

2026 Australian Arabian National Championships

RULES AND CONDITIONS



PLEASE NOTE:

- All Exhibitors and participants competing at the 2026 Australian Arabian National Championships **MUST** comply with Rule 4.2 of the AHSA Rule Book on the AHSA website: www.ahsa.asn.au for full details. Exhibitors need to be aware of SIEC policies. <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/equestriancentre>
- All Officials, Volunteers, Professional Handlers, Professional Trainers and Professional Riders and Professional Coaches **MUST** have a Working with Children Certificate. Copy required with entry. See Rule 6, 9 and 10 of the AHSA Rule Book on the AHSA website: www.ahsa.asn.au
- Clipping and Trimming of sensory hairs. Please see Rule 5.2 of the AHSA Rule Book on the AHSA website: www.ahsa.asn.au for full details.

These Rules are correct at time of printing. No changes are anticipated. The Australian Arabian National Championships (herein called “Championships”) is an annual exhibition and competition of Arabian Horses and Arabian bred horses registered or recorded with the Arabian Horse Society of Australia Limited (herein called “the Society”) and will be conducted in accordance with the AHSA Rule Book as published on the AHSA website: www.ahsa.asn.au and any rules specific to the Championships noted in this document.

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1 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1** An “**ARABIAN**” horse. Refer to the AHSA rule book rule 3.1
- 1.2** An “**ARABIAN DERIVATIVE**” horse is defined as either a PARTBRED ARABIAN, ANGLO ARABIAN, ARABIAN PONY, ARABIAN RIDING PONY, ARABIAN WARBLOOD, QUARAB, HALF ARABIAN or ARABIAN STOCK HORSE. Refer to the AHSA Rule Book rule 3.2
- 1.3** An **API** horse, refer to the AHSA Rule Book rule 3.3
- 1.4** A **NON-PRO** Owner/Handler/Rider, refer to AHSA Rule Book. Rule 16
- 1.5** “**CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE**” shall be the committee appointed by the Society and use of the word “Committee” in these Rules shall also denote the “Championships Committee”.
- 1.6** “**EXHIBIT**” refer to AHSA Rule Book Rule 3.10
- 1.7** “**EXHIBITOR**”, refer to the AHSA Rule Book. Rule 3.11.
- 1.8** “**HORSE**” shall, where the context reasonably permits, include a stallion, mare, colt, filly or gelding.
- 1.9** “**OFFICIAL**” means any person or persons appointed by the Society for the purposes of carrying out any function under these Rules and Conditions and shall include any member of the Championships Committee and any Marshal or Steward appointed by the Championships Committee.
- 1.10** “**OWNER**”, refer to the AHSA Rule Book. Rule 3.16
- 1.11** “**DISPUTES COMMITTEE**” – Refer to AHSA Rule Book Rule 6.10

2 ELIGIBILITY - Qualifications for 2026 will be waived. Qualifications for 2026 and beyond may be reinstated.

2.1 All horses shall be registered or recorded with the Society. Registration numbers shall be stated for all exhibits.

2.2 All horses must be entered and catalogued with the registered owners’ particulars as recorded by the Society. Stud name of owner may be used as exhibitor name.

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2.3 Age of all horses or ponies shall be calculated as from 1st August. Every horse foaled before 1st August in any year shall be deemed to be one year old on that date. THIS RULE ALSO APPLIES TO IMPORTED HORSES.

2.4 Any exhibit which has been awarded the title of AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION in any ARABIAN IN HAND class or category SHALL be eligible to compete again in that particular class or category.

2.6 Any exhibit which has been awarded the title of AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION in any PERFORMANCE class or category (except Dressage) shall be eligible to compete again in that class or category.

3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

3.1 Entries are subject to these Rules and Conditions, and those of the current AHSA Rule Book, the Rules and Conditions if any, appearing on the Entry Form and to the formal Instructions to Competitors, Judges, Marshals and Stewards and to any other verbal or written instructions issued to competitors, judges, marshals or stewards prior to or during the course of the Championships.

