



Australian Stock Horse
SOCIETY

Branch Handbook

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VERSION 4

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Australian Stock Horse
SOCIETY

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1 THE SOCIETY

1.1 About the Society

“The Australian Stock Horse is a fine working and performance animal, renowned for its toughness, endurance, resilience and strength. It also has a cat-like speed and agility, giving the horse a cosmopolitan blend of attributes, which have produced the world’s best at work and play.”

The Society was established in 1971 in Scone New South Wales, which promotes itself as ‘The Horse Capital of Australia’. Today the Society is one of the largest of the 70 individual horse breed associations in Australia.

- *Growing membership in excess of 8,500 individuals*
- *In excess of 200,000 registered horses*

The Vision

The Australian Stock Horse Society wants the Australian Stock Horse to have the highest profile of any breed of horse in Australia with worldwide recognition.

The Aims

- To preserve the heritage and identity of the Australian Stock Horse.
- To promote the development and popularity of Australian Stock Horses throughout Australia and the world.
- To maximise the benefits of owning a Registered Australian Stock Horse and being a Member of The Australian Stock Horse Society.

The Mission

To maintain the heritage, to promote the bloodlines and high performance of the Australian Stock Horse among equestrian activities and the general public.

The Society was set-up with a particular structure to ensure that the aims could be achieved at a Local, State and National level. Branches were established to conduct competitions and activities in their local area in line with the policy of the Board of Directors. Management Councils undertake a similar task within their area of influence. The Board of Directors set the overall direction of the Society and set goals to be achieved in particular time frames. For a graphic representation of this hierarchy please see the following page.

1.2 Why Belong to the Society?

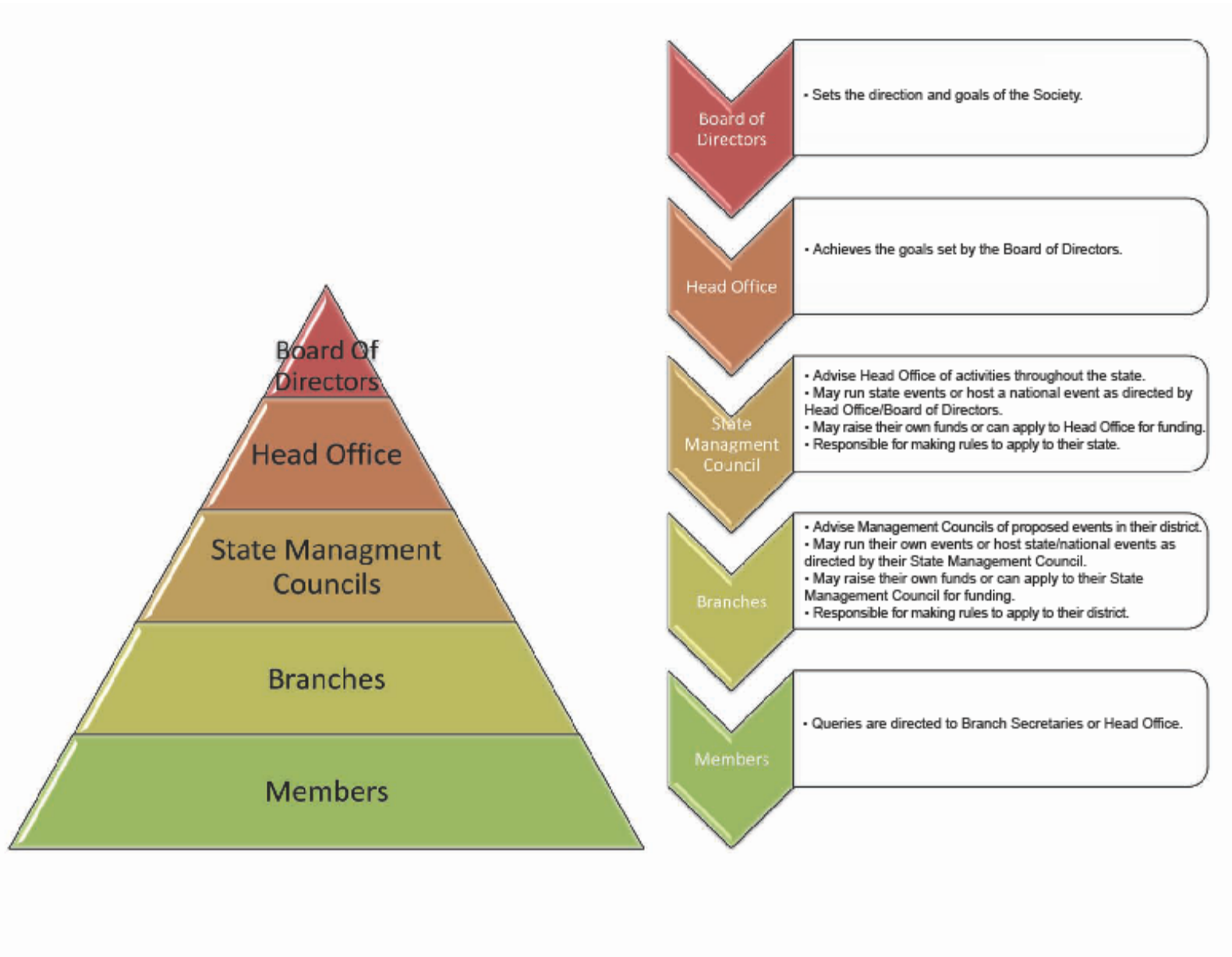
Affiliation with the larger parent body offers Branches benefits in terms of continued growth and development with the backing of a larger organisation.

Advantages of affiliation are:

- **Opportunity** to participate at Branch, state and national level
- **Pathways** for advancement in coaching, administration, officiating etc
- **Cost Savings** for the Branch
- **Knowledge**, skills and experience passed on by the more senior body
- **Public Liability Insurance**, covers ASHS Members at approved events run by Branches that are compliant with all ASHS affiliation requirements.

1.2.1 History

A brief history of The Australian Stock Horse Society is available on the Society website www.ashs.com.au. This could be used for background when putting together promotional material, any additional details required may be requested from Head Office.

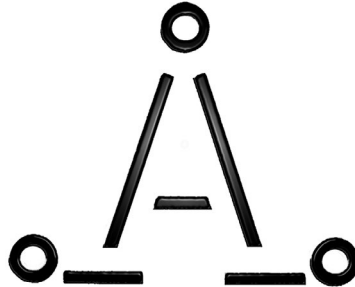


Society Hierarchy

Printed with thanks to Paula Garrard

1.3 Society Brandmark

In **2005**, a Society brandmark was introduced that consolidates and modernises the trusted image of The Australian Stock Horse Society, both as an organisation and as a brand. Central to the updated corporate image is the A brand which was originally designed in **1971**.



1.3.1 Society Emblem

By **2005** there were a number of images and emblems used to represent the Society. There was a need to pull them all together into a single, strong and recognisable identity. At this time the Society adopted its current logo, incorporating the A brand. The logo positions the Society as a progressive organisation but with strong values built over thirty-five years of hard work. This is the logo that should be used by Branches for all promotional materials. Copies can be obtained on request from Head Office.



1.4 Society Flag

The Society Flag was first commissioned in **1977**; over the years many variations of the flag appeared. In **2006**, the Board of Directors approved the official flag below. The Board provided a new flag for all Branches and Management Councils of the Society to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Society in **2006**.

This is the flag, which should be used at all Branch activities.



1.5 Resources Available from Head Office

Head Office is able to provide direction and resources for your Branch events and activities. Information is available on all aspects of Membership of the Society as well as information on helping run events.

Equipment for Hire

Please ensure you book equipment well in advance of your event. Place a booking with the Events Department who will be able to advise you of any fees and conditions applicable. Equipment must be collected and returned by the Branch; return will be expected within one month unless prior arrangements are made with Head Office.

Equipment available for hire from Head Office includes:

Bunting	Decorative Fencing
Team Yarding Collars	Witches Hats
Risk Management Signs and Banners	Orange Stanchions
Breast Plate Numbers	Electric Timers
Official Vests	Official Tents

Merchandise

Head Office maintains an excellent selection of ASHS Merchandise. Please contact Head Office for details regarding the current discounts available to Branches and Management Councils. Branches and Management Councils (MC), can purchase merchandise at the discounted rate to use as prizes or for the Branch or MC to sell and retain the difference between the discounted price and the current Society retail price.

Risk Management

Refer to Section 9 Risk Management and Legal Compliance. Please contact Head Office for more information.

Additional Resources

The Society also provides the following to Branches and Management Councils, as long as the materials required under the Licensing Agreement with the Society have been provided (Refer to Section 4.6.2 What to send to Head Office annually):

Branches

- ✓ Public Liability Insurance cover for ASHS approved activity at Branch level, upon submission of Site Inspection Checklists and Event Notification forms (excludes personal accident cover)
- ✓ Optional Cattle Insurance available for cattle at ASHS approved events (fees outlined on the form)
- ✓ Annual Branch reimbursement - \$300.00 per Branch - paid on receipt of completed Annual Return
- ✓ \$100 ASHS Gift Voucher provided to Branch Secretary on receipt of completed Annual Return
- ✓ 10 Green and gold sashes each year on application, in writing
- ✓ Discount on merchandise from Head Office. Gift Vouchers are available at cost
- ✓ 2 x ¼ page colour advertisements in the ASH Journal each year at no cost to the Branch
- ✓ Use of Society Name and Trademarks
- ✓ 2 lists of Branch Members annually free of charge. Additional lists may be requested in writing with an administration fee of \$50. These lists are confidential and are to be used for Branch use only and are not to be distributed.

Note: Forms referred to above are available on the website: www.ashs.com.au

Management Councils

- ✓ Public Liability Insurance cover for ASHS approved activity at Management Council level, upon submission of Site Inspection Checklist and Event Notification forms (excludes personal accident cover)
- ✓ Optional Cattle Insurance available for cattle at ASHS approved events (fees and conditions outlined on the form)
- ✓ Annual reimbursement - \$300 plus \$10 per active ASHS Branch under the MC – paid on receipt of completed Annual Return
- ✓ Promotional allocation – provided by the Board annually to be used for promotional purposes to support ASHS Members and competition eligible Australian Stock Horses at events in the area. These funds are not intended for use at Branch or ASHS events.
- ✓ State Maiden Campdraft Series Funding (or substitute event – pre-approved by the Board) - funds for prizemoney for running an ASHS Maiden Campdraft (or substitute event), run by an ASHS Branch or Management Council. Available on completion of an application. Funding is dependent on competitor numbers. All competitors must be current financial Members of the ASHS and all horses must be registered, competition eligible Australian Stock Horses.
- ✓ Show Series Funding (or substitute event – pre-approved by the Board) – funding for a Show Series (or substitute event), run by an ASHS Branch or Management Council. Available on completion of an application. Level of funding may be dependent of competitor numbers. All competitors must be current financial Members of the ASHS and all horses must be registered, competition eligible Australian Stock Horses.
- ✓ 10 Green and gold sashes each year on application, in writing
- ✓ Discount on merchandise from Head Office
- ✓ 2 x ½ page colour advertisements in the ASH Journal each year at no cost to the Management Council
- ✓ Use of Society Name and Trademarks

Note: Forms referred to above are available on the website: www.ashs.com.au

2 MEETINGS

2.1 Meeting Notices

All Branch Members should receive a Notice of Meeting 14 days prior to General Meetings. Annual General Meetings require a minimum of 21 days notice. Head Office can supply names of financial Members allocated to the Branch in list form to the Branch Secretary to check against existing Branch Member Register. Please request this in a timely manner. Please advise Head Office of any errors or discrepancies that may appear in the supplied list.

