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Section 7

Inter-Club Championships and Competitions

7.1 PREAMBLE

- a. The PCT stage Annual Championships for Eventing, (The Trials), Dressage, Jumping and Games.
- b. Each championship is conducted in turn in each zone - North, South, North West – in that rotation.
- c. The Trials are held over the long weekend in March.
- d. The Dressage and Jumping Championships will be held on successive days on the first weekend in April (unless Easter).
- f. The Games Championship on the last Sunday in May.
- g. The PCT formulates the rules under which these inter-club competitions are conducted.
 - i. The three Olympic disciplines are run under the rules of the EA, with PCT addendums, if any.
 - ii. Competitors should be familiar with the current version of all EA rules.
 - iii. For the Eventing Addendum see Section 8.
 - iv. PCT Mounted Team Games rules are contained in a separate booklet – see Section 9.
- h. Organising committees should refer to the PC Champs Organisation Hints document.

7.2 GENERAL RULES FOR PONY CLUB COMPETITIONS

7.2.1 Eligibility

- a. Riders must be bonafide members of their club.
- b. The age of riders in all PCT competitions is taken from the 1st January in the year of competition.
- c. Horses must either be owned or leased by the rider or another member of their club. See section 2.8.1 for details of ownership or lease of horses.
- d. Horses must be 4 years old or over.
- e. They may be any height.
- f. Members may compete as individuals when rally unqualified to gain qualifications of standard, but they may not represent the club in interclub competition.

7.2.2 Qualifications

- a. Riders must attend at least three working rallies and horses one of their club during the twelve months prior to the closing of entries. For definition of a working rally see section 2.7.1.
- b. Riders may not gain a qualification unless they have paid their insurance and affiliation fees and carry their current pony club membership card.
- c. Qualifications for both riders and horses, ~~not necessarily together~~, may be obtained at:
 - i. Open shows and gymkhanas etc or advertised club competitions approved by the zone, and,
 - ii. If for Dressage, they must be under recognised judges, who are either listed on the PCT Panel or are EA qualified.
 - iii. Dressage tests and show jumping rounds at ODEs may NOT count.
- d. EA grading points/levels do not count.

7.2.3 Dispensation Request from Qualification

- a. A horse and rider may be exempted from the qualifications only on the authority of PCT.
- b. There shall be no exemption from requirements such as rider's and horse's age.
- c. Such a request must be submitted on form 10.8.6 listing the reasons for the request and a detailed summary of the horse's performance record, including all the horse's competitions during the current and previous twelve months.

- d. The request must be lodged with all members of their zone's CC panel through their club DC or their representative, not later than 24 hours after the last qualifying event.
- e. The CC panel will then liaise and adjudicate and notify their club DC of the result ASAP.

7.2.4 Acceptance of Rules

Submitting an entry for any PCT competition constitutes acceptance of the rules of the competition as laid down in the schedule and in the PCT Handbook.

7.2.5 Objections

- a. Objections must be in writing, signed by both the person making the objection and their DC or representative and presented personally to the competition secretary or the Technical Delegate, as the case may be, together with any supporting evidence, names of witnesses and not later than half an hour after the happening that gave rise to the objection.
- b. At official competitions the Technical Delegate (TD), and at championships the Appeals Committee, will adjudicate upon the objection and their decision will be final.
- c. A Query Form, 10.8.5, is included for optional use at events. If organisers wish to use these they should have a supply of printed forms on hand.

7.2.6 Secretarial

- a. Clubs/Zones must forward a draft of their schedule to the TD and, for state championships, to the PCT Secretary and State TD before it is distributed to other clubs.
- b. Immediately after the event the results should be emailed to their Zone secretary/recorder, PCT web officer, PCT secretary and Newsletter editor.
- c. Sponsorship logos must go on all paperwork – programmes, entry forms etc.
- d. More detailed documentation on the Organisation of the Trials is contained in Section 8.
- e. Disclaimer of Liability and Reservation of Right must be printed on all schedules and programmes (see clause 7.2.7 following).