3.2 All entries are to be made and catalogued for classes as listed in the schedule.

3.3 All Entries will be via NOMINATE

3.4 At the close of entry, classes with less than five (5) entries may be combined. These classes can only be combined with other classes within the same Registry (unless otherwise stated). Entry fees will not be refundable.

3.5 Entries not fully completed or incorrect may be cause for rejection of an entry or entries and a \$50 penalty may be enforced.

3.6 Refund of entry fees will not be made under any circumstances unless a class is cancelled.

3.7 The Championships Committee shall have the power without assigning any reason therefore to: -

(a) Reject or cancel an entry at any time.

(b) Prohibit the participation of any person or exhibit in any event or class for which it is entered.

(c) Cancel any event or class.

(d) Divide or combine any event or class.

(e) Alter the time at which any class or event is to take place.

(f) Order the removal of any exhibitor, spectator or exhibit from the Showground.

(g) Transfer an exhibit from any class to any other class.

(h) Invoke Clauses (a), (b) and (f) above on receipt of a report to the DISPUTES COMMITTEE of any practice which appears to constitute an act of cruelty. Such reports must be in writing and be accompanied by a fee of \$100.00 which will be refunded unless the report is deemed frivolous.

3.8 PROTEST AND APPEALS – Refer to the AHSA Rule Book Rule 6.11 or visit website www.ahsa.asn.au

3.9 ANY EXHIBITOR when called upon to do so by any Steward or Official of the Committee shall produce evidence to the satisfaction of the Committee as to the correctness of the description and particulars contained in the Exhibitor's certificate of entry in relation to any exhibit.

3.10 EVERY EXHIBITOR shall be deemed to have guaranteed the correctness of the contents of every certificate submitted by the exhibitor or on the exhibitor's behalf. Entries of horses not yet registered with the AHSA will be rejected. In the case of a Transfer, the horse may be entered as per the Certificate of Registration, at the discretion of the Society and Committee and with the written permission of that previous owner.

3.11 ALL HORSES must be able to be identified by their brands/Microchip and/or markings in accordance with the Certificate of Registration issued by the Society.

3.12 ANY payment received or accepted by the Society shall be deemed to have been received as a conditional payment only and subject to payment upon presentation. Any bank fees incurred as a result of a declined payment shall be borne by the competitor.

3.13 RESPONSIBILITY - Neither the Society nor the Committee shall be liable to any person in case of loss or damage by reason of any defect, accident, negligence, or neglect, however arising.

3.14 STABLING OF EXHIBITS - Each exhibit when it enters the Showground must at once be put in the place allotted for it by the Society. No exhibit may at any time occupy any other stable other than the one which has been allocated to it by the Society for the entire period of the show. No exhibitor shall be deemed to have any right, whether by way of occupation or otherwise, to any stall or portion of the allotted to him from time to time by the Society, and he shall forthwith vacate same upon being requested to do so by an Official of the Society.

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Stabling at the Championships is offered on a “first in” basis although preference exhibitors travelling greater distances. Preference is also given to Championships Sponsors. Any exhibitors requesting to be stabled with trainers, friends etc must put these requests on their entry forms and should submit their entries early as once stable blocks have been filled, they will not be re-assigned. It is in your best interest to submit your entries and requests at your earliest convenience so as to ensure your requests are met. CAMPING & CABINS will be subject to SIEC rules and regulations. <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/equestriancentre>

3.15 COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS - no commercial display of any product or service is permitted at any time or anywhere upon the showgrounds including stabling areas without the written permission of the Society. Commercial display includes signs in any form. This does not apply to Stud promotion.

3.16 EXHIBIT NUMBERS & CATALOGUES may be collected from the show Office. Correct numbers are to be worn around the neck of the exhibit or the waist or on the back of the handler or rider. Exhibits not complying with this rule will not be judged. A non-refundable fee for each number will be required. Each exhibit shall display the same exhibit number in all events it contests.

3.17 PROFESSIONAL HANDLERS/TRAINERS/RIDERS entering horses on behalf of clients MUST supply a letter of authority from the Registered Owner/Lessee authorising them to enter horses on their behalf or have the entry/entries signed by the Registered Owner/Lessee.

