



Follow us
on
Facebook
&
Instagram

Everything
for the
CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE
ENTHUSIAST

MEMBER'S HANDBOOK

2023/2024

**Incorporating the
GUIDELINES and RULES
for Judges, Stewards
& Competitors**

All CDSGB Members, Judges and Stewards should be aware that subsequent amendments, additions or updates to this Handbook, Guidelines and Rules for Judges will be published as they occur on the CDSGB website and/or the Facebook Page

Please take the time to make yourself conversant

www.eqconcoursgb.com

Rule Book 2023/2024

Chairman: Emma Richardson-Steele

Side Saddle Specialist: Tanya Guest

Championship Show Organiser: Rebecca Rawlinson-Allen

Membership Administrator: Carole Quantrill

Show Affiliations: Paula Ryan

Show Affiliations: Charlotte Ryan

Newsletter: Jodie Nixon

Social Media: Katie Naish

All details of Board Members roles and responsibilities and contact details are available on our website www.eqconcoursgb.com

The committee declares that there will be no discrimination between Members.

Concours d'Elegance Society of GB

Rule Book 2023 - 2024

Creating a fair system of judging and a level playing field

Tel 07960 107 111

Enquiries@eqconcoursgb.com

www.eqconcoursgb.com

CONTENTS

- A General Rules
- B Welfare
- C Showing Guidelines
- D Showing Guidelines (Horses & Ponies)
- E Showing Guidelines (Turnout and Tack)
- F Affiliated Shows
- G National Open Show incorporating Championship and Concours of the Year Classes
- H Use of social media
- I Performance Awards
- J Complaints/Disciplinary Procedure
- K New Judge Applications
- L Judges Rules and Guidelines

All competitors, Officials and Judges must abide by the CDSGB Rules at all times.

All rule amendments for 2024 are show underlined in italics (Void until 2024)

Concours d'Elegance Society of GB National Show and Championship

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th August 2024

The largest show dedicated to Concours d'Elegance costume classes in the UK

For membership details and further information, please visit the website

www.eqconcoursgb.com

Qualifiers for the Concours d'Elegance Society of GB Championship Show 2024



Schedule

Over 25 classes
4 Championships
Juniors, Seniors
In Hand, NEW Side
Saddle Classes



24th & 25th August 2024

Onley Grounds
Equestrian Complex,
CV23 8AJ



Prizes

Trophies, rosettes
sashes and so
many prizes

Open to all - You do not need to be a member!

All classes are open to everyone except the Championship classes. To be eligible to compete in the 'Concours of the Year' classes, the combination must have qualified at one of the many affiliated classes across the UK.



07762 771 364

www.eqconcoursgb.com
E : CDSGBshowsec@hotmail.com
Find us on Facebook

A GENERAL RULES

- 1 All horses and ponies must be in a sound and healthy condition. Any animal showing signs of distress or lameness will be asked to leave the ring. The judge's decision of lameness of a horse/pony is non disputable.
2. The Society does not accept any liability for any accident, injury, loss, damage or illness to any riders, handlers, spectators, horses, ponies or to any property whatsoever and howsoever caused.
3. Equine passports should always accompany the horse/pony when travelling and competing and must be produced on request.
4. Personal membership will run from 1st January to 31st December
5. All membership fees are non-refundable
6. Please be aware that dope testing may take place at any show affiliated to the CDSGB. The rules and policies of the show will take precedence over CDSGB Rules.
7. All competitors in CDSGB affiliated classes must have valid public liability insurance, covering the horse that they are competing. Personal insurance cover is also strongly recommended.
- 8 Excessive use of whips/showing canes or misuse of any equipment will result in immediate exclusion from the show ring. Membership will be revoked with immediate effect and no refund will be given.
- 9 Remedial shoeing and/or hoof boots are permitted and will not be penalised, providing the horse/pony is sound.

GDPR TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 1 Entries to CDSGB affiliated classes are to be made directly with each show. By entering a CDSGB affiliated class, competitors' consent to results including their name and their horse's name being listed on the CDSGB website.
- 2 The CDSGB will hold your personal information within our systems for an indefinite period as a unique membership number is sued for the rider/handler, not the horse. Paperwork will only be held for 2 years inf membership is not renewed or additional information added.

