



Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival

15 – 16 March, 2025

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www.heavyhorsefestival.com.au

Competitors Rules & Conditions of Entry

It is a condition of entry that all competitors/exhibitors agree to abide by the Rules of the Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival as set out below and as included in the Schedule.

Entries must be submitted on the forms provided, including yard and camping requirements, by the date stated on the Nomination Form. A nomination will not be accepted unless accompanied by the prescribed fees.

The Darling Downs Heavy Horse Association Inc Committee, (DDHHA Inc Committee or the Committee) at its own discretion, and without giving reason or recourse for so doing, may:

- Accept an entry/nomination
- Refuse or reject any entry/nomination
- Refuse to allow any Person to be an Exhibitor and/or Competitor
- Cancel or withdraw the status of any Person to be an Exhibitor and/or Competitor

Any monies collected as nomination/entry fee will be refunded in cases of refusal or rejection as stipulated above.

By signing the nomination/entry form, you authorise the DDHHA Inc to use any photographs and/or videos of your horses, handlers and exhibitors for any publicity purposes including social media, flyers, news articles, merchandise, websites, newsletters and magazines.

Refunds: Refunds on nominations will be made to competitors who withdraw on or before the Wednesday prior to the Festival but a 10% fee will be deducted. Please note: there will be no refunds on yards once they have been put up (usually a week to 10 days before the event).

All purebred led horses must be registered with a breed society approved by the DDHHA Inc Committee as stated in the schedule.

A copy of the registration papers must accompany the horse to the show and be produced for perusal at the request of the Committee, Ring Steward or other such person authorised by the DDHHA Inc Committee.

All partbred horses must be registered or recorded with an organisation recognised by the DDHHA Inc as stated in the schedule.

The age of ALL horses shall be calculated from the 1st of August.

All Heavy Horses, unless otherwise stated in the schedule, must conform to the true description of a 'draught horse', that is, they must be of heavy type and at least 15 hands in height.

All Partbred Horses must be no more than 50% light horse breed combined with heavy horse breed/s. They should be of the sport or performance horse type – a medium heavy horse that will mature to 14 hands & over. Partbreds of heavy type should compete in classes open to Draught and Heavy Horses.

Partbred Gypsy Cobs must be at least 50% Gypsy Cob with a mature height of at least 13 hands.

Heavy (or Draught) Equines include mules of heavy type bred from a Mammoth Jack out of a draught mare of any heavy horse breeding. They must also meet the height requirements of the class.

Heavy Equines may enter classes where the schedule permits.

The Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival (the Festival) is conducted under the rules of the Darling Downs Heavy Horse Association Inc, its constitution and the rules which appear in the schedule for this event. Should there be any conflict between the rules of the competition, the constitution of the DDHHA Inc and the regulations appearing in the schedule, those of the schedule shall prevail.

All competitors must comply with Equestrian Australia and Biosecurity Qld animal welfare guidelines.

Any excessive shouting, whipping or swearing may incur disqualification and possible removal from the grounds.

All competitors, handlers and exhibitors entering the main arena or any other designated competition area **MUST**, at all times, be wearing the wristband issued by the DDHHA Inc. This will be supplied upon arrival and with the completion of waiver and EA disclaimer forms plus payment of the required fee or proof of EA membership supplied.

Covered footwear must be worn at all times in marshalling and competition areas.

Competitors must be dressed appropriately for the event entered.

All tack, harness, vehicles & implements used at the Festival must be in sound & safe condition.

Stewards and officials appointed by the Committee shall have the right to bar or remove any horse or competitor from any class or competition arena where a breach of safety is perceived.

Instructions from Stewards and nominated officials must be obeyed. Stewards and Officials have the authority to disqualify or remove competitors if instructions are not obeyed.

All signs must be obeyed.

No smoking or alcohol is permitted in competition rings.

No other animals are permitted in the ring except with the permission of the Ringmaster.

All horses that compete must be presented in clean, neat show condition.

All entire males, two years and over, must be shown with a bit in their mouth and under the control of the bit. ALL stallions and colts, two years & over **MUST** be handled by a person 18 years or over.

