

AMERICAN SHIRE HORSE ASSOCIATION
est. 1885



SHOW GUIDELINES

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Shire Show Guidelines

Purpose

This document is an outline for the American Shire Horse Association Board of Directors, Show Committee (and sub-committees), and the general membership. Its use will help to promote the Shire horse through shows and consistent showing practices. It lists guidelines to be followed at the National Show and creates a method to coordinate the interests of Shire exhibitors and show management. It also defines the eligibility of horses for ASHA-sponsored shows, and the responsibilities of exhibitors in that regard.

The following abbreviations are used in these guidelines:

ASHA – American Shire Horse Association

Association – American Shire Horse Association

Board – Board of Directors of the American Shire Horse Association

Chair – Member assigned to oversee the Show committee

Committee – Members of the Show committee

CSHA – Canadian Shire Horse Association

His – Non-gender

President – President of the American Shire Horse Association

Secretary – Secretary of the American Shire Horse Association

SHS – Shire Horse Society

SHSA – Shire Horse Society Australia

Show Committee

Members and Chair

The Show Committee shall consist of the following:

- A. The Chair, named by the President, coordinates the actions of the Committee as a direct link between the Committee, the President, and the Board.
- B. Show Coordinator(s) selected for the current National Show.
- C. Other Show Coordinators who develop new shows & promote showing in their area. These will be the voting members of the committee and “go to” people for general inquiries.
- D. Additional persons chosen by the President, to serve at his pleasure.
- E. Subcommittee or task force members as needed. One current subcommittee includes all show coordinators of active or proposed shows that are not currently the National. They will be active in all committee discussions but will not be expected to vote on final decisions.

Duties

The Chair shall direct all show activities in a way that is beneficial to the Shire horse. Primary duties of the Chair, Committee, and Coordinators include:

- A. Long-range planning, including the location of National Show, judge and exhibitor education and public awareness.
- B. Notifying potential exhibitors of National Show in a timely manner.
- C. Providing shows with a list of required classes and working to add special classes if desired.
- D. Working with other ASHA Committees, especially those responsible for advertising, to ensure that dates and location of National Show are widely advertised.

Prioritized Show Coordinators' Duties Timeline

(Prioritization indicated by letter in parentheses at end of item)

1. Ensure that classes required by ASHA for the National Show are offered and given priority in determining premiums. If additional classes are possible, Coordinators may decide what to offer after consulting with the show host. Premiums for such classes must come from the host show and/or outside sponsorship designated specifically for such classes. Encourage show to have "National Shire Show" printed on ribbons or prizes. (A)
2. Ensure that eligibility requirements, class lists, artwork, or ad copies are provided in time to be printed in the premium book. (A)
3. Gather show information early in the current year & notify the webmaster to have the information current on the website. (A)
4. The editor of the ASHA Newsletter will publish show information no later than the Spring Newsletter of that show year (current ad deadline – 3/15). Show information from the website Show page will be collected by the editor. The announcement of show should be printed in each subsequent issue until the show. In addition, a pictorial ad for the show may be used with design submitted by the Show Coordinator. (A)
5. Arrange for trophies as follows:
 1. Ensure National Show trophies are ordered in time to be shipped to the Coordinator (a minimum of 6 weeks). (A)
 2. For the National Show, try to provide extra awards for the Grand and Reserve Champions and any other classes possible. Examples: neck ribbons, engraved halters, champion blankets, plaques, chairs, banners, gift certificates to ASHA booth or vendors, horse brasses, jackets, etc. (Something for the exhibitor to take home besides the trophies.) These awards are to be paid for with monies provided by ASHA plus added monies/prizes raised. (A)
6. Be responsible for all funds designated, donated, and distributed. Distribution of extra monies may be as so much per head, per mile, or per winnings at the Coordinator's discretion. (A)
7. Provide class results with complete entry information to the Show Committee data entry person within a month of each show's conclusion. (A)

8. Prepare a summary of the show including numbers, disbursement of funds, any problems, etc. as well as any recommendations. Post this report in the document section of the website committee page within 30 days of the show. (A)
9. Provide mailing list and work with host show on premium book distribution. If available online only, provide the Secretary a short article with the link for the e-newsletter. (B)
10. If requested, provide judges with a copy of ASHA Breed Standard. (B)
11. Maintain contact with show personnel as needed. (B)
12. Encourage the show to arrange for a professional draft horse photographer to cover the classes. Arrange for photographs of the National Champion Stallion, Mare, and Gelding to be sent to the ASHA office. If owner or show does not provide photos they may be purchased by ASHA using ASHA show funds. The photos should be sent first to the newsletter. (B)
13. Act as liaison between exhibitors and the host show, when necessary. (B)
14. May set up any subcommittee needed. (C)
15. Keep the Show Committee Chair informed of all show problems. (C)
16. May raise outside funds for use at ASHA shows and acknowledge sponsors. (C)
17. Work with Merchandise Chair to arrange for a merchandise booth at show. (C)
18. Arrange for a guaranteed block of rooms for exhibitors and members attending the show at an appropriate hotel and publicize this information in the Newsletter and website. (C)