Meeting Templates are available through the Branch Library on the ASHS website.

2.2 Agenda

An agenda is simply a list of the things you want to discuss in your meeting. It helps to:

- Plan the meeting
- Get through the items of business of the meeting efficiently
- Members at the meeting follow what is going on
- Gives Members the opportunity to think about and do some preparation on the items of business in advance of the meeting

Agenda Template is available through the Branch Library on the ASHS website.

Items for the Agenda

- Put each issue down as a separate item
- Look through the minutes of the last Committee meeting. Is there anything to report back on or that needs to be discussed again?
- Correspondence – has your Branch received anything that needs to be discussed? Are there any letters that need to be sent?
- Standing items – these are items that are always on the agenda. A standing item for your Branch may be the Financial Manager's report or any reports from Subcommittees
- General Business – there may be requests for an item to be on the Agenda from Members

Some matters the Secretary and President should consider before a Meeting

- Think about what items need an introduction and who will do this
- Ensure that background papers are prepared in advance if an item needs them and distribute them to the Committee if necessary
- Ensure that you are informed what each item of business is about – reference to past minutes may be required

2.3 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Branch Rules should stipulate the matters that should be discussed at the AGM. All other matters come under the classification of special business.

The Branch AGM must be held each year in accordance with State Regulations. AGMs are to be held within six (6) months of the Branch's End of Financial Year and require a minimum of 21 days notice to all Branch Members. Please contact your State Department of Fair Trading or equivalent for further information. At every Branch AGM the following business must be conducted:

- Approval of the previous AGM Minutes
- Election of Committee
- Receiving of the President's Report
- Receiving of the Financial Report

Suggested Structure of an AGM is:

- **The President's Welcome:** Outlines the past year and welcomes members to the meeting
- **Apologies:** The Secretary reads out apologies. A motion that these be accepted is moved and carried
- **Minutes of the last Meeting:** The minutes for last year's Annual General Meeting are read. A motion that these be accepted and carried
- **Matters Arising:** Any matters arising from last year's minutes are dealt with
- **Correspondence:** All correspondence, bar letters of apology will be remits or notices of motion and should therefore be in the agenda in the appropriate place
- **Report from the President:** The President should deliver the Annual Report on the activities of the year. It should include information on the plans for the future. Discussion on the report can proceed once it has been moved, the report has been adopted, and a seconder to the motion has been found. If the Secretary intends to give a report this is the appropriate point in the meeting
- **Annual Statement of Accounts (Treasurer's Report):** The Treasurer presents the balance sheet and annual statement of accounts; he or she should move they be adopted. Discussion can take place once the motion finds a seconder
- **Reports from Subcommittees or other Delegated Persons:** Such reports should outline activities carried out and may present recommendations for the meeting to consider for adoption
- **Election of Committee Members:** At this point the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and incoming Committee should be elected. Outgoing Committee Members should be thanked for their service
- **Optional Guest Speaker:** The guest speaker should be a relevant personality and time for questioning should be made available. Pass a vote to thank the speaker
- **Motions of Notice:** The motions should appear on the agenda with a brief outline as to the purpose of the remit so Members can be well prepared for any debate on the issue. Motions can be amended at the meeting before being put to the vote
- **General Business:** Matters not already covered fall under general business. These are usually items, which can be swiftly dealt with
- **Date of Next Meeting:** The date is arranged for the next meeting
- **Close:** The President can now declare the meeting closed

Within one (1) calendar month of conducting an AGM the following must be sent to Head Office to comply with the Licensing Agreement:

- AGM minutes – minuting any Office Bearer changes
 - List of Office Bearers
 - Copy of Department of Fair Trading (or equivalent in each state), Paperwork/proof of Lodgement
 - Financial Statement for the financial year – 12 month period
- Note: this does not have to be an Audit Report unless required in your state. Please check with the relevant State Department.

2.4 Special Meetings

The timing and reasons for calling special general meetings must fall within the scope of your Branch Rules (previously referred to as Constitution). Notices of a special meeting must clearly outline the urgent business to be considered and any motions to be considered. Special meetings are usually only for major changes to Rules. Check your Branch's Rules.

2.5 Committee Meetings

The primary Committee is the Management Committee elected at the AGM. It, in turn, appoints other Committees and gives them tasks and jobs. For example a Campdraft Subcommittee or a Youth Subcommittee could be appointed. Refer to your Branch Rules.

2.6 Social Meetings

Social meetings can make a big contribution to the wellbeing of the Branch, by bonding Members and boosting morale. Well-organised social functions that offer the chance for enjoyment and discussion are best. Suggested social functions include a 'pool day', 'trail ride' and a 'Christmas barbeque'.

2.7 Meeting Templates

Are available under the Branch Library on the ASHS Website.

3 MEMBERS

3.1 Register of Members

Incorporated organisations are legally required to keep a Register of Members. This must include names, addresses and occupations of Members and the date each Member joined the Branch. A way to gather this information is to use a Branch Membership Application form. A fee may be imposed on Members to complete their Branch Membership application.

Some Branches may vote to adopt the Branch Lists provided by Head Office as the Register of Branch Members. Branch Member Lists are confidential and are not to be distributed within the Branch or to any group or person outside the Branch without the Member's permission in writing.

Refer to Section 3.5 Membership Templates for a Register of Members. A Branch Membership Application template is available under the Branch Library on the ASHS Website.



Star Tip: All Branch Members must be current Financial Members of the Society.

3.2 Rights and Obligations of Members

Members generally have the right to:

- Use and enjoy the Branch's facilities
- Participate in all Branch activities
- Attend all meetings
- Hold office
- Vote at Branch meetings – if over 18 years of age.

Members are obliged to:

- Observe the rules
- Protect and look after the Branch's assets and equipment
- Respect the rights of fellow Members
- Pay annual Membership fees to the Society by the due date
- Pay Branch Membership fee according to Branch rules if applicable

Please refer to the ASHS website under Rules and Regulations for the Types of Members and their entitlements.

3.3 Termination of Membership

Membership ceases following death or resignation. A Member may be asked to step down or their membership may be suspended. Situations where termination of membership may occur are outlined in the Branch's Rules. In cases of removal, the committee must act responsibly.

Please refer to the ASHS website under Rules and Regulations for the Society rules regarding Termination of Membership.

3.4 Temporary Membership

Each Temporary Membership entitles an individual (regardless of age) to participate/compete at an ASH show, activity or programme run at a Branch level. A Temporary Member is **not** entitled to any of the rights associated with other classes of Membership.

Some levels of Temporary Membership may qualify the person to join the Society at a discounted rate – conditions apply.

Please refer to the ASHS website under the Branch Library for more information.

3.5 Membership Templates

Register of Members Template - See following page

4 COMMITTEE

4.1 Responsibility

A Committee is responsible for:

- Administration
- Financial Management
- Leadership

A Branch Committee will consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and no more than ten (10) but no less than three (3) Financial Members. All Members of the Committee must be current Financial Members of the Society.

Broadly, the Committee's job is to ensure that the group:

- Does what it is set up to do
- Has enough money and does not get into debt
- Is well run



Star Tip: The Committee is a team – it should draw on the skills and talents of each Member, working with one common goal – *'To maintain the heritage and to promote the bloodlines and high performance of the Australian Stock Horse among equestrian activities and the general public.'*

4.2 What makes an Effective Committee Member?

To ensure the Branch's success, a Committee should draw on the skills and talents of each Member, whilst working towards a common goal. It is important to identify the mandatory skills and recognise gaps in skills that may require further training.

Effective Committee Members should have:

- Sufficient time to devote to the Committee
- An understanding of the role of the Committee
- Enthusiasm and dedication
- Leadership skills and willingness to accept responsibility
- Good communication skills
- Tact, judgement, discretion and listening skills

The Committee should become aware of the various skills that Members have and allocate tasks according to those skills.

4.3 Changing Committees

How your Branch structures its Committee will determine how often it changes. Whatever the reason the resultant loss of management experience can be disruptive but think about the positive aspects of changing the Committee. New Committee Members may inject the Branch with fresh enthusiasm; increase expertise and new ideas.

Your Branch may like to operate a rolling Committee structure, which means some Members stand down after a set period to enable fresh input from new Members, for instance a Branch could use the same three (3) year cycle as the Board. In these situations, there is the potential for a lot of experience to be lost unless a Branch is careful.

It is important for outgoing Committee Members to pass on as much knowledge as possible. The new Committee can learn from past mistakes and can gain an understanding of how past successes were achieved.

A senior official should brief the new Committee about the Branch, its history and its plans for the future. This could be backed up with a written plan.

4.4 Role of the President

The President is the principal leader and has overall responsibility for the Branch's administration. From a strategic perspective, the President should set the overall annual Committee 'agenda' (consistent with the views of Members), help the Committee prioritise its goals and then try to keep the Committee on track. At the operational level, the major function of the President is to facilitate/chair effective Committee meetings.

Throughout Committee meetings the President:

- Notes who wishes to speak, and indicates when a person may speak
- Is responsible for keeping the conversation to the subject
- Decides when discussion should be brought to an end
- Does not usually get involved in the discussion unless his/her opinion is sought
- Should summarise the issue under discussion to aid in decision-making
- Refer an item to a working group for a report at the next meeting if it is apparent that a decision cannot be made

The President should:

- Be well informed of all organisation activities
- Be aware of the future directions and plans of Members
- Have a good working knowledge of the constitution, rules and the duties of all office-bearers and sub-committees
- Manage Committee meetings
- Manage the Annual General Meeting
- Represent the Society at local and regional levels
- Be a supportive leader for all Branches' Members
- Act as a facilitator for Branch activities

4.4.1 Chairing Meetings



Star Tip: What are the Chairperson's main responsibilities?

- Getting the meeting through all the business in the time allocated
- Making sure everyone's view is heard, this can be done by checking that everyone has had their say before a decision is made, or you move on to another item
- Making sure that the decisions that have been made are clear. A tip is to summarise the main points and what has been decided at the end of discussion
- Making sure it is clear who is going to do what tasks
- Ensure the meeting is in order, this means stopping interruptions and irrelevancies, and allowing everyone to be heard

4.5 Vice-President

The Vice-President provides general support and back-up to the President and Committee. Part of the Vice-President's role is to chair the Meeting in the absence of the President and to carry out any duties delegated by the President. Some examples of where the Vice President can provide support and serve a useful purpose are:

- In charge of Membership drive
- Heading up particular Sub-committees
- Preparing reports for consideration by the Branch Committee

4.6 Secretary

The Secretary is the chief administration officer of the Branch. The person in this role is responsible for keeping people informed about the Branch's activities as it provides the coordination link between Members, the Branch's executive committee and outside agencies, e.g. another local Branch.

Secretaries should keep the following information in order and carry out the following tasks:

- ✓ Keep up-to-date copies of Society forms with instructions on how to use them
- ✓ Keep Head Office informed about Branch activities
- ✓ Keep files of past minutes and reports
- ✓ Prepare agendas and take minutes at Committee meetings
- ✓ Inform Members when and where the next meeting is and what it is about
- ✓ Keep a record of membership lists
- ✓ Create duty rosters
- ✓ Inform Members of competition and activity dates
- ✓ Produce and arrange printing of programmes for competition
- ✓ Keep a record of competition results

4.6.1 Secretarial Correspondence Duties

Inward Correspondence	Outward Correspondence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regularly clearing the mail box	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Listing the letters to be replied to and who wrote them
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recording mail received and to whom it is distributed within the Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identifying the main points to be covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Acknowledging each letter promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ensuring all replies to correspondence are prompt
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Always clearing the mail before the Committee meetings so that correspondence can be distributed and dealt with at the meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Filing copies of all correspondence and replies in Branch records under the appropriate heading▪ Sending an interim reply indicating progress if a letter will need further or wider consideration▪ Listing matters which need letters to be written and to whom to write



Star Tip: File things! This is very important, as you may need to be able to find papers and reports quickly and easily. A good filing system makes an easier change-over for the next Secretary.

