



# **MEMBERS AND JUDGES HANDBOOK**

**Traditional Gypsy Cob Association**

**Terms and Conditions and Rules for Membership**

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**This handbook covers the Traditional Gypsy Cob Associations' Terms, Conditions and Rules for Membership and Judging.**

**Any updates to this document occurring before the next edition of this document is published will be posted on the TGCA website.**

**Throughout this handbook and on the website, the terms 'TGCA', 'we', 'us' and 'our' refer to the Traditional Gypsy Cob Association.**

# **MEMBERS AND JUDGES HANDBOOK**

## **Traditional Gypsy Cob Association Terms & Conditions and Rules for Membership**

When becoming a TGCA member or judge or purchasing any service or product from the TGCA you are required to agree and be bound by the following terms and conditions (“Terms of Service”, “Terms”), including those additional terms and conditions and policies referenced within this handbook or published on the TGCA website.

### **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND JUDGES TO BE FAMILIAR WITH TGCA RULES**

#### **1. ABOUT THE TGCA LTD**

The Traditional Gypsy Cob Association (TGCA) Ltd is the body approved by DEFRA to hold the Mother Studbook for Traditional Gypsy Cobs (TGCs) and as a Passport Issuing Office (PIO) in the UK and European Union. TGCA Ltd is a non-profit organisation which has adopted the model articles for private companies limited by guarantee.

The mission of the TGCA is to Preserve, Protect and Promote the very best of our wonderful Traditional Gypsy Cob breed, which originates from the British Isles and makes up the largest population of horses therein. Through our studbook, we aim to record the old established bloodlines and encourage best forward breeding practices so that we can uphold and build upon the legacy of these horses whilst maintaining the quality and true-to-type stamp of Traditional Gypsy Cobs as set out in our Breed Standard.

#### **THE TGCA TEAM**

We have a very strong group of dedicated individuals working tirelessly and voluntarily for the benefit of our members, breeders and ultimately our beloved breed. The team comprises two Directors, Committee Members, Area Representatives, Support Services and Judges, which we collectively term ‘TGCA Officers’.

#### **TGCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

The Directors will invite all current members to an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association at a date and time to be communicated. Members will receive a minimum of six weeks’ notice of the meeting taking place and are welcome to submit any comments, questions, or suggestions through the official publicised channels before the meeting.

#### **TGCA COMMUNICATIONS**

In addition to the AGM, the TGCA will communicate with its members through a variety of methods including emails, letters, website, social media, and periodic newsletters.

#### **TGCA WEBSITE**

Our official website is [www.tgca.co.uk](http://www.tgca.co.uk). We share a tremendous amount of current information on our website including but not limited to membership forms, horse registration forms, show diary, evaluated stallions and TGCA contact details

## TGCA FACEBOOK

Our Facebook group page has been set up for all TGCA members from novices to professionals to meet and share pictures, updates, ask questions and generally chat about their wonderful Traditional Gypsy Cobs. The TGCA will use this page to keep members and non-members updated with the latest news and information and we will run NEW fun competitions and other offers. Non-TGCA members are very welcome to visit our TGCA Breed Association Facebook page to keep themselves current and to read about our ongoing progress and events. Naturally, we would love them to join our Association in which case they can request to be added to the TGCA Facebook Group.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES/NON DISCRIMINATION

The TGCA operates an equal opportunities and non-discrimination policy in everything we do. We embrace all cultures, colours, origins, genders, disabilities, marital status, religions, and ages.

## 2. HORSE REGISTRATION

For current registration information, our studbook and our performance evaluation scheme please refer to our website [www.tgca.co.uk](http://www.tgca.co.uk). Once a horse has been registered with the TGCA, it is registered for life.

All horses are eligible to enter any TGCA Affiliated Showing Class. If the horse qualifies for the Traditional of the Year Show (TOYS) and wishes to participate then the horse must be registered with the TGCA within 21 days of the qualification.

If a horse is registered with the TGCA and its owner/rider/handler is a current Member of the TGCA then it is entitled to enter the Quest Championship Series or the Part Bred Championship Series.

Stallions (four years and over) must have passed a performance evaluation to compete in TGCA Affiliated Shows.

## 3. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

If an equine has ever been registered with the TGCA, and is transferred, the new owner must notify the TGCA Office within 30 days and forward the requisite transfer fee.

The Transfer form must be completed and signed by the seller and purchaser.

## 4. TGCA MEMBERSHIP

The TGCA annual membership runs in line with a calendar year, i.e., from 1st January to 31st December. A Member of the TGCA is someone who has paid their subscription for the current calendar year. Subscriptions are non-refundable or transferable and are required to be renewed each year. The membership form is available on the TGCA website.

The TGCA Judges Membership runs from 1st November to 31st October and is renewable each year. Judges who fail to renew their membership within 3 months of expiry will be removed from the Judges' panel. Acceptance back onto the panel will not be guaranteed and will be subject to re-approval from the Judge's committee.

Members will receive benefits as published on the website. These include the opportunity to compete at our National Show, The Traditional of the Year Show (TOYS), an invitation to join our community Facebook group, an annual members communication, periodic newsletters and an invitation to the TGCA Annual General Meeting.

Please note that both **Owners and Handlers/Riders** are required to be TGCA members and horses/ponies must be TGCA registered to participate at TOYS.

Membership cards will be sent to members once the signed membership form has been processed and the fee paid. Members will receive qualification cards for each of their horses registered with the TGCA.

Members should notify the TGCA of any changes to their name, address, or registered horse(s) as soon as they are able and within one calendar month of the change taking place.

## **REFUNDS AND CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

As per the Consumer Contracts Regulations, a person has 14 days from the date of application within which to notify TGCA by email that they wish to cancel the membership. If notification is received within 14 days TGCA will refund the person less any admin fee within 14 days of receipt of notification of cancellation. After 14 days all fees are non-refundable

## **5. MEMBER'S RULES AND REGULATIONS**

It is a condition of membership that all members, including judging members, abide by the TGCA rules and regulations as explained within this handbook including the specific Members Code of Conduct set out below plus any revisions made and communicated from time to time. By completing and signing the membership form, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by these.

The TGCA have the power to refuse any membership without giving a reason.

All Members of the TGCA are bound by its Rules as amended from time to time and shall be deemed to have consented to all the provisions thereof because of all or any of the following:

- submission of a membership application form followed by acceptance of membership.
- submission of a request for annual renewal of membership followed by acceptance of such renewal.
- registration of a pony.
- registration of the lease/loan of a pony or its transfer.
- any other act by a Member according to the Rules of the TGCA

## **6. MEMBER'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

The clauses given below indicate the general standard of conduct to which members must adhere. Members shall:

- Conduct themselves to uphold the reputation of the TGCA
- Abide by the TGCA Online Community Guidelines
- Conduct their affairs in such a manner which does not damage the good reputation of fellow members and/or TGCA officers and/or TGCA representatives and/or the TGCA Association
- Not use the TGCA Ltd name to book, order, publicise, advertise, officiate or for any general trading activities and under no circumstances purport to represent the Association in any respect without first obtaining an explicit agreement from the Directors
- Cooperate fully with any investigation into any alleged breach of this Code or the rules and regulations

Members must not act in a manner which is prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct, or good reputation of TGCA events or the TGCA itself. Members should always have this in mind, including when using social media.

Members must familiarise themselves with the requirements and obligations imposed by these TGCA rules which are binding on them. They should bring these rules to the attention of any non-members who may be

participating in TGCA activities with them such as connections, helpers, and grooms and do their best to ensure compliance as appropriate. Members are responsible for the actions of any non-members employed or otherwise assisting or acting on their behalf.

TGCA requires everyone involved to behave in a civilised and courteous way towards each other and to uphold the integrity and reputation of the TGCA.

TGCA Officials are required to act in a fair and sporting manner and accordance with the code of conduct and these rules. Members are expected to behave in the same way.

Failure to comply with these rules and the underlying code of conduct may give rise to disciplinary action.

TGCA Officials are volunteers and are appointed to assist the Association. Competitors must cooperate with them and comply with any reasonable direction given by an official. Incivility or rudeness to an official is a breach of the rules and code of conduct.

It is not possible to anticipate every eventuality in these rules. They are intended to form an interlocking code for the conduct of the TGCA, each rule must be read by reference to the rules as a whole and in the general context of this code of conduct.

If any horse is disqualified from its class because of infringement of any rule, entry fees qualifications and awards may be forfeited. Class placings will also be adjusted accordingly.

## **7. CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS**

The attention of Members and other persons is drawn to the disciplinary provisions of the TGCA whereby the TGCA has wide powers to discipline Members and other persons in the event of failure to observe any provisions of these Rules or any other regulations, rules and bylaws made by the TGCA. The Rules are intended to ensure that Members compete against each other in TGCA competitions under the fairest possible conditions but inevitably circumstances will arise which are not precisely covered. In such circumstances wherever possible the spirit of the Rules will be followed to produce the fairest result for Members.

Neither the TGCA nor any of its National or Area Officials or Judges accept any financial responsibility for its or their decisions.

No Member of the TGCA shall conduct himself in a manner or be guilty of behaviour which is derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the TGCA and (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) no Member shall behave in an offensive or abusive or unpleasant manner to any person at any show or at any other location where TGCA business is being transacted or via social media or the internet or via any publication in whatever format or via any other written or electronic format. Members' attention is drawn to the TGCA Social Media and Internet Policy set out in this Handbook.

Every Member must assist the officers of the TGCA in their investigations of breaches of the Rules and an unreasonable failure or refusal to assist any such officer in such investigation will itself constitute a breach of the Rules.

