



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

20th ANNUAL

STATE HACKING & HARNESS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 2026

Gatton Showgrounds



GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Please ensure you have read and understand these rules herein:

1. Nomination for this event confirms your acceptance of these terms and conditions and any other SAQ guidelines that are applicable for this event (i.e. Horse Welfare policy etc) – see SAQ website for full copy of rules.
2. Competitors disobeying these rules may be disqualified from this event without refund of nominations.
3. No refunds after closing date, except with vet or medical certificate. An admin fee of **\$20.00 will be deducted**.
4. The organising committee reserves the right to cancel any class; combine any class; alter times; refuse any entry with or without stating the reason.
5. Neither the organising committee of this event nor the SAQ accepts any responsibility whatsoever for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, riders, ground spectators or any other person or property.
6. Protests must be submitted in writing within 30 minutes of an incident occurring and a \$100 fee will apply. The fee will only be refunded if the protest is upheld.
7. All junior participants (under 17 years) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian throughout the entire event, including on-site camping. Any child under the age of 12 competing in any best presented, led or FOTF classes must have a handler/strapper present at all times during classes entered.
8. Competitors are not permitted to enter the ring once judging has commenced.
9. Competitors are asked to refrain from uninvited conversation with the judge.
10. Volunteers are not required to be members of SAQ and are not required to pay day insurance.
11. Complying helmets and boots must be worn. Strictly no helmet/no ride policy at this event – no exceptions.
12. This is a formal show and formal attire is expected – cream/white jodhpurs or breeches, show jacket, stock, jodhpur boots with chaps or high top boots.
13. All Stallions/Colts must be bitted or chained at all times. Display of EA Stallion disks is required. Stallions/colts are to be led/handled/supervised by persons 18yo or over only.
14. Hendra vaccinations not compulsory for this event.
15. All horses must present for this competition drug free.
16. Completed Liability Forms and Horse Health Declarations forms must be submitted by all participants upon arrival at the event. Note: when nominating online, you must accept the liability waiver for your nomination to be processed.
17. Additional Charges: Compulsory First Aid Levy of \$10.00 will be charged per competitor. A helper fee of \$30 per competitor (further details below).
18. **NO SHAVING OF HORSE'S WHISKERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. The Standardbred Association of Queensland endorses the rule change by the FEI to Ban Horse Whisker Trimming from 2021. The rule came into effect from 1 July 2021. As it a welfare issue for the horse, SAQ will also introduce this ban for all our events from 1 July 2021. The FEI rule states: "Horses are not permitted to compete in FEI Events... if the Horse's sensory hairs have been clipped and/or shaven or in any other way removed unless individual sensory hairs have been removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the Horse. Areas of hair that must be clipped, shaven or removed to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule. As of 1 July 2021, Sanction 39 in Annex VI will be applicable." Sanction 39 refers to disqualification of the horse from the event.**
19. **FOR ALL LED CLASSES :** All children under 12 must have a handler/strapper present at all times. Enclosed shoes/boots must be worn. **No high heels– NO EXCEPTIONS.**

FASHIONS ON THE FIELD: All children under 12 must have a handler/strapper present at all times. Enclosed shoes/boots must be worn. Footwear must not be open toed, sandal backed, have stiletto heels or a heel height of more than 6cm. The bottom of the heel (connecting to the ground) must not be less than 60% of the top of the heel where it connects to the body of the shoe. Examples of accepted footwear:



