

**SECTION IX**  
**MEASUREMENTS**

**2019 RULEBOOK**

of the  
**American Shetland Pony Club**  
**American Miniature Horse Registry**  
**American Show Pony Registry**  
**National Sport Performance Pony Registry**  
**American Shetland Pony International Registry**



## SECTION IX

### MEASUREMENTS

- 1.1 General Rules** - All exhibitors must carry a current ASPC/AMHR/ASPR measurement card for each pony/horse and present that measurement card to show management before back numbers will be issued.
- A. An ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Steward is required to follow all rules, regulations and specifications governing horse/pony measurements at all recognized shows.
  - B. All Horses and Ponies not in possession of a measurement card, and all animals with permanent measurement cards, must be validated each competition show year, at the first sanctioned ASPC/AMHR/ASPR show where the animal is shown. Only permanent measurement cards issued after January 1, 1997 for Shetlands and Show Ponies are valid.
  - C. Stewards must use an official ASPC/AMHR/ASPR measuring stick. The certified ASPC/AMHR/ASPR measurement stick number must be recorded after the Steward's signature on the measurement form and validation of permanent card, as well as recorded on the Steward's report. Only sticks certified by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR may be used for official measuring. Each Steward is required to have their own certified measuring stick.
  - D. All animals must be measured at the show with the same official stick.
  - E. Management shall announce the time and place for measurements. Upon inspection, the Steward has the discretion to change the measuring location or measuring surface to meet ASPC/AMHR/ASPR regulations.
  - F. The Steward is empowered to bar a pony from showing if owner or agent refuses to have the pony measured. The Steward's decision shall be final and the management of the show must accept the decision of the Steward. Failure to do so may result in loss of the show's classification.
  - G. In the event a complaint or disagreement regarding mea-

surement cannot be resolved by the Steward and the one witness, another witness should be selected in the same manner. If the complaint or disagreement still cannot be resolved, the matter will be written and sent to the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Hearing Committee.

**1.2 Measurement Cards** - Permanent cards will be issued for Ponies & Horses six (6) years old and older.

**1.2.1 Miniature Horse** - All permanent measurement cards must be validated each competition show year (December 1st through November 30th) at the first sanctioned AMHR Show the animal is shown. At the time of validation, the Steward must see the registration paper, the original permanent measurement card, and the animal to be measured. Date, measurement, stick number, and signature of the Steward will be placed on the back of the card. Only the original ASPC/AMHR/ASPR permanent card will be accepted by the Official Steward, or re-measurement will take place.

**1.2.2 Modern, Modern Pleasure, Classic, and Foundation**

- A. Permanent measurement cardholders must have their heel validated each competition show year (December 1st through November 30th) at the first sanctioned ASPC/AMHR/ASPR show that the animal is shown, and have heel measurement checked every 60 days during the show season. At the time of validation, the Steward must see the registration paper, the permanent measurement card, and the pony for a heel measurement (always measure the heel of the left front foot while it is firmly resting on the measuring surface). Date, heel measurement, stick number, and signature of the Steward will be placed on the back of the card. Only the original ASPC permanent card will be accepted by the Official Steward or re-measurement will take place. (**Note:** American Show Pony heels are not measured).
- B. Annual cards will be issued to Ponies & Horses five (5) years old and younger. Annual cards are valid for a sixty (60) day period. The measurement form has space provided to record dates of measurement every 60 days.
- C. No measurement cards will be issued from the measure-

ments at the AMHR National Show or the ASPC/ASPR Congress.

**1.2.3 National Sport Performance Pony** - The NSPPR pony must be measured each competition year. Measurements must be performed by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Steward and recorded on the measurement form.

### 1.3 Measurement Protocol

A. At the time of measurement, the exhibitor is required to present to the Steward:

1. The original registration paper of the animal or a photo static copy of the same (no registration papers, no official measurement, no showing). With the exception of measurement, all other information necessary to complete the form can be taken from the registration paper. The Steward must see the registration paper, should check the description of the animal being measured and determine if it matches the animal being measured.

