

Inter Branch / Inter Regional Competition Participation – Information Document

The Inter-Regional rules are intended to protect the safety of potential competitors and to promote fair play, by allowing the regional and national committees to have some confidence in the level of competency of these competitors and of the reliability in behaviour of their mounts.

However, we do accept that sometimes members are competent yet cannot comply with the rules for various reasons. We do therefore allow branches to apply for special permission for a member to be allowed to participate in exceptional circumstances. Read the extracts of the rules below, and be guided by whether it would be fair to give special permission to a member, before filling in the **Special Permissions Form**.

1. Inter Regional Team Eligibility (Section 2 of Inter-Regional Rules)

In order to qualify for any Inter Regional team a member must comply with the following criteria:

- 1.1. Members must have entered and successfully competed in the annual Inter Regional team qualifying classes
- 1.2. All horses/ponies must have genuinely participated in a minimum of 3 working rallies within the 12 months previous to the date of the competition, with a member of the Pony Club
- 1.3. In the interest of fair play, should there be extenuating circumstances; application to relax this rule could be referred to the National Show Committee
- 1.4. All riders must be active members of the stated branch of the Pony Club who have participated at a minimum of 3 working rallies, excluding team practises and coaching, within 6 months previous to the date of competition, and have been Pony Club Members for at least 3 months. This rule is subject to the Regional Committee's discretion
- 1.5. In the case of a transfer of Branch, the Transfer Rule in the Rules of the S.A. Pony Club will be enforced
- 1.6. Should a breach of eligibility subsequently be discovered, then the Regional Committee or the National Committee may disqualify the offending competitor

2. Inter Regional Age Categories (section 3.2 of Inter-Regional Rules)

The age categories in which members may enter classes are:

- 2.1. Children's teams, consisting of members up to and including those that turn 14 during the calendar year in which the Inter Regional competition is held
- 2.2. Junior teams, consisting of members from the calendar year in which they turn 15 years to those that turn 18 during the calendar year in which the Inter Regional competition is held. Junior teams may include ONE Associate member per team per discipline (members who have turned 19 or older in the current calendar year, up to the age of turning 25 in the calendar year in which the Inter Regional competition is held)

3. The District Commissioner is required to certify the eligibility of horse and rider as follows (section 3.5 of Inter-Regional Rules):

- 3.1. That both the rider, and the horse or pony, are eligible in terms of participation and membership as described in section 1 above
- 3.2. That a rider is entered in the appropriate age category (see above section 2), but
 - 3.2.1. A child rider may apply to the Regional Committee for junior status by providing motivation in a written application from the parents and the Branch DC or instructor, confirming that the child is capable, in their opinion, of riding at junior level
 - 3.2.2. Once permission is granted, the child has to ride as a junior in ALL the disciplines entered into at that Inter Branch/Inter Regional show and may not ride as a child in any class even if on a different mount
 - 3.2.3. The child will from that year on ride as a junior in future events

4. Efficiency tests linked with class levels for Inter Branch / Inter Regional

- 4.1. In addition, it is a decision of the National Committee of the SA Pony Club (minutes of the 2019 National AGM, point 13.4) that certain Efficiency Test qualifications should be held in order to participate in certain classes, as per the table below:

CHILDREN

Lead Rein	E test
First Pony (up to 50cm)	D Test
Welcome (up to 70cm)	D+ test
Novice (up to 80cm)	D+/C test
Open (up to 90cm)	C/C+

JUNIORS

First Horse (up to 50cm)	D test
Welcome (up to 80cm)	D+
Novice (up to 90cm)	C
Open (up to 1m)	C+/B

- 4.2. There are occasions when riders come into Pony Club at a later age, and are possibly already competing at higher levels than the Efficiency Test that they have or haven't done. If they want to compete at higher levels than the Efficiency Test ruling allows, then they will need to motivate it by showing Proof of Evidence (POE) of their ability – by way of results history, videos, letters of reference, etc.

5. Basis for Application for Exception to be Made

- 5.1. On deciding that it would be fair to apply for special permission to compete, fill in the Special Permissions Form indicating which rule you wish to obtain an exception on, and provide reasons why the exception is warranted. Submit to the Regional Committee, with all supporting documentation