

# TRAILBLAZERS SHOWING AND WORKING HUNTER RULES.

*(Revised 1 March 2018)*

D001

## **1. Competitions**

**1.1** Competitions at the Championship Finals are available at the following levels

### **In Hand Competitions**

1. Trailblazers 3 Years & Under Young Stock Championship  
Open to fillies, colts and geldings aged 3 years and under
2. Trailblazers Young Handler 12 Years & Under Championship  
Open to any horse or pony with the handler aged 12 years or under
3. Trailblazers In-hand Showing at Any Height Championship  
Open to any horse or pony of any height
4. Trailblazers Best Conditioned Horse & Pony Championship  
Open to any horse and pony of any height
5. Trailblazers Hunter Horse over 148cm Championship  
Open to hunter type horses over 148cm
6. Trailblazers Sports Horse over 148cm Championship  
Open to sports horses over 148cm
7. Trailblazers In-hand Cob Championship  
Open to cob horses and ponies
8. Trailblazers Small Breeds M&M Championship  
Small Breeds: Exmoors, Shetlands, Dartmoors, Welsh Section A & B. Part breeds not permitted
9. Trailblazers Large Breeds M&M Championship  
Large Breeds: Connemara, Dales, Highland, Fells, New Forest, Welsh Section C & D. Part breeds not permitted
10. Trailblazers Veteran Horse & Pony 15 Years or Over Championship  
Open to any horse and pony 15 years or over
11. Trailblazers Traditional Coloured Championship  
Traditional coloured horses and ponies must have feather and full main and tail
12. Trailblazers Coloured Championship (Non-Traditional)  
Plaited or hogged with no feather
13. Trailblazers Spotted, Appaloosa, Palomino, Dun and Roan Championship  
Open to any spotted, appaloosa, palomino, dun & roan horses and ponies
14. Best Foreign Breed Championship  
Open to any type of pure bred foreign breed of horse and ponies

### **Ridden Competitions**

1. Trailblazers Lead Rein 133cm & Under Championship  
Open to any pony 133cm & under to be ridden by riders 9yrs & under on the first day of the Championship Finals
2. Trailblazers First Ridden 133cm & Under Championship  
Open to any pony 133cm & under to be ridden by riders 12yrs & under on the first day of the Championship Finals
3. Trailblazers Novice Showing Championship  
Open to ridden riding horses, 4 years and over, exceeding 148cm. See Rule 22.2 for Novice definition

4. **Trailblazers Show Hunter under 148cm Championship**  
Open to ridden show hunter horses under 148cm to be ridden by riders 16yrs & under on the first day of the Championship Finals
5. **Trailblazers Show Hunter over 148cm Championship**  
Open to ridden show hunter horses exceeding 148cm
6. **Trailblazers Sport Horse Ridden Championship**  
Open to ridden sport horses exceeding 148cm
7. **Trailblazers Riding Horse Championship**  
Open to ridden riding horses exceeding 148cm.
8. **Trailblazers Veteran Horse & Pony 15 Years or Over Championship**  
Open to any horse and pony 15 years and over
9. **Trailblazers Ridden Novice Cob Championship**  
Open to any cobs (inc. maxi). See Rule 17.2 for Novice definition
10. **Trailblazers Ridden Open Cob Championship**  
Open to any cobs (inc. maxi)
11. **Trailblazers Traditional Coloured Championship**  
Traditional coloured horses and ponies must have feather and full main and tail
12. **Trailblazers Coloured Championship (Non-Traditional)**  
Plaited or hogged with no feather
13. **Trailblazers Spotted, Appaloosa, Palomino, Dun and Roan Championship**  
Open to any spotted, appaloosa, palomino, dun & roan horses and ponies
14. **Trailblazers Small Breeds M&M Ridden Championship**  
Small Breeds: Exmoors, Shetlands, Dartmoors, Welsh Section A & B. Part breeds not permitted
15. **Trailblazers Large Breeds M&M Ridden Championship**  
Large Breeds: Connemara, Dales, Highland, Fells, New Forest, Welsh Section C & D. Part breeds not permitted
16. **Trailblazers Retrained Racehorse Championship**  
Open to all Wetherby's registered thoroughbreds raced or unraced, 4 years or older

