

# Equestrian Australia Limited



## **NATIONAL INTERSCHOOL RULES**

**Effective 1 July 2017**

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

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

Interschool operates under the rules and guidelines of the disciplines of Dressage, Jumping, Eventing and Show Horse. The National Sport Rules are to be followed by all affiliated organisations conducting Interschool events. This rulebook is concerned with the regulations governing Interschool events at National Championship level, and may be referred to for guidance in the absence of State guidelines, or where the National Sport Rules for each discipline are not definitive.

The primary objective of Equestrian Australia is the development of horse sports from the participation level to the high performance level. Interschool comprises 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 across the Olympic disciplines, from local school competitions through to Australian Championships. The State Interschool Coordinators and CEOs form the National Interschool Committee (NIC), which is responsible for developing the Interschool Rules and competition programs at National Championship level.

The educational pathway of Interschool provides the “horsemanship” component of equestrian sport, and is designed to provide a strong foundation for competitive athletes, coaches, officials, non-riding equestrian enthusiasts and those wishing to pursue a career in the horse industry.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

**Athlete** – the term used for a rider, driver or vaulter in equestrian sport

**Class** – the classification of a competition by athlete and level (i.e. Primary Preliminary Dressage, or Secondary Showman E4\_85)

**Competition**– the individual disciplines included as part of an event (i.e. Jumping, Combined Training, Dressage)

**Event** – the complete program of competition (i.e. Australian Championships 2011, Queensland State Interschool Championships, Galston High School Jumping Day)

**NCAS** - The National Coaching Accreditation Scheme was started in 1980 by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). NCAS is not specific to equestrian, there are nearly 100 Sports registered with the NCAS program. At present Equestrian Australia offers coach accreditation in: General, Dressage, Eventing, Jumping, Vaulting and Carriage Driving.

**NOAS** – National Officials Accreditation System. This is the system managed by Equestrian Australia which ensures officials – including Judges, Technical Delegates, Course Designers and Stewards - are educated, supported and accredited at National level across a variety of disciplines.

**Official** - An official is a person who oversees a competition, or aspect thereof, by applying the rules of the sport. They may be rules directly relating to judgments on performance, time, score 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 the elements of a class, all of which must be completed in order to receive a score for the class (i.e. Dressage, Ridden Display and In-Hand Phases of E3 Showman; or the Dressage, Cross Country and Jumping Phases of Introductory Eventing)

**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, school of the air and TAFE where a student under the age of 19 is enrolled in full time study but does not include TAFE (part time), University or other technical colleges.

**Section** - the individual elements of a competition that may be included in the calculation of a Championship (i.e. Secondary Elementary 3B - 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 for students over 12 years of age. Successful completion of these programs is a prerequisite to commencing the NCAS Coaching Program and may become a requirement for inclusion on National and State Teams and Squads and scholarship programs.

Education programs may be studied independently, or as part of a club or school group. Schools that organise Equestrian Skills programs as part of their curriculum are required to become members of EA.

#### EA Education Programs

#### **3.2 Competitions**

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

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

All Interschool Qualifying and Championship events are run under EA Rules.

Qualifying events equate to Official 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 annual Australian Interschool Championships.

#### **3.3 Associate/Affiliated events**

Affiliated Schools or Clubs 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. These events are designed for maximum participation, and may be run alongside Qualifying Events.

#### **3.4 Qualifying events**

These are conducted by affiliated schools or other organising committees and are run under the auspices of Equestrian Australia, with the aim of providing a suitable level of competition for athletes to qualify for entry to State Championships.

#### **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 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.

### **3.7 Australian Interschool-Championships**

This is the highest level of Interschool competition. Athletes qualify at State Championships (where these are conducted), and up to five\* of 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.

\*Organising Committees of Australian Championships may nominate which events can accommodate additional (fifth) riders from a State.

## **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 and Equitation, which are not included in the National Sport Rules for Dressage, Eventing, Jumping and Show Horse.