4.6.2 What to Send to Head Office Annually

Each year Branches are asked to forward the following Annual Return documents/information as per the Licensing Agreement with the Society:

- ✓ AGM minutes (**within one month of the AGM**) – minuting any office-bearer changes
- ✓ List of Office-Bearers
- ✓ Copy of Department of Fair Trading Paperwork, or equivalent (**within one month of the AGM**)
- ✓ Financial Statement for the financial year (**within one month of the AGM**)
Note: this **does not** have to be an Audit Report
- ✓ Changes to Branch banking details for direct payments as required
- ✓ Annual Insurance papers on request

Branches complying with these arrangements and on receipt of a complete Annual Return receive a \$300 Branch Reimbursement. In addition, the secretary receives a \$100.00 ASHS Gift Voucher.

Other financial support for certain events is paid directly to your Management Council each year; you will need to liaise with them regarding this assistance.

Refer to section 1.5 Resources Available from Head Office for full details of Branch Entitlements

4.6.3 What Should Former Secretaries Pass On?

A former Secretary should pass on:

- ✓ Branch Handbook – latest version on ASHS Website
 - ✓ Events Rules & Regulations – latest version on ASHS Website
 - ✓ Branch Incorporation information for example Branch Rules, Licensing Agreement, ABN details, GST registration, details of the Public Officer
 - ✓ Branch Register of Members
 - ✓ Temporary Member Receipt Book with instructions
 - ✓ All Minutes
 - ✓ All correspondence
 - ✓ Cattle Lodgement forms
 - ✓ Event Notification forms
 - ✓ Site Inspection Checklists
 - ✓ Point Scores previously used by the Branch for their Annual Awards
 - ✓ Official ASHS Flag (provided by the Board in January 2006)
 - ✓ Access to Branch Email
 - ✓ Access to electronic files and all Branch related electronic information
- } All Event forms available on ASHS Website

4.6.4 Branch Records

In order for a Branch to run efficiently, it is necessary to keep records. It is recommended that Branches retain records for 10 years, as some legislation requires that Branch records be kept for a minimum period. Some records, such as Branch Rules and Certificates of Incorporation should always be retained.

There are a wide range of computer packages available to assist with the maintenance of records which simplifies many Branch processes.

However, if you do not yet have access to a computer or the appropriate programs you may need the following:

- A Register of Members – list, cards, book or file
- A Minute Book and notebook for taking notes at meetings
- A filing system suitable for keeping Branch records
- Stationery – plain or embossed with the Branch's name, address and the Society's logo
- A book to record Branch assets and liabilities
- Membership Application forms and other standard forms
- A calendar for recording dates of meetings, activities and deadlines

4.6.5 How to Take Better Minutes

Minutes should start by showing the name of the organisation, the time, date and place of the meeting and the type (General, Extraordinary, Annual General, etc). Then should follow the President's name, a list of those present and any apologies. If the meeting is being conducted online through platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom this needs to be documented.

Refer to Section 4.6.6 Useful Templates for Secretaries for a Minutes Template

Details of the business transacted should then follow step by step, with appropriate sub-headings. Motions and Amendments should be recorded accurately (word for word). Only financial ASHS Members over the age of 18 years can move or second a motion or vote at Branch meetings. It is not a legal requirement that the names of movers and seconders be recorded, but it is fairly common practice to show at least the mover's name. The President should assist the Secretary (and the Meeting for that matter) by asking that Motions be read out in full, and, if necessary, handed up in writing. The final item is the finishing time, and date/place of the next Meeting.

Authorisation for the expenditure of funds must be recorded, and the minute-taker must ensure that they are sufficient to show the expenditure has been authorised by a properly constituted Meeting.



Star Tip: Minutes are simply notes taken during the meeting. They need to record clearly what decisions were made at the meeting and who is going to carry them out.

4.6.6 Useful Templates for Secretaries

See following pages

Meeting Agenda Template



Australian Stock Horse
SOCIETY

X BRANCH/MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING DATE HELD AT

Meeting Opened: TIME

1. Present

2. Apologies

3. Previous Minutes

Moved XX seconded by XX that the Minutes of the X Branch Meeting held XX be approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

5. Correspondence - Incoming

6. Correspondence – Outgoing

7. Treasury Report

8. Membership Report

9. Publicity Report

10. Subcommittee Reports

11. Events

- Upcoming Events
- Tasks to be delegated for upcoming events

	Task	Responsibility
1	Programme and Draw	
2	Trophies and Prizes	
3	Judges	
4	Officials and Stewards	
5	Ambulance / St Johns	
6	Veterinary Surgeon	
7	Sponsorship	
8	Publicity/Promotions/Advertising	
9	Commentators	
10	Catering	
11	Entertainment	
12	Bar	
13	Equipment and Setting Up	
14	Water	
15	Toilets	
16	PA System	
17	Horse Float Ambulance	
18	Flowers (decorations)	
19	Collection of Entries and Fees	
20	Risk Management	
21	Signage (Car Park, No Entry etc)	
22	Programme Printing	
23	Gate Collectors	
24	Working Bee (grounds)	DATE

- Event Reports

12. General Business

All carried.

13. Time and date of the next Meeting

The next Branch Committee Meeting will be held on DATE.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at TIME.



Australian Stock Horse
SOCIETY

Society Ltd.

Australia

A/C NO:

Branch Name:

The Australian Stock Horse

48 Guemsey Street, Scone.
PO Box 288, Scone,
New South Wales, 2337,

Telephone 02 6545 1122
Facsimile 02 6545 2165

ABN 35 001 440 437

**BANKING DETAILS REQUESTED FOR
ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER**

BANK:

BRANCH:

BSB NUMBER:

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

ACCOUNT NAME:

EMAIL (FOR REMITTANCE ADVICE):

Future payments will be made into your nominated bank account.

Any queries please contact the office.



X BRANCH

President:
NAME
Tel:
Mob:
Fax:
Email:

Branch postal address
Branch T

Secretary:
NAME
Tel:
Mob:
Fax:
Email:

PROXY FORM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DATE

If you want to appoint a proxy, use this form and make sure that the President receives it by DATE & TIME.

Step 1 – Your Details (please print)

Family Name: _____ Given Names: _____ ASHS Membership No: _____

Postal Address (please include postcode):

Step 2 – Proxy Details

Mark one box only, as shown here

For the Annual General Meeting of NAME Branch of The Australian Stock Horse Society Limited on DATE and any adjournment of that Meeting:

a) I appoint the person I have named below as my proxy.

Note: This person must be a financial Member of the Branch and The Australian Stock Horse Society Limited.

Your Proxy's Family Name: _____ Their Initials: _____ ASHS Membership No: _____ Their Postcode: _____

b) I appoint the Chairman of the Meeting (including any adjournment of the Meeting) as my proxy to vote for me on a poll in accordance with my instructions (if any) on this Proxy Form.

Step 3 – Voting Instructions

To direct your proxy how to vote on the resolution set out in the Notice of Meeting, mark one box only for the items set out below. If you do not direct your proxy how to vote, your proxy may decide how to vote.

Where a person appointed as a proxy is not given instructions as to how to vote on this proxy form by you and the proxy chooses not to vote, the Chairman cannot vote as your alternative proxy.

I authorise my proxy to vote

Motion 1 FOR AGAINST
Motion 2 FOR AGAINST

the resolutions contained in the Notice to Members for the Annual General Meeting on DATE.

Step 4 – Your Signature

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

4.7 Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial management of the Branch. The whole Committee should agree on spending decisions.

The Treasurer needs to be:

- Well organised and able to maintain accurate records of income and expenditure
- Aware of information needing to be kept for annual reporting requirements
- Ensure Annual Returns are filed with the State Department of Fair Trading or equivalent, if required
- Prepare Annual Financial Reports
- Be the signatory on Branch accounts/cheques (with at least one other person)

It is the duty of the Treasurer of the Branch to ensure:

- (a) that all money due to the Branch is collected and received and that all payments authorised by the Branch are made; and
- (b) that correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the Branch including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Branch.

4.7.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report should provide a summary of information in the cash book so that the Committee is informed of its financial position. He or she should outline the list of accounts requiring approval for payment plus detail on how spending income is going against budgeted items. It is suggested that cash flow and financial statement documents support the Treasurer's Report.



Star Tip: The Treasurer should always be in the position at any meeting to say how much money the Branch has available. To provide the Committee with a useful picture of the Branch's financials, it is best to outline:

- Money available in bank account
- Amount received and amount spent so far in the year
- Expected expenses/incoming invoices and income over the next month or quarter

4.7.2 Report to the AGM

This should be a financial report outlining:

- Total amount received, with a breakdown of receipts (i.e. how much the Branch received from competition entries, membership fees, grants etc)
- Total amount paid out, with a breakdown of payments (i.e. how much the Branch paid on stationery, catering, postage, equipment hire, etc)
- The amount of money left and where the funds are held. Therefore, how much is in the bank and how much the Treasurer holds in cash or a float
- Needs to cover the relevant 12-month period



Star Tip: It is a good idea to have a copy of the Annual Financial Report to circulate to Members.

4.7.3 Accounting System

The Treasurer of your Branch may like to consider the following pointers to help make his/her role easier.

1. Keep your accounting system as simple as possible. This not only makes the Auditor (if applicable), happy but also makes it easier for the Treasurer when asked questions at a Meeting.
2. The system revolves around the Cash Book, which can also be known as the Ledger. The minimum columns needed would be:
 - a. INCOME
 - i. Date (of receipt of money)
 - ii. Receipt Number
 - iii. From (whom it was received)
 - iv. Details (what it is for)
 - v. Amount (of the receipt)
 - vi. Bank (the total of column 5 actually banked)
 - b. EXPENDITURE
 - i. Date (of payment out)
 - ii. Cheque Number/payment type/DD reference number
 - iii. Payee (to whom paid)
 - iv. Details (what it was paid for)
 - v. Amount

Refer to Section 4.7.6 Account Cash Book Example

3. The books your Treasurer will need are:
 - a. Ledger
 - b. Receipt Book
 - c. Bank Deposit Book
 - d. Cheque Book or Bank Statement
4. One of the most important things to remember is to record **all** money received and **all** money paid out. If your Branch requires a cash advance, or petty cash for the Secretary, then draw a cheque and insist that the person receiving the cash keeps a detailed record of how the money was spent.
5. Some people are not sure what is required when they are presenting their Treasurer's Report to a monthly (or annual) Meeting. Refer to the handy hints that are outlined under the Treasurer's Report in Section 4.7.1.
6. Keep the Receipt Book, Cheque Book, Bank Statements and copies of accounts together with the Cash Book in a safe place so they are available for the Auditor when needed.
7. Your books are "closed off" at the end of each year and presented to the Auditor so that he has enough time to inspect and report back before the Annual General Meeting.
8. Be sure to have enough money in the bank to cover all costs incurred in the general working of the Branch. Do not let the Meeting be carried away by a big bank balance early in the year.

Star Tip:

- Keep on file supporting paperwork for any money that is received or paid out.

