



EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL MEASURING SCHEME

**Effective from 1 January 2002 and
amended in March 2002**

NATIONAL MEASURING RULES

1. ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The Scheme is administered on behalf of the Equestrian Federation of Australia (EFA) and affiliated clubs by the Measuring Panel in each State.
- 1.2 Each State will recognise other States Official EFA Measuring Certificates providing that the stand has been certified. In the event of a dispute the relevant State EFA Measuring Panel will reserve the right to measure a horse and insist the horse compete according to the re-measured height.
- 1.3 The EFA Registration Papers must be presented or if not available be produced within seven (7) days to the relevant state EFA office to obtain the Measurement Certificate.
- 1.4 EFA registered horses that compete in EFA affiliated Show Horse classes must carry a current EFA Measurement Certificate and are only eligible to compete in the respective height class according to the height on the Measurement Certificate.
- 1.5 The EFA reserves the right to suspend any horse not presented for Measurement or re-measurement.
- 1.6 The basic units of measurement of horses shall be in "hands" i.e. one "hand" is equal to four (4") inches (101.6mm).
- 1.7 Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action and/or the suspension of the horse.
- 1.8 These rules apply to all horses, regardless of height or breed, and horse(s) always means Pony, Galloway or Hack and EFA registered.

2. AGE OF HORSE

- 2.1 The age of the horse shall be reckoned from 1st August in the year in which it was foaled if foaled on or after that day. If foaled before that day it will be reckoned from 1st August in the previous year.

3. THE MEASURING PANEL

- 3.1 The appointment of the Measuring Panel to be decided by each State Show Horse Committee.
 - Measuring Registrar records to be kept by each State EFA office and recorded on the National data base.
- 3.2 No Official Measurer shall measure a horse in his ownership, or a horse belonging to his family, or a horse he is training or a member of his family is training or in which he has a vested interest.
- 3.3 The Measurer shall ensure that accurate records pertaining to all horses measured are passed on to the relevant EFA Branch Office for recording

4 RECORDS TO BE MAINTAINED BY MEASURING REGISTRAR

- 4.1 The Measurer/s are responsible for recording and submitting records to the Measuring Registrar or relevant EFA Branch office within fourteen (14) days.
- 4.2 The Measuring Registrar will note the following:
 - Name of horse
 - Name of owner
 - Registration number
 - Date of measurement
 - Venue measured
 - Height
 - Allowance deducted for shoes
 - Measurer/s signature
- 4.3 A print out of horses' heights may be made available to Official Measurers at major State events.

5 MEASURING DAYS

- 5.1 An Official Measuring Day shall be held providing that:
 - The EFA/Show Horse Committee has approved the day
 - Measuring is performed by an Official EFA Measurer
 - Conditions set down in these EFA Measuring Rules are observed
- 5.2 The Measurers shall not discuss the measurement of any horse except in an Official capacity with show officials or other EFA Official Measurers.
- 5.3 The EFA may appoint a Veterinary Surgeon to attend. The veterinarian shall have the power to take samples from any horse (both blood and urine) either before or after measurement. If a positive result is obtained the owner of the horse will be responsible for the cost of the analysis of their horse's samples and disciplinary action may be taken against the owners and/or handler of the horse.
- 5.4 The Measurers shall be responsible for the following:
 - Ensuring the accuracy of the records
 - Signing Certificates and/or Papers as necessary
 - Forwarding records to EFA office

6 FEES

- 6.1 Any fee for measuring shall be paid by the owner/leasee to the EFA.
- 6.2 The fee for measuring shall be set by each State Measuring Panel. There will be a higher fee payable for horses not currently registered with the EFA.
- 6.3 If the measurement is not accepted on the day a re-measurement is required within 30 days and a fee of \$100 is payable upon application/presentation for re-measurement. This may occur only once in the current measuring year. (amended March 2002)

7 MEASURING CERTIFICATES

- 7.1 The Certificate will contain those details as detailed in 4.2.
- 7.2 Having been officially measured and issued with an EFA Measurement Certificate the horse shall be entered in and compete in the class (height division) which corresponds to the measured height on the Certificate.
- 7.3 A re-measurement may be granted upon a written request to the relevant State EFA Show Horse Committee.
- 7.4 A horse may be measured with or without shoes. However, a shoe allowance of up to 3/8" (1cm) will be deducted if the horse is shod. The exact amount of the shoe allowance shall be decided by the Measurer who has the right to measure the shoe and to use his discretion as to any allowance. Grass tips are not acceptable
- 7.5 At least one Official Measurer shall attend each Measuring Day. Where a horse is borderline or where the horse is presented a second time (refer clause 9.8) then the horse shall be measured by both measurers (except where in the absence of a second Measurer the height shall be confirmed by the person who is doing the recording.)
- 7.6 At least one Measurer shall sign the Certificate. The second signature may be that of the second Measurer or the person who is doing the recording.
- 7.7 The latest measurement becomes the current measurement and supercedes any previous measurement.
- 7.8 **Annual Certificate – Horses aged 5 years and over**
 - a) The Annual Certificate is valid for 12 months from the date of measurement. The Certificate is automatically cancelled immediately a new Certificate is issued.
 - b) A Horse may be re-measured for an Annual Certificate a minimum of nine (9) calendar months after the date of the previous Measurement Certificate.
- 7.9 **Limited Certificate – Horses aged under 5 years**
 - a) The Limited Certificate is valid for 6 months from the date of measurement. The Certificate is automatically cancelled immediately a new Certificate is issued.
- 7.10 **Life Certificates**

Life Certificates will not be issued. (Effective from July 1999). However, Life Certificates issued PRIOR to 1 July 1999 will still be recognised.

8 CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

- 8.1 If the horse is registered with some other organisation such as Hack Council or a Breed Society, the original Certificate of Registration must be presented prior to the measuring of the horse.

- 8.2 The Official Measurer shall view the Certificate of Registration to ensure the brands, marking and other details agree with those of the horses being presented for measurement. Any anomalies must be rectified within seven (7) days with the State EFA office.
- 8.3 Prior to the horse being measured the Official Measurer shall check the papers to ensure all is in order and that the horse has not been measured within the last nine (9) months.

9 PRESENTATION OF HORSES

- 9.1 Horses are to be presented with their original registration papers.
- 9.2 Where the horse has been previously measured the original of the last Measurement Certificate should be presented.
- 9.3 All horses presented for measurement shall be in a sound, healthy and calm state.
- 9.4 All horses shall be presented free of prohibited substances. Swabbing may be undertaken.
- 9.5 All horses submitted for measurement must be bitted and be in the care of one (1) competent person only.**
- 9.6 If the Measurer is in any doubt with regard to the measurement, he/she should not proceed with the issue of the Measurement Certificate until the horse has been jointly measured or (if not present) measurement sighted and confirmed by the person doing the recording.
- 9.7 Once the horse has been presented for measurement a Measurement Certificate shall be issued. The only exception to this Rule is 9.8 and 9.10.
- 9.8 The horse shall be measured twice only and shall spend a maximum of ten (10) minutes in the measuring stand on each occasion. Where a second measurement is required the horse shall be returned to the Measurer no later than (1) hour after the time of the first measurement. This period may be shortened or extended at the discretion of the Measurer.
- 9.9 Where the Measurer is not satisfied with the presentation/condition of the horse they may take whatever action deemed necessary which may include requesting the Official Veterinarian to take samples from the horse.
- 9.10 The Measurer has the right to refuse to measure any horse without assigning a reason.

10 SPECIFICATIONS OF MEASURING STAND

- 10.1 Measuring Stand and Block**
 - a) The design of the measuring stick and the use of the stick shall be approved by the State EFA Measuring Panel.
 - b) Prior to the first measuring of the day, and as often as deemed necessary

- c) All measuring must be undertaken on a flat level surface (e.g. concrete slab) which has been laid in a horizontal plane. The surface should be flat to within 0.25" (6mm). This hard surface must be located in a quiet area and be least partly fenced by post and rails, or be enclosed totally. The entire area of the surface shall be required to conform to specifications
- d) On an annual basis the block is to be checked by a qualified person (i.e. Engineer, Surveyor, Metrologist) and a copy of the updated written report (Certificate of Compliance) on the block is to be forwarded to the State EFA Branch and the National Show Horse Committee.

11 MEASUREMENT OF HORSES

- 11.1 The Horse shall stand up square, with legs perpendicular to the ground, the forelegs in line and the weight of the horse distributed evenly over all legs. The horse must not be stretched out.
- 11.2 The poll must not be lower than the highest point of the wither at the time of measurement.
- 11.3 The measurement shall be taken at the highest point of the wither.
- 11.4 The Measurer may make an allowance of up to 3/8" (1cm) for shoes. Refer to clause 7.5).

