

# VK Equestrian

## SAVING MONEY AND MAKING THINGS EASIER FOR HORSES AND RIDERS

- No membership fees
- VK Equestrian charges no ground fees (not an on-the-ground event; you can film at home and alternative places)
- No travel fees (unless you need to travel to ride and film)
- Minimal presentation required
- Standard gear, any saddle, but gloves, helmets, and riding boots are compulsory

## See Rules and Conditions

## CLASS CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY

- **Any rider** aged 3 and over can enter this VK Equestrian virtual event through <https://www.nominate.com.au> – search for VK Equestrian
- **Entries through Nominate can be paid by PayPal or Credit Card**
- No membership is required, but juniors aged under 18 years must have parental permission.
- Age groups are as listed:
  - Restricted Classes Junior (3-11 & 12-18) & Senior (19-34, 35-64, & 65 & over) (riders aged 3-6 may be led, assisted, or ride independently)-(led, assisted will be separated from independent riders)
  - Play – Ages 3 to 6 (May be led, assisted, or ride independently)-(Leds, assisted will be separated from independent riders)
  - School – Ages 7 to 11
  - Adolescence – Ages 12 to 18
  - Young – Ages 19 to 29
  - Mature – Ages 30 to 54
  - Wisdom – Ages 55 and upwards

Age is taken at the time that Nominations close for the virtual event being entered

- Where a rider has entered the wrong age or section, and their video has been judged, the test will be moved to the correct age or section.
- **Acceptance:** Making an entry for this VK Equestrian competition constitutes acceptance of the Rules and Conditions of VK Equestrian (VK Equestrian reserves the right to amend these Rules and Conditions).
- Horses and ponies can be ridden by more than one rider (no more than 3 tests filmed on one day).
- **Horse and rider combinations** may not enter a class more than one level below their highest entry in any competition class, regardless of where the competition is held, e.g. a horse and rider combination competing at Novice level may not enter a Walk/Trot competition class.
- **Sections:** Walk/Trot, Preliminary, and Novice classes are scheduled in age sections, allowing riders in each age section to compete against similar-aged competitors. Restricted sections of Junior and Senior also have age sections.
- **Ages** are noted with the rider's age being that on the date that Nominations close.

- Classes can be entered over different sections if applicable for a horse and rider combination, such as Dressage Debuting Section and Age Section (restriction to filming of 3 tests on one day and need to be different videos. Cannot enter one test ride into multiple divisions).
- **Restricted Classes (Dressage Debuting Sections)** are restricted to riders who have not competed in three full virtual or on-ground events. These are not classes but an event. This is one event, even if you ride 4 tests in this event. If you have received 65% or higher in one of your classes you will need to move into the Open aged section.
- No restriction on how many horses a rider may nominate for and ride in the event.
- Horses can only compete in two consecutive levels.
- Nominations close on Nominate.com.au Friday, 18th July 2025 11.59 AEST.
- Videos or links need to be received by Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 11.59 AEST.

## DRESS & GEAR

- **Must be worn for safety reason - riding helmets, riding boots** with heels, and **gloves**.

**Your choice of saddle, accepted bits noted below, bitless accepted, no horse boots or bandages allowed.**

- **Spurs** are allowed but not necessary. Spurs can be metal or plastic and must be a pair and must point backward when on the rider's boot. Permitted spurs are swan necks, daisy rowels, dummy spurs, and impulse spurs. The spurs must have a smooth shank, and the rowels must rotate freely.
- **Whips** are allowed but not necessary. Must be a dressage style whip no longer than 1-metre in length for ponies and no longer than 1.2-metres in length for horses (length includes tassel).
- **Saddles and saddlecloths** no restrictions.
- **Stirrups** – no restrictions
- **Bridles** – Snaffle bridles only, no doubles allowed for Assisted, Walk/Trot, Preliminary, and Novice tests. Bridles can be worn with or without nosebands, but only one noseband if worn. Nosebands can be dropped, cavesson, flash, or crossed.
- **Bits** – Snaffle bits allowed with a minimum diameter of 10mm for ponies and 12mm for horses. Snaffles may be metal, sweet iron, or rubber and may be loose ring, D-Ring, hanging cheeks, or eggbutts. They may also be single or double-jointed with upper or lower cheeks, Fulmer cheeks, or full cheeks and a sleeve may be fitted around the part of loose rings. Snaffle bits can have a maximum of two joints with the centre piece being solid or a roller but no other moving parts and must have rounded edges.
- No martingales or non-permitted tack, including bit guards, bandages, brushing boots, or bell boots, bearing reins, grass reins. Only tack permitted is listed under gear, any questions email [VKNominate@outlook.com](mailto:VKNominate@outlook.com).

