

THE AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE SOCIETY LIMITED

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Australian Stock Horse
SOCIETY

Rules and Regulations

Section 5 - Identification of Horses

1 IDENTIFICATION OF HORSES

- 1.1 The organising committee for an ASH event may appoint two Society Inspectors to view horses prior to competition. The organising committee for an Approved ASH Sale must appoint two Society Inspectors to view horses prior to sale.
- 1.2 The Society Inspector must REJECT a horse for an ASH event (including an Approved ASH Sale) if the identity of the horse is not acceptable under the Verification of Brands and Markings Policies.
- 1.3 Verification of Brands Policy
 - 1.3.1 Any horse presented for identification must have been branded. At least one brand on the horse MUST BE clearly visible for identification purposes – stock brand, identification number or year number. The clearly visible brand must be the same as the brand indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration for the specified body part.
 - 1.3.2 The Society Inspector will determine whether the brand is clearly visible as follows:
 - 1.3.2.1 Part of the brand is visible from a three metre distance and at a closer distance, the brand characters can be deciphered. In the case of a stock brand with three characters, at least two characters of the brand must be clearly visible and be able to be deciphered.
 - 1.3.3 Irrespective of the coat condition, the Society Inspector will adjudicate whether the brand is NOT clearly visible as follows:
 - 1.3.3.1 Part of the brand is not visible from a three metre distance.
 - 1.3.3.2 The brand characters are unable to be deciphered.
 - 1.3.4 A horse would NOT be rejected due to a brand discrepancy, if the Society Inspector has identified the following:
 - 1.3.4.1 The horse has been branded with the Society's A Brand.
 - 1.3.4.2 The horse has additional brands not indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration.
 - 1.3.5 A horse **WOULD BE REJECTED** due to a brand discrepancy, if the Society Inspector has identified any of the following on the horse's Certificate of Registration:
 - 1.3.5.1 None of the brands indicated on the horses Certificate of Registration are clearly visible.
 - 1.3.5.2 Any clearly visible brand is not the same as the brand indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration.
 - 1.3.5.3 Any clearly visible brand is located on the incorrect body part when compared to the horse's Certificate of Registration.
 - 1.3.6 In the event of a rejected horse, the horse's Certificate of Registration would be collected by the Inspector and forwarded to the Society with a Rejected Horse Identification form within seven days of the event. This form shall be completed by the Inspector and witnessed by an adult in charge of the horse. The Certificate will be held by the Society until such time as the Society is satisfied that the owner has rectified the registration

anomalies in accordance with the regulations. The rejected horse is suspended until the registration has been rectified and the Certificate of Registration is returned to the owner.

- 1.3.7 Handwriting size or style would not detract from a horse being accepted providing the brands on the horse are clearly visible and correspond to the horse's Certificate of Registration.

1.4 Verification of Markings Policy

- 1.4.1 The body coat colour and white markings on the horse presented for inspection should be identical with the horse's Certificate of Registration, irrespective of the coat condition and subject to the coat being dry (except under wet weather conditions).
- 1.4.2 A horse would NOT be rejected due to a marking discrepancy, if the Society Inspector has identified that the following has not been indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration:
- 1.4.2.1 Hair whorls.
 - 1.4.2.2 A recent injury or swelling.
 - 1.4.2.3 Permanent scars.
 - 1.4.2.4 Other acquired markings – saddle or girth marks, split ear, enlarged joint and the like.
- 1.4.3 A horse would NOT be rejected due to a MINOR marking discrepancy, if the Society Inspector has identified that the horse's Certificate of Registration is adequate for the identity of the horse to be confirmed without the registration being altered. Such minor marking discrepancies are as follows:
- 1.4.3.1 A white marking has been completed accurately on only one side view of the horse.
 - 1.4.3.2 Small markings on body coat not visible at time of registration or acquired markings since registration which may have resulted from rain scald, saddlemarks, scars and the like.
 - 1.4.3.3 A white marking lacks an accurate shape definition, the size is slightly inaccurate or the marking is slightly off centre.
 - 1.4.3.4 The horse's coat colour has changed due to genetics (grey) or coat colour could be affected with seasonal changes (summer/winter – bay/brown, brown/black).
- 1.4.4 A horse WOULD BE REJECTED from an ASH event (including Approved ASH Sales), if the Society Inspector has identified a SIGNIFICANT marking discrepancy whereby any other person could dispute the identity of the horse. Such significant marking discrepancies are as follows:
- 1.4.4.1 Any white marking on the horse (visible from a three metre distance) has NOT been completed for the specific body part.
 - 1.4.4.2 A white marking on the registration is not evident on the specific body part, excluding horses with a grey (white in colour) body coat.
 - 1.4.4.3 A horse's coat colour is incorrect (with exception of clause 1.4.3.4).
- 1.4.5 In the event of a rejected horse, the horse's Certificate of Registration would be collected by the Inspector and forwarded to the Society with a Rejected Horse Identification form within seven days of the event. This form shall be completed by the Inspector and witnessed by an adult in charge of the horse. The Certificate will be held by the Society until such time as the Society is satisfied that the owner has rectified the registration anomalies in accordance with the regulations. The rejected horse is suspended until the registration has been rectified and the Certificate of Registration is returned to the owner.

