

**PONY
CLUB**



participation • pride • welfare • safety • education

195-292 NPO

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB EQUITATION RULES

Table of contents

1	ELIGIBILITY	4
2	THE COURSE.....	4
3	INSPECTION OF THE COURSE.....	4
4	THE EQUITATION COMPETITION & PLANNING YOUR TEST.....	5
5	WARM UP ARENA AND SCHOOLING	5
6	EQUITATION JUDGE	6
7	EQUITATION TESTS.....	6
8	PONY CLUB EQUITATION – VARIANCES, LEVELS & HEIGHTS.....	6
9	ORDER OF COMPETING	6
10	SCORING	7
11	PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR.....	8
12	DRESS AND TURNOUT	8
13	CONCUSSION	10
14	DISQUALIFICATION.....	11
15	PROTESTS OR OBJECTIONS	11
16	JURY OF APPEAL.....	11
17	UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOUR.....	11

As a Member of the South African Pony Club, I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship.

I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in my stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being.

I shall endeavour to treat my horse with consideration.

THE PONY CLUB EQUITATION OBJECTIVES

To provide an opportunity for all Branches interested in Equitation to compete against each other and to encourage a high standard of riding.

The object of the Competition is to stimulate interest and enjoyment in Equitation and in the correct training of the rider, thereby encouraging Members to improve their riding by acquiring and establishing an independent seat, and a true knowledge of the aids, in order to be effective, correct riders.

The object of Equitation is the development of the rider's horsemanship, incorporating his seat and ability to give clear and correct aids to the horse, in order to always be in harmony with their horse and in quiet control of their horse at every gait and over a course of jumps.

These qualities are revealed by:

- The rider maintaining a correct position with their horse, at all gaits and over a course of jumps
- The rider controlling the horse with nearly invisible aids
- The performance of the horse – although the rider rather than the horse is judged, a horse going incorrectly is often the result of incorrect riding

PREAMBLE

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the relevant officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they are complying with the rules of the competition.

GENERAL

Except where varied below, all Pony Club Equitation competitions shall be run under the auspices of the SA Equitation Association Rules 2nd Edition Effective 29 November 2014.

It is the responsibility of each member to familiarize themselves with these rules prior to any competition. These rules can be found on the SAEQA website – www.saeqa.co.za

1 ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 No Member may ride more than one horse in the equitation competition and may only ride at one level.
- 1.2 The level at which a member should be doing equitation, is based on the current level that they are show jumping at.
- 1.3 It is recommended that members who do not compete in graded Equitation should start at or below the level at which they are currently jumping.
- 1.4 Members taking part in graded Equitation competitions may not enter a class below the level at which they would ordinarily compete, except that Open Pony Riders moving to juniors may compete at novice level if they do not have a horse that is currently jumping 1m.
- 1.1 In the Open Team Test, riders will all have to ride the part 3. They will swop horses. Should a swop be deemed unsafe, the judge may request an alternate horse to be used. IR judge to be properly briefed.

2 THE COURSE

- 2.1 The course designer should be on the SA Show Jumping Provincial Panel.
- 2.2 The course should have between 8 - 10 jumps, with one of those being a combination. The course should also take into account any jumping-related exercises in part one or part three, for eg a related distance.
- 2.3 The course design should include sufficient space for the part one exercises and should ensure that part one flows smoothly into part two.
- 2.4 There should be no wall or water jump in the course.
- 2.5 The course designer must be given copies of the tests and required heights (as per the table in point 8.1).
- 2.6 The course designer can choose to include part 1 jumping exercises into their part 2 course or may choose to build them separately. For example, a part 1 jumping exercise may call for a related distance. If the arena is not big enough to build this as a separate element it can be included as part of the part 2 jumping course). In open classes, the same rules apply for any jumping exercises in part 3.

3 INSPECTION OF THE COURSE

- 3.1 The Equitation judge must, in the company of the course designer, walk the course and inspect the fences and the arena layout before the start of the competition.
- 3.2 The Course shall be ready for inspection by Competitors a reasonable time before the start of the Competition.
- 3.3 Competitors must collect their numbers before the beginning of the competition.
- 3.4 Competitors shall be correctly dressed, wearing their numbers, when they walk the course.
- 3.5 Competitors ride in program order.
- 3.6 Instructors are permitted to walk the course with competitors.
- 3.7 In open competitions, riders must prepare part 3 when they are walking the course and preparing part 1 and 2. They will not be given additional time to do this later.
- 3.8 Prior to the start of the Competition, no competitor may enter or practice in the ring mounted.