2. For show purposes, all foals of the current year who will be shown at a sanctioned show, scheduled to be held **prior** to July 1st, of the current year, and do not possess registration papers or photocopies of same, must present the following criteria to Show Management before they will be allowed to show.

a. A copy of the Application for Registration

b. A copy of the official work order.

c. A copy of the check or form of payment method.

3. **On or after** July 1st of the current year, all foals of the current year, who are to be shown at a sanctioned show, must present show management with an Original Registration or a photocopy of the same in order to show.

B. If the animal is obviously not the one described on the certificate, the Steward should question the owner or exhibitor immediately. If in the Steward's opinion, a satisfactory explanation is not made, the animal is to be barred from showing until a more positive identification is furnished. The Official Steward is required to fill out a Registration

Correction form on any animal that does not match their registration paper, and also record all discrepancies on the official Steward's report. The owner of said animal has thirty (30) days, from recorded date, to submit the registration correction form and the original registration paper to the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Office for correction.

- C. The Steward should measure the animal in the prescribed manner, and record the height measurement (as well as heel measurement on Shetlands) on the form. The form must be accurately filled out, including maximum heel allowance for Modern Shetlands. When the forms are completed and the copy returned to the exhibitor, the Steward should point out that the form should remain attached to the certificate, and that the exhibitor will be expected to have the measurement form and his papers upon arrival at all shows.
- D. If a measurement results in a change of divisions:
  - 1. The owner or trainer must surrender to the Steward the old measurement form and notify Show Management of the change in divisions.
  - 2. The Steward must issue a new measurement form with the current height.
  - 3. The Steward must send in the old card and the copy of the new Measurement Form to the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Office.
- E. If the measurement results in a new height or heel measurement, but does not involve a change of divisions, the Steward will record the new height or heel measurement on the card.
- F. The office copy of the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR measurement forms must be sent to the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Office via the official Steward's report. Note: It would be advisable that a Steward maintain a personal record of all animals measured in the event an envelope is lost in the mail.
- G. The Steward hired to measure animals at the competition is responsible for their true measurement and the Steward may be subject to penalty if it is determined that a measure-

ment is incorrect.

## 1.4 Measuring Device

- A. The Official Certified ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Measuring Stick may be purchased by contacting the National Office.
- B. The stick measures 24"- 48" or 24" - 54". Bubble is countersunk into the crossbar, flush with plane of crossbar. Bar may be plain or with a foot. The crossbar may fold flush with the stick so as to fit into a carrying case. It is stamped, numbered and certified by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR. A carrying shippable case is available. Any other measuring stick meeting these requirements may be sent to the National Office for inspection and certification, for a slight fee to cover return shipping.
  1. All measuring sticks must be certified by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Registry Office and carry a stamp and number from that Office. The following stick is grandfathered in:
    - a.. The stick is of aluminum construction, having two vertical legs and a horizontal bar, through which a movable calibrated vertical bar is suspended. Affixed to the lower extremity of the calibrated bar is a small plate which is to be positioned on the pony's withers or the miniature horse's base of the last hair of the mane. The device is also equipped with a weight at the top of the vertical calibrated bar, which brings the total weight of the vertical calibrated bar to four (4) lbs. The pressure of this weight is the only pressure exerted on said bar at the time the measurement is read. The animal's height is read on the calibrated bar through a window in the horizontal bar.
    - b. The stick is straight, stiff, unbendable, and is equipped with a plumb bob or spirit level to ensure that the stick is perpendicular to the ground and that the crosspiece or arm is parallel with the ground service.



**1.5 Measuring Surface** - The measuring surface must be level, and under no circumstances should animals be measured on dirt or gravel. A concrete slab or other paved surface is most desirable, but when not available, a 4' x 8' sheet of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or thicker plywood, placed directly on level ground, can be used as an alternative measuring surface. In no way should the plywood be placed on a frame or raised off the ground.

