



Cymdeithas y Merlod a'r Cobiau Cymreig The Welsh Pony and Cob Society



Young Judges' Competition 2026



This pack contains the following:

- 🐾 Entry Form
- 🐾 Young Judges Information Sheet
- 🐾 Example score cards
- 🐾 Young Judges – Things to think about before the day arrives



**Welsh Pony & Cob Society
Young Judge's Competition 2026**

**Sunday 9th August 2026
WPCS 125th Anniversary Show – Royal Welsh Showground**

Entry Form

The Young Judge's competition is open to all young people aged between 10 and 25 years of age.

Area Associations and Overseas Societies are invited to enter as many individuals as they wish, and the top 3 scores will be taken to form their team score.

Entries are also invited from individuals who are not members of an Area Association, or whose Association is not participating in the scheme.

**Entries must be received no later than Wednesday 29th July 2026.
Entry fee - FREE**

Name of organisation or parent/guardian entering competitor(s):

.....

Contact person for the organisation or parent/guardian:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| Telephone number(s) | |
| Email address | |

Signed :

**Completed entry form should be forwarded no later than 29th July 2026 to:
Gemma Bassett-Burr, Welsh Pony and Cob Society, Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter.
SA48 8AG**

Information Sheet

The Young Judge's Competition was started in 1997 and is run under the rules and direction of the WPCS Judging and Showing Committee and holds a prominent place in the WPCS calendar. Over the years, the competition has proved to be a valuable training ground for future Judges of the WPCS Panel.

Aim: The aim of the competition is to find the top Young Judges of the Welsh Breeds. It provides the opportunity for young people to develop their skills in terms of judging and present their understanding of the judging process in an interview situation.

Eligibility: The competition is open to all young people aged between 10 and 25 years of age. Area Associations and Overseas Societies are invited to enter as many individuals as they wish, and the top 3 scores will be taken to form their team score. Entries are also invited from individuals who are not members of an Area Association, or whose Association is not participating in the scheme. You do not have to be a current member of the WPCS to take part in the competition. All entries must be made on the appropriate entry form and returned to The WPCS Office no later than Wednesday 29th July 2026. There is no entry fee for the competition.

Classification: The competition will be run in four age groups: 10–13 years, 14–17 years, 18–21 years and 22–25 years. The overall winner will be the individuals with the highest points, should there be a tie then the judges will choose based on performance during the day.

Date, time, and place: This year, the competition will be held at the Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, LD2 3SY on Sunday 9th August. The Competition will start at 12:00 midday following the young handler classes at the WPCS 125th Anniversary Show with registration opening at approx 11:30am. The presentation of awards will be made at approximately 6.00pm in the WPCS Members' Pavilion on the Royal Welsh Showground. Exact times will be confirmed to competitors once entries have closed for the 125th Anniversary Show.

Assessors: There will be two Judge Assessors on the day.

Scoring: A maximum of 100 marks is awarded by the assessors as follows:
25 marks for candidate's placing
40 marks for candidate's accuracy and observation
25 marks for candidate's comparative rather than descriptive description
10 marks for candidate's interview presentation

A **further 30 marks** will be awarded subject to correctly answering 3 knowledge questions on current WPCS In-hand Showing Rules.

Procedure for the Competition: Competitors will judge an in-hand class of four Section C ponies. They will be required to assess the animals standing, in walk and in trot. They will place the animals in their preferred order on the score card provided. The Assessors will judge the ponies at the same time as the competitors. A sheet with full details of the procedure is available in this pack and should be consulted.

Dress: Competitors are required to dress in a way consistent with judging at a show and this includes the wearing of a suitable hat.

Interview: Following the judging of the ponies each competitor will be interviewed individually by one of the judges in a drawn order; interviews will be conducted indoors in the WPCS Members' Pavilion at the Royal Welsh Showground.

Awards: Prizes including a certificate and rosette which will be awarded to competitors placed 1st – 4th in each age group. The winner of each age group will receive a prize. The Overall winner of the competition will receive a WPCS gold medal (Gold Medal will be presented at the WPCS Awards Ceremony in 2027) and Young Judge of the Year Sash. The Reserve Young Judge of the Year will be presented with a sash. All competitors will receive a WPCS rosette. A training bursary will also be awarded to the winning Association kindly sponsored by Talponciau Stud. Special Awards will be given for highest placed overseas candidates.

Communication All communication in the first instance will be with
Gemma Bassett-Burr,
The Welsh Pony and Cob Society, Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter. SA48 8AG.
Telephone Number: 01570 471754
Email: gemma@wpcs.uk.com

Welsh Pony and Cob Society
Judging and Showing Committee
Bronaeron
Felinfach
Lampeter
SA48 8AG

**Welsh Pony & Cob Society
Young Judges' Competition**



**For competitor's notes
(to be detached)**

Name:

Competitor's placing:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th |
| | | | |

| | Max Mark | Mark gained |
|------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Competitor's placing | 25 | |
| Accuracy of observations | 40 | |
| Ability to compare exhibits | 25 | |
| Interview presentation | 10 | |
| Questions | 30 | |
| Total | 130 | |

Candidate Feedback

| |
|--|
| Feedback on Placings |
| Feedback on observations and comparisons |
| Feedback on Interview |
| Additional Comments |

Support Document

Competitors should make every effort to familiarise themselves with the format of the competition and the specific skills being assessed. Many Associations organise training sessions where potential competitors can learn and develop the skills and also undertake interview practice. It is not sufficient to just place the animals in a preferred order, but competitors must be able to give reasons for their placings when interviewed. The interview will also contain set questions.

