2024 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 res champion. Each club MUST offer the option of representing their club to each class champion. Should they be unable to attend you may pass down to res champion and 2nd res. Each club is allowed to send 1 competitor for each class. If you have 2 competitors with equal marks, then both 1can enter IF we have capacity, please check with STARS.

If we can't accommodate both entries it will be determined by the competitor that attended the most points shows if they both attended the same amount, then send the one that won the most first places.

1b Show dates must run between March and September 2024.

1c No points show can be held after 17th September 2024

1d Entries for STARS will open on 18th September and close on October 2nd, 2024.

RULE 2a All RC's must hold a minimum of 4 points shows in 2024.

2b All competitors must attend a minimum of 2 points shows.

In addition to the above rules, we have noticed that many RC's run a non-points trophy show mid-season, can we ask if possible that your trophy shows be held in September so that all show secretaries have plenty of time to invite their competitors to represent them at STARS, this also enables each competitor to know if they have qualified when entries and stabling opens on September 18th.

RULE 3 Any competitor may compete in more than 1 class at STARS providing they meet the criteria for each class. Each competitor can represent as many RC's as they want.

RULE 4 Competitors must be current members of each club/club they represent.

RULE 5a It is a condition of affiliation that all RC secretaries keep records of their points for each class and a running points total sheet must be available at each show or online throughout the season, for competitors and STARS admin. At STARS final these sheets need to be always available.

RULE 6 No change of combination of horse/pony/rider is permitted from that which qualified through their club. The leader of a LR pony may be substituted under exceptional circumstances arise with permission from STARS.

RULE 7a No horse or pony can compete at STARS if they have qualified HOYS in any class including search for a star in 2024 or 2023. Horses and ponies that qualified HOYS in 2022 are eligible provided they were not placed. Search For a Star placings are allowed.

Rule 7b Riders/handlers cannot have ridden/led any animal at HOYS in 2024, riding/leading anyother year is permitted.

RULE 8 No horse or pony that has been placed in the top 5 at the RIHS in current year can compete at STARS. Riders can compete on a different horse or pony.

RULE 9a No professional producers can compete at STARS, or any horse or pony that is in, or has been in production from March 1st, 2024. The definition of a professional producer is as follows: The horse or pony is kept at a producer's yard on show production or for any other reason including being broken, holiday livery ect. The horse or pony is prepared for a show, bathed plaited etc, horse or pony has been taken to a show. Horse or pony has been worked in or tuition given to owner / rider at a show. Horse or pony stripped, or assistance given in the ring. If any of the above apply to your horse, then they are not eligible to come to STARS.

We do allow full livery on a professional yard provided it is NOT a showing yard. We understand some people work long hours need full livery inc exercise, however no-show production of any kind is allowed.

RULE 9b Semi Professionals, any competitor that shows 2 or more animals for other people regardless of if you take payment for your services or not, we class you as a semi-professional. Semi-professionals are not eligible to compete at STARS. We do not mind how many horses or ponies you show if they belong to you, and we do not want to stop friends from helping each other but it cannot be more than 1 friend.

9C No competitor can have shown a horse or pony that belongs or is produced by a professional producer at any show in 2024.

RULE 10 Complaints procedure:

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

Any complaints made prior to STARS must be done via email to stars admin. If we feel the complaint needs a full investigation, we will then ask for a £50 administration fee to be paid.

Any complaints made at STARS must be done within 1 hour of the alleged complaint.

Anyone needing to complain can go to our help desk or go the marquee and ask for the official dealing with complaints. The complaint must be accompanied by £50 and given in person to the correct official who will be dealing with the complaint. If the complaint is upheld the money will be returned if not it will be donated to a horse charity of our choice.

RULE 11 Social media rules: You must not post or transmit any material which could dame the name or reputation of STARS or its competitors/organisers. Any person found guilty of this would constitute a breach of STARS rules and could result in civil/criminal proceedings being brought against you.

RULE 12 Any stallions must be ridden / handled by a competent person with a minimum age of 14.

RULE 13 Full and correct attire must be worn by all competitors and their grooms. All riders must wear correctly fitting headgear to PAS 015 or higher, whilst mounted anywhere on the showground. Junior members MUST wear them when competing in hand. Grooms must wear suitable hats when attending in the ring.