Members shall not ill-treat ponies at any time whether by misuse or excessive use of a whip or bit or any item of saddlery or in any other way whatsoever and shall not cause or allow a pony to jump any handheld obstacle or to be rapped.

Members are responsible for the actions of any non-members who are Family Members (as defined below) or who are friends or friends of Family Members or who are employed by them or assisting, supporting, or representing them or otherwise acting on their behalf and any action or conduct of such non-member which would be a breach of the Rules were he a Member shall constitute a breach of the Rules by the Member concerned. Family Member shall include a spouse or civil partner, a partner, a direct descendant or ascendant of the Member or his spouse or civil partner, brothers, sisters or adopted children of the Member

or his spouse or civil partner, or any other person who is part of the same household as the Member or is in the reasonable opinion of the TGCA a member of the Member's family in the widest sense

Failure to observe any of the rules may result in disqualification of the pony concerned and the institution of disciplinary proceedings by the TGCA against the person breaking the rules in accordance with the TGCA Rules. In the event of disqualification of a pony after a cup, rosette or prize money has been awarded, such cup, rosette or prize money must be returned forthwith to the Show or the TGCA as appropriate.

- Any Member or Non-Member or pony or horse that is suspended for any period as a result of any disciplinary action taken by The Showing Council or The Showing Register (TSR) may not compete in a TGCA Show or a TGCA affiliated Show during the period of any such suspension unless the Disciplinary Committee, in its absolute discretion, decides otherwise after making such investigations as it deems appropriate.
- Any action taken by the TGCA against any Owner, Rider, Producer or Horse/Pony may be shared with the other member bodies of The Showing Council and TSR

Exhibitors will not associate with judges immediately before or at any time during the show. Judges will not consult the catalogue at any time before or during the show.

### **Policy and Procedure for Behaviour (Applicable to members and non-members)**

The TGCA Ltd (Traditional Gypsy Cob Association) is committed to providing a quality service to all our customers, members, and applicants for our service. We expect everyone who meets our TGCA team, staff, and volunteers to treat them with respect.

We understand that, in times of trouble or distress, people may act out of character, and, in a very small number of cases, may behave in an unacceptable way despite our best efforts to help. This makes it difficult for us to deal with queries or complaints effectively. We also have to protect the welfare and safety of our staff team and volunteers. They should be able to carry out TGCA duties without fear of violence, abuse, harassment, or discrimination.

### **Purpose Of This Policy**

This policy means we can manage unacceptable customer behaviour consistently and fairly. It sets out clearly what we consider to be unacceptable and the steps we may take to deal with such behaviour. It applies to everyone who accesses The TGCA services to help us protect staff, members and volunteers from abuse and harm.

### **Principles**

You can expect that the TGCA will always:

- Provide a fair, open, proportionate, and accessible service
- Listen and understand
- Treat everyone who contacts us with respect, empathy, and dignity
- We expect people accessing our services to:
  - Be courteous
  - Engage with us in a way that does not hamper our ability to carry out our work effectively and efficiently for the benefit of all
  - Safeguarding and disclosures
- If an individual threatens to harm themselves or others during our work, we will consider disclosing this to a relevant health professional. We may also contact the police if others are threatened with harm.

## **Definition Of Unacceptable Behaviour**

Unacceptable behaviour means acting in an unreasonable way, regardless of the level of someone's stress, frustration, or anger. It may involve acts, words or physical gestures that could cause another person distress or discomfort. Aggressive Or Abusive Behaviour. This behaviour or language (written or spoken) could cause our staff to feel afraid, threatened or abused. This includes threatening emails, telephone calls, meetings, and comments on social media (see social media policy) or elsewhere.

### **For example:**

- Insulting or degrading language, including inappropriate banter, innuendo, or malicious allegations
- Any form of physical violence or threats of physical violence
- Derogatory racist, sexist, ageist, or homophobic remarks
- Comments relating to disability, perceived gender, religion, belief, or any other personal characteristic
- Unreasonable demands and vexatious complaints
- Customers might make requests that we cannot reasonably accommodate. This may include but is not limited to:
  - the amount of information they seek
  - the nature and scale of service they expect
  - the volume of correspondence they generate
  - a remedy or outcome that cannot be achieved

We accept that someone persistent is not necessarily guilty of unacceptable behaviour. What is seen as an unreasonable demand will depend on the circumstances of each case and we will always consider each complaint on its own merits.

However, the behaviour of someone who persistently contacts us about the same issue, when that issue has been dealt with in line with the TGCA's usual processes, can in some circumstances, amount to an unreasonable demand. Such behaviour takes up a disproportionate amount of our time and resources and can affect our ability to provide a service to others.

### **Examples of behaviour which we consider unreasonable demands and vexatious complaints include but are not limited to:**

- Refusing to follow our complaints procedure
- Persistently pursuing a complaint where the TGCA complaints procedure has been fully, properly implemented, and exhausted, but no appeal has been made. Or after the Disciplinary Team has considered and concluded the case, making a further complaint on the same issue
- Contacting us repeatedly and frequently without giving us enough time to respond to previous correspondence
- Insisting on seeing or speaking to a particular member of staff when a suitable alternative has been offered
- Visiting The TGCA offices without an appointment
- Focusing disproportionately on a matter in relation to its significance and continuing to focus on this point despite receiving proportionate responses addressing the matter
- Adopting a 'scattergun' approach: pursuing parallel complaints about the same issue with different members of the TGCA team
- Threatening or using actual physical violence towards staff or their associates
- Being personally abusive or verbally aggressive towards the TGCA team dealing with their issue or their associates
- Recording meetings or conversations (whether face-to-face or on the telephone) without the prior knowledge or consent of other people involved

## **How We Will Respond To Incidents Of Unacceptable Behaviour**

We do not expect The TGCA team to tolerate unacceptable behaviour when communicating with our customers. When this happens, The TGCA Team has the right to:

- Place callers on hold
- End the call
- Not reply to an abusive email or letter - we will only review these communications to ensure no new issues have been raised

Before taking such action, we will always warn customers that they are behaving in an unacceptable way to give them the chance to change their behaviour. However, a warning will not be given in extreme cases to protect the team, for example, when a physical threat is made.

### **Where these circumstances arise, we will take the following steps:**

We will ask customers to modify their behaviour and explain why and

If the behaviour continues to be unacceptable, our employees will remove themselves from the situation. If the communication is by telephone, the caller will be told that the call will be ended.

The employee will inform their manager who will keep a record of the incident. In all cases, a manager will investigate the situation and decide what action to take. This could include limiting a customer's contact with us

TGCA will refer the matter to the police where a criminal offence has been threatened or committed.

### **Communication Restrictions**

If customers continue to behave unacceptably, The TGCA team can put in place a temporary or permanent communication restriction on a customer. If we decide to do this, we will tell the customer that we are doing, so setting out:

- Why do we consider their behaviour unacceptable
- What action we are taking and if there is a time limit on the restrictions

If we decide to limit communication, we will make a note of the limitation in our records.

Communication might be:

Limited to being conducted in writing

Limited to a specific individual

Removed from TGCA social media and blocked from our accounts

Limited to a specific email address or telephone number

Placed on file without a further response if the issue raised in the correspondence has previously been considered

Limited in other ways which we consider appropriate in the circumstances, in line with this policy

In addition, we reserve the right to:

Limit telephone contact to set times on set days

Restrict contact to a nominated employee who will deal with all future calls or correspondence

Restrict the issues on which we will correspond

Block emails or telephone numbers if the number and length of communications sent are excessive

Refuse to consider a complaint or any further contact in exceptional circumstances

Take any other action which we consider necessary or appropriate to make this policy effective.

Where circumstances are serious enough to warrant further restrictions, we may take legal action to prevent further contact/poor behaviour.

In making any decision to take legal action in such cases, we may consider:

How legal action may affect our staff

How legal action may affect the individual (including their personal circumstances and any reasonable adjustments)

The extent to which we can engage or assist

The extent to which the process or subject matter has been exhausted

## **Review**

We will regularly review any decision to restrict communications and when appropriate we may lift some or all restrictions.

How we will take account of our duties under the Equality Act 2010

We make sure that we meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. This includes making sure we consider adjustments for people with protected characteristics.

Some people may have difficulty expressing themselves or communicating clearly and/or appropriately. We will always consider the needs and circumstances that we have been made aware of, before deciding how best to manage the situation. This will include making reasonable adjustments. However, this does not mean we will tolerate abusive language, shouting, or other unacceptable behaviour or actions.

If an individual with a protected characteristic becomes the subject of a restriction under this policy, we will consider whether the restriction may affect them more than someone without that characteristic. If this is the case, we may make different arrangements.

## **8. OBJECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Any objection or complaint relating to the rules of a particular Show Executive should be made to that Show Executive in accordance with the procedure set out in such rules, except a complaint relating to a TGCA Judge.

Members wishing to register an objection or complaint, whether it is against the Judge, Exhibitor, or the organizer of a Show or otherwise, should write to the TGCA Office and they must be received within fourteen days of the date of the event giving rise to the objection or complaint. THE LETTERS MUST BE SENT BY RECORDED DELIVERY OR BY READ RECEIPT EMAIL the matter will then be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in the TGCA. Rules.

Whilst officiating a TGCA Judge or Steward, when wishing to register an objection or complaint against a member, should write to the TGCA Office. THE LETTERS MUST BE SENT BY RECORDED DELIVERY OR BY READ RECEIPT EMAIL The matter will then be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in the TGCA Rules.

A Show Secretary wishing to register an objection or complaint against a Judge or member should write to the TGCA Office. THE LETTER MUST BE SENT BY RECORDED DELIVERY OR BY READ RECEIPT EMAIL and must be received within fourteen days of the date of the event giving rise to the objection or complaint. The matter will then be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in the TGCA. Rules.