How does the competition work?

A maximum of 130 marks is awarded by the assessors as follows:

- 25 marks for competitor's placing *
- 40 marks for competitor's accuracy and observation
- 25 marks for competitor's comparative rather than descriptive comment
- 10 marks for competitor's interview presentation
- 30 marks for handbook questions

** (The 25 marks for placing will be derived from the scoring system commonly used within Young Farmers competitions **however, please note the interview will not follow the usual Young Farmers format.**)*

Competitors will be scored by the assessors on their ability to:

- describe type, conformation and movement of the animals using appropriate terminology
- compare animals in terms of conformation, type and movement
- give constructive reasons for their decisions
- communicate their judgement of the animals in a coherent manner.

A score card will be provided and there is tear off part for competitor's individual comments; however, it is recommended that competitors bring a clip board and paper for their use and remember a spare pen or pencil. The score cards will be collected but all notes remain with the competitor; everyone is encouraged to use their notes in the interview.

What happens on the day?

Competitors should arrive by 11.45pm for registration ready to start the competition at 12:00pm. On arrival, all competitors must register with the steward. They will be briefed by the steward and the assessors introduced to the competitors. Competitors will be issued with their score card. Please note that this session is for competitors only and family and friends will not be able to be present in the area but will have a separate area allocated for the duration of the competition should they wish to stay. Health and safety issues remain a top priority for the organisers. At no stage should competitors handle the ponies and they must follow the direction of the steward in charge at all times.

The Judging

The steward will escort all the competitors and the assessors to the centre of the judging ring. The Competition will run as an in-hand showing class for four Welsh Section Cs. The equines will be identified by letters A, B, X or Y. No competitor will be allowed to talk to anyone outside

the ring during the judging. The Assessors will view the ponies at the same time as the competitors.

Competitors will observe the animals in walk before each pony is trotted. The ponies will be lined up. Competitors will be divided into groups and each group will have approximately 2 minutes to view each pony. The animals will then walk away and trot back. This procedure will be repeated until each group has assessed all the ponies. The ponies will then be walked as a class and the competitors will mark their placings 1st to 4th on the score card using A, B, X and Y before handing it to the steward. A presentation will be made to the handlers supplying the Section Cs and a group photograph taken before the competitors leave the ring and return indoors.

The Interview

Competitors will then be interviewed individually in a previously drawn order, and interviews will last for approximately five minutes. It is important that all competitors are treated fairly and that includes having the same amount of time. One assessor will start interviewing the 14-17 years group while the other will interview the 10-13 years group before moving on to the 18-21 years and 22-25 years group. The Assessor will have the competitor's score card with the placings; assessors will question competitors on their placings and their observations on the ponies forward. During the interview the assessor will be accompanied by a timekeeper whose sole responsibility is to advise the assessor on the timing of the interviews. Once a competitor has completed their interview, they are free to go but will be required later for the presentation.

After each interview the Assessor will complete the competitor's score card awarding scores for each of the elements. The total scores awarded will be the basis for the placings; should two or more competitors tie on marks then the final decision will lie with the assessor. For the overall award, assessors will confer and may ask to interview some of the competitors again.

The Presentation of Awards

The presentation of awards will be made on the showground at around 6.00pm where friends and family will be warmly welcomed. The presentation is part of the competition and competitors should remain dressed as they were earlier – casual wear would not be appropriate.

Prior to the presentation the assessors will give their placings of the ponies and their reasons. Score cards will be returned to the competitors and the assessors will be available after to answer any competitor's questions on an individual basis. Competitors are encouraged to ask the assessors any questions which will help them in their development as judges.

Need further help or information?

The Welsh Associations have been a backbone of this competition through training, assessing and encouraging young people to take part. Some competitors might not readily have access to training and support, if this is the case, please contact the WPCS office and we will try and assist with finding training and support opportunities.



Young Judges – Things to think about before the day arrives

- 🐾 Familiarise yourself with the expected behaviours and dress code of a judge when at a show, details of this can be found in the Judging and Showing Handbook or you could watch a judge at a local show to you.

Young Judges Interview Techniques

- 🐾 Familiarise yourself with the current WPCS Judge's Handbook this can be found on the society website <https://www.wpcs.uk.com/handbook>
- 🐾 Familiarise yourself with the breed standards for the section you will be judging.
- 🐾 Smile and be friendly when entering the room and introduce yourself to the interviewer.
- 🐾 Sit up in your chair and engage with the interviewer via eye contact.
- 🐾 Engage with the questions giving enough information but remaining on the topic of the question.
- 🐾 Make sure you answer the question.
- 🐾 Thank the interviewer for their time when you leave the room.

Things to remember when placing the animal, to help in your interview. These are all things that can be noted during the judging of the in-hand/ridden class and referred to in the interview so we would encourage you to make as many notes as possible to help you then speak about the animals and their placings in the interview.

- 🐾 Comparisons between animals and the reasons for the placings rather than giving a description of the animals
- 🐾 Observations of any fault or differences between animals
- 🐾 Justifications for the placings of the animal e.g., why was he 3rd and not second

If you would like to practice a mock interview, please add a note with your application with an e-mail address and the Society will arrange an online mock interview for you.

Good luck with your application. We hope you enjoy!