RULE 14 No horse or pony under 4 may be ridden on the showground. All ponies' ages are from 1st of Jan, it does not matter what month they are born, it goes off year of birth. Competitors must be a minimum of 3 years of age to ride any horse or pony on the showground. Anyone leading a LR pony must be 16 or over. Riders in LR/FR classes MUST wear a snaffle bridle.

RULE 15 Ages of horse/pony will be 1st January in the current year.

RULE 16 Spurs are permitted for senior riders only. (Aged over 18)

RULE 17 Excessive use of whips is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Whips must not exceed 75 cms.

RULE 18 Fall of a horse /pony in any class requires the horse/pony is led from the ring. The competitor will be eliminated.

RULE 19a Any person who conducts themselves in a manner which may be deemed to bring the show into disrepute. Any person who is acting in a manner which may be abusive to any animal, person, official judge, steward will be disqualified and escorted off the showground.

Rule 19b Any person who behaves in a manner that is offensive to our judges or officials will be asked to leave the ring / showground. We will NOT tolerate competitors who are rude to our judges and stewards.
Under no circumstances will be allow shouting / booing from the audience, competitors, or anyone else attending the show. It is bad manners and bad sportsmanship, and this behaviour will not be tolerated, anyone found guilty of this will be asked to leave the show immediately.

RULE 20 No person who has a conviction or pending conviction for animal cruelty will be permitted to compete.

RULE 21 No late competitors will be allowed into the ring in any ridden class in which the initial trot has commenced: Likewise, for in hand sections, no late competitors will be allowed in the ring after the first horse has begun its trot out.

RULE 22 The organisers and judges reserve the right to refuse an entry in the event of any unsoundness.

RULE 23 The ruling of STARS judges/ officials is FINAL. STARS reserve the right to substitute judges as necessary.

RULE 24 The organisers reserve the right to amalgamate or substitute classes as deemed appropriate.

RULE 25a Working in times must be adhered to for each section.

b No lunging anywhere on the showground.
No riding or walkingon the racecourse itself. If this rule is broken, you will be asked to leave the showground.

RULE 26 No dogs are allowed in any arenas, building, stables, racecourse.
We ask you only to bring your dog if you have no other option. All dogs must be always kept in horseboxes, unless being exercised and / or taken for toilet breaks. Dogs must be always on leads.

RULE 27a You must park where directed by parking stewards, any abuse to parking staff will result in being asked to leave the showground without exception.

27 b On arrival at showground any person found to be rude, aggressive or uncooperative with any official from Aintree or STARS will result in being asked to leave the showground.

RULE 28 Official walkways MUST be adhered to. No persons are allowed in the horse walkways unless they are riding or leading a horse or pony.

RULE 29 Push chairs and prams are discouraged near horses.

RULE 30 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, owner, rider, handler, spectator, land or property whatsoever, whether caused by negligence, breach of contract or in anyway whatsoever.

RULE 31 Exhibitors shall take good care of, and shall not cause any damage, or suffer any damage to be done to the site/showground or to any furniture, fittings, equipment, stables, or other property therein. Anyone causing damage shall be responsible to pay for any damage including (accidental damage) caused by an act of neglect or in use.

RULE 32 Trophies are perpetual and MUST be returned in good clean condition, duly engraved where applicable by September 15th.

RULE 33 No entries will be accepted withoutthe correctfee and first aid contribution. First aid will be charged per competitor per day.

RULE 34 **ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

RULE 35 **Judging /scoring of classes:**
Ridden/ In- Hand show classes: 50% type and conformation, 50% ride or show, manners, and way of going.
Best turned out: 30% cleanliness, condition, and correctness' of tack.
30% cleanliness neatness of rider and handler if on LR. 10% overall impression.
Young handler: 50% ability of handler, 25% suitability of age /height/manners of pony, 25% overall impression
Equitation: 50% riders use of seat and aids, 25% riders' position, 25% suitability of partnership and overall impression.

RULE 36 ALL COMPETITORS will be deemed to have read and accepted these rules as a condition of entry.