponies, and may be graded SRD1 as foals following a successful inspection and approval. SRD1 fillies/mares can then enter a Newtake to run with a different fully registered DPS stallion. The progeny of SRD1 mares are potential SRD2 ponies, and may be graded SRD2 as foals following a successful inspection and approval. SRD2 fillies/mares can then enter a Newtake to run with a different fully registered DPS stallion. The progeny of SRD2 mares are potential fully registered ponies, and may be graded fully registered as foals following a successful inspection and approval.

- v) All inspections for the Supplementary Register must be made by two of the DPS's inspectors, taken from the list of inspectors approved by the DPS Council. No Inspector may inspect ponies for the same owner more than two years out of three.
- vi) All Supplementary ponies to be registered in the Supplementary section of the DPS stud book.
- vi) The owners of progeny of Supplementary mares must submit a Passport application form by 31st December of the year of foaling for every foal conceived in a Newtake.
- vii) All stallions used in the Newtakes must be out of fully registered mares by fully registered and licensed Dartmoor stallions.
- viii) No stallions are allowed in the SRD, SRD1 or SRD2 Supplementary Register.
- ix) All progeny of SR2/SRD2 mares are eligible for full registration in the DPS's main Stud Book, if passed when inspected. Inspections must be carried out by persons appointed by the DPS Council.
- x) SRD and SR1/SRD1 mares may be sold to breeders residing in the Dartmoor National Park to continue grading-up* with fully registered and licensed Dartmoor Pony stallions (providing they have bred at least one filly foal for their owner). If they are sold off Dartmoor any progeny may not be registered in the DPS Supplementary Register.
- xi) SR2/SRD2 mares may be sold to other breeders to continue grading-up* with fully registered and licensed Dartmoor Pony stallions (providing they have bred at least one filly foal for their owner).

* Inspections must be carried out by persons appointed by the Dartmoor Pony Society Council.

3 INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS

- i) GENERAL
- a) The Dartmoor Pony Society (DPS), registered in the UK, is the Studbook of Origin for the Dartmoor Pony breed.
- b) A Filial Society is one which is affiliated to the DPS.
- c) Filial Societies are accorded their status only by approval of the DPS Council (Studbook of Origin).
- d) Filial societies must register their ponies in their studbooks so that they trace back on every line to ponies registered in GB, or to ponies which have been accepted by the DPS Council as having been registered correctly according to the DPS rules in operation at the time of registration.
- e) If the pony's sire does not have an appropriate British licence but is in possession of a licence issued by a country other than the UK, the DPS must be satisfied that the licensing scheme in the relevant country meets its requirements or the stallion will be required to be licensed under the DPS rules.
- f) Where current DPS legislation cannot be used directly by a Filial society the DPS must be satisfied that the Filial Society's equivalent legislation meets its requirements.
- g) The DPS will enter into the Stud book ponies, from any Non-EU country of origin without a registering Breed Society, of the Dartmoor breed that are eligible for entry under the DPS's criteria.
- h) All Supplementary Registered ponies from the Moorland Scheme must be placed in a separate Supplementary Register section of the relevant Filial Society's Stud Book and keep the SR2 or

SRD2 prefix in addition to any number allocated to it by the Filial Society. (The numbers to be as here in Arabic numerals.)

- i) All potential fully-registered ponies bred from SR2/SRD2 mares must be correctly Inspected* before entry into the Filial Society's Stud Book.

*Inspections must be carried out by persons appointed by the Dartmoor Pony Society Council.

- ii) **IMPORT/EXPORT**

- a) The DPS complies with all current DEFRA legislation regarding the import and export of Dartmoor Ponies.
- b) The DPS will enter into the Stud book ponies from any country of origin, of the Dartmoor breed that are eligible for entry under the DPS's criteria.
- c) Progeny from registered licensed stallions and registered mares directly descended from UK stock is eligible to be entered into the main body of the stud book, providing the stallion has been licensed equivalently to the DPS rules.
- d) Dartmoor ponies registered in Filial Societies' Stud Books abroad may be transferred into the corresponding section in the main body of the DPS stud book, providing the stallion has been licensed equivalently to the DPS rules.
- e) The pony must comply with the Breed Standard laid down by the DPS.
- f) Ponies imported into the UK which have been bred elsewhere must have the name (or an acceptable abbreviation) of their country of birth attached to their name. They will retain their original registration number and be allocated an additional Dartmoor Pony Society registration number.
- g) No change of name will be allowed from that in which the pony was originally registered; except that the UK reserves the right to refuse to use prefixes/names which are offensive in the British language or which conflict with an existing name. Any new name necessary is to be assigned by the original registration authority.
- h) On entering the UK for showing or breeding purposes the Society must be supplied with the necessary documentation to prove their eligibility prior to showing or breeding.
- i) Upon import the Society will record the owner or lessee and pony's details. Unless remaining in the UK for less than 90 days the pony will be entered into the Main Stud Book. Details must be supplied to the Society within 30 days of arrival of the pony into the UK.
- j) If a pony is to be exported, ideally it should be transferred by the DPS Registration Secretary before export. A DNA hair sample must be submitted to the DPS Registration Secretary before export.