1.5 Policy for Society Inspectors

- 1.5.1 The organising committee must appoint a minimum of two Society Inspectors at an ASH Event (including Approved ASH Sales) when verification of horses' identification is to be conducted.

- 1.5.2 A Society Inspector is NOT able to participate in the inspection of any horse as indicated below:
- 1.5.2.1 The Inspector has a conflict of interest – any situation whereby the Inspector’s decision may be influenced.
 - 1.5.2.2 The Inspector has a pecuniary interest – expectation of financial gain or loss.
 - 1.5.2.3 The Inspector’s immediate family, including partner, owns the horse.
 - 1.5.2.4 The Inspector is a business partner, employer or employee of the member.
 - 1.5.2.5 A horse currently owned or previously owned (less than one year) by the Inspector.
 - 1.5.2.6 The horse was sired by a stallion currently owned or owned within a twelve month period of inspection date by the Inspector.
- 1.5.3 When an Inspector is NOT able to inspect a horse or has concerns in relation to accepting or rejecting a horse, the inspection of the horse must be referred to the alternate Inspector or a Director of the Board should be consulted. The organising committee may approve exemptions to this clause under exceptional circumstances.
- 1.5.4 Conflict of Interest/Pecuniary Interest
- 1.5.4.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST – is defined as a situation in which a Society Official (Director, Inspector, Judge and the like) has a duty to make decisions on behalf of the Society and has an interest in the subject sufficient to appear to influence the decision to pass judgement (accept, reject, score, place and the like).
 - 1.5.4.2 A PECUNIARY INTEREST – is defined as an interest that a Society Official (Director, Inspector, Judge and the like) may have in relation to a person or horse because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person.
 - 1.5.4.3 Having a CONFLICT OF INTEREST or PECUNIARY INTEREST is not evidence of wrongdoing, but it may appear to compromise a decision. When making a choice to act as a Society Official, the person must consider the responsibilities of acting in the capacity of the position. The Society expects any person accepting a role as a Society Official to make decisions that are objective and independent from such interests that can result in impartial decisions.
 - 1.5.4.4 When a situation is recognised that could be considered a CONFLICT OF INTEREST or PECUNIARY INTEREST, the response is straightforward: make the interest known and decline the duty. An interest may be that of the person; the person's spouse or de facto partner, a business partner, employer or employee and the like.
 - 1.5.4.5 A Society Official does not have a CONFLICT OF INTEREST if the concern is so insignificant, or a PECUNIARY INTEREST if the expectation of gain or loss is so remote or insignificant; that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to the decision. A person is not taken to have a Conflict of Interest or Pecuniary Interest in a matter, if the person is unaware of the interest.
- 1.6 Owner’s Responsibility
- 1.6.1 The registered owner of the horse is responsible for ensuring that the person in charge of the horse at an ASH event is able to produce a copy of the horse’s Certificate of Registration for identification purposes. Failure to produce the horse’s Certificate of Registration would ultimately result in the horse being **REJECTED** for participation in the ASH event (including Approved ASH Sales).
 - 1.6.2 It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that the horse’s Certificate of Registration is correct and the identity of the horse can be verified at time of inspection under the Verification of Brands and Marking Policies.

