

Equestrian Australia Limited

# NATIONAL INTERSCHOOL RULES



EQUESTRIAN  
AUSTRALIA

Effective  
**2026**  
7 January



[www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble	3
Definitions	4
<b>Section 1 – Organisational Structure</b>	5
1.1 Education	5
1.2 Events	5
1.3 Interschool Qualifying Events	5
1.4 Tag on Qualifying Events	5
1.5 Regional Championships	5
1.6 State Championships	6
1.7 Australian Interschool Championships	6
1.8 International Teams	6
<b>Section 2 – Conditions of Entry</b>	7
2.1 Acceptance of Rules	7
2.2 Sport Rules	7
2.3 Event Rules	7
<b>Section 3 – Codes of Conduct</b>	8
<b>Section 4 – Protection Policies</b>	9
4.1 Protection of Athletes	9
4.2 Safeguarding Children and Young People	9
4.3 Abuse	9
4.4 Protection of Horses	9
4.5 Abuse of the Horse	9
4.6 Orders	10
4.7 Disciplinary Procedures	10
<b>Section 5 – Participation</b>	10
5.1 Athletes	10
5.2 Horses	10
5.3 Age of Horses	10
5.4 Restrictions on Schooling Horses	11
5.5 Number of Horses per Athlete	11
5.6 Grading and Qualifications	11
5.7 Exemption Cards – Riders with a Disability	12
5.8 Safety	12
5.9 Examination After a Fall	12
5.10 Dress and Equipment Australian Interschool Championships	13
5.11 Dress and Equipment State Championships and Qualifiers	13
<b>Section 6 – Interschool Events</b>	14
6.1 Statement of Liability	14
6.2 Reservation of Right	14
6.3 Presentations	14
6.4 Protests, Reports and Appeals	14
<b>Section 7 – Competitions</b>	15
7.1 Starts Per Day	15
7.2 Dressage	15
7.3 Jumping	15

7.3.1 One Round Against Optimum Time	15
7.3.2 Competition Against the Clock	16
7.3.3 One Round Table A	16
7.3.4 Special Two-Phase	16
7.4 Eventing	16
7.5 Combined Training	16
7.6 Show Horse	17
<b>Section 8 – Australian Interschool Championships</b>	18
8.1 Administration	18
8.1.1 Schedule	18
8.1.2 State Teams	18
8.1.3 Team Management	18
8.1.4 Opening Ceremony Attendance	18
8.1.5 Event Calendar	19
8.1.6 Event Program	19
8.2 Conditions of Entry	19
8.2.1 Athletes	19
8.2.2 Age of Athletes	19
8.2.3 Horses	20
8.2.4 Pool Horses	20
8.3 Competition Conditions	20
8.4 Horse Inspections	20
8.5 Competition	21
<b>Section 9 – Australian Interschool Championship Awards</b>	22
9.1 Prizes	22
9.2 Individual Champions	22
9.3 Champion Discipline Teams	23
9.4 Champion State Team	23
9.5 Discipline Awards	24
9.6 Presentations	24

To be read in conjunction with the EA General Regulations and other EA policies and By-Law available on the EA website [www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au)

These rules are effective from 1 January 2026. From this date on, all other texts covering the same matter are superseded.

## PREAMBLE

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](http://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 Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy](#) 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.

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.

These rules cannot provide for every eventuality. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the appropriate official(s) (including but not limited to the Organising Committee, Technical Delegate, Ground Jury or Chief Steward) to make a decision in a sporting spirit and adhere as closely as possible to the intention of these rules.

Notwithstanding anything stipulated in these rules, the Equestrian Australian Interschool Committee (EAIC) has full discretion and complete authority to omit, amend and interpret these rules in their absolute discretion and to give or to withhold any explanation of its decision.

## DEFINITIONS

Below is a list of definitions of commonly used terms:

**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.

**Intermediate Competition** – is for those enrolled in year/grade 7, 8 and 9 inclusive in the year of competition.

**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.

**Primary Competition** – is restricted to riders enrolled up to and including year/grade 6 in the year of competition.

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

**School** - riders must be currently enrolled in a state registered 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.