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](http://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 Australian 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 will 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:

- Code of Conduct For the Welfare of the Horse
- Equestrian Australia Code of Conduct
- FEI Code of Conduct for Competitors
- Equestrian Australia Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians
- Equestrian Australia 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**

(Article 3.2.8, and Attachment C2) [EA Member Protection 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.

### **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)

Horse abuse in any form will not be tolerated. If horse abuse is determined the athlete will be disqualified from the competition.

The sighting of blood on the horse during a test, whether wet or dry, will entail elimination and/or investigation by the Ground Jury/Technical Delegate based upon the Sport Rules of the discipline involved.

Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a protest (EA General Regulations Article 163) to the Ground Jury/Technical Delegate for referral to the Judicial Committee. Persons witnessing an abuse should where possible endeavour to stop the abuse.

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 causes 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 student in a school as defined below:

A school is defined as one that is registered as a school as part of the State's Education System. It includes home school, school of the air and TAFE where a student under the age of 19 is enrolled in full time study but does not include TAFE (part time), University or other technical colleges.

### **7.2 Horses**

From 01 July 2011 all horses participating in Australian and State 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.

### **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 Nominated Athlete**

Only the Interschool 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 Australian 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.

Horses that have an FEI Dressage grading are permitted to compete at Advanced Dressage level for interschool competitions only where FEI-level classes are not offered.

For Dressage, grading is assessed as at the closing date of entries as per EA National Dressage Rules.

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 State and Australian 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.

## **7.8 Safety**

Equestrian sport by its very nature has a degree of danger inherent in it. 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 National 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 Championships**

Dress requirements for 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 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 designated as:

- Light-coloured breeches or jodhpurs
- Long or short-sleeved shirt
- Tie, ratcatcher or stock
- A vest, jumper or jacket (\*optional)
- Boots
- Helmet
- Gloves are compulsory for all dressage competitions

### **7.11 Helmets**

Athletes must ride in EA approved safety helmets at all times as per National Sport Rules for each discipline. Helmets must be securely fastened and failure to comply with this regulation will result in elimination from the competition. Top hats are not allowed in any interschool competitions.

### **7.12 Boots**

Athletes must ride in EA approved boots as per National Sport Rules for each discipline. Boots can be black or brown or black with a brown top. Athletes may wear gaiters with short boots in all disciplines as long as the gaiters are full grain leather on the exposed side of the gaiter and the gaiters are the same colour as the boots. There are some exceptions to this rule: for Dressage at Advanced level and above, long boots must be worn if a tailcoat is worn instead of a short jacket. Show Horse Rules preclude competitors in Rider classes who are 17 years of age and younger to wear top boots or gaiters – short boots and jodhpurs must be worn.

## 8. INTERSCHOOL EVENTS

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

- Dressage
- Eventing and Combined Training
- Jumping
- Show Horse
- [Vaulting](#)

Additional types of competition Events may also include various levels of these disciplines, such as EvA 60/EvA80 Eventing or Preparatory dressage may be conducted at the organiser's discretion. These could include: sporting, fancy dress, polocrosse tournament, mounted games, reining and carriage driving, where demand indicates and where insurance and risk management allow.

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

### 8.1 Program

All event programs must include the following:

- A statement that the Event is held under EA Rules for Interschool
- Nomination process and closing date of entries
- Timetable of classes and tests
- List of officials including Organiser, Course Designer, Technical Delegate, Judges, Veterinary & Medical Officials
- Disclaimer of liability
- Organiser's reservation of right (including refund policy)
- Plan of Event location showing horse parking and non-horse parking areas, stabling and yarding areas, warm-up, marshalling and competition arenas and cross-country course, however simple.
- [EA Codes of Conduct](#) – and a statement that these will be displayed at the event venue
- Acknowledgement of the contribution made by volunteers

The following additional items should be included if possible:

- Brief rules and system of scoring
- The dressage test/s
- Show Horse workouts and Show Hunter jumping course plans
- Dogs must be kept under effective control at all times
- List of forthcoming Events

### 8.2 Disclaimer of Liability

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

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.