HORSE CATEGORIES & CLASSES

1. This event is open to all Purebred and Partbred Standardbreds (proof of registration for Partbreds or Purebreds that do not carry a recognised freezebrand is required through the National HRA Non-Racing Stud book registration).
2. Partbred Horses are horses that are a minimum of 25% Standardbred. Partbreds must be registered in Official HRA Stud Book to participate in 2025 State Championships. They can contest any class that states Partbred horses are eligible.
3. Classes will be conducted under the 2026 Equestrian Australia Show Horse Rules and the SAQ Showing and Judging Guidelines, in conjunction with the rules and conditions stated herein.
4. A horse's age is calculated from the actual foal date of the horse at the time of the event. Minimum ridden age is 5yrs
PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK TO CALCULATE YOUR HORSES CORRECT BIRTH FOR THE EVENT:
<https://saq.com.au/horse-age-calculator/>
5. A rider/handler may enter more than one horse; however, classes will not be held up and officials will not be asked to hold horses.
6. Rider may ride more than one horse; however, each **horse can only be ridden/driven in one hack level.**
7. ****PRICING CAP & ELIGIBILITY****
If you have someone campaigning your horse, they are covered under your selected cap for classes that are judged on the **HORSE ONLY**. They **CANNOT** contest a class under the cap if they are not eligible, for example, smartest on parade, rider classes and fashions on the field – these classes would need to be entered separately and the appropriate fees per competitor must be paid.
8. **HELPER FEE (COMPULSORY)** – A compulsory helper fee of \$30 is required to be paid at the time of nomination. This fee is fully refundable for those who assist at the show. Helpers will be marked off a list during the event, and refunds will be processed **after the event.**
9. In harness classes, **horses can only be driven by one driver per class category.** The same horse can't be driven in the same class by different drivers.
10. When the final catalogue is released, handler/rider/driver substitutes will NOT be permitted. This applies to changes prior to the event or on the day.
11. **Single memberships** are for single members only. Other family members/children are not included in a single membership. For other family members/children to compete, the membership must be upgraded to a family membership or non-member fees (day insurance and first aid levy) will apply for those not covered by membership.
12. **Adoption Horse Classes** are for any horse that has been adopted through the SAQ Horse Placement Program and is still with its original adopter (i.e. horse hasn't been sold on/given away). Adoption horses must still be owned by the Original Adopter or under a current SAQ Adoption Contract.
 - **Amateur** – A horse adopted through the SAQ Horse Placement Program that has had no more than 3 wins or contested and won Champion **against other eligible champion contestants** at any agricultural or hack show. Amateur adoption horses must be shown in a snaffle bit only. No chains, pelhams or double bridles will be accepted. Horses in Amateur Adoption Classes are not required to canter but may show canter if the option is given.
 - **Advanced** - is for any horse adopted through the SAQ Horse Placement program that is ineligible to contest Amateur ridden show class. Horses in the Advanced class are expected to demonstrate their ability at walk, trot and canter and are expected not to pace. More advanced movements, for example, serpentines, simple changes, lengthened strides and rein back, may be requested as part of a workout.
13. **A Racehorse** is a horse that is racing or has raced/ trialled **within 2 months of close of nominations** or is in race training (i.e. a young horse working up). Horse should be evidently fit. Racehorses are eligible to compete in all classes, including the additional Racehorse classes.
14. Horses can only participate in one Best Presented class (either Junior, Youngstock or Senior section). Horses entered in the Junior Best Presented class section should be primarily prepared by a Junior with minimal presentation assistance from an adult.
15. **Fashions on the Field** - This class will be open to any Standardbred or Partbred and handler combination. All contestants are permitted to engage the services of a strapper/leader. Only the one leader on the near side of the horse will be judged. The strapper/ leader is permitted to lead on the off side of the horse throughout the competition. The strapper will not be judged as part of the overall picture but should be dressed neatly and appropriately for the occasion; The judges will base their decisions on the following criteria: - Style and originality of outfit; **skirt length MUST be between**

the knee and the ankle (dresses/skirts MUST NOT be touching the ground); Appropriateness of the outfit for the Spring Racing Carnival and the individual; - Attention to detail with accessories; - Understanding and interpretation of the current fashion trends; - Grooming and deportment: - Turnout of the Horse, conformation, manners and suitability as the ultimate accessory to the leader; appropriateness of the colour and style of the leader's outfit with the colour of the horse and the horse's accessories. Please take note in General Rules and Regulations above in regard to appropriate footwear. **Horses can only participate in one FOTF class (either Junior or Senior or Masters section).**

