DARTMOOR Pony Society

Registered Charity: 1207460
www.dartmoorponysociety.com

DARTMOOR PONY SOCIETY - BYE LAWS

October 2026

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

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The undermentioned Byelaws at present in force shall remain until such time as they may be amended or rescinded by the Council of the Dartmoor Pony Society (DPS)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 - candidates for election to Council shall be ranked by voters in order of preference. Where the number of votes cast results in a tie that affects the outcome of an election, voters' stated preferences shall be used to determine the successful candidate or candidates. This process shall ensure that the result reflects the preferences of the membership as fairly and democratically as possible.**

3. Serving Council Members and their immediate family are ineligible to apply for the Probationary Judges Scheme.

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. **Nothing in the Council's discretion to approve or refuse an application for membership shall operate to prevent a breeder who is otherwise eligible from participating in the Society's approved breeding programme or exercising any right conferred upon breeders by applicable legislation.**

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. **Nothing in the Council's discretion to approve or refuse an application for membership shall operate to prevent a breeder who is otherwise eligible from participating in the Society's approved breeding programme or exercising any right conferred upon breeders by applicable legislation.**

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. **Nothing in the Council's discretion to approve or refuse an application for membership shall operate to prevent a breeder who is otherwise eligible from participating in the Society's approved breeding programme or exercising any right conferred upon breeders by applicable legislation.** 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.

5 Equal Opportunities/Non-Discrimination - **The Society operates on the basis of equal opportunities and non-discrimination on behalf of employees, members and customers. None of these receives more or less favourable treatment on the grounds of: race, colour, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or religion.**

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i) **A breeder who keeps Dartmoor Ponies covered by the Dartmoor Pony Society's approved breeding programme on a holding within the geographical territory of that breeding programme, being the United Kingdom, shall have the right to participate in the breeding programme, subject to compliance with these Byelaws, the Society's approved breeding programme and applicable legislation.**

ii) Participation in the breeding programme shall not be conditional upon membership of the Dartmoor Pony Society where the breeder is otherwise entitled to participate under applicable legislation.

iii) Breeders participating in the breeding programme shall be entitled, subject to the requirements of the Society's approved breeding programme and these Byelaws:

a) to exercise free choice in the selection and breeding of their eligible breeding animals;

b) to have eligible offspring descended from their breeding animals considered for entry in the appropriate section of the Dartmoor Pony Society Stud Book or Supplementary Register, subject to the requirements applicable to that section;

c) to retain ownership of their breeding animals;

d) to receive the information and documentation relating to their breeding animals and their participation in the breeding programme to which they are entitled under applicable legislation and the Society's rules;

e) to receive equal treatment with other breeders participating in the breeding programme in accordance with these Byelaws and the approved breeding programme; and

f) to raise a complaint or dispute concerning the operation of the breeding programme, registration, the Stud Book or the actions or decisions of the Society in accordance with Section F of these Byelaws.

iv) The Society shall administer the breeding programme and Stud Book in accordance with the approved breeding programme, these Byelaws and applicable legislation.

v) Nothing in these Byelaws shall prevent a breeder participating in the breeding programme from exercising the rights provided to that breeder under applicable legislation.

vi) The Society may restrict or exclude a breeder from participation in the breeding programme where the breeder fails to comply with the rules of the approved breeding programme, these Byelaws or other applicable obligations, provided that the breeder is given written reasons for the decision and a right of appeal in accordance with Section F.

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. **Every application for registration of a foal must be accompanied by a Service Certificate signed by the keeper of the stallion**. 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, however in the event of extenuating circumstances, foals may be entered into the main stud book at the discretion of Council, subject to DNA testing at the owner's expense.**

viii) Foals must be registered whilst at foot of the mare and by December 31st of the year of foaling.

ix) 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.

x) To enable foals to be registered at members rates, membership fees must be paid before registration, and membership approved by Council.

xi) Ponies in Section X or their offspring cannot be upgraded from Section X.

xii) No pony in Main Stud Book Section X is eligible for any of the Society's Grants and cannot be shown in classes against animals in any Section of the Stud Book.

xiii) All colts accepted for upgrading to the Stallion Register must be DNA tested in accordance with the Society's procedures.

xiv) 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.

xv) Once a DNA sample has been received by the DPS it becomes the property of the DPS.

xvi) 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.

xvii) 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.

xviii) 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.

xix) A prefix may only be used on stock bred by the registered owner of the prefix.

xx) 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.

xxi) 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. Part Bred ponies will be recorded in a register which sits outside the Zootech regime.

