

VK Equestrian - Functional Flatwork

Spring 2026 – Round 1

FUNCTIONAL FLATWORK SERIES – EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY WITH PRIZES &

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
- Snaffle bridle, any saddle, but gloves, helmets, and riding boots are compulsory

Nominations close Sunday the 27th of September 2026, 11.59 pm AEST (nominate.com.au).

Videos or links need to be received by Sunday, 27th September 2026, 11.59 pm AEST (email to VKNominate@outlook.com).

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 With Credit Card**
- No membership is required, but juniors aged under 18 years must have parental permission.
- Age groups are as listed:
 - Play – Ages 3 to 6 (May be led, assisted, or ride independently)- (Led, 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:** Classes per level are scheduled in age sections, allowing riders in each age section to compete against similar-aged competitors. Restricted classes in each section are the Foundation Level – Test A and Development Level – Test A (for rider sections aged 7 years upwards)
- **Ages** are noted with the rider's age being that on the date that Nominations close.

- **Restricted Classes** 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 a class of that level or higher, you are not eligible to compete in the restricted classes.
- No restriction on how many horses a rider may nominate for and ride in the event.
- Horses can only compete in two consecutive levels.

Disclaimer

These functional flatwork tests (dressage) have been independently created and are the intellectual property of VK Equestrian. They are not affiliated with, endorsed by, or officially recognised by any governing or regulatory body.

These tests are intended for use in privately organised online and virtual competitions and other events hosted by VK Equestrian only. Participation is voluntary and undertaken at the participant's own risk.

VK Equestrian accepts no responsibility or liability for injury, loss, damage, technical issues, scoring outcomes, judging decisions, or disputes arising from participation, video submission, or event results.

By entering, participants acknowledge that these are independent, unsanctioned events.

DRESS & GEAR

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

Your choice of saddle and 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.

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 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 links are to be emailed 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 if you require assistance in locating information. These competitions are termed functional flatwork but are aligned with the concept of dressage which has existed for 100's of years and entered the sporting arena in the 19th century. There are many places to source further information regarding movements within tests.
- **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 management. However, if you enter and do not get to film a test please email me as I will offer a test in an alternative round.
- **Late entries:** The closing date for each competition is indicated on the schedule page. Please email or phone me if you do not get a video filmed by the closing date.

PRIZES

Ribbons 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 two weeks after final video submissions). Once all videos are received for each section, judging will commence.

- **Ribbons to first 5 places for each class**
- **Small rosettes for highest average percentage for Junior (under 18) and Senior (18 and over).**
Average percentage is calculated by adding all tests ridden for horse/rider combination and dividing by number of tests they have ridden.
- **Junior and Senior Champions** will also receive a **free nomination for a class in a future Round**
- **Large rosette for Champion of the Competition** – awarded to the horse/rider combination achieving the highest overall average, together with a **learning and development training opportunity** to support their continued progress.
- **Season Series Champion** – awarded to the horse/rider combination achieving the **highest average score across two rounds at the same level**. To be eligible, the same horse/rider combination must have competed in **at least two of the three rounds** at that level. The average will be calculated from all tests ridden by that horse/rider combination at that level across the two rounds. The Season Series Champion will receive a **seasonal Champion sash**, together with **covered nominations for two classes in a future round**, or alternatively a **learning and development opportunity** to support their continued progression.

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., marks will be deducted as listed below. If the movement is not performed, then a mark equal to the average of the collective's marks is given, as well as a deduction of 2 marks 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, they must be penalised for error. If 4 errors of course are made, the competitor will be eliminated.
- **Errors of course** will result in the loss of points:
 - 1st Error – minus 1 penalty points
 - 2nd Error – minus 3 penalty points
 - 3rd Error – minus 5 penalty points
 - 4th Error - elimination
- **Incorrect tack** will result in a technical fault
 - 1st Fault – minus .25 penalty points
 - 2nd Fault – minus .50 penalty points
 - 3rd Fault – minus .75 penalty points
 - 4th and each further Fault – minus 1.00 penalty points

(e.g. Bandages – 1 point, martingale – 1-point, double bridle 1 point) I am sure that technical points in this fashion would not be accrued.