

# Interschool South Australia Handbook



Interschool SA

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## INTRODUCTION

Interschool is still a relatively new concept to Equestrian South Australia (**ESA**), different to some other states that have been running the program for up to 20 years. With rules and events continually changing, so does the information required by parents, riders, judges, stewards and volunteers. This handbook aims to provide the necessary information about interschool in South Australia.

ESA has formed an ESA Interschool Committee to assist in the running of SA Interschool. Details of the Committee Members are set out here: [\[INTERSCHOOL COMMITTEE\]](#)

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this handbook is to provide:

- riders, parents, coaches, judges, stewards, marshals, schools, volunteers and sponsors with a reference to access information concerning the running of ESA Interschool;
- clear information for qualification and selection criteria for the SA Team to represent South Australia in the Australian Interschool Championships; and
- information to each rider regarding their responsibilities once they are selected to be on the SA Team.

## CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact the Interschool Committee on [interschool@equestriansa.com.au](mailto:interschool@equestriansa.com.au).

## **1. Mission and Objectives of Equestrian Interschool**

Interschool South Australia has the following mission:

**“To develop the school aged rider through the discipline of equestrian sport.”**

In order to achieve this mission the four main objectives are to:

- promote equitation, education, and equestrian sport in school programs across South Australia;
- provide a competition structure that will give opportunities for South Australian Interschool riders to progress to a National level with the aim of developing excellence in equestrian sport;
- encourage the development of discipline, character, sportsmanship, teamwork and a sense of achievement in Interschool riders in South Australia; and
- reward and educate riders in horsemanship and horse management with the aim of creating a competitive sporting environment that places the welfare of the horse at the fore.

## **2. Benefits of participating in Equestrian Interschool**

- A chance to connect with other students that have similar interests and goals
- Being part of a team in a sport that is often focussed on the individual
- Learn leadership skills and communication
- Develop sportsmanship
- Supportive environment to develop equestrian skills
- Opportunities to receive coaching from qualified coaches

### **3. General Information & Membership**

This section of the handbook provides general information about the structure of the Interschool Competition as well as some general rules and regulations that apply to all competitors.

#### **3.1 Interschool SA Structure**

Interschool competition in South Australia is managed by the ESA Interschool Committee.

South Australia recognises five interschool equestrian disciplines as qualifying events for the Australian Interschool Championships: dressage, eventing, combined training, show jumping, and show rider.

#### **3.2 Communication**

The facebook site "Interschool - Equestrian SA" provides the most up to date information on ESA Interschool, and includes links and reminders regarding qualifying events.

The Interschool SA webpage may also contain other information such as: national interschool rules, national rules for each discipline, selection policies, important contacts and other correspondence. It is important that each member and their family regularly access these information sources to ensure that they have the latest information.

#### **3.3 Rider Membership**

All riders competing at ESA Interschool qualifying events must be a current Participant or Competitive ESA member.

Equestrian SA membership forms can be found on the ESA website.

In order to be eligible for interschool competitions, riders must also be currently enrolled as a student in a 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.

#### **3.4 Horse Registration**

Horses competing at any Interschool qualifying competitions do NOT need to be registered with ESA, unless it is a requirement of the organising committee or National Rules for the level of competition.

At the Interschool State Championships, horses must have base or full registration in order to gain points for the ESA Interschool High Points Award and to receive a State Discipline Championship.

All horses participating in the Australian Interschool Championships must be registered and have a microchip meeting Australian Standard AS5018/5019 inserted.

### 3.5 Registration for Team Selection

For a horse and rider combination to be considered for State Team selection, the combination must be registered for Interschool (registration via Nominate) and return to the ESA office a completed and signed School Consent Form (available via Nominate) before the date of the qualifying event that the combination wishes to compete in.

The Interschool registration is one set fee that covers any classes the combination wishes to compete in (that is, riders do not need to register per discipline).