### **Working Hunter Competitions**

1. **Trailblazers Working Hunter Nursery Stakes Championship** (fences: max. 0.50m)  
Open to ponies not exceeding 133cm, ridden by riders 12yrs & under on the first day of the Championship Finals
2. **Trailblazers Working Hunter Small Breeds M&M Championship** (fences: max. 0.60m)  
Small Breeds: Exmoors, Shetlands, Dartmoors, Welsh Section A & B. Part breeds not permitted  
Open to any rider.
3. **Trailblazers Working Hunter Large Breeds M&M Championship** (fences: max. 0.75m)  
Large Breeds: Connemara, Dales, Highland, Fells, New Forest, Welsh Section C & D. Part breeds not permitted  
Open to any rider
4. **Trailblazers Working Hunter 148cm & Under Sapphire Championship** (fences: max 0.60m)  
Open to any pony 148cm and under. Open to any rider
5. **Trailblazers Working Hunter 148cm & Under Diamond Championship** (fences: max. 0.75m)  
Open to any pony 148cm and under. Open to any rider
6. **Trailblazers Working Hunter 148cm & Over Sapphire Championship** (fences: max. 0.70m)  
Open to any horse over 148cm. Open to any rider
7. **Trailblazers Working Hunter 148cm & Over Diamond Championship** (fences: max. 0.85m)  
Open to any horse over 148cm. Open to any rider
8. **Trailblazers Working Cob Championship** (fences: max. 0.70m)  
Open to any cobs (inc. maxi). Open to any rider



## 7. In Hand Marking

**7.1** Marks are awarded for conformation, walk, trot, type and temperament.

## 8. Ridden Marking

**8.1** The marks for ridden showing classes will be allocated as follows:

50% conformation and breed characteristics

50% ride manners and presentation in the ring

## 9. Warm Up and Practice Arenas

**9.1** Riders are to behave with consideration to their fellow competitors whilst working in and must: -

**9.1.1** Pass left hand to left hand when meeting another rider coming in the opposite direction.

**9.1.2** Make tack adjustments outside the warm up / practice arena.

**9.1.3** It is the Competitors responsibility to be aware of other Competitors at all times whilst in the warm up / practice arena.

**9.1.4** Whips may be carried, but ensure the whip is not so long or used so that it could upset a passing horse.

**9.1.5** Do not halt or walk on the outside track and always leave room for other riders to pass.

**9.1.6** Do not lunge without the permission of the Organiser / Steward. Lunging should only take place in a designated arena or at a designated time.

**9.1.7** Lunging a horse / pony in a balancing or running rein is prohibited.

**9.1.8** A horse / pony may only be worked in by the person who is due to compete on that horse / pony in competition while attending the event. Breaching this rule may incur elimination from all competitions at that event.

**9.1.9** Only riders, trainers and grooms are permitted in the warm up / practice arenas and must confine themselves to pedestrian areas if not mounted on a horse / pony.

**9.1.10** If a warm up arena is becoming overcrowded, the Organiser or Steward may ask competitors not competing that day to leave. An Organiser / Steward may impose a limit on the number of horses allowed in the warm up arena, giving priority to those closest to performing their test.

## 10. Working Hunter Practice Arenas

**10.1** A practice area should be provided for each competition arena.

**10.2** At least one upright and one spread obstacle should be provided. The wings must be marked with red to the right and white to the left and may only be jumped in this direction.

**10.3** Practice fences may not be more than 10cms higher than the maximum height of the fences in the competition arena.

**10.4** These obstacles are intended for warming up purposes prior to competing and they are not to be used for prolonged schooling by competitors or others immediately before, during or after a competition.

**10.5** All elements of practice obstacles must be capable of being knocked down in the normal manner and must not be fixed, jammed or positioned in a manner which prevents or hinders them from falling. One pole only may be laid flat on the ground at the ground line or up to 1m from the ground line. False ground lines are not allowed. Alternate sloping top poles are not to be used.

**10.6** Practice spread obstacles are not to be jumped in such a direction that the front element is higher than the rear element. No pole or obstacle of any kind is to be held by hand for a horse to jump.