Show Eligibility Rules

These rules apply to ASHA National and Other shows. They will be reproduced in the ASHA Show Guidelines and will be provided to and used by any show co-sponsoring a show with ASHA.

- A. Shire Stallions, Mares, and Geldings of all ages must be registered with the American Shire Horse Association or registered with the recognized Shire registry in the country in which they and their owner reside. Foreign “Notified Colts” that are parentage verified and recorded in the name of the exhibitor are eligible to show.
- B. Horses must be entered by the owner(s) listed on the horse’s registration certificate. Show entry forms usually list this as ‘exhibitor’ or ‘entrant’. Persons acting as agent or handler for the horse being shown may not be listed as the exhibitor/entrant. The owner does not have to be the person showing the horse. Leased horses may be entered by the lessee as recorded by the respective associations.

- C. Mares registered as 3/4 Shire or more may be shown with full registered mares. Geldings registered as 3/4 Shire or more may be shown with full registered geldings.
- D. Geldings must be registered and parentage-verified with a recognized Shire registry to be eligible for Championships, Best of Breed, or Supreme Champion titles.
- E. Geldings that are not registered must be of Shire type to show in a grade gelding class.
- F. Non-ASHA registered horses: owners of horses residing outside the U.S. and registered with that country's recognized Shire registry, must submit a copy of the foreign registration certificate to the ASHA Secretary prior to the show for verification of eligibility.
- G. All horses shown in group classes must be registered (Get of Sire, Produce of Dam, Mare and Foal, Herd).
- H. Late or post entered horses: Copies of the front and back of the ASHA or foreign registration certificate, showing the exhibitor as owner, must be presented to the ASHA Show Coordinator before they may be shown. Exhibitors of horses with foreign registration papers must also comply with 'A' above in order to show.
- I. Any horse found to be ineligible to show after the judging will forfeit all awards and premium money. (Approved by Board of Directors February 26, 2007. Revised and approved 2015.)

How to Verify Eligibility to Show

1. Show coordinator will arrange for show to send list of entries as soon as completed to ASHA Secretary and Show Coordinator, preferably by e-mail.
2. The Show Coordinator will use the online stud book to identify horses with eligibility questions and send this list to the Secretary to be sure the registration questions have not been resolved since the last posting to the online studbook. This list usually involves horses not currently registered, not registered in the name of the exhibitor, or registered with recognized foreign registry, but copies of papers have not been sent to the ASHA office.
3. Coordinator will contact owners with remaining eligibility questions to determine status of registration or to have foreign papers sent to the Secretary for verification.
4. If horse is not pre-verified: notification from the Secretary by phone or email or presenting copies of foreign papers with exhibitor listed as owner to the coordinator at the show will allow showing.
5. Exhibitors who post-enter must present the coordinator with copies (front and back) of registration certificate, listing the exhibitor as the registered owner, to verify that the horse may be shown.
6. If a horse cannot be verified as eligible to show, the coordinator will notify the owner and show (as early as possible) that this horse may not be shown.
7. Owners may continue to work with the Secretary to resolve eligibility problems. If resolved prior to the show, the Secretary shall notify the coordinator and, if possible, the owner and

the show, by phone, that the horse may be shown. A fax or e-mail will also be sent as written confirmation to these parties.

8. Any horse(s) found ineligible to show after the judging will forfeit any awards.

Protocols for the National Show

The designated event is responsible for providing basic ribbons and award monies for exhibitors according to its premium schedule. We prefer that ribbons say “20xx National Shire Show” or otherwise indicate that it is a designated National Show.

- If requested by the host show, the Secretary will provide a list of suggested judges.
- ASHA will budget funds for the National Show Coordinator. This money can be added to premiums, used to support new classes or a judge, or otherwise spent at the Coordinator’s discretion. Monies needed are requested by Coordinator from the ASHA Secretary. Funds received should be payable to ASHA unless funds go directly to the venue. Bills will be paid by the ASHA office after invoices are received. (Please note that this is a change in policy.)