4.7.4 Financial Management

Budget

The budget is a plan based on accurate quotes from all contractors and suppliers. Careful investigation should be undertaken to ensure that no expenses have been overlooked and the financial aspects of the event remain on course.

A suggested process to follow when drafting a budget:

- Draft the budget based on an analysis of all available information.
- Consider any potential impacts on the budget and alternative approaches to the budget. For example, lack of entries due to drought etc.
- Ensure the draft budget reflects the objectives of the Branch activities.
- Circulate the budget for discussion at a Committee meeting and make necessary amendments.
- Finalise the budget.

As the Branch activity draws closer review the budget regularly and assess performance.

Your Branch could adopt the following procedures to develop an annual Branch Budget:

1. The Branch Executive prepares a list of their anticipated expenditure for the coming year. This list could be in two parts, namely “essentials” and “non-essentials if funds permit”.
2. The list is then presented to Members, preferably at a General Meeting held in the month prior to the Annual General Meeting.
3. The Meeting estimates the likely income, having regard to last year’s fund-raising activities and seeing which were successful and which were not.
4. Those functions that were not so good are scratched and replaced (where possible) with alternative ideas. Any new suggestions are incorporated, and a fund-raising calendar drawn up for the year.
5. The Meeting then looks at the estimate of expenditure received from the Committee and draws up its budget. This need not be in great detail and unless a special project is being contemplated, it will serve the purpose to allocate money in groups, so much for Show, so much for Promotion etc.
6. Each item should be assessed on its merits. Deal with the ‘essentials’ first, and only go on to the ‘non-essentials’ if it seems that enough money will be available. In any case the Budget should be drawn on the conservative side. It can always be amended later.
7. At the Annual General Meeting the Budget is presented for Adoption. Remember that all accounts for payment must be presented to a Meeting of the Branch for ratification.
8. The Budget should be reviewed from time to time and any necessary modifications made by the Meeting. If it looks as though income will be ‘above budget’, that is the time to look at some of the ‘non-essentials’ previously dropped.

Don’t forget that a Budget is only a ‘working paper’ of estimated income and expenditure and can be altered at any time by the normal decision-making processes of the Branch. However, you should be quite clear that no items would be passed for payment that have not previously been specified in the Budget or added later by specific decision of the Branch. No item can possibly be so urgent that it can’t wait for a properly constituted Meeting for discussion.

Income Strategy to ensure a viable event or activity


Developing an income strategy for each Branch activity. Consider your Branch's activity objectives and costs of all those attending when developing a strategy for income.

Income for your Branch activity could come from the following sources:

- Competition Entry fees
- Spectator Entry tickets
- Rental for stalls and stands
- Fees from exhibitors
- Merchandise sales
- Sale of food and beverages
- Sponsorship or grants
- Holding an auction or raffle (seek information from your local equivalent of the Department of Gaming and Licensing prior to conducting any raffles or competitions)

Cash Flow Projections

Capital is required in the planning phase of your Branch activity as in most cases the period for capturing revenue may be short. Cash flow issues could arise as the bulk of the revenue is generally collected close to, or during the event and the majority of expenses may occur early in the planning process. A handy hint on how to prepare and manage cash flow issues is to develop a spreadsheet of monthly expenses and projected revenue.

 **Star Tip:** The aim of financial management for an event is for all expenses to be recouped at the time. It is advisable to develop a budget prior to your Branch activity that anticipates all revenue and expenditure.

4.7.5 Funding or Grants

Branches and Management Councils may be eligible to apply for grants so it is a good idea to keep an eye on what is available.

Grants vary significantly and are often available from local, state, and federal government as well as from private businesses/companies.

Community, sport and recreation and youth grants can all be searched easily online.

There are 10 basic details that should be considered when applying for grants

1. Ensure your Branch is eligible for the grant. Check the guidelines of the grant
2. Check to see the project/event your Branch is seeking funds for is eligible for this grant
3. Check the closing date for applications
4. Take the time to read the guidelines for the grant. The organisation supplying the grant will assist your Branch when submitting the grant application
5. Note the additional material that is required to support the grant application and ensure you include it with your application.
6. Read and follow the instructions for each question. Make sure you follow guidelines i.e. Word count limit
7. Ensure your Branch's contact details are correctly listed in your application and that the appropriate Branch Member can be contacted when needed. Provide an after-hours number and email address as well
8. Do not leave any questions unanswered – if a response is not applicable then mark that on the application.
9. Proofread your application and then have someone else do the same
10. If in doubt or any questions arise contact the grant provider. It is advisable to ensure they know who you are, so they remember you have taken the time to contact them

4.7.6 Account Cash Book Example

See next page

Cash Book Example

Receipts

Date	Details	Receipt No	Amount \$	Membership \$	Entry Fees \$	Sponsorship \$	Food \$	Beverages \$	Banked \$
1 July 2007	B Smith	00245	\$15.00	\$15.00					
3 July 2007	K Red	00246	\$65.00	\$15.00	\$50.00				\$65.00

Receipts are usually entered in three places, depending on the amount of detail required and the type of cash book system used. They are usually entered in the amount column (in receipt number order), under its account column and in the banked column when it is banked. At the end of each month the cash receipts columns should balance with one another (ie the amount column when totalled should tally with the total of all other columns, excluding banked, added together).

Total all receipt columns at the end of each month. Accumulated totals can be compared to budgeted items to reveal whether items are on budget, ahead or behind. When balanced the monthly closing balances can be carried forward as the opening balances for the next month.

Payments

Date	Details	Cheque No or DD Reference	Amount \$	Wages \$	Electricity \$	Printing \$	Telephone \$	Hiring (Equipment & Venue) \$	Event Supplies \$
4 July 2007	Telstra	00352	60.00				60.00		
10 July 2007	Local Council	00353	300.00					300.00	

When an electronic payment or cheque is issued, the details should be entered in the appropriate columns. The amount column provides a running total of expenditure for the organisation. At the end of each month the cash payments columns should balance with one another (i.e. the amount column totalled should tally with the total of all other columns added together).

All payment columns should be totalled at the end of each month. Accumulated totals can be compared to budgeted figures to reveal whether expenditure items are on budget, ahead or behind. When balanced, the monthly closing balances can be carried forward as the opening balances for the next month.

4.8 Publicity/Promotions Coordinator

Roles and Responsibilities of a Publicity/Promotions Coordinator:

- Develop and implement a public relations programme.
- Ensure that the Branch receives maximum promotional exposure in all spheres.
- Submit results from each Branch event to the Society and to local media.
- Write media releases concerning upcoming events, interesting personalities or Branch events.
- Coordinate arrangements for press media coverage of Branch news releases on functions, staff changes, players and recruits.
- Assist in the publication of Branch newsletters and reports. See below for some suggestions for topics to include.
- Assist in the development of a programme for the recruitment and retention of financial supporters of the Branch.
- Act as a liaison person for media at all events.
- Be familiar with all local media personnel.
- Develop a strategy to better market and promote the Branch.
- Arrange for sponsorship of teams and or advertising of organisations through the Branch newsletter and social media platforms.
- Liaise with other Committee members regularly.

Also refer to Section 6 Branch Activities and Events

4.8.1 Suggested Newsletter Topics

Predominantly Branch Newsletters should be kept local and of interest to your Branch Members. Take their suggestions for topics or stories. Starting points could be:

- Branch Show Results and photos
- Upcoming Branch Events or those that attract ASH Members and Australian Stock Horses
- Branch Show Programmes
- Branch Member Spotlight/Profile
- Local Event Reviews – focus on any Branch Members or ASHs who performed well
- Head Office news and information
- Upcoming Meeting details
- Requests for suggestions for activities
- Sponsor appreciation section
- Welcome to new Branch Members
- Local news as appropriate to Branch Members and their horses

4.9 Volunteer Coordinator

The roles and responsibilities of the Volunteer Coordinator:

- Seek out and recruit volunteers for the Branch activities.
- Determine where the volunteers are needed.
- Provide job descriptions for all tasks.
- Plan the recruitment strategy.
- Prepare written material for posters, newsletters etc.
- Hold regular meetings with volunteers.
- Supervise volunteers or find other Members to supervise volunteers.
- Keep up-to-date records of volunteers (volunteer register).
- Keep volunteers motivated and enthusiastic.
- Ensure that each volunteer has training and induction to help in carrying out their designated tasks.
- Make volunteers feel “special” by public and personal acknowledgments.
- Ensure that the right person is found for the particular job and that where there is a mismatch that the volunteer’s feelings are considered and valued.
- Revise volunteer duties.
- Liaise with other Committee Members regularly.

Also refer to Section 5 on Volunteer Management.

5 VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

The Australian Stock Horse Society Branches and events rely on volunteers and therefore we need those volunteers to take an active interest in the future of the organisation and their specific roles within it. A register of volunteers should be maintained at all Branch events. Volunteers need to sign in and out, with times recorded and a brief description of their role should be included in the register.

A Volunteer is:

“A representative from the community who freely chooses to give their time, skills and experience to support Branch activities.”

Volunteers must be aged between 12 years and 80 years and do not have to be Members of the Society.



Star Tip: Effective planning and management of people is at the core of any successful event. Ensure an event is adequately staffed with the right people, who are appropriately trained, inducted and motivated.

The Task/Job Description/Induction

A job description gives a Volunteer a clear understanding of what their responsibilities will be and acts as an official agreement between the Branch and the Volunteer.

A Job description may include:

- *Job Title*
- *Organisation and immediate supervisor (name and title)*
- *Place and time requirements (hours, frequency, dates, etc)*
- *Duties and responsibilities*
- *Basic qualifications needed (if applicable)*
- *Special skills or training required (if applicable)*

Induction

Inductions of volunteers, including judges are designed to keep people safe. They are a work cover and state requirement. Different roles require different levels of induction, and it is important to record the relevant information on a simple form that can be signed by the inductee at the conclusion of their induction. The form can include tick boxes and provide space for the inductee to sign:

- Was the person inducted?
- Who carried out the induction?
- What induction took place?
- Was the person given the relevant information to enable him to carry out his role safely?
- Was he aware of the equipment needed or was equipment provided?
- Is the person capable to carry out the set tasks?

. ASHS Horse Safe Volunteer Induction

The Society's insurer Affinity Equine provides a free online training module to induct people volunteering at horse events in Australia. Please see: <https://www.affinityriskmanagement.com.au/course/ashs-horse-safe-volunteer-induction/>

5.1 Recruiting

Your Branch may like to start a Volunteer Register, which will enable it to call upon volunteers when required.

When recruiting volunteers emphasise the benefits for the volunteers rather than the needs of the organisation.

By designing a programme that best suits volunteers' needs and having an idea what motivates them, the recruiting process will be straightforward. One myth to dispel about volunteers is that they share the same interests, expectations and reasons for volunteering. Remember volunteers may include a wide variety of people such as grandparents, students, parents, friends, neighbours, etc.

5.2 Retaining

Your Branch should make a considerable effort at making volunteers feel part of the Branch. The volunteers should be aware of The Australian Stock Horse Society Vision, Aims and Mission and how their position contributes towards that direction. Offer them lots of support, reward them for their efforts and listen to their ideas.

The four pillars of retention are:

- Satisfying motivation (Checking that outcome of work match expectations)
- Sense of belonging (Social interaction, involvement in decisions, Christmas Cards, etc)
- Recognition of volunteers (Badges, t-shirts, certificate etc)
- Keeping positive (Providing good tools for the job, two-way communication and conflict resolution)

5.3 Recognising

Remember, volunteers work without pay and their motivation for continuing to work depends on their feeling of value and accomplishment. Recognition is extremely important. By understanding the needs and interests of the volunteers, appropriate rewards for each person can be devised.