#### **8.4 Volunteers**

Most Interschool competitions rely heavily on volunteers to assist in the running of the events. In most nomination forms there should be a place for athletes to nominate a helper who will be tasked with a job for the event.

#### **8.5 Results**

Scores will be displayed on the public scoreboard as soon as possible after a competitor has completed the test.

The Organising Committee (OC) must send to the relevant EA Branch within seven days of the event:

- A copy of the program
- An electronic copy of the master score sheets for the whole competition, with the final classification

The master score sheet from all Interschool Championships must be provided to EA for publication on the website.

#### **8.6 Prizes**

In all Interschool Events, at qualifying level and above, prizes will be awarded to competitors according to their placings and the number of starters in the class. A minimum of three prizes must be offered in every class. Organisers may award additional prizes for individuals and for school teams. Six places will be provided at Australian Championships.

#### **8.7 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 Interschool events.

#### **8.8 Protests, reports and appeals**

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

Objections must be made to the organising committee within 30 minutes of the publication of results for the class. Upon the receipt of any objection the OC must pass the same immediately to the TD/Ground Jury for determination.

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. At Australian Championships, the team representative will be the State's chef d'equipe.

#### **8.9 Officials**

All situations cannot be foreseen and in any exceptional circumstances it is the duty of the appropriate Officials (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.

An Official is authorised to:

- Intervene in order to prevent any abuse of horses by athletes, grooms, owners or any other person
- Intervene in order to prevent any contravention of the common principles of behaviour, fairness and accepted standards of sportsmanship

### **8.10 Appeal Committee**

An Appeal Committee consisting of a President and two or four members must be appointed by the OC to make decisions outside the jurisdiction of the Ground Juries. Any decision from an appeal committee will be final and binding and no further appeal or correspondence will be entered into.

### **8.11 Chief Steward**

The Chief Steward is authorised to undertake a range of duties, primarily concerned with Athlete and Horse welfare. These include ensuring that Codes of Conduct are observed, dressage gear stewards are briefed, and marshals are in the correct locations and provided with running sheets. The chief steward is also responsible for horse inspections and for liaising with the Swabbing Steward with regard to swabbing of horses.

### **8.12 Course Designer**

Jumping - The Jumping courses are to be built by a NOAS course designer.

Eventing - Cross Country - The Course Designer with appropriate qualifications will be approved by EA.

Dressage Gear Check Steward - For Dressage there must be a dedicated Gear Steward as specified under the National Sport Rules for Dressage.

### **8.13 Judges**

Judges must be accredited to judge their respective sports and drawn from NOAS-accredited lists. Accommodation and travelling expenses must be paid for all judges not domiciled in the host State, unless alternative arrangements are made.

### **8.14 Dressage**

Two judges must be used for both sections of each Dressage class at Championship events. Different judges must be used for each section of each Dressage class.

Judges will be drawn from the NOAS according to the following table; however two judges (of the correct level) must be used for each test at Australian Championship level. Number of judges required per class as per EA National Dressage Rules.

### **8.15 Jumping**

Jumping judges will be drawn from the NOAS.

### **8.16 Eventing - Dressage**

Judges will be appointed as per EA National Eventing Rules.

### **8.17 Eventing - Jumping**

The Jumping phase must be judged by an NOAS jumping judge. The jumping course designer may also officiate as the judge.

### **8.18 Show Horse**

Judges must be drawn from the NOAS at State and Australian Championship events and be selected in line with Show Horse Rules

- The Ridden Display is to be judged by a NOAS Show Horse judge of State or National level, with specific skills in judging Rider Classes.
- The Jumping phase is to be judged by a NOAS Jumping or Show Horse judge of State or National level (ideally with experience judging working hunters or equitation), or an NCAS coach with experience training working hunters and/or equitation.
- The In-Hand phase must be judged by a NOAS Show Horse judge of State or National level, or an NCAS coach with suitable experience training junior handlers and instructing horsemanship.

