

TGCA LTD MEMBERS HANDBOOK

Incorporating the Rules and Guidelines for Stewards and Judges



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ABOUT THE TGCA LTD

The TGCA (Traditional Gypsy Cob Association) 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. The TGCA Ltd is a non-profit organisation which has adopted the model articles for private companies limited by guarantee (a copy of which can be requested from head office).

The mission of the TGCA is to 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 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 of our beloved breed. The team comprises 3 Directors, Committee Members, Area Representatives, Support Services and Judges, which we collectively term TGCA Officers. (Please contact Head Office for an up to date list of TGCA Officers.)

Contact details can be found on our website.

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 prior to the meeting.

TGCA COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to the AGM the TGCA will communicate with it's members using a variety of tools including emails, letters, it's website, facebook page, and periodic newsletters.

TGCA WEBSITE

Our official website is 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, licensed stallions and TGCA contact details.

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TGCA FACEBOOK

Our facebook page has been set up for all TGCA members from novice to professional to meet and to share pictures, updates, ask questions and generally chat about their wonderful Traditional Gypsy Cobs. The TGCA will use this page to keep members updated with our very latest news and information and we will run NEW fun competitions and other offers. This is the only facebook presence of our Association.

Non TGCA members are very welcome to visit our 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 will be added to the page.

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 as soon as possible. At all times members must be respectful of our Social Media Policy (below) and of 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 or to your Area Representative. That way we can take appropriate action and respond accordingly, maintaining integrity for all parties.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

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

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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES/NON DISCRIMINATION

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

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TGCA MEMBERSHIP

The TGCA annual membership runs in line with a calendar year, i.e. 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 TGCA Judges' Membership runs from 1st November to 31st October and is renewable each year. Renewals must be made in advance of the coming year so that judges may be listed in the following year's Judges' Panel document which is shared with Show Secretaries. Failure to do so will result in judges potentially being missed off of this list.

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

Please note that both Owners AND Handlers/Riders are required to be TGCA members in order to participate at TOYS.

The membership form is available on the TGCA website.

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; registered horses as soon as they are able and within one calendar month of the change taking place.

MEMBERS 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.

In the event a member is found to be in breach of the rules and regulations or the Code of Conduct the TGCA Committee has the power, in it's absolute discretion, to expel or suspend that member from membership.

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

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MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

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

- Conduct themselves so as 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

TGCA DISCLAIMER

The TGCA Ltd will only be bound by commitments, contracts or other agreements that have been placed on it's behalf by TGCA officers with the explicit authorisation from the TGCA Directors. Only TGCA Head Office statements and affiliations will be valid and binding. All information and online content is owned and copyright 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.

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.

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.

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HORSE REGISTRATION

Horses must be registered on the TGCA Breed Mother Studbook, and additionally stallions (four years and over) must be licensed, in order to compete at our National Breed Championship Show, The Traditional of the Years Show (TOYS), held annually in the United Kingdom. This equally applies to the Quest Championship Series, which runs throughout the show season, culminating in the Ultimate Star Classes at TOYS.

For current information on registration, our studbook and our licensing scheme please refer to our website www.tgca.co.uk.

SHOWING

SHOWING RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. All colours are acceptable, colour and markings should not be considered whilst judging, wall/blue eyes and freeze marking are not to be penalised.
2. Horses should be shown in their natural condition, only minimal trimming of jaw line and ears is permissible.
3. Body clipping of adult horses and ponies is permitted for their welfare and should not be penalised.
4. Long mane and tail and natural abundance of feather is expected. 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 to obese horses. Any exhibit that in the judge's opinion is obese will be asked to leave the ring. This includes overproduced youngstock.
7. Exhibits must be entered into the class specific to their age as of the 1st January in the prevailing year. Spot checks will be carried out 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 carried out 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.

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11. Show organisers have the power to ask exhibitors to leave the show ground for unruly behaviour whether inside or outside the ring.
12. All exhibitors including grooms must be dressed correctly whilst in the ring.
13. For in hand showing: smart jacket and trousers, shirt and tie, gloves, hat or cap, junior competitors, (under 18 as of 1st January in current year) must wear a riding hat or scull cap correctly done up and complying to PAS015, EN1384 or ASTEM) and suitable footwear and show cane/whip (MUST NOT exceed 76cms/30" in length).
14. For ridden: hacking/tweed show jacket, shirt and tie, gloves, breeches or jodhpurs (not white), hair net, show cane/whip (MUST NOT exceed 76cms/30" in length), jodhpur boots for juniors and long black boots for adults, riding hat or skull cap. 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.
15. All riders, if wearing a riding hat, must wear a riding hat complying to PAS015, EN1384 or ASTEM. A correctly secured British Standard 3 point harness riding hat MUST be worn by junior competitors, this includes any evening Performance or Finals. All other riders must abide by each individual show's rules regarding riding hats. Should a exhibitors hat come off or chin strap come unfastened whilst in the ring they must or they will be eliminated, replace or fasten it before continuing. The exhibitor may dismount, stop or have the hat passed up from the ground without any penalty.
16. 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.
17. Riders may be any age but must be suited for the size of their exhibit. Riders of stallions must be 14 years old (as of 1st January in current year).
18. Spurs must not be worn by junior riders (under 18 as of 1st January in current year) or any rider of an exhibit under 142cms. In mixed height classes no competitor may wear spurs.
19. No ear-rings or body piercing are allowed to be worn in the ring, this is an HSE requirement.
20. Members must carry qualification and membership cards in the ring for the judge to sign in the ring at the time of qualification for TOYS. Cards MUST NOT be brought into the ring once the class has started.
21. Under no circumstances should an exhibitor show under a judge (or probationary 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 12 months prior to the date of the show. Ancillary services such as stud fees and or group teachings are exempt.
22. 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.

