5. RULES FOR SHOWING

(a) No person may deliberately enter or show a donkey under a Judge who is known to have either owned, bred, leased, sold, produced, prepared or shown that donkey. No donkey should be entered or shown under a judge who currently owns or leases the sire of that animal or owned or leased the sire at the time of covering. The breeder is the mare owner. In the case of leased donkeys, DBS certificates and awards will only be presented to donkeys that are leased from fully paid up members of the Society. This rule only applies to Breed and Driving classes.

(b) Entering one donkey and exhibiting another is not permitted.

(c) Donkeys entered in the following classes (more fully described under Recommendations for Donkey Classes) must be four years old or over: (A) Stallion (in-hand); (B) Gelding (in-hand); (C) Mare with/without Foal* at Foot (in-hand); (2) Driving Classes; (4) Ridden Donkey; (5) Pet Donkey. *Foal to be six weeks old or over on day of day; foals to be the progeny of parents who were at least four years of age at conception.

(d) No nomination entries are permitted.

(e) Once a Judge has commenced judging a class, a donkey may not be led, ridden or driven in or out of the ring without the permission of the Judge.

(f) A Judge will ask a competitor to leave the ring if either they or their donkey act in a dangerous or improper manner.

(g) Whips/canes carried in the show ring to be no longer than 30" (75cms) overall (not applicable to Driving classes).

(h) DBS members must carry their DBS membership cards at all times when showing for production on request in order to receive DBS rosettes.

(i) Stallions and entire colts must be properly dressed in bridle and bit with the leading rein correctly attached to the bit. No person under the age of 18 may handle an entire donkey (foals excepted). No entire male donkey is allowed to compete in any children's classes (except Driving;see Rule 5(n)(i)).

(j) Mare with own foal at foot Class: superficial blemishes of a non-hereditary character do not necessarily bar the mare from being awarded a prize in such a class.

(k) There shall be no objection to a foal under six months of age being exhibited without its dam providing that the dam is present on the showground, but this rule shall not apply to an orphan or bottle-fed foal supported by an appropriate letter from the veterinary surgeon.

(l) **Ridden Classes**: Donkeys entered must be four years old or over and must have a correctly fitting bridle and saddle. All riders must wear an approved correctly fitting hard hat to conform to the current BSI standards. Riders in Leading Rein classes: minimum age 3 years. In Leading Rein Classes, donkeys to be led by a competent adult (18 years and over); leading reins to be attached to the noseband.
Both the following weight and height restrictions shall apply to each category:

Donkeys:	Riders:
up to 10.2hh(105cms)	not over 8stone(50kgs) + 4'0"(120cms)
10.2-11.0hh(105-110cms)	not over 8stone(50kgs) + 4'6"(135cms)
11.0-12.0hh(110-120cms)	not over 9stone(57kgs) + 5'0"(150cms)
12.0-14.0hh(120-140cms)	not over 10stone(63kgs)+5'6"(165cms)
over 14hh(140cms)	no restrictions

(m) **Young Handlers** Classes: To be judged on the ability of the Young Handler and not on the conformation of the donkey. A Young Handler is one who has not attained his/her 16th birthday on the day of the show. Young Handler minimum age: 3 years. The minimum age for juniors entering open breed classes is nine years. Junior competitors must wear approved hard hats conforming to the current British Standard in all in hand classes.

(n) **Driving Classes**: Donkeys entered must be four years old or over.
(i) Junior Whips – minimum age 8 years. Junior Whips aged 8-10 years may only drive at donkey-only shows with a competent adult in the vehicle; Junior Whips aged 11-15 years may drive at any show with a competent adult with a leading rein present in the ring. Whips aged 16 years and over may drive any turnout with the exception of when a person of 17 years of age or under is driving a stallion an experienced and able bodied Whip (18 years and over) must be in the vehicle at all times. Junior Whips must wear approved hard hats conforming to the current British Standard when competing in driving and long reining classes.
(ii) In an Exercise Vehicle class judging will be on the performance of the donkey and provided the vehicle and harness fit correctly and are clean and safe, they will not be considered in the judging. If this class is combined with Private Driving, the whole will be judged as an Exercise Vehicle class.
(iii) When a multiple turnout is being driven a competent adult must be present in the ring
(iv) Private Driving or Trade Vehicle classes will be judged 75% performance, 25% presentation to include vehicle, harness and overall appearance including turnout of Whip.
(v) If a competitor receives driving instruction from a judge, whether on a commercial basis or otherwise, neither person can be judged by or judge the other party until the end of the following show season.

(o) For shows holding a **Driving Championship**, two classes must be held from Open Driving, Private Driving, Exercise/Trade Vehicle, Best Whip, and the 1st and 2nd prize winners from each class to parade in the ring wearing the appropriate rosettes they have already won.

(p). **In Hand Championship** Procedure: The 1st and 2nd prize winners from classes (A) Stallion, (B) Gelding, (C) Mare with/without Foal, (D) 2/3 Year Old Colt/Gelding, (E) 2/3 Year Old Filly and (F) Yearling (defined under Recommendations for Donkey Classes) are required to parade in the ring in order of class and wearing the appropriate rosettes they have already won.

(q) A foal is only eligible for a Foal Championship.

