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AGRICULTURAL SHOW COMPETITION – PONY CLUB

ENTRY TO R.A.S. PONY CLUB COMPETITION.

1. RULES FOR ENTRY TO R.A.S. PONY CLUB COMPETITIONS

All Pony Club events at the Sydney Royal Easter Show are conducted under Association rules, in particular the rules of one horse one rider, and that where reserves are nominated, riders or horses cannot be substituted, are applicable.

2. AREA TEAMS JUMPING AND SPORTING COMPETITIONS

Areas as defined for R.A.S. competition are as follows:

Area 1: Zones 10, 19, 22, 23, 26

Area 2: Zones 5, 7, 24, 25

Area 3: Zones 8, 9, 13, 15

Area 4: Zones 3, 4, 6, 17

Area 5: Zones 2, 11, 12, 20, 21

Area 6: Zones 14, 16, 18, 27, 28

Zones in any given area are required to liaise and arrange a competition for the purpose of selecting a sporting and jumping team to represent the area. All rules must be adhered to at selections, in particular one horse one rider.

It is the responsibility of the areas to nominate one Zone Chief Instructor from each allocated Pony Club area, for the purpose of co-ordination of the area sporting and jumping team and submitting of entries, together with copy of riders' birth certificate as per the R.A.S. schedule to the Association's office with the completed entry form and a *horse identification form* for each nominated horse. These will then be forwarded to the R.A.S.

Each area may enter one JUMPING team of four horse and rider combinations with two reserve horse and rider combinations. If a horse and/or rider is unable to take part in the competition, their place in the team is taken by the first reserve horse and rider combination and so on.

Each area may enter one SPORTING team of five horse and rider combinations with two reserve horse and rider combinations. If a horse and/or rider is unable to take part in the competition, their place in the team is taken by the first reserve horse and rider combination and so on. In the Area sporting a team of only four members may compete.

HORSE ELIGIBILITY: Refer section 4.

RIDER ELIGIBILITY: Refer section 4.

All horses competing at the Sydney R.A.S. are required to be micro chipped and registered with the AAR registrar.

Riders to be 12 years and under 17 years at the start of the show to be eligible for selection for area sporting and jumping teams.

3. TEAM MANAGER

Each Area with a team competing is required to nominate a team manager to be advised to the Association with copy of entry. The team manager is to be a Zone Chief Instructor or person nominated by the particular Zone and is responsible to see that the team competes according to the conditions applicable to the event. The team manager is required to check all gear and ensure that riders are in correct uniform prior to entry to the ring. The team manager may walk the jumping course with the competitors and must be suitably dressed; including approved equestrian helmet, coat and tie.

Each Area sporting team is also required to nominate two volunteers who will assist on the day with the event.

Failure of a team to comply with Association rules will disqualify the team to receive any award.

4. GEAR CHECK

All Pony Club riders and teams competing at the R.A.S. are required to report to the marshalling yard *at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the event*, for a gear inspection. This will be carried out by gear stewards appointed by the Association.

Requirements will be strictly in accordance with Association rules. Teams not meeting the required standard or failing to report in sufficient time for a gear check to be carried out may jeopardise present and future eligibility for Pony Club events at the R.A.S. Team managers are to be present with the team when gear check is being carried out.

Riders or Teams who do not comply completely with Association rules will not be permitted to take part in the competition. (Refer Section 7).

5. RIDING TEAMS – ON THE FLAT

Each Zone may enter two teams of four in each age group by nominating four horse/rider combinations and a first and second horse/rider reserve combination to the association. All members of the team must be **from the one Zone**. The horses must meet the requirements of ownership. (Refer Section 4).

Riders must meet eligibility qualifications. (Refer Section 4).

Rider's age for pony club teams and riders classes is their age on the first day of the show.

The requirements of nomination advise to the Association together with reserve combinations, team managers etc. are as for "R.A.S. area jumping teams". *Horse identification forms are required to be forwarded to the Association office.*

Following the receipt of entries by the Association for R.A.S. Pony Club teams on the flat, a *draw* will be carried out to indicate the order on entry into the ring. This information will be notified to Zones concerned. Failure of teams to comply with Association rules will incur disqualification from eligibility to receive any award.