**Secondary Competition** – is for those enrolled in year/grade 7 to 12 inclusive in the year of competition.

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

**Senior Competition** – is for those enrolled in year/grade 10, 11 and 12 inclusive in the year of competition.

## **SECTION I ~ 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.

### **I.1 EDUCATION**

Interschool athletes are strongly encouraged to undertake the Equestrian Skills Educational programs offered by Equestrian Australia. These start with the Introductory Horse Management and Riding which are completed as a stand-alone module. These are the prerequisites to commence the EA Coaching Program. Completion of these educational programmes may also assist with any applications for inclusion on State Teams and National Squads and when applying for scholarship programs.

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

### **I.2 EVENTS**

Equestrian Australia Interschool Events are those held under the rules contained in this document, along with the current 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 Interschools.

Qualifying events equate to EA levels of competition, contested by junior athletes. The 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.

### **I.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.

### **I.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 the State.

## **1.5 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.

## **1.6 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each State EA Branch runs a 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.

## **1.7 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.

## **1.8 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.

## SECTION 2 ~ 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 these 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. e.g. EA Interschool exemption 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.

### 2.1 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. It remains the full responsibility of the rider to comply with the equipment rules as outlined for the different disciplines. All currently available for download from the Equestrian Australia website.

### 2.2 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.

### 2.3 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.

## SECTION 3 ~ 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 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 2024 Veterinary Regulations**
- **FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse**
- **FEI General Regulations 24th Edition Effective 1 January 2020 Updates effective 1 January 2024**
- **Equestrian Australia Code of Conduct** including
  - Athlete
  - Coach
  - Administrator
  - Official paid or unpaid
  - Support person or volunteer
  - Parent, carer or spectator

## SECTION 4 ~ PROTECTION POLICIES

### 4.1 PROTECTION OF ATHLETES (Article 140 EA General Regulations)

The Ground Jury (where applicable) or designated Official after consultation with the responsible Medical Officer may at any time exclude any competitor, EA member or non-member, from further participation in a Competition, or an entire Event, or Equestrian Activity, who is deemed unfit to continue by reason of a serious or potentially serious injury/illness or health condition.

### 4.2 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

Refer to the Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy and EA Member Protection Policy. Every person and organisation bound by this policy must always place the safety and welfare of children and young people above all other considerations.

As part of Equestrian Australia's commitment to safeguarding children and young people in the sport of Equestrian, and in line with the EA Safeguarding Children & Young People, EA has implemented mandatory Working with Children Checks for all EA Officials and Interschool Committees.

### 4.3 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 always adhere to the instructions and directions of any competition official.

### 4.4 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.

### 4.5 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 of 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.

#### **4.6 ORDERS**

Athletes and owners of competing horses and other people associated with them must, under penalty of elimination, obey an 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.

#### **4.7 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 as or may have been derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interest of EA, such written and singed complaint must be lodged with the Technical Delegate officially in attendance at that 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](#).

## SECTION 5 ~ PARTICIPATION

### 5.1 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 3.

### 5.2 HORSES

All horses entered in Australian Interschool Championships must have EA FULL Horse 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.

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

Stallions are **NOT** permitted at any Interschool competitions.

### 5.3 AGE OF HORSES

All horses and ponies must be four (4) years of age or older to compete in Interschool competitions. Horses' ages are assessed from 1 August of the year of birth.

### 5.4 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 warmup and competition areas.

### 5.5 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. O.C.'s 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.

### 5.6 GRADING AND QUALIFICATION

As per National Sports 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.

## EXEMPTION CARDS – ALL ABILITIES

### 5.7

To support the inclusion of athletes with additional needs in Interschool competitions, Equestrian Australia (EA) has established pathways, including a athlete classification and exemption scheme. This aims to allow eligible riders to compete on equitable terms in Interschool Dressage, the Dressage phases of Interschool Eventing and Combined Training, as well as in specific Interschool All Abilities Dressage and Show Horse classes.