2 IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

- 2.1 All identification details must be completed on the application for registration as follows:
- 2.2 Markings
- 2.2.1 All white markings must be outlined and shaded in accordingly.
- 2.2.2 White flecking should be indicated by small light lines scattered over the area.
- 2.2.3 Coloured spots must be outlined and the colour identified.
- 2.3 Scars
- 2.3.1 All scars should be indicated by a small "x" and a large scar by a series of small "x" along the affected area.
- 2.4 Hair Whorls
- 2.4.1 Hair whorls should be shown wherever possible by a small "o" together with an arrow in the direction of the whorl.
- 2.5 Lip Tattoo
- 2.5.1 A lip tattoo is an acceptable form of horse identification in the event that a horse has not been branded.
- 2.6 Distinguishing Marks
- 2.6.1 Any peculiar, abnormal markings or a deformity must be indicated and labelled accordingly on the horse diagram; for example, indentations, wall eye, permanent lameness, capped hip, enlarged joint, one eye, etc.
- 2.6.2 ALL DISTINGUISHING MARKS, BRANDS, HAIR WHORLS, SCARS, ETC SHOULD BE COMPLETED ON THE HORSE DIAGRAM IN A BLACK INK PEN.

3 COLOUR

- 3.1 The basic coat colours are black, brown, bay and chestnut, although the categories of black/brown and bay/brown are acceptable. These may be modified by either dominant patterns or diluting genes to produce grey, roan, taffy, pied, dun, palomino and white.
- 3.2 Black - black pigment is generally throughout the body coat, including muzzle, flanks, limbs, mane and tail. No pattern other than white markings is present.
- 3.3 Brown - the body colour is predominantly brown or black, with flesh colour mealy or brown around the muzzle and flanks. Mane, tail and lower parts of the legs are black.
- 3.4 Bay - the body coat is bay, although the shade may vary from dull red, approaching brown, to a yellowish colour approaching chestnut. The mane and tail are black and almost invariably there is black on the lower legs and tips of the ears.
- 3.5 Chestnut - the body colour ranges from a light washy yellow, through golden and reddish shades, to a dark liver colour, with the pigment being evenly distributed. The mane and tail are chestnut colour which may be lighter or darker than the body coat.
- 3.6 Grey - the body colour is an uneven mixture of coloured and white hairs. The foal will show a basic colour at birth, but with increasing age white hair gradually develops and eventually the whole body turns grey. White hairs usually appear first on the face. The colour of the mane, tail and points is that associated with the basic colour. The skin will be dark, the base colour of a grey may not be known unless the animal is viewed at a very young age and should be stated if known. By applying the laws of inheritance, a grey horse must have at least one grey parent.
- 3.7 Roan - the body coat colour has a fairly even mixture of white and base coat colour hairs throughout the body, but the head, lower legs, mane and tail remain the same as the base coat colour that identifies the type of roan, ie Chestnut Roan, Bay Roan, Black Roan, etc. The base coat colour always precedes the word roan.
- 3.8 Dun - the coat colour is yellowish or gold, the mane and tail may be black, brown, red, yellow or mixed. Always has a dorsal stripe and often has zebra stripes on legs and transverse stripes on withers. Buckskin as above with black mane and tail, or a dark mouse colour.
- 3.9 Palomino - body colour may vary from a light yellow to golden yellow with a white mane and tail.

- 3.10 Pied - an irregularly marked horse with patches of white on basic/or dilute coat colours. The coat colours should be identified as Bay Pied, Chestnut Pied, Black Pied, etc.
- 3.11 Taffy - the body coat is a red colour with flaxen coloured mane, tail and chocolate lower legs or dark chocolate body colour, silver dapples and light mane/tail. The coat colour should be identified as Bay Taffy, Chestnut Taffy, Brown Taffy, etc.
- 3.12 White - the horse must have been born white, in which case, the parents most likely indicate the foal is Cremello or Perlino.
- 3.13 Cremello - the coat colour is off white with a light creamy coloured skin and a white or ivory coloured mane and tail. A white horse with blue eyes is known as a psuedo albino.
- 3.14 Perlino - the coat colour is off white with a light coffee coloured skin and a darker coffee coloured mane and tail. A white horse with blue eyes is known as a psuedo albino.

