

Equestrian Australia Limited



NATIONAL INTERSCHOOL RULES

Effective 1 January 2024

The Equestrian Australia National Interschool Rules
can also be found on the Equestrian Australia Website:

www.equestrian.org.au

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1. INTRODUCTION

The National Interschool Rules are to be read in conjunction with the EA General Regulations and other EA policies and by-laws available on the EA web site www.equestrian.org.au

Interschool operates under the rules and guidelines of the Equestrian Australia disciplines of Dressage, Jumping, Eventing and Show Horse. The National Sport Rules are to be followed by all affiliated organisations conducting Interschool events.

Interschool competitions are governed under Equestrian Australia's Child Safeguarding Policy Dec 2021 and relevant State or Territory Child Safe Legislation. All organising committees, judges, officials, competitors and parents must abide by these policies. All EA events are subject to the EA Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct can be accessed on the EA website here.

This rulebook is split into two sections. The first section is concerned with Interschool specific rules that are extra to the Rules found in the EA General Regulations and EA Discipline Rules that allow Interschool competition to be offered outside of usual discipline guidelines. The second part of these rules relate to Australian Interschool Championship. These rules should be referred to for guidance in the absence of State Interschool competition guidelines, or where the National Sport Rules for each discipline are not definitive or relevant to Interschool competition.

The primary objective of Equestrian Australia is the development of horse sports from the participation level to the high performance level. Interschool is comprised of a competition and educational pathway for young athletes to participate in equestrian sport during their primary and secondary school years. The State Branches of Equestrian Australia co-ordinate the organisation of Interschool competition and training, with the aim of promoting education and sportsmanship to student athletes, educating athletes in horsemanship and horse management, and creating a competitive sporting environment

Interschool competitions provide a structured, graduated selection of events from local school competitions through to the Australian Interschool Championships. The educational pathway of Interschool forms part of Equestrian Australia's athlete's pathway and provides an introduction to elite competition as well as a "horsemanship" component of equestrian sport. It is designed to provide a strong foundation for our future competitive athletes, coaches and officials while offering non-riding equestrian enthusiasts and those wishing to pursue a career in the horse industry an entry level competition to become involved in.

All situations cannot be foreseen and in any exceptional circumstances it is the duty of the appropriate Officials (including the Organising Committee, Technical Delegate, Ground Jury and Chief Steward) to make a decision in a sporting spirit adhering as closely as possible to the intent of these rules.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply:

Athlete – the term used for a rider or horse in equestrian sport

Class – the classification of a competition by athlete and level (i.e. Primary Preliminary Dressage, or Secondary Showjumping 1.00m)

Competition – Refers to each individual class in which Athletes are placed in an order of merit and for which prizes may be awarded.

Event – A complete meeting, "Show", "Championship" or "Games". Events may be organised for one or more than one Discipline.

Official - An official is an EA accredited person who oversees a competition, or aspect thereof, by applying the rules of the sport. These may be rules directly relating to judgments on performance, time, scores and/or upholding the principles of fair play and welfare of the horse.

Participant – refers to all those involved in a competition, including athletes, parents, spectators, horse owners, organising committees and officials.

Phase – Refers to separate parts of a Competition at the same Event which are taken together to arrive at the final classification.

Round - Two or more consecutive circuits of the same, or a similar, course as part of a single Competition.

School - ~~A school is defined as one that is registered as a school as part of the State's Education System. It includes home school, distance education and school of the air but does not include TAFE, University or other technical colleges.~~ Riders must be currently enrolled in a registered primary or secondary school or registered with the state or territory's education system in the case of home schooling or distance education. Secondary school riders may compete in their final year of secondary study (Year 12) or up to the end of the year they turn 19, whichever comes first.

Section - the individual elements of a competition that may be included in the calculation of a Championship (i.e. Secondary Elementary 3.2 - Dressage, or Primary 80cm Combined Training)

3. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The State Branches of Equestrian Australia administer Interschool committees which provide advice, publicity and support for the management of Interschool events by affiliated schools and clubs. The State committees are also responsible for organising State and Australian Interschool Championships.

3.1 Education

Interschool athletes are strongly encouraged to undertake the Equestrian Skills Educational programs offered by Equestrian Australia. These include the Ready Set Trot program for Primary school-aged children and Introductory and Level One Riding and Horse Management courses (Known as Equiskills in some states) for students over 12 years of age. Successful completion of these programs is a prerequisite to commencing the EA Coaching Program. Completion of these educational programs may also assist with any applications for inclusion on State Teams and National Squads and when applying for scholarship programs.

Education programs may be studied independently, or as part of a club or school group.

3.2 Events

Equestrian Australia Interschool Events are those held under the rules contained in this document, along with the EA General Regulations, and the National Sport Rules for each discipline.

