



## SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY

### FOOT SCHEME FOR 2024 ONWARDS

This scheme was first adopted by the Shire Horse Society's Council on 17 October 2023. Amended on 22 February 2024 on confirmation of initial farrier members for the Foot Panel.

#### **1. Shoeing Standard**

To protect the health and welfare of Shire horses, the Shire Horse Society has set out Minimum Acceptable Shoeing Standards for Shire Horses ("the Shoeing Standard"). It applies to all Shire horses owned by Society members.

#### **2. Aims of the Foot Scheme**

Foot Inspections support the Shoeing Standard through the following aims:

- a. Raising awareness of correct shoeing standards for the Shire horse, and educating members of the Society about them.
- b. Encouraging Shire horse owners and exhibitors to meet the Shoeing Standard in the trimming and shoeing of their horses.
- c. Checking compliance with the Shoeing Standard through Foot Inspections.
- d. Providing sanctions, where needed, for when the Shoeing Standard is not met.

#### **3. Awareness and education**

The Society raises awareness of the Shoeing Standard and promotes correct trimming and shoeing practices through information and images, e.g. via the website, newsletters and social media. This includes examples of good trimming and shoeing of Shire horses.

The Shoeing Standard is set out in the Society's Regulations, which are made available to all members, including new members in their introductory pack. It is also included each year in the catalogue for the National Show and the Stud Book.

From 2024, the Society will develop additional ways to raise awareness and provide educational opportunities about the Shoeing Standard and the importance of correct trimming and shoeing of Shire horses to their health and welfare.

#### **4. Foot Inspections**

Foot Inspections take place annually at the following shows:

- The National Show.
- Affiliated Shows that are holding Qualifying classes for the annual Championship – known as “Affiliated Shows” in the rest of this document.
- Annual Championship at HOYS.

The number of Affiliated Shows to have Foot Inspections each year is decided by the Editing Committee, usually in April, depending on prevailing circumstances. The Affiliated Shows to have inspections are then selected by the Chair of the Editing Committee and the Society’s Chief Executive using the following criteria:

- a. Geographical spread around the country.
- b. Mix of county and other shows.
- c. Did not have Foot Inspection the previous year.

Foot Inspections at Affiliated Shows take place as ‘spot checks.’ The Society does not publicly announce which Shows will have them.

As a condition of hosting Qualifiers from 2024 onwards, Affiliated Show organisers are expected to accept that Foot Inspections may take place at their Show. The Society will notify organisers in confidence in advance that their Show has been selected for Foot Inspections.

Feet of shod horses may be inspected in any classes. In-hand classes are usually inspected. Driven and ridden classes may be inspected. In 2024, a random selection of Shires in driven and ridden classes at the National Show will be inspected to assess compliance with the Shoeing Standard.

Exhibitors at the Society’s National Show are required to name on their entry form the farrier shoeing their horse for the Show.

## **5. Foot Inspection Panel**

The Society appoints a Foot Inspection Panel to provide a pool of farriers to carry out Foot Inspections on its behalf. The Panel reports to the Editing Committee.

The Panel comprises the Society’s Honorary Veterinary Surgeon, who chairs the Panel on behalf of the Editing Committee, and four farriers. This number may be increased or decreased as needed. The Panel also includes an individual representing the Council. The duties of the farriers on the Panel are to:

- a. Carry out Foot Inspections on behalf of the Society, in line with the Shoeing Standard.
- b. If needed, advise the Society on matters regarding farriery and foot inspection.
- c. Support the Society in delivering and promoting education to members relating to the Shoeing Standard.

Farriers are nominated for the Panel by the Editing Committee for approval by the Council, then, if approved by Council, formal appointment by the Board of Trustees. They are appointed for one year, and may be re-appointed.

The criteria for farriers to join the Panel are:

- Qualified to Associate or Fellow level of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (AWCF or FWCF).
- WCF Approved Judge.
- Have experience of shoeing heavy horses.

The first members of the Panel are:

Mr Ben Ryder-Davies	BSc, BVM&S, MRCVS	Chair, Honorary Veterinary Surgeon
Mr Andrew Bowyer	AWCF	Farrier
Mr Stephen Hill	FWCF	Farrier
Mr Robin May	AWCF	Farrier
Mr John Peacock		Representing Council

Farriers on the Panel will inspect feet in line with the Shoeing Standard. In order to ensure that they apply the Standard fairly and consistently, the Panel may meet from time to time to make sure that they all interpret it the same way. This first such meeting will be at the 2024 National Show. The farriers present will be briefed on the Shoeing Standard by the Honorary Veterinary Surgeon. One farrier will then act as Foot Inspector for the Show, with the others observing. From then on, Panel meetings will take place as needed.

For each show that is having Foot Inspections, the Chief Executive will call on one of the Panel farriers to carry out the inspections. Two farriers may officiate at the National Show.

The Society will reimburse the farriers' travel, subsistence and accommodation costs on request, within the Society's expenses policies.

At any Show, the decision of the Panel farrier on whether feet meet the Shoeing Standard is final.

After inspecting at a Show, the farrier concerned makes a written report of findings to the Society. Reports are provided to the Editing Committee.

The farrier will not put any of the results of Inspection or any images of the feet inspected in the public domain. This includes, but not exclusively, posts or written material on websites or social media or other online media.

In the very unlikely event that, during their service on the Panel, a farrier is found guilty of any offence by the Farriers' Registration Council (FRC), or be deemed by the FRC to have brought farriery into disrepute, their membership of the Panel will cease with immediate effect.

## **6. Penalties**

The following applies from the beginning of 2024.

### **Step 1**

Any horse that fails Foot Inspection is disqualified immediately from the Show concerned.

### **Step 2**

The registered owner of the horse will be sent a letter from the Society recording the disqualification.

### **Step 3**

If the same horse or any other horse registered to the same owner is disqualified in the same year, that owner must attend an educational session on shoeing to be organised by the Society to take place between November that year and March the following year.

The educational session will take place on a date and in a location decided by the Society. An attendance fee of up to £100 is payable by the owner to the Society, payable on booking a place on the session. The fee is not refundable in any circumstances.

If the owner does not book and/or pay for a place on the session by the end of October in the year of the disqualifications, or does so but does not attend the session, then horses registered to that owner are barred from being shown at the National Show, Affiliated Shows holding Qualifier classes and the Championship at HOYS the following year. This bar continues to apply to the horse or horses concerned if their ownership changes during that time.

For clarity, education sessions are conducted in person; online attendance is not an option.

There is no appeal against any disqualification or the requirement to attend an education session.

## **7. Review**

The above scheme will be reviewed after one year, and then from time to time as needed.