3.18 LIABILITY DECLARATION - every person handling, riding, driving, training, grooming or preparing a horse/pony is required to complete the Liability Declaration Form. Handlers, Trainers, Riders etc, who are not financial members of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia are also required to complete the Registered Participant Membership Application. These documents should be lodged with the Society with entries to enable correct allocations of wrist bands. Any person found to be handling any horse who is not wearing their wrist band will face disciplinary action. No person will be allowed to enter the ring without their wrist band.

3.19 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES. Rule 11.4 of the AHSA Rule Book. www.ahsa.asn.au

3.20 OFFICIAL TREATMENT OF MINOR INJURIES. Refer to Rule 12 of the AHSA Rule BOOK.

www.ahsa.asn.au

VETERINARY SURGEON - The Official Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Show Committee in conjunction with any Official may authorise the treatment of injury or illness which occurs on the showground prior to the exhibit competing. The Official Veterinary Surgeon's decision will be final.

PROCEDURE – Refer to Rule 12.2 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES – Please refer to Rule 12.3 of the current AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

COSTS - The costs of all taking of samples and their analysis will be borne by the owner/exhibitor.

3.21 PROHIBITED APPARATUS – Rule 11.1 of the AHSA Rule BOOK www.ahsa.asn.au

3.22 AWARDS - Classes with 1-14 Exhibits: Champion and Reserve Champion, and Top 5. 15 Exhibits or more: Champion and Reserve Champion Top 10.

Irrespective of the number of equal placings awarded, the awards other than Champion and Reserve Champion shall be known as Top 5 or 10

Where the number of entries in a class is 25 or more the judging of events may be separated into sections or heats. Top 5 or 10 will be announced in catalogue order.

All exhibits will be worked out individually, except in Arabian Costume, Western Pleasure, Pleasure and Bridle Path Hack classes.

4 CONDUCT OF EXHIBITS AND EXHIBITORS

4.1 The lighting of any fire in any area on the grounds is STRICTLY prohibited.

4.2 All exhibits must be under proper control at all times. Bad manners exhibited by the horse such as kicking, biting or barging may result in the competitor being asked to withdraw from the class by the Steward on direction from the Judge. Any horse not under proper control will be issued a warning by Ring Stewards and may be excused from the ring.

4.3 Handlers are not to incite stallions to challenge by facing them up to each other or crowding them. Failure to observe will result in immediate dismissal of that exhibit from the class.

(a) Any horse which becomes loose and escapes from the handler or rider due to any form of gear failure will be dismissed from the event eg: a halter breaking or falling off.

(b) Any horse which becomes loose and escapes from the handler or rider due to an accident, fright or similar and leaves the immediate judging area may be dismissed from the event. However, if the horse has not caused trouble and has stayed within the designated area and is easily caught, the exhibit may continue to be judged.

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4.4. Refer to Rule 6.6 d) of the AHSA Rule Book www.asha.asn.au Horses exhibiting consistent irregularity of gait may be penalised. Horses exhibiting signs of lameness in the opinion of the Judge will be excused from the class and will take no further part in competition for the remainder of the day. THIS IS AN ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUE. In the case of multiple judging, the majority opinion will determine the outcome. The horses' welfare is paramount.

4.5 It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to ensure that each of his exhibits remains in the ring until directed to leave by the Stewards or seeks and obtains permission from the Stewards. Any exhibitor, handler, rider or driver in breach, may be disqualified from that class and other classes for the duration of the Show.

4.6 If not already held at the AHSA Office, exhibitors must have a veterinary certificate to certify that all stallions and colts two (2) years and over have both testicles visibly descended into the scrotum except where a stallion has had one normally descended testicle surgically removed and has an appropriate certificate, which has been submitted to the Society prior to the Championships.

4.7 No stallion or colt is to be handled or ridden by a person under 18 years of age. Any one handler/rider may present up to two exhibits in their individual workouts in the ring, providing that there is a capable, suitably attired handler/rider for each horse when group judging is occurring and during the awards presentation.

