

Important Rule Changes For 2008 "Aussies"

There have been some significant changes to the Rules & Conditions for the Australian National Arabian Championships. We have endeavoured to make these changes as easily understood as possible and have listed a summary of the changes below:

- * All Amateur Owner competitors must hold a current AHSA Amateur Card and, for the purpose of this show, must be 18 years & over.
- * Height Certificates must be lodged with your Entry Forms for Show Hunter, Bridle Path Hack & Youth ridden horses.
- * From the 2008 Championships ~ Exhibitors must have a veterinary certificate to certify that all stallions and colts two (2) years and over have both testicles visibly descended into the scrotum, except where a stallion has had one normally descended testicle surgically removed and has an appropriate certificate, which has been submitted to the Society prior to the Championships.
- * All previous Dressage Champions may NOT compete again at a lower level but may compete ONCE more at Elementary and Medium level (classes 902, 904 and 905).
- * For In-Hand classes, length of whip is not to exceed 110cm (3.6 feet) including handle and tail.

- * **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR CARD SYSTEM:** A card system will be used to deter types of behaviour (Reportable Conduct) wherever occurring on the grounds and at any times during the Championships including events.

"Reportable Conduct" includes types of behaviour which are cruel or abusive to horses including but not limited to inappropriate use of whips, handlers/riders witnessed striking a horse with a whip or other implement whether or not it leaves a mark, chasing horses with plastic or rattles outside the ring, intimidating horses by threatening them with a whip or body language that causes them to run backwards, crouch, buckle at the knees, roll their eyes in fear, etcetera, yanking, chain abuse and mistreatment of horses, and also other behaviour by competitors and handlers and including but not limited to physical or verbal abuse of any Official, refusal to comply with the direction of any Official and any behaviour which may bring the Championships or good horsemanship into disrepute. Show Officials, Senior Stewards and Judges will be empowered to show either a Yellow Card or a Red Card to any person on the grounds for any act of Reportable Conduct observed by them or upon evidence given to them. The decision as to whether any act is Reportable Conduct shall be in the absolute discretion of the Official showing the card.

A Yellow Card is a first and only warning. Any person who infringes after having already received a Yellow Card at any time during the Championships shall be shown a Red Card whereupon they shall immediately be disqualified from the Championships and for all events for which they may have entered and shall forthwith be ejected from the grounds. The penalties applicable for the showing of a Red Card shall be in addition to any action the AHSA may take subsequently in respect of Reportable Conduct.

Any Official who shows either a Yellow Card or a Red Card shall, as soon as is practicable, thereafter report the issue of such Card to the Committee giving particulars of the Reportable Conduct and the person to whom the Card was shown.