## FILMING

- Arena must have clear sidelines with markers visible. No restrictions on what sidelines are made from, but please ensure safety and do not use ropes, chains, metal pegs, or anything else risky. It can be marked out with white lines on the ground as long as it is clear.
- Film from C, the judge's position and viewpoint. The rider enters the arena at the far end at A, riding towards the camera. The judge must be able to see the letters, so it may be necessary to move the letters or display temporary ones. If cannot enter a gate at A may commence the test by riding down a sideline and turning onto A.
- Hold the smartphone in landscape position if using this device to film
- Zooming - you must include some zoom when the rider is at the A end of the arena

- Due to this being an online 'virtual' event, modifications have been made to assist with online judging. Unlike regular competitive days at a ground event, there may be unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, and VK Equestrian will make decisions in the sporting spirit in which this equestrian activity is run. It is advisable to check these rules regularly and email VK Equestrian at [VKNominate@outlook.com](mailto:VKNominate@outlook.com) if you have any questions regarding these rules or conditions.
- **You may not enter videos of tests that have been judged at another competition.** Any videos showing indication of having been filmed during another competition will not be accepted and nominations will not be refunded. The person filming should briefly announce the rider and horse's name and the date of filming at the start of the video.
- Videos can be uploaded directly to [VKNominate@outlook.com](mailto:VKNominate@outlook.com) or YouTube and link emailed to [VKNominate@outlook.com](mailto:VKNominate@outlook.com). Uploads and emails must be received by date and time noted in Program. Emails must indicate the Class number of the test being entered.
- **Judges'** decisions are final. The judges are trained professionals, and no communication or discussion will be entered into by VK Equestrian or the judge involved. Any objection or appeal regarding a score must be made in writing within 24 hours of the test being judged.
- Any video footage, photographs, or printed material must adhere to **Copyright** laws. VK Equestrian will not be liable for any costs incurred for participants' or third parties' infringement of copyright laws. If you want to know more about the requirements of dressage, please view information found on websites discussing dressage. You can email [VKNominate@outlook.com](mailto:VKNominate@outlook.com) if you require assistance in locating information. The concept of dressage has existed for 100's of years and entered the sporting arena in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are many places to source further information regarding this activity.
- **Sound** must be recorded to ensure competitors are not receiving coaching during their test, but test movements may be called (twice for the one movement if necessary).
- **Video quality:** If the quality of a video is considered too poor to be judged, the competitor will be given the opportunity to submit a further video without charge.

## ENTRIES

- **VK Equestrian** reserves the right to refuse an entry without stating a reason.
- **Entry fees:** Entry fees and prize money for classes are shown in the schedule. Pricing may be subject to change from month to month. Please refer to the schedule for details.
- **No Membership or ground fees as virtual (online tests).** Equestrian activities are inherently risky, and VK Equestrian has no responsibility for any risk factors associated with the riding and filming of tests, as this is not an organised on-ground event.
- **Refunds** will not be made except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the management. Such cases will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- **Late entries:** The closing date for each competition is indicated on the schedule page. After the closing date, entries and videos cannot be received, and no refunds will be made.

## PRIZES

- **Prizes** are stated in the program for that event. If entries fall below the minimum numbers (less than 10 per Class), the number of prizes may be reduced. Prizes will be awarded to riders who have placed overall.
- **Prizes and rosettes** will be sent to prize winners by post following the completion of judging and the publication of results (Final results will be advised no later than Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025,

11.59pm AEST). Once all videos are received for each section, judging will commence. Cash Prizes will be directly deposited into Australian-based account numbers provided by winners (OSKO payments through mobile numbers or email addresses attached to accounts can also be used. This will be discussed with winners). Or, if an Australian bank account is not held, funds will be transferred through PayPal (any fees deducted from winnings – please check PayPal accessibility and fees for non-Australian bank account holders).

- 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Prizes – Place Ribbons for each Class – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup>. (Guaranteed)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Prizes – Rosettes for the Winner of the Highest Average Percentage of each Level of Test in Each Section. Average of rider/horse combination for Walk/Trot, Preliminary, or Novice tests in a Section. Each Level of Tests per Section winner will also receive a cash prize of up to 50% of their paid nominations for those classes only, not all classes entered.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of Prizes – Overall highest average score for the Section. (e.g. Section Adolescence, if the rider enters 2 Preliminary tests and 2 Novice tests, their highest average is calculated from all four tests – add 4 percentages together and divide by 4) All tests entered in a Section for a horse/rider combination go into this calculation, whether it is 1, 2, 3, 4, or more tests. The section prize is a Flashier Rosette with Prize Money being 10% of Nomination fees received for that section, with a maximum prize of \$100 cash per Section. Sections and classes may be divided if larger-than-expected numbers are received in the interest of Fair Play.
- Prize money and place ribbons guaranteed. Rosettes and other prizes may be altered if less than 10 riders per class level/section.
- VK Equestrian reserves the right to alter classes and sections and stated prizes to similar alternatives where necessary in the interest of fair play and providing as level a playing field as possible for all competitors. VK Equestrian wishes to promote the sport of dressage, allowing riders to receive feedback from judges and prizes while reducing the costs associated with competing.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

- **Neck straps** or balancing straps (a loop on the front of the saddle) may be used at all levels in VK Equestrian tests.
- **Salutes** should be made with reins and whip (if carried) in one hand and the free hand lowered to the rider's side and the rider should nod their head. Riding hats must not be removed.
- **Trot** sitting or rising (or a mixture of both) may be ridden in all VK Equestrian tests up to and including Novice level.
- **Errors:** When a competitor makes an error of course - takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc., 2 marks will be deducted. If the movement is not performed, then a mark equal to the average of the collective's marks is given, as well as deducting 2 for the error. If the competitor makes an error of test - trots rising instead of sitting or at the salute, does not take the reins in one hand, he must be penalised for error. If 3 errors of course are made, the competitor will be eliminated.
- **Errors of course** will result in the loss of points:
  - 1st Error – minus 2 penalty points
  - 2nd Error – minus 4 penalty points
  - 3rd Error – elimination
- **Incorrect tack** will result in the loss of 2 points