4.8 Any exhibitor, handler, rider or driver who, during the period of the Championships, abuses or otherwise intimidates any official may be disqualified from that event, future events of that Championships and subsequent Championships.

(a) Any incident wherever on the Showground which is observed by any Championship official or any Director of the Society which is considered by him to reflect abuse or a cruel practice to any exhibit, handler, rider, driver or any other person by any party whatsoever shall be reported to the CHAMPIONSHIPS CHAIRMAN or the CHAIRMAN of the AHSA and may result in immediate disqualification from all events in which that exhibit, handler, rider is entered. Disciplinary action by the Board of the Society may also follow.

4.9 Exhibitors may reasonably prepare their horses for entry into the ring however they may not use excessive artificial gadgets such as keys, chains, clappers, plastic bags, garbage bin lids etc. This rule also applies to other persons on the outside of the ring or marshalling area. Exhibits who are excessively excited may be asked to leave the ring or marshalling area and will not be judged. A maximum of ONE person (a handler/rider OR groom) may be present in the marshalling area with any one horse. Persons failing to obey this rule may have their exhibit disqualified from the class. Whip abuse of any kind WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

4.10 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR CARD SYSTEM – see Rule 11.5 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

5 PRESENTATION, DRESS AND EQUIPMENT

5.1 Arabian stallions, colts, mares, and fillies are to be shown with free manes in In-Hand Classes.

5.2 CLIPPING AND TRIMMING: Refer to Rule 5.2 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

5.3 Excessive use of the whip will result in the handler being required to leave the ring on the instructions of the Ring Steward. Whips with any additional attachments must not be used. WHIP MARKS will not be tolerated, and the exhibit will be assessed and/or removed prior to or during the class at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

5.4 WHIP LENGTH - In ridden classes hacking canes or riding crops should not exceed 90cms. Normal length dressage whips are acceptable in most ridden classes. For In-Hand classes, length of whip is not to exceed 145cms including handle & tail.

5.5 Exhibits, which in the opinion of the Championships Committee, Marshall, Ring Steward or Judge, appear to have whip marks will not be judged.

5.6 Bandages, boots or rugs are not permitted to be worn by a horse whilst competing in any event.

DRESS

The Judge's or Steward's decision as to what comprises correct attire shall be final.

Refer to AHSA Rule Book Rule 10.3

5.7 SADDLERY – Refer to the current AHSA Rule Book for Tack and Personal Appointments for each class.

5.8 YOUTH CLASSES - All Youth riders, must wear an approved safety helmet (safety helmets must conform with the current ASA Standard or better) and short boots (no gaiters or long boots in Youth Classes).

5.9 WESTERN PLEASURE – Refer to AHSA Rule Book Section 30

6 INFORMATION FOR JUDGES & STEWARDS

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6.1 RULES AND CONDITIONS. These Rules and Conditions shall incorporate all or part of those Rules and Conditions outlined in Information for Judges and Exhibitors for all classes which may or may not have been included in the foregoing Rules and Conditions.

6.2 COACHING Coaching of exhibitors, either by electronic, verbal or signal forms of communication during competition is prohibited in all led and ridden classes.

6.3 IN HAND CLASSES

a) All Arabian horses are to be judged in accordance with the official Standard of Excellence of the Society.

(b) All Arabian Derivatives are to be judged Comparatively on saddle horse conformation and overall quality.

6.4 EXHIBITS will enter the ring in catalogue order at the trot going in a clockwise direction as and when directed by the Judge or his Steward. They will then walk or trot around the ring before being called in and either stood in line or asked to retire to the marshalling area until called. Each exhibit will then be inspected and required to perform a workout as directed. All exhibits must be worked out individually.

6.5 HORSES UNDER SADDLE

(a) Exhibits competing in these classes must be four (4) years and over and they are to be presented and judged as hacks. Presentation, manners, paces, and correctness of workout will be judged.

(b) Purebred Arabians may be shown with a free flowing mane and tail.