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

xxiii) 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.

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

xxv) **Rights of Breeders in Relation to Registration**

a) A breeder participating in the Dartmoor Pony Society's approved breeding programme shall be entitled to apply for the registration of eligible breeding animals and their progeny in the appropriate section of the Stud Book or Supplementary Register in accordance with the approved breeding programme, these Byelaws and applicable legislation.

b) The Society shall apply the registration requirements consistently and equally to breeders participating in the breeding programme.

c) Where an application for registration is refused, the Society shall provide the applicant with written notification of the decision and the reason or reasons for refusal.

d) A breeder whose application for registration is refused, or whose participation in the breeding programme is restricted or refused, shall have the right to seek a review or appeal of that decision in accordance with Section F of these Byelaws.

e) Nothing in these Byelaws shall prevent an eligible breeder from exercising any right to participate in the approved breeding programme or to have eligible offspring entered in the Stud Book or registered in a breeding register which is conferred by applicable legislation.

f) The Society may require compliance with the pedigree, identification, DNA testing, licensing, age, inspection, welfare and other requirements specified in these Byelaws and the approved breeding programme before an animal or its progeny is eligible for registration.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER

i) The scheme will remain open for a limited period to allow the RBST to calculate whether the Dartmoor pony breed needs to increase its genetic diversity or not. In order to do this the DPS need to complete all entries onto the Grassroots database which is a major undertaking.

ii) The Dartmoor pony evolved on Dartmoor and it is to maintain the characteristics of hardiness, giving the ability to survive extreme environmental conditions, the DPS intend to focus on. Keeping a supplementary register open will allow selection of ponies with these specific genetic traits as well as demonstrating the Dartmoor phenotype as approved by DPS inspectors.

iii) The Supplementary register is restricted to females. **Supplementary Dartmoor male foals may go into the non-breeding register of the main stud book.**

3. DARTMOOR PONY SOCIETY MOORLAND 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 Dartmoor Pony Moorland Scheme on Dartmoor only.

iv) The progeny of SRD mares are potential SRD1 ponies, and may be graded SRD1 into the Studbook Main Section Class 1 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 fillies, and may be graded SRD2 as foals into the Studbook Main Section Class 2 SRD2, 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 into the Studbook Main Section, following a successful inspection and approval.*

v) **Supplementary Registered** Geldings are not eligible for any grants but may be shown in Dartmoor pony classes.

vi) All stallions used in the Newtakes must be out of fully registered mares by fully registered and licensed Dartmoor stallions.

vii) **SRD mares may be sold to breeders residing in the Dartmoor National Park (to ensure the specific genetic hardiness traits are maintained) to continue grading-up with fully registered and licensed Dartmoor Pony stallions in the DPS Moorland Scheme. If they are sold off the Dartmoor National Park any progeny will not be registered in the DPS Main Studbook.**

viii) **SRD1 and SRD2 mares** may be sold to other breeders to continue grading-up* with fully registered and licensed Dartmoor Pony stallions, **but the progeny must be inspected at the owners expense.**

ix) 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.

* Inspections/approvals must be carried out by 2 persons appointed by the DPS Council or its delegated authority. Care must be taken not to put people in a position of judging their neighbours ponies. No Inspector may inspect ponies for the same owner more than two years out of three.

4 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 maintain a register of ponies out with the Zootech regime, 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 Dartmoor Pony Society 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/approvals must be carried out by 2 persons appointed by the DPS Council or its delegated authority. No Inspector may inspect ponies for the same owner more than two years out of three.

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. Geldings in **the non-breeding section of the main stud book** (NB this is for the DPS Moorland Scheme graded up geldings) may be shown.

