

2023

TETRATHLON REFERENCE DOCUMENT

**To be used in conjunction with the
Current PCA National Tetrathlon Rule Book**



PONY CLUB
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This Reference Document have been compiled by the Pony Club WA State Tetrathlon Committee to comply with the Pony Club Australia National Rules

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WA State Tetrathlon Championship

WA STATE TETRATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

The WA State Championship will have 11 Individual Championship classes and 5 Team Championship classes. In the individual competition boys and girls may be split if there are sufficient entry numbers. All riders in Championship classes must meet rally qualification requirements and have a Chief Coach Competency signoff. There are no event qualification requirements.

Individual Class	Age	Ride	Run	Swim	Shoot
1	8-12 years	45cm	1km	100m	7m, 2 hands
2	13-24 years	45cm	2km	200m	10m, 1 hand
3	8-12 years	60cm	1km	100m	7m, 2 hands
4	13-24 years	60cm	2km	200m	10m, 1 hand
5	9-12 years	75cm	1km	100m	7m, 2 hands
6	13-24 years	75cm	2km	200m	10m, 1 hand
7	10-12 years	85cm	1km	100m	7m, 2 hands
8	13-16 years	85cm	2km	200m	10m, 1 hand
9	17-24 years	85cm	2km	200m	10m, 1 hand
10	11-24 years	95cm	2km	200m	10m, 1 hand
11	12-24 years	105cm	2km	200m	10m, 1 hand

Team Class	Age	Ride	Run	Swim	Shoot
1	8-24 years	45cm	As appropriate for age		
2	8-24 years	60cm	As appropriate for age		
3	9-24 years	75cm	As appropriate for age		
4	10-24 years	85cm	As appropriate for age		
5	11-24 years	95cm/105cm	As appropriate for age		

WA STATE TETRATHLON NOVICE AND OPEN CLASSES

The WA State Championship will offer Novice and Open classes at each jumping height. Classes will only have individual competitions. Boys and girls may be split if there are sufficient entry numbers. There are no qualification requirements to enter Novice and Open classes.

Class	Age	Ride	Run	Swim	Shoot
12	8-24 years	45cm	1km	100m	As for age
13	Open rider	45cm	1km	100m	10m, 1 hand
14	8-24 years	60cm	1km	100m	As for age

15	Open rider	60cm	1km	100m	10m, 1 hand
16	9-24 years	75cm	1km	100m	As for age
17	Open rider	75cm	1km	100m	10m, 1 hand
18	10-24 years	85cm	1km	100m	As for age
19	Open rider	85cm	1km	100m	10m, 1 hand
20	11-24 years	95cm	1km	100m	As for age
21	Open rider	95cm	1km	100m	10m, 1 hand
22	12-24 years	105cm	1km	100m	As for age
23	Open rider	105cm	1km	100m	10m, 1 hand

WA STATE TETRATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In the 12 months prior to close of entries, the horse and rider combination must meet the State Championship requirement to attend three working rallies as per the [Working rally definition](#) and be deemed competent to jump the entered height by their Club Chief Coach.

Once entries have been received by the office each club will be sent a rally qualification and competency declaration for riders entered in the Championship classes from their club. This must be signed by the Club President/Secretary and the Club Chief Coach.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RIDE COURSE FORMAT

The State Championship Ride Phase will be an arena based course and all obstacles shall have faultable rails (i.e. there will be no solid cross country obstacles). The length of the course shall not exceed 1850m and will have a maximum of 18 jumping efforts. The time allowed for the course will be calculated using 300m/min for 45cm and 60cm and 350m/min for 75cm and above, plus a total of 60 seconds will be added to cater for the time required to negotiate the gate and slip rail (30 seconds each). No course shall contain more than one double and one triple combination or two double combinations, if a triple is not included. The slip rail and gate are not included as jumping efforts. The maximum width of obstacles at their highest point is to be no wider than the maximum allowable height.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP OVERALL CHAMPION CLUB SHIELDS

Two Champion Club shields will be awarded. Points will be accumulated from all riders at the Championships representing their club, this will include riders in Championship classes, Novice classes and Open classes (when the rider is associated with a club). Points will be awarded as follows; 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and participation, respectively. The Overall Champion Club will be awarded to the Club obtaining the highest total number of points. The Handicap Champion Club will be awarded to the club with highest score when the total number of points is divided by the number of riding members registered with that club.

General Rules

CLUB EVENT AGE AND CLASS DIVISIONS

Classes for Club Events may be divided into any combination of age, jumping height or gender at the discretion of the Event Organiser.

PAIRS COMPETITION

In a Pairs Competition, two individuals each complete two of the four phases. The score is the sum of the two competitor's scores. Competitors competing as an individual may also use two of their individual phases as part of a pair score. Each competitor must nominate their two phases prior to the commencement of the competition. If both members of the pair are also competing as individuals, the class for the pair is determined by the person nominated to do the ride phase. The second member of the pair can be competing in the same or different jumping heights to their pair.