An Exemption Card will not disclose the rider's specific disability but outlines approved modifications to rules, which are provided to Stewards and Judges. Riders may present either an EA Exemption Card, a Para Equestrian Classification Card, Virtus classification or an approved EA Interschool card as reviewed by the EA Exemption Committee . Once issued, this card allows the rider to use alternative equipment and/or conditions as specified on the card at EA Interschool competitions in Australia. Exemptions may be for Interschool open classes and/or All Abilities classes. All Abilities opportunities offered are subject to the organisers ability to offer specific levels, tests and classes. Any Exemption Cards must be presented to Event Organising Committee at time of nomination, and kept with the rider at competitions.

Interschool recognises the EA Interschool exemption card to support the safe and fair participation of school-aged equestrians in All Abilities classes. Athletes may utilise permitted equipment or accommodations as outlined in the EA Para Dressage Rules [Para Equestrian Rules and Tests | Equestrian Australia](#), Virtus Dressage rules [VIRTUS-Equestrian-Dressage-Rules-2025-V1.pdf](#) and Para Dressage [Para Equestrian Classification | Equestrian Australia](#) and Virtus Master List, where such modifications are necessary for their inclusion.

To apply for an approved Interschool Exemption, athletes must meet strict eligibility criteria, including the submission of relevant medical documentation. Applications must be endorsed by the State Interschool Committee and assessed in consultation with the EA Exemption Committee , as appointed by the EA Office.

### 5.8

#### 5.8 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/or a paramedic/ambulance be present at all times in line with the event risk assessment and National Discipline rules.

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 National Eventing Rules.

At all events an [EA Incident Report Form 08](#) is mandatory to report all incidents, that occur at an EA affiliated equestrian activity and must be completed within 24 hours.

If an incident has occurred to both a human and horse, two forms must be completed.

Form 08 must be completed by the Medical Service Provider (MSP) in attendance for the following:

- 1. Life threatening injury/fatality
- 2. Incident resulting in injury requiring hospital/medical follow up
- 3. Suspected or confirmed concussion by MSP

- 4. Horse incident or injury including fatality completed by a veterinarian if present.
- 5. Falls/No injury minor incident select Option 5

## 5.9 EXAMINATION AFTER A FALL

All athletes that have had a fall during training on the competition site or in competition must be examined by the official Medical Officer before they either take part in another test, competition or leave the venue. Athletes should not re-mount their horse until the examination has been completed.

The Athlete is fully responsible for ensuring that this examination takes place.

EA Incident Report Form 08 must be completed by the attending Medical Service Provider.

## 5.10 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.

## 5.11 DRESS AND EQUIPMENT 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\* (\*as per state rules )

# SECTION 6 ~ 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.

## 6.1 STATEMENT OF LIABILITY

The following disclaimer must be printed on entry forms, schedules and programs:

'Neither the Organising Committee of any competition to which these rules apply, or the EA,

accepts any liability for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, grounds, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever.'

## **6.2 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 alter advertised times
- Refuse any entry, with or without stating the reason
- Transfer athletes between sections of a class
- To alter or amend the schedule as the OC sees fit (refer Article 115.1)

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 after the closing date for nominations for competitions.

## **6.3 PRESENTATIONS**

Presentation of ribbons and rosettes may be presented at the end of the class. Rugs are not to be presented mounted.

## **6.4 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.

# **SECTION 7 ~ 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

## **7.1 STARTS PER DAY**

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

- Dressage; may compete in three dressage tests up to and including Advanced level as per EA National Dressage rules per day only. (3 Dressage tests = 3 starts)

- Eventing; may compete in one level only.
- Combined Training; may compete in one level only (Dressage phase = 1 start, Jumping phase = 1 start).
- Jumping; may compete in two consecutive heights only per day (, each height article number = 1 start).
- Show Horse; may compete in one class only (this equals 1 start)

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

## 7.2 DRESSAGE

Dressage competitions must run under current [EA National Dressage Rules](#) which can be found on the EA website.

Restrictions relating to age of riders for horses and ponies (EA National Dressage Rules 4.14) 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.