B. WELFARE

The Judge will ask the competitor to leave the ring should the welfare of the veteran, handler/rider or any other competitor or official be compromised.

If any horse is seemed to have welfare issues, Judges must consider suspending the class if imminent harm is feared. If the Judge is of the opinion that there is a welfare issue with an exhibit, be it in relation to size/weight of either rider handler or any combination; or another welfare issue, the Judge may disqualify the competitor. There is no appeal against dismissal from the ring for welfare reasons.

The CDSGB consider equine welfare to be a priority of the utmost importance in all circumstances. Competitors must be mindful of distance travelled, frequency of shows, number of classes entered, weather conditions and ground conditions etc. Any competitor considered not to be doing so, within acceptable limits will be subject to the CDSGB disciplinary procedure which may also result in membership and qualifications being revoked.

C. Showing Guidelines

Lead rein riders (3-9 years of age). No child under 3 years old may compete. Lead rein riders are not to have attained their 9th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.

Lead rein exhibits must be shown in a snaffle bridle. The lead rein must be attached to the noseband at all times during the class. Riders of lead rein ponies are not permitted to carry whips, with the exception of side-saddle exhibits, where Side Saddle Association rules apply.

Lead rein handlers must be competent and must have attained their 16th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.

Riders/Handlers 16 years and under may compete in CDSGB classes but must be competent enough to ride/handle their horse/pony without assistance.

All competitors in ridden classes must be capable of walk, trot and canter (with the exception of lead rein combinations who are not required to canter). First ridden combination do not need to show canter.

Riders/handlers of stallions must have attained their 16th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year. They must be of an appropriate size and competency to handle the stallions.

All Stallions must display a stallion bridle badge.

Riders/handlers may not exhibit under any judge who has had financial interest in that equine, or any other equine belonging to the rider/handler. This includes producing, riding schooling, instruction, livery selling buying, breeding etc.

Riders/Handlers may not knowingly exhibit a horse/pony which has been bred by the Judge.

Late entries may be allowed into the ring at the discretion of the Judge but may be taken into consideration in the placings.

Competitors may not leave or return to the show ring without the Judge's/Steward's permission. Where a competitor has been granted permission to leave the ring, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure they return before the final judging. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

Any fall of horse and/or rider will result in disqualification on medical, safety and insurance grounds.

The Judge may disqualify any horse pony from the class that is not sufficiently under control or is deemed a danger to other competitors or officials.

Should a horse/pony mis-behave during presentation of final awards, this may result in demotion or disqualification at the Judge's discretion.

Mobile phones are not permitted in the show ring by Judge, Steward, Grooms or Competitors.

Judges must refrain from physical contact with any horse or rider during judging.

The Judge's decision is final. Confrontation with a Judge, Official or another competitor, in or outside the ring, is strictly forbidden and will result in disciplinary action and may lead to membership being permanently revoked. This also includes all social media forums and chat rooms.

Should a competitor be physically unable to trot the horse/pony up in hand, a runner may be allowed to enter the ring at the Judge's discretion to do this on behalf of the competitor. The runner must be turned out correctly and fully compliant with CDSGB Rules.

Any conduct bringing the CDSGB into disrepute is strictly forbidden. This includes confrontation with any show official, competitor or member of the public by either a competitor or associated individual. Any reports of such conduct will be investigated and will result in disciplinary action and may lead to membership being permanently revoked/refused.

D. SHOWING GUIDELINES (HORSES & PONIES)

Horses/Ponies that have suffered injuring in the past resulting in scarring or blemishes will not be penalised providing the horse/pony has completely recovered and is showing no signs of discomfort.

Use of enhancement including makeup and body oils is acceptable. Freeze marking or branding will not be marked down.

The Judge will not ride. An individual show is expected, this may be set by the Judge or may be freestyle but should not exceed two minutes.

Gallop/Extended Canter is not allowed in any Concours 'd'Elegance class. Any intentional galloping will lead to disqualification.

The CDSGB advise that sensory hairs located around the mouth, nose, eyes, and inner ears are an important sensory organ for the horse and should not be removed for cosmetic purposes.