Interschool events may only be conducted by a current EA affiliate. Refer to the EA General Regulations for information on who can enter an Interschool event.

All Interschool Qualifying and Championship events are run under EA Rules and any further rules applicable to Interschool.

Qualifying events equate to EA levels of competition, contested by junior athletes. These events provide a pathway for athletes to compete for their school team at State Championships, and ultimately to be selected to represent their state team at the Australian Interschool Championships.

3.3 Interschool qualifying events

Affiliated Schools or Clubs can run events specifically for and open only to Interschool competitors. They can include one or more of the “qualifying” Interschool disciplines, and may also include non-qualifying classes. Non-qualifying classes are designed for maximum participation, and may be run alongside qualifying classes.

3.4 Tag on qualifying events

These are conducted by affiliated clubs or other organising committees and are run under the auspices of Equestrian Australia but not restricted only to Interschool riders. Results however may be approved as qualifiers for Interschool athletes to qualify for entry to State Championships. These events need to be approved by the State Branch and added to the Interschool Calendar in that State.

3.5 Regional Championships

These are organised in some States as high-level qualifiers for State Championships. They may be conducted by Affiliated Schools or State Branch Organising Committees.

3.6 State Championships

Each State EA Branch runs an State Interschool Championship annually, or where practical. Events are conducted by Interschool Organising Committees administered by the State Branches. State Championships are designed to provide a high-level performance opportunity for individual athletes as well as involvement in a school

sporting team. The experience of a strong equestrian team spirit within the structure of school teams is integral to the development of junior athletes.

3.7 Australian Interschool Championships

This is the highest level of Interschool competition that is held exclusively for school aged competitors. Athletes qualify at State Championships where these are conducted and the best performers from each class per State/Territory may be invited to represent their State and compete at the Australian Interschool Championships. States may require additional or alternative qualification processes, which should be publicised prior to the qualification period.

3.8 International Teams attending the Australian Interschool Championships

To provide exposure to International competition for our athletes and to foster international sportsmanship it is proposed to invite International individuals or teams to compete at the Australian Interschool Championships

The Event Organising Committee will determine how many and what level pool horses they can supply and this will determine the number and level of riders invited to attend.

A minimum of 3 riders (ideally 4) in each discipline is suggested so that a team can be eligible to place.

4. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Interschool Events are to be conducted with reference to the [EA Policies and Bylaws](#). There are some additional rules pertaining to Interschool events, which are detailed in this Rule Book (National Interschool Rules). These cover competitions such as Interschool Show Horse, which are not included in the National Sport Rules for Dressage, Eventing, Jumping and Show Horse.

The National Interschool Rules also include some Interschool specific rules to allow for inclusion at this Interschool level of our sport for all Students. Eg Rider with a disability exemptions where these are not already applicable in discipline rules, uniform exemptions to allow for school and state team uniforms to be worn and age exemptions to allow for all school aged children to compete.

State Branches also have particular directives and rules that have been developed according to their own competition requirements, qualification procedures and risk management plans.

4.1 Acceptance of Rules

Making an entry for any Championship, Qualifying or Affiliated Interschool Event constitutes implicit acceptance of the National Sport Rules for Interschool. All Interschool Events are to operate under the National Rules for each discipline offered. All members of Equestrian Australia, including Junior Members and their Parents/Guardians, shall accept and be bound by these rules.

Competitors are responsible for knowing and complying with these rules available for download from: www.equestrian.org.au/interschool

4.2 Sport Rules

These are the Rules that state how competitions are to be conducted, judged, timed and scored, the equipment and dress that is mandatory or recommended, and the running order of event phases. At an event, the Sport Rules are managed by the Technical Delegate and the Ground Jury. The Sport Rules are to be adhered to for all Official EA Events, Interschool Qualifying Events, State and the Australian Interschool Championships.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Technical Delegate/s to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules, the National Sport Rules for Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Show Horse, and the FEI General Regulations.

4.3 Event Rules

These indicate how events are to be conducted in terms of who is allowed to enter (for example, Junior Athletes, School Students); what qualifications – if any - are required; any additional pre-requisites for entry to events; and risk management.

5. CODES OF CONDUCT

It is expected that Athletes and their support teams will adhere to the rules of the competitions in which they participate and that they will show respect for other competitors, their horses, officials, judges and administrators in their actions and their words.

There are formal mechanisms for requesting clarity of committee decisions and for disputing results. Whilst each discipline has rules and regulations specific to that discipline available for download from the EA website, the conduct of members of the sport overall is controlled by the [Member Protection Policy](#).

There are also general competition codes of conduct that apply to ALL Interschool competitions. Breaches of these general conduct practices may result in disqualification from the competition and depending on the severity of the offence, the athlete and/or their associates may face disciplinary action. .

At an Interschool Event, the Organising Committee, the Technical Delegate/s, the Ground Jury and Officials are responsible for ensuring Horse Welfare guidelines and [EA Codes of Conduct](#) are observed.

The following EA Codes of Conduct must be observed by all competitors and their parents/guardians, during any activity held or sanctioned by EA – including Interschool events - or as an athlete/participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of the organisation or one of its affiliates:

- FEI Code of Conduct For the Welfare of the Horse
- Equestrian Australia Code of Conduct which includes:
 - EA Code of Conduct for Participants
 - EA Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians
 - EA Code of Conduct for Spectators

6. PROTECTION POLICES

6.1 Protection of Athletes

(Article 140) EA General Regulations

The Ground Jury after consultation with the responsible Medical Officer may at any time exclude from further participation in a Competition or an entire Event any athlete who is unfit to continue by reason of a serious or potentially serious injury or health condition.

6.2 ~~Child Protection Policy~~ **Safeguarding Policy**

~~Refer to the (Article 3.2.8, and Attachment C3) EA Member Protection Policy and EA Child Safety Commitment Statement~~ **EA Child Safeguarding Policy.**

Every person and organisation bound by this policy must always place the safety and welfare of children above all other considerations. ~~(As a requirement of EA's Member Protection Policy, EA requires a Member Protection Declaration to be signed by any person undertaking work (paid or voluntary) that involves direct and unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years).~~

~~Each State has differing requirements for Working With Children, which are described in the Member Protection Policy attachment C3.~~ **As part of Equestrian Australia's commitment to safeguarding children and young people in the sport of Equestrian, and in line with the EA Child Safeguarding Policy, EA has implemented mandatory Working with Children Check's for all EA Officials from 1 July 2023.**

6.3 Abuse

Any abuse, by an athlete, a parent or associated persons, aimed at any participant, official or horse at an Interschool event will not be tolerated.

The use of offensive language and/or displaying offensive behaviour to horses, officials, participants or any other person at a competition will not be tolerated.

Any incidents of this nature will result in immediate disqualification of the athlete from the competition. This ruling applies to the period leading up to the Event (nominations), the Event itself and the period immediately after the event and the resulting action will be determined by the organising committee of the event.

Athletes and their associates should adhere to the instructions and directions of any competition official at all times.

6.4 Protection of Horses

(Article 141, EA General Regulations)

In cases of a horse's illness or injury during an Event, the Ground Jury will decide, after consulting the Veterinary Delegate or Commission, whether the horse may continue in that or subsequent Competitions.

6.5 Abuse of the Horse

(Article 142, EA General Regulations)

No person may abuse a horse during an event or at any other time.

“Abuse” means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse, including without limitation any of the following:

- To whip or beat a horse excessively
- To subject a horse to any kind of electric shock device;
- To use spurs excessively or persistently;
- To jab the horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device;
- To compete using an exhausted, lame or injured horse;
- To "rap" a horse.
- To abnormally sensitise or desensitise any part of a horse;
- To leave a horse without adequate food, drink or exercise;
- To use any device or equipment which cause excessive pain to the horse upon knocking down an obstacle.

6.6 Orders

Athletes and owners of competing horses and other people associated with them must, under penalty of elimination, obey any order or direction given to them by any responsible official and they must, in particular, be careful not to do anything liable to upset or hinder the undisturbed progress of the competition.

6.7 Disciplinary procedures

All further processes should follow the EA National Disciplinary Procedures

If any complaint is made that any person at any event to which these rules apply has committed or may have committed a breach of these rules or has been guilty of any conduct which has or may have been derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of EA, such written and signed complaint must be lodged with the Technical Delegate officially in attendance at the event during which the cause of the complaint arose or is alleged to have arisen.

The Technical Delegate must forward a report to the appropriate EA Branch no later than 14 days after the event. Any complaint after the event must be lodged with the Secretary General of EA or an EA Branch Manager no more than fourteen (14) days after the incident.

Member protection policies may be downloaded from:

[EA Member Protection Policy](#)

7. PARTICIPATION

7.1 Athletes

Athletes must hold the appropriate level of EA membership and be currently enrolled as a primary or secondary student in a school as defined on page 4.

7.2 Horses

~~From 01 July 2011~~ All horses participating in State or Australian Interschool Championships must be registered and have a microchip meeting Australian Standard AS5018/5019 inserted.

Registered horses must be entered for events in their full registered names and their registered EA number must be provided.

For registration requirements for other Interschool Events please refer enquiries to the relevant State Branch.

Stallions are NOT permitted at any Interschool competitions.

7.3 Age of Horses

All horses and ponies must be four years of age or older to compete in Interschool competitions. Horses' ages are assessed from 1 August of the year of birth.