### 7.2.1 CALLERS IN INTERSCHOOL DRESSAGE

State Interschool Championships: Callers permitted for Preliminary, Novice, Elementary, Medium and Advanced Dressage Classes only, for both Primary and Secondary riders.

Australian Interschool Championships: Callers permitted for Preliminary & Novice Dressage classes for Primary riders only.

Headsets/ ear phones are not permitted.

## 7.3 JUMPING

Jumping competitions will be conducted under EA National Sports Rules for Jumping. Some suggested Article numbers for use are as follows:

### 7.3.1 ONE ROUND AGAINST OPTIMUM TIME (Article 238.5.1)

Athletes with equality of penalties are placed in accordance with the time closest either side of the Optimum Time. Athletes in this round who come in under or over the Optimum Time by more than 10 seconds will have 1 time penalty added to their score for every elapsed second over the ten seconds.

### 7.3.2 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).

### 7.3.3 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.

#### **7.3.4 SPECIAL TWO-PHASE COMPETITION UNDER TABLE A** (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 a 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:

<b>First Phase</b>	<b>Second Phase</b>	<b>Placing</b>
Table A Not against the clock Minimum 5 – Maximum 7 obstacles	Table A Against the clock Remaining obstacles (Total of minimum 11 and maximum 13 obstacles in both phases)	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 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase.

### **7.4 EVENTING**

Interschool eventing competitions are run as 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 EA National Sports Rules for Eventing. Horse/Rider combinations are required to have 2 MERS at entered level by the close of entries. Dressage Tests for Eventing, as per the EA National Eventing Rules – Annex A 3. EA Dressage Tests for Eventing <https://www.equestrian.org.au/Eventing-Dressage-test>

### **7.5 COMBINED TRAINING**

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

Dressage Tests for Combined Training , as per the EA National Eventing Rules – Annex A 3. Dressage Tests for Eventing <https://www.equestrian.org.au/Eventing-Dressage-test>

Athletes may only compete in one (1) 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.

### **7.5.1 COMBINED TRAINING – CALLERS**

**CALLERS ARE PERMITTED UP TO AND INCLUDING 95CM FOR THE DRESSAGE PHASE**

Headsets/ ear phones are not permitted.

### **7.6 SHOW HORSE**

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

## SECTION 8 ~ 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.

### 8.1 ADMINISTRATION

#### 8.1.1 SCHEDULE

The draft schedule must be submitted to the EA Interschool Committee for approval at least three (3) months prior to the event.

The proposed classes and draft timetable for the Australian Interschool Championships must be submitted to the EAIC at least six (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 five (5) 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.

#### 8.1.2 STATE/ TERRITORY TEAMS

- Only one team per State/Territory may be entered.
- A team shall consist of athletes that are members of that state.
- Each State/Territory is allowed a maximum of four (4) qualified athletes per class with the exception of Eventing where up to a maximum of six (6) qualified athletes per class is permitted.
- If a State/Territory is not able to fill the four positions, these positions cannot be filled by another State.
- States/Territories 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.

#### 8.1.3 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 O.C., including protests on behalf of the team will be through the Chef d 'Equipe or other nominated Team Management official.

#### **8.1.4 OPENING CEREMONY ATTENDANCE**

All athletes are required to be present at the Australian Interschool Championship Opening Ceremony. Athletes who do not attend will be disqualified from participating in the championships.

The O.C. may grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis for unexpected or special circumstances for example, but not limited to school examinations or family emergencies.

#### **8.1.5 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.

#### **8.1.6 EVENT PROGRAM**

State organising committees of the Australian Interschool Championships will program competition 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.

### **8.2 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.

#### **8.2.1 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.

#### **8.2.2 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/Grade 6 in the year of competition.

The Secondary competition is for those enrolled in Years/Grade 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/Grade 7, 8 and 9.

Senior divisions are for those athletes enrolled in Years/Grade 10, 11 and 12 in the current year.

### **8.2.3 HORSES**

All horses entered in the Australian Interschool Championships must have EA FULL Horse 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 be available to be produced if requested at the event.
- All horses competing in Eventing at the Australian Interschool Championships are required to have 2 MER.s at entered level as a horse/rider combination at an EA sanctioned eventing competition.

