

THE NATIONAL PONY SOCIETY
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NPS Mountain & Moorland Judges Scheme

This scheme has been setup with the co-operation of all the Native Breed Societies who have provided information, help and support. It has been developed to help future judges have a better understanding of the breed types and the way of going of all our Native Breeds. A prospective judge will usually know their own breed and possibly one or two others but this innovative scheme has been compiled to help educate individuals to increase their knowledge, understanding and ability to judge all the Native Breeds.

To be eligible the applicant must be 25 years of age or over on 1st January in the year they apply, are a current
NPS member and also meet one of the following criteria:

- currently an NPS member
- have been a Native Breed Society Member for the previous four years (concurrent)
- have been nominated by their Native Breed Society
- be on a Native Breed Society Judges Panel.

Applications must be supported by nominations from **two** NPS Senior A Panel judges (one proposer and one seconder). **(Please note that A Panel Judges can only support one applicant per year.)** Applications have to be approved by the NPS and will be reviewed by the Judges Selection Committee. The cost of assessment is £75.00 and is payable with the completed application form and CV.

Please note that candidates cannot apply for more than one panel in the same year.

Breed Events
Candidates applying for assessment are required to attend **a minimum of 50% of the breed events** before sending in their application this can include events such as;

- Breed Study Days
- Breed Society / Association organised Stud Visits
- Breed Shows including Area Breed Shows
- Breed Sales
- Shows with Breed specific affiliated classes (e.g. NPS Summer Championships)

and have attended the remaining 50% (including one of each Welsh Section) during their period of probation. Each of the breed events must be run by a different Breed Society. Candidates do not need to enter the ring but stand outside and observe.

Candidates must study the sections with a recognised Breed Judge who should sign the record card as proof of attendance.

Please ensure that when observing Welsh classes, the judges on the panel are relevant to the class being judged, (i.e. A,B,C or D). A copy of the Breed Event Record Card should be sent to the office with the application form, and the remaining events should be completed within the probationary period.

Probationers are expected to have attended every breed (including each of the Welsh Sections) before acceptance onto the NPS M&M B Panel.

It is recommended that the candidate contact the Breed Societies for the dates of their breed events, these may also be published on the Breed Society websites. Proof of attendance is required for all of these events and the record card should be signed to this effect.

Stewarding
Candidates are recommended to have experience of stewarding before sending in their application. Please list the shows in which you have experience of stewarding on your application.

The Assessment Process
There are two parts to the assessment; both parts must be passed at the same assessment –

i) Written Rules Questionnaire - The format is a written paper of multiple choice questions based on NPS rules, general conformation, breed type, and judging situations.

ii) Practical Assessment - All breeds of Mountain and Moorland ponies will be seen under saddle and in hand. The candidates, as a group, will have time to observe the ponies under show class conditions and make their individual notes. Candidates will then be interviewed individually by the Assessors and asked what they observed about the ponies' way of going, conformation, and breed standards as well as points about the NPS rules and judging procedures.

Probationary Period
Candidates who pass both parts of the Assessment will then be offered Probationer Judge status. A Probationary Period is required; the number of probations to be completed will depend on past judging experience and the assessment results of the individual candidate. It is a prerequisite that all probationers undertake stewarding duties at either the NPS Spring Festival, The NPS Summer Championships or the NPS Scottish Show, as well as NPS Area Shows, before they will be considered to be elevated onto the B Panel. They are also required to attend NPS conferences and seminars.

Judge Elevations
Probationer Judges are elevated to the B Panel when all their required probations have been completed and received 100% approval from the Senior judges with whom they have been carried out, as indicated on the Senior Judges Report Forms returned to the NPS office.

B Panel Judges may be eligible for elevation to the A Panel upon completion of at least **eight** affiliated shows over not less than a **two** year period. It is the responsibility of the judge to submit a completed list of shows and classes judged to the NPS Office.

The application to be elevated from B to A Panel will then be considered by the Judges Selection Committee.

Annotated Judges may have this removed after two years once they have submitted a list of shows and classes judged to the NPS Office. This will then be considered by the Judges Selection Committee.

Please note all applications, recommended probations and elevations are subject to ratification by the NPS Council.