16. **Junior Classes** are restricted to riders/handlers under the age of 17 years at time of event, unless specified otherwise in the program. Youth Classes may be offered and restricted to riders/handlers (17-25 years), and if youth is offered, then Junior would be restricted to riders/handlers 16 & under.
17. **Senior Classes** are restricted to riders/handlers 17 to 40 years old. Masters Classes are for participants who are 41 years old or older. All ages are based on the age at time of the show.
18. **Rider Classes** are based on the rider's age on the day of the show.
19. **Junior Hack** (for all riders aged 16yrs and under) All horse levels combined. Junior Hack horses must be shown in a snaffle bit only. No chains, pelhams or double bridles will be accepted. Horses in Junior Hack Classes are not required to canter but may show canter if the option is given. A horse that paces in Junior Hack classes should not be penalised for pacing during a workout.
20. **Maiden Hack** has had **no wins at any agricultural or hack show**. Maiden horses must be shown in a snaffle bit only. No chains, pelhams or double bridles will be accepted. Horses in Maiden Classes are not required to canter but may show canter if the option is given. A horse that paces in maiden classes should not be penalised for pacing at times during a workout.
21. **Intermediate Hack** is a horse that has had no more than 3 wins **or** contested and won Champion **against other eligible champion contestants** at any agricultural or hack show. An Intermediate horse has been actively competing under saddle for 18 months or less. Intermediate horses must be shown in a snaffle bit only. No chains, pelhams or double bridles will be accepted. Horses in Intermediate Classes are not required to canter but may show canter if the option is given. A horse that paces in beginner classes should not be penalised for pacing during a workout providing a correction is attempted at time of occurrence/s.
22. **Novice Hack** is a horse that has ceased to be eligible for Maiden or Intermediate ridden classes and has not won an Open Championship at any agricultural or hack show (If you win an Open ridden/hack class at any Ag or Hack show and then go on to win the Overall Ridden Championship, you have won an Open Championship). Novice horses must be shown in a snaffle bit only. No chains, pelhams or double bridles will be accepted. Horses in Novice Classes should be able to perform basic manoeuvres in walk, trot and canter, with adequate time for progressive transitions. Allowances can be made for a few pace strides occurring in the workout. The Novice is not expected to be fully educated but should be able to complete a basic workout in a reasonable manner.
23. **Open Hack** is for any horse that is ineligible to contest a Maiden, Intermediate or Novice ridden show class. Horses in Open Classes are expected to demonstrate their ability at walk, trot and canter and are expected not to pace. More advanced movements, for example, serpentines, simple changes, lengthened strides and rein back, may be requested as part of a workout.
24. **Under saddle** – Workout as per judge's instruction. Canter is optional for Maiden/Intermediate Hacks. Some canter should be shown by Novice Hacks in canter specific classes. Open Hacks are expected to canter in canter specific classes.
25. **Best Educated** – Free choice workout, not to exceed 1 minute in duration. Canter is optional for Maiden/ Intermediate Hacks. Some canter should be shown by Novice Hacks. Open Hacks are expected to canter.
26. **Lead line** is for those who are not capable of riding their horse by themselves. Appropriate handler to accompany entry. Rider should show some ability to ride/control the horse. Leadline is for children under 10 years old (unless program states age groups).
27. **Related Horses** – This is a pair of horses who are immediately related, i.e.: Both horses are by the same Sire or out of the same Dam. Also accepted are the Sire or Dam and their direct progeny.
28. **Harness Classes** - In Harness classes, the horse, harness, vehicle and whip/s (Driver/s) are to be judged. The judge will take into account the overall look, condition and safety of the horse and the gear, relative to the class being contested.
 1. Turnout - the presentation, cleanliness and the completeness of the horse, vehicle and driver (and groom if present) will be taken into account.
 2. Racing harness – horses and drivers should be in correct race attire, harness and sulky, as if they were about to compete in a race. Note: Horses in hobbles should pace during workouts. Horse's without hobbles can either pace or trot but should perform the majority (greater than 75%) of any workouts in that gait.