4 STOCK BRANDS

- 4.1 Every horse for which an application for registration or recording has been made with the Society, must be clearly branded in such a way that the horse can be positively identified.
- 4.2 The Society will recognise any stock brand (freeze or fire) that is registered or recognised with the Department of Agriculture as such by the State or Territory authorities concerned.
- 4.3 Brands on the horse must coincide with the brands shown on the application for registration or foal recording.
- 4.4 It is recommended that the stock brand is placed on the near shoulder.
- 4.5 A horse which has been incorrectly or indistinctly branded must never be re-branded over the site of the existing brand.
- 4.6 The stock brand can only be regarded as an acquired marking as the letters and symbols which form a stock brand are not registered with every Department of Agriculture in Australia.
- 4.7 If the brands indicated on a horse's Certificate do not correspond with the brands on the horse, the following will be required:
 - 4.7.1 If the member who completed the application for registration or foal recording did not brand the horse before the application was lodged the member who completed the application must complete a statutory declaration stating the details of the horse and declare that the horse was never branded when the application was lodged with the Society. The person who did brand the horse must notify the Society of the horse's details, the diagram of the stock brand and the position of the brand; ie. near shoulder, off shoulder etc. The aforementioned documentation must be returned to the Society together with the horse's Certificate to enable the records to be amended.

5 NUMERAL BRANDS

- 5.1 For identification purposes, it is compulsory that horses born after 1st August 1997 be branded with numeral brands. Numeral brands consist of an identifying number (being the top brand) and a foaling year number (being the bottom brand).
- 5.2 Foaling Year is defined as a twelve-month period starting on 1st August and ending 31st July of the following year, during which a foal is born. The Foaling Year is abbreviated to a single year, being the year the period commences. For example: the Foaling Year commencing on 1st August 2005 and ending on 31st July 2006 is the 2005 Foaling Year.
- 5.2.1 In Europe and North America, the foaling year period is 1st January to 31st December of the same year. The Foaling Year is abbreviated to two digits, referring to the year the period commences (1st January). For example: the Foaling Year commencing on 1st January 2005 is the 2005 Foaling Year.
- 5.3 It is recommended that the numeral brands be placed on the off shoulder or in accordance with the Department of Agriculture in the State or Territory where the branding takes place.

- 5.4 A horse born before 1st August 1997 may be branded with only a foaling year brand. The brand must coincide with the foaling year in which the foal was born.
- 5.5 The identifying number signifies the order in which horses born in the same foaling year were branded with the stock brand. A horse branded with an identifying number must also be branded with a year number.
- 5.6 The following year numbers apply to the foal years indicated:

YEAR	<u>Australasia, Asia, Africa, South America</u>	<u>Europe & North America</u>
NUMBER	FOALING YEAR	FOALING YEAR
8	1st August 1998 - 31st July 1999	1st January 1998 - 31st December 1998
9	1st August 1999 - 31st July 2000	1st January 1999 - 31st December 1999
0	1st August 2000 - 31st July 2001	1st January 2000 - 31st December 2000
1	1st August 2001 - 31st July 2002	1st January 2001 - 31st December 2001
2	1st August 2002 - 31st July 2003	1st January 2002 - 31st December 2002
3	1st August 2003 - 31st July 2004	1st January 2003 - 31st December 2003
4	1st August 2004 - 31st July 2005	1st January 2004 - 31st December 2004
5	1st August 2005 - 31st July 2006	1st January 2005 - 31st December 2005
6	1st August 2006 - 31st July 2007	1st January 2006 - 31st December 2005
7	1st August 2007 - 31st July 2008	1st January 2007 - 31st December 2005
8	1st August 2008 - 31st July 2009	1st January 2008 - 31st December 2008

- 5.7 Any horse branded with the incorrect foaling year brand must be re-branded below the existing brand or in another position with the correct foaling year brand.
- 5.8 The first foal to be branded with a stock brand and born in the 2008 foaling year would be branded 1 over 8. The second foal to be branded, born in the same foaling year, would be branded 2 over 8.
- 5.9 Should the owner of a stock brand loan the stock brand to another person, the identifying number must remain in the subsequent number order for horses branded with that stock brand and born in the same foaling year.

6 SOCIETY'S A BRAND

- 6.1 The Branch must appoint Branding Officers for the purpose of branding Registered **STUD BOOK** Australian Stock Horses with the Society's A Brand. The Branch must ensure that Branding Officers are adequately experienced with freeze and fire brands.
- 6.2 Branding Officers should advise horse owners of any necessary information prior to branding, i.e., freeze branded horses should not become wet or be rugged for a period of time after branding.
- 6.3 Branding Officers must not brand any horse unless the appropriate **STUD BOOK** Certificate of Registration is produced.
- 6.4 The Branding Officer accepts the same responsibilities as a Society Inspector under the Society's Identification Policy (including Verification of Brands, Verification of Markings and Society Inspector Policies) in relation to verifying the identity of the horse prior to branding with the Society's A Brand as follows:
- 6.4.1 If the horse would not be rejected under the policy, the Branding Officer may brand the horse with the Society's A Brand on the near thigh.
- 6.4.2 If the horse is **REJECTED** under the policy, the Branding Officer must NOT brand the horse with the Society's A Brand. The horse's Certificate of Registration would be collected by the Branding Officer and forwarded to the Society with a Rejected Horse Identification form within seven days of the inspection. This form shall be completed by the Branding Officer and witnessed by an adult in charge of the horse. The Certificate will be held by the Society until such time as the Society is satisfied that the owner has rectified the registration anomalies in accordance with the regulations. The rejected horse is

suspended until the registration has been rectified and the Certificate of Registration is returned to the owner.

