**Article 1: objectives**

These tests are to test the Shetland pony, showing off his physical skills, kind willing nature and promoting his skills as a leisure pony.

Either in hand, ridden, long reined, with a saddle pack or driven, the ponies are presented with a variety of obstacles and difficulties, which showcase their qualities for use in sport or leisure.

The organisers will specify the different classes available and will adjust the course accordingly.

The following elements are judged: willingness, serenity, cooperation, confidence, respect and reliability.

This is not a competition, but an Award for quality.

There are several qualifications that can be awarded by the jury, out of a possible mark of 60 points.

- Label Or (Gold) 55 to 60 points out of 60
- Label Argent (Silver) 48 to 54 points
- Label Bronze (Bronze) 40 to 47 points
- Encouragements (Merit) 39 points or less

These awards are given by the AFPS-GEPS to each individually named pony who participates.

The tests show off not only the qualities of the Shetland pony, but also the breeders and trainers who put in a great deal of hard work. They also provide additional assurances of the pony’s character to perspective buyers.

They are an important element put in to place by the AFPS-GEPS for the selection and promotion of the Shetland pony and also to improve its market value.
**Article 2: conditions for ponies.**

The tests are open to all pure bred Shetland ponies who are registered in the Breed Stud Book with SIRE (or copy identification papers if being registered). For the Jubilee the ponies Passport with UELN/microchip number is acceptable.

Ponies must be up to date with their vaccinations for flu/tetanus and may be refused if not so.

Ponies must be healthy and in good condition and may be refused if not so.

Judges may refuse or pull up a pony before or during the tests if they deem him unsound or dangerous towards other ponies or people.

A pony can only be presented once in each category on the same course. He can however be presented in different categories and by different presenters.

**Article 3: conditions for handlers/riders/drivers.**

The tests are open to participants who have third party insurance cover.

For Minors, their parent/legal representative MUST sign an authorisation form to allow them to take part in the tests, if not they cannot participate.

Registration, closing dates and prices for registration are included with the show details. If there is sufficient space, some inscriptions may be made on the day of the show.

**Article 4: presentation and equipment**

**A - Presentation**

For all tests, the correct attire is expected. Unsuitable clothing/footwear (open toed sandals, etc.) is not acceptable and participation will not be allowed.

For the ridden and driven tests, a riding hat in good condition is mandatory.

For minors, a riding hat in good condition is mandatory for all of the tests, including in hand).

For the ridden and driven classes, a back protector is strongly advised. Correct footwear, boots, jodhpur boots, half chaps should be worn. Spurs are not allowed. Gloves are recommended. A whip or stick may be carried, but its use will be taken into consideration and points can be deducted.

Any violence or brutality towards a pony will result in immediate expulsion from the tests.
B - Equipment.

1. In Hand - The pony may be presented in a head-collar or properly adjusted bridle. Stallions of 3 years or more MUST be presented in a bridle/bit.

2. Ridden - All types of bits/bridles are authorised, but the jury will take into consideration their severeness and use when awarding points. All saddlery should be in good working order and condition to insure the safety of the rider. Fixed martingales and gags are not authorised.

3. Long reins - All equipment should be well adjusted and in good condition, fixed gags are not allowed.

4. Driven - Harness and bits should be suitable for use, the carriage should be in good condition and adapted to the size of the pony and for use on uneven ground.

5. Pack Saddle/Klibber - The pony may be presented in a head-collar. Stallions of 3 years or over MUST wear a bridle/bit. The Pack Saddle/Klibber should be suitable for the pony, it's shape and size. The weight should be symmetrically distributed.

Article 5 - Different Test Categories

The tests are in hand, ridden, long reins, driven or pack saddle/klibber. For each category there are different age groups for the pony and handler.

A. In-Hand Tests

1. Handler Adult or Minor of 12 years or over (parental authorisation)
   Two categories -
   - ponies 1 to 3 years old - Junior Category.
   - ponies 4 years and over - Senior Category.