## **8.20 Marshals**

All competitors are required to present to a marshal at least 15 minutes prior to the allocated riding time on the draw and prior to entering the competition arena for each class. The Marshal is the person responsible for directing athletes to their relevant competition arenas in draw order and at the correct time.

## **8.21 Medication Control - Swabbing Steward**

An EA Accredited Horse Swabbing Steward (HSS) and veterinarian are responsible for carrying out the procedures involved in testing horses for prohibited substances in accordance with the EA Veterinary Rules and Regulations relating to Medication Control.

Horses ridden in EA competition must not compete under the influence of prohibited medications. The FEI defines what a prohibited substance is. The EA Anti-Doping and Medication Control By-Laws describe requirements for the drug testing of horses and ponies.

Swabbing is the testing of a horse's urine and blood samples to ensure that all horses are competing under the National EA and FEI competition rules without being influenced by prohibited substances. Medication Control (Swabbing) is compulsory at all FEI events, all Australian Championships, all State Championships or equivalent, and upon any horse that dies/has to be euthanized at an EA National Championship competition. Swabbing is also recommended at all selection or qualifying events for Championships or finals.

A full list of prohibited substances can be found on the FEI Clean Sport website:

[www.feicleansport.org](http://www.feicleansport.org)

## **8.22 Technical Delegate**

The Technical Delegate's role is to monitor and control safety issues at an event. Technical Delegates will be appointed by the OC for each of the four disciplines – Dressage, Jumping, Eventing (and Combined Training) and Show Horse- to approve all administrative arrangements for the event from the time of appointment to the end of the event. The TDs will be selected from the relevant lists, including FEI 1&2\* and 3&4\* lists (eventing) and may not be members of the ground jury.



## **9. COMPETITIONS**

The range of competitions offered at Australian and State 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
- Vaulting (under discussion for Australian Championships)

### **9.1 Dressage**

Dressage Competitions, although not Official (as the event are limited to Interschool athletes), must be run under current EA National Dressage Rules. Found at - [National Dressage Rules](#)

Restrictions in EA National Dressage Rules relating to age of riders for horses and ponies in rule 1.15.9 does not apply at Interschool.

The levels of dressage offered at Australian Championships include Preliminary and Novice for Primary students, and Preliminary, Novice, Elementary, Medium and Advanced for Secondary students.

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

### **9.2 Jumping**

Jumping competitions will be conducted under the National Sport Rules for Jumping. At Australian Interschool Championships, the Jumping competition comprises three classes at each height level:

#### **9.2.1 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)

#### **9.2.2 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.

#### **9.2.3 Two-Phase**

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.

### **9.3 Eventing**

Interschool eventing competitions are run as a CNC – 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.

#### **9.3.1 Combined Training**

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

Combined Training is offered at Australian Championships in three classes for Primary competitors, at 45cm, 60cm and 80cm. The CT\_45 class uses a 1.1 dressage test and a 0.45m jumping course. The CT\_60 class uses a 1.2 dressage test and a 0.60m jumping course. The CT\_80 class uses a 1.3 dressage test and a 0.80m jumping course.

Combined Training is offered at Australian Championships in three classes for Secondary competitors at 60cm, 80cm and 95cm. All classes will use the Preliminary 1.3 dressage test.

Primary and Secondary school riders that choose to compete in eventing are ineligible to compete in Combined Training.

### **9.4 Show Horse**

Any Interschool competition which offers Show Horse classes should refer to the National Show Horse Rules, and also Interschool Show Horse Rules. The program at Australian Interschool Championships offers classes for Primary and Secondary school athletes for Show Horse, Show Hunter and Working Hunter categories.

## **9.5 Showman**

The Showman competition, originally derived from International Show Horse competitions, is unique to Interschool. The competition has been designed to reward the all-round equestrian athlete with a well-developed capacity to present a horse under saddle and in-hand.

The Rules for Showman have been designed to correspond with the National Sport Rules of each of the disciplines represented.

Interschool Showman Rules 2011.

Showman consists of 3 or 4 phases of equal weighting (100 marks each). The same horse/athlete combination must complete all phases in the correct order.

