Guidelines:

Informal side saddle attire inside the Australian show ring.

By the Australian Side Saddle Community.

(These guidelines relate to informal side saddle attire and are not intended as a guide to traditional formal or hunt turnout.)

English Turnout

Lady Riders

Habit:
Black & navy remain traditional colour options. However, some riders prefer the variety and individuality of other colours such as: tweeds, browns, greys, blues, greens etc., appreciating them over the uniformity of formal attire. Subtle checks, patterns, and pinstripes can also be tastefully incorporated.

Jacket:
A cut-away style jacket is preferred and remains traditional; however, it is not mandatory where unavailable.

Vest:
Mandatory with a cut-away jacket. Traditional choices may include: check, cream or yellow. Some riders prefer a 'modern take' with subdued colours and/or patterns.

Apron Skirt:
The apron should cover the right toes and ideally expose the left ankle. Hem must be parallel to the ground.

Jodhpurs or Tights:
Match with the habit colour is preferred. If wearing an opposing colour, jodhpurs or tights should not be visible beneath the apron.

Gloves:
Brown, tan or cream remain traditional. However, we recognise that modern riders are increasingly wearing other colours, and suitable alternatives may be used. Leather or string-back gloves are traditional. Longer gloves without tabs are most ideal, although these can be difficult to source.

Hair:
Ladies with long hair should wear it neatly in a bun. Traditionally, those with short hair were expected to wear a false bun; however, many modern riders now choose to forgo this.

Headwear:
Silk Topper or Bowler with matching veil (IE: brown bowler with brown veil; black bowler or top hat with black veil) remains traditional. The ideal height for a ladies silk topper is between 4.75 and 5.25 inches. Finding silk toppers isn't easy and many ladies will opt for a wool top hat as they are easier to obtain, to create the desired look.
Helmets or hunt caps allowed without penalty. Veils must **not** be worn with hunt caps or helmets.
NOTE ABOUT VEILS: Brown veils are not easy to source & therefore a black veil on brown bowler is acceptable. Navy veils are a popular softer choice over black, but can also be hard to source.

Stocks:
Stock colours and patterns may vary to compliment the habit and vest. Stock pin is required.

Ties:
Tie colours and patterns may vary to compliment the habit and vest. Polka dots are a popular choice. Tie pin is optional, but does look smart.

Gentlemen Riders

- Gentlemen may wear their regular riding attire when competing aside.
- Short boots with gaiter on left leg or long boot and short boot
- Gloves are mandatory.
- Helmet, bowler or silk topper – veils are **not** to be worn with gentlemen riders.
- Western hat and appropriate western boots are allowed if riding in western

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Youth Riders (Under 18 years):

- Must wear a safety helmet.
- Tie is most acceptable - Tie pin is optional, but does look smart.
- Stocks are not appropriate for youth riders.

Artificial Aids:

Canes:

- Optional. It is recommended to train your horse without one as some classes/clubs/events may prohibit the use of canes or whips when riding side saddle in "astride" classes.
- A suitable length guide is 1m (39 inches) when using a cane.
- Juniors riding ponies should not have a cane exceeding 76cm (30 inches).

Spurs:
Adults only. Optional. It is worn on the left foot only. Spur bands / blank spurs (false spurs) are preferred.
*Dummy spurs are discouraged from use.

Western Turnout

- Wear your usual Western riding attire with an apron skirt added.
- Western apron skirts should be longer than English skirts, covering both feet and hem parallel to the ground.
- Western hats are recommended.
- Helmets are allowed without penalty. However, youth are still required to wear a safety helmet.