3. Pleasure harness – horses to be shown in more traditional style harness and vehicle (sulky, buggy, viceroy etc). Driver's (and groom's if present) attire should be relevant the vehicle/period.
4. The workouts will be prepared by the judge. SAQ recommends these classes may include: transitions, lengthening of stride, change of rein, halt and rein back and/or pacing or trotting through cones/obstacles. The canter is unsuitable in any Harness class.
5. Competitors may enter either Racing or Pleasure Classes, however vehicle, harness & attire must suit section, i.e. Racing turnout will not be allowed in Pleasure classes and vice versa.
6. Barrel Race - Horse and driver attempt to complete a clover-leaf pattern around preset barrels in the fastest time.

29. Versatility Classes – fun classes for those wanting to try something new

1. Pleasure Hack – No nosebands, whips, spurs or double bridles. The horse should be a pleasure to ride. Horse does not necessarily need to be in a frame. Horse should have impeccable manners and be able to perform a basic walk trot workout with ease including a rein back. Part of this workout will be required to be performed one handed.
2. Bridle-path Hack – Is a horse with impeccable manners, particularly while mounting, dismounting and standing. A bridle path hack is not a jumping horse but should be able to perform a hand gallop and rein back with ease.
3. Hunter Hack – Should have more bone and substance than a traditional hack. The Hunter Horse should perform a basic workout of walk, trot and canter with ease along with a hand gallop. They should have a good work ethic and display ability to clear a jump.
4. Working Hunter Class – Horses should display all listed above in Hunter Hack but will be required to jump a 4 jump course with manners and tidiness in workout. This is not a show jumping event. It is not based on speed. It is based on ability, manners and style.

Judging Commences and Continuity:

1. Competitor Numbers: will be allocated in the Catalogue of Entries (available from 7th September, 2026) and need to be printed by each competitor. While pre-nominations allow us to have all horses contesting each class listed, you are required to display your competitor number in a chest number holder to aid judges when calling horses from the line up.
2. We will have the availability of amplified announcements; however, it is the responsibility of all competitors to be aware of where judging is at, within the program and to be ready for their classes.
3. Horses / riders placed 1st in their classes are to present for the judging of the Championship and Reserve Championship awards.

Any horse / rider that come 2nd to a Champion is eligible to contest for Reserve Champion and must remain ringside until the Champion has been selected. If the horse you came 2nd to is sashed Champion, you go into the ring to contest the Reserve Championship.

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

EVERY PERSON who enters the competition arena to be your runner in classes for **MUST** have nominated to do so online and accepted the terms of the liability waiver and, paid the day insurance levy. **THIS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE.**

20th Annual Standardbred Association Qld

State Hacking & Harness Championships

Thank-you to our Major Sponsor:



Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 2026

Gatton Showgrounds & Indoor Arena – Spencer Street Gatton, QLD

Starting Time: 8.00 am SHARP

STATES JUDGE: Craig Wass

Entries open **Friday 4TH July 2026.**

Entries close **Friday 9th August 2026.**

No Late Nominations will be accepted!

All money must accompany entries.

Camping and Stabling available.

SAQ Member Full Weekend Program*: \$100.00

Non SAQ Member Full Weekend Program*: \$140.00 + \$15.00 day insurance

SAQ Member Per Class: \$15.00

Non SAQ Member Per Class: \$20.00 + \$15.00 day insurance

First Aid Levy: \$30.00 per rider/handler

Helpers Fee: \$30.00 *(Compulsory – refer to rules for more info)*

***Please refer to Rule 7 for important information regarding capped pricing offer**

Enquiries: Gaylene Bracewell
events-show@saq.com.au

EVENT PROGRAM DAY 1

20TH ANNUAL STATE HACKING AND HARNESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER – START TIME 8am SHARP

BEST PRESENTED, LED CLASSES, FASHIONS ON THE FIELD, HARNESS

BEST PRESENTED

Classes 1 - 10 will be judged without individual workouts

JUNIOR HANDLER BEST PRESENTED

Refer to Rule 13

Class 1 All Fillies/Mares

Class 2 All Geldings

Champion/Reserve Champion Junior Best

Presented Standardbred (Classes 1 to 2 eligible)

YOUNGSTOCK BEST PRESENTED

For horses 3 years and under

Class 3 Colt

Class 4 Filly

Class 5 Gelding

Champion/Reserve Champion Youngstock Best

Presented Standardbred (Classes 3 to 5 eligible)