Most importantly be consistent about recognising the achievements and efforts of your volunteers. This should be done as soon as possible in relation to the event. It is advised not to leave this important task until the end of competition season or after all the Branch activities, as you may then lose your volunteers.

Your Branch may like to adopt a 'Volunteer of the Day' award. Be creative about recognition and the way it is done, personalise it so that each volunteer is recognised in a way that is special to him or her.

Here are some ideas:

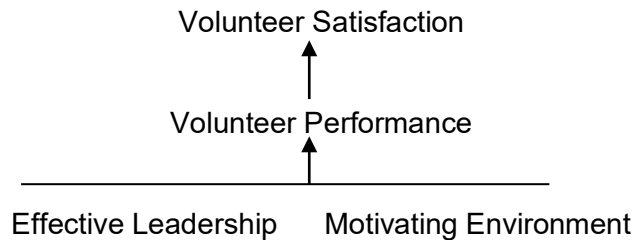
- *Use VIP recognition awards*
- *Letters of thanks*
- *Certificates of appreciation*
- *Identification pins, buttons, t-shirts*
- *Recognition of outstanding effort in newsletters or in Committee meetings*
- *Special awards for Volunteers, presented at the Annual General Meeting (note this down in minutes)*
- *Award hard working Volunteers the honour of life membership*
- *Reimburse Volunteers for "out of pocket" expenses*
- *Allow time to listen to their ideas*
- *Nominate your Volunteers for local and state awards*

5.4 Common Reasons for Loss of Volunteers

As it is hard to find volunteers it is important to secure them once you have sourced them. To help your Branch in retaining volunteers the following 10 grumbles should be kept in mind.

1. *I do not know what I'm doing here* – some of your volunteers will not know a lot about the Society or event, they'll be there because a friend or relative asked them. It always helps to explain why the event is being held and provide some background about the Society.
2. *I do not know what I'm doing* – make sure your volunteers have clearly defined tasks.
3. *I do not know why I'm doing this* – volunteers need to understand how their job fits in with what everybody is doing and where they sit in the wider scheme of things.
4. *I do not know why I'm doing this* – try to match volunteers and their skills to jobs.
5. *I do not know how to do this* – be sure volunteers have enough training to carry out the job satisfactorily.
6. *I do not know if I'm doing this properly* – volunteers like feedback to verify if they are carrying out their task properly.
7. *I'm thirsty and my feet hurt* – ensure volunteers know where the bathroom is and provide a good work environment (food and water).
8. *I haven't got a pen* – ensure volunteers have the equipment requirements for their role.
9. *Nobody loves me* – as volunteers are not paid, they need to be rewarded in other ways – certificates, praise, t-shirts, pep talks, and/or post-event events.
10. *Are we having fun yet?* – Anything you can do to make the day enjoyable is a big plus. Think about contests between different volunteer teams, pizza and beer to follow etc.

Good Volunteer Management Practice results in:



6 BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

6.1 Types of Events and Activities

Branches and Management Councils may only conduct the events listed in the Events Handbook. The Board of Directors must approve any other event being considered by a Branch or Management Council prior to advertising the event. The following is a list of types of events Branches may consider hosting:

- Campdrafting
- ASHS Stockmans Challenges
- Youth Events
- Coaching Clinics and Riding Schools
- Recreational Rides and Novelty Events
- Australian Stock Horse Classes/Events – Led, Hack, Working, Station Horse, Pleasure Hack, Time Trial, Stock Horse Challenge, Futurity, Maturity, ASHLA, Stockman's Turnout
- Station Cutting
- Team Yarding
- Show Hunter
- Show jumping
- Dressage
- Sales

Youth Events

One of the Society's objectives is to foster and promote its youth. Branches are encouraged to conduct youth events or youth training days or camps. It is essential to conduct the event under an Accredited ASHS Branch Facilitator and to use coaches who are ASHS Members or non-members who hold the relevant Accreditation with other organisations such as EFA, Polocrosse or campdrafting. Refer to Section 6.3 Conducting Training Schools and Youth Camps for additional information.

There is no equestrian sport that the Australian Stock Horse will not excel at, given equal opportunity and training. The breed has many excellent proven bloodlines for various disciplines. The following is a list of types of events Branches and Management Councils may consider supporting through sponsorship of Australian Stock Horse prizes or ribbons:

- Agricultural Shows
- Polocrosse
- Campdrafting
- Polo
- Pony Club
- Interschools
- Endurance
- Harness/Carriage Driving
- Tent pegging
- FEI Disciplines - Dressage/Show jumping/Eventing
- Stockman's Challenges

Branches are encouraged to host or support a wide variety of disciplines and activities on their annual events calendar. This will not only help develop the riding skills of their Members but also assist the Branch in increasing its membership base.

Leisure Events and Beginner Riding Activities

The Australian Stock Horse is ideal for the leisure and beginner rider markets. Your Branch is encouraged to host events that are suitable for both of these markets. By hosting such events it can increase your Branch's membership base and create a wider marketplace for Australian Stock Horses.

Events that could be ideal for the leisure and beginner rider's market:

- Training Clinics
- Trail Rides
- Novelty or Sports Days
- Come and Try Days

6.2 Event Selection

There are a number of elements to consider when deciding to run an event. These include:

- Purpose of the event – why are we conducting this event?
- Committee/Event team and other stakeholders – skills required to run the event.
- Financial considerations – will the event be financially viable?
- Venue for the event – planning implications of using a certain venue (amenities, arenas, stabling, seating, etc).
- Event competitors/participants/spectators – the needs of all participants must be considered.
- Timing of the event – it is often linked to the season such as the ‘campdrafting season’. (Consider when Members will have their horses in work and when other events are on in your area).
- Horse welfare – do we have a Horse Welfare Officer? Do we need a Horse Welfare Officer for this event?
- Cattle Welfare – Have we considered the Society Code of Cattle Care? (see Section 9 in the ASHS Events Rules & Regulations). What should we do to comply?
- Community Impact – impact on the local and wider community.
- Regulations – what regulations and laws have an impact on the event? (Consult your Local Government).

6.3 Conduction Training Days and Youth Camps

When planning a Training School or Youth Camp your first consideration should be getting the right person to coach. To comply with Society requirements, you should use an Australian Stock Horse Member who holds a current accreditation from the relevant organisation is acceptable i.e. EA, ACA, ABCRA, Polocrosse Association will be acceptable. If ASHS Members are not available, the instructors need to have the relevant current affiliation.

A current ASHS Branch Facilitator will need to be in attendance to oversee and assist at Branch organised practice and training days.

Many Branches host camps specially designed for Youth Members with some of the best Coaches available. The camps are designed to assist young riders and give them the confidence to move from Pony Club into other areas of competition such as Campdrafting, Polocrosse, Working ASH Classes, etc. If your Branch is looking to host a Youth Camp, please do not hesitate to contact and seek advice from Members of the Society who have been involved in the running of a camp.

For more information, please view the ASHS Child Safe / Child Protection National Policy on the ASHS website.

Type of event will determine the type of accredited official required. Approved events require accredited officials, ASHS preferred, except in exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional Circumstances that will be considered include:

- ✓ No Accredited official available for an event, due to timing, distance or cost
- ✓ The Society does not accredit officials in a specific discipline, including but not limited to dressage, show jumping and campdrafting.
- ✓ For Cattle events such as Station Cutting, Stockman’s Challenges Cattle Section or Team Yarding competitions a NCHA or qualified Campdraft Judge should be sourced. They must be a financial ASHS Member.

The following points are general ideas for consideration and development when organising an ASHS Coaching Clinic. Do not limit yourself to this list - if there are other points that should be covered, please include them:

Coaches

- How many people will you invite to coach?
- Are they qualified?
- How much will each coach cost?
- Is a Working with Children check required?
- Is their Coaching Insurance current - own or ASHS provided? Note that ASHS provided insurance covers only Coaches who work on a voluntary basis, that is, they are not being remunerated.

Organisation

- Length of time/number of days
- Total number of participants you can cater for
- Group sizes and divisions
- Number of participants per coach
- How will you advertise the clinic?
- Who will be helpers on the day?
- Will you need a Working Bee prior to the event?
- Who will have responsibility for participants after sessions?
- First aid support available suited to size of event

Venue

- Camping facilities
- Horse facilities and supplies
- Have you undertaken a Risk Assessment of the ground?
- Is there a work area for adverse weather?
- Location proximity to Vet and Medical facilities

Topics

- What are the Members in your area most interested in?
- What groups will you target – sports, age groups, rider standards, gender?
- Which ASH disciplines will you cover?
- How long will the sessions run?

Financial considerations might include

- Is any funding available from your State Management Council?
- Support from local Council. (Ground hire, rubbish removal etc) }
- Is there a cost to hire the ground?
- Will you need a cool room for food/drinks?

If using Cattle

- Do you need to source cattle insurance? Optional and available through Head Office – Information available on the ASHS website.
- How will cattle be transported?

Catering

- Catering supplies
- Lunch orders or self-serve buffet
- Does anyone have special dietary needs?
- Utilisation of participants or parents as helpers

Entertainment

- Will you provide entertainment or demonstrations?
- Activities for after sessions
- Guest speaker/entertainers

6.4 Feasibility of Event

To discuss the feasibility of conducting an event the following questions could be addressed:

- Do we have the skills required to plan and run the event?
- Will the host community be supportive of the event?
- Do we have access to infrastructure in the community?
- Can we hire a venue at a price we can afford?
- Will the event attract enough competitors?
- Will the event attract media and sponsor support?
- Finally, will the event be financially viable?

6.5 Event Venue and Site Selection

The following should be considered when analysing the suitability of a venue or site:

- Facilities and services to be provided
- Competition requirements
- Capacity of site or venue
- Budget limitations
- Location and accessibility
- Emergency services availability
- Availability and timing
- Sponsor and corporate personnel requirements
- Venue safety
- Regulatory authorities

6.6 Event Marketing and Promotion


6.6.1 Publicity

Publicity is the means of using an external entity to increase the awareness levels of your Branch activity amongst the public or your Members. It appears in story or editorial form in the print or social media and in the non-commercial portion of radio and television programmes.

6.6.2 Print Media – Press Releases

A media release is one way to notify the media of an upcoming event or an important issue. It is important that your Branch's press release is newsworthy and catches the audience's attention. An effective media release should be:

- Concise - Use short sentences and paragraphs.
- Accurate - facts and details.
- Complete – do not leave out vital information. List all contact information.
- Easy to read and interesting. Use positive words and phrases. The heading should summarise the story in no more than half a dozen words.
- Lead with your most interesting point – other details should be placed in order of importance.

 **Star Tip:** Timing is important for the media. If you are organising an event, email your media release out one or two weeks beforehand. This will give the media enough time to do some research if required, and to schedule it into their diaries.

6.6.3 Advertising – Utilise Social Media

Advertising can be a costly method of promotion, however if it is considered necessary, do some homework into costs and placements. Social media is a great cost-effective tool.

Branches may like to set up a Facebook Page or Instagram account, or the like, to produce timely promotion and information. The Branch should appoint a media officer to be responsible for media releases, announcements, promotion of Branch events and activities etc. It is a good idea to have at least two administrators for your Branch's social media platforms.

When producing any promotional material make sure it reaches your target market. Consider times that are most active on social media platforms and use tags to increase your audience.

Advertising media includes television, radio, newspapers, magazines and social media platforms.