## **11. Competing in Competitions**

### **Close of Entry to the Arena**

**11.1** The class is deemed closed for judging and Competitors will not be permitted into the ring:

In hand	When the last horse / pony has done its individual trot.
Ridden	When the class goes into trot.
Working Hunter	Five minutes after the last horse / pony has jumped.

### **Leaving the Arena during a Competition**

**11.2** Once a class has begun, there may not be a substitution of rider or handler, nor may a Competitor leave the arena or withdraw from a competition without the Judge's permission.

### **Completion of the Competition**

**11.3** The competition is deemed completed when the Judge, via the Steward, dismisses the class.

### **Clash of Competitions**

**11.4** In the event of the Competitor having to leave the ring during the judging of a class to enable them to compete in another class, then they must complete both ridden and in-hand sections prior to departure, but must present for the final assessment and presentation of awards.

**11.5** In the event of a Competitor having a clash of competitions, the Competitor must make the Stewards for both competitions aware of a possible clash. While the Stewards will make reasonable endeavour to accommodate the Competitors clash of competition, Competitors are to be aware that such requests may not always be possible to accommodate. No refunds are given if a Competitor is unable to compete due to a clash of competition.

### **Alteration of Competitions**

**11.6** If required, Show Organisers may divide / amalgamate / cancel competitions or amend the running order of competitions, without liability to Competitors. However, the Show Organiser must use reasonable endeavour to inform Competitors of any alteration.

## **12. Fall**

**12.1** If there is a fall of horse and / or rider, the combination will be retired immediately from that class and must leave the arena on foot. However, the rider may ride in further classes on the same horse / pony and / or different horses / ponies if the rider declares they are fit to continue.

## 13. Competitor Dress

Hats	<p>Correctly secured hats that meet current safety standards and be worn at all times when mounted.</p> <p>If a Competitor's hat comes off while in a competition they will be eliminated.</p> <p>If a Competitor's strap becomes undone while in a competition, they must replace or fasten the strap before continuing. They may stop without penalty to fasten the strap. If the strap is not refastened the Competitor will be eliminated.</p> <p>Handlers under the age of 17 must wear a correctly secured hat that meets current safety standards with a secured strap.</p>
Long Hair	<p>For the purpose of safety, long hair should be tidy and secured appropriately.</p>
Jewellery	<p>Should jewellery be worn anywhere on the body it can increase the risk of injury and competitors are strongly recommended to remove all jewellery.</p>
Jackets	<p>Should be of a traditionally tailored style in a dark colour such as black or navy or should be a traditional tweed jacket. The jacket should reflect the breed type on which the Competitor is competing.</p>
Shirts	<p>Plain coloured shirts with a tie or stock.</p>
Gloves	<p>Optional, but if worn should be in a plain colour.</p>
Body Protectors	<p>Optional including the air bag style and may be worn over or under the jacket.</p>
Breeches / Jodhpurs	<p>Must be white, pale yellow, beige or fawn in colour.</p>
Long Boots	<p>Must be black, brown or navy blue and may be with or without mahogany or patent tops.</p>
Jodhpur Boots	<p>Must be leather and may be black, brown or navy blue.</p>
Gaiters / Half Chaps	<p>Must be a plain colour with no fringes and to be worn with matching leather jodhpur boots.</p>
Spurs	<p>Spurs can only be worn when riding a horse exceeding 148cm.</p> <p>Spurs may not be worn in any Mountain &amp; Moorland competitions.</p> <p>Spurs are only to be worn in the traditionally correct manner, with the curve of the neck of the spur directed downwards. The neck of the spur must not exceed 3cm when measured from the back of the boot. Spurs with rowels, roughened or cutting edges, serrated spurs, with or without necks are not permitted. Metal spurs with a plastic ball on the end are allowed.</p>
Whips	<p>Must not be greater than 75cms or less than 45cms in length overall nor be weighted or with a hard point at the end. Should the Judge feel that a competitor misuses the whip, then at the Judge's discretion, the competitor may be disqualified.</p>
In Hand Dress	<p>Ladies should wear a jacket with either trousers or skirt with a shirt and tie. It is strongly recommended that protective headwear should be worn.</p> <p>Gentlemen should wear a suit or a jacket and trousers with a shirt and tie. It is strongly recommended that protective headwear should be worn.</p>

Ladies and Gentleman should wear suitable footwear, with gloves and a showing cane.