All classes have a dressage test, an individual ridden display and an in-hand presentation. Four-phase Showman classes also include a jumping phase. Further details of these are included in the Interschool Showman Annex.

Showman competitions may be run as stand-alone events or in conjunction with other Interschool competitions.

## **10. AUSTRALIAN INTERSCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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 Championships. Australian 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 for approval at least three (3) months prior to the event. 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
- No entries will be accepted from individuals
- Any changes to nominated entries must be confirmed not less than two weeks before the start of the Championships
- There must be a timed draw made available to competitors

#### **10.1.2 State Teams**

- Only one team per State/Territory may be entered
- A team shall consist of horses and athletes that are members of that state
- Each State is allowed a maximum of four qualified athletes per class
- A maximum of 32 horses may start in any class
- States may establish reserve lists based on ranking, from which to draw upon alternative team members
- Each State may specify selection/qualifying criteria for each discipline, and may nominate up to four athletes per class
- If a State is not able to fill the four positions, these positions cannot be filled by another State
- If a withdrawal of a team athlete occurs less than one month prior to the commencement of the championships, the place may be filled from within the existing team members.
- OCs may occasionally allow a fifth rider from a State to compete – with that rider's points not to be counted in the team score.

#### **10.1.3 Chefs d'equipe**

Each State must appoint a Chef d'Equipe, who will be the team representative, 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 must be done through the Chef d'Equipe.

The Chef d'Equipe is responsible for:

- Managing the selected team of athletes representing their State
- Confirming stabling, accommodation and travel arrangements of athletes
- Collection of horse identification papers from owners
- Managing the communication with the travelling squad prior to arrival at competition venue
- Arranging a meeting of squad members to inform them of the Chef's responsibilities
- Distributing the team uniform if applicable

- Ensuring the athletes are aware of any changes in the official draw and anticipated delays in competition arenas
- Organization of athletes for presentations
- Collection of prizes and trophies
- Providing a written report within 21 days to their State branch and to the NIC

#### **10.1.4 Event Calendar**

Due to geographical considerations, organisers of 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 Australian Interschool Championships will program competitions according to local conditions and the number of entries. The Championships are expected to extend for four days, with the first day to 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 and opportunities to undertake Equiskills assessment.

### **10.2 Conditions of Entry**

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 Australian Interschool Championships will be required to sign a Waiver/Release form stating that they agree to be bound by the Codes of Conduct applicable to Members of Equestrian Australia. 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/grade 6 in the year of competition.

The Secondary competition is for those enrolled in year 7 to 12 inclusive in the year of competition, up to 18 years of age in the year of competition. Organising committees may, with the approval of the NIC, 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.

Students over 18 years of age, and who are members of EA, and who are full time high-school students, may apply for special consideration to be allowed to compete.

### 10.2.3 Horses

All horses entered in Australian and State Interschool Championships must be EA registered, 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.

- Proof of horse ownership must be produced on request of the Technical Delegate or Organising Committee.
- EA Registration papers/identification documents must be produced at the Horse Inspection on Day One of the competition.

### 10.2.4 Pool Horses

Pool Horses are only available to those States that have qualified athletes for the Australian Championships but where the cost of transportation is prohibitive. The organising committee of the Australian Championships will indicate in the schedule to which States this will apply depending on the location of the Australian 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.

### 10.2.5 Stallions

Stallions are permitted at Australian Championships competition, under the following conditions:

- The EA recommended Stallion Safe Practice Guidelines are followed
- Stallion identification disks and packs are used
- The venue is suitable for housing a stallion
- An application is made by the State branch to the Organising Committee of the event at the time of entry
- The State Chef d'Equipe is responsible for ensuring the suitability of the stallion and handler/athlete and ongoing safe management throughout the competition
- Notification of the identity of competing stallions is made at the first day's athlete briefing.

### 10.2.6 Withdrawals

A written statement giving reasons for any withdrawal must be handed to the Secretary of the Event prior to the commencement of the competition.