National Show

The National Show should provide the best possible exposure for the breed. Show management should provide publicity and allow input from the Coordinator in planning, judge selection, and exhibitor accommodations. Announcements informing the public that Shires are present on the grounds are also encouraged. Show sites are selected based on geographic location and interest in the area in promoting the Shire horse. A strong emphasis is placed on special activities that encourage involvement between exhibitors and the public. Choosing the site for the National Show is based on the Show Committee’s recommendation but is the board’s responsibility. The Show Committee recommends that the National Show be held at Iowa State Fair until decided otherwise.

Halter Classes

The National Show should provide the following Shire-only classes:

- Registered Gelding 3 years old and under
- Registered Gelding 4 years and over
- Grand Champion Registered Gelding
- Reserve Champion Registered Gelding
- Stallion Foal (born after Jan. 1 of calendar year)
- Stallion 1 year old • Stallion 2 year old
- Junior Champion Stallion
- Reserve Junior Champion Stallion
- Stallion 3 year old
- Stallion 4 years and over
- Senior Champion Stallion
- Senior Reserve Champion Stallion
- Grand Champion Stallion
- Reserve Grand Champion Stallion
- Mare Foal (born after Jan 1 of calendar year)
- Mare 1 year old
- Mare 2 year old

- Junior Champion Mare
- Junior Reserve Champion Mare
- Mare 3 year old
- Broodmare 4 and over – must have had a live foal that year
- Yeld Mare 4 years and over • Senior Champion Mare
- Senior Reserve Champion Mare
- Grand Champion Mare
- Reserve Grand Champion Mare
- Produce of Dam
- Get of Sire

Combining Classes: If numbers of entries received are low, classes may be combined by sex or age.

Suggested additional classes to be included:

1. Mare and Foal
2. Shire Youth Showmanship (especially if not provided in open class)
3. Breeders Herd (stallion and three mares)
4. Grade Gelding of Shire type

Performance Classes

Unregistered Shires may compete in performance classes unless the class specifically requires registration. Rules of the specific show apply, but in general, horses used in performance classes must be of recognizable Shire type.

Required classes:

1. Registered Mare Cart
2. Registered Gelding/Stallion Cart
3. Shire Team
 - A. Registered Team or Tandem
 - B. Open Team or Tandem (if practical)

Requested classes:

3. Unicorn
4. Four-Horse Hitch
5. Six-Horse Hitch

*If numbers are too low for requested classes, combining with Clydesdale/Shire or open division is acceptable.

Suggested additional classes to be included:

1. Driver-skill and / or timed-event type competition classes for both cart and team, especially if not provided in the show's open classes.
2. Shire under saddle

Other Shows

The purpose of Other Shows is to provide a location within a smaller area where breeders and exhibitors can show against other Shires in “Shire Only” classes. These shows shall be of high standards and follow, as closely as possible, the format of classes at the National Show. However, conditions may not warrant as many classes. Other Shows that have active show participation and larger numbers of Shire turnouts will have priority. Various shows within a time zone may be considered and a rotation outlined by the Show Committee in its recommendation for final Board approval.

It is desirable for Other Shows to provide all classes listed for a National Show. “Shire Only” performance classes are strongly encouraged. Registered Cart and Team are expected. To establish a new show, we look for a well-run show with good facilities, large public turnout, the expectation of enough Shire exhibitors and a person willing to be coordinator. This person will be on the Local Show Subcommittee.

Showing Shire Sport Horses

Shire cross sport horses are not eligible to show in draft performance classes unless permitted by the host show.

Judges

It is critical that only the best possible judges be selected for National and Other Shows. ASHA hopes at some point to establish judging seminars, but for now there are a limited number of Shire breeders who have demonstrated the desire to judge. Hence, we frequently look outside ASHA for judges. If requested, the Secretary will provide a list of acceptable judges to the show and the Coordinator will give a copy of the breed standards to the selected judge.

A Judge:

1. May not judge the National Show two years in a row.
2. May not judge at the same location two years in a row.
3. Should not place animals that he/ she previously owned.

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to remove an animal from a halter class if the judge or the judge’s immediate family previously owned that animal.

ASHA Policy Statement

Showing stallions: Stallions 2 years of age and older should be handled by a competent person 18 years of age or older. In some states this is required by law.

Driving/Riding stallions: The ASHA encourages venues at Other Shows or National Shows to allow well-mannered stallions to be exhibited by any competent handler 18 years of age or older.

