

....What you need to know!

2026 STARS Rules and Conditions of Qualification and Entry.

Rule 1A Qualification will be taken from points accrued over the season, which give rise to your champion, reserve champion and 2nd reserve champion. Each club MUST offer the option of representing their club to each class champion. Should they be unable to attend qualification can be passed to reserve and 2nd reserve champion.

- B) Each club is allowed to send 1 competitor per class. In the event of 2 competitors having joint points, both qualify.
- C) Show dates must be held between March and September.
- D) No points show can be held after 20th September.
- E) Clubs must hold a minimum of 4 points shows.
- F) All competitors must attend a minimum of 2 shows.

G) In addition to the above rules: We have noticed some clubs hold a non – points trophy shows mid-season. We ask if possible that you use your September show for your non points show, so that August is your last points show. This means you can invite your STARS competitors as early as possible. It takes time to sort your teams, so September shows can put too much pressure on us all. Using August as you last show will make your lives easier, because we will not allow late entries.

H) Entries for STARS will open 14th September and close on the 14th October (strictly no late entries this year).

Rule 2 Any competitor may join and qualify for STARS at as many RC's as they want. However, you can only represent 1 club per class. Competitors may compete in as many classes as they qualify/invited too, by their RC. All competitors must be fully paid-up members of the RC they represent.

Rule 3 It is a condition of affiliation that all RC secretaries keep records of their points for all STARS classes. A running points total sheet must be available to view online, or in a book at each show so that competitors and STARS admin can check these. At STARS final these sheets need to always be available.

Rule 4 No change of combination of horse/pony/ rider/leader is permitted other than the ones that qualified through their club. The only exception is the leader of a LR pony may be substituted with permission from STARS if there are exceptional circumstances.

Rule 5A) No Horse or pony can compete at STARS if they qualified HOYS in current or previous year.

B) *Search for a Star classes, horses and ponies are not eligible for STARS if they qualify HOYS in current year.

Rule 6 Riders/handlers are not eligible to compete at STARS if they have qualified or competed any horse or pony for HOYS including Search for a Star classes in current year.

Rule 7 No horse/ pony that has been placed in the top 5 at RIHS in current year may compete at STARS. Riders may compete on a different animal.

Rule 8A) No professional producers or any of their staff may compete at STARS. No horses or ponies that have been on a professional showing yard from March 1st in current year.

B) Definition of a professional producer:

C) The horse or pony is kept at a professional showing yard for any form of show production, and this includes holiday livery, breaking, schooling ect. From March 1st in current year.

D) No horse or pony can have any help whatsoever at a show from a professional producer, even if pony is stabled at home. This includes lunging, stripping, grooming, riding tuition, etc. If any of these apply to your horse or pony, then that animal is not eligible for STARS.

E) We do allow full livery on a professional yard if it is NOT a showing yard. We understand some people work long hours may need help caring for their horse or pony. However, no show production of any kind is allowed.

Rule 9 A) Semi-professionals: Definition:

B) We regard you as a semi-professional if you ride or show 2 or more animals that do NOT belong to you. Regardless of if you receive payment or not. Semi-professionals are not eligible to compete at STARS.

C) We do not mind how many horses or ponies you show if they belong to you and you do them yourself from home. We also allow you to help 1 friend, as we not wish to stop friends helping each other. Strictly 1 friend.

Rule 10 No competitor can have shown any animal that has been on a producer's yard since March 1st in current year

Rule 11A) Complaints procedure:

B) Anyone who wants to make a complaint must be a fully paid-up member of an affiliated RC, or a secretary of an affiliated RC.

C) Any complaints prior to STARS must be made via email to our admin dealing with complaints. starschampionofchampions@outlook.com If we feel the complaint needs full investigation then a £50 returnable deposit must be paid by the person who raised the complaint. If the complaint is upheld, then the money will be returned.

D) Any complaints made at STARS must be done within 60 mins of the alleged complaint. They must go to the STARS help desk and ask for the official dealing with complaints and pay £50, returnable if complaint upheld.

E) If we do not find any rules have been broken then the money will be donated to a charity of your choice.

Rule 12 Social Media Rules:

You must NOT post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of STARS or its competitors / organisers. Anyone found guilty of this would constitute a breach of STARS rules. This could result in a lifetime ban from STARS, and criminal / civil proceedings being brought against you. We closely monitor all social media outlets.

Rule 13 Any stallion must be ridden / handled by a competent person with a minimum age of 14. Any stallion that is out of control or behaves dangerously will be asked to leave the showground.