## 10.3 Competition

PRIMARY CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Dressage	Preliminary x 2 Tests
	Novice x 2 Tests
Combined Training	45cm Jumping/Preliminary 1.1
	60cm Jumping/Preliminary 1.2
	80 cm Jumping/Preliminary 1.3
Jumping	80cm
	90cm
Show Horse	Show Horse Primary
	Show Hunter Primary
	Working Hunter Primary

<b>SECONDARY CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	
<b>Dressage</b>	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
	Prix St Georges
	Intermediate I
<b>Combined Training</b>	60cm Jumping/Preliminary 1.3
	80cm Jumping/Preliminary 1.3
	95cm Jumping/Preliminary 1.3
<b>Eventing</b>	EvA80
	EvA95
	EvA105
	CNC 1*
<b>Jumping</b>	90cm
	1.00m
	1.10m
	1.20m
<b>Show Horse</b>	Show Horse Secondary
	Show Hunter Secondary
	Working Hunter Secondary

#### **10.4 Competition Conditions**

- Horses entered in the Championship may only be ridden and schooled by the athlete competing on that horse
- 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.
- Lunging or work in-hand by someone other than the nominated athlete is permitted, however lunging is permitted only in specified areas

#### **10.5 Horse inspections**

A horse inspection may be scheduled not more than 24 hours prior to the start of competition at Australian Interschool Championships at the discretion of the organising committee. If a full trot-up inspection is not conducted, the organising committee is still required to confirm the identity of the entered horses and conduct an initial health assessment prior to admission to the venue.

The purpose of horse inspections is:

- To identify Horses
- To ensure soundness and health of horses
- To provide a learning opportunity for junior/young athletes

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.

The horse's identity is checked against its papers (to be provided by the States' chefs d'équipe). The handler stands the horse before walking and trotting away from and toward the inspection panel, as directed by the stewards.

- Horses are to be presented in a snaffle bridle with ID number
- Handlers are to be neatly dressed, and wearing enclosed shoes
- No rugs or bandages
- No dye or paint on horses
- Hooves must not be blackened or coloured in any way
- Whips are not allowed (unless permission is given by the President of the Ground Jury)

Should the inspection panel be concerned as to the soundness of any horse, they will consult with the event veterinarian at the conclusion of the horse inspection/s. Refer to the Interscholar Horse Inspection Annex for further information.

## **10.6 Awards**

**10.6.1 Class Prizes:** Each section of each class will receive prizes from 1st to 6th.

### **10.6.2 Individual Champions**

Individuals will receive points for placing in each class. Points are allocated based on the maximum possible number of competitors in each class starting at 28 (i.e. 28, 27, 26, 25...1). The points received in each class are totalled to decide the Champion, Reserve Champion and 3rd to 6th place competitors.

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 23 points, two riders may be awarded 7th place so each will be awarded 21.5 points, then the next placed rider would be awarded 9th and 20 points.

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

- I. **Show Jumping** - In the event of equality the rider with the higher ranking in the Two-Phase Article 274 5.3 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 the horse with the highest aggregate percentage at that level, in the event of a further tie, the horse with the highest percentage in the higher competition at that level will be deemed the Champion
- 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 is 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.

### 10.6.3 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.

Team Points are awarded where an athlete has completed all phases/sections of a class without elimination or disqualification.

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 Eventing as 5th riders are allowed in classes all riders scores may be considered to count toward the team score.

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 eg. 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 riders scores may count towards the team score eg a rider cannot be in a team on 2 horses

### 10.6.4 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.

### 10.6.5 Awards

- I. **Tammy Rhodes Dressage Trophy:** Presented to the athlete with the highest accumulated points across a level. Class champions with a minimum average higher than 60% across both tests will be considered for this award. Freestyle results are not included.
- II. **Closest to Ideal Time Eventing Trophy:** Presented to the athlete who returns the closet to optimum time (under time) on the cross country with 0 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 best overall result in Show Jumping, with at least a clear round in the AM7.
- 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

#### **10.7 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 Interschool events.