7.4 Restrictions on Schooling Horses

Only the nominated athlete competing in any given discipline may ride the nominated horse, on or off the grounds, on the day/s of competition until the whole event is concluded. Only competition horses are allowed in the warm-up and competition areas.

7.5 Number of Horses per Athlete

At State and Regional events, athletes may compete with more than one horse and in multiple disciplines, as long as the National Discipline Rules are followed regarding the number of tests /classes that may be contested. OCs may also restrict the number of competitions an athlete/horse combination may contest due to scheduling/programming requirements.

At the Australian interschool Championships, athletes may compete with more than one horse and in multiple disciplines with a recommendation of two classes per rider. The organising committee may accept a maximum of three classes due to scheduling and horse welfare reasons.

7.6 Grading and Qualification

As per National Sport Rules for each discipline.

Athletes are responsible for ascertaining that they and their horse are correctly qualified and competent for a class that they are entering. Individual States may set minimum qualification requirements for nomination to the State Championships or the State team for the Australian Interschool Championships.

7.7 Exemption Cards – Riders with a Disability

In order that any athlete with a disability may compete in Dressage on equal terms, an exemption scheme has been established by EA. This applies to Interschool athletes competing in Dressage. The card does not mention the rider's disability; however, it does provide Stewards and Judges with information about specific exemptions from various rules. Either an EA Exemption Card or a Para Equestrian Classification Card is acceptable.

Once the card is issued, the rider is permitted to have alternative equipment and/or conditions as mentioned on their identification card at any EA competition in Australia.

For other disciplines that do not currently have their own exemption rules, Interschool will use a "Rider With A Disability" (RWD) exemption to allow for the inclusion of all School Aged Equestrians to apply to represent their school in Equestrian Sport using the required equipment to keep them safe while competing.

Applications for this exemption are currently via your State Branch in consultation with EA Athletes Pathways Officer.

7.8 Safety

Equestrian sport by its very nature has a degree of inherent danger. The National Interschool Committee and all Organising Committees attempt to ensure the safety of athletes and horses through the implementation of Risk Management plans. It is a requirement that first aid and a paramedic/ambulance be present at all times. A treating vet and a horse ambulance are also required to be on site during the cross country phase of eventing competitions, as per the EA Eventing Rules.

At all events, the office will hold [Incident Report Forms](#).

These forms must be completed and lodged with the event office if:

- An athlete is injured
- An athlete has a fall (whether in competition or warm up)
- A horse falls (whether in competition or warm-up)
- An incident occurs that has the capacity to cause harm to others.

7.9 Dress and Equipment Australian Interschool Championships

Dress requirements for the Australian Interschool Championships are dictated by the particular standards for each discipline as laid down in the National Rules and by the State Branch as their designated State uniform.

7.10 State Championships and Qualifiers

While athletes must adhere to the specific equipment requirements for individual disciplines as outlined in the National Sport Rules, States and organising committees (affiliated schools) may specify school uniform, including school saddlecloth, should be worn. They may also specify that no jackets are to be worn.

School uniform is designed as:

- Light-coloured breeches or jodhpurs
- Long or short-sleeved shirt
- Tie, ratcatcher or stock
- A vest, jumper or jacket (*optional)

8. INTERSCHOOL EVENTS

Interschool events should include competitions from one or more of the following disciplines:

- Dressage
- Eventing
- Combined Training
- Jumping
- Show Horse

Events may include additional levels of these disciplines, such as EvA60/EvA80 Eventing or Preparatory dressage. Additional types of competition may also be conducted at the organiser's discretion, where demand indicates and where insurance and risk management allow.

Interschool competitions must be run under the National Sport Rules for each discipline, and the applicable classes can allow athletes to progress from participation through to qualifying for the State and Australian Interschool Championships.

8.2 Disclaimer of Liability

It is suggested that the following disclaimer must be printed on all entry forms, schedules and programs:

"Neither the Organising Committee of any event to which these rules apply nor Equestrian Australia accepts any liability for any accident, damage, injury, or illness to horses, athletes, ground, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever."

8.3 Reservation of Right

It is suggested that the following reservation of right must be printed on all schedules and programs:

"The Organiser reserves the right:

- To cancel any class or event
- To divide any class
- To transfer competitors between sections of a class
- To alter the advertised times
- To refuse any entry, with or without stating the reason."

The Refund Policy for events should be at the discretion of the OC and be set out in the Program. Refunds are not normally made for scratching's after the closing date for nominations for competitions.

8.7 Presentations

~~Mounted presentations must not be held at any Interschool events.~~ Presentation of ribbons and rosettes may be presented at the end of the class. Rugs are not to be presented mounted.