Rule 14 No horse or pony under the age of 4 can be ridden at STARS. All ponies ages are from January 1st determined by the year not month of birth.

Rule 15 Competitors must be a minimum age of 3 on the 1st of January in current year to compete at STARS or ride on the showground.

Rule 16 Full and correct attire must be worn by all competitors and grooms. All riders when mounted must wear correct headwear to PAS015 or higher (hats do not need to be tagged). All Junior members must also wear correct safety headwear when riding or leading any animal either in the ring or anywhere on the showground.

Rule 17 Senior riders only are allowed to use spurs 18 years+

Rule 18 Whips must not exceed 75cms, excessive use of the whip is forbidden and will result in disqualification.

Rule 19 Fall of any horse / pony or any rider in any class will require the horse or pony being taken out of the class. The competitor is eliminated.

Rule 20A) Any person who conducts themselves in a manner which is deemed to bring the show in disrepute or is acting in a manner which may be abusive towards any person, competitor, official, judges, stewards, ect will be instantly disqualified and escorted from the showground.

B) Any competitor/person who behaves in a manner that is offensive to our judges, officials and stewards will be asked to leave the showground no exceptions/ We will not tolerate competitors who are rude to our judges and stewards

C) Under no circumstances will we allow shouting/ booing from our audience, competitors or anyone else attending the show. This is bad manners and bad sportsmanship. We have a zero tolerance to this type of behaviour and anyone behaving this way will be escorted from the showground immediately.

Rule 21 Any person who behaves cruelly towards any animal either in the ring or on the showground will be asked to leave the showground.

Rule 22 No person who has a conviction or pending conviction for animal cruelty will be permitted to compete at STARS.

Rule 23 No late competitors will be allowed in the ring in any ridden class after the initial trot has commenced. In hand classes no horse will be allowed in the ring after the first horse does its trot out.

Rule 24 The organisers and judges reserve the right to refuse entry in the event of any unsoundness.

Rule 25 The ruling of STARS judges and officials is FINAL. STARS reserve the right to substitute judges if necessary.

Rule 26 The organisers reserve the right to amalgamate or substitute classes as deemed appropriate.

Rule 27A) Working in times must be adhered too for each section.

B) No lunging anywhere on the showground.

C)No riding or walking on the racecourse itself. If this rule is broken you will be asked to leave the showground.

Rule 28 Dogs are NOT allowed in any arena's, buildings, stables, racecourse. We ask that you only bring your dog if you have no other option. Dogs are only allowed a short toilet break whilst on a lead. Spectators will be refused entry if they bring a dog. STARS is a huge show with hundreds of horses; we simply not have enough space for people to bring dogs. Much kinder to leave them at home.

Rule 29 Parking: You must park where the parking stewards tell you to park. Any abuse to parking staff will result in you being asked to leave the showground without exemption.

Rule 30 On arrival at the showground any person found to be rude, aggressive or uncooperative to Aintree staff or STARS officials will be asked to leave the showground.

Rule 31 Official walkways MUST be adhered to. No persons are allowed in the horse walks unless riding or leading a horse/pony.

Rule 32 Pushchairs and prams are discouraged near horses so must be kept well away from any horse/pony.

Rule 33 Neither the organisers, landowners, committee, or agents of the show accept any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury, or illness, to horses/ponies, any person, rider, handler, owner, spectator, property, whether caused by negligence, breach of contractor in any way whatsoever.

Rule 34 Exhibitors shall take great care of and shall not cause any damage or suffer any damage to be done to the site or showground, furniture, fittings, equipment, stables or any other property therein. Anyone causing damage shall be responsible to pay for any damage they have caused including accidental damage caused by an act of neglect or not.

Rule 35 Trophies are perpetual and MUST be returned in good cleaned , duly engraved where applicable by October 1st Trophies returned after this date will incur a surcharge of £25.

Rule 36 No entries will be accepted without the correct fee and first aid contribution. First aid will be charged per competitor per day.

Rule 37 Judging / scoring of classes:

Ridden / In Hand show classes = 50% ride / show, manners & way of going & 50% type and conformation.

Best Turned Out = 30% cleanliness, condition and correctness of tack. 30% cleanliness, neatness of rider & handler if on LR. 30% cleanliness and turnout of pony. 10% overall impression.

Young Handler classes = 50% ability of handler, 25% suitability of age, height and manners of pony. 25% overall impression.

Equitation classes= 50% riders use of seat and aids. 25% Riders position, 25% suitability of partnership and overall impression.

Rule 38 **ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Rule 39 All competitors will be deemed to have read carefully and accepted these rules as a condition of entry.