Standard of Conformation Guidelines

1. Stallions

The following standards apply to Shire Stallions:

- Color:** Black, brown, bay, gray, or chestnut (sorrel) are the preferred colors. Excessive white markings and roaning are undesirable.
- Height:** Minimum 16.2 hands and upward. Average is 17.1 hands.
- Head:** Long and lean, neither too large nor too small, with a long neck in proportion to the body. Large jawbone should be avoided.
- Eyes:** Large, well set and alert. Walleyes should be avoided.
- Nose:** Nostrils thin and wide; lips together, and nose slightly Roman.
- Ears:** Long, lean, sharp, and sensitive.
- Throat:** Clean cut and lean.
- Shoulder:** Deep, oblique, wide enough to support a collar.
- Neck:** Long, slightly arched, well set to give the horse a commanding appearance.
- Girth:** Deep, with adequate width in proportion to the rest of the body.
- Back:** Short, strong and muscular. Should not be dipped or roached.
- Loins:** Standing well up, denoting constitution.
- Fore-End:** Wide across chest, with legs well under the body and well developed in muscle, or action is impeded.
- Hindquarters:** Long and sweeping, wide and full of muscle; well let down towards thighs.
- Ribs:** Round, deep and well sprung, not flat.
- Forelegs:** Should be straight as possible down to pastern.
- Hind Legs:** Hocks should be clean, broad, deep, flat and wide when viewed broadside; set at the correct angle for leverage, and in line with the hindquarters. Should be of heavy bone, “puffy” and “sickle” hocks to be avoided. The leg sinews should be clean cut, hard and clear short cannon bone.
- Feet:** Moderately deep and wide at the heels; coronets open.
- Feather:** Fine, straight and silky.

Stallions should possess a masculine head and good crest with sloping, not upright, shoulders running well into the back. The back should be short and well coupled with the loins. The tail should be set well up, and not is what is known as “goose-rumped”. Both head and tail should be carried erect. The ribs should be well sprung, not flat-sided, with good middle. This generally denotes good constitution. The most essential parts of the stallion are his feet and joint. The feet should have open necks, big around the top of the coronets, with plenty of length in the pasterns When in motion he should go with force, using both the knees and hocks, which the latter should be kept close together. He should go straight and true before and behind.

2. Geldings

Geldings should conform to the Stallion standards, with the exception of the thick masculine neck.

3. Mares

Mares should conform to the Stallion standards; except they might be slightly smaller with a feminine and matronly appearance. A mare should have plenty of room to carry a foal.

Information

Venues that have hosted National & Regional Shows

- Eastern Idaho State Fair – Blackfoot, Idaho
- Los Angeles County Fair – Pomona, California
- Ohio State Fair – Columbus, Ohio
- Keystone International Livestock Exposition – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- Iowa State Fair- Des Moines, Iowa
- Colorado State Fair – Pueblo, Colorado
- Michigan Great Lakes International (MGLI), Lansing, MI (formerly Detroit)
- Draft Horse Classic – Grass Valley, California
- Nebraska Horse Expo – Lincoln, Nebraska
- New York State Fair – Syracuse, New York
- Colorado Draft Horse Classic – Rifle or Longmont, Colorado
- McLeod County Fair – Hutchinson, Minnesota
- Minnesota State Fair – Saint Paul, Minnesota
- Colorado Horse Park Draft Horse Show - Parker, Colorado
- Addison County Fair & Field Days – Middlebury, Vermont
- Skowhegan Fair – Skowhegan, Maine
- Central Wisconsin State Fair – Marshfield, Wisconsin
- Oklahoma State Fair – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Boulder County Fair, Longmont, CO
- Georgia State Fair, Perry, GA (Shows are listed in order of becoming established ASHA shows)

Active Shows & Show Coordinators

- Keystone International Livestock Exposition/KILE (Harrisburg, PA) – Karla Stoner - bloomforge@peoplepc.com
- Ohio State Fair (Columbus, OH) - Karla Stoner - bloomforge@peoplepc.com
- The Feathered Show (Shipshewana, IN)
- Georgia National Fair – Draft Horse Show Shire Classes (Perry, GA)

National Show Coordinators

- Iowa State Fair (Des Moines, IA)
 - Lisa Graham, gatheringmeadows@sisna.com
 - Kristen Vetter, pointparadisestables@hotmail.com

Show Committee Members

Chair: Kristen Vetter – pointparadisestables@hotmail.com

Committee Members:

- Dean Jenson -- deanjenson@yahoo.com
- Vicky McCaffrey -- oxkill@captial.net
- Lisa Graham -- Drafhorseannouncer@gmail.com
- Danielle Wicker --

*Show results & information can be found on the ASHA Website & Fall Newsletter.