(r) All **Show Champion In Hand Donkeys** at DBS affiliated shows automatically qualify for the appropriate championship at the DBS Annual Supreme Championship Show providing they are owned by a fully paid up member of the DBS. A Donkey may win more than one In Hand Show Championship but will qualify only once for the DBS Supreme Championship Show. Where the Show Champion has previously qualified, the Reserve Show Champion will be deemed the Qualifier**.** ***Note: If both Champion and Reserve Champion have already qualified another donkey from the front line is to be selected as the Qualifier***. Show Champion Certificates will be presented at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

(s) **DBS Champion Donkey In Hand Qualifiers** and **DBS Champion Donkey Driving Qualifiers** will only be awarded at shows carrying DBS Champion Donkey Qualifier status and where the Judge is appointed from the main panel of approved Judges for the current year. Any donkey may win a DBS Champion Donkey Qualifier but if the owner of the donkey is not a member of the DBS, he/she is not eligible to receive the DBS Certificate.

The Council of the Donkey Breed Society reserves the right to take action against persons found contravening these Rules

6. **DEFINITIONS**

(a) A NOVICE DONKEY is one that has never won a First Prize in an In-Hand Breed class (excluding Foal classes) or any Novice In-Hand Breed Class at any show up to the closing date of entry. A NOVICE DONKEY will not lose its Novice status if it is the only competitor forward in the class.

(b) A NOVICE DRIVING DONKEY is one that has never won a Driving class or any Novice Driving classes at any show up to the closing date of entry. However Novice Driving status may be retained until the end of the season in which it was lost. Novice status does not apply to multiple turnouts.

(c) A FOAL is a foal until the first day of January of the year following its birth, when it becomes a Yearling. A donkey's age will be deemed to increase by one year on 1st January thereafter.

(d) A JUNIOR is one who has not attained his/her 16th birthday.

(e) A NEWCOMER is a handler who has not won in an Open Class up to closing date of entry.

(f) A DBS CHAMPION DONKEY is one who has won four DBS Champion Donkey Qualifiers under four different Judges; at two of those shows there must be at least 12 donkeys exhibited in the breed classes on the day. There is no time limit for qualifying for this award. DBS Champion Donkey Certificates and Awards will be presented at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

(g) DRIVING VEHICLES: A TRADITIONAL VEHICLE is one of traditional profile and identifiable type to resemble the design of a carriage builder before early 20th century. The vehicle may be made from modern materials but must have traditional style springing and carriage lamps if appropriate. AN EXERCISE VEHICLE is one that does not meet these criteria.

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7. RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Competitors must wear appropriate dress and footwear in the show ring; further details can be found at donkeybreedsociety.co.uk. Junior competitors see paragraphs 5(l)(m)(n).

(b) Clipping of Donkeys. The DBS does not recommend that donkeys are clipped for in-hand showing purposes. The exception to this is if they are four years old and over and in regular work or for medical reasons.

8. RULES FOR JUDGING

(a) DBS Panel of Judges. Affiliated shows must appoint their Judges from the DBS Judges Panel. It is advisable to book Judges early. Invitations should be made in writing enclosing a copy of the schedule.

(b) DBS Champion Donkey Qualifiers (In-Hand and Driving). The Judge/Judges at these shows must be appointed from the Main DBS Panel of Judges (also from BDS and BHDTA panels in the case of Driving Classes).

(c) Limitations. A Judge should not judge at more than three shows in any one year (except in an emergency) and should not judge at more than two shows in close proximity to each other in the same year. A Judge must not judge at more than two Champion Donkey Qualifiers in any one year; these shows must be geographically opposed. Furthermore, no Judge should be invited to judge donkey classes at the same show until three clear years have elapsed, ie first judging in 2009, next judging not before 2013.

(d) No Judge may judge a donkey that they have knowingly owned, bred, leased, sold, produced, prepared or shown at any time, including the sire of that donkey. The breeder is the mare owner. Where a donkey is leased, the lessee is the owner for the duration of the lease. This rule applies to Breed and Driving classes. Furthermore, if a judge receives driving instruction from a competitor, whether on a commercial basis or otherwise, neither person can be judged by or judge the other party until the end of the following show season. Probationary judges who are also competitors must not exhibit under judges with whom they have trained for the remainder of that showing season.

(e) A judge may not exhibit on behalf of a competitor/owner and then judge animals owned by that competitor until the end of the following show season.

(f) Trainee Judges. The Society operates a training scheme for Judges and it would be much appreciated if shows would, on occasions after a request in advance, kindly agree to a Trainee Judge accompanying their invited Judge in order to gain ring experience. The Trainee Judge is to wear a 'Trainee' badge provided by the DBS Secretary. Trainee Judges may not judge the Championships at any DBS Champion Donkey Qualifier shows and must leave the ring during this judging.

(g) ‘B’ list Judges may not judge at DBS Champion Donkey Qualifier status shows.

(h) Junior Judging: A member, having been a Junior Member and reached the age of 19 and having achieved all Junior Tests up to and including Gold standard, may judge Junior Classes under an 'A' Panel Judge up to the age of 22 when he/she may undertake training for In-Hand and/or Driving Classes (in the case of Driving Classes having also passed the Driving Proficiency Test).

(i) In Driving classes, Judges must not ask Whips to dismount from their vehicle under any circumstances.

(j) As representatives of the DBS, Judges may not express comments or opinions on social media about any exhibitor, donkey or judge; however they may comment on shows in order to promote and encourage participation.

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1.2026