



Rules for Judging and Showing Connemara Ponies and Connemara part bred (Sport register) Horses and Ponies.

1. Ponies to be shown must be registered in the Connemara Pony Society of New Zealand Studbook or Connemara Pony Society Sport Register. Ponies/horses must be entered under their full registered name.
2. Ponies/horses must be serviceably sound and in good condition. The Judges decision as to the serviceable soundness of a pony/horse shall be final.
3. Transmissible weakness and/or unsoundness t be counted strongly against breeding stock.
4. Artificial markings: Any change of colour or markings other than hooves is prohibited.
5. Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and selection of the best ponies/horses for the purpose described by the conditions of the class. A judge serves three interests: exhibitors, spectators and the Judge's own conscience. Onlookers pay to get in and they want to understand what happens.
6. The attention of Judges is directed to the differences in requirements between maiden, novice and open classes.
7. A judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the rules and specifications of the class. The Judge must judge to the Breed Standard Rules. The Judge is expected to possess a thorough knowledge of such rules.
8. The decision of a judge constitutes solely the individual preference of the judge and is not a verdict by the Society.

Connemara Pony Breed Standard

- Type:** Compact, well balanced riding type with good depth and substance and good heart room, standing on short legs, covering a lot of ground. Good temperament, hardiness, staying power, intelligence, soundness, surefootedness, with jumping ability.
- Height:** 128cms to 148cms inclusive.
- Colour:** Grey, Black, Bay, Brown, Dun (also known as Buckskin), Palomino, Dark-Eyed Cream, with occasional Roans and Chestnuts.
- Head:** Well-balanced head of medium length with good width between large kindly eyes. Pony ears, well-defined cheekbone, jaw relatively deep but not coarse.
- Front:** Head well set onto neck. Crest should not be over-developed. Neck not set on too low. Good length of rein. Well-defined withers, good sloping shoulders.
- Body:** Body should be deep, with strong back, some length permissible, but should be well ribbed up with strong loins.

- Limbs:** Good length and strength in forearm, well-defined knees and short cannon with flat bone measuring 18cms to 21cms. Elbows should be free. Pasterns of medium length, feet well shaped, of medium size, hard and level.
- Hind:** Strong muscular with some length, well developed second thigh (gaskin) and strong low set hocks.
- Movement:** Free easy and true, without undue knee action, but active and covering the ground.

Breeding and Halter Classes

1. In Breeding and halter classes emphasis shall be placed upon type, conformation substance and quality in this order.
 - I. Type and conformation as defined in the breed standard.
 - II. SUBSTANCE is defined as the amount of muscular development, depth and width of the body.
 - III. QUALITY is denoted by flat clean bone, well defined tendons and joints.
2. Ponies/horses to be shown in-hand at Walk and Trot. Should stand square on all four feet, not stretched. The Walk should be a definite four beat gait that is brisk true, flat footed with a good overreach. The Trot should be a definite two beat diagonal gait, that is balanced and free moving. Both the Walk and Trot should be straight and true, active and covering the ground.
3. Handled and shown throughout the entire class by only one and the same person.
4. A suitable strong headstall/bridle fitted with a throatlatch is mandatory.
5. Halter classes for foals should be shown and judged under the same provisions as above with the exception that foals shall not be asked to trot.
6. PROGENY CLASSES. Progeny classes shall have at least two different entries, entered under the name of the sire or dam, one handler per animal. They shall be shown and judged under the same provisions as above, except that a trot is optional and emphasis shall be placed on reproductive likeness, uniformity and quality of breed characteristics, conformation and similarity.

Ridden Connemara Pony

1.
 - I. To be judged on performance, conformation, quality and presence.
 - II. The judge shall work all ponies on a large circle in both directions.
 - III. All ponies shall be inspected for conformation and soundness
2. Qualifying Gaits: To be shown and judged at the walk, trot and canter and in individual workout – rein-back to be included. It is imperative that the pony give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride. All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.
3. Individual Workout: The individual workout pattern shall be set by the Judge but should not ask for movements beyond the standard of the class being judged. The Judge may choose to individually workout only those ponies the Judge has selected to be finalists in the class.

4. Appointments: Bridles shall be light show type either snaffle, curb and snaffle or Pelham bit. The rules of an individual show may supersede this rule. Some shows allow snaffle bits only on Maiden entries. No martingale or tie downs. English type saddle – leather or synthetic.

Turnout – Connemara Classes

Studbook Connemara Ponies should be exhibited in a 'natural condition', that is with mane and tail unplaited and feathers left on. However judicious trimming, especially of feathering below the kneed improves the turnout. Studbook Connemaras should not have their mane or tail pulled. It may be shortened but not thinned.

When Studbook Connemara ponies are competing in open classes against other breeds it is to the owners discretion as to whether the pony is exhibited plaited.

Sport Register Connemara ponies and horses have the option of exhibiting either plaited or in natural condition.

When competing in open competition against other breeds owners are advised to conform to the accepted practice for the classes entered.

Handlers are advised that normal riding clothes are acceptable for In Hand classes. Please note however, that long riding boots are a hazard when running a horse out for judging. The alternative of trousers, shirt, tie, waistcoat, soft hat and either jodhpur boots or tidy sneakers has gained acceptance in New Zealand for wearing in Halter/In Hand classes.