Complaints will be treated confidentially and presided over by a Disciplinary Committee (comprising a minimum of three TGCA Committee Members) who will determine whether there has been a breach of the rules of the association and, if, in its opinion, there has been such a breach, it will decide what, if any, action is warranted.

The Disciplinary Committee will deal with any complaint by way of written submissions only and no party shall be entitled to attend in person or be represented. The ruling of the Disciplinary Committee will be final, and the decision communicated to those directly affected by the complaint, including the complainant.

## 9. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

In the event a judge or member is found to be in breach of the rules and regulations or the code of conduct the TGCA has the power, in its absolute discretion, to suspend or expel that member/animal from membership or to invoke the following remedies:

1. Reprimand said person and warned of their behaviour
2. Fine said person up to a maximum of £250
3. Disqualify and remove class placing of the exhibit
4. Suspend or Expel exhibit from entering any TGCA shows or affiliated classes
5. Remove or suspend from the Judges' panel

If a fine has been given and said person does not pay the fine within 28 days of notification, then the following action will be taken: Membership if in place will be suspended until the fine is paid in full. If not a member, any horse/pony owned by a said person at the time of the fine and whilst they have not paid the fine will not be allowed to enter any TGCA shows or affiliated classes.

### **PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS**

Any decision of the Disciplinary Committee, Judges' Enquiry Committee or the Stewards made pursuant to the powers conferred by these Bylaws may be published on the TGCA website, in any newspaper or periodical published by the TGCA or in the Horse and Hound or otherwise as the Disciplinary Committee may direct."

Any Owner, Rider, Producer or Horse/Pony that is suspended for any period as a result of any disciplinary action taken by any member body of The Showing Council and The Showing Register (TSR) may not compete in TGCA Affiliated classes at the discretion of the TGCA Any action taken by the TGCA against any Owner, Rider, Producer or Horse/Pony may be shared with the other member bodies of The Showing Council and TSR.

### **APPEALS**

An individual may appeal against a decision and penalty though this must be lodged in writing and sent recorded delivery to the TGCA Head Office within 10 days of the decision being notified, along with a £150 deposit which will be non-refundable in the event of the appeal being unsuccessful.

Appeals will be considered by the full TGCA Committee, and their decision will be final and binding for all parties concerned.

Any decision made in any of the above cases may be published in the TGCA newsletter and or website.

## 10. ONLINE COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

The TGCA wants to promote a friendly, informative, and enjoyable online experience for members of the Facebook community and website forum. Therefore, content and comments not in this spirit are not allowed and will be removed. At all times members must be respectful of our Social Media Policy (below) and other TGCA members, competitors, and professionals.

We are proud to be an open, approachable, and honest Association but members venting frustration online is damaging and off-putting to fellow members. Any grievances or sensitive questions should be detailed in writing and sent by email or post to TGCA Head Office. That way we can take appropriate action and respond accordingly, maintaining integrity for all parties.

Our standard membership communication channels for passports, memberships, studbook, DNA, shows, complaints, and general enquiries are published on our website. **Please be aware that our Facebook page and website forum are not intended as replacements for these.**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA & INTERNET POLICY**

The TGCA will always manage all online platforms and social networking sites responsibly and with integrity and sensitivity.

The TGCA acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, home webpages, chat rooms, BBM and all other forms of electronic communication and the role which “social media” plays in the day-to-day lives of members.

This policy note is to remind members that the Rules of the TGCA 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.

The Association will not enter into debate in response to intentionally negative comments, baited questions, unfounded or unproven accusations, speculation or any other hearsay directed at individuals or organisations.

### **USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Please be aware that the TGCA may from time-to-time conduct internet Searches to identify postings which include references to the TGCA and its members.

The blocking by any person of TGCA Admin on our Social Media pages will result in the immediate removal of said person from TGCA social media pages

TGCA produced images are subject to copyright and should not be copied or used in social media save as provided in the TGCA website user terms and conditions.

Please 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 TGCA.

You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the TGCA, its members or former members, or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the TGCA

You must not post or transmit any material relating to the TGCA, 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 TGCA:

- 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
- which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the TGCA 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.

Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the TGCA Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.

## **11. EQUINE INFLUENZA**

Equine Influenza and Tetanus vaccinations are a recommendation of the TGCA for all pony/horses registered. The requirement for the first 3 vaccinations is as follows: the first 2 vaccinations are 21 – 92 days apart, a third booster between 150-215 days, and an annual booster vaccination within 365 days thereafter. No horse should enter competitions within 7 days of an EI vaccination. This Rule may be subject to change from guidance from the FEI/BEF and any changes will be notified via the [www.tgca.co.uk](http://www.tgca.co.uk) website. The current BEF ruling is for a 6 monthly booster as opposed to an annual; therefore, it is recommended that you check with shows/venues before the show.

## 12. EQUINE DOPING & DOPE TESTING

### Warning to Members

The TGCA operates a zero-tolerance policy concerning equine doping. It is the responsibility of every owner/handler to ensure that any equine for which they are responsible is free from prohibited substances. In common with other similar bodies, the TGCA takes a very serious view of doping, whether intentional or unintentional, having regard to the safety of children. Members should be aware that many proprietary feeds and preparations contain Prohibited Substances (as defined below) as do many foods such as chocolate. Prohibited Substances can be absorbed through the skin, and they are also contained in some homoeopathic and herbal remedies including calmers. **It is the responsibility of the Member having custody of a pony, particularly in the twenty-four hours before a Show, to ensure that nothing is fed, administered, or applied to a pony that contains a Prohibited Substance. Ignorance is not an adequate defence.**

The TGCA is not authorized to give guidance, but the TGCA follows the Equine Prohibited Substances List ('EPSL') as published from time to time by the Federation Equestre Internationale ('FEI'). Where appropriate the TGCA will adopt threshold, levels published in the EPSL.

Please note that the EPSL includes any other substance with a similar chemical structure or similar biological effect(s) as substances specifically mentioned on the list. All substances on the list, whether indicated as 'Banned' or 'Controlled', are prohibited substances under the TGCA Rules. Also prohibited are 'Metabolites' of the substances and 'markers', both terms being defined below

- 1
  - a) Any pony taking part in classes judged under TGCA Rules will be liable to Dope Testing (as defined below) in accordance with the Dope Testing procedure laid down by this Rule. A refusal to submit a pony for Dope Testing shall constitute a breach of this Rule.
  - b) The presence in the tissues, body fluids, excreta, hair, or skin of a pony of a Prohibited Substance (as defined below) shall constitute a breach of this Rule by the Owner and/or Producer and/or any other person within Rule 63(1)(e).
  - c) "Dope Testing" means the examination of a pony by a duly qualified person appointed by the TGCA and includes the taking of samples for subsequent analysis of all or any body fluid, tissue, excreta, hair, or skin scrapings at the discretion of the person conducting the examination.
  - d) "Prohibited Substance" means any quantity of any substance listed as a 'Banned' or 'Controlled' substance on the Equine Prohibited Substances list ('EPSL') as published by the Federation Equestre Internationale ('FEI') and in force from time to time excluding any quantity of any substance under any threshold level specified in the EPSL but including any other substance with a similar chemical structure or similar biological effect(s) as any substance on the EPSL and also including any metabolites of such substances and any markers. The terms metabolite and marker shall have the same meaning as in the FEI Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations as published by the FEI from time to time.
  - e) Any person who administers or attempts to administer or allows or causes to be administered or connives or promotes or encourages at the administration to a pony of a Prohibited substance shall be guilty of a breach of this Rule.
  - f) (i) Whenever a positive dope test occurs, the matter shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the TGCA within 14 days of either the expiration of the period for requesting confirmatory analysis of Sample B or the receipt by the TGCA of a positive analysis of Sample B whichever is the later.  
(ii) The Disciplinary Committee shall investigate the matter and decide within fourteen days of referral pursuant to Rule 63 (1)(f)(i) whether or not to institute disciplinary proceedings for a breach or breaches of this Rule against the Owner and/or Producer and/or any other person within Rule 63(1)(e).

### Sampling Procedure

- 2
  - a) Dope Testing may be conducted by personnel authorized and should take place as soon as possible after the participation of the pony in its class provided that it does not interfere with its programme in which case the Dope Testing should take place as soon as possible after the pony has completed its programme.
  - b) It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the pony whether it be the Owner or the Producer or other person to supervise the pony from the time of notification of selection for Dope Testing until completion of the Dope Testing.

- c) The Owner, Producer, or other person responsible for the pony or his representative shall be entitled to witness the Dope Testing from outside the loose box, horse box or testing area without disturbing the pony but if any such person is not present the Dope Testing will proceed in any event.
- d) All samples taken must be kept in a secure place and dispatched to the laboratory selected by the TGCA as soon as reasonably possible after collection.
- e) The sample must be divided into two parts hereinafter referred to as Sample A and Sample B and the initial analysis of Sample A must be completed within 21 days of receipt of the sample by the laboratory. If the initial analysis produces a suspicious positive result, then the TGCA may grant such an extension as the laboratory requires to complete the analysis.
- f) If the result of the analysis of Sample A is negative then the laboratory may forthwith destroy Sample B.
- g) If the result of the analysis of Sample A is positive then the Owner or Producer may require confirmatory analysis of Sample B, by any laboratory approved by The Horseracing Forensic Laboratory provided that a written request for such confirmatory analysis is received by the TGCA within 14 days of dispatch by the TGCA of notification of a positive analysis of Sample A.
- h) The Owner or Producer may request that findings be made in respect of particular matters during the analysis of Sample B on the basis that they will be responsible for all additional costs incurred whatever the result of the analysis of Sample B
- i) Upon receipt of a valid request for confirmatory analysis of Sample B, the TGCA shall inform the laboratory immediately and the laboratory shall carry out the analysis of Sample B as soon as reasonably possible.
- j) If the result of the analysis of Sample B is positive then the person requesting the analysis shall reimburse the TGCA the cost of the analysis of Sample A and Sample B forthwith on demand.
- k) If the result of the analysis of Sample A is positive and no valid request for confirmatory analysis of Sample B is received, the Owner shall reimburse the TGCA the cost of the analysis of Sample A forthwith upon demand.