Handlers under the age of 17 must wear a correctly secured hat that meets current safety standards with a secured strap.

#### Grooms Dress

When entering into the arena, grooms / attendants must be neatly attired in a suitable hat (hunter cap, cloth cap, panama or suitable hat), shirt with a tie, jacket or gillet, trousers and appropriate footwear.

## 14. Tack and Equipment

**14.1** No item of saddlery or equipment is to be misused. Dress and tack requirements must be adhered to at all times when a horse / pony are ridden in a show ground.

#### Bridle and Bits

A bridle with a bit is compulsory and must be used in the conventionally accepted manner.

Bridles must be predominantly black or brown. Browbands may be coloured and / or with discreet metal trim and / or traditional rosettes. Discreet padding of the bridle at the poll and / or noseband is permitted. Padding of the cheek pieces is not allowed and will result in elimination.

Horses / ponies competing in lead rein, first ridden and novice competitions (excluding novice cobs) must be shown in a suitable snaffle bridle.

The Judge will take into consideration the severity of the bit, their opinion on suitable bridles may vary and their decision is final.

Bit-less bridles, hackamores and running gags are not permitted in any in hand, ridden or working hunter competitions.

#### Nosebands

A cavesson noseband must be used with a snaffle or double bridle. Nosebands must not cause discomfort. Covering the front of the noseband (for example with sheepskin), is not permitted and will result in elimination.

Cavesson, drop, flash, grackle nosebands are permitted for working hunter competitions. Drop nosebands and flash straps must lie in the chin groove.

#### Martingales

Standing and running martingales are not permitted for ridden showing competitions, but are permitted in working hunter competitions.

#### Breastplates

Breastplates and breast girths are not permitted for ridden showing competitions, but are permitted in working hunter competitions.

#### Prohibited Tack

Cruppers, bearing, side or running reins of any kind are forbidden. Reins with elasticated inserts are not permitted; neither are any sort of blinkers, tongue straps or bitguards.

#### Boots & Bandages

Bandages or protective pads or gel pads on horses / ponies legs or feet are not permitted.

Front and hind boots are not permitted in any showing competition, with the exception that front and back boots of a plain colour may be worn for the first phase of a working hunter competition, but they must be removed before commencing phase two.

#### Shoes

A horse / pony may be unshod at the discretion of the owner.

Over-Reach Boots	Over-reach boots of a plain colour may be worn for the first phase of a working hunter competition, but they must be removed before commencing phase two.
Neck strap	A neck strap or balancing strap (a loop on the front of the saddle) are permitted.
Ear Covers	Ear covers, fly fringes, nose nets and / or fly repellent discs are not permitted.
Ear Plugs	Ear plugs are permitted in all competitions, but they must be discrete.
Working Hunter	No change of tack is permitted between Phase One and Phase Two.

## 15. Mountain & Moorland – In Hand / Ridden

### Mountain and Moorland – Small Breeds

**15.1** Small breed mountain & moorland competitions are for Exmoors, Shetlands, Dartmoors, Welsh Section A and Welsh Section B. Part breeds are not permitted.

### Mountain and Moorland – Large Breeds

**15.2** Large breed mountain & moorland competitions are for Connemara, Highland, Fell, New Forest, Welsh Section C and Welsh Section D. Part breeds are not permitted.

## 16. Cobs – In Hand / Ridden

### In Hand Cobs

**16.1** All cobs competing in the Trailblazers In-hand Cob Championship series should be hogged with no feather. If they are not they may be marked down by the Judge.

## 17. Ridden Novice Cobs

**17.1** Competitors in the Trailblazers Ridden Novice Cob Championship may use any type of suitable bit including a snaffle bridle.

**17.2** For the purposes of the Trailblazers Ridden Novice Cob Championship series a cob is deemed to be a novice if they have not won a competition at a County Show, qualified for HOYS and / or RIHS, or qualified as a finalist for the SEIB Search For a Star Championship.