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23. Exhibits in novice classes may only compete in a snaffle bridle, may be any age but must not have won an open class as of 1st January in the current year.
24. 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 prior agreement of the judge/steward/and show secretary.
25. 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.
26. The fall of either an exhibit or exhibitor in any ridden class will result in elimination; they must leave the ring unmounted.
27. The judge's decision is ALWAYS final.
28. 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 and be published in the TGCA newsletter and or website.
29. Mobile phones MUST NOT be carried into the ring.
30. Anyone who feels they have a valid complaint MUST follow the complaints procedure as set out in this handbook.
31. Colts 2 years and over may be licensed with the TGCA (details on website).
32. Stallions 4 years and over MUST be licensed with the TGCA in order to participate in any TGCA affiliated class. Stallions MUST always wear the TGCA Stallion bridle discs on the offside of their bridle at all times when competing in TGCA classes. Any stallion not displaying their bridle disc will be asked to leave the ring. All colts/stallions must be well mannered and under control at all times.

SHOWING TACK

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.

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 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) to be shown in either a simple white show halter or a leather in hand halter or foal slip – NO BITS.

Colts aged two years and over MUST be shown in a stallion bridle with a metal bit and chain lead.

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The use of 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.

All licensed colts and stallions must display their TGCA licence discs at all times whilst competing.

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

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.

IN HAND BREED CLASSES:

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

NB: The term "FLASHING" is used to exhibit the Cob In Hand. Upon the Stewards command, handlers will be asked to go forward with their cob 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 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 CLASSES:

Cobs are to perform an individual show. They will not be ridden by the judge or the judge's representative. When a cob 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 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 round as per the judge/stewards instructions. Exhibits will then 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 also 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.

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

Workers Classes will be judged: Phase 1: Jumping – 50% jumping and 20% style when jumping. Phase 2: 30% conformation, correctness to type, and manners during show. Penalties are: knock down of fence 10 points, first refusal 15 points, 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 are allowed to 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.

TRADITIONAL OF THE YEAR SHOW (TOYS) QUALIFIERS

1. 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 Ultimate Star, which will be split into the same sections.
2. Dressage, show jumping, Working Cob, Tradball, Trad Trek, Agility and any other performance classes do not require qualification and are open classes at "TOYS". In addition to the Best of Breed Final Classes, there are open showing classes held at "TOYS" which do not require qualification, please refer to the schedule.
3. Affiliated shows may hold one or more TGCA Qualifier classes; refer to the latest 'Affiliation Guide'.
4. In all TOYS Qualifying classes (excluding Quest - refer to point 18), 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 licensed with the TGCA in order to compete.
5. Non Members and/or unregistered horses will have 21 days after qualifying to join/register with the TGCA in order for the qualification to remain valid for TOYS. NB BOTH the owner and the rider/handler must be/become members.
6. Membership cards and Qualification cards must be carried into the ring 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 TGCA website).
7. 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.
8. 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. C) For those taking advantage of the Online Entry system 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.

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9. 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
10. In Hand Small Senior Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over and under 142cms. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.
11. In Hand Large Senior Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over, and 142cms or above. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.
12. In Hand Youngstock Qualifiers: Open to yearlings, two and three year olds. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.
13. Open In Hand Qualifiers: Open to exhibits any age, any height. Qualification is awarded to a) the top three seniors under 142cms, and to b) the top three seniors 142cms or above, and to the top three placed youngstock.
14. Ridden Small Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over and under 142cms. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.
15. Ridden Large Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and 142cms or above. Qualification is awarded to those placed 1st – 3rd inclusive.
16. Open Ridden Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over, any height. Qualification is awarded to a) the top three under 142cms, and to b) the top three 142cms or above.
17. Junior Ridden Finals Qualifier: Open to exhibits 4 years and over, any height, rider to be 18 or under as of 1st January in current year.

This qualification 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 junior ridden section of the qualifying card provided the exhibitor is the highest placed eligible exhibitor.

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

18. Restricted Ridden Finals Qualifiers: Open to exhibits 4 years and over, any height, not to have qualified for HOYS, RIHS, been placed 1st – 3rd in any TOYS Finals in the current or previous year.

This qualification 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.

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

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.

19. 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 is licensed. Membership cards and Qualification cards (specific to that exhibit) must be presented upon entry into the ring. The Quest Champion and Reserve will receive a qualification slip that entitles that exhibit to enter the relevant Ultimate Star Championships at TOYS i.e Youngstock, Senior In Hand or Ridden.

