

GUIDE TO DRESS AND TURNOUT IN THE HUNTER RING (SHOW AND WORKING HUNTER CLASSES)

All competitors and horses in the hunter ring must be neatly turned out to a high standard. Riding wear should be more conservative without bright colours. All clothing and tack should be workmanlike, practical, clean and free from defect.

It is compulsory for all persons competing in ridden classes to wear approved safety head gear, jodhpurs/breeches, jacket and riding boots with a heel.

Judges have the discretion to make decisions about what comprises correct attire in the ring in which they are judging.

Tack:

- No tack may be worn which in any way conceals an animal's conformation (except for boots of a plain colour which may be worn during the Jumping Phase of a working hunter class only);
- No rugs, clothing or item of tack which reveals the identity of the horse or owner may be worn in the show ring;
- A natural coloured leather dressage or show saddle (ie: with a straight flap) is preferable in show hunter classes, whilst an all-purpose saddle is preferable for Working Hunter Classes.
- Bridles must be leather and of the same or a similar colour as the saddle, the bridle should not be fine whilst the brow band and cavesson should be plain and flat. A plaited top rein is acceptable
- A plain sheepskin numnah or half pad may be used under the saddle, it should fit the saddle and be unobtrusive in both colour and cut. It is preferable for the numnah to be the same colour as the horse's coat or the saddle.

- The girth should match the colour of the saddle and preferably be leather, however neoprene girths made of other material will not be penalised in general hunt classes. White girths should not be worn.
- A horse may be shown in either a snaffle, simple pelham or double biting.
- A plain bamboo or leather covered or plaited crop may be carried but must not exceed 90 cm and must not be used excessively.
- A full hunting whip complete with tongue and lash is the most correct accessory to be carried.

Headwear:

- Anyone on a horse at any event organised by or affiliated with the AHHA must wear a helmet which has been approved according to the current Australian, European or American safety standards:
 - Australian Standard: AS/NZ 3838:1998
 - European Standard: EN1384
 - USA Standard: ASTM F1163
- The throat lash of helmets must be secured at all times in which any person is mounted upon a horse.

Dress:

- Fitted tweed jacket and vest
- Plain fawn, banana or buff coloured breeches/jodhpurs, not white
- Plain black or brown boots.
- Gloves should be worn by all exhibitors. Gloves can be made of leather or string. Leather gloves should match the colour of the saddle and bridle of the horse and string gloves should match the colour of the rider's jodhpurs or breeches.
- Collar and tie or rat catcher shirt and stock with tie pin;
- The rider's hair, if long, should be neatly encased in a bun and hairnet, children's hair should be dressed appropriately minus large brightly coloured ribbons.

Horse:

NB: Please see Classification Criteria for outline of the type, bone, movement and manners expected of a Hunter Horse. The following is a guide to the *presentation* of Hunter horses only.

- Manes must be plaited, preferably stitched
- Tails pulled or plaited
- No tack may be worn which in any way conceals a horse’s conformation (except for boots of a plain colour which may be worn only during the Jumping Phase of a working hunter class)
- The natural markings of a horse may not be added or altered, for example, the addition of a star or a white sock through make up. Make up may be used only to enhance the natural makings of a horse.
- Quarter marks may be used at the discretion of the competitor but must not be excessive.

Please note that a Hunter horse is an athletic type of horse. As such obese or underweight horses will incur penalty at the discretion of the judge.

Optional:

- Spurs, however, the rowels must be blunt and must have the shank pointing towards the rear of the horse and be no more than 3.5cm long. If the shank is curved it must be worn in such a manner that the shank is curved downwards.
- Bitting is optional, however, horses aged 4 years and under should be shown in a snaffle bridle
- Boots may be worn in Jumping Phases of Working Hunter Classes

Championship Classes

- Traditionally, competitors wore a collar and tie in preliminary classes and a stock and stock pin for championship, or more formal classes.
- Traditionally, lighter coloured tweed jackets are swapped for darker coloured jackets in championship classes

NB: Competitors will not be penalised if they do not adhere to the above as these are a guide only for championship classes.

In Hand Classes:

All persons competing in in-hand classes must wear a hat and enclosed shoes and be smartly and professionally presented including:

- Suit coat and trousers/ skirt;
- Collared shirt with tie or stock;
- Black or brown enclosed shoes;
- A formal or flat or trilby hat may be worn (not a baseball cap);
- No excessive jewellery may be worn;
- Gloves should be worn;
- A whip or crop may be carried but must not exceed 120 cm in length and must not be used excessively.

Horses in led classes, excluding young stock must be led from the bit. A chain should not be used. Young stock may be led in a natural coloured leather halter providing they are under the handler's control.

Low cut tops must be avoided as should any item of clothing which does not cover as far as the shoulders or the knees of the exhibitor

Not recommended

The following items are not appropriate in the hunter ring.

- Ear rings or any visible jewellery;
- Whips or crops over the length of 90cm or 120 cm (for in hand classes);
- Excessive makeup on horse or rider;
- White girths;
- Ribbioned browbands;
- Fancy buttons (unless correct metal hunt buttons), lapel pins, hair ribbons;
- Velvet trim on cuffs of jacket;
- Velvet trim on sleeves of jacket, unless the rider is a member of an official hunt club;
- Brightly coloured accessories; vests, shirts or brightly coloured jacket linings. Mustard or a colour matching the jacket is most appropriate.

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