### **8.2.4 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. Pool horses in Dressage may compete up to and including Novice, all Show Horse competitions, and any Jumping phase up to and including 95cm. The O.C. may require the rider to make a choice where three classes cannot be accommodated in the scheduling.

## **8.3 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.

## **8.4 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 horse 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 the 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 the event veterinarian.

## 8.5 COMPETITION

PRIMARY CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Dressage	Preliminary x 2 tests
	Novice x 2 tests
	*Open Elementary x 2 tests (*open to both Primary & Secondary riders)
	*Open Medium x 2 tests (*open to both Primary & Secondary riders)
Combined Training	CT50 – 50cm Jumping
	CT65 – 65cm Jumping
	CT80 – 80cm Jumping
Jumping	70cm
	80cm
	90cm
Show Horse	Show Horse Primary
	Show 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
	*Open Elementary x 2 tests (*open to both Primary & Secondary riders)
	*Open Medium x 2 tests (*open to both Primary & Secondary riders)
	Advanced x 2 tests
FEI Small Tour Dressage	Prix St Georges
	Intermediate I
Combined Training	CT65 – 65cm Jumping
	CT80 – 80cm Jumping
	CT95 – 95cm Jumping
	CT1* - 105cm Jumping
Jumping	90cm
	100cm
	110cm
	120cm
<b>Show Horse</b> <i>**If the Interschool Nationals Event Organising Committee does not plan to include Intermediate Show Horse classes the following year, States should be advised by December.</i>	Show Horse Secondary
	Show Hunter Secondary

EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS	
<b>Eventing</b>	EVA80
As per Eventing Rules – open to eligible riders either primary or secondary age.	EVA95
	CCN1*-S
	CCN2*-S

## SECTION 9 ~ AUSTRALIAN INTERSCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDS

### 9.1 PRIZES

Prizes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 9.2 INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

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

Points will be allocated from 35 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place to 1 point for 35<sup>th</sup> placing and beyond if there are more than 35 riders in the class.

Points received in each competition are totalled to decide the Championship placings.

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

Champion points are awarded only where the 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 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. If equality cannot be resolved, riders will be awarded equal placings and share points. For example one rider may be awarded 6<sup>th</sup> place and receive 30 points, two riders may be awarded 7<sup>th</sup> place so each will be awarded 28.5 points, then the next placed rider would be awarded 9<sup>th</sup> and 27 points.

**I. Show jumping** – in the event of equality the rider with the higher ranking in the 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 placings 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 placing's 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 time closest to optimum time in the cross country is awarded the higher ranking.

If equality still remains, the rider with the lowest jumping score (total of penalties) is awarded the higher ranking. If equality still remains, the rider with the 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.

### **9.3 CHAMPION DISCIPLINE TEAMS**

Sashes/ribbons are awarded for team placed 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **9.4 CHAMPION STATE/ TERRITORY 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.

The **Equestrian Australia Interschool Committee Perpetual Trophy** will be awarded to the state with the highest average points via the following manner:

- only states with up to 50 riders will be eligible.

- overall points counted per class for state riders as for the overall trophy.
- total overall points will be divided by the number of riders who have competed for that state.
- the team average will decide the winning State.

## **9.5 DISCIPLINE AWARDS**

- I.** **Tammy Rhodes Dressage Trophy:** presented to the athlete with the highest accumulated points across a Championship regardless of the championship level. All class champions with a minimum average higher than 60% across both tests will be considered for this award. Freestyle results (if offered) 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 Article 238.2.2 . If there is still equality – the rider with the higher ranking in the Special Two 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 the winner. For Welsh and APSB awards, pony/horse registration and owner membership details must be financial and provided at the time of entry. For OTT awards, the horses registered Racing Name must be provided.

## **9.6 PRESENTATIONS**

All athletes are expected to attend presentations. The organising committee will advise the schedule of presentations. Mounted presentations of rugs must not be held at any Australian Interschool Championship event.