Any horse considered by the Judge or the Ringmaster to be labouring excessively under load, and/or incapable of work, or a potential danger may be asked to leave the arena. They must be removed upon request.

A Junior competitor in all sections must be under the age of 18 on the first day of the Festival unless the class rules state otherwise.

Juniors under 15 must be accompanied by an adult capable of handling the horse however penalties may apply if the adult assists in any way.

All riders must wear an approved riding helmet that meets EA standards unless the event rules permit otherwise. Approved safety standards can be found here <https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/current-approved-safety-standards-helmets>

The decision of the Judge or the Ringmaster is final.

Ribbons will be awarded to 6th place however Judges have the right to withhold a prize(s) if they consider that the exhibits are of insufficient merit.

Prize money will be awarded to 3rd place and for selected Championships.

Appearance Money will be paid to Heavy Horse Harness competitors based on the number of horses they have competing in these events. \$50 per horse will be paid to competitors exhibiting in a wheeled vehicle or implement. A horse can only qualify to receive the payment once regardless of whether it is shown singly, in pairs or as part of a team – or with a different driver.

Ploughing competitors are invited to partake in ploughing demonstrations on Saturday morning. This would mean there is activity in the plough ring for spectators to enjoy and competitors would be able to get a 'feel' for the plot. Competitors who take part in the demonstrations will qualify for a \$50 'Appearance' payment. This is a single payment to exhibitors who are both plough ring competitors and demonstrators and will only be paid once regardless of how many demonstrations you partake in or with how many horses you plough with.

Implements entered in PL01 also qualify for plough ring demonstrations. This payment is separate to the Heavy Horse Harness payment and competitors may qualify to receive both.

Substitutions

Substitutions may be permitted in certain circumstances at the discretion, and with the prior approval, of the Show Office. This may be due to injury or sickness to either horse or handler/driver/rider. Other situations may be considered. Requests for substitutions must be submitted to the committee no less than one hour before the commencement of the class and preferably before the start of events that day.

****There will be NO substitutions of horses in Led Classes with the exception of the Junior Handler class.**

Appeals & Grievance

Competition grievances should first be brought to the attention of the relevant Ring Steward. They then may be directed to the Ringmaster or Event Secretary. If the issue is still unresolved, then a Grievance Appeal may be lodged with the Event Secretary, accompanied by a fee of \$50, to be reviewed by the Appeals Committee. The Appeal must be lodged within two hours of the completion of the class in which the alleged incident/issue arose. The Appeals Committee will attempt to resolve the matter as quickly as possible within a time frame of no more than 48 hours from the time of Lodgement. In the hearing of all protests and disputes arising out of an award, the Appeals Committee shall abide by the judge's award unless it be shown that the judge has been wilfully or accidentally misled.

Should the Appeal be dismissed then the \$50 Lodgement Fee will be forfeited. If upheld, the Fee will be refunded.

Code of Conduct

No person shall write or cause to be written, publish or cause to be published, utter or cause to be uttered, anything calculated to denigrate the members of the DDHHA Inc, the stewards or officials in the proper exercise of their duties, or perform any act threatening the life or safety of any such person. A Person must not engage or be knowingly involved in Unethical Conduct.

The Committee are the sole arbiters as to whether conduct or behaviour constitutes Unethical Conduct or Unseemly Behaviour. Their decision is final and there is no right of appeal against any decision of the Committee unless available through the Constitution of the DDHHA Inc.

Participants, competitors, exhibitors and animals will be removed from the grounds under the following circumstances.

- Failure to follow any reasonable direction from a Committee member or an Official appointed under the authority of the Committee.
- Anyone found to be abusive to organisers, Committee members or officials appointed under the authority of the Committee.
- Anyone deliberately disregarding safety precautions
- Anyone who is failing to satisfactorily keep control of their animal.
- Anyone whose behaviour inhibits the enjoyment of participants and visitors to the event.
- Anyone found to not comply with Equestrian Australia, biosecurity of animal welfare guidelines.