Should an objection be lodged against a Competitor and it be proved that the Competitor's horse / pony was in breach of this rule then the Competitor's membership of Trailblazers will be suspended for a period of time issued by the Trailblazers Central Office.

## 18. Coloured – In Hand / Ridden

### Traditional Coloured Horse & Pony

**18.1** Horses / Ponies competing in the Trailblazers Traditional Coloured Championship series must have feather and a full mane and tail.

### Non-Traditional Coloured Horse & Pony

**18.2** Horses / Ponies competing in the Trailblazers Coloured Championship (non-traditional) series must be plaited or hogged and with no feather.

### Spotted, Appaloosa, Palomino, Dun and Roan Horse & Pony

**18.3** The Trailblazers Spotted, Appaloosa, Palomino, Dun and Roan Championship series is open to any horse / pony that are spotted, appaloosa, palomino, dun or roan.



## 19. Foreign Breeds

**19.1** Any foreign breed of horse / pony may compete in the Trailblazers Best Foreign Breed Championship. Foreign breeds must be pure bred and may include, but are not restricted to Arabs, European Warmbloods, Andalusian, Lusitano, Lipizzaner, Icelandic, Fjord, Quarter Horses, Percheron, Friesian, Haflinger.

## 20. Handler & Lead Rein Handler – In Hand / Ridden

**20.1** Whilst in the competition arena, if a horse / pony are being led by a handler / leader, the handler / leader must not leave the horse / pony until the class has been dismissed and they have departed the competition arena.

### Competitors competing with a Lead Rein in Ridden Competitions

**20.2** The lead rein must be fixed to the nose band.

**20.3** The reins must go direct from the bit to the riders hands.

**20.4** Competitors with a lead rein handler must exhibit the horse / pony in a snaffle bridle.

**20.5** Lead rein competitors who wish to compete in open competitions must present themselves to the Steward who will assist the Competitor when they enter the arena. For clarification, the Steward may direct them into the centre of the arena while the open competitors go around. Once they have finished the Judge will ask the lead rein to do their trot.

**20.6** Lead rein competitors are not required to canter.

## 21. First Ridden

**21.1** Competitors in Trailblazers First Ridden 133cm & Under Championship series may only canter while doing their individual show.

**21.2** First Ridden Lead Rein Competitors who wish to compete in open competitions must present themselves to the Steward who will assist the Competitor when they enter the arena. For clarification, the Steward may direct them into the centre of the arena while the open competitors go around. Once they have finished the Judge will ask the lead rein to their trot.

## 22. Ridden Novice Showing

**22.1** Competitors in the Trailblazers Ridden Novice Showing Championship must exhibit the horse / pony in a snaffle bridle.

**22.2** For the purposes of the Trailblazers Ridden Novice Showing Championship series a horse / pony is deemed to be a novice if they have not won a competition at a County Show, qualified for HOYS and / or RIHS, or qualified as a finalist for the SEIB Search For a Star Championship.

Should an objection be lodged against a Competitor and it be proved that the Competitor's horse / pony was in breach of this rule then the Competitor's membership of Trailblazers will be suspended for a period of time issued by the Trailblazers Central Office.

## 23. Working Hunter Courses

### The Course

**23.1** The course should consist of natural fences that reflect fences that may be found when travelling across the British countryside.

**23.2** Start and Finish signs must not be used.

**23.3** The course should consist of 7 – 14 numbered fences.

**23.4** One or more doubles may be included at the discretion of the Course Designer.

**23.5** Water trays may not be used in Nursery Stakes, but may be used in other competitions. Water must not be coloured and should appear natural.

**23.6** Bullfinches may not be used in Nursery Stakes, but may be used in other competitions. If a bullfinch fence is used it must be secured to the ground and the frame must not be greater than the height for the competition. A bullfinch fence must be used as an individual fence and may not be part of a double.

**23.7** Bullfinches will be judged for style and manners and will be reflected in the style mark, there are no knockdown penalties, refusals will be marked at the fence in the normal fashion.

**23.8** Bounce fences are not permitted.

**23.9** If a fixed fence is used, it must have a top element that knocks down.

**23.10** Hazards may be used in the course, but must be clearly numbered and suitable for the level of competition for which it is being used.