- 6.5 Once branded, the horse's Certificate of Registration is then duly stamped with the Society's A Brand stamp and the Certificate of Registration returned to the owner by the Branding Officer.
- 6.6 It is recommended that the Branch conduct official branding days in conjunction with other Branch activities, so that additional expenses are not incurred.
- 6.7 The branding of the horse will not be noted on Society records due to the cost in processing alterations.
- 6.8 The Branch is responsible for ensuring clippers are available to clip the brand site and in the case of freeze branding, supply of liquid nitrogen or dry ice. Branches may charge a fee in order to recoup costs incurred.
- 6.9 In Australia, the Branch may borrow a Society A Brand through a Director in their state or purchase the brand from Head Office for the purpose of conducting branding days.
- 6.10 Outside of Australia, branches are responsible for investigating any requirements, or the possibility of, the A Brand being registered in their area and report any such findings and associated cost to the Society for approval of the Board prior to the brand being registered or used for the branding of horses. The Board may approve reimbursement of associated costs in relation to the brand registration. When approved by the Board, the A Brand will be provided to overseas ASHS Branch.
- 6.11 Any officers reported to be acting inappropriately may be referred to the Society's Disciplinary Committee at the discretion of the Stud Book Committee.

7 **ALTERATIONS TO MARKINGS**

- 7.1 If the horse's colour and/or identifying markings were completed incorrectly on the application for registration, the following is required:
 - 7.1.1 The member who submitted the original registration must complete an Indemnity Statutory Declaration Form in the presence of a Justice of the Peace stating that the colour and/or markings were completed incorrectly at time of application.
 - 7.1.2 The current owner of the horse must complete an Indemnity Statutory Declaration in the presence of a Justice of the Peace indicating the correct identity of the horse concerned – including markings and brands.
 - 7.1.3 The horse's Certificate of Registration must be returned to the Society.
 - 7.1.4 The prescribed fee must be paid.
- 7.2 If the horse was not branded, prior to registration, the following is required:
 - 7.2.1 The preferred option is for the horse to be branded immediately with the brands as indicated on the horse's Certificate of Registration.
 - 7.2.2 If it is not possible to brand the horse according to the horse's Certificate of Registration, then the following will apply:
 - 7.2.2.1 The member who submitted the original registration must complete an Indemnity Statutory Declaration Form in the presence of a Justice of the Peace stating that the horse was not branded at time of application.
 - 7.2.2.2 The current owner of the horse will need to brand the horse according to the Society Regulations, then complete an Indemnity Statutory Declaration in the presence of a Justice of the Peace indicating the correct identity of the horse concerned – including markings and brands.
 - 7.2.2.3 The horse's Certificate of Registration must be returned to the Society.
 - 7.2.2.4 The prescribed fee must be paid.
- 7.3 If the horse was branded at time of registration and the brands are not clearly visible, the following is required:
 - 7.3.1 The current owner of the horse must provide colour photographs (near and off sides, front and back) of the horse so that the member who submitted the original registration

application can verify the identity of the horse in question. Providing this member provides a written statement to verify the horse's identity, the following will apply:

- 7.3.1.1 The current owner of the horse must re-brand the horse in accordance with the Society's Regulations.
- 7.3.1.2 The current owner of the horse must complete an Indemnity Statutory Declaration in the presence of a Justice of the Peace indicating the horse's new identification – including markings and brands.
- 7.3.1.3 The horse's Certificate of Registration must be returned to the Society.
- 7.3.1.4 The prescribed fee must be paid.
- 7.3.1.5 Under no circumstances, should the horse be branded over the site of a previous brand.

- 7.4 In the event of an owner being unable to comply with one of the above regulations, the owner may apply to the Board for consideration. Such an application should include detailed documentation in relation to the amendments and colour photographs of the horse (near and off sides, front and back) for identification purposes.