**1.6 Position of Animal** - The animal must be standing squarely on all four feet and should not be permitted to "stretch". The front legs should be on a vertical line directly under the shoulder. The back of the hocks should be in a vertical line with the animal's buttocks. The horse/pony's head must be held low enough to reveal the highest point of the withers and no lower. The animal must be free of blanket, hood, neck wrap and tail set to verify the description on the registration paper to the animal being measured. The handler must not interfere with the animal in any way that will prevent it from standing in this position.

### **1.7 Method of Measurement**

A. Modern, Modern Pleasure, American Show Pony, Classic, and Foundation With the animal in the aforementioned position, measure the vertical distance from the highest point of the withers to the measuring surface. The cross-piece, arm or bar of the measuring device must be placed over the highest point of the withers and no measurement taken at any other part of the animal's body will count. The cross-piece, arm or bar must have firm contact with the animal

but no additional pressure must be applied. Heel measurements are required on all Shetlands (**exception:** no heel measurement required on American Show Ponies). Height and Heel measurements are to be recorded to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, unless over the required measurement for the division.

B. Miniature Horse

1. In measuring a miniature horse, position as above, the head is to be in a normal position. Measure the vertical distance from the base of the last hair on the mane to the measuring surface. The crosspiece, arm or bar must have firm contact with the animal but no additional pressure may be applied. Measurements are to be recorded to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$ " , unless over the required measurement for that division.
2. If a miniature horse is measured and found to be over 38" the Steward shall not allow the horse to show and shall notify AMHR of such findings and the papers of said horse in question shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR and action taken.
3. If a miniature horse is measured and is recorded as an Under Division and found to be over 34" the Steward shall notify the National Office of such findings via the official Steward's Report and the horse in question shall have its paper changed from Under Division to Over Division.

- C. National Sport Performance Pony - The animal must stand squarely on all four feet in such a position that the front legs are vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks are in a vertical line with the point of the animal's quarters. The poll must be in the same horizontal plane as the withers and no lower and the head should be in a normal position. A maximum of two handlers may present the animal for measurement and they must not interfere with the animal in any way that will prevent it from standing in this position nor may they have any direct physical contact with the animal



that could influence the measurement, except that a handler may cover the animal's eyes.

## **1.8 If Animal Does Not Meet Height Requirement**

- A. If an animal does not meet the desired height requirement; the handler has the right to request a second measurement. Upon repositioning the animal and measuring stick the Steward will make the second measurement. If on the second measurement, the animal still does not make the height required, a third measurement is allowed. Again only one reading is permitted with each measurement.
- B. The third measurement is final and is recorded on measurement form as the official height.

Note: If after the second measurement, it is obvious that the animal must be trimmed, the Steward should advise the handler that the third measurement is final and that any alteration of the animal's feet should be made prior to that measurement. If the animal comes back for re-measurement, the Steward should make certain that it is the same animal that was measured the first time. If there are no distinguishing marks on the animal to identify it, it is suggested that the Steward put a colored chalk mark on a rear hoof, and inform the handler that the mark must be evident when the animal returns for re-measurement.

- C. The animal must not be lame when brought back for re-measurement.

## **1.9 Height Divisions**

### **A. Modern American Shetland**

1. There are two major height divisions for Modern Shetland, plus graduated divisions for ponies less than three years of age. They are as follows.

Age 3 Years & Older

Over – Over 43” not to exceed 46”

Under – 43” & Under

2 Year Old

Over – Over 42” not to exceed 44.5”

Under – 42” & Under

1 Year Old

Over – Over 41” not to exceed 43”

Under – 41” & Under

2. Modern Shetland foals compete in the Under Junior Champion class. Modern Shetland and Modern Pleasure Shetland foals are not eligible to show in the Grand Champion Class.

An Over animal regardless of age is just that.

*Example:* A yearling Shetland that measures 42” is over and, if qualified, would show in the over championships. Although his actual height is 42” he is not eligible for the Grand Championship Under. The assumption is that a 42” yearling will mature over 43” and is to be considered an Over pony throughout.

*Example:* A two year old measuring 42.5” is an Over pony and would not be eligible for Modern Under Harness or Modern Roadster class even though the height is listed 43” and Under. It would be unusual for a two year old to show in performance classes, but if the pony in this example did compete, the pony would have to be shown in the Over class.