7.2.7 Disclaimer of Liability/Reservation of Right

The following disclaimers must be printed on all schedules, entry forms and programmes:

- a. **Disclaimer of Liability:** Neither the organising committee of any event conducted under the rules of the PCT, nor the PCT itself, accepts liability for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, riders, ground, spectators, or any other person or property whatsoever.
- b. **Reservation of Right:** The organisers of a competition reserve the right to:
 - cancel any class or event;
 - divide any class;
 - alter the advertised starting times; and
 - refuse any entry with or without stating the reason.

7.2.8 Technical Delegates and Officials

- a. The TD and all judges at Official competitions must be from the EA or PCT Panel of Officials.
- b. A Technical Delegate shall be appointed by the Zone to advise the organisers on all matters and to oversee that the conduct of the competition is run strictly according to the rules.
- c. For State Championships and Trials the Appeals Committee shall consist of the PCT President or Vice-President, and any four of the following – the Zone Visiting Commissioner, a Chief Coach, the PCT TD, the Zone TD and one representative from the organising committee. The names of the Appeals Committee shall be printed in the programme.
- d. A State Technical Delegate shall be appointed by the PCT to assist the Zone TD at PCT Championships. Their approved expenses will be paid by the PCT.
- e. TDs should submit a report on the appropriate form (10.7.12, .13, or 10.8.6), within 14 days after the competition to the PCT office, the organising committee, the zone secretary and the zone VC.

7.3 PCT CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.3.1 Entries

- a. Entries shall be submitted by the club on behalf of their members on the appropriate forms – see Section 10.7.1-6 for Dressage and Jumping championships and 10.8.1 for Trials. Entries close 18 days prior to the event.
- b. Clubs nominate qualified riders on the entry form in acceptance order preferred by the club. There is no limit to the number of riders a club may enter in the championships, however the organisers have the power to limit the number of entries they accept. If that happens the last names on the form will be the ones balloted out. The OC may hold an individual competition for these riders, but they will not be considered for the team score.

7.3.2 Teams

- a. Teams will consist of one rider from each dressage grade / show jumping grade. In grade 3, Junior members only will be considered. Senior members, Associates will not be consider for team scores. For Trials see Eventing Addendum.
- b. The score of the club best rider in each grade count towards their first team score.
- c. Clubs may have multiple team placings.

7.3.3 Substitution

- a. After the closing of entries, no horse or rider entered for the competition may be changed, except in the event of illness, unsoundness or accident, when a certificate signed by the DC shall be produced.
- b. The DC must certify that any substitutes comply with the requirements of the rules.

7.3.4 Scratchings

All scratchings and substitutions should be notified ASAP.

7.3.5 Club Representative

A Club DC or Representative must be present at the competition.

7.3.6 Checking Scores

- a. A club representative SHALL check their team scores and that they are placed correctly (particularly when the three best riders form a team) BEFORE the presentations in order to prevent wrong ones being made.
- b. Printouts of the day's competition shall be given to each club representative to check before presentations. Where this is not possible, all DCs or their representatives are to be given time near the score board with the official results.

7.3.7 Trophies and Sashes

- a. Sashes will be awarded to fourth place for the teams and sixth place for individuals.
- b. More details, including past winners, and history of the trophies awarded at the PCT championships can be found in the PCT Honour Roll Section of the Website.
- c. There is a generic certificate for participation in any PCT Championship which can be found as form 10.7.11
- d. Zone representatives are responsible to bring trophies won by members of their zone, engraved with the winners' names, for the Trials to the November Council meeting and the dressage, jumping and games trophies to March Council meetings.

7.3.8 Participation Badges and Bars

- a. Competitors are eligible for, and may purchase badges the first time that they take part in one of the PC championships except for Grade 4 if held, which is unofficial.
- b. Bars for Grades 1, 2 and 3 to add to these badges, are also available for all disciplines the first time a rider competes in a grade.

7.4 PONY CLUB DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.4.1 General

- a. Rules in clauses 7.2 and 7.3 shall apply.
- b. Organisers may programme other tests/competitions on the day if time/space permits, but they will not be included in the team results.
- c. Only one judge per ring is needed.