E. SHOWING

1 GENERAL

- i) Ponies shown in DPS affiliated classes must be fully registered in the main DPS studbook or supplementary register.
- ii) Ponies must conform to the Breed Standard for height and colour in order to be eligible for showing.
- iii) The DPS rosettes may only be awarded to fully and supplementary registered ponies owned by members producing their current membership card in the ring.

- iv) Star Shows are designated by the Council.
- v) If the owner of the Champion at a Star Show is not a DPS member the rosette should be returned to the Society and not presented to the Reserve, or further down the line.
- vi) Non-members' ponies points do not count towards the DPS Annual Awards, except where progeny owned by non-members win prizes and therefore contribute to their sires and dams awards.
- vii) Ponies in Mixed Mountain and Moorland or Dartmoor classes must be shown unplaited. No dye, make-up, false tails or false forelocks may be used. Quarter marks are not allowed. Hooves may be oiled.
- viii) Trimming – Long hairs under the jaw and those protruding from the ears may be trimmed. Muzzle and chin whiskers must not be trimmed. The tail may be trimmed at the bottom if too long. Ridden/ Driven ponies may be clipped in the interest of welfare, but not their limbs.
- ix) Stallions/colts aged three years old or over may not be shown unless in possession of a DPS stallion licence.
- x) It is mandatory in ridden classes that all stallions must wear a stallion bridle marker, and advisory for in-hand stallions (2 years old and over).
- xi) No mare with foal at foot or due to foal in the current year may be shown in Ridden classes.
- xi) No mare may be shown with a foal under the age of three weeks on the day of the class.
- xiii) Mares must be accompanied by their foals in the ring.
- xiv) No Member or Non-Member shall behave in an offensive, abusive or unpleasant manner to any person or any horse/pony at any show, event, venue or workplace associated with the DPS, whether in person, over the telephone, in writing or via social media. Members will be held responsible for the actions of any non-members who are relatives or who are employed by them or who are assisting, supporting, representing or otherwise acting on their behalf and any action or conduct of such person which would be a breach of the Rules were they a member shall constitute a breach of the Rules by the Member concerned. Relatives in this context will include any person who is in the reasonable opinion of the DPS a member of the Member's family in the widest sense. Disciplinary action will be taken at the discretion of Council.
- xv) No person shall ill-treat animals in any way.

2 EXHIBITORS

- i) No member may knowingly show a pony in a class where the Judge has owned, bred, sold, or leased that pony or where the pony has been owned, bred, sold, or leased by the Judges' immediate* family, partner, employer or employee.
- ii) No member may knowingly show a pony in a class where the Judge has broken, trained or produced that pony or where the pony has been broken, trained or produced by the Judges' immediate* family, partner, employer or employee since 1st January of the preceding year.
- iii) An exhibitor may not show under a judge for whom he/she has produced, broken or trained an equine since 1st January of the preceding year.
- iv) Handlers of Stallions and Colts in In-Hand Classes must have attained their 14th birthday before 1st January of the current year.

- .v) There is no age limit for riders in Mountain & Moorland Ridden and Working Hunter Pony Classes, except that riders of stallions must have attained their 12th birthday before 1st January in the current year.

- vi) Handlers of ponies in In-hand classes aged 14 years and under must wear correctly secured currently approved skull caps/riding hats in accordance with the relevant annual NPS rules.

3 JUDGES

- i) Judges are appointed to the DPS panels at the discretion of Council.
- ii) Judges on the Society's A Panel may only judge the in-hand classes at one Star Show and may only judge ridden classes at two Star Shows in any one season, except for Working Hunter Pony Classes, for which there is no limit.
- iii) B Panel judges can judge any Working Hunter Pony classes and Mini Ridden Classes at Star Shows.
- iv) Judges may only accept one Judging appointment in Devon, to judge Dartmoor-only classes, during any one season, except in exceptional circumstances.
- v) If the judge decides a rider is not suitably mounted, they should take appropriate action and place down the line, or mark accordingly.
- vi) The judge may require that a pony which constitutes a danger leaves the ring; the judge's decision is final.
- vii) It is normal for a Judge to be on the B Panel for a minimum of three years, before being asked at the discretion of Council to move up to the A Panel.
- viii) Judges who reach the age of 80 years old are required to have their own Personal Accident Insurance and are asked to send proof of cover to the DPS office.
- ix) Judges must have judged Dartmoors for three years, including one Star Show, before assessing probationers.
- x) Persons wishing to become probationer judges are required to have been a member of the DPS for at least the five immediately preceding consecutive years before applying.
- xi) Probationer Judges are allowed to be in the ring for Championships.
- xii) A Judge may not knowingly judge a pony in a class which, to his/her knowledge has been owned, bred, sold loaned or leased by him/her or his/her immediate* family, partner, employer or employee.
- xiii) A Judge may not knowingly judge a pony in a class which, to his/her knowledge has been produced, broken or trained by him/her or his/her immediate* family, partner, employer or employee since 1st January of the preceding year
- xiv) Disciplinary action may be taken, at the discretion of Council, if any of the showing rules are broken.