The ESA Interschool Event Calendar lists all qualifying events for the Interschool season. These events will include qualifying classes that are available at the Australian Interschool Championships, and placegetters will be allocated points that will assist in determining ESA Interschool State Team selection, the School Perpetual Trophy and the High Point Discipline Champions at the end of the qualifying season. **Riders in all disciplines must achieve qualifying performances** to be considered for State Team selection. Please refer to the ESA Interschool State Team Selection Process for information on the State Team selection process and points system.

## 4. Rules and Regulations

As Interschool Equestrian competitions run across a wide variety of disciplines, please visit the Equestrian Australia website to obtain the rules, regulations and policies for each discipline.

The following Equestrian Australia rules apply specifically to Interschool:

- Equestrian Australia National Interschool Rules
- Equestrian Australia Interschool Show Horse Rules

In addition to specific Discipline rules, the ESA and EA policies and by-laws apply.

The following are some general principles that apply to interschool events, as set out in the EA National Interschool Rules:

1. Horses and ponies must be four years or older to compete in Interschool competitions. Horses ages are assessed from 1 August of the year of birth.
2. If the horse has an EA grading, the rider must abide by the relevant EA discipline governing the level at which that horse may be entered.
3. Athletes are responsible for ascertaining that they and their horse are correctly qualified and competent for a class that they are entering.
4. Scores received by horses at Interschool SA competitions are not to be used as qualifications for other official competitions outside of interschool such as dressage, show jumping, show horse and eventing.

5. Stallions and/or Rigs are not permitted at any Interschool SA events.
6. Only competition horses are allowed in the warm up and competition arenas.
7. 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.
8. Lunging or work in hand by someone other than the nominated athlete is permitted, however lunging is permitted only in specified areas.
9. A horse may not be ridden by more than one rider at an Interschool SA competition, and must not compete in more than the maximum number of tests/sections allowed in the day by EA discipline rules which include no more than the following per day per horse:
  - a. 2 dressage tests
  - b. 2 class starts in jumping
  - c. 1 class per Eventing competition
  - d. 1 Combined Training class
10. A rider may compete on 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.
11. Organising Committees may restrict the number of competitions an athlete/horse combination may contest due to scheduling/programming requirements.

## **5. Interschool Uniform Requirements.**

The following uniform requirements are standard for all riders in all disciplines at Equestrian SA Interschool events, which must be worn in all competitions and for presentations:

1. Riders are to wear:
  - a shirt and tie with either a school windcheater, jumper or hacking jacket (not school blazer), or their school's recognised equestrian uniform;
  - white or light coloured breeches or jodhpurs; and
  - long or short riding boots.
2. Riders may wear gaiters made from full grain leather on the exposed side of the gaiter, either black or brown to match boots. Exceptions to this rule: gaiters are not allowed for riders under 18 in rider class competitions in Show Horse, and dressage riders competing advanced or above must wear top boots if a tailcoat is worn instead of a short coat.
3. Helmets must be EA approved safety helmets and be securely fastened. Top hats are not allowed in Interschool competitions.
4. Helmets must be tagged to compete in all disciplines (other than show horse).
5. Gloves are compulsory in Dressage and in the dressage phase for CNC1\* and above in Eventing.
6. Each School may also specify a school saddlecloth, which may include the school crest or badge.

Students selected for the State Team are required to purchase their own uniform. Further information about the uniform will be provided after selection of the State Team.

## 6. Interschool Competition Structure

All Equestrian SA Interschool events are run under EA and ESA Rules. Competitions are generally conducted by affiliated clubs, with the major competition of the year being the Interschool State Championships which is run by ESA Interschools.

There are no qualification requirements to enter the ESA Interschool State Championships.

The ESA Interschool Event Calendar lists all qualifying events for the Interschool season. These events will include qualifying classes that are available at the Australian Interschool Championships, and placegetters will be allocated points that will assist in determining ESA Interschool State Team selection, the School Perpetual Trophy and the High Point Discipline Champions at the end of the qualifying season. **Riders in all disciplines must achieve qualifying performances** to be considered for State Team selection. Please refer to the **ESA Interschool State Team Selection Process** for information on the State Team selection process and points system.