### 13. **SHOWING RULES AND GUIDELINES**

1. All colours are acceptable, colour and markings should not be considered whilst judging, and wall/blue eyes and freeze marking are not to be penalised.
2. Horses should be shown in their natural condition; only minimal trimming of jawline and ears is permissible. Trimming inside of the ears and removal of sensory whiskers is not in line with the TGCA welfare policy.
3. Body clipping of all equines is permitted for welfare reasons and should not be penalised.
4. A long mane and tail and a natural abundance of feather is expected. The feather should completely cover the whole hoof and an abundance of silky straight feather, is preferable to coarser curly hair/feather. Hair extensions are not permitted in any form whatsoever.
5. All animals shall be sound in both wind and limb.
6. The TGCA has zero tolerance for obese horses. Any exhibit that, In the judge 's opinion, is obese will be asked to leave the ring. This includes overproduced young stock.
7. Exhibits must be entered into the class specific to their age as of the 1st of January in the prevailing year. Spot checks will be conducted at the TOYS Championship show at the discretion of the Show Committee and may be carried out at qualification shows at the discretion of the judge.
8. Exhibits must be entered into the class specific to their height. Spot checks will be conducted at the TOYS Championship show at the discretion of the Show Committee and may be carried out at qualification shows at the discretion of the judge.
9. All exhibits in ridden classes must be 4 years and over as of 1st January in the current year. At all times, save for conformation judging, exhibits must be ridden under saddle whilst in the ring.

10. Judges and or stewards have the power to ask any exhibit to leave the ring/show if that exhibit shows bad or dangerous behaviour. The TGCA also have the right to suspend that exhibit from other shows until it has been assessed by the TGCA.
11. Show organisers have the power to ask exhibitors to leave the showground for unruly behaviour whether inside or outside the ring.
12. All exhibitors including grooms must be dressed correctly whilst in the ring. Please see the sections on showing attire.
13. Riders may be any age but must be suited for the size of their exhibit.
14. Riders and handlers of stallions must be 14 years old (as of 1st January in the current year).
15. Spurs must not be worn by junior riders (under 18 as of 1st January in the current year) or any rider of an exhibit 148cm and under. Mixed-height classes, no competitor may wear spurs.
16. No earrings or body piercing can be worn in the ring; this is an HSE requirement.
17. Home Produced Classes:
  - ❖ Competitors are the riders/handlers of the Horse/Pony on a full-time/daily basis.
  - ❖ Open to horses and ponies that have been stabled at home (without any paid assistance) or kept at livery on a DIY basis in the previous or current year. Horses/ponies must not have been shown or trained by a professional Producer or kept at full livery at any time during this period (except for service in the case of Brood Mares).
  - ❖ Riders/handlers must NOT have shown any equine produced by a professional producer/trainer/groom at any show since 1st January of the current season or previous season, NOR may any equine be shown by a rider/handler who has shown for a professional producer/trainer/groom at any show since 1st January of the current season or previous season.
  - ❖ Owner/rider/handler does not show a horse/pony owned or sponsored by a company or Professional Owner/Producer of Show horses.
  - ❖ Horse/Pony not to have been shown at Horse of Year Show by a Professional Producer.
  - ❖ Owner/rider/handler does not derive their main income from working with horses/ponies(including benefits, goods in kind)

This does not exclude Home Produced competitors from having lessons, clinics, etc., at any time with an instructor, providing the horse/pony remains stabled at home (or as a DIY Livery).

It should be noted that professional showing producers are NOT allowed into the competition ring/arena to groom for or strip any horse/pony competing within a Home Produced class/section/final or championship nor must they prepare the horse/pony on a showground, ride them or work them in ready for competing.

The TGCA takes very seriously the spirit of these Home Produced conditions any member found to be contravening them may be subject to exclusion from the society with immediate effect. If you are in any doubt about your status please ask the office for guidance, the decision of The TGCA on eligibility will be final.

## 18. Grass Roots Classes:

- ❖ Competitors are the riders/handlers of the Horse/Pony on a full-time/daily basis.
- ❖ Open to horses and ponies that have been stabled at home (without any paid assistance) or kept at livery on a DIY basis in the previous or current year. Horses/ponies must not have been shown or trained by a professional Producer or kept at full livery at any time during this period (except for service in the case of Brood Mares).
- ❖ Riders/handlers must NOT have shown any equine produced by a professional producer/trainer/groom at any show since 1st January of the current season or previous season, NOR may any equine be shown by a rider/handler who has shown for a professional producer/trainer/groom at any show since 1st January of the current season or previous season.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler does not show a horse/pony owned or sponsored by a company or Professional Owner/Producer of Show horses.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler is not in receipt of any kind of payment, whether monetary, goods in kind or brand discount/ambassador.
- ❖ Horse/Pony not to have been shown at Horse of Year Show/Royal International by a Professional Producer.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler must not judge/have judged in any capacity whatsoever whether as a panel judge or otherwise.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler does not derive their main income from working with horses/ponies(including benefits, goods in kind).

This does not exclude Grass Roots competitors from having lessons, clinics, etc., at any time with an instructor, providing the horse/pony remains stabled at home (or as a DIY Livery).

It should be noted that professional showing producers are NOT allowed into the competition ring/arena to groom for or strip any horse/pony competing within a Home Produced or Grass Roots class/section/final or championship nor must they prepare the horse/pony on a showground, ride them or work them in ready for competing.

The TGCA takes very seriously the spirit of the Home Produced and Grass Roots conditions. Any member found to be contravening them may be subject to exclusion from the society with immediate effect. If you are in any doubt about your status please ask the office for guidance, the decision of The TGCA on eligibility will be final.

19. Members must carry qualification and membership cards in the ring for the judge to sign in the ring at the time of qualification for the TGCA National Championship Show. Cards **MUST NOT** be brought into the ring once the class has started.
20. Judge who bred/owned/leased or loaned their exhibit. Where a judge has produced/shown or received any financial gain from the exhibit then this must be at least 24 months prior to the date of the show. This includes Stud fees. No judge should judge an exhibit that they have bred/owned/leased/loaned.
21. All Lead rein exhibits MUST attach the lead rein to the noseband ONLY whilst in a class. The reins MUST go directly to the rider's hands from the bit, snaffle bit only. Lead Rein riders must not carry a whip, however, the leader of the exhibit can.
22. Exhibits in novice classes may only compete in a snaffle bridle, and may be any age but must not have won an open class as of 1st January in the current year.

23. Once a class has started, in a ridden class the trot round has started or for in hand classes the initial trot up/flash, then no competitor may enter the ring. The only exception may be by prior agreement of the judge/steward/and shows secretary.
24. At no point must an exhibit or exhibitor leave the ring without the judge's permission. Should they leave the ring with the judge's permission then they must be present in the final walk-round of that class to be placed.
25. Competitors are NOT allowed to withdraw from any Class without the Judge's permission.
26. A fall of an animal or rider in any ridden phase will result in elimination, and the rider must leave the ring dismounted. If the rider/handler lets go of an animal under any circumstances the judge will determine if the animal's manners and behaviour should result in any disqualification. Animals that get loose resulting in disruption to the class will be disqualified.
27. Animals displaying continued disobedience, or animals leaving the ring whether mounted or dismounted will be disqualified.
28. The Judge's decision is ALWAYS final.
29. All trophies have been donated to the TGCA and therefore remain the property of the TGCA. Any trophies won MUST be returned to the show secretary by the date given on the trophy receipt the following year. Anyone not returning trophies on time and in good clean condition will lose the deposit paid, Membership and Registrations may be suspended and be published in the TGCA newsletter and or website.
30. Mobile phones MUST NOT be carried into the ring.
31. Anyone who feels they have a valid complaint MUST follow the complaints procedure as set out in this handbook.

#### **14. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Exhibitors will not exhibit under Judges where an actual or apparent conflict of interest may affect the judge's decision. An actual or apparent conflict of interest is defined as exhibiting a horse which:

1. Has been bought or sold by the judge either as owner or agent.
2. Is owned in whole or part by the judge or by a member of the judge's family or business partner in a business venture.
3. Has been bred by the judge or is the property of a breeding organisation in which the judge is or was an employee.
4. Has been leased by the Judge at any time.
5. Has been regularly trained, examined, or treated by the judge in a professional capacity.
6. Has been shown/produced by a member of the Judge's immediate family during the last twenty-four full calendar months. The following are classed as immediate family. Grandparents, Step Grandparents, Parents, Stepparents, Partners of Parents, Parents in Law, Legal Guardian, Husband, Wife, Cohabitee, Partner, Brother, Stepbrother, Brother-in-Law, Sister, Stepsister, Sister-in-Law, Son, Stepson, Son in Law, Daughter, Stepdaughter, Daughter in Law.
7. Is the subject of an ongoing negotiation to buy or lease, or a provisional purchase condition to which the Judge is party.
8. An exhibitor/owner must not enter any horse under a Judge during the twenty-four full calendar

months after that judge has regularly professionally handled, shown, or produced that or any other horse for that exhibitor/owner. Training clinics where the judge does not touch the horse are excluded from this rule.

9. If a handler/rider produces or shows a Judge's own horse, that handler/rider must not bring any horse under that judge during the next twelve full calendar months
10. Is sired by a stallion which is/has been in the ownership of the judge during the current calendar
11. Has been bred to by the judge during the current calendar year.
12. Handler or Rider not to have been paid for showing or producing any horse associated with the Judge, this includes any remuneration either as employment, Use of Stallions for Stud, casual showing, or any kind-kind benefits whatsoever.

## **15. STALLIONS**

Stallions 4 years and over MUST have passed a performance evaluation to compete in any TGCA affiliated class.

Stallions MUST always wear the TGCA Stallion bridle disc on the offside of their bridle when competing in TGCA classes and/or shows. All colts/stallions must always be well-mannered and under control.

Riders and handlers of stallions must be 14 years old (as of 1st January in the current year).

Colts/Stallions three-year-old and over MUST be shown in a stallion bridle with a metal bit and chain lead.

The use of a stallion harness is permitted on stallions over the age of four. The judge may ask that the side reins are unclipped when in the class.

To retain continuity of supply of covering certificates for Breed evaluated stallions it is stipulated that the stallion owner's membership must be maintained (including time of covering) which is renewable on an annual basis. Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Stallion owners must return covering certificates by 30th November of the covering year.

**Grade Evaluations** - all up to date information can be found at <https://tgca.co.uk/gradings%2Fstud-book>

## **16. COMPETITORS AND EQUINES**

Girths should be plain white, brown, or black; as should numnahs if worn. Bits should be a simple snaffle, pelham or double bridle. Brass-in-hand bridles are not to be used in ridden classes.

Judges may take into consideration the severity of the bit, their opinions on suitable bridles may vary and their decision is final.

First ridden and Novice classes, snaffle bridles only may be used.

Junior ridden classes: snaffle bridles only may be used.

Lead rein ponies must be shown in a snaffle bridle only and lead reins may only be attached to the noseband.

Flash and drop nosebands are not permitted for ridden classes on the flat.

Fillies and mares can be shown in either an in-hand bridle or a plain white show halter. Yearling colts (as of

1st January of the current year) may be shown in a halter or be bitted, a rubber bit is acceptable.

Foals born in the current year (as of 1st January) are to be shown in either a simple white show halter or a leather in hand halter or foal slip – NO BITS.

Colts/stallions aged three years and over MUST be shown in a stallion bridle with a metal bit and chain lead. The use of a stallion harness is permitted on stallions over the age of four. The judge may ask that the side reins are unclipped when in the class.

Failure to comply with any of the above rulings will result in elimination from class/show.

### **JUNIOR COMPETITORS (under 18 as of 1st January in the current year):**

For all TGCA Junior Affiliated Ridden classes, including junior classes at TOYS Qualifiers & TOYS National Show – only Snaffle bridles will be acceptable.

Riding hat or skull cap correctly done up and complying with the current hat rules (please see above) must be worn.

Spurs must not be worn by junior riders (under 18 as of 1st January in the current year) or any rider of an exhibit 148cm and under. Mixed-height classes, no competitor may wear spurs.

Failure to comply with any of the above rulings will result in elimination from class/show.

### **HOME PRODUCED CLASSES**

- ❖ Competitors are the riders/handlers of the Horse/Pony on a full-time/daily basis.
- ❖ Open to horses and ponies that have been stabled at home (without any paid assistance) or kept at livery on a DIY basis in the previous or current year. Horses/ponies must not have been shown or trained by a professional Producer or kept at full livery at any time during this period (except for service in the case of Brood Mares).
- ❖ Riders/handlers must NOT have shown any equine produced by a professional producer/trainer/groom at any show since 1st January of the current season or previous season, NOR may any equine be shown by a rider/handler who has shown for a professional producer/trainer/groom at any show since 1st January of the current season or previous season.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler does not show a horse/pony owned or sponsored by a company or Professional Owner/Producer of Show horses.
- ❖ Horse/Pony not to have been shown at Horse of Year Show by a Professional Producer.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler does not derive their main income from working with horses/ponies(including benefits, goods in kind)

This does not exclude Home Produced competitors from having lessons, clinics, etc., at any time with an instructor, providing the horse/pony remains stabled at home (or as a DIY Livery).

It should be noted that professional showing producers are NOT allowed into the competition ring/arena to groom for or strip any horse/pony competing within a Home Produced class/section/final or championship nor must they prepare the horse/pony on a showground, ride them or work them in ready for competing.

The TGCA takes very seriously the spirit of these Home Produced conditions any member found to be contravening them may be subject to exclusion from the society with immediate effect. If you are in any doubt about your status please ask the office for guidance, the decision of The TGCA on eligibility will be final.

## **GRASS ROOTS CLASSES:**

- ❖ Competitors are the riders/handlers of the Horse/Pony on a full-time/daily basis.
- ❖ Open to horses and ponies that have been stabled at home (without any paid assistance) or kept at livery on a DIY basis in the previous or current year. Horses/ponies must not have been shown or trained by a professional Producer or kept at full livery at any time during this period (except for service in the case of Brood Mares).
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler does not show a horse/pony owned or sponsored by a company or Professional Owner/Producer of Show horses.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler is not in receipt of any kind of payment, whether monetary, goods in kind or brand discount/ambassador.
- ❖ Horse/Pony not to have been shown at Horse of Year Show/Royal International by a Professional Producer.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler must not judge/have judged in any capacity whatsoever whether as a panel judge or otherwise.
- ❖ Owner/rider/handler does not derive their main income from working with horses/ponies(including benefits, goods in kind).

This does not exclude Grass Roots competitors from having lessons, clinics, etc., at any time with an instructor, providing the horse/pony remains stabled at home (or as a DIY Livery).

It should be noted that professional showing producers are NOT allowed into the competition ring/arena to groom for or strip any horse/pony competing within a Home Produced class/section/final or championship nor must they prepare the horse/pony on a showground, ride them or work them in ready for competing.

The TGCA takes very seriously the spirit of these Grass Roots conditions any member found to be contravening them may be subject to exclusion from the society with immediate effect. If you are in any doubt about your status please ask the office for guidance, the decision of The TGCA on eligibility will be final.

## **17. SHOWING ATTIRE FOR: IN HAND, RIDDEN AND EVENING PERFORMANCE**

### **For in-hand showing:**

Smart jacket (or waistcoat) and trousers, shirt and tie, gloves, hat or cap, Junior competitors, (under 18 as of 1st January in the current year) must wear a riding hat or skull cap correctly done up and complying with the current hat rules (please see above) suitable footwear and show cane/whip (MUST NOT exceed 76cm/30inches length).

### **For ridden showing:**

Correctly secured Skull Caps/Riding Hats Nos. Kitemark PAS015:2011, Kitemark VG1 01.040 2014-12 and SEI ASTM F1163:2023. MUST always be worn by riders when mounted. Hats should have a plain cover either Black, Navy Blue, Brown, Grey or Green. Velvet covers are encouraged. In the interest of Health & Safety the TGCA will authorise spot checks at certain Shows and riders breaking this Rule will not be allowed to compete.

Hacking/tweed show jacket, shirt and tie, gloves, breeches, or jodhpurs, in one of the following colours: cream, beige, canary (white or dark coloured are not acceptable), hair net, show cane/whip (MUST NOT exceed 76cm/30inches in length), jodhpur boots for juniors and long black boots for adults, riding hat or skull cap complying to the new hat rules.

## **Grooms**

Must be appropriately dressed when entering the ring; smart trousers, a top, suitable footwear and a hat must be worn. Grooms will be asked to leave the ring if not suitably dressed.

Grooms must have attained their 12th birthday for stripping in the ring, or for lunging on the showground except for stallions where the age limit is in accordance with Stallion Rules.

### **Evening Wear In Hand:**

Gentlemen: Expected to wear a black suit with a bow tie.

Ladies: Trousers or Dress/Skirt with flat shoes and top, waistcoat or jacket which may be embellished in your style.

### **Evening Wear for Ridden Classes:**

Adult riders, entirely at their own risk, may wear a Beagler, Top Hat or Bowler Hat in specified showing classes and any TOYS evening performance.

Gentlemen should wear a long black jacket, teamed with black trousers or breeches/jodhpurs, a top hat, bowler hat or riding hat. Please note full hunting regalia is not suitable.

Ladies should wear navy jackets, even when they would wear traditional tweed during the day. The navy jacket would be accompanied by a stock and top hat or riding hat. Junior riders **MUST** wear a riding hat which complies with the hat rules above.

## **18. THE JUDGING OF SHOWING CLASSES**

For Ridden and In Hand Breed Classes, cobs are to be judged primarily on their breed type, conformation, and movement.

### **JUNIOR COMPETITORS (under 18 as of 1st January in the current year):**

For all TGCA Junior Affiliated Ridden classes, including junior classes at TOYS Qualifiers & TOYS National Show – only Snaffle bridles will be acceptable.

Riding hat or skull cap correctly done up and complying with the current hat rules (please see above) must be worn.

Spurs must not be worn by junior riders (under 18 as of 1st January in the current year) or any rider of an exhibit 148cm and under. In mixed-height classes, no competitor may wear spurs.

Failure to comply with any of the above rulings will result in elimination from class/show.

### **IN HAND BREED CLASSES**

In Hand and Young stock Classes including Qualifiers: Exhibits enter the ring individually and perform a FLASH (high energy workmanlike trot) to cover at least 2 sides of the ring/arena.

NB: The term FLASHING is used to exhibit the TGC In-hand. Upon the Steward's command, handlers will be asked to go forward with their TGC in a high energy fast trot on a loose rein to cover at least 2 sides of the arena.