6.7 ARABIAN UNDER SADDLE or **ARABIAN DERIVATIVE HORSE UNDER SADDLE** - See Rule 24 Hack Classes of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

6.8 ARABIAN RIDDEN SIDESADDLE or **ARABIAN DERIVATIVE RIDDEN SIDESADDLE** - See Rule 25.5 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

6.9 ARABIAN WESTERN PLEASURE or **ARABIAN DERIVATIVE WESTERN PLEASURE** Refer to Rule 30.2 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

6.10 WORKING STOCK HORSE - Refer to Rule 31.2 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

6.11 AUSTRALIAN PLEASURE - Refer to Rule 31.1 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

6.12 ARABIAN COSTUME (NATIVE OR SHOW) - Refer to the AHSA Rule Book, Rule 29 www.ahsa.asn.au

6.13 DRESSAGE EVENTS - See Rule 27 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au

a. Shall be conducted in accordance with the E.A. Rules and Conditions for Associate Dressage Classes with exceptions..

b. Horses may compete in two consecutive levels and a maximum of 2 tests per day.

c. If a competitor enters 1 Youth Tests or 1 API Test, they may only enter 1 open test at a consecutive level.

d. All tests are limited to the first thirty (30) entries. A maximum of two horses per rider will apply. Preference will be given to entries received earliest although a reserve list may be compiled.

e. Classes do not attract grading points.

f. Classes may be judged by a single judge.

g. Callers will be permitted.

h. All competitors in any Youth test must wear short boots, no long boots or gaiters are permitted in Youth events.

i. No advertising materials may be displayed on any gear including saddle cloths, jackets etc.

6.14 BRIDLE PATH HACK - Refer to the AHSA Rule Book 25.2 www.ahsa.asn.au

6.15 ARABIAN/ARABIAN DERIVATIVE LEADING REIN - Refer to the AHSA Rule Book Rule 19.2 www.ahsa.asn.au

6.16 SHOW HUNTER - Refer to the AHSA Rule Book, Rule 25.3 www.ahsa.asn.au

6.17 NON PRO - Refer Rule 16 of the AHSA Rule Book www.ahsa.asn.au Contact the Society to obtain an Application Form if required

6.18 SILVER SNAFFLE - Open to horses 4 and 5 years. To be ridden in a snaffle bridle with either dropped, Hanoverian or cavesson nose band. To be presented and judged as a hack class.

6.20 HOME PRODUCED information:

(a) **Professional:** Professional is person who derives an income or accepts remuneration i.e.; payment, gift or entry fees paid, for the production, training or conditioning and/or exhibition of show horses.

(d) **Competitor:** The rider or handler presenting the horse in the competition arena.

(e) **Immediate family:** Grandparents, parents, parents stepparents, step brothers/sisters, legal guardians and step children. Partner, husband /wife/partners,

(f) **Horse:** Horse or pony regardless of height.

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(g) **Resident:** Stabled or paddocked in a given location for a period of time greater than 24 hours, for purposes other than attending a competition event, veterinary care, DIY agistment or stud work.

Home Produced classes.

These classes are for led and ridden exhibits that meet the criteria listed. Home Produced classes rely on the integrity and goodwill of exhibitors to adhere to eligibility.

Home Produced Eligibility Rules:

(a) Riders, handlers, and owners must be financial members of AHSA, and horses must be AHSA registered as being owned or leased by the competitor or an immediate family member.

(b) Horses must not have been resident in a professional producer's/trainer's stables for a period of at least (six) 6 months prior to the commencement of the show at which they are competing, except on a DIY agistment basis or at stud.

(c) Any horse competing in Home Produced LED classes must not have been shown in any led class by a professional handler or stables for a period of at least (six) 6 months prior to the competition.

(d) Any horse competing in Home Produced RIDDEN classes must not have been shown under saddle by a professional rider for a period of at least (six) 6 months prior to the competition.

(e) Any horse competing in a Home Produced class must have received its primary care, training and preparation from the competitor or a member of their immediate family for a period of at least (six) 6 months prior to the commencement of the show at which they are competing. Having tuition and attending clinics is permitted.