7.4.2 Format

- a. Grades 1 & 2 – Seniors and juniors will compete together in one class for each grade.
- b. Grade 3 will be divided as follows:
 - i. Juniors/Members under 17 years may count for the team and compete for the trophy.
 - ii. Seniors/Associates under 25 years may not count for the team and compete for sashes only.
- c. Competitors may compete in one grade only.
- d. Competitors shall compete on one horse only.
- e. Competitors may take part in three tests only – the two team tests and one other.
- f. Riders in the group tests shall be named so that the organisers can slot them into the draw at suitable times, however, they may be substituted if necessary.
- g. The organisers shall be notified of any substitutions and scratchings ASAP.

7.4.3 Tests

- a. **Team Tests:** Two team tests in each grade. All competitors take part in both tests.
 - i. Grade 1 – One Elementary and one Novice test
 - ii. Grade 2 – Two Novice tests.
 - iii. Grade 3 – Two Preliminary tests. Members may rise in all trot movements.
- b. **Other Tests:** These do not count for the team scores. Horses do not have to have a standard qualification but both horse and rider must be rally qualified.
 - i. Quadrille for groups of four riders (any age) – see form 10.7.7.
 - ii. Musical Ride of 5-6 mins duration for a minimum of four riders (no max) – see form 10.7.8 – are to provide their own music and the host zone must advise participating clubs in what format the music is to be presented.
- c. **Called tests** No test may be called except the Quadrille and Musical Ride.

7.4.4 Dressage Qualifications

- a. Both rider and horse **together** must have gained at least:
 - i. 55 % for preliminary and novice
 - ii. 50 % for elementary
in two dressage tests of equivalent or higher standard at dressage competitions, NOT ODEs, under approved judges.
- b. Combinations of rider and horse may qualify:
 - i. under the same judge on different days;
 - ii. on the same day under different judges.

7.4.5 Saddlery

Snaffle Bits only shall be worn in all tests. A whip may be carried.

7.4.6 Draw

- a. The order of acceptance will be as named on the entry form.
- b. A draw will be conducted.
- c. Details of the draw shall be sent to club DCs a few days prior to the event.

7.4.7 Scoring

- a. The plus scores from each judge of each test are added together and percentaged (judge 1+2 scores divided by twice the test max, multiplied by 100).

- b. The total percentage of the two team tests added together will give each competitor's individual score.
- c. The competitor with the highest total percentage in their grade will be awarded the Individual Championship.
- d. In the case of equality of percentage for any of the first three places where two tests are involved (as is the case here), the award should be to the competitor with the highest score in the higher test involved. When there is equality of places from fourth place and below, the competitors are joint equal place getters. (EA Rule 3.19)
- e. In the case of equality of percentage for any of the first three places if only one test is involved, the higher total of the 4 collective marks, including coefficients, will decide on the better placing. If these marks are tied, placings remain tied. (EA Rule 3.19)
- f. The score of the club/zone's best rider in grades 1, 2 and grade 3 junior count towards their first team score. Senior grade 3 members are not to be considered for team scores.
- g. The winning club/zone will be that whose total score from their best rider in each age group is the highest.
- h. Clubs may have multiple team placings.
- i.. In the case of a tie, the winning team is the one who's hardest test has the higher placing.
- j. There should be a separate master sheet for each Grade and the club teams.

7.4.8 Prizes and Trophies for Dressage

- a. **Club/Zone Team:** The Neika Perpetual Trophy donated by Dr and Mrs Goldfinch.
- b. **Grade 1 individual:** The Huon Pine Shield donated by the Huon and District Pony & Riding Club.
- c. **Grade 2 individual:** The Kentish Trophy donated by the Kentish Pony and Hack Club.
- d. **Grade 3 individual:** The Trevor Gibson Memorial Trophy donated by the Tasmanian Pony & Riding Club.
- e. **Quadrille Test:** The Dressage Association of Tasmanian Trophy donated by DAT.