12 RIGHT OF APPEAL

- 12.1 The owner of a horse has the right to appeal to the State EFA/Show Horse Committee against an Official Measurement. The appeal shall be in writing within seven (7) days of the date of measurement, accompanied by a fee of \$50.00. This fee is non-refundable regardless of the outcome of the appeal.
- 12.2 The appeal shall provide the following:
 - a) Name of horse
 - b) Name of owner
 - c) Name of exhibitor
 - d) A photocopy of the Measuring Certificate
 - e) The reason for the appeal
- 12.3 The State EFA/Show Horse Committee shall decide if the horse will be re-measured
- 12.4 In the interim, the most recent Official Measurement shall stand and the horse shall be entered in and compete at the height measured.
- 12.5 Where a horse is to be re-measured it must be measured as set down in clause 13.

13 RE-MEASUREMENT OF THE HORSE

- 13.1 Re-measurement of a horse may be arranged on the question of height as set down in clause 12 - Right of Appeal.
- 13.2 A protest will not be lodged against a current Measurement Certificate as this defeats the purpose of holding a Certificate.
- 13.3 Where a horse is to be re-measured, the measuring will be in the presence of two (2) Official Measurers, one of whom was not involved in the original measurement of the horse.
- 13.4 Where a horse is to be re-measured it may be measured unshod or it may be measured with shoes. If the horse is shod (refer clause 9.6 and 9.7) then the shoes are to be measured by the Official Measurer and the actual measured value of the shoe is deducted from the measured height.
- 13.5 The horse may be swabbed prior to re-measurement.
- 13.6 The horse's owner and the handler may be present, however no other observers are allowed.
- 13.7 If the measurement is not accepted on the day a re-measurement is required within 30 days and a fee of \$100 is payable upon application/presentation for re-measurement.

14 MATTERS NOT COVERED SPECIFICALLY BY THE RULES

Where any matter shall arise which relates to:

- any application for, issue of, or objection to a Measurement Certificate;
- any measurement of any horse under the National Measuring Scheme;
- the administration of the National Measuring Scheme;
- the interpretation of the rules; or
- the choice of the Official Measurers

and is not covered by the foregoing rules, the State EFA Show Horse Committee shall consider all the relevant facts and give such directions relating thereto as may seem to them, in their absolute discretion, to be just and proper.

NOTE: The latest measurement becomes the current measurement and supercedes any previous measurement

GUIDELINES FOR MEASURERS

(Not to be distributed to competitors)

1 TECHNIQUES OF MEASURING

Prior to commencing the measuring, it is necessary to complete a preparation check list:

- Check the site is level, and clear off any dirt or debris.
- Check the rails of the Measuring Stand to ensure that they are secure.
- Check that removable rails are available for limiting the horse's movement forwards or backwards whilst in the Measuring Stand.
- Check that the Measuring Stick, if fixed, is securely held by fixing bolts and nuts and is perpendicular. If the Measuring Stick is portable checks need to be made to ensure that it is correct.
- Check that the height of the reading on the Measuring Stick is accurate by measuring from the underside of the measuring arm when in a horizontal position to the floor of the Measuring Stand with a standard length pole with two level bubbles so it can be held vertically (i.e. 15hh reading on the Measuring Stick measures to be 1524mm).

The animal should be handled quietly and given reasonable time to relax and settle before measurement is attempted. The time taken to check the identity of the horse and record the necessary details on the Measurement Certificate will usually be adequate (approximately 5 minutes).

In the event of a horse not relaxing or becoming unsettled the Measurer, at his/her discretion, may request that the horse be re-presented at a later time to give the horse the opportunity to relax and settle.

The horse is measured at the highest point of the wither.

The measuring arm should be brought to the highest point quietly and gently so as not to unsettle the horse and must not be forced down on the wither but should touch gently.

Prior to reading the height of the measuring stick it is important to constantly check the position of the poll to ensure that it is not lower than the wither and that the horse is standing with weight evenly distributed over all legs.

Experience has shown that as a horse becomes more relaxed its height at the wither tends to drop.

If the height indicated is at a critical level, i.e. would involve a change of class, or necessitating re-classification, special care must be taken to ensure that the horse is given every opportunity to fully relax.

In the event of an Official Measurer not being satisfied with any aspect of the measurement the Measurement Certificate should not be issued and the matter referred to the Chief Measurer.

It is important at all times to be seen to be acting with complete integrity and responsibility and to ensure that any queries that may be raised are satisfactorily answered either at the time of measuring or in due course.