6.21 The Official Photographer, Rodney's Photography, has been authorised to take all photographs.

Any other Professional/Commercial photographers on the grounds taking photos will need to pay a fee of \$150.00 and will not be allowed to enter the ring

7. JUDGING RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR PUREBRED AND DERIVATIVE IN HAND CLASSES

7.1 A three Judge System will operate for all Arabian and derivative in-hand classes. Prior to commencement of judging, a random selection will be made to allocate judges as "Judge 1", "Judge 2" and "Judge 3" in each event for the purpose of resolving ties.

7.2 Purebred Judging shall be judged on a comparative basis. Each judge shall record his/her scores on a scoresheet as provided by the Society and in a manner as directed by the Championships Committee from time to time.

7.3 Derivative Judging shall be conducted on a comparative basis. Each judge shall record his/her selections or placings on a scoresheet as provided by the Society and in a manner as directed by the Championships Committee from time to time.

Awards will be as per rule 3.22 above.

7.4 For all comparative judging, each of the judges will place the exhibits 1st through 11th, (or increment thereof as instructed), allocating 10 points for their first horse, then 9 for second place, 8 for third place and so on.

7.5 Any exhibit which appears as first (1st) placing on at least two (2) Judge's scoresheets, irrespective of that exhibit's aggregate points shall be awarded Champion, Reserve Champion shall be the exhibit with the highest or next highest aggregate points as the case may be. Where no exhibit appears as first (1st) placing on at least two (2) judge's scoresheets then the exhibit with the highest aggregate points shall be awarded Champion. Regardless of placings on the judge's scoresheets, the horse with the next highest aggregate points shall be awarded Reserve Champion and so on for all of the Finalists.

7.6 In the event of a placed exhibit being eliminated or disqualified for whatever reason, the next highest dismissed exhibit may become a Top 5 or top 10 winner but will not be evaluated again. The Championships Committee shall decide after consultation with the Judge/s.

7.7 All judge's will enter their scores on to the Nominate iPad Scoring system. Other scoresheets, where required, shall be collected after each final judging and collated by appointees of the Championships Committee (the Scoring Committee). The scoresheets are to be held in a secure place under the control of the Championships Committee until the conclusion of the Australian National Arabian Championships, at which time they become the property of the Society. (Stewards may enter scoring on behalf of a judge)

7.8 Upon completion of judging and after the judges' score cards have been handed in to the Scoring Committee for collating, and entered on to the Nominate system, the Top 5 will be announced, followed by the Reserve Champion and then the Champion. All horses will be sashed as exhibit number is announced.

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Any tie or ties on aggregate points for an award of Champion, Reserve Champion or Finalist will be resolved by the card of "Judge 1"

7.9 Once a Judge has marked his/her card, there shall be no changing the score/placing, unless there is a mathematical error, missing score/placing, or a technical omission or error discovered.

8 GENERAL

8.1 Any Championship official who is an exhibitor at the Championships may not be a Steward there nor fraternise with any of the Judges prior to completion of all classes in which such exhibitor has entries.

8.2 The Championships will be conducted, and classes shall be adjudicated in accordance with the current Rules of the A.H.S.A. Ltd. in force and published at the time of the Championships, on the website www.ahsa.asn.au and the Championship Rules as printed in the catalogue of the Show at the time. In case of any conflict between the last-mentioned rules and these Championship Rules and Conditions, the latter shall prevail.

8.3 Should the show have to be cancelled for circumstances beyond our control, refunds of entry fees paid will be paid through Global Entries less their Administration fee.

8.4 No-one will be able to participate in this event if there are any payments outstanding to the AHSA at the start of the show. This includes sponsorship and other outstanding debts.

These Rules are correct at time of printing. No changes are anticipated. The Australian Arabian National Championships (herein called "Championships") is an annual exhibition and competition of Arabian Horses and Arabian bred horses registered or recorded with the Arabian Horse Society of Australia Limited (herein called "the Society") and will be conducted in accordance with the AHSA Rule Book as published on the AHSA website: www.ahsa.asn.au and any rules specific to the Championships noted in this document.