

ENSW Show Horse Sensory Hair Rule (Ears, Eyes Muzzle) – Competitor Review Process

As per the EA General Rules, and in conjunction with the FEI Rules and the Equestrian Australia National Show Horse Rules, the following procedure outlines how ENSW will assess ENSW HOTY competitors for compliance with the **Sensory Hair Rule (ears, eyes, muzzle)**. This process will be communicated to all members prior to the event via email and social media.

Core Regulations

- **Whiskers:** Clipping or shaving sensory hairs around the muzzle, mouth, chin, and eyes is prohibited.
- **Inner Ears:** The removal or shortening of hair within the rims of the auricle (the outer ear cartilage) is prohibited.
- **Exceptions:** Individual hairs may be removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort, or for specific medical treatments
- **Helpful video** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGSgTxEOM5w>



1. Initial Sensory Hair (ears, eyes, muzzle) Inspection

- All horses must be sighted for sensory hair inspection by the EA Steward with bit and bridle number. Session times will be advised, and this is where the competitor will receive their breastplate number. If the horse requires measuring, they will proceed to the measuring area. Horses requiring measuring will have a breastplate number that is **not** stamped with their official height.

2. Second Inspection at Marshalling

- All horses will be scrutinised again at marshalling by the EA Steward. If sensory hairs (ears, eyes, muzzle) have been removed after the initial inspection, this will be detected, and the Ground Jury will be called to review the horse before class points are allocated, as the result may lead to elimination.

3. Horses Suspected of a Breach at Initial Sighting

- Any horse found by the EA Steward to have had sensory hair (ears, eyes, muzzle) removed, and therefore in breach of the Sensory Hair Rule, will be referred to the Ground Jury for review one hour prior to competition start time, each morning of the competition in the main arena. This time will be advertised in the event schedule.

4. Measuring for Horses Under Review

- If the horse under review requires measuring, this will occur before the Ground Jury review. If the horse is found not to be in breach of the Sensory Hair (ears, eyes, muzzle) Rule, it will have received a measurement sticker at the time of measuring to add to the breastplate which it will receive on the completion of the Ground Jury review and therefore may immediately commence its competition day.

5. Handling of the Horse

- The horse must be presented and handled by the exhibitor, owner, or responsible officer during all inspections and reviews.

6. Ground Jury Composition

- As per FEI Rules, the Ground Jury will consist of:
 - i. The Chair or Vice Chair of the ENSW Show Horse Committee
 - ii. The four judges
 - iii. The Competition Veterinarian (advisory capacity only)

7. Final Decision & Documentation

- The Ground Jury's decision is final. If elimination is the outcome, there is no avenue for appeal. All decisions of the Ground Jury findings will be documented, and photographs of the horse in question will be taken at the time of review.