E. SHOWING GUIDELINES (TURNOUT & TACK)

ALL RIDERS & HANDLERS

Hats to BRC current standards must always be worn when mounted by ALL junior riders (under 18 years), with the chinstrap secured. Top hats, bowlers and costume hats may be worn by adult riders, and a disclaimer must be signed if you choose not to wear a safety hat. The Society shall accept no responsibility for riders choosing NOT to wear an approved hard hat. Please refer to the shows own rules which may require ALL riders to wear safety headwear and overrule the rules of The Society. Hat bands create a more elegant look if made to match the costume however, some people are very creative with over-hats but they can look out of proportion with some costumes. Judges should never mark down for the use of a safety hat.

In hand classes require a walk 'go round' and an individual show (a short figure of eight at walk). Ridden classes include a walk and trot 'go round'. The class will be judged with competitors at walk and trot with consideration to ability, on both reins. Canter may be shown in the individual show, but it is entirely at the rider's discretion.

Trot can be executed in sitting or rising trot and riders will not be marked down for rising to the trot.

Plumes are not permitted on horse's heads as these were traditionally used for funeral and circus work only.

Concours d'Elegance is a costume competition (not fancy dress or 'cosplay') and it is judged on the overall picture of elegance, perhaps depicting a film, painting or period drama. Costume, tack, rider and horse/pony will be taken into consideration.

Participants enter individually and if an unmounted leader is required, he/she may wear correct costume for the period and their role.

Inspection of the costume and horse tack will take place when the class is lined up. Details such as silhouette, fabric (colour, trimmings, weight and materials) appropriate style and drape will be examined. The judge should not request to look under skirts or any part of the costume.

Period make-up may be included to help create the 'look'.

Appropriate accessories may include jewellery, hairstyle and headwear, footwear, etc. Earrings should not be worn (this follows guidance along with other societies)

Veils are acceptable as the overall look is often designed to create the look of a lady riding side saddle. Veils should be worn correctly and only with an appropriate hat silk top hat or bowler.

No jodhpurs or boots should be visible unless they form part of the costume when the horse/pony is stationary.

Horse Tack: Bits and saddles MUST be safe and fit the horse. Any suitable tack is acceptable, and you may wish to use appropriate tack to enhance your costume. Decorated and embellished browbands are acceptable for any type of horse/pony. The welfare of the horse and safety of the rider is paramount.

Costumes should be tasteful, traditional and have the wow factor. Minimal flesh should be on show ie no bare arms or cleavage. Concours is meant to replicate wearing your 'Sunday Best'.

In hand classes: Competitors should enter the arena on the left rein to enable the judge to get a clear view of your costume and not be obscured by the horse or pony.

The Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. All classes are judged on the overall picture of elegance.

Please remember that the possession of a sense of humour, fair play and good sportsmanship are mandatory for all involved at these shows. Please try and remember that a smile and a good word demonstrates the height of humility and good manners, which are always in fashion.

Any turnout and tack is acceptable as long as it is safe and well fitted. A hat disclaimer may be required by the show.

Bad mannered horses/ponies (rearing/bucking) should be asked to leave the ring.

Boots may be uncovered and on **show if they form part of the overall costume.**

Skirts may cover the rump in which case they should finish midway down the dock and not be longer than the hocks. Skirts may also be in the form of a divided skirt or culottes.

The skirt should not be attached to the saddle in any way – this includes being tucked between the front of the saddle and the shoulder. This is a major safety issue. You should never be marked down for having your saddle on show!

Costumes do not need to be lined but the fall and fit of the costume will be taken into consideration.

Black gloves were traditionally only worn whilst a person was in mourning. They should never be worn (unless your costume is depicting a lady or gentleman in mourning!)

A walk and trot 'go-round' should be performed before lining up if the Judge deems it safe to do so.

Both rising or sitting trot is permissible but please consider your horse/pony's welfare – many people do not practice sitting trot for long periods of time.

Only the Judge should be involved in the judging process. The Steward is there to assist with paperwork, rosettes and communing with the competitors until the presentation of rosettes.

Spurs are acceptable – no points or rowels.

Hair may be style in a way to suit the costume.

The judge should not touch the horse or the rider/handler.

Homemade Costume Classes: A homemade costume is an outfit that has been made by the rider/handler or an immediate family member who is not professionally involved in the textiles industry. The jacket may be purchased but the skirt must have been made by the handler or immediate family member. If the family member is a small business or takes payments in any form for alterations or construction of any garments, then this is not considered homemade.