* NB:- Immediate family means Husband/Wife/Partner, Parents/ Partner's Parents, Grandparents, Brothers/Sisters, Sons/Daughters, Uncles/Aunts, Nephews/Nieces, Step Grandparents, Step-Parents, Step-Brothers/Sisters, Brother/Sister in Law, Legal Guardians

F. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY

- 1 Objections and Complaints

Any objections or complaints concerning a matter which affects the DPS should be made in writing to the Society's Registered Office, together with a fee of £150, which shall be forfeited to the Society if the complaint is dismissed. A letter or e-mail should be received by the office within 21 days of the date of the event, with it being sent by recorded or special delivery post for proof of posting, and if by e-mail an acknowledgement should be requested.

2 Initial Investigation

Any complaint so submitted shall be investigated by the Disciplinary Committee, but before that Committee meets, the person complained about, or owner of the pony complained about, should have the opportunity to reply to the allegation within 21 days, this letter should also be sent by recorded or special delivery for proof of posting, and if by e-mail an acknowledgement should be requested.

3 Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee shall compose of the Chairman, or Vice Chairman, together with a minimum of three other Council members. This Committee also has the right to call up other Council members, witnesses and technical advisors. The person complained about shall have due notice of the date and location of the hearing and shall be invited to attend in person or provide a written statement.

4 Penalties

If the case is found proven, then the Disciplinary Committee shall decided what penalty is appropriate.

5 Appeals Procedure

Any person against whom a penalty is imposed shall have the right to appeal to the Society by giving notice in writing within 21 days of being notified of the decision provided that they also submit the sum of £150 which shall be forfeited to the Society if the appeal is dismissed. The appeal shall be heard by a specially constituted committee chaired by the Chairman or Vice Chairman whomsoever has not adjudicated on the first case and composed of members who have not already heard the original case.

6 If disciplinary proceedings go beyond the rules detailed above, the disciplinary rules of the National Pony Society will be followed.

7 No Member or Non Member shall behave in an offensive, abusive or unpleasant manner to a person or any horse/pony at any show, event, venue or workplace associated with the DPS, whether in person, over the telephone, in writing or via social media. Members will be held responsible for the actions of any non-members who are Relatives or who are employed by them or who are assisting, supporting, representing or otherwise acting on their behalf and any action or conduct of such person which would be a breach of the Rules were they a member shall constitute a breach of the Rules by the Member concerned. Relatives in this context will include any person who is in the reasonable opinion of the DPS a member of the Member's family in the widest scene. Disciplinary action will be taken at the discretion of Council.

8 It is the duty of every Member to assist the officers of the DPS in their investigation of breaches of the rules.

G. SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET POLICY

1 Introduction

- i) The DPS acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok, X (previously known as Twitter), Linked In, Messenger, home web-

pages, chat rooms and all other forms of electronic communication and the role which "social media" plays in the day to day lives of members.

- ii) This policy note is to remind members that the Rules of the DPS apply to members when using social media and the internet. Failure to adhere to this policy note could lead to disciplinary action being taken against a member.

2 Using Social Media

- i) You should be aware that the DPS may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the DPS and its members.
- ii) DPS produced images are the subject of copyright and should not be copied or used in social media save as provided in the DPS website user terms and conditions.
- iii) You should ensure that any material that you transmit or post to social media is clearly stated to be your personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the DPS.
- iv) You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the DPS, its members or former members, or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the DPS.
- v) You must not post or transmit any material relating to the DPS, members or former members or their horses or ponies, or which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the DPS:- i) that is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress or inconvenience; or ii) which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the DPS Rules, or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in, the UK or any other country in the world.
- vi) Any breach of this policy note may constitute a breach of the DPS Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.
- vi) If a complaint is active, any public discussion or comment by the complainant pertaining to the subject including on social media or other digital forum, will automatically result in the case being closed.

3 Disclosure under Law or Regulation

You should be aware that the DPS will fully co-operate with any law enforcement authorities or court order requesting or directing the DPS to disclose the identity or locate anyone posting any material in breach of this policy. If we are requested by the police or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities to provide your personal information, the DPS is entitled to do so.

H. SAFEGUARDING

- 1 The DPS has adopted the policies and procedures of the British Equestrian Federation relating to safeguarding. The DPS places the highest priority on the safety and enjoyment of children and young people participating in equestrian sport and is committed to promoting the highest possible standard of care across the whole Society.

The full Safeguarding Policy document can be downloaded from the BEF website at https://www.bef.co.uk/repository/downloads/Annex_B_1_Safeguarding_Policy_Children_and_Young_People_.pdf