Once all exhibits have performed the initial flash they will continue to walk around the arena until they are pulled into the line-up by the steward. **Exhibits MUST NOT be parked out whilst standing**. Exhibits will be required to be stood up in front of the judge individually for their inspection. Exhibits on request should walk away from the judge, turn on the right rein and trot straight back towards and past the judge in a straight line before walking to retake their place in the line-up.

In hand classes will be judged: 60% correctness to type, conformation, and movement, 40% manners and way of going.

## **RIDDEN BREED CLASSES**

TGC's are to perform an individual show. They will not be ridden by the judge or the judge's representative. When a TGC appears before the judge in two classes at the same show, the exhibit must be assessed as a separate exhibit in each class. In all ridden classes, the fall of a horse or rider will result in elimination from that class, and they must then leave the ring dismounted.

Ridden Classes, including Qualifiers. Exhibits will enter the ring together and perform the go-around as per the judge/steward's instructions. Exhibits will then all be pulled into the line-up by the steward/judge, and each asked to perform an individual display not lasting longer than 1&1/2 minutes. The display should include walk, trot, and canter on both reins, change of rein, halt, and stand and if required by the judge a lengthening of stride or gallop.

**Ridden Breed Classes** will be judged 60% correctness to type, conformation, and movement 40% ride, manners, and way of going and overall presentation.

**Junior Ridden Finals Classes** will be judged: 60% correctness to type, conformation, movement, and overall presentation, and 40% ride, manners, temperament, partnership, and suitability.

**Workers' Classes** will be judged: Phase 1: Jumping – 50% jumping and 20% style when jumping. Phase 2: 30% conformation, correctness to type, manners, and overall presentation during the show. Penalties are knockdown of fence 10 points, first refusal 15 points, and 2nd refusal 20 points and 3rd refusal exhibit will be eliminated. All exhibits unless eliminated in Phase 1 must come forward for Phase 2. Exhibits will perform an individual show and be judged for conformation in phase 2. Plain boots can be used in phase 1 but **MUST** be removed before phase 2. Should there be a tie in marks between exhibits then the marks from Phase 1 will take precedence, followed by the marks from Phase 2. If there is still a tie, then the judge's decision will be final.

Judges may take into consideration the severity of the bit.

## **19. TRADITIONAL OF THE YEAR SHOW (TOYS) QUALIFIERS**

The TGCA National Championship Show — TOYS (Traditional of The Year Show) is held annually. Pre-qualification at an affiliated show is required in order to enter the TOYS BEST OF BREEDS FINALS which will be split into Youngstock, Senior In Hand and Ridden Sections. Pre-qualification at a Quest show is required to enter the TOYS Quest Ultimate Star, which will be split into the same sections.

Affiliated shows may hold one or more TGCA Qualifier classes; refer to the latest Affiliation Guide.

In all TOYS Qualifying classes (excluding Quest), both members and non-members are eligible to compete. Classes are open to non-registered Traditional Gypsy Cobs that meet the breed criteria with the exception of stallions who must be both registered and have passed a performance evaluation with the TGCA in order to compete (stallions must pass both an in-hand evaluation and a ridden evaluation in order to compete in each individual section i.e. if a stallion has only passed an in-hand evaluation they are not permitted to enter ridden classes unless and until a ridden evaluation has been gained).

Non-Members and/or unregistered horses will have 21 days after qualifying to join/register with the TGCA for the qualification to remain valid for TOYS note: both owner and rider/handler must be/become members.

Membership cards and Qualification cards **must** be carried into the ring (with horse registration number and name completed) and the latter must be signed in the ring by the judge. Show Affiliation Numbers must be written onto Qualification cards (please refer to the Show Diary 'on the TGC A website).

It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure the judge signs their qualification card in the ring and in the correct place(s) for the relevant qualifiers on offer for the class competed in.

Qualifying cards are to be retained by the competitor and used to support TOYS entries as follows. A) Postal entries must enclose the qualification card. B) On the day entries will require the qualification card to be produced when completing your entry. You do not need to post your card unless specifically requested by Head Office as part of the entry validation process.

Exhibits obtaining qualification may enter the relevant finals class at the TGCA National Championship Show (TOYS) in the year relevant to the signed qualification card

In Hand Small Senior Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over and 148cm and under. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.

In-Hand Mini Cob Senior Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over and 132cm and under. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive

In Hand Large Senior Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over, exceeding 148cm Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.

In Hand Young stock Qualifiers: Open to yearlings, two - and three-year-olds. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st - 3rd inclusive.

In-Hand Mini Cob Youngstock Qualifiers: Open to yearlings, two - and three-year-olds (not to exceed 132cm at maturity). Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st - 3rd inclusive

Open In Hand Qualifiers: Open to exhibits of any age, any height. Qualification is awarded to the top three seniors 148cm and under, the top three seniors exceeding 148cm and the top three young stock.

Ridden Small Qualifiers 148cm and under: Open to exhibits 4 years and over. Qualification is awarded 1st— 3rd inclusive.

Ridden Mini Cob Qualifiers 132cm and under: Open to exhibits 4 years and over. Qualification is awarded 1st— 3rd inclusive.

Ridden Large Qualifiers exceeding 148cm: Open to exhibits 4 years and over. Qualification is awarded 1st – 3rd inclusive.

Open Ridden Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over, any height. Qualifications are awarded to the top three 148cm and under and the top three exceeding 148cm.

Please indicate the show you qualified at when completing your entry. You do not need to post your card unless specifically requested by Head Office as part of the entry validation process.

Exhibits obtaining qualification may enter the relevant finals class at the TGCA National Championship Show (TOYS) in the year relevant to the signed qualification card

In Hand Small Senior Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over and 148cm and under. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.

In-Hand Mini Cob Senior Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over and 132cm and under. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive

In Hand Large Senior Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and exceeding 148cm. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.

In Hand Youngstock Qualifiers: Open to yearlings, two - and three-year-olds. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st - 3rd inclusive.

In-Hand Mini Cob Youngstock Qualifiers: Open to yearlings, two - and three-year-olds (not to exceed 132cm at maturity). Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st - 3rd inclusive

Junior exhibitors may ask the judge to sign the section of the card regardless of their class placing, providing they are the highest placed eligible junior exhibitor and any exhibitor placed above them has not had the section of their card signed.

Restricted Ridden Finals Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over, any not to have qualified for HOYS, RIHS, or been placed 1st – 3rd in any TOYS Finals in the current or previous year. These qualifications can be obtained when competing in any TGCA ridden qualifier class in addition to the ridden final qualification. Qualification is awarded to the highest placed eligible exhibitor and the judge may sign the ridden section of the qualification card should the exhibitor be in a qualifying position plus the restricted ridden section of the qualification card provided the exhibitor is the highest placed eligible exhibitor.

Should a qualification for either HOYS or RIHS before the relevant year 's TGCA Championship Show TOYS be obtained, then the qualification for the Restricted Ridden Final will be forfeited.

Quest for a Star: At Quest Championship shows the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd from the TGCA classes go forward to compete for the Quest for a Star Championship, provided they are current paid-up members, the horse is registered, and any stallion has passed ed a performance evaluation. Membership cards and Qualification cards (specific to that exhibit) must be presented upon entry into the ring. The Quest Champion and Reserve will have their show card signed in the Quest section that entitles that exhibit to enter the relevant Ultimate Star Championships at TOYS i.e. Young stock, Senior In Hand or Ridden, Mini Cob In-hand or Ridden..

Go for Glory: Part Bred TGCs that are placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd from part bred TGCA classes may go forward to the Go for Glory Championship. For current year qualifiers there is no requirement for membership or registration (apart from stallions) on the date of the show (this criterion may be amended going forward). The Champion and Reserve qualify for the Go for Glory Championships at TOYS.

Wild Card – Can be given to a horse/pony that meets Breed Standard at any show by a TGCA Judge

## **20. TOYS QUALIFICATION CARDS**

The judge must sign the qualification card specific to that exhibit whilst in the ring and against the appropriate category/categories.

Cards may NOT be brought into the ring once any class has started, NOR may they be signed outside the ring.

For non-members, qualification cards are provided for the Judge to sign and hand out in the ring.

Qualification cards MAY NOT be given or signed where the stallion is not wearing the TGCA stallion disc.

Wild Card – Can be given to a horse/pony that meets Breed Standard at any show by a TGCA Judge

## **21. JUDGES IN HAND AND RIDDEN PROCEDURE GUIDE**

Where the class is an in-hand class only, all exhibits will be required to walk into the arena individually.

On command from the ring steward the individual horse will be required to 'FLASH ' "

The term "FLASHING" is used to exhibit cobs. On entry to the ring, the steward will ask the animal to wait.

On the steward's command, the horse will be asked to go forward in a high energy workmanlike trot on a loose rein to cover at least 2 sides of the arena. On completion of the individual "FLASH" the horse will be required to join the last entered horse at a safe distance.

It is noted that for H&S issues strict attention must be displayed by both judge and steward and discretion used if it is deemed unsafe for an individual or horse to participate for any length of time or distance.

Caution and awareness on allowing plenty of space between horses, is advised due to the excitability this may initiate.

On completion, all exhibits will continue again in walk and will be requested to line up. The decision to pull an initial line-up or not is at the discretion of the judge.

If there is no pull, the steward may randomly select one exhibit to start the line-up and all other exhibits should follow in their initial order.

Each competitor will then be requested to present their horse/pony in front of the judge for conformation inspection.

The animal will then be walked away from the judge and then trotted straight back towards and past the judge returning to the line-up.

Where the class is a ridden class only.

All exhibits will be asked to walk into the arena on the right rein.

Upon instruction from the judge/steward exhibits will be asked to trot, canter, and change the rein.