HANDLERS

Gloves should be worn – never black as this denotes a person in mourning (unless your costume replicates someone in mourning!)

Suitable, smart, safe footwear

Suitable hats should be worn.

Showing canes/whips are acceptable in all classes with the exception of lead rein riders.

RIDERS

Spurs or spur band may be worn including side saddle foreign breeds exhibits and veterans.

Gloves should be worn – never black as this denotes a person in mourning (unless your costume replicates someone in mourning!)

Breeches, jodhpurs, trousers, leggings, bloomers are all acceptable worn underneath your costume.

Non safety hats may be worn if the relevant governing association rules apply. However, the hosting show's hat rules will take precedence and may require side-saddle and foreign breeds exhibits to sign a hat disclaimer or may insist that safety hats are worn. It is the competitor's responsibility to check with the hosting show.

Showing canes/whips exceeding 76cm will not be permitted (with the exception of side-saddle exhibits where Side Saddle Association rules apply)

GROOMS

Generally, grooms are not required in the ring however, if they do need to enter the ring, they should be dressed in suitable, smart and safe attire.

Grooms not dressed appropriately may be asked to leave the ring.

HORSE or PONY

Tack must be in good, clean condition and correctly fitted.

Stallions must be bitted. Corrected fitted stallion harnesses are acceptable but not compulsory.

Protective boots are not acceptable however hoof points are accepted.

Bits – any suitable showing bit is acceptable. A lip strap should be present if a curb chain is used. Bit-less bridles are permitted. Children under the age of 12 years are not permitted to use a double bridle or double reins but split reins or pelham roundings are permitted.

A correctly fitted Newmarket lead rein is permitted in In Hand classes.

Nose nets are permitted.

False plaits and false tails are permitted providing they do not compromise the welfare of the horse/pony. Glue-in false plaits or glue-in false tails are not permitted.

Grackle, flash and drop nosebands are accepted.

Over-weight or under-weight horses will be taken into consideration.

F. QUALIFIERS

Competitors who qualify at affiliated shows should apply for membership within 21 days of qualifying.

Competitors placed first to third qualify and the cards may be passed down the line as far as sixth place at the Judge's discretion if the higher placed riders have previously qualified.

G. NATIONAL CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE OPEN SHOW AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

National Concours d'Elegance Society of GB hosting the CDSGB Concours of the Year 2023

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th August 2024 Olney Grounds Equestrian Complex, Rugby, Warwickshire

This is a unique weekend of competition dedicated to Concours d'Elegance. It is open to members and non-members and aim to provide a wide variety of classes which cater for all. We pride ourselves on creating a friendly and encouraging atmospheres for all to compete and have fun with their horses and ponies.

Full rules for the National Show can be found in the schedule.

Schedule and entry details will be published on the CDSGB website www.eqconcoursegb.com

H. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social networking sites are popular with both members and non-members for communicating and sharing information and pictures. The CDSGB encourages the use of forums such as these in a positive, inclusive, and respectful manner.

Inappropriate and offensive comments of any nature will not be tolerated under any circumstances – this includes inappropriate or disrespectful remarks about the Society, Judges, members, and non-members. This will include comments about placings or horses.

Any person associated with the CDSGB, Judge, Competitor or otherwise, found to be making any such remarks in a CDSGB owned group will be removed from the group without warning.

Any member found to be making such remarks in any forum could result in membership or association being revoked.

The CDSGB is a family-oriented organisation and, as such, full respect should be shown at all times.

I. PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The purpose of the **Performance Awards Scheme** is to encourage and reward the capabilities of the Concours d'Elegance competitor by offering a points scheme to give more opportunities to compete and win awards in both qualifying and non-qualifying classes across the UK. At the end of the year these marks are summed up and rosettes sent to the winners.

All Registered Members are eligible to take part.

Sections: In Hand Showing & Ridden Showing.

The Competition runs from 1st November to 31st October in any year and is open to all paid up members. In order to qualify for points, all horses and ponies must be ridden by paid-up members of CDSGB. Points are also gained by competing, even if not placed. In the event of equality of points, the higher number of first places will be the decider. All unplaced entries will receive a rosette which may be collected at the show or posted at cost.