Managing Social Media Content

Social Media is fast becoming the most common way of communicating and sharing information. While social media provides great opportunities, it also has the potential to damage the reputation of the Breed, The Society, its Members, Directors, Staff, Branches/Management Councils, Judges, Officials, Partners and Volunteers.

The ASHS has developed a Social Media Policy that aims to reduce the instances of possible slander, defamation or harm which can be viewed or downloaded from the ASHS website. A breach can occur not only because of a written/typed comment or post; it could take the form of photographs, videos and other audio/visual material.

All forms of social media activity are covered under the policy including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Snap Chat, YouTube, blogs and the like.

When posting content remember that careful consideration should be given to content shared on social media platforms. Once it is shared, it can be difficult, if not impossible, to completely retract. Horses, riders and handlers should always be displayed in the most complimentary light.

6.7 Sales Promotion

Sales promotions are designed to have an immediate impact on sales by stimulating market demand. A sales promotion is intended to persuade a buyer to purchase or enter immediately, so they often include incentives or discounts. Your Branch can use sales promotions to increase demand for ticket sales to a social function, for a raffle or for entries in a particular competition.

Sales Promotion includes coupons, competitions, displays, t-shirts, co-promotions, giveaways, stickers, posters, merchandise.

Community Service Announcements

The majority of local newspapers and radio stations will be happy to promote your event or activity if you provide them with a community service announcement. The spiel should be around 60 words in length, containing details of the Branch activity/event. A contact phone number should be given for any inquiries.

6.8 Major Events

Media coverage will be important if a Branch is organising a major event. The media will be more interested as the event draws closer, but a series of press releases in the months leading up to the event can serve both as reminders and educational material.



Star Tip: Information about unique Australian events such as an Australian Stock Horse Challenge, Campdrafting and Polocrosse event can draw attention and educate the public about the disciplines in which the Australian Stock Horse competes.

Make sure media releases state what the event is, where it is, when it is, how important it is and why, how it is organised (times, ground, etc) and who is entered. Put your name on the releases so people know who to get in touch with for further information.

Photographs

A picture is worth a thousand words! Local newspapers and community publications (print and or digital) are often on the lookout for a good photo opportunity. When planning a Branch activity think of how you can set up an interesting photo. Let the media know by giving them details of the photo opportunity at the end of your media releases.



Star Tip: When posting photos on social media ensure that the photo shows the horse and rider in a complimentary light. There are always people who are quick to criticise and cause negative banter if horses look to be unhappy or uncomfortable.

When submitting photos to Head Office for the ASH Journal or to be published in print media photos need to be of high resolution and around 2MB in size. Please make sure to include the name of the photographer if photo credit is required.

6.9 Event Sponsorship

Sponsorship cannot be taken for granted! Do not confuse sponsorship with charity; it is rather an equal partnership – an exchange of services. Your obligation as an organising Committee is to help the sponsor profit. It is suggested to approach businesses that have a similar target market as your event.



Star Tip: Before your Branch approaches a sponsor – put yourself in their shoes and ask the following question:

- ✓ Will this sponsorship provide me promotional opportunities, generate publicity, or obtain access to a target audience?

To retain received sponsorship it's a good idea to make the giving of sponsorship worthwhile:

- Sponsor naming rights for the event
- Sponsor/Corporate viewing facilities
- Sponsor/Corporate hospitality centre
- Sponsor tickets for admission
- Sponsor advertising through Branch social media channels and at the event
- Sponsor to officially present awards
- Publicise the sponsor's phrase (PA System)
- Officials to wear sponsor's logo
- Good manners and common courtesy

Not all sponsorship is by way of money. It can be provided in vouchers, product, trophies, hire of equipment, broadcasting, cattle, etc.

Keep the sponsor aware of the exposure you are giving them by sending all press clippings, press releases and a full report of every event and promotional activity. Ensure there is regular communication between you and the sponsor and present them with a full colour framed photograph at the conclusion of the event.

At the event, organise for someone to meet the sponsor upon arrival and make sure they are catered for. Ensure that the sponsor is in the right place at the right time – to watch the event they sponsored, present awards or say a few words. Provide meals for your sponsors, these could be via vouchers or VIP areas with specific meals or snacks. Make provisions for them with free entry and special seating areas.

If there are spaces in the programme while scores are being totalled, courses dismantled, cattle changed, etc., you have the opportunity to promote the sponsor. If the sponsor can provide a ten-minute display of products, whether it be equestrian clothing, saddlery, horse feeds, fencing equipment, electrical appliances, vehicles, etc, it can give spectators something to pay attention to and provide an ideal fill-in while promoting the sponsor.

The organisations that provide cattle should be considered sponsors and receive the same sort of recognition as other sponsors.

6.9.1 Signage

Your sponsor should get their full value before the activity commences. Sponsorship lies in promotion and public relations as well as advertising. Display sponsor logos and distribute sponsors material such as flags, banners and brochures at every opportunity.

Refer to Sponsorship Proposal Format on following page



Australian Stock Horse
SOCIETY

Sponsorship Proposal Format

INTRODUCTION

This should be a simple one-page statement of what the proposal is for. Remember it is not a proposal to finance your Branch's activities, but a promotional and sales opportunity for the potential sponsor. This statement should create curiosity.

VENUE

Where your activity takes place

CONTACT DETAILS

Name, Address, Contact details

PROGRAMME

Introduction to the event

Number of events

Venue

THE EXPOSURE OFFERED

Signage

Media coverage

Advertising in programme

Merchandising opportunities

Anticipated spectators

Media release details

Suggested promotional activities

INVESTMENT REQUIRED

Total cost

Use figures

Method of payment

SUMMARY

6.10 Available ASHS Journal Support

The Society provides advertising support to Branches and Management Councils as detailed below; this support is designed to assist Management Councils and Branches to attract sponsorship for their events:

Management Council – Advertising

- Management Councils - each Management Council is entitled to 2 x ½ Page colour Advertisements in the Journal each year at no cost to the Management Council

Branch – Advertising

- Branch - each Branch is entitled to 2 x ¼ Page full colour Advertisements in the Journal each year at no cost to the Branch

6.11 Logistics

Logistics is getting things (and people) in the right place at the right time. It is advised the organising Committee appoints a Chief Steward for the day. The Chief Steward ensures that equipment, competitors, Judges and Pencillers are in the right place at the right time. In preparation for the Branch activity, the Chief Steward should create an event logistics plan and brief all event official personnel including suppliers of infrastructure and food, etc.

The following information should accompany an event logistics plan and be made available to all official event personnel:

- A general contact list
- A site map
- Schedules/Programmes
- Emergency Plan
- Subcontractor details, including all time constraints
- Evaluation sheets (questionnaires)

6.12 Event Recommendations

ASHS Rules and Regulations

When planning your event please be aware of the ASHS Events Rules and Regulations. A copy of the Rules and Regulations can be downloaded from the Society's website: www.ashs.com.au. Ensure that your event type is listed in the Events Handbook or seek Board Approval.

Judges

From January 2009 it is compulsory that Level 1 Accredited ASHS Judges be used for all ASHS approved events. A list of the Accredited Judges is available on the Society's website.

Exceptional Circumstances may be considered. To be approved, an application for use of a non-ASH accredited official will need to be received by Head Office not less than 1 calendar month prior to the event and include:

- Full event details including disciplines involved
- Exceptional circumstances involved
- Details of current accreditation and experience of the official being considered.
- Insurance status, if applicable.
- First Aid Qualifications, if applicable

Type of event consists of 3 main types – competitions, training events and meetings or information days. Type of event will determine the type of accredited official required.

Approved events require accredited officials, ASHS preferred, except in exceptional circumstances

Exceptional Circumstances that will be considered include:

- No Accredited official available for an event, due to timing, distance, or cost
- The Society does not accredit officials in a specific discipline, including but not limited to dressage, show jumping and campdrafting.
- For Cattle events such as Station Cutting, Stockman's Challenge Cattle Section or Team Yarding competitions a NCHA or qualified Campdraft Judge should be sourced. They must be a financial ASHS Member.

Insurance

Event organisers must ensure all necessary insurance is finalised prior to the event. An **Event Notification Form** should be completed and submitted to Head Office three months prior to your event or as soon as possible. Your Branch Secretary should have a current copy of the ASHS Certificate of Currency for Public Products Liability (reissued annually). If the owner of the venue wishes to be a named party on the Certificate of Currency for the particular event, please contact Head Office in a timely manner.

Event Notifications are available on the ASHS website.

Additionally, if your Branch would like to use the Society's Cattle Insurance cover a **Cattle Cover Lodgement Form** will need to be completed and forwarded to the Sports Department at Head Office with payment. Form available on ASHS website.

Risk Management – Site Inspection Checklist

Prior to competition a site inspection must be carried out by inspecting the venue where the event or activity is to be held. The inspection is to identify and remedy safety issues prior to commencement of competitions. It is required that this inspection be done 30 days prior to the event and again 24 hours prior to the event. The Branch is required to use complete the ASHS Site Inspection Checklist available on the ASHS website. When complete the Branch must submit the form to Head Office. The Branch should also retain a copy. For more information, please refer to Section 9.2 What is Risk Management?

Programmes – Entry Forms – Conditions of Entry

Refer to the ASHS Events Rules & Regulations: SECTION 1.- 21. PROGRAMMES – ENTRY FORMS for recommendations on information that should be inserted on entry forms and programmes. Additionally, SECTION 1. also outline the conditions of entry for horses and rider/handler.

If your Branch would like any assistance with ideas in regard to what classes to include in the programme please contact Head Office.

Child Riders (SECTION 6. – 1. ENCOURAGING YOUTH 1.4 of ASHS Events Rules & Regulations) Juniors (under 13 years of age) are permitted to ride mares or geldings other than registered Australian Stock Horses, in Branch conducted Youth events only (not State or National events) to encourage children to become part of the Society.

Food and Beverage

People handling food should follow basic hygiene practice – wash hands immediately prior, or upon, entering the food preparation area. Sanitary gloves should be always worn when handling food. Enquiries should be made through your local Food Authority or equivalent as to notification requirements and the types of foods which can be served.

Event organisers must institute responsible service of alcoholic beverages and comply with liquor licensing laws. Persons serving alcohol must be trained in Responsible Service of Alcohol practices and aged over 18 years.

Stabling

Event organisers must confirm with grounds/location management to clarify their policy on stabling and electric fencing.

Stock

All Stock handling must comply with the Code for Cattle Care in the ASHS Events Rules & Regulations - see SECTION 9. Any temporary or permanent yards need to be of adequate height; be secure and braced to ensure stock cannot escape. Yards should have self-locking gates and be constructed to ensure that damage to the animals cannot occur. Stockyards should be separate from horse stabling areas.

Horse and Float Area

Areas accessible to the Public should be separated, by fencing, from Horse and Float areas.

Signage

Signs should be displayed at designated areas restricting access to the public. Secondary fencing or barriers may be required to keep the public at a safe distance from competitions.

Ambulance Officer or Certified First Aid Attendant (SECTION 1. 8. FIRST AID - 8.1 & 8.2 of ASHS Event Rules and Regulations)

At Australian Stock Horse Society shows and events, an ambulance officer or certified first aid attendant must be rostered for duty at all times when competitors or members of the public are present for competition. The first aid area must be properly signposted and accessible with means of contacting the local hospital or a doctor. This is a minimum requirement for Branches to operate an event.

Some Branches or Committees may elect to have an ambulance or oxy viva equipment in attendance at events following Risk Assessment.

The ASHS takes the safety of its Members and volunteers seriously and because there is always a risk of accidents occurring at Horse Events the Society has developed the ASHS First Aid Policy and ASHS Concussion Policy. Refer to the Sports/Events section on the ASHS website.