The steward may then ask an appropriate exhibit to gallop or lengthen their stride along the ringside directly in front of the judge, all exhibits must follow on (exhibits may circle prior to the gallop to provide safe space). After the gallop or lengthening of stride, all exhibitors must return to walk.

Should the class be large or the ring small, it may not be practical for all exhibits to perform the go around together. The judge may request the class be split with half the class standing in the centre of the ring whilst the other half performs the go around. Once completed, the group of exhibits should swap and the go-around be repeated for the other group.

It is then the judge's decision to pull an initial line up, should they not want to pull an initial line up the steward will select an exhibit to start the line up with all other exhibits following on.

If there are both conformation and ride judge they will then start their individual judging duties.

The ridden assessment will start at the top of the line-up and once the exhibit has performed its display then it will be judged for conformation. At no time should any exhibit be judged for conformation before it has performed its ridden show.

Time should be allowed for grooms to enter the ring to enable the removal of the saddle once exhibits have performed the go around and have been lined up.

Individual ridden shows will consist of walk, trot, and canter on both reins and if appropriate a gallop or lengthening of stride. A judge can ask for a set show and if this is the case stewards must make ALL exhibitors aware of the set show.

On completion of all exhibits, if a marks sheet exists, marks will be totalled. If there is no marks sheet in use, the judge should indicate to the steward the order of placing which should be completed on the class sheet and the exhibits pulled forward in placing order.

When all prizes have been awarded, the judge will thank all exhibits and ask the un-placed exhibits to leave the ring, and the successful exhibits to perform a lap of honour - which will be conducted in a safe and orderly fashion but allowing the breed to demonstrate its active powerful action.

Only performance evaluated stallions are eligible to compete in any TGCA class. They MUST have the TGCA Stallion bridle disc on display on the offside of their bridle.

Judges are reminded that the carrying of excess weight by any exhibit is not good for the joints or breathing of any horse or pony, and in the interests of our horses and ponies, we do not promote the showing of over-fat exhibits. Judges are permitted to penalise any such exhibit in their marking.

For exhibits 148cm and under, the rider should be of a suitable size and weight for their mount.

In the case of youngstock, a judge may ask the handler to gently pull the lips back to show the horse's teeth if they are able to do so comfortably and safely.

## **22. JUDGES PANEL**

Judges, including probationary judges, are appointed at the discretion of the TGCA Directors and the Judges Assessment Sub Committee. Appointments are renewable annually. Judges can be removed at their own request. The TGCA can upgrade or downgrade Judges at the discretion of its Directors and the Judges' Assessment Committee. The TGCA Directors and the Judges Assessment Committee reserve the right to remove judges from any category, either permanently or temporarily, without explanation or litigation. Full Procedure and forms can be found at <https://www.tgca.co.uk/judges-applications>

## **23. JUDGES' RULES AND GUIDELINES**

It is a condition of judge's membership that all judges fully comprehend and abide by all TGCA rules and regulations as explained within this handbook including the member's code of conduct, the judge's rules, and guidelines (including any revisions to these as made and communicated from time to time).

Judges must be over 25 (unless specifically approved) and fully paid-up members (judge membership) of the TGCA (including probationary judges).

Judges must have a thorough understanding of the TGCA breed standard for the Traditional Gypsy Cob, and its requirements and be able to select good examples of the breed in practice. Qualification of such animals means that they will represent the breed at the National Show Traditional of the Year Show (TOYS).

New Judges must attend the TGCA Judges Conference in their first year, and at least every three years thereafter. Judges must fully understand how to apply the TOYS qualifications

All appointments for the judging of TGCA classes/shows must be adhered to. If for any reason this is not possible it is the judge's responsibility to contact both the show secretary and the TGCA judge coordinator to find a replacement judge. A mobile phone should be carried on the day in case of emergency but MUST not be carried in the ring.

Smart sensible clothing must be worn by all judges with wet weather clothing in case of inclement weather.

Judges MUST NOT charge a fee for judging at any time. However, judges are entitled to have expenses reimbursed which should be agreed (including the mileage rate) with the show secretary in advance of the show.

Any newly appointed judges are to make themselves available to undertake stewarding duties at the TGCA National Championship Show (TOYS) for the year in which they have been appointed.

Where mark sheets are used then under no circumstances should any changes be made to any marks given to any exhibitor. Should the steward have misheard and written the wrong score on the mark sheet, then the score must be corrected, and both the steward and judge initial the mark sheet next to the amended score.

All Judges will always be courteous and diplomatic to competitors and stewards throughout judging.

It is expected that Judges help, advise, and encourage novice owners/handlers new to the show ring. TGCA shows attract many novice handlers who have little or no understanding of what is required. Support, encouragement, and advice will ensure we have repeated entries from all competitors.

It is suggested that a minimum of tactile judging is to be used to reduce the possibility of passing infection and for health and safety reasons.

A judge must not judge and compete in any class on the same day at any show except for the TGCA National Championship Show (TOYS).

No judge should judge an exhibit that they have bred/owned/leased/loaned. Where a judge has produced/shown or received any financial gain from an exhibit then this must be at least 24 months prior to the date of the show. Ancillary services such as stud fees and or group teachings are exempt (where the group consists of 3 or more persons).

The breed temperament is of a calm, kind disposition. Bad manners and ill-tempered horses should be asked to leave the ring. If a stallion is showing unruly tendencies including bad handling, then they must leave the ring. There are to be NO exceptions to this rule whatsoever. Advice after the class if sought should be encouraged, so we can help improve handlers and their horses' showing practices for the future

In any cases of bad behaviour in ridden or in-hand classes where other competitors or animals are at risk, the steward may be directed to ask the exhibitor to leave the ring. Stallions should have no exception made for them and handlers must always be in control.

## **PROBATIONARY JUDGES**

Applications for the TGCA Probationary Panel will not be accepted without a completed application form and two accompanying independent satisfactory references.

Applications for the TGCA Probationary Panel require attendance at the Judges Conference at TOYS in the upgrade request year for the upgrade request to be considered.

Probationary Judges must attend three probationary judging appointments under three different L1 Judges within 12 months of receipt of the TGCA confirmation of appointment as a Probationary Judge.

It is the probationary judge's responsibility to arrange the appointments with the senior panel judges, show secretaries and the TGCA judges co-ordinator.

Probationary judges MUST inform the senior panel judge if there are any exhibits in the class that they have any interest in, they then MUST NOT judge said exhibit.

On completion of each judging appointment, each senior panel judge will be required to complete a report on the probationary judge and return this to the judge coordinator within 14 days of the show.

Probationary judges must not claim any expenses.

All probationary judges are to make themselves available to undertake stewarding duties at the TGCA National Championship Show (TOYS) for the year they are on probation.

Upon completion of three probationary appointments and related thereto positive feedback from each L1 judge under which the probationary appointments were performed, the TGCA at its discretion may/may not promote a probationary judge to the TGCA L2 panel.

The TGCA reserve the right to refuse any probationary judge's application without explanation.

The TGCA reserves the right to remove a probationary judge from the TGCA Judges Panel at any time if the TGCA Code of Conduct (as detailed in the Members Handbook & Judges Rulebook) is breached.

## **JUDGES PANEL UPGRADE REQUESTS**

Applications for a TGCA Panel Upgrade will not be accepted without a completed Judges Upgrade Application form.

Applications for a TGCA Panel Upgrade require attendance at the Judges Conference at TOYS in the upgrade request year for the upgrade request to be considered.

Upgrade decisions will be communicated in writing to the requestor by the TGCA following the TGCA Judges Conference at TOYS in the relevant year.

If such an upgrade application is successful, a probationary period of 1 year at the upgrade level requested will be implemented. On successful completion of the 1-year probation, the upgrade level will be permanently applied.

The TGCA reserves the right to refuse any judge's upgrade application without explanation.

The TGCA reserves the right to remove a judge from the TGCA Judges Panel at any time if the TGCA Code of Conduct (as detailed in the Members Handbook & Judges Rule book) is breached.

## **ELITE INTERNATIONAL JUDGE PANEL**

Admission to the TGCA Elite Panel is strictly by invitation only.

The TGCA reserves the right to remove a judge from the TGCA Elite International Judges Panel at any time if the TGCA Code of Conduct (as detailed in the Members Handbook & Judges Rule book) is breached.

## **EVALUATION PANEL**

Admission to the TGCA Evaluations Panel is strictly by invitation only.

The TGCA reserves the right to remove a judge from the TGCA Evaluations Judges Panel at any time if the TGCA Code of Conduct (as detailed in the Members Handbook & Judges Rule book) is breached.

## **JUDGES INSURANCE**

All current, fully paid-up TGCA Panel Judges will be covered by the TGCA Insurance Policy whilst performing TGCA judging duties for the period of their membership. It is advisable that judges also hold their own accident and personal insurance to cover them for such activity.

## **STEWARDS RULES AND GUIDELINES**

Anyone who would like to undertake any stewarding duties should contact TGCA Admin or TGCA Judges Administrator.

Stewards should carry a copy of this handbook and make themselves aware of TGCA rules and qualifications.

Stewards should carry with them a spare pencil/pen.

It is the responsibility of the ring steward to ensure that all stallions entering TGCA affiliated classes have their valid stallion disc present in the ring. Only performance evaluated TGCA stallions can compete in TGCA classes.

Stewards should always be polite to both their judges and competitors.

Stewards will, when requested by the judge, instruct competitors as to what they are required to do.

For ridden classes, they will instruct them when a change of rein or a change of gait is required.

In-hand classes, they will instruct them when to perform the initial trot up/flash. For both classes, they will instruct competitors when and how to form the line-up.

Stewards should not stand in a way which obstructs the Judge's view.

Ring stewards are responsible for having the awards ready for the judge to present in the correct order on completion of the class and recording the class placings.