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. **Sensory hairs such as** the muzzle and chin whiskers must not be trimmed. **The tail should be rough trimmed so they are no longer than ground level.** 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.

xvi) **Whips/canes must not exceed an overall length of 76 cms (30 inches) and if they are misused, in the opinion of the judge, the rider may be sent out of the ring and may also be reported to the DPS Council.**

The use of the whip must be:

• For good reason - the whip must only be used either as an aid to encourage the horse/pony forward or as a reprimand. Thus, it must never be used to vent a rider/handler's temper.
• With appropriate severity – as a reprimand only and a horse/pony should never be hit more than two times for any one incident and if a horse/pony is injured by a whip, e.g. if the skin is broken or there is a weal, it's use is excessive and the rider/handler subject to elimination.
• The adverse use of schooling whips or any other whip or cane is not permitted within any area of the showground including lorry parks, stables and warm up areas.
• Where lunging is permitted on the showground, the use of a lunge whip 'against the horse' is not permitted.
• It is strongly recommended that only a padded whip/baton is carried in Working Hunter Pony Classes

xvii) Bridles, Bits and Tack:

a) Where there are no specific Rules relating to use of bridles and bits in the Rule Book (either in this section or in the rules for the particular competition) the judge should take into account the suitability of the bridle and bit, based on the rider's competence and the way the horse/pony is going in the class.

b) All ponies in Novice classes, except the Novice First Ridden class, must be shown in a snaffle. A snaffle excludes any leverage bit which is defined as a bit having any external extension below the main bit ring.
c) All ponies in Leading Rein classes must be shown in a snaffle. The leading rein must be attached to the noseband only and the reins must go directly from the bit to the rider's hands. The only attachments to the saddle allowed are a crupper, or handle. Reins must not be attached to the handle or the saddle. The reins must be a normal length and not knotted together or stitched together at a shorter length.
d) Ponies competing in DPS affiliated classes at any show, may only be ridden on the showground in tack appropriate to the class they are competing in that day, with the exception of a correctly fitted running or standing martingale.
e) Neck straps are permitted
f) Brood mares may be shown in a halter, leather head collar or any bridle.
g) Youngstock may be shown in a halter, leather head collar or snaffle bridle.
h) All foals must be shown in a halter or leather head collar. No foal may be shown in a bit of any type.
i) Stallions and colts aged two and over must be appropriately bitted.
j) A standard cavesson noseband is the only type of noseband permitted in flat ridden classes. Crank nosebands are not permitted in any class.
k) Solid metal curb chains, frequently covered in leather, are not permitted.
l) Only smooth rounded mouthpieces on bits are acceptable. Bits with wire mouths, square mouths, or those that have been modified from the manufacturer's original form are not acceptable in DPS classes.
m) Bitless bridles and running gags are not permitted.
n) No change of equipment is permitted between the class and the championship.

xviii) Organisation of Classes:
a) The class is closed and ponies will not be allowed into the ring:
In Hand - When the last horse/pony has done its individual trot around the ring before being lined up
Ridden - When the class goes into trot
Leading Rein- When the last pony has done its individual trot around the ring before being lined up
WHP - 2 minutes after the last pony has jumped
b) A fall of pony or rider in the ridden phase of any class will result in disqualification. The rider must not remount in the ring. A fall of a rider in the in-hand phase may result in elimination at the discretion of the judge.
c) No change of rider/handler will be allowed throughout a class except where a rider/handler is incapacitated and the judge gives permission for the change.
d) The rider/handler may only remove their horse/pony or themselves from the ring during judging, with the judge's permission. The class ends when the judge dismisses the class.
e) Where a rider/handler qualifies more than one pony for a championship they must elect eligible substitute riders/handlers for the other ponies for the championship.