8.8 Protests, reports and appeals

Refer to the EA General Regulations articles 163, 164, 165 and 166 and the [EA Codes of Conduct](#).

Individual athletes or their parents must not approach the organising committee or the technical delegate with an objection - they are to work through the nominated team representative.

Athletes and their parents must ensure that an appropriate team representative is nominated at the commencement of each competition and that the office of the event is notified whom that person is.

9. COMPETITIONS

The range of competitions offered at the State and Australian Interschool Championships is based on the official disciplines of Dressage, Eventing, Jumping and Show Horse. Qualifying interschool events follow the same format, and offer the same range of competitions including, but not limited to:

- Dressage
- Eventing
- Combined Training
- Jumping
- Show Horse

9.1 Starts Per Day

Horses are restricted to the following starts per day and must be in accordance with National Disciplines Rules and regardless of the discipline these are offered under:

- Dressage – may compete in two dressage tests per day only
- Eventing – may compete in one class only
- Combined Training – may compete in one class only
- Jumping – may compete in two classes per day (two consecutive heights) only
- Show Horse – may compete in one class only

No horse is to undertake more than three competitive starts per day across disciplines.

9.1.2 Dressage

Dressage Competitions must be run under current EA National Dressage Rules. Found at - [National Dressage Rules](#)

Restrictions relating to age of riders for horses and ponies (EA National Dressage Rules 1.15.4 and 1.18 (b)) do not apply to Interschool competitions.

FEI tests may be offered to suitably qualified entrants to encourage further participation at these levels and to expose junior athletes to a higher level of performance. Freestyle tests may also be offered.

9.2.3 Jumping

Jumping competitions will be conducted under the National Sport Rules for Jumping.

9.3.2.1 Competition Against the Clock

Article 238.2.2

This is a competition against the clock, but in the event of equality of penalties for first place, there will be one jump-off against the clock. Other athletes are placed according to their penalties and time in the first round. The jump-off may be run according to table C (which must be specified in the schedule)

9.3.2.2 One Round Table A

Article 238.2.1

Athletes with equality of penalties for any place are placed in accordance with the time taken to complete the round. In the event of equality of penalties and time for first place, there may be a jump-off over a shortened course over obstacles, which may be increased in height and/or spread in accordance with the provisions of the schedule.

9.32.3 Special Two-Phase Competition under Table A

Article 274.5.6

~~This competition comprises two phases run without interruption, each at an identical or different speed, the finishing line for the first phase being identical with the starting line for the second phase.~~

~~The first phase is a course of 7 to 9 obstacles with or without combinations (Table A not against the clock). Unless eliminated, Athletes penalised in the first phase may continue in the second phase. The second phase takes place over 4 to 6 obstacles, which may include one combination (Table A against the clock).~~

~~Placing is according to the aggregate penalties in both phases (faults on obstacles and penalties for exceeding the time allowed) in both phases) and, if necessary, according to the time of the 2nd phase.~~

OR

Article 274.5.3

~~This competition comprises two phases run without interruption, each at an identical or different speed, the finishing line for the first phase being identical with the starting line for the second phase.~~

~~The first phase is a course of 7 to 9 obstacles with or without combinations (Table A Against the clock). The second phase takes place over 4 to 6 obstacles, which may include one combination. (Table A Against the clock).~~

~~Athletes penalised in the first phase are halted by ringing the bell after they have jumped the last obstacle or when the time allowed for the first phase has been exceeded, after crossing the finishing line of the first phase. They must stop after crossing the first finishing line.~~

~~Placing is according to the penalties and time in the second phase and, if necessary, to the penalties and time in the first phase.~~

~~Athletes stopped after the first phase may only be placed after athletes who have taken part in both phases. In the event of equality for first place, the tied athletes will be placed equal first.~~

Article 274.2

- ~~- This Competition comprises two phases run without interruption, each at an identical or different speed, the finishing line for the first phase being identical with the starting line for the second phase.~~
- ~~- The first phase is a course of five to seven obstacles with or without combinations. The total number of obstacles in both phases is a minimum of 11 and maximum of 13 obstacles. The second phase may include one combination.~~
- ~~- Athletes completing the first phase may continue in the second phase.~~
- ~~- The second phase finishes after crossing its finishing line.~~
- ~~- This Competition must be judged in accordance with the following formula:~~

<u>First Phase</u>	<u>Second Phase</u>	<u>Placing</u>
<u>Table A</u>	<u>Table A</u>	<u>According to the aggregate</u>

<p><u>Not against the clock</u></p> <p><u>Minimum 5 – Maximum 7 obstacles</u></p>	<p><u>Against the clock</u></p> <p><u>Remaining obstacles (total of minimum 11 and maximum 13 obstacles in both phases)</u></p>	<p><u>penalties in both phases (faults on obstacles and penalties for exceeding the time allowed in both phases) and, if necessary, according to the time of the 2nd phase.</u></p>
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9.43 Eventing

Interschool eventing competitions are run as a CCN-S events – a National One Day Event equivalent to an EA approved official event. The three tests (phases) may take place on one day, but should preferably be held over two days. The Dressage Test always takes place first. Either the cross country or the show jumping may form the last test.