- B. **American Show Pony** - The American Show Pony will be measured the same as the Modern Shetland. It cannot exceed 48” from the highest point of the withers to the measuring surface. American Show Pony heels are not measured.

3 Years and Older – 48” & Under

2 Year Old – 46.5” & Under

1 Year Old – 45” & Under

Foal of current year not to exceed 44”

- C. **Classic American Shetland**

1. Open Classic Shetland - There are two major height divisions of Classic Shetlands, plus graduated divisions for ponies less than three years of age. They are as follows:

### 3 Years & Older

Over – Over 42” not to exceed 46”

Under – 42” & Under

### 2 Year Old

Over – Over 41” not to exceed 44.5”

Under – 41” & Under

### 1 Year Old

Over – Over 40” not to exceed 43”

Under – 40” & Under

Foal of current year not to exceed 40”.

2. Regardless of age, here are examples of a pony being “Over”:

*Example:* A yearling Shetland that measures 41” is Over and if qualified, would show in the Over Championships. Although his actual height is 41” he is not eligible for the Grand Championship Under. The assumption is that a 41” yearling will mature over 42” and is to be considered an Over pony throughout.

*Example:* A two year old measuring 41.5” is an Over pony and would not be eligible for Classic Pleasure Driving or Classic Roadster class even though the height is listed 42” and Under. It would be unusual for a two year old to show in performance classes, but if the pony in this example did compete, the pony would have to be shown in the Over class.

#### D. **Foundation Shetland** - Height not to exceed 42”

3 Years and Older – 42” & Under

2 Year Old – 41” & Under

1 Year Old – 40” & Under

Foal of current year not to exceed 38”

#### E. **Miniature Horses**

1. AMHR shall have 2 height divisions

- a. Under:

- Horses 3 years of age and older – 34” and under

Two Year Olds – 33” and under  
Yearlings – 32” and under  
Foal of current year – 30” and under

b. Over:

Horses 3 years of age and older – over 34”  
but not over 38”

Two Year Olds – over 33” to 37”

Yearlings – over 32” to 36”

Foal of current year – over 30” to 32”.

2. Miniature foals of current year must be measured.

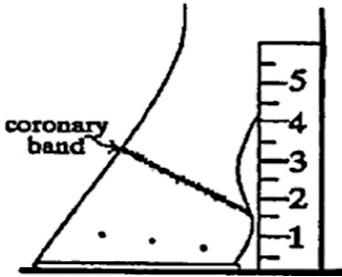
## F. National Sport Performance Pony

1. Small ponies are not to exceed 12.2 hands (50”).
2. Medium ponies are over 12.2 hands (50”) and do not exceed 13.2 hands (54”).
3. Large ponies are over 13.2 hands (54”) and do not exceed 14.2 hands (58”).

## 1.10 Heel Measurement

### A. Procedure for Heel Measurement

1. Heel measurements are required on all Shetlands (**Exception:** American Show Pony heels are not measured).
2. Using a six (6) inch metal ruler or caliper, the heel height is determined by measuring from the skin line on the lower side of the coronary band to the measuring surface, directly behind the bulb of the heel, with the ruler perpendicular to the measuring surface. Heel measurements must be made with the hoof firmly resting on the measuring surface.



3. Always measure the heel of the left front foot to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch.
4. Classic Shetlands maximum heel barefoot or shod including the plate shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches.
5. Foundation Shetlands maximum heel barefoot or shod including the plate shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

#### B. Calculating Maximum Heel Allowance

Example: (Modern Over)

Maximum height for "Over" 2 year.....	44.50"
Pony's actual measured height.....	43.75"
Difference.....	.75"
Actual heel measurement.....	2.25"
Maximum heel allowance.....	3.00"

Example: (Modern Under)

Maximum height for "under" yearling.....	41.00"
Pony's actual measured height.....	40.25"
Difference.....	.75"
Actual heel measurement.....	1.50"
Maximum heel allowance .....	2.25"

