

# Pony Club State Dressage Championship 2020

*15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020*

It was with some relief when the weekend finally arrived after a shaky start to the year and not knowing if the event would go ahead due to the COVID-19 restrictions, it was full steam ahead for the small committee when we moved into stage three restrictions and we got the green light to proceed.

With a reduced planning time frame and the commitment to try and maintain all the classes that we had previously run from Prep, Pairs, Team Events, right through to Prix St George and offer our winners rugs for all the classes we had to think outside the square for the best way to tackle this.

It's a prerequisite that all competitors must have a test with a qualifying score of 57% or above to enter the Championship Classes so the first thing we decided to do was run a virtual competition so all of our members who didn't already have a test and with limited competitions available could qualify. We were thrilled that we had record entries to this and extremely pleased with the outcome.

The weekend arrived and with record entries and over 700 tests being rode over the two days, we were thrilled. Despite a rather awful predicted weather forecast Saturday turned out to be bright and sunny with the first Freestyle test starting at 7.30am in the indoor these have to be the most favourite classes for our competitors and the effort and detail that's go's into costume making is truly outstanding and every parent should be commended for this. The day ran smoothly as we headed for the VIP evening and the crowd favourite of Musical Ride, we had 6 clubs entered which was a huge effort as training days would have been limited. This class often hosts some of our youngest members they all looked and rode so well and once again all had outstanding costumes.

Unfortunately, Saturday night the weather did set in and Sunday was a little soggy to start. We did have to halt proceeding mid-morning for around 30 minutes while a storm passed over but everyone acted quickly and efficiently to get out the weather and as soon as it passed we started up again and still managed to pretty much keep to time it was really good to see.

A big thank you from the Pony Club WA State Dressage Committee to all of our Competitors, Judges and Sponsors. This weekend could not have been the success it was without your support.

Of course, we are already busy making some improvements for next year's championships and we look forward to seeing you all there.

***Pony Club WA State Dressage Committee***