Eventing will be conducted according to the National Sport Rules for Eventing.

9.54 Combined Training

Combined Training is run under Eventing Rules, with dressage and jumping phases only. Further information is available in the EA National Eventing Rules Annex J. Combined Training

~~The OC can choose if Eventing Discipline tests or Dressage Discipline Tests are used as per the rules but the Eventing test 2018 FEI CCI1*^t should be used for the 1* class.~~
The O.C. can choose to use the current Eventing Discipline tests or Dressage Discipline tests per Annexe A – Dressage of the EA National Eventing Rules.

Athletes may only compete in one Combined Training Class at the Australian Interschool Championships.

NOTE: Primary and Secondary school riders that choose to compete in eventing at the Australian Interschool Championships are ineligible to compete in Combined Training on the same horse.

9.65 Show Horse

Any Interschool competition which offers Show Horse classes should refer to the National Show Horse Rules, and also Interschool Show Horse Rules.

10. AUSTRALIAN INTERSCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australian Interschool Championships are run annually, organised by a different State Branch organising committee each year. State EA Branches are invited to tender for the right to run the Australian Interschool Championships. The Australian Interschool Championships follow the format outlined in this Rule Book.

10.1 Administration

10.1.1 Schedule

The draft schedule must be submitted to the EA-Office Interschool Committee for approval at least three (3) months prior to the event. The proposed classes and draft timetable for the Australian Championships must be submitted to the EAIC at least 6 months prior to the event, to ensure there is sufficient time for States to run championships and selection processes. Consideration of potential horse welfare issues will be considered at this time. The schedule must follow the program of competitions outlined in this Rule Book. Competitions must be run in divisions for Primary and Secondary students according to the directives for each discipline.

- The closing date for nominations must be not less than six (6) weeks before the start of the Championships
- Entries are to be made by each State Branch before the closing date of entries
- Any changes to nominated entries must be confirmed not less than two weeks before the start of the Championships

10.1.2 State Teams

- Only one team per State/Territory may be entered
- A team shall consist of athletes that are members of that state
- Each State is allowed a maximum of four qualified athletes per class
- If a State is not able to fill the four positions, these positions cannot be filled by another State.
- States may establish reserve lists based on ranking, from which to draw upon alternative team members prior to the close of nominations
- If a withdrawal of a team athlete occurs less than one month prior to the commencement of the championships, the place may only be filled from within the existing team members or listed reserve riders.

10.1.3 Team Management

Each State must appoint a Chef d'Equipe and may nominate other team officials, who will be the team representatives, attending meetings before and during the event and conveying relevant information to athletes and their appropriate coaches. All communication with the OC, including protests on behalf of the team will be through the Chef d'Equipe or other nominated Team Management official.

10.1.4 Event Calendar

Due to geographical considerations, organisers of the Australian Interschool Championships should consider scheduling the event to coincide with other suitable events for Junior Athletes. This allows team members to participate in lead-up events, and, where practical, follow-up events.

10.1.5 Event Program

State organising committees of the Australian Interschool Championships will program competitions according to local conditions and the number of entries. The Championships are expected to extend for four days. The event should

include a horse inspection for all competitors, a showcase of equestrian events and an educational component – such as a master class, team-building events, personal development workshops or opportunities to undertake Equiskills assessment.

10.2 Conditions of Entry

The Australian Interschool Championships are to be conducted with reference to the EA General Regulations, National Sport Rules for each discipline and EA Member Protection Policies.

10.2.1 Athletes

Athletes must be:

- Members of the State that they are representing
- Current Junior (or Senior if over 18 years) members of Equestrian Australia
- Qualified and endorsed by their State Branch

Parents/Guardians of Junior Members engaging in the Australian Interschool Championships will be required to acknowledge and agree to be bound by the Codes of Conduct applicable to Members of Equestrian Australia as a condition of entry. This will mean Parents/Guardians are protected by Equestrian Australia Member Protection Policies and will be responsible for observing the Codes of Conduct.

10.2.2 Age of Athletes

The Australian Interschool Championships caters for athletes from primary and secondary schools across the country.

Primary competition is restricted to athletes enrolled up to and including year 6 in the year of competition.

The Secondary competition is for those enrolled in years 7 to 12 inclusive in the year of competition. Organising committees may include Intermediate divisions in suitable classes.

Intermediate is defined as those athletes enrolled in years 7, 8 and 9. Senior divisions are for those athletes enrolled in years 10, 11 and 12 in the current year.

10.2.3 Horses

All horses entered in the Australian Interschool Championships must have FULL EA registration, and must have a microchip meeting Australian Standard AS5018/5019 inserted. Horses must be entered for events in their full registered names and their registered EA number must be provided.

- EA Registration papers/identification documents must available to be produced if requested at the event.
- All horses competing in Eventing at the Australian Interschool Championships should have previously competed successfully in the same level of competition at an EA sanctioned eventing competition.

10.2.4 Pool Horses

Pool Horses are only available to those States that have qualified athletes for the Australian Interschool Championships but where the cost of transportation is prohibitive. The organising committee of the Australian Interschool Championships will indicate in the schedule to which States this will apply depending on the location of the Australian Interschool Championships and will source a pool of suitable horses. Where height certificates are a pre-requisite, pool horses may also be measured, and receive a temporary height validation for the event only.

Pool/Borrowed horses are permitted to compete in multiple disciplines with a recommendation of two classes per horse but may compete in a maximum of three classes per horse at the owner's agreement. The O.C. may require the rider to make a choice where three classes cannot be accommodated in the scheduling.

10.2.5 Stallions

Stallions are NOT permitted at Australian Interschool competitions.

10.3 Competition

PRIMARY CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Dressage	Preliminary x 2 Tests
	Novice x 2 Tests
Combined Training	CT45 - 45cm Jumping
	CT60 - 60cm Jumping
	CT80 - 80 cm Jumping
Jumping	<u>70cm</u>
	80cm
	90cm
Show Horse	Show Horse Primary
	Show Hunter Primary
	Working Hunter Primary

SECONDARY CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Dressage	Intermediate Preliminary x 2 Tests
	Senior Preliminary x 2 Tests
	Intermediate Novice x 2 Tests
	Senior Novice x 2 Tests
	Elementary x 2 Tests
	Medium x 2 Tests
	Advanced x 2 Tests
	<u>Small Tour Championship x 2 tests, Prix St Georges & Intermediate I</u>
Intermediate I	
Combined Training	CT60 - 60cm Jumping
	CT80 - 80cm Jumping
	CT95 - 95cm Jumping
	CT1* - 105cm Jumping
	<u>CT2* - 115cm Jumping</u>
Jumping	90cm
	1.00m
	1.10m
	1.20m
Show Horse	Show Horse Secondary
	Show Hunter Secondary
	Working Hunter Secondary

COMBINED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eventing As per Eventing Rules - open to eligible riders either primary or secondary age.	EVA80
	EVA95
	CCN1*-S
	CCN2*-S

10.4 Competition Conditions

- Only competition horses are allowed in the warm-up and competition areas.
- Only the nominated athlete competing in any given discipline may ride the nominated horse, on or off the grounds, for the duration of the Event. National Sport Rules may specify further restrictions.
- Lunging by someone other than the nominated athlete is permitted, however lunging may be restricted to designated areas

10.5 Horse inspections

An informal horse arrival inspection may be scheduled not more than 24 hours prior to the start of competition at the Australian Interschool Championships at the discretion of the organising committee. The purpose of the horse inspection is to confirm the identity of the entered horses and conduct an initial health assessment prior to admission to the venue.

The aim of the Horse Inspection is to ensure the identity and fitness to compete of horses taking part in competitions by providing the same objective protocol for all disciplines. The person responsible (the nominated athlete of the horse at an Australian Interschool Championship) should present the horse for inspection.

Should the inspection panel be concerned as to the identity or soundness of any horse to be allowed to enter the facility or to compete, they will consult with to the event veterinarian.

11. AUSTRALIAN INTERSCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDS

11.1 Prizes

Prizes from 1st to 6th will be awarded for each competition in each class. (Eventing and Combined Training are classed as one overall test with only one overall result as per Eventing rules)

11.2 Individual Champions

Individuals will receive points for where they finish in each competition of their class.

Points will be allocated from 35 points for 1st place to 1 point for 35th placing and beyond if there are more than 35 riders in the class. The points received in each competition are totalled to decide the Championship placings.

The Championship placings will then be reallocated points from 35 to 1 for use when totalling team scores for overall team placings.

Champion points are awarded only where an athlete has completed all phases/sections of a class without elimination or disqualification.

Equality in class and sub class placings will be resolved for places 1st to 6th. If equality cannot be resolved, riders will be awarded equal placing and share points. For example one rider may be awarded 6th place and receive 30 points, two riders may be awarded 7th place so each will be awarded 28.5 points, then the next placed rider would be awarded 9th and 27 points.