**23.11** Numbered directional flags may be used, which must have a red flag on the right and a white flag on the left.

**23.12** Course Designers have the option to reduce the number of fences if they consider it necessary for safety reasons.

### Walking the Course

**23.13** Competitors are allowed to walk the course on foot before their class.

**23.14** No person, other than the Judge or the appointed Course Designer is permitted to alter the course.

**23.15** Horses / ponies are not allowed to practice over any part of the course before the commencement of any of the competitions.

### Knockdowns

**23.16** An obstacle is considered to have been knocked down when, through the fault of the horse / pony or rider, the whole or any part of the top element falls, even if the part which falls is subsequently arrested in its fall before reaching the ground; or at least one of its ends no longer rests on any part of its support; or if any wing or support intended to maintain the stability of the obstacle falls; or the pillars or wings with a wall fall.

**23.17** If a combination or double fence is numbered as one fence, penalties incurred at each element are cumulative.

### Refusals

**23.18** If a horse / pony stops, or turns its quarters to a fence, or has a complete turnaround it will constitute a refusal.

## Elimination

**23.19** Any horse / pony taking the wrong course or jumping another fence after completing the course will be eliminated.

**23.20** If a horse / pony jumps an incorrect fence out of a pen or lane they will be eliminated.

**23.21** If a horse / pony displays continued disobedience, or the horse / pony leaves the ring whether mounted or dismounted they will be eliminated.

## 24. Working Hunter Marking

### Competitor Restrictions

**24.1** No rider may ride more than one horse / pony in a competition.

**24.2** There may be no change of rider between phase one and phase two.

**24.3** There may be no change of saddlery between phase one and phase two. Whips are not considered saddlery. Any horse or pony wearing front or back boots during phase one must be removed prior to phase two.

### 24.4 Marking

#### PHASE ONE

Jumping	50
Style & Manners while Jumping	20

#### PHASE TWO

Conformation	10
Manners, Type & Freedom of Action	<u>20</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

#### PENALTIES – PHASE ONE

Jumping Knock Down	10
First Refusal	15
Second Refusal	20
Third Refusal	Elimination
Fall of pony/horse or rider in any phase	Elimination

If the total in phase one is a minus score, then the score will revert to a zero score. ½ or plus or minus marks are not permitted.

### Tie for Placing

**24.5** In the event of a tie for placing the marks must not be altered. The Total Mark from Phase one will take precedence, followed by the Manners Mark, then the Conformation Mark. If there is still a tie the Judge's decision is final.

### Elimination in Phase One

**24.6** A Competitor that is eliminated in Phase One will not proceed to Phase Two.

**24.7** The only exception to this rule is if a Competitor participates at the Trailblazers Championship Finals and the Competitor is eliminated or has a fall in Phase One, so long as the Competitor declares they are fit to continue, may continue to Phase Two, but will carry a score of minus twenty forward to Phase Two.

## 25. Qualification for the Championship Finals

### Qualifying Period

**25.1** The qualifying period for each Championship Final is from 2 June the previous year till 1 June in the year of the Championship Final.

**25.2** Each venue's show organiser has the option to run as many Trailblazers qualifying competitions during each qualifying period.

### **Numbers to Qualify**

**25.3** The 4 highest placed combinations, regardless of the number of starters in the qualifier, will qualify to compete at the Championship Finals.

**25.4** Competitors that qualify may purchase a Qualification Card from the venue at which they have qualified. The competitors must then complete the Qualification Card and send it the Trailblazers Central Office to register their qualification.

### **Qualifying for Multiple Classes at the Championship Finals**

**25.5** Once a competitor has qualified at a qualifying competition, purchased their Qualification Card and registered the Card, the one registered qualification card permits the competitor to enter multiple showing or working hunter classes at the Championship Finals as long as they are eligible for such classes.

### **Championship Final Schedule**

**25.6** Once a competitor has qualified at a qualifying competition, purchased their Qualification Card and registered the Card, a Championship Final schedule will be sent to the competitor by the Trailblazers Central Office in early June in the Year of the Championship Final.

### **Reference to the Trailblazers General Rules**

**25.7** Also see Point 2 in "General Rules Covering all Disciplines".