Where a class is to be judged using a mark sheet then it is the stewards' responsibility to ensure the marks are written correctly and when added together to decide class placings calculations must be double-checked.

All results sheets must be returned to the show secretary by the steward, or where a runner has been officially appointed, to the runner on completion of the class.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Exhibitors will not exhibit under Judges where an actual or apparent conflict of interest may affect the judge's decision. An actual or apparent conflict of interest is defined as exhibiting a horse which:

1. Has been bought or sold by the judge either as owner or agent.
2. Is owned in whole or part by the judge or by a member of the judge's family or business partner in a business venture.
3. Has been bred by the judge or is the property of a breeding organisation in which the judge is or was an employee.
4. Has been leased by the Judge at any time.
5. Has been regularly trained, examined, or treated by the judge in a professional capacity.
6. Has been shown/produced by a member of the Judge's immediate family during the last twenty-four full calendar months. The following are classed as immediate family. Grandparents, Step Grandparents, Parents, Stepparents, Partners of Parents, Parents in Law, Legal Guardian, Husband, Wife, Cohabitee, Partner, Brother, Stepbrother, Brother-in-Law, Sister, Stepsister, Sister-in-Law, Son, Stepson, Son in Law, Daughter, Stepdaughter, Daughter in Law.
7. Is the subject of an ongoing negotiation to buy or lease, or a provisional purchase condition to which the Judge is party.
8. An exhibitor/owner must not enter any horse under a Judge during the twenty-four full calendar months after that judge has regularly professionally handled, shown, or produced that or any other horse for that exhibitor/owner. Training clinics where the judge does not touch the horse are excluded from this rule.
9. If a handler/rider produces or shows a Judge's own horse, that handler/rider must not bring any horse under that judge during the next twelve full calendar months
10. Is sired by a stallion which is/has been in the ownership of the judge during the current calendar
11. Has been bred to by the judge during the current calendar year.

Handler or Rider not to have been paid for showing or producing any horse associated with the Judge, this includes any remuneration either as employment, Use of Stallions for Stud, casual showing, or any kind-kind benefits whatsoever.

## **24. SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### **Our Commitment and Policy**

We take the safety of children and young people very seriously. They are the future of our industry, and we all have a duty of care to safeguard their welfare.

After all, they should be able to enjoy sports and recreational activities like horse riding in a fun, safe environment and be protected from harm.

The TGCA has its own TGCA Safeguarding Policy and adheres to the British Equestrian Federation's Safeguarding Policy (see <https://www.tgca.co.uk/safeguarding-policy> for full policy).

We have appointed officers to ensure that it is implemented throughout our industry and provide a support system. This will allow anyone to report concerns they may have about poor practice or possible abuse.

If you have a concern

The TGCA encourages those who participate, volunteer and work in equestrianism to report any concerns they may have about a child or young person or Adult. Any concerns can be reported directly to the TGCA. Contact details can be found below.

TGCA Safeguarding Team  
07725 832192  
[tgcaheadoffice@gmail.com](mailto:tgcaheadoffice@gmail.com)

If a child or young person is in immediate danger or needs medical attention, 999 should be called. Serious concerns can be reported to Child Protection Units within local police forces, Children's Social Care Services or Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

Childline 0800 1111  
NSPCC 0808 800 5000

## **25. DATA PROTECTION ACT STATEMENT**

The Data Protection Act 1998. Notification of processing of personal data.

It is required under data protection legislation to advise individuals about the processing of personal information i.e., why this information is being collected, how this information will be used and the circumstances in which it will be disclosed.

We use personal membership information to; respond to enquiries, provide you with the specific information you have requested, advertise as you have requested and publish within class results or to keep you up to date with news or about activities which you might find of interest. We may also use the information internally for administrative purposes and, when relevant, to inform our HO

By providing us with your personal details and information, you consent to the collection and use of this information, as outlined in this statement and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. On occasion this privacy statement might be updated, this will not be deemed to affect your consent, unless you specifically contact us to say otherwise.

Information supplied in connection with your horse registration will be passed by this organisation to Weatherbys (for the purposes of creating your horse passport) and to the Central Equine Database [CED] or equivalent. The information will also enable Defra to carry out its responsibilities regarding the implementation of the horse passport requirement. Your personal data may be shared with Defra, Government Departments and Local Authorities to facilitate strategic planning and analysis within the equine sector. Your personal

details [i.e., name and address of horse owner] will always be treated as confidential. All data supplied will be kept secure. Defra or its appointed agents may use the name, address, and other details on your application form to contact you in connection with occasional customer research aimed at improving the services that Defra provides to you.

The TGCA respects the rights of all its members and is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998. We will not act in contravention of our obligations under the data protection 1998.

The TGCA will need to use the information provided by you for its own internal administration and analysis but will not divulge any individual details to other third parties without your consent.

## **26. TGCA DISCLAIMER**

Only TGCA Head Office statements and affiliations will be valid and binding. All information and online content are owned and copyrighted to the TGCA Ltd. The TGCA holds absolutely no responsibility for the loss of any documentation whatsoever and gives no warranties, conditions, guarantees or representations, express or implied, as to the completeness or accuracy of the advice and information contained on the Website or any website to which it is linked, or any advice from any TGCA member.

## **27. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Neither the TGCA Ltd nor any of the Directors will be held responsible or liable for any accident or infringement of the TGCA rules and regulations as explained within this handbook, however, caused. This is a comprehensive limitation of liability that applies to all damages of any kind, including (without limitation) compensatory, direct, indirect, or consequential damages, loss of data, income or profit, loss of or damage to property and claims of third parties.

Save for death and/or personal injury caused by the proven negligence of the TGCA Ltd or by anyone for whom they are legally responsible, the TGCA Ltd, nor any agent, representative or show organiser of these bodies accepts liability for any loss, damage, accident, injury or illness to any animal, competitor (riders or handlers), owners, producers, spectators or any other person or land and/or property whatsoever.

## **28. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the Dissolution or winding up of the company, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, the assets remaining may be distributed to the members or otherwise as decided at the time.

## **29. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION**

All Competitions affiliated with the TGCA will be governed by English law.  
The Organiser and Entrant irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts

## **30. TRADITIONAL GYPSY COB BREED STANDARD**

A strong, active cob, full of quality and spirit coupled with an abundance of flowing mane, tail, and leg hair.

### **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The Traditional Gypsy Cob should be a strong, sturdy, and powerful cob coupled with an abundance of luxuriant flowing mane, forelock, tail, and leg hair known as feather.

Traditional Gypsy Cobs should always have plenty of heart room, and a deep girth to match. They should display ample bone and be well-muscled with a broad compact body and powerful hindquarters.

Traditional Gypsy Cobs should have a kind, willing, intelligent, and gentle disposition. They are renowned for their patient, kind, and sensible nature. Traditional Gypsy Cobs are extremely versatile, suited to both driving and riding they are ideal family horses.

### COLOUR AND MARKINGS

All Colours and Markings are permitted

### HEAD

Neat, small, sweet, noble and in proportion to the body.

Broad between the eyes which should be bright and alert, displaying a large kind eye. Blue eyes are acceptable.

### EARS

Small, neat ears slightly incurving.

### NECK

Strong and slightly arched and of a medium length. The neck is to be well muscled and well set onto a good sloping shoulder. Stallions should display a bold outlook with a well-arched crest.

### SHOULDERS

Well laid, long, sloping shoulders. Should not be fine at the withers.

### BODY

Short coupled and a strong back of good outline, muscular loins, good deep well-sprung ribs, which are round from the shoulders to the flank. Plenty of depth from the wither to the girth. The chest must be good and wide.

### HINDQUARTERS

Deep, lengthy, and powerful and displays an apple shape. The second thighs are well-muscled and let down. The tail should be well set on – not too high, nor too low.

### FEET, LEGS AND JOINTS

Feet of good size, round and well-formed, open at heels and well concaved. Pasterns are nicely sloping and of good length. Forelegs should be very well-defined and muscular. Well-defined flat broad knees. Plenty of bone below the knee (eight inches at least). Hocks should be well-defined and not coarse. Canons should be short with clearly defined clean flat bone.

### MANE TAIL AND LEG HAIR (FEATHER)

A NATURAL abundance of long flowing mane, forelock, and tail hair. Feather (leg hair) should start from the back of the knee and hock joints and cover the entire hoof. Hair should be straight and silky, curly hair is less desirable and course hair is not desirable.

### MOVEMENT

Clean, active, straight, and true. Going forward on —all fours with tremendous energy. The knee and hock should be powerful with a workmanlike action with hind legs flexed well under the body for powerful drive.

### HEIGHT CATEGORIES

**Note: All height categories refer to height at maturity**

Section A: Under 132cm

Section C: exceeding 132cm but not exceeding 148cm

Section D: exceeding 148cm but not exceeding 158cm

Section E: exceeding 158cm

## **31. PART-BRED TRADITIONAL GYPSY COBS STANDARDS**

- Ponies (148cm and under): 50% TGC, 50% individual breed
- Natives: 50% TGC, 50% native pony breed

- Sport pony: (148cm and under) 50% TGC, 50% recognised sport breeding
- Sport horse (exceeding 148cm): 50% TGC, 50% recognised sport or performance breeding
- Show cob: 50% TGC, 50% any breeding which can be termed as show cob type, to be shown hogged and trimmed (no height limit)
- Drum (158cm upwards): ideally 50% TGC, 50% Shire, Clydesdale, or other recognised heavy horse breed, or as decided by the TGCA.

In hand classes will be judged: 60% correctness to type, conformation and movement, 40% manners and way of going.

Ridden Classes will be judged 60% correctness to type, conformation and movement 40% ride, manners, and way of going and overall presentation