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 **shown (excluding section championships),** 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.

viii) Attire and Equipment:
a) Correctly secured Skull Caps/Riding Hats that meet one of the following current Safety Standards/specifications MUST be worn by all Riders of all ages. Hat Standards accepted as of 1st January 2026 are as follows: PAS015 2011, VG1 2014-12, EN1384 2023, ASTM F1163 2015 & 2023, SNELL E2016 or 2021 onwards. Hats meeting more than one standard: Some hats are badged with two or more standards. As long as a hat contains at least one compliant hat standard, then it is deemed suitable for use under DPS rules, even if it is additionally labelled with an older or out of date standard. Handlers of ponies in In Hand classes aged 14 years and under must wear a correctly secured skull caps/riding hat that meets one of the above standards.
b) The DPS strongly recommends body protectors are worn in all jumping competitions especially over fixed obstacles.
c) Riders, handlers and their grooms must present themselves in the show ring neatly and smartly dressed at all times.
d) The wearing of spurs in DPS affiliated classes is forbidden.
e) The wearing of any sort of jewellery when handling or riding a horse/pony is not recommended and if done at any DPS activity, is done at the risk of the member/their parent/guardian.
f) No unauthorised use of mobile phones and/or earpieces in the ring.

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) All judges on the A panel are equal. Should two judges not agree on a decision an umpire may be called to decide between the ponies that the two judges cannot agree on. The umpire must be on the DPS A Panel and must not have a connection with the judges or competitors involved.

iv) Judges are expected to be dressed correctly, wearing a hat, and be respectful of each other.

v) B Panel judges can judge any Working Hunter Pony classes and Mini Ridden Classes at Star Shows.

vi) Judges may only accept one Judging appointment in Devon, to judge Dartmoor-only classes, during any one season, except in exceptional circumstances.

vii) If the judge decides a rider is not suitably mounted, they should take appropriate action and place down the line, or mark accordingly.

viii) The judge may require that a pony which constitutes a danger leaves the ring; the judge's decision is final.

ix) It is normal for a Judge to be on the B Panel for a minimum of **two** years, before being asked, at the discretion of Council, to move up to the A Panel.

x) 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.

xi) A Panel Judges must have judged Dartmoors for three years, including one Star Show, before assessing probationers.

xii) 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. **Serving Council Members and their immediate family are ineligible to apply for the Probationary Judges Scheme.**

xiii) Probationer Judges are allowed to be in the ring for Championships.

xiv) **The DPS seeks to ensure that all its competitions are judged fairly and that there is no bias or favouritism. This is only achievable if owners, producers, riders, handlers and judges observe the following rules, in the spirit in which they are intended.**

a) No contact should be made between the judge and the spectators during the period when judging begins and ends.

b) A judge must not call any exhibitor by their name in the ring and must always remain completely impartial. No social conversation should take place prior to showing or in the ring.

c) Judges must not accept any hospitality from an exhibitor and should avoid staying with any potential exhibitor at shows where they will be judging.

d) 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.

e) 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.

f) **A judge may not knowingly judge an exhibitor, to his/her knowledge, has shown (excluding section championships), produced, broken or trained an equine for the judge since 1st January of the preceding year.**

xiii) 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, DISPUTES, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND APPEALS

1 Complaints and Disputes

i) The Society shall maintain a fair, transparent and accessible procedure for receiving and determining complaints and disputes arising from the operation of the Society, the Dartmoor Pony Society breeding programme, the management of the Stud Book, registration decisions or the application of these Byelaws.

ii) The procedure shall apply to complaints or disputes:

a) between breeders participating in the breeding programme;

b) between a breeder and the Society;

c) concerning the Society's administration of the breeding programme or Stud Book;

d) concerning the registration, identification, pedigree, classification or eligibility of a Dartmoor Pony;

e) concerning a decision to refuse, restrict or withdraw participation in the breeding programme;

f) concerning the application of these Byelaws to a breeder or their breeding animals; and

g) concerning any other matter arising in the carrying out of the Society's approved breeding programme.

iii) The Society shall, without prejudice to the role of the courts, have responsibility for dealing with and seeking to resolve disputes arising between breeders and between breeders and the Society in connection with the carrying out of the approved breeding programme.

iv) A complaint or dispute may be submitted by a member or by a breeder participating in, or seeking to participate in, the breeding programme, whether or not that person is a member of the Society.