SENIOR HORSE AND HANDLER

BEST PRESENTED

Stallion

Class 6 4 years to 10 years

Class 7 11 years and older

Champion/Reserve Champion Best Presented

Standardbred Stallion (Classes 6 to 7 eligible)

Mare

Class 8 4 years to 8 years

Class 9 9 years to 13 years

Class 10 14 years and older

Champion/Reserve Champion Best Presented

Standardbred Mare (Classes 8 to 10 eligible)

Gelding

Class 11 4 years to 8 years

Class 12 9 years to 13 years

Class 13 14 years and older

Champion/Reserve Champion Best Presented

Standardbred Gelding (Classes 11 to 13 eligible)

Partbred Standardbred

Class 14 Best Presented Partbred Female

Class 15 Best Presented Partbred Male

Champion/Reserve Champion Best Presented

Partbred Standardbred (Class 14 to 15 eligible)

SUPREME CHAMPION BEST PRESENTED AWARD

All Best Presented Champions Eligible

SASH AND GARLAND TO THE WINNER

LED SECTION

PARTBRED STANDARDBRED

Class 16 Colt/Stallion

Class 17 Filly/Mare

Class 18 Gelding

Champion/Reserve Champion Led Partbred

Standardbred (Classes 16 to 18 eligible. Not eligible for

Supreme Led Standardbred)

YOUNGSTOCK PUREBRED STANDARDBRED

For horses 3 years and under

Class 19 Colt

Class 20 Filly

Class 21 Gelding

Champion/Reserve Champion Youngstock

Purebred Standardbred (Classes 19 to 21 eligible)

SENIOR PUREBRED STANDARDBRED

Stallion

Class 22 4 years to 10 years

Class 23 11 years and older

Champion/Reserve Champion Purebred

Standardbred Stallion (Classes 22 to 23 eligible)

Mare

Class 24 4 years to 8 years
Class 25 9 years to 13 years
Class 26 14 years and older

Champion/Reserve Champion Purebred Standardbred Mare (Classes 24 to 26 eligible)

Gelding

Class 27 4 years to 8 years
Class 28 9 years to 13 years
Class 29 14 years and older

Champion/Reserve Champion Purebred Standardbred Gelding (Classes 27 to 29 eligible)

SUPREME CHAMPION LED PUREBRED STANDARDBRED AWARD

All Purebred Standardbred Led Champions Eligible

SASH AND GARLAND TO THE WINNER

LED ADOPTION STANDARDBRED

For any horse that has been adopted through the SAQ Horse Placement Program

Class 30 Amateur Led Adoption Horse
Class 31 Advanced Led Adoption Horse
Best Led Adoption Horse and Runner Up Award
(Classes 30 to 31 eligible)

LED STANDARDBRED RACEHORSE – ANY SEX

Class 32 Led Racehorse Female
Class 33 Led Racehorse Male
Champion/Reserve Champion Led Racehorse
(Classes 32 to 33 eligible)

LED RELATED PAIR

Horses must share same Dam or Sire

Class 34 Led Related Pair – Purebred
Class 35 Led Related Pair – Partbred
Classes 34 - 35 will be judged without workouts

LED OWNERS PAIRS

Horses must be registered to the one owner

Class 36 Led Owners Pair

FASHIONS ON THE FIELD

Purebred and Partbred Standardbreds eligible

Junior Fashionista on the Field 16 years and under

Class 37 Girl
Class 38 Boy

Champion/Reserve Champion JNR Fashionista on the Field (Winners of Classes 37 to 38 eligible)

Senior Fashions on the Field 17 to 40 years

Class 39 Female
Class 40 Male

Champion/Reserve Champion SNR Fashions on the Field (Winners of Classes 39 to 40 eligible)

Masters Fashions on the Field 41 years and older

Class 41 Female
Class 42 Male

Champion/Reserve Champion MTS Fashions on the Field (Winners of Classes 41 to 42 eligible)