Emergency Planning

Emergency Management Australia (see website – <https://nema.gov.au/about-us>) has very useful guidelines for planning safe and healthy mass gatherings. The organising committee should have an emergency response plan or emergency procedures in place such as marshalling or control/coordinating points, people check, communication systems and emergency equipment.

Finances

The Bank may be closed during or at the conclusion of the event therefore a plan must be in place to store finances (monies). All monies (petty cash, prizemoney, and event takings) must be stored in a secure, lockable area.

Hospitality

Provision may be made for VIP Hospitality. This could be a designated area with favoured seating and meals available for your important sponsors, or vouchers for meals from the canteen, whichever time and resources can provide.

Public Address System

All events need communication – an adequate public address system can go a long way in communicating with participants and spectators. Ensure prior to commencing activities that this can be heard in all required areas including stabling.

Temporary Membership (Section 2.1.2.3 of Membership Rules and Regulations)

Persons who complete an ASHS Temporary Membership Application – Indemnity and Risk Warning and Waiver, are entitled to participate in an ASH show, activity or programme run at Branch level. For example, the activity might be a weekend school or campdraft, a one-day show, a five-day trail ride and the like.

A Temporary Member is NOT eligible to any of the rights associated with other classes of Membership.

Persons who take out Temporary Membership at a Branch competition are entitled to receive a discount when they join the ASHS as a Full or Youth Member (under 18 years), within six months of the event. A copy of the Temporary Membership Application & Receipt must be submitted with the ASHS Membership Application Form.

Persons who are not financial Members of the Society who wish to compete at more than one Branch event are required to take out a Temporary Membership for each subsequent event they participate in.

6.13 Waste and Environment Management

It is recommended the organising Committee has an environmentally friendly approach to waste management for your Branch activity and will need to check requirements with your local council. Please contact them in relation to waste management issues in your area. They may be able to provide this service for you, if not contact your local waste management organisations and obtain comparative quotes.

6.14 Notifying Head Office of Events

Please **notify Head Office of all forthcoming events** organised by your Branch by completing the Event Notification and the Site Inspection Checklist forms as required. All event Planning and Management forms are available on the website. This will ensure that your Public Liability insurance is in place, that your event appears on the website and in the Coming Events page in the Journal (if received prior to publishing deadlines).

If your Branch requires advertising for your event in the ASH Journal, please complete a booking form or contact the Journal Department at Head Office. All requests must be received prior to Advertising Deadlines - these are available on the website: www.ashs.com.au.

6.15 Evaluation

It is advisable for the organising Committee to hold a debrief meeting as soon as practical after the event. Some questions that could be addressed in this type of meeting may include:

- What went well and why?
- What went badly and why?
- How could operations be improved?
- Were there any significant risk factors that we did not anticipate?
- Are there any outstanding legal issues, such as injuries or accidents?
- What can we learn from this event?
- Were the facilities adequate?
- Did the programme work well?
- What changes, if any, should we make?



Star Tip: Evaluation is an area often neglected, however feedback collected can provide the organising Committee with valuable information for the next planned event. When planning evaluation, it is very important to work out what information you require. If you have the time and resources, the points below can be useful.

Feedback and information can be obtained from surveys conducted during and after the event, personal interviews, or group discussions. The following are examples of questions that may be included in a survey:

- How did you find out about this event?
- What was the main purpose for you attending this event?
- How did this event meet your expectations?
- Should events at this event be made more attractive to spectators?
- Would you like to see the programme shortened/lengthened? If yes, what events would you like to see removed/added to the programme?
- Was the parking adequate?
- Was the food and beverage adequate?
- Would you attend this event again?
- What other events would you like this Branch to host? (Leisure rides, Youth Camps etc)

7 JUDGING ACCREDITATION

7.1 ASHS Accredited Judges

In order to support and develop Australian Stock Horse Society Judges, Stewards and Volunteers, the ASHS Judges' Accreditation Scheme was introduced in 2005.

7.1.1 Level 1 & Probationary Judges

For a current list of Probationary and Level 1 Accredited Judges, please refer to the SPORTS/EVENTS section on the website: www.ashs.com.au.

8 INSURANCE

8.1 Insurance

The Australian Stock Horse Society Insurance Policy Overview

Please contact Head Office for queries regarding the insurances the Society currently has in place. Information can be provided on request on the scope and protection offered by those insurances. The Society has a proactive approach towards insurance and is keen to protect its Members and the public and ensure that everyone involved with the Society is informed and educated regarding the various insurance products the Society has in place.

Insurance coverage that can be provided by the Society includes:

Cattle Cover - Optional

- Branches may choose to take up the optional Cattle Cover through the ASHS.
- The fee for Cattle cover is dependent on the number of cattle being used at the event
- To take out Cattle Cover, Branches need to complete a Cattle Cover Lodgement Form and pay the required fee prior to the event.
- 80% of the value of a limited number of stock lost may be reimbursed - conditions apply.
- Coverage applies at approved events only.
- Coverage applies whilst the Organising Committee and/or Accredited Coach comply with the Cattle Care guidelines only.
- Cattle will **NOT** be covered for losses during competition.
- **Voluntary Carrier:** Cattle will be covered in transit and during loading and unloading. This does not include cover for losses during muster or in yards while on the Owner's private property prior to loading.
- **Commercial Carrier:** Cattle will **NOT** be covered for losses when transported by a commercial stock carrier - the carrier's insurance should be pursued.

To Activate a Claim

- The Australian Stock Horse Society Limited must be notified of all injuries and/or deaths within 48 hours by email or phone. Claims to be lodged within 14 days.
- A copy of the Weekly Market Report to be attached to the Claim to verify the per kilo estimate.

All forms relating to Cattle Insurance and Claims are available under the SPORTS/EVENTS – Event Planning and Management section on the ASHS website: <https://www.ashs.com.au>

Voluntary Workers Insurance – Applies at ASHS approved events only

Personal accident insurance in the form of Voluntary Workers Insurance is only available to ASHS volunteer workers. PA insurance is activated by the person acting in the capacity of a volunteer, not a specific event.

For example: a committee member cleaning up after a meeting would be covered as they are acting in the capacity of an ASHS volunteer. A committee member warming their horse up for an event would not be covered as they are riding in the capacity of a ASHS member (not as a volunteer).

Public Liability Cover

- Coverage applies at approved ASHS events only.
- Public Liability Insurance covers the ASHS, its Branches and its Members. It is NOT designed to respond on behalf of anyone other than the insured.
- To be approved The Australian Stock Horse Society must be notified of the event prior to commencement and all Event Planning and Management documentation must be submitted.
- Site Inspections must be carried out 30 days prior to the event and again 24 hours prior. Site Inspection checklists must be used and copies retained by the Branch and sent to Head Office.
- Coverage applies whilst the Organising Committee and/or Accredited Coach comply with the Society Rules and Regulations only.
- Public Liability covers financial ASHS Members and volunteers at approved ASHS Events only.

Please note the ASHS does not provide a personal accident policy for Members.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

9.1 Duty of Care

Duty of care is a fundamental legal principle affirming that all reasonable care is taken to avoid acts or omissions that could injure a 'neighbour'. An area of law known as torts covers duty of care. A tort is a breach of duty owed to other people and imposed by law.

For your Branch, duty of care means taking actions that will prevent any foreseeable risk of injury to the people who are directly affected by or involved in the Branch. This could include the Branch Committee, Members, Volunteers, Competitors, Spectators, Contractors, etc.

Branches have a legislative requirement to ensure that all horse and rider combinations are safe and animal welfare standards are adhered to. Show and event management have the right to make decisions in regard to safety. For example, if a horse and rider are having difficulty and there is potential for an incident the management committee, judge or official has the right to halt proceedings until the issue is resolved.

So how careful does your Branch have to be?

The degree of care that ought to be applied in particular circumstances is known as the 'standard of care.' The test for the required standard of care is how a reasonable person would have behaved in the same situation – that is, whether the result of the action was reasonably foreseeable, and whether reasonable steps were taken to prevent injury occurring.

9.2 What is Risk Management?

Risk Management is the process of identifying the risks associated with your activities/events that may result in injury to another person or damage to their property. The process of Risk Management then involves either removing the risk or minimising the risk to an acceptable level.

9.2.1 Things to Consider in Risk Management

1. Identify risks of activity:

- What could happen?
- What is the likelihood of this happening?
- What are the consequences of this event?
- Discuss:
 - ✓ Possible source of risk (eg. horse trips on tree root)
 - ✓ What is at risk (assets: horse, people: rider, business: reputation from injury)
 - ✓ Effects (damage: injury to horse or rider, other riders' confidence, confidence of Guide; Loss: business, litigation, reputation)
 - ✓ Three actual risks
 - i. Horse injury,
 - ii. Rider falls off and is hurt, other riders worried
 - iii. Club does not affiliate
- Look at:
 - ✓ Short and long-term effects of these
 - ✓ Current controls which could prevent events occurring



Examples of areas for discussion:

Sources of risk	Assets at risk
Service/advice to clients	People (staff, volunteers or clients)
Human error	Horses
Negligence	Buildings
Anti-social behaviour	Land/environment
Fire/hail/thunderstorm etc	Equipment
Breakage of equipment	Reputation
Vermin/Disease	Vehicles

2. Analyse risks

- Likelihood/probability it will happen
- Possible consequences
- Estimate level of risk and priority for management
(Use anecdotal information and experience to make these assessments, together with statistical data – accident reports etc.)

3. Evaluate risk

- Is it an acceptable outcome?
 - ✓ Costs to people and or reputation
 - ✓ \$ Value of fixing it
 - ✓ Benefits of risk
 - ✓ Risk borne by other stakeholders (insurance)
 - ✓ Controls already in place to manage the risk
- Determine criteria for unacceptable consequences:
 - ✓ Injuries resulting in more than one day off work
 - ✓ Financial loss exceeding \$
 - ✓ Adverse publicity
 - ✓ Legal action
- Likelihood may influence acceptability:
 - ✓ Frequent minor injuries
 - ✓ Events which frequently interrupt rides
 - ✓ Frequent small financial losses

4. Treat risk

- Accept the risk: monitor and review
 - ✓ Retain the risk (benefits outweigh the negatives)
- Reject the risk: monitor and review
 - ✓ Avoid them (run alternative activity?)
 - ✓ Reduce them
 - Mechanical eg: toe stoppers
 - Administrative: policies and rules
 - Personal protection – helmets etc.
 - ✓ Transfer them through treatment (waivers, insurance, contracts, warning signs etc.)
 - ✓ What resources are needed to carry this out? Who is best placed to monitor and implement this? Will measures be effective? Feasibility?

5. Document the whole process

- Document the whole process, especially who will be responsible to carry it out, what resources are required, when is completion expected, and review time frames.
- Ensure all parts of this process are carried out - do this by consulting and communicating with those involved.
- Monitor (ongoing assessment of effectiveness of measures) and review (on a schedule: formal discussion)

Recommended Actions – Risk Management

Ensure your Branch adopts sensible standards of preparation for an event and then measure against those standards by a system of planned self-assessment. The ASHS Site Inspection Checklist should be utilised to measure those standards, along with previous experience. Risk Management Forms can also be utilised if needed.