2 Making a Complaint

i) A complaint or dispute shall normally be submitted in writing, together with a fee of £150 for disciplinary complaints (NB complaints/disputes about the Society, Stud Book or Breeding Programme do not carry a fee), to the Society's Registered Office and shall set out the matter complained of, the relevant facts and, where appropriate, the outcome sought.

ii) Fees

a) No fee shall be payable for a complaint or dispute made in good faith concerning the Society's administration of the breeding programme or Stud Book.

b) Disciplinary complaints should be submitted together with a fee of £150, payable to the Society.

c) The Society shall not operate so as to prevent a breeder from exercising a right of complaint or appeal conferred by applicable legislation.

iii) The Society may require reasonable supporting evidence or documentation.

iv) A complaint shall normally be submitted within 21 days of the decision, action or 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, giving rise to the complaint, except where the Society considers that there are reasonable grounds for accepting a later complaint.

v) No person shall be disadvantaged for making a complaint in good faith.

i) A complaint shall be acknowledged and dealt with within a reasonable period having regard to the nature and complexity of the matter.

3 Investigation and Determination

i) Complaints and disputes shall be investigated by the Disciplinary Committee and determined fairly, impartially and in accordance with these Byelaws and the Society's published complaints procedure.

ii) 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.

iii) Any person who has a direct or indirect interest in the matter complained of, or who has previously made or determined a decision which is the subject of the complaint, shall not participate in determining that complaint or any appeal from it.

iv) The person making the complaint and any person directly affected by the complaint shall be given the opportunity to provide evidence and make representations before a final decision is reached. This should be within 21 days of request from the Disciplinary Committee and should be sent by recorded or special delivery for proof of posting, and if by e-mail an acknowledgement should be requested.

v) The Society shall provide the complainant and any person directly affected with a written decision and, where appropriate, the reasons for that decision.

6 Disciplinary Proceedings

i) Complaints alleging misconduct or a breach of these Byelaws by a member shall be dealt with under the Society's disciplinary procedure.

ii) If the case is found proven, then the Disciplinary Committee shall decide what penalty is appropriate.

iii) The existing disciplinary powers of the Society shall not prevent a breeder from making a complaint concerning the Society, the breeding programme or the Stud Book.

iv) Where a matter involves both a disciplinary allegation and a complaint concerning the Society's administration of the breeding programme or Stud Book, the Society shall ensure that the two aspects are considered separately and impartially.

5 Appeals

i) A person affected by a decision concerning the breeding programme, Stud Book, registration or application of these Byelaws shall have the right to appeal against that decision.

ii) A person affected by a decision concerning a disciplinary dispute shall have the right to appeal to the Society provided that they also submit the sum of £150 which shall be forfeited to the Society if the appeal is dismissed.

iii) Notice of appeal shall normally be given in writing within 21 days of notification of the decision.

iv) An appeal shall be considered by a person or committee which has not participated in the original decision and which has no conflict of interest in the matter.

v) The appeal body shall have power to confirm, vary or overturn the original decision or to refer the matter back for reconsideration.

vi) The decision on appeal shall be given in writing with reasons.

6 Exclusion from the Breeding Programme

i) Where the Society proposes to restrict or exclude a breeder from participation in the approved breeding programme because of failure to comply with the rules of the breeding programme or the breeder's obligations under these Byelaws, the breeder shall be notified in writing of the proposed decision and the reasons for it.

ii) Except where immediate action is necessary to protect animal welfare, the integrity of the Stud Book or the proper operation of the breeding programme, the breeder shall be given a reasonable opportunity to respond before the decision is confirmed.

iii) A decision to exclude or restrict participation shall be subject to the appeal procedure set out in this Section.

8 Records and Confidentiality

i) The Society shall maintain appropriate records of complaints, disputes and appeals and their outcomes.

ii) Information relating to complaints and disputes shall be handled confidentially except where disclosure is required by law, necessary for the proper determination of the matter, or otherwise permitted by applicable legislation.

iii) The Society may use anonymised information arising from complaints and disputes to review and improve the administration of the breeding programme and Stud Book.

9 Other Rights

Nothing in this Section shall prevent any person from exercising any right or remedy available under applicable legislation or from referring a matter to a court or other competent authority where entitled to do so.

10 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.

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

12 The disciplinary rules of the National Pony Society may be used as guidance or as a supplementary procedure where the Society considers this appropriate in relation to showing or disciplinary matters. They shall not replace or restrict the Society's own procedures for resolving disputes between breeders, or between breeders and the Society, concerning the approved breeding programme, the Stud Book or registration.

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 ln, 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