7.4.9 Dressage Judging Criteria

For standards that should be expected at various grades see Appendix 7.1.

7.5 JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.5.1 General

- a. Rules in clauses 7.2 and 7.3 shall apply.
- b. Organisers may programme other competitions on the day if time/space permits, but they will not be included in the team results.

7.5.2 Format

- a. The championships will consist of classes for grades 1-3. Grade 3 will be divided as follows:
 - .i Juniors under 17 years who may count for the team and compete for the trophy.
 - .ii Seniors under 25 who may NOT count for the team but compete for sashes only.
 - .iii The better score from the Junior section only will count for the club's team.
- b. Grade 4, which is unofficial, is optional and is at the discretion of the organising committee.
- c. Jumping Equitation (JE) and a Two Round Show Jumping Competition (SJ) must be offered.
- d. The team competition will be conducted over the Two Round Show Jumping competition only.
- e. JE will take place before the SJ class.
- f. No competitor shall be expected to do their SJ round within 10 minutes of finishing their JE round.
- g. The jumping order of a club's members will be as named on the entry form.

- h. The order of competing clubs will be drawn and all of a club's members within their grade will ride in consecutive order.
- i. Riders may ride two horses maximum, but only one of these may be in grade 3, however they may ride two horses in either Grades 1 or 2.
- j. They may only be considered once for a team.
- k. A rider may be included in one team only unless they have two qualified horses and their inclusion in a team does not displace another qualified rider
- l. For fence sizes and speed of the course for the different grades see clauses 7.7.1 and 7.7.2.

7.5.3 Jumping Qualifications

Both horse and rider **together** must have completed at least two Show Jumping rounds on different days at recognised shows, gymkhanas or PC competitions over a course

- for grades 2 and 3 at their equivalent grade heights – see clause 7.7.2;
- for grade 1 at or above 1.04 m.

7.5.4 Jumping Equitation Championship

- a. To be judged by two judges if possible using JE scoresheet form 10.7.9.
- b. To be conducted over one round of a course of 8 - 10 fences, including a double (9 - 11 efforts).
- c. For more information on JE see the PCT Jumping Equitation Manual.

7.5.5 Show Jumping Championship

- a. To be judged under Table A over two rounds.
 - 1st round – not against the clock.
All riders, except those eliminated or retired, take part in the second round in the reverse order of penalties gained in the 1st round and, if equal, their same position in the draw.
 - 2nd round – against the clock.
- b. Competitors are placed by adding the penalties for the two rounds.
- c. In the case of equality of the added penalties for first place, a jump-off against the clock will be held over a shortened course of obstacles which may be increased in height and/or spread.
- d. Lower places are classified by total penalties and the time taken in the second round in the case of equality.
- e. The course for the second round may be identical or different and increased in size at the discretion of the CD, judge and TD.

7.5.6 Scoring

- a. The team competition will be conducted over the Two Round Show Jumping competition only.
- b. Competitors to be placed from first to last in grades 1, 2 and Junior 3 show jumping.
- c. The number of their placing is scored as points.
- d. The winning club/zone will be that whose total points from their best rider in grades 1, 2 and 3 Junior is the lowest.
- e. In the case of a tie, the jumping penalties (excluding any incurred in a jump-off) of those riders will be added together. If still equal the penalties incurred in a jump-off will be considered and if still equal the winning team is the one whose rider has the higher placing in the highest grade.
- f. See 7.5.2 regarding riders with two horses.
- g. Clubs may have multiple team placings.

7.5.7 Awards

- a. The best placing in each grade in Jumping Equitation will be the individual champion.
- b. The best placing in each grade in the Show Jumping will be the individual champion.
- c. Sashes awarded down to 4th place in the championships for all grades.
- d. No trophies or championship badges for Grade 4 if held as unofficial only.
- e. Highest placed rider in Grade 1 SJ and JE awarded the Judy Kilby Trophy – no sash.

7.5.8 Trophies

- a. **Club/ Zone Winning Team:** The Fem Glade Trophy donated by the North West Pony Club.
- b. **Jumping Equitation Grade 1:** Small Profit Perpetual Trophy donated by Mrs E. Parsons.
- c. **Jumping Equitation Grade 2:** Hiawatha Perpetual Trophy donated by Mrs Ann Graves.
- d. **Jumping Equitation Grade 3:** Northern Zone Perpetual Trophy donated by the Northern Zone.
- e. **Show Jumping Grade 1:** West Tamar Perpetual Trophy donated by West Tamar Pony Club.
- f. **Show Jumping Grade 2:** Southern Zone Perpetual Trophy donated by the Southern Zone.
- g. **Show Jumping Grade 3:** North West Perpetual Trophy donated by the North West Zone.
- h. **The Judy Kilby Combined Jumping Trophy:** awarded to the best overall performance by a Grade 1 rider counting both Showjumping and Equitation scores donated by Judy Kilby. If equal the placing in the show jumping will decide the winner.
- i. **Best Club overall:** The Homevale "Barwidgee Snowdon" Perpetual Trophy, donated by Mrs L. Hedberg is awarded to the most successful club over the Jumping and Dressage Championships i.e. that which places highest in both competitions.
Clubs will be given points according to their ranking in each discipline – 1st = 1 point, 2 = 2 and so on over all three grades **except** Grade 3 Seniors. The points will be added together to give the club score. The lowest score is declared the winner.
If there is equality of placings, the club whose total points of their counting riders is the better will prevail.

7.6 PCT SHOW JUMPING GRADING

7.6.1 Grading

- a. The appropriate grading for Pony Club is achieved by assessing the ability of the Horse and Rider as a combination, to safely and competently negotiate jumps of a certain height, irrespective of the age of the rider and size of the horse. A properly graded combination should always give a good performance.
- b. It must be remembered that the heights and spreads specified for each grade, are the heights of the first round of the event on the day of competition. A combination needs to be competent enough to negotiate the second and third rounds over obstacles with increased sizes as indicated in clause 7.7.2. This factor must be considered when deciding the grading of each combination.
- c. Grading of a combination. Each combination can be graded initially after taking into consideration all relevant information such as competitive ability and performances. Do not allow parents to influence the grading of their child.
- d. A rider may have a good horse in Grade 1 and a green one in Grade 4.
- e. Once a combination's initial grade is assessed, then ongoing performances will decide when it should be regraded.
- f. Any combination that is consistently placed in any grade must be reassessed by the Club's Grading Committee and be upgraded according to grading guidelines if appropriate or ride Hors Concours at future competitions.
- g. Regrading may be done at any time other than at a competition. Only the Club's Grading Committee can amend a grading.
- h. Down grading of combinations is allowed in special cases at the discretion of the Club's Grading Committee.
- i. Combinations that are not up to the 65 cm of grade 4 would be considered un-graded.

7.6.2 Club Grading Committee

Each club shall appoint a three person grading committee, which should consist of the District Commissioner, the Club Chief Coach and another independent knowledgeable person preferably not from that club.

7.7 HEIGHTS AND SPREADS UNDER THE PCT GRADING SYSTEM

7.7.1 Maximum Fence Sizes – Jumping Equitation Competitions

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Height	95 cms	85 cms	70 cms	55 cms
Width – at base	135 cms	125 cms	100 cms	85 cms
Width – at top	105 cms	95 cms	80 cms	65 cms

A tolerance of 5cms in height is acceptable if dictated by the terrain or the spacing of the cups.

7.7.2 Maximum Fence Sizes – 1st Round of Show Jumping Competitions

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Height	105 cms	95 cms	80 cms	65 cms
Width – at base	145 cms	130 cms	110 cms	95 cms
Width – at top	115 cms	105 cms	85 cms	70 cms

A tolerance of 5cms in height is acceptable if dictated by the terrain or the spacing of the cups.

7.7.3 Jump Offs

- The first jump-off MAY go up by 10, but preferably 7.5 cm.
- The max increase for the second jump-off from first round is 15cm (6").
- Not all fences have to be raised in either the second round or the jump-off, and should not be if there are no, or only a very few, clear rounds.