- I. **Show Jumping** - In the event of equality the rider with the higher ranking in the ~~Two-Phase Article 274 5.3~~ Competition Against the Clock, Article 238.2.2 One Round with a Jump off as per the National Jumping Rules shall be placed highest. If equality still remains riders are awarded equal placing and share equal points.
- II. **Dressage** – in the event of equality, the Champion will be obtained by following the National Dressage rules.
- III. **Show Horse** – In the event of equality of points in the Championship, Phase 2 Rider will be used to split ties. If there is still equality, Phase 3 Ridden and then Phase 1 Led will be used. There can be NO equal placings in Championship results.
- IV. **Eventing** – In the event of equality of points the riders with the lowest cross country obstacle score (total of penalties) is awarded the higher ranking. If equality still remains, the rider with the time closest to optimum time in the cross country is awarded the higher ranking. If equality still remains, the rider with lowest jumping score (total of penalties) is awarded the higher ranking. If equality still remains, the rider with fastest jumping time is awarded the higher ranking. If equality still remains, the rider with the best total of collective marks in the dressage test score is awarded the higher ranking. If equality still remains riders are awarded equal placing and equal points.
- V. **Combined training** - in the event of equality of points the rider with the best dressage score determines the ranking. If equality still remains, the rider with the time closest to (and under) the optimum jumping time is awarded the higher ranking. If equality still remains riders are awarded equal placing and equal points.

11.3 Champion Discipline Teams

Sashes/ribbons are awarded for teams placed 1st to 3rd, with the following team awards offered:

- I. Primary Dressage
- II. Primary Show Jumping
- III. Primary Combined Training
- IV. Primary Show Horse
- V. Secondary Dressage
- VI. Secondary Show Jumping
- VII. Secondary Combined Training
- VIII. Eventing
- IX. Secondary Show Horse
- X. Freestyle Teams are optional

Individual championship points are used to determine the champion, reserve champion and 3rd placed team in each team discipline.

When calculating a discipline team score, the total individual points of the top three individuals (within each discipline) are counted. The fourth member's points (if there is a 4th member) are used only to determine the outcome in the case of a tie.

In the event there are multiple team members on the same individual points the riders that have competed at the highest level scores will be counted.

Where a rider has competed in more than one championship in a discipline, only the highest championship score is counted e.g. If a rider competes in elementary and novice dressage championships then the championship that has accrued the highest points counts.

Where a rider competes on more than one horse in a discipline only one of the rider's scores may count towards the team score i.e. a rider cannot be in a team on 2 horses in the same discipline.

11.4 Champion State Team

The Harry le Bherz Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the state with the highest accumulated individual rider points across dressage, eventing, combined training, show horse and show jumping for all state team members.

[A Team prize will be awarded to the state placed highest based on a system considering overall points and the number of team members and possible classes entered.](#)

11.5 Awards

- I. **Tammy Rhodes Dressage Trophy:** Presented to the athlete with the highest accumulated points across a Championship regardless of the Championship level. Class champions with a minimum average higher than 60% across both tests will be considered for this award. Freestyle results are not included. Where riders have equal points the rider in the higher level is awarded the trophy.
- II. **Closest to Ideal Time Eventing Trophy:** Presented to the athlete who returns the closest to optimum time (under time) on the cross country with no jumping penalties. All Class Champions are considered for this award. Where riders have equal optimum times, the rider in the higher level competition is awarded the trophy.

- III. **Combined Training Trophy:** Presented to the athlete with the fewest penalty points in Combined Training. All Class Champions are considered for this award. The rider with the lowest total is awarded the trophy. Where riders have equal points the rider in the higher level is awarded the trophy.
- IV. **Finch Farms Show Jumping Trophy:** Presented to the athlete with the highest accumulated points across a Championship regardless of the Championship height but with at least a clear round in the AM7. If there is still equality - as per rule 10.6.2 the rider with the higher ranking in the 2 Phase shall be placed highest. Where riders still have equal points the rider in the higher level is awarded the trophy.
- V. **Show Rider Trophy:** Presented to the athlete with the least penalty points (maximum available points per class, less total points earned) in Show Horse, Show Hunter and Working Hunter championships. All Class Champions are considered for this award. Where riders have equal points the rider with the highest score in the rider phase of their class is awarded the trophy.
- VI. **Special Awards:** based on the highest aggregate individual championship points across all disciplines for the nominated horse/pony. In the case of equality of points the horse/pony achieving the highest points in the highest level class will be declared winner. For Welsh and APSB awards, pony/horse registration and owner membership details must be financial and provided at time of entry. For OTT awards, the horses registered Racing Name must be provided

11.6 Presentations

All athletes are expected to attend presentations. The organising committee will advise the schedule of presentations. Mounted presentations must not be held at any [Australian](#) Interschool events.