JUDGES & STEWARDS

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 up or downgrade Judges at the discretion of it's Directors and the Judges Assessment Sub Committee. The TGCA Directors and the Judges Assessment Sub Committee reserve the right to remove judges from any category, either permanently or temporarily, without explanation or litigation.

JUDGES RULES AND GUIDELINES

It is a condition of judges membership that all judges are fully comprehensive of and abide by all the TGCA rules and regulations as explained within this handbook including the members code of conduct, the judges rules and guidelines and including any revisions to these as made and communicated from time to time. The TGCA will not be held responsible or liable for any accident or infringement however caused.

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, it's 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 Championship Show TOYS.

New Judges must attend the TGCA Judge's Conference in their first year, and at least every three years thereafter.

Judges must fully understand how to apply the TOYS qualifications.

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All appointments for the judging of TGCA classes/shows must be adhered to. If for any reason this is not possible it is that judge's responsibility to contact both the show secretary and the TGCA judge's co-ordinator to find a replacement judge.

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 exhibit. Should the steward have mis-heard 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 be courteous and diplomatic to competitors and stewards at all times 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 these people.

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 12 months prior to the date of the show. Ancillary services such as stud fees and or group teachings are exempt.

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 be in control at all times.

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PROSPECTIVE JUDGES

The TGCA operates a scheme for prospective judges. Applicants must be over 25 and be a fully paid up member of the TGCA and apply in writing with a CV giving details of their experience and knowledge. After this the applicant will be invited for an assessment and interview.

Should the applicant be successful at the assessment day then they will be put on the judge's panel at whatever level the assessors decide. Should the assessors decide that the applicant would benefit from a probationary period, please see section below on probationary judges.

Any applicant that fails to be appointed is free to re-apply the following year.

PROBATIONARY JUDGES

Probationary judges must attend the TGCA Judge's Conference.

Probationary judge's MUST judge at least 4 shows the following year with 4 different senior panel judges.

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

Probationary judge's 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's co-ordinator within 14 days of the show.

If at the end of those 4 probationary judging appointment the TGCA feel the probationary judge is ready, they will be put onto the TGCA judge's panel at whatever level the TGCA decides.

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.

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JUDGES IN HAND AND RIDDEN PROCEDURE

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 the Cob, 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 fast 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 has to 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 ring side directly in front of the judge, all exhibits must follow on (exhibits may circle prior to gallop in find 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 round together. The judge may request the class be split with half the class standing in the centre of the ring whilst the other half perform the go

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round. Once completed, the group of exhibits should swap and the go round be repeated for the other group.

It is then the judges 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 judges 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 round 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 licensed 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. No unlicensed stallions are eligible to compete.

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 under 14 hands, 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 horses teeth if they are able to do so comfortably and safely.

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TOYS QUALIFICATION CARDS

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

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 either unlicensed or is not wearing the TGCA stallion disc.

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 judge's co-ordinator,

Stewards should be smartly dressed with sensible footwear and wet weather clothing in case of bad weather.

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 TGCA stallion license disc on display. Only TGCA licensed stallions are allowed to compete in TGCA classes.

It is the responsibility of the ring steward to ensure that all only eligible exhibits are allowed to enter Quest Championships. This is only open to paid up members with registered exhibits and any stallions must be licensed and displaying the TGCA stallion disc on their bridle. Current membership cards and Qualification cards (specific to the exhibit) must be presented upon entering the ring.

Stewards should be polite at all times to both their judges and to competitors.

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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 the judge's view of the class.

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

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THE 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 and Characteristics

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 within a broad compact body and powerful hindquarters.

They should have a kind, willing, intelligent and gentle disposition. They are renown 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. Chest must be good and wide.

Hindquarters

Deep, lengthy and powerful and displaying an apple shape. Second thighs well muscled and let down. Tail should be well set on – not too high, nor too low.

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Feet, Legs and Joints

Feet of good size, round and well formed, open at heels and well concaved. Pasterns to be nicely sloping and of a 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:

Section D: 150cms and over	(150cms +)
Section C: Under 150 cms	(142 to 149.9cms)
Section B: Under 142 cms	(132 to 141.9cms)
Section A: Under 132 cms	(<132cms)

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COMPLAINTS

Any complaints must be detailed in writing and sent by email or post to the TGCA Head Office.

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 this 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.

If any members wish to complain about specific events then please refer below. In this case the complaint must be received within 14 days of the incident.

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 expel or suspend that member from membership or to invoke the following remedies:

- i) Reprimand said person and warn of their behaviour
- ii) Fine said person up to a maximum of £250
- v) Disqualify and remove class placing of exhibit
- vi) Suspend exhibit from entering any TGCA shows or affiliated classes
- vii) Remove or suspend from the judge's 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 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.

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.

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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 specific information you have requested, advertise as you have requested, 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 work.

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 1988. 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 National Equine Database [NED] 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 be treated as confidential at all times and 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 1988. 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.