### Determining the appropriate level at which to ride

As riders voluntarily choose to compete in ESA Interschool competitions, the level of competition in which they decide to ride should only be done under the advisement of an EA qualified coach. Interschool SA openly discourages parents and/or coaches from either coercing or inappropriately encouraging a rider to compete at a level beyond their capability or that of their mount. Safety in this sport is extremely important.

Riders are reminded that if their horse has an EA grading, the rider must abide by the relevant EA discipline governing the level at which that horse may be entered.

### Team Competitions

Team competitions are offered at the State and Australian Championships. Teams are not pre-nominated, they are determined at the completion of the competition from the riders' placings points. Riders who are eliminated cannot be a member of a team.

A team consists of a maximum of 4 **individual** riders from the one school or state. A rider competing more than one horse can be a member of two different teams with different horses, but cannot be on one team with two horses.

Each competition program will outline the ruling on how the organising committee will operate their teams' competition, whether a team's competition is offered at all, and the requirements for awarding of points and prizes.



## **7. CODES OF CONDUCT**

As a condition to competing at any Interschool qualifying competition, all participants must accept and be bound by the rules of Equestrian Australia. All competitors and their associates must accept and be bound by the Equestrian Australia Codes of Conduct for Competitors, Spectators, Horses, Volunteers as well as other relevant Codes and Policies relating to the conducting of an equestrian event. The conduct of members of the sport overall is controlled by the “EA Member Protection Policy” which can be found on the Equestrian Australia website.

ESA Interschool is run by volunteers and as such these people deserve respect and courtesy from the riders and their associates. It is expected that both riders 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. In most cases, everyone is attempting to do the best for the whole group of riders and whilst an issue can seem all consuming to an individual at the time, the reaction to it and the resultant behaviour needs to be tempered with reason.

The welfare of the horse is paramount and instances of cruelty or mistreatment will be recorded and acted upon. Horse abuse in any form will not be tolerated. If horse abuse is determined, the rider will be disqualified from the competition. Unsportsmanlike behaviour of any sort will not be tolerated and may incur disqualification.

Any abuse, either by an athlete, parent or associated persons, aimed at any volunteer acting as an official will not be tolerated. The use of offensive language and /or displaying offensive behaviour to a horse, official, judge or any other person at a competition will not be tolerated. Any incidents of this nature will result in immediate disqualification of the rider from the competition.

Riders and their associates should adhere to the instructions and directions of any official at all times. Breaches of these general conduct practices will result in elimination from the competition.

## **8. Competitions**

### **8.1 Dressage**

Interschool SA dressage offer classes from Preliminary to Novice for primary riders and Preliminary to Advanced levels for secondary riders. All Interschool SA dressage competitions will be run in accordance with EA and FEI Rules using the most current EA dressage tests, which can be obtained on the EA website..

The following classes are offered to riders at the State and Australian Interschool Championships:

#### **PRIMARY (up to and including Year 6)**

- Preliminary Dressage
- Novice Dressage

#### **SECONDARY (from Year 7)**

- Intermediate Preliminary Dressage (Years 7, 8 and 9)
- Senior Preliminary Dressage (Years 10, 11 and 12)
- Intermediate Novice Dressage (Years 7, 8 and 9)
- Senior Novice Dressage (Years 10, 11 and 12)
- Elementary Dressage
- Medium Dressage
- Advanced Dressage
- Prix St Georges Dressage
- Intermediate I

### **8.2 Showjumping**

Interschool Jumping has classes for both Primary and Secondary School riders. Jumping competitions will be conducted under the EA National Jumping Rules which can be obtained on the EA website.

The following classes are offered to riders at the State and Australian Interschool Championships:

#### **PRIMARY ONLY (up to and including Year 6)**

- 80cm
- 90cm

#### **SECONDARY ONLY (from Year 7)**

- 90cm
- 1m
- 1.10m
- 1.20m

### 8.3 Eventing

Interschool Eventing is not separated between Primary and Secondary riders. However, the age of athletes is restricted as per the National Rules for Eventing.

Eventing classes offered to Interschool riders are:

- EVA 80
- EVA 95
- CCN 1\*
- CCN 2\*

### 8.4 Combined Training

The Combined Training competition consists of a dressage class and a Showjumping round. Combined Training is run under the EA Eventing National Rules. The dressage tests for the Combined Training classes will be advised in the relevant program for the competition.

The following classes are offered to riders at the State and Australian Interschool Championships:

#### **PRIMARY (up to and including Year 6)**

- 45cm Combined Training
- 60cm Combined Training
- 80cm Combined Training

#### **SECONDARY (from Year 7)**

- 60cm Combined Training
- 80cm Combined Training
- 95cm Combined Training
- CCN 1\* (105cm) Combined Training

### 8.4 Show Rider

At State and Australian Interschool Championships, riders are offered Classes for Show Horse, Show Hunter and Working Hunter in Primary and Secondary. Each horse/rider combination may compete in one class only - ie MUST choose between Show Horse, Show Hunter or Working Hunter.

Show Horse Classes are run under current EA National Show Horse Rules and EA National Interschool Show Horse Rules.

Each class has the following 3 phases:

**Phase 1 - In hand** - judges how well a rider can handle their horse, NOT how well their horse is able to lead.

**Phase 2 - Rider** - judges the rider, not smartest on parade or turnout.

**Phase 3 - Ridden** - judges the horse as a show horse. For Working Hunter, phase 3 involves jumping (45cm for primary and 65cm for intermediate and senior secondary)

## **9. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

South Australia hosts a State Interschool Championship each year. The Interschool State Championship is the flagship event for the Interschool riders in South Australia and is usually run over two separate days in one weekend.

The State Championships provides a great opportunity for schools to compete and for the development of a strong equestrian team spirit.

The competition is designed to provide a high level performance opportunity for riders and a selection event for the South Australian Team to go to the Australian Championships. It is critical that all riders compete in classes appropriate for their skill level, as safety is the first priority at these events.

At the state championships a rider may ride more than one horse per discipline, providing the horse/s they ride do not exceed the number of tests/jumping round per day

## 10. AUSTRALIAN INTERSCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australian Interschool Championships are run annually, organised by a different state committee each year.

Selection for the ESA Interschool State Team (to represent South Australia at the Australian Interschool Championships) will be determined by ESA after the final qualifying event for the ESA Interschool qualifying season (refer to the ESA Interschool Competition Calendar).

- each State is allowed a maximum of 4 qualified riders per class;
- States may establish reserve lists based on ranking, from which to draw upon alternative team members prior to the close of nominations;
- if a withdrawal of a team rider occurs less than 1 month before the commencement of the Australian Championships, the place may only be filled from within the existing team members;
- the organising committee (of the Australian Championships) determines the rules and procedures regarding substitution of a horse for a team rider;
- at the Australian Interschool Championships, riders may compete with more than 1 horse and in multiple disciplines with a recommendation of 2 classes per rider. The organising committee (of the Australian Championships) may accept a maximum of 3 classes due to scheduling or horse welfare reasons; and
- at the Australian Interschool Championships, a horse and rider combination:
  - cannot compete in Eventing and Combined Training;
  - may only complete in one Combined Training class; and
  - may only compete in one Show Horse class, ie must choose between Show Horse, Show Hunter or Working Hunter.

**NOTE** that the National Interschool Rules may be amended prior to the State Team selection. Any amended rules will be uploaded onto the ESA website.

At the time of State Team selection, ESA will contact any horse and rider combination that has qualified in multiple classes to determine which class/es they wish to enter for the Australian Interschool Championships.

Interschool SA manages all details with regard to the State Team and may appoint a Team Manager, Chef D'Equipe and other team officials as deemed necessary to assist in this.