2. Handler Minor under 12 years old (parental authorisation)
   This is NOT open to stallions.
   - ponies 1 to 3 years old - Junior Category.
   - ponies years and over - Senior Category.
B. Ridden Tests
Open to ponies 3 years or over and ridden by competent riders in walk, trot and canter. If the jury deems a couple an unsuitable pair, due to disharmony of the riders and ponies size/weight, or for any other reason, they may not participate.

C. Long Reins
Open to ponies of 2 years and over, the handler should be in full control of his pony.

D. Driven Tests
Open to ponies of 3 years and over to a competent driver and groom.

E. Pack Saddle/Klibber Tests
Open to ponies of 3 years and over, the handler should be in full control of his pony.

For Minors:
For the Tests open to Minors, the parent/responsible adult must accompany the child. For children between the age of 5 and 12, the parent/responsible adult must keep a little distance, but can verbally encourage/advise their child during the tests without penalties.

The jury reserve the right to refuse or remove any couple deemed to be in danger or participants not in control of their pony.

Article 6: Tests

A. Infrastructure.
The Tests are laid out on a suitable area (field, arena, indoor school, etc.), minimum size of 20m x 40m is recommended.

The preparation of the area and obstacles is to be done by the Organiser. There should be a wide variety of obstacles/difficulties, a theme may be used (eg. the farm, beach etc.). The security of the pony and rider should always be of the highest importance.

B. Jury.
The Jury are selected by the AFPS-GEPS and is made up by at least one judge, an assistant and secretary. The presence of the President of the Jury is mandatory during all the tests.

S/he verifies the course and assures that rules and regulations are adhered to. S/he organises the judging of the tests and checks and validates the final scores awarded. S/he takes responsibility with regard to a pony/participant judged unsuitable to take part in the tests.
C. Tests.

The participants are allocated a number. The start times for each participant are listed in the program, any change of order must be approved by the Jury.

The obstacles/difficulties on the test course are numbered from 1 to 12.

The Jury may check the identity of a pony before he starts the tests.

An explication and course walk is given by the Jury before the tests open. Participants should walk the course before the tests open.

You must present yourself and pony to the Jury on entering the test area and they will tell you to proceed when they are ready.

The tests are always made up of 12 obstacles/difficulties, 5 of which are mandatory and 7 open to the choice of the Organiser.

1. Test in hand and long reins.

The obstacles/difficulties are there to evaluate the pony's respect and serenity and how they react to the new difficulties they may encounter.

**Mandatory Tests**

- To load into and come out of a 2 place horse-box (hitched to a vehicle)
- To pick up each of their feet to be picked out (either tied up or held)
- To stand still for 10 seconds, counted by the presenter (depart to be given by judge)
- A Surprise, either visual or sound.
- An obstacle, preferably a natural one, such as a tree trunk, step up or down, this may be substituted by a cavaletti.

**Other Tests**

These consist of 7 other obstacles/difficulties that are chosen by the Organiser. They must always have the pony and handlers security in mind.

Here are a few examples: reverse between 2 poles, washing line, flapping flags, plastic ribbons, tarpaulin on the ground, water, traffic signs, bridge, pivoting bridge, ditch, step up or down, tree trunk, open a map, open an umbrella, an engine starting, animals in an enclosure, meeting other ponies, beeping horn, musical instruments, drumming, people moving behind a tree, standing still, reversing, slalom, gymkhana, going over branches or mikado bars, different ground (sand, soft, stones etc.) puddles, mud, open/close gate etc.

2. Ridden Tests.

The ridden tests are to evaluate the ponies respect and serenity, how they tackle each obstacle/difficulty, their submission under the saddle and the way they are ridden.

**Mandatory Tests:**

These are carried out in-hand, with reins over the head.

- To load into and come out of a 2 place horse-box (hitched to a vehicle)
- To pick up each of their feet to be picked out (either tied up or held)
- An obstacle to be passed in-hand: preferably a natural one such as a tree trunk, step up or down, this may be substituted by a cavaletti.

- To stand still whilst the rider mounts.

- A surprise, either visual or sound.

Other Tests

These consist of 7 other obstacles/difficulties that are chosen by the Organiser. They must always have the pony and riders security in mind.

Here are a few examples: reverse between 2 poles, washing line, flapping flags, plastic ribbons, tarpaulin on the ground, water, traffic signs, bridge, pivoting bridge, ditch, step up or down, tree trunk, open a map, open an umbrella, an engine starting, animals in an enclosure, meeting other ponies, beeping horn, musical instruments, drumming, people moving behind a tree, standing still, reversing, slalom, gymkhana, going over branches or mikado bars, different ground (sand, soft, stones etc.) puddles, mud, open/close gate etc.

3. Driven Tests

The driven tests are to evaluate the ponies’ suitability to be driven, their versatility and serenity. Each driven pony is evaluated and given his points/award.

Mandatory Tests:

In-hand:

- To load into and come out of a 2 place horse-box (hitched to a vehicle)

- To pick up each of their feet to be picked out (either tied up or held)

- Putting on the harness and putting the pony/ponies to the carriage (the groom may assist)

- To stand still for 10 seconds counted by the driver.

- A surprise, either visual or sound.

Other tests

These consist of 7 other obstacles/difficulties that are chosen by the Organiser. They must always have the pony/ponies and drivers security in mind.

Here are a few examples: walk/trot/canter, river, bridge, cones, tarpaulin on the ground, slopes, different ground (soft, sand, gravel, mud) etc.

4. Saddle Pack/Klibber Tests

Historically the Shetland Pony carried heavy loads on its back, such as turf and other materials, which were transported on Klibbers in creel baskets.

Mandatory Tests:

Before putting on the pack saddle/klibber: -

- To load into and come out of a 2 place horse-box (attached to a vehicle)

- To pick up each of their feet to be picked out (either tied up or held)
- Putting on of the harness and pack saddle/klibber and load.
- Standing still for 10 seconds, counted by the handler.
- A surprise, either visual or sound.

Other Tests:
These consist of 7 other obstacles/difficulties that are chosen by the Organiser. They must always have the pony/ponies and handler’s security in mind.

Here are a few examples: walk/trot/canter, river, bridge, cones, tarpaulin on the ground, slopes, different ground (soft, sand, gravel, mud) etc.

Obstacles/difficulties should take into consideration the width of the load to avoid getting caught on anything.

Article 7: Judging and Points Awarded

The decision of the Jury is absolute.

All appraisal forms are the same, with the name of the pony, the date, the place of the competition, the name of the owner, presenter and the name of the President of the Jury.

Each obstacle/difficulty has a mark from 0 to 5 points depending on the notation chart. The number of points are filled in on the notation chart and the results calculated.

A pony has 3 attempts in a reasonable time (1 min.) to complete each obstacle/difficulty. If he does not manage to complete the obstacle, he must pass on to the next number on the course.

All Obstacles/difficulties that are not completed are given the mark of 0 points.

Notation Charts are different in regard to the age of the pony.

A pony who obtains a mark of 0 points for the horse-box and feet cannot be awarded Gold.

Outside Help:
- Test - Horse-box: outside help may be given, but marks will be deducted in accordance.
- For all Tests concerning Minors, the accompanying parent/responsible adult must keep a distance. For children under 12, a reasonable amount of verbal direction may be given without penalties being added. For children over 12 verbal direction and help may incur point deductions.
- In all other cases, outside help will be penalised by the deduction of points.
Article 8: Presentation of Awards

During the course, points will be awarded and marked out of a total of 60 points. Depending on the number of points gained, one of the following qualifications will be awarded to your pony:

(setLabelOr) Gold - from 55 to 60 points out of 60.

(setLabelArgent) Silver - 48 to 54 points

(setLabelBronze) Bronze - 40 to 47 points

(Encouragements) Merit - for 39 points or less

The Awards are made by the AFPS-GEPS on an official certificate with the name of your pony.

The cards are given to the participants at the end of the competition or sent by post.