INSURANCE TEMPLATES

Refer to the event Planning and Management Templates under SPORTS & EVENTS on the ASHS website: www.ashs.com.au

9.3 Legal Issues - Incorporation

The legislation governing Incorporation is different in each state/territory and is subject to regular updating so you should check the Act to be sure of the current regulations. Branches and Management Councils are provided with Rules (previously referred to as Constitutions). These Rules govern the affairs of Branches and Management Councils and should be referred to regarding operational procedures and practices. If legal advice is required, seek out a competent professional, preferably someone who has been personally recommended to the Branch.

The legal advantage of an Incorporated Association arises because, in the eyes of the law, an Incorporated Association has existence separate from that of its Members. Incorporation means that Members of a Branch are not personally liable for its debts.

This means that an Incorporated Branch can:

- Sue and be sued in its own right
- Own land and property in its own right
- Enter into tenancy or lease agreements in its own right
- Enter into contractual agreements in its own right
- Receive a bequest or gift from a will
- Perpetually exist, that is, remain in existence no matter who is a Member until it is disbanded by direct operation of the law

Another advantage is that Incorporation may be a prerequisite to obtaining a grant from a State or Federal Government.

Further, the Committee and Members are not personally liable for the debts of the Branch, nor the negligent acts or errors made by the Committee and Members. Liability of Members to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Branch or the costs and expenses of winding up the Branch is limited to a sum provided in the rules. However, Incorporation does not protect the individual from liability for his/her own negligence.

Incorporated Associations may not be formed for the purpose of trading or earning profit for Members. If the Branch earns a profit from commercial activity, this profit may not be distributed among the Members. It must be used for activities carried on by the Branch.

It would be advisable for the Secretary of the Branch to obtain a copy of the Associations Incorporation Act and familiarise themselves with the statutory requirements. Copies of the Act are available from the Government Bookshop in your state/territory.

9.4 Contracts

A Contract is an agreement between two or more parties that sets out their obligations and is enforceable by law; it is advised to put all contractual agreements in writing. The Society recommends that legal advice should be sought prior to entering into any Contracts. Seek out a competent professional, preferably someone who has been personally recommended to the Branch.

A Branch may enter a Contract between various categories of people such as:

- Participants
- Funding bodies
- Employees
- Providers of goods and services

9.5 Regulations, Licences and Permits

Local Government Acts and Regulations

There are a number of Local Government Acts and Regulations that may apply to events. These vary considerably from one area to another. Likewise larger events require more detail submitted to the Local Government than a smaller event due to the size of impact on the community. Items that may need to be approved could be using loudspeakers in public spaces or building a temporary structure. Local Governments are also very concerned about cleaning programmes during and after an event, noise and disturbance to residents and traffic management.

Liquor Licensing for Alcohol

There are a number of issues to be considered when serving alcohol at an event. Issues include: the age of drinkers, the venues, and the situations in which alcoholic drinks are served, as well as the legal hours of alcohol service.

Please consult your State's Office for Liquor, for example the NSW Office for Liquor, Gaming and Racing.

Raffles

There are a number of Local Government Acts and Regulations that may apply to raffles and competitions. These vary considerably from one area to another.

Please consult your State's Office for Gambling, for example the NSW Office for Liquor, Gaming and Racing.

10 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

10.1 Events

Our Branch is wishing to run an event, do we need to notify the Society?

Yes, your Branch or Management Council must notify the ASHS of the event and its details for insurance and awareness purposes. The Event Notification form must be submitted to Head Office at least six (6) weeks prior to the event. Also complete two Site Inspection Checklists (one 30 days prior to the event and another 24 hours prior) retain a copy and send a copy to Head Office.

Our Branch is hosting an event, are we covered for Public Liability under the Society's Insurance?

Yes, if the Branch is fully compliant with affiliation requirements, including lodging Annual Returns and has submitted an Event Notification Form, Event Management Form and Site Inspection Checklists (as above) the Branch will receive an email from Head Office confirming that the event is approved. A copy of the Society's Certificate of Currency for Public and Products Liability Insurance is sent to your Branch Secretary every year once the Branch has submitted its annual returns to Head Office.

Our Branch is wishing to run an event, it is not in the Events Handbook – can we run it?

You may be able to, you will need to seek written permission from the Board prior to running the event.

Our Branch is hosting an event, using cattle, is there any way to insure our cattle?

Yes, the Branch can take out optional cattle insurance by completing a Cattle Cover Lodgement Form and submitting it to Head Office with payment. Please ensure you read the Cattle Reimbursement Policy on the second page of the form to familiarise yourself with the Terms and Conditions. Cattle cover is only available at approved ASHS events.

A Branch Member is competing at an event, and they need to administer a sick horse with medication. Is this Member still able to compete in the event on that horse?

All competitors should consult a veterinarian prior to administering any medication. The vet can advise the competitor on the effects and life span of the medication. Competitors need to refer to the ASHS Drug Policy which is available on the ASHS website under the HORSES tab – Rules and Regulations.

Who do I approach for Sponsorship for my event?

Some financial support for certain events is paid directly to your Management Council each year; you will need to liaise with your relevant Management Council in regards to this assistance. Additionally Branches and Management Councils are encouraged to develop relationships with local or equine based businesses, ASH Studs, feed companies and the like that may be interested in sponsoring your event.

We are running a Stockman's Turnout class at our Show, how do we know what the competitors should wear?

All recommended tack and attire and event specific rules are included in the ASHS Events Rules & Regulations which is available on the ASHS website under SPORTS/EVENTS – INFORMATION: RULES & REGULATIONS.

A Member wishes to compete at an event on a First Cross horse; can they compete against the Pure Bred horses?

Yes, for horses to compete at Australian Stock Horse Society events they must be "Competition Eligible". That is, they must be Registered Horses owned by Full Financial Members at the time of competition. This includes all categories of horses in the ASHS Stud Book other than Breeding Purposes Only - therefore First Cross horses, Second Cross horses, Special Merit and Base Registry horses are all eligible to compete against Stud Book (Pure Breds).

Are all ASHS Events restricted to competition eligible Australian Stock Horses?

All events run by ASHS Branches are to be restricted to Competition Eligible Registered Australian Stock Horse only, unless permission for "not ASHS restricted" status is requested by the Branch and approved in writing prior to the event.

10.2 Riders

Even though my children are competent riders and handlers, are they eligible to ride a stallion?

No, children under 18 years of age are not, under any circumstances permitted to ride or handle stallions at events. Please refer: Section 1. 10 STALLION CONTROL, clauses 10.4 and 10.5 in the ASHS Events Rules & Regulations.

Can my child ride an unregistered horse at a Branch Event?

Yes, children under 13 years of age are permitted to ride horses other than registered Australian Stock Horses in Branch conducted events, excluding State Events hosted by an ASHS Branch.

Does my rider/handler need to be a Member of the Society to compete at Branch Events?

Yes, they need to be Members – Full, Youth, Youth Participant or Participant. Competitors may be able to take out Temporary Member at a Branch event where the Branch has requested and been approved in writing to have Temporary Membership available.

Do I need to pay my Membership to compete in a Branch event?

Yes, all competitors at a Branch event should be Financial Members of the Society - either Full, Youth, Youth Participant or Participant Member. In addition, all horses should be competition eligible to compete – which means their owner or lessee must be a Financial Member of the Society.

10.3 Meetings

How many people are needed for a General Meeting Quorum?

This can vary between states for example in NSW, five members present in person (being members entitled under these Rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.

In Queensland the quorum for a general meeting of the Branch shall be the number of members appointed to the Committee plus one, present in person (being members entitled under these Rules to vote at a general meeting). However, if all members of the Branch are members of the Committee, the quorum is the total number of members less one.

For a General Meeting where no special resolutions are required, how much notice is required?

The Secretary is required to give at least 14 days notice prior to holding a General Meeting to each member specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.

How many people are needed for an Annual General Meeting Quorum?

Five Branch Members are needed for a quorum at an Annual General Meeting – one of these must be a Committee Member.

When does our Branch have to hold its AGM?

The Branch shall hold its AGM within 6 months after the closure of the Branch's financial year.

How many people are needed for a Committee Meeting Quorum?

Any three members of the Committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Committee. Written notice of a meeting of the Committee shall be given by the Secretary to each member the Committee at least 48 hours (or other period as unanimously agreed upon by the Committee Members) before the appointed time for the holding of the meeting.

Please refer to your Branch Rules in regard to Meetings as the requirements may vary from state to state.

10.4 Membership

Our Branch is hosting an event; can we make Temporary (day) Memberships available for competitors?

Yes, some Branches request to offer Temporary Membership at Branch level events in order to attract more entries and to encourage membership to the Society. A Temporary Membership Receipt Book is provided to Branches on request. All Temporary Members need to complete a Temporary Membership Application – Indemnity and Risk Warning and Waiver prior to competing in the Branch event or activity.

As these forms are legal documents it is essential that temporary membership applications and receipts are filled out correctly and must be signed by the competitor and a Branch Official. Riders under 18yrs must have a parent or guardian sign the waiver on their behalf.

Temporary Memberships are designed to offer non-ASHS Members the opportunity to attend approved Branch events or activities (where applicable) to encourage these participants to join the Society so that they can continue to compete and get involved at all levels of the ASHS. People who take out a Temporary Membership and then join the Society as a Full or Youth Member are entitled to a discounted membership fee – conditions apply.

Temporary Memberships at all approved Branch events remains at \$50 for an adult & \$20 for riders under 18yrs.

Please ensure all paperwork is completed and returned to Head Office with the correct monies.

Temporary Membership Fees for approved Branch Non-Competition days

Temporary Membership Fees for approved Branch Non-Competition days only have been reduced to \$15.00. Branches do not retain any of the funds from these discounted temporary memberships. All funds are to be forwarded to Head Office along with all Temporary Membership Application – Indemnity and Risk Warning and Waivers.

Do Members of our Branch need to be Members of the ASHS?

Yes. For competition they need to be Full, Youth, Youth Participant, Participant, Life Honorary or Honorary Members and currently Financial.

To vote, move or second motions at Branch Meetings or to hold any Branch position including a State Management Council Delegate they need to be over 18 years of age and be a current Full, Life Honorary, Honorary Member or Participant Member of the ASHS.

Do I need to be a Member of a Branch to participate in that Branch's Point Score system?

This is at the discretion of the Branch Committee. It would be advisable to contact the relevant Branch to enquire about their terms and conditions.

Can I be a Member of more than one Branch?

ASHS Members can be members of more than one Branch, however ASHS Members must nominate their principle Branch which is the only Branch where they are entitled to move a motion, nominate and vote. Exceptional circumstances may be considered by the Board upon application.

Branch Allocation for Members is done automatically through the ASHS database, based on postcode. The Branch that a Member is allocated to in the ASHS database is recorded as the Member's principle Branch.

Members can contact Head Office in writing and provide reasons to request reallocation to a neighbouring Branch if required. Reallocation must be approved and will not be done prior to a Branch AGM.

Can a Branch Member hold more than one position on the Committee?

As Branches operate under various State or Territory Rules for Incorporated Associations this may vary depending on the area of jurisdiction that your Branch is under.

In some states a Committee member may hold up to two offices (other than both the President and Vice President offices) if there are no other nominees as candidates for election of these offices.

It is advisable to check your Branch's Rules regarding the regulations surrounding holding more than one Branch position.

As a Branch Secretary do I need to maintain a Register of Members for my Branch?

Yes, the Secretary of the Branch must establish and maintain a register of members of the Branch specifying the name and address of each person who is a member of the Branch, or the Branch may resolve to adopt the register of members provided by the Society.

10.5 General Enquiries

Head Office is always available to assist with all your Branch and Event enquiries. Please direct your enquiries to either the Events or Member Services Department.

Contact Details

Phone: +61 2 6545 1122

Email: info@ashs.com.au