PONY CLUB WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CERTIFICATE PROFICIENCY COMPETENCE EXPLAINED

The purpose of assessment is to view evidence that the performance of a syllabus requirement shows competence.

Assessors of PCA Proficiency Certificates assess against given criteria. Given that there now are no age restrictions to the Certificates, it is likely that some riders will demonstrate a higher level of skills and knowledge than others. It is not the role of the assessor to rank riders. Providing the evidence (see table below) shown by the candidate meets the required standard then the rider is considered competent."

It is important that assessment is always based on clearly defined processes and specific standards (PCA Syllabus of Instruction) rather than on opinions and feelings. Assessors must avoid being too critical.

Candidates may show evidence of competence through the following ways:
- Evidence of real work
- Evidence of written work
- Oral response evidence

This evidence can be:
- Direct – skills/submissions that assessor observes first-hand
- Indirect – skills/submissions that someone else has observed and reported to the assessor
- Supplementary – other ways performance can be shown such as through training records (rider diary), questioning rider, videos, written work, portfolios.

RULES OF EVIDENCE – use this universally accepted table as a guide when collecting evidence of candidate competence.

Rule	Evidence must...
Valid	- Address the requirements and performance criteria - Reflect the skills, knowledge and context described in the competency standard - Demonstrate the skills and knowledge are applied in real or simulated equestrian situations
Current	- Demonstrate the candidate's current skills and knowledge - Comply with current PCA standards
Sufficient	- Demonstrate competence over a period of time - Demonstrate competence that is able to be repeated - Comply with language, literacy and numeracy levels which match those required by the skill/certificate requirement (not beyond)
Authentic	- Be the work of the candidate - Be able to be verified as genuine

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