4 THE EQUITATION COMPETITION & PLANNING YOUR TEST

- 4.1 A caller, provided by the show organizers, will be present to read and announce the movements of the test as the rider proceeds through part 1, and part 3 in the open competitions.
- 4.2 Part 1
- 4.2.1 This consists of movements both on the flat as well as over fences.
- 4.2.2 Any jumps in the arena that are not flagged off may be used for the jumping exercises in this part of the competition.
- 4.2.3 Spread obstacles may only be jumped in the direction indicated by the position of the number. Verticals may be jumped in either direction.
- 4.2.4 The track in part 1 is at the discretion of the rider, but must be planned to lead smoothly into the first jump of part 2.
- 4.3 Part 2
- 4.3.1 The rider goes straight onto this phase after completing Part 1, without leaving the arena.
- 4.3.2 The track is ridden as numbered, and should be ridden at a showjumping pace.
- 4.3.3 Normal jumping rules will apply except where otherwise stated.
- 4.3.4 There will be no starting bell or flags.
- 4.3.5 The direction of the jumps will be indicated by the position of the number on the right side of the obstacle.
- 4.4 Part 3
- 4.4.1 This is only ridden for open level competitions.
- 4.4.2 Part 3 must be planned at the same time as part 1 and 2. No additional time will be given to do this before competitors are called back into the arena for part 3.
- 4.4.3 All riders will be called back into the arena when all competitors have completed part 1 and 2.
- 4.4.4 Once competitors enter the arena they may not receive assistance, verbal or otherwise, or they will be eliminated. The judge will indicate where the riders are to line up.
- 4.4.5 Riders will go in reverse program order, and ride the movements in the prescribed test individually.
- 4.4.6 The test consists of movements both on the flat as well as over fences. Spread obstacles may only be jumped in the direction indicated by the position of the number. Verticals may be jumped in either direction.

5 WARM UP ARENA AND SCHOOLING

- 5.1 The same rules apply as for the Show Jumping competition.
- 5.2 Only competitors are permitted to school horses competing in Equitation classes anywhere at the venue during the Inter Branch or Inter Regional event.
- 5.3 Bearing, side and running reins are prohibited in all competitions, including in the practice arena.

6 EQUITATION JUDGE

6.1 The judge/s for the Inter Branch competition must be from the provincial panel.

7 EQUITATION TESTS

7.1 All equitation tests to be ridden are taken from the SAEQA book of tests for each level. These can be found on the SAEQA website. www.saeqa.co.za.

8 PONY CLUB EQUITATION - VARIANCES, LEVELS & HEIGHTS

8.1 Pony Club equitation levels are different to the graded levels. Please see the table below:

	PONY CLUB LEVEL	TEST	HEIGHT
10 & Under	Pre Novice	10 & Under	Pole on the ground or 30cm
Children	Pre Novice	Welcome	50cm
	Novice	Novice	70cm
	Open	Intermediate	80cm
Juniors & Associates	Pre Novice	Welcome	60cm
	Novice	Novice	90cm
	Open	Intermediate	1m

8.2 The level at which a member should be doing equitation, is based on the current level that they are showing jumping at.

8.3 All tests should be called.

8.4 If possible, there should be a spotter, should there be any technical queries. The spotter should be on the judge's panel.

8.5 Riders must all wear numbers on their backs. The announcer will refer to their number at all times. No mention will be made of names or branches during this competition. This number must be recorded on the individual test sheets.

8.6 The judge will need a scribe to complete the individual test sheets and record the scores.

8.7 A part 3 is ridden only at open level and riders will all swap mounts. Should a swap be deemed unsafe, the judge may request an alternate horse to be used.

9 ORDER OF COMPETING

9.1 After entries have been received, the order of competing shall be drawn up, but, at the organisers discretion, due regard may be given to the convenience of Branches travelling great distances.

9.2 The first competitor to enter the arena DOES NOT salute the judge.

9.3 The competitors' test starts when the test is called.

9.4 No other riders are allowed into the arena until the previous competitor has completed their test. The next competitor should be on standby outside the arena, at the gate. Competitors who are not ready to ride in their turn may be eliminated.

9.5 In part 3 of open competitions, riders will ride in reverse program order.

10 SCORING

10.1 An audit sheet should be completed for each class. This sheet must record each competitor (in riding order) and should indicate the marks (and deductions) from each judge for part 1 and part 2 (and where applicable part 3).

10.2 The winner of the class is the competitor with the highest score for all parts completed.

10.3 Judges will score each competitor as follows:

10.4 Part 1

10.4.1 Marks out of 20 per test per judge. Half marks may be used.

10.5 Part 2

10.5.1 Marks out of 20 per test per judge. Half marks may be used.

10.6 Part 3 (If applicable)

10.6.1 Marks out of 20 per test per judge. Half marks may be used.

10.7 Deductions from each judge

10.7.1 These are recorded on the audit sheets as minus marks

Error of test	- 2
Knocking down an obstacle	- 2
Disobedience (refusal or run-out)	- 4
Second disobedience (refusal) in part 2	Elimination
Three (3) refusals in any one Part. This is not accumulative to Parts	Elimination
Fall of rider	Elimination
Fall of Horse	Elimination
Jumping incorrect track or jumping obstacle in the wrong direction in part 2	Elimination
Unauthorised changing of tack or mount during the competition	Elimination
Unauthorised Assistance	Elimination

10.8 Please refer to SAEQA rules, points 4.4.2 and 4.4.3 for qualification on all deductions and eliminations

10.9 In the event of a tie

10.9.1 In the event of equality of points after the last part of the competition, the competitor with the highest score in that last part will be placed higher.

10.9.2 In the event of an equality of points in the last part, the highest score in the preceding part will be placed higher (and so on until reaching Part 1).

11 PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR

- 11.1.1 It is mandatory for all members to wear a protective helmet when mounted (this includes at prize-giving) with the chinstrap fastened at all times.
- 11.1.2 Protective headgear, as may be prescribed by National from time to time, shall be worn by members and instructors and visitors when mounted, at all Pony Club functions.
- 11.1.3 A Competitor whose hat comes off in any Pony Club Competition, must, on penalty of elimination, replace it before continuing.
- 11.1.4 Hats must be replaced after a severe impact; subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use.
- 11.1.5 The Official Steward/Organiser may, at his discretion, eliminate a competitor riding in the area of the competition (i.e. anywhere on the show grounds), without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened.
- 11.1.6 Further rules for headwear for specific disciplines can be found in the relevant discipline Rule Books.

12 DRESS AND TURNOUT

- 12.1 When inspecting the course competitors must be neat and tidy.
- 12.2 At Inter Regional Events competitors are required to wear:
 - 12.2.1 Riding Jacket of a uni-colour or tweed material, but where the collar and cuffs can be of a different colour. School Blazers may be worn. Buttonholes shall not be worn.
 - 12.2.2 White or coloured shirt with white collar and/or cuffs with the Pony Club tie.
 - 12.2.3 Competitors may not wear shirts without sleeves unless they wear a jacket over the shirt.
 - 12.2.4 White, Light beige or pale cream breeches or jodhpurs must be worn. Dark coloured breeches may not be worn.
 - 12.2.5 Standard Riding or Jodhpur Boots with a smooth, fairly thin sole, and a well-defined square cut heel should be worn. Black leather bootlegs may be worn with matching jodhpur boots; however, no suede leather will be acceptable. No other footwear will be allowed.
 - 12.2.6 Body Protectors may be worn.
- 12.3 At Interbranch Events competitors may wear Branch Colours which may include dark coloured breeches, jodhpurs or riding slacks and golf shirts.
- 12.4 At Prize giving, whether mounted or unmounted, competitors must be correctly dressed in their competition riding clothes. Only tack that falls within the rules of the competition will be allowed.
- 12.5 It is preferable that riding attire always be of a conservative nature.
- 12.6 Horses and ponies should have their manes plaited, unless the mane is hogged.

12.7 The plaiting of forelocks and tails is optional.

12.8 Gloves in a dark colour must be worn.

12.9 Hair

12.9.1 In the interests of safety long hair should be secured back appropriately, preferably in a hairnet.

12.10 Jewellery

12.10.1 This rule applies to all Pony Club mounted activities. For safety reasons, no jewellery (including "sleepers") may be worn, other than a wedding ring, a wristwatch, a stock pin worn horizontally, or a tie clip.

12.10.2 "Sleepers" have, in the past, caused injuries following falls. There are vulnerable blood vessels behind the ear and, in addition, if the facial nerve is pierced, partial paralysis of the face can occur.

12.11 Electronic equipment

12.11.1 Electronic devices such as headphones, mobile phones etc. are not allowed whilst the rider is competing or in the practice/warm up arena.

12.11.2 Electronic devices enabling another person to communicate with the rider are allowed while the rider is in the practice/ warm up arena but not allowed whilst the rider is competing.

12.12 Spurs

12.12.1 Spurs may be worn at rallies and other events with the permission of the District Commissioner. Members without the B Test should carry proof of this permission. Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, may be worn. If the spurs are curved, the curve must be downwards and the shank must point straight to the back and not exceed 3cm in length. Sharp spurs may not be worn.

13 Saddlery and equipment

13.1 Our first concern is the safety of equipment. Saddlery and Equipment shall be correctly fitted at all times, clean, and un-broken (stitching must be intact, leather not cracked, etc).

13.2 Saddle Cloths

13.2.1 Plain saddle cloths, numnahs, including "Polypads" or saddle cloths in Branch Colours with appropriate Branch Logos are allowed.

13.3 Stirrups

13.3.1 Stirrups should be the correct size to suit the rider's boots and should have 7mm clearance on either side.

13.3.2 The stirrup iron and the stirrup leather must hang freely from the bar of the saddle and the outside flap. There must be no other restrictions or attachments of any kind.

13.3.3 The rider must not directly or indirectly tie any part of his body to the saddlery.

13.3.4 It is recommended that children use safety stirrups.

13.4 Bits

- 13.4.1 Bitless bridles and hackamores are not allowed.
- 13.4.2 Pelhams or curb bits of any kind may only be used with both bit and bridoon reins, or with a single rein attached to connecting reins, which connect the bit and bridoon rings.
- 13.4.3 Gag Snaffles, if used, must have smooth mouthpieces and may be used with one or two pairs of reins.
- 13.4.4 Continental or American Gags may be used with plain, single or double-jointed smooth mouthpieces. They may be used with one or two pairs of reins or connecting reins. The length of the shank, measured from top to bottom shall not exceed 19cm. There may be no curb attachments to these bits. Elevators (which have a fixed mouthpiece) are not permitted.
- 13.4.5 Bits must be used in the manufactured condition without any additional covering to or on any part.

13.5 Martingales

- 13.5.1 Only unrestricted running martingales are allowed.

13.6 Nosebands

- 13.6.1 Only Cavesson, Drop, Flash, Grackle, Combination and Kineton nosebands are allowed. Only one of the above nosebands may be worn at a time. All nosebands must be correctly fitted and not cause discomfort.

13.7 Whips

- 13.7.1 No rider may carry or use a whip more than 75cm in length (including flap) or less than 45cm in length overall.
- 13.7.2 Riders may not hit their horse/pony before the start of the course and may be eliminated for doing so at the Judges' discretion.

13.8 Responsibility

- 13.8.1 It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that their dress and saddlery are in accordance with the Rules.
- 13.8.2 Contravention may result in elimination.

14 CONCUSSION

- 14.1 Any member who falls off their pony during a rally or competition, must undergo a medical examination by the paramedic/doctor on duty and be given the 'all clear' before being allowed to remount.
- 14.2 In the event of concussions, which may occur without the loss of consciousness, riders will not be allowed to ride again that day.

15 DISQUALIFICATION

- 15.1 The Senior Judge may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the Competition for the following offences:
- 15.1.1 For dangerous riding
 - 15.1.2 If in his opinion, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted
 - 15.1.3 For misuse or excessive use of whip or spurs or ill treatment of the horse (refer to Section 25 in the SAPC Show Jumping Rules)
 - 15.1.4 For any breach of the rules
 - 15.1.5 For unseemly behaviour, including bad language.

16 PROTESTS OR OBJECTIONS

- 16.1 Apart from the Senior Judge and the Officials of the Competition, only District Commissioners or their representatives are entitled to lodge protests or objections.
- 16.2 Protests must be made in writing and addressed to the Regional Chairperson or the Show Organiser. The protest must be accompanied by a deposit (see SAPC Show Jumping Rules Section 22), which is forfeit unless the Jury of Appeal decides that there were good and reasonable grounds for the objection. Such monies must be paid to the relevant Regional Committee of the S.A. Pony Club. Protests or objections must be made not later than half an hour after the scores have been published.
- 16.3 Any protest must be lodged before the start of the next part of the competition, with the exception being between Parts 1 and 2, where the protest must be lodged before the start of Part 3.
- 16.4 The Senior Judge or Show organizer shall give their decision in the first instance. If this is not accepted, the Jury of Appeal shall be give their decision after investigation and this decision is final.

17 JURY OF APPEAL

- 17.1 The Jury shall consist of the Senior Judge and the Show Organiser.

18 UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOUR

- 18.1 Unseemly behaviour on the part of riders, team officials, or team supporters will be reported as soon as possible by the Official to The Pony Club, and they may be penalised by disqualification of the Branch or Branches concerned for a period up to three years.
- 18.2 Any competitor who in the opinion of the Official Steward, or Organiser, has been extremely rude or aggressive towards any officials at a competition or who has behaved in an aggressive or unfair manner to their horse may be disqualified.

Approved at the National AGM of 4th – 5th February 2017

Approved and accepted by:

National Chairperson	:	Leann Morecroft-Davies
Western Cape Regional Chairperson	:	Cindy Muller
KZN Regional Chairperson	:	Rene Ford
Gauteng & Limpopo Regional Chairperson	:	Michéllie MacKenzie