6. UNIFORM AT R.A.S.

In Pony Club flat riding teams at the R.A.S. – Zone uniforms are to be worn (see Section 7).

In Pony Club Area teams at the R.A.S. – Area uniforms are to be worn (see Section 7).

7. UNAUTHORISED ENTRIES.

Zone and/or area team nominations direct to the R.A.S. *shall not* be accepted and shall be returned to the Zone forthwith by the R.A.S. All entries are required to be sent to the Association office. If these entries do not fulfil all requirements of financial membership, rally attendance, grading, horse identification and other as stipulated, shall not be accepted and shall be returned to the Zone forthwith by the Association office and the R.A.S. will be notified that the team is ineligible to compete. No further correspondence will be entered into.

Horse identification forms are for the information of the Association office only and should not be forwarded to the R.A.S. The lower age limit for Pony Club classes is six years.

8. AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

As for all Pony Club competition, ownership, membership, uniform and all Association rules apply in their entirety to members competing in Pony Club events at Agricultural Shows (Refer to Sections 4 and 7).

Pony Club members entered in both a flat riding team and Pony Club jumping team at the one venue are required to ride the same horse e.g. One rider, one horse. Correct uniform must be worn for all Pony Club classes including the correct coloured Jodhpurs.

9. ENTRIES

Entries lodged at an Agricultural Show must be made by the Club/Zone Secretary and the senior instructor if entering a jumping class.

10. DISQUALIFICATION

At Pony Club events conducted by Agricultural Shows societies, the competitor is disqualified immediately the rules of the Association have been broken and remains disqualified in all subsequent Pony Club events during the fixture.

Disqualification may be enforced by any Zone Chief Instructor or responsible Pony Club officer in liaison with the show society and judge of the event. The Pony Club representative is required to furnish a full report of the happening to the Association.

11. AWARDS

No prize money is to be awarded for any Pony Club event or competition. Awards are to consist of ribbons, rosettes, suitable trophies and/or open orders. Except the R.A.S. where token money may be awarded.

12. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Because the rule "no rider must be mounted without an approved equestrian helmet on his/her head and the retention harness securely in place", *riders do no remove their cap* for presentation of awards at Pony Club competitions.

13. GEAR CHECKS

Clubs and Zones whose members take part in Pony Club competitions at Agricultural Shows are

required to nominate responsible personnel to carry out gear checks prior to events and to ensure competitions are conducted according to Pony Club rules. Clubs should liaise with their local show societies in the setting up of Pony Club programs.

14. PONY CLUB TEAMS AND PAIRS EVENTS

In teams and pair events conducted under Association rules, all competitors and mounts must belong to the *same Club or Zone*. The emphasis is placed on riding ability, teamwork and the cleanliness and suitability of mounts and gear rather than on the purchase price. These events should not be confused with a “team of ponies or hacks” class in which the emphasis is on the quality and confirmation of the mounts as well as their work, nor should they be confused with “team of riders” class in which riding ability is the only criteria used.

The judge’s attention is drawn to the fact that *suitability* and not *uniformity* is a prime requisite for mounts and equipment. This in effect means that teams comprising various coloured horses e.g. a chestnut, a bay, a brown and a grey would not be penalized in any way on this account. The following bridles, snaffles, double bridles or Pelham’s are acceptable and no preference is to be given. Points should not be deducted for different bridles in a team, remembering suitability and not uniformity is the prime requisite.

A team may be asked to work in single file, half sections and sections. To work either rein at any pace or perform any other manoeuvre at the judge’s discretion including the jumping of a small obstacle. This applies to the judging of teams of four, three or pairs.

15. SCALE OF JUDGING POINTS

GEAR - judged on the basis of being well kept suitable and well fitting – 20 points.

APPEARANCE – based on neatness and cleanliness – 10 points.

TEAM WORK – 70 points

These conditions apply to all Agricultural Shows and Pony Club competitions for teams.