SUPREME CHAMPION FASHION ON THE FIELD AWARD

HARNESS SECTION

Harness Turnout – No Workout

Class 43 Harness Racing Turnout
Class 44 Pleasure Harness Turnout
Champion/Reserve Champion Harness Turnout
(Winners of Classes 43 to 44 eligible – NOT eligible for Supreme Harness Horse)

Harness Workouts

Class 45 Harness Racing Horse
Class 46 Pleasure Harness Horse
Champion/Reserve Champion Harness Horse
(Winners of Classes 45 to 46 eligible)

Whip Classes

Class 47 Gentlemen's Whip
Class 48 Ladies Whip
Champion/Reserve Champion Whip
(Winners of Classes 47 to 48 eligible)

SUPREME CHAMPION HARNESS AWARD

SASH AND GARLAND TO THE WINNER

Class 49 Barrel Race

END OF DAY 1

EVENT PROGRAM DAY 2

20TH ANNUAL STATE HACKING AND HARNESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER – START TIME 8am SHARP

SMARTEST ON PARADE, RIDER CLASSES, HACK CLASSES, VERSTILITY CLASSES

SMARTEST ON PARADE

**Purebred and Partbred
Standardbreds eligible**

Classes 50 - 54 will be judged without workouts

- Class 50 Leadline (*any age*)
*Not eligible for Champion/Reserve
Champion*
- Class 51 Junior – 14 years & under
- Class 52 Youth – 15 years to 25 years
- Class 53 Senior - 26 years to 40 years
- Class 54 Masters – 41 years and older
- Champion/Reserve Champion Smartest on
Parade** (*Classes 51 to 54 eligible*)

RIDER CLASSES

**Purebred and Partbred
Standardbreds eligible**

- Class 55 Leadline (*any age*)
*Not eligible for Champion/Reserve
Champion*
- Class 56 Junior – 14 years & under
- Class 57 Youth – 15 years to 25 years
- Class 58 Senior - 26 years to 40 years
- Class 59 Masters – 41 years and older
- Champion/Reserve Champion Rider**
(*Classes 56 to 59 eligible*)

RIDDEN ADOPTION CLASSES

*For any horse that has been adopted through the SAQ Horse
Placement Program*

- Class 60 Amateur Ridden Adoption Horse
- Class 61 Advanced Ridden Adoption Horse
- Best Led Adoption Horse and Runner Up Award**
(*Classes 60 to 61 eligible*)
(*Not eligible for Supreme Champion Ridden Standardbred*)

PARTBRED HACK CLASSES

**Horse must be registered in Official HRA Stud
Book**

- Class 62 Walk/Trot
- Class 63 Under Saddle
- Class 64 Best Educated

**Champion/Reserve Champion Partbred
Standardbred Hack** (*Classes 62 to 64 eligible*)
(*Not eligible for Supreme Champion Ridden Standardbred*)

HACK CLASSES

MAIDEN HACK

- Class 65 Walk/Trot
- Class 66 Under Saddle
- Class 67 Best Educated
- Champion/Reserve Champion Maiden Hack**
(*Classes 65 to 67 eligible*)

INTERMEDIATE HACK

- Class 68 Walk/Trot
- Class 69 Under Saddle
- Class 70 Best Educated
- Champion/Reserve Champion Intermediate Hack**
(*Classes 68 to 70 eligible*)

NOVICE HACK

- Class 71 Walk/Trot
- Class 72 Under Saddle
- Class 73 Best Educated
- Champion/Reserve Champion Intermediate Hack**
(*Classes 71 to 73 eligible*)

OPEN HACK

- Class 74 Walk/Trot
- Class 75 Under Saddle
- Class 76 Best Educated
- Champion/Reserve Champion Intermediate Hack**
(*Classes 74 to 76 eligible*)

SUPREME RIDDEN AWARD

SASH AND GARLAND TO THE WINNER

VERSATILITY CLASSES

Class 77	Pleasure Hack
Class 78	Bridle Path Hack
Class 79	Hunter
Class 80	Working Hunter

END OF PROGRAM



THE QUEENSLAND OFF-THE-TRACK PROGRAM

Established to support a high quality first transition for Standardbred and Thoroughbred horses from racing and breeding activities to retirement.



QUEENSLAND
OFF THE
TRACK





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