7.7.4 Speed for Table A Competitions

325 mpm for all grades.

Section 7 Appendix 1

PCT DRESSAGE JUDGING CRITERIA

STANDARDS THAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED AT VARIOUS STAGES

Standard of Performance

Pony Club dressage is conducted under EA rules, but due to the younger ages of PC members, we cannot expect the same standard of performance especially in the lower grades. For Grade 1 ODEs and Dressage riders we would expect the EA level of performance for the relevant standard test, so one would expect the working paces of a preliminary horse to be 'on the bit', but we certainly would not expect it of the Grade 4 and 5 combinations.

Remarks

For the benefit and education of our riders we ask that judges provide constructive and encouraging comments on the scoresheet. Remarks should be simple and generous with their praise and every sheet should somewhere carry remarks that comment on the rider's ability or otherwise to fulfil the basic requirements of each grade as below.

General

In Preliminary and Novice Tests, all trot work may be ridden sitting or rising unless stated otherwise.

Grade 5

Grade 5 is for the youngest age group and least experienced riders, and should be used as an education and training exercise. This grade is unofficial and in the name of safety, riders may use restricted equipment. All trot work should be rising.

- a. The TWO BASIC requirements are to keep the pony going at the required pace and on the correct line.
- b. The judge should not be too concerned with details of position or correctness of the aids.
- c. Correct diagonal or leading leg should be rewarded.
- d. Free walk at this stage may be on a loose rein. If the pony walks in the right direction on a loose rein that is all we ask.

NOTE: For safety reasons, riders are allowed to use any bit or martingale.

Grade 4

Grade 4 is for those with little experience.

- a. The horse should go willingly forward on a light contact with a steady head carriage. Where the head is carried at this stage is not important as long as it is steady most of the time. The horse that goes quietly but lacks impulsion should mark better than one that is pulling.
- c. The rider who tries to get their horse near the corner and on the track should be marked more leniently than the rider who lets the horse take the line it chooses. The fact that the rider has to use the outside rein causing the horse to look to the outside is a minor detail.
- d. Riders should be rewarded for trying to do transitions accurately.
- e. Lengthen/Increase the trot. Judges should show leniency at grade 4 as horses will not be able to maintain rhythm and lengthening and will tend to run and quicken the stride. When asked to increase the trot the rider should be able to ride a reasonably straight diagonal, with the horse going forward more energetically, so that there is a difference from the working trot. If the horse does not lengthen the stride this should not be penalised at this grade.
- f. Free walk at this stage MAY be on a loose rein. The horse should be rewarded for staying straight.

Grade 3

- a. The rider should be starting to show an ability to influence the horse's way of going, including working towards maintaining straightness, correct bend and flexion.
- b. Riders should be able to ride accurate figures and transitions.
- c. The horse would be expected to accept the bit with a steady contact, and at this stage it would be rewarded if this is consistently maintained. Momentary lapses behind the vertical/above the bit should not outweigh correct work shown in other aspects.

Grade 2

- a. The rider should have a reasonably balanced position, be moderately steady in sitting trot, and demonstrate that they understand correct application of the aids.
- b. They should be able to ride forward to contact on the bit and be able to maintain a steady frame most of the time.
- c. The rider should demonstrate an ability to make the horse more active in his movements.
- d. Consistent over-bending and any restriction of the horse's natural stride throughout a movement should be penalised. However, momentary lapses should not outweigh correct work shown in other aspects.
- e. When executing "moderately lengthened strides" the rider should try to show clear upward and downward transitions, strides should lengthen and show a difference without loss of rhythm. The horse should be straight, but some loss of balance should not be heavily penalised.
- f. In order to execute "stretch on a long rein" the rider must lengthen the reins in order for the horse to stretch gradually forward and down, but always maintains a steady contact. During the taking up of the reins, the horse must accept the shortening of the contact.
- b. The horse should now show correct bend into corners and circles can be ridden without loss of rhythm and tempo

Grade 1

For this Grade we would expect the EA level of performance for the relevant standard test.