Results cards must be signed by the judge/secretary to gain points. Competitors to fill in and keep total of their scores. Completed results cards must be returned to the Show Office postmarked no later than the 31st October of the current year.

No late entries will be accepted. Please keep a photocopy of your results card before posting. Recorded delivery is recommended for your postage of the results cards.

CDSGB cannot be held responsible for any results cards lost in the post. Scores will be checked and any discrepancies raised with the competitor.

Places 1st to 6th will be awarded in each group with a rosette in the post.

Score System: In-Hand Section, Ridden Section., Side Saddle Section, Junior Section, Home Made Costume Section

1st Place - 6 points, 2nd Place - 5 points, 3rd place - 4 points, 4th place - 3 points. 5th place - 2 points, 6th place - 1 point

Where you are Champion, this is classed as a first Place and 6 point equivalent. Where you are Reserve Champion, this is classed as a second place and 5 point equivalent.

The card to be carried by the rider and must be signed by the judge in the ring or the show secretary.

For show information please contact Rebecca Rawlinson-Allen T 07762771364

E CDSGBshowsec@hotmail.com or enquiries@eqconcoursgb.com

www.eqconcoursgb.com

J. COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

The attention of officials, judges and members is drawn to the complaints provision of the CDSGB whereby the CDSGB has powers to discipline officers, judges, members and/or any competitor in the event of a failure to observe any rules and regulations made by the CDSGB or acting in such a manner that bring the CDSGB into disrepute.

General Showing Complaints must be made in writing and received via post within 7 days of the show, stating: name of show/date/CDSGB Judge/full nature of the complaint together with the fee of £20 which will be returned if the complaint is upheld.

Malicious complaints made solely with the intent to discredit another will not be tolerated. If made and discovered, the complainant will then be subject to disciplinary investigation themselves and may face expulsion – if a member the no refund of membership will be paid.

The complainant should make it clear in writing via post to the CDSGB that the grievance procedure is being invoked and must ensure that the necessary payment of £50 is made at the same time (payable by cheque or BACS or PayPal to CDSGB Head Office)

On receipt of the complaint, the nominated Senior Representatives will engage in a meeting and discuss the complaint. The CDSGB Representatives will then deal with and resolve the complaint within 28 days (or as soon as reasonably possible given the circumstances).

The complainant will then be informed of the decision within 28 days of the meeting.

If the complaint is upheld, the payment of £50 submitted with the complaint will be returned to the complainant.

The Chairman and Senior Representatives' decision will be final and binding.

K. NEW JUDGES APPLICATIONS

The CDSGB welcomes and encourages all new Judge applications. From those with an extensive level of showing knowledge and experience, to those who have a passion and interest in Concours d'Elegance.

To apply to join the CDSGB Panel, please email the CDSGB at enquiries@eqconcoursegb.com

The minimum age requirement for full CDSGB panel judge status is 21 years. Applications are accepted from potential judges from 18 years of age to become a trainee CDSGB panel judge whereby they can begin supervised judging with a view to applying for full panel judge status on the year of their 21st birthday.

Note: There is no Senior Judge status at the present time and the society have not authorised any outside person or persons to undertake judge's training on their behalf.

L. CDSGB POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILD PROTECTION/VULNERABLE ADULTS

CDSGBS fully accepts its legal (Children's Act 1989) and moral obligation to provide a duty of care, to protect all children (and vulnerable adults) and safeguard their welfare irrespective of age, any disability they have, gender, racial origin, religious belief, and sexual orientation. In pursuit of this, CDSGB is committed to ensuring that:

1. The welfare of young people (and vulnerable adults) is paramount, and children have the right to protection from abuse.
2. All young people who take part in Equestrian Events should be able to participate in a fun and safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play.
3. It takes all reasonable practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
4. All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. It is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns.
5. All employees and volunteers are carefully selected, informed about their responsibilities, and provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and child protection procedures.
6. High standards of behaviour and practice are demanded through compliance with CDSGB Codes of Conduct produced for Judges, Stewards, Instructors, Proprietors and Volunteers.
7. Everyone knows and accepts their responsibilities and works together: parents, riders, instructors, proprietors, volunteers and professional staff. CDSGB fully endorse and implement the BEF/BHS code of good practice for the Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Policy (to be reviewed annually).