TEAM COMPETITION

In a Team Competition, up to four individuals contribute to one score by completing one or more of the four phases of the Tetrathlon. Competitors competing as an individual may also use one of their individual phases as part of a team score. Each competitor must nominate their phase prior to the commencement of the competition.

ALTERNATIVE EVENT FORMATS

Alternative event formats may be offered using any combination of the four phases of Tetrathlon. These may include;

Equathlon – Swimming, Running and Riding Phases.

Triathlon – Running, Shooting and Riding Phases.

Biathlon – Swimming and Riding or Swimming and Running or Running and Riding Phases.

PARTICIPATION

Riding competitors must have mounted insurance with Pony Club Australia. Competitors only participating in unmounted phases may pay a day insurance fee. Minimum age for horses is 4 years of age. All competitors are required to abide by the Pony Club WA, Affiliated Bodies and associated event venue Codes of Conduct.

OFFICIALS

The organiser must appoint an Official who is suitably qualified to oversee the safety, conduct and fairness of the ride phase of the event. For cross country events or derby events with a 105cm class an Eventing Technical Delegate must be used. For derby events with a maximum height of 95cm a Hickstead Inspector can be used. For courses including only show jump fences a Show Jump Judge and Course Builder can be used.

It is recommended to appoint a Tetrathlon Technical Delegate who is familiar with the Tetrathlon Rules to oversee the safety, conduct and fairness of the unmounted phases of the event, this may be the same person or a different person.

Each phase will have a Phase Steward who has sufficient experience to conduct their phase in accordance with the rules. Phase Stewards will be appointed by the Event Organisers.

JURY OF APPEAL

The Jury of Appeal consists of the:

- Riding Phase Official, who should act as Chairperson and will have the casting vote
- Phase Steward of the phase concerned
- A member of the Event Organising Committee or the Host Club Committee or the State Tetrathlon Committee.

Members of the Jury of Appeal should not include a relative, coach or any other connected person to a competitor in the age group or class which the appeal concerns.

PROTESTS

Formal protests must be made in writing, addressed to the Technical Delegate and be accompanied by a deposit of \$50. The originator of a protest may amplify his/her case before the Jury of Appeal but will not be present at their deliberations. Notification of an intent to lodge a protest must be sent to the TD not later than half an hour after the incident which gave rise to them or half an hour after scores have been published. The formal written protest and deposit must be lodged as soon as is reasonable. The Jury of Appeal will give its decision after investigation and its decision is final.

Riding

GENERAL

The Riding Phase may consist of a Derby, Cross Country or Show Jump course. In all formats a gate and slip rail will ideally be included. In a Derby, some cross country style portable or permanent obstacles are included, secured and built to the standard of Pony Club WA Eventing rules.

THE COURSE

The maximum number of jumping efforts and course length will conform with Pony Club WA Eventing Rules for the maximum number of cross country jumping efforts at each jumping height or the nearest lower height (i.e. an 85cm Derby course can have the same maximum number of jumping efforts as an 80cm Cross Country course). The maximum height and width of the jumping efforts will conform with Pony Club WA Eventing Rules as specified in Appendix III. For solid fences the cross country dimensions apply and for fences with a faultable rail the show jump dimensions apply. The minimum number of jumping efforts is 12, there is no minimum course length. The slip rail and gate are not included as jumping efforts.

TIME

The speed for cross country or show jumping courses will use the speeds for each jumping height as specified in the Pony Club Australia Eventing Rules for the appropriate discipline. The speed for a Derby Course will be 300 metres per minute for jumping heights 70cm and below and 350 metres per minute for jumping heights 75cm and above. The Ride Phase Official or Phase Steward may modify the speed to reflect environmental conditions.

The time allowed is calculated using the course distance and speed plus a total of 60 seconds will be added to cater for the time required to negotiate the gate and slip rail (30 seconds each). The time limit will be double the time allowed. No penalties will be imposed for completing the riding phase under the time allowed.

DRESS

Gear check will be conducted as per Pony Club Australia Rules for Group B disciplines including body protector, A4 competitor number, bridle or saddlecloth number (securely fixed and visible on both sides), jodhpurs should be neutral colours (white, beige, cream, black, navy etc) and long sleeve club shirt. If the ride phase consists of only show jumps then the body protector is optional. Safety helmet and riding boots must be worn at all times whilst riding or lunging a horse during the event.

MINIMUM AGE OF RIDER AND PERMITTED JUMPING HEIGHTS

(securely including solid obstacles are stipulated below.

105cm:	12 to 24 years inclusive
95cm:	11 to 24 years inclusive
80cm:	10 to 24 years inclusive
65cm:	9 to 24 years inclusive
45cm:	8 to 24 years inclusive

Running

RECOMMENDED DISTANCE, OPTIMUM TIME AND PENALTIES PER SECOND

The table below gives the recommended distances, optimum times and penalties per second for events run in WA, these will be used at the WA State Tetrathlon Championship. Club event organisers may vary these at their own discretion.

Age Group	Distance	Optimum Time	Penalties
12 years and under	1000m	4 mins	± 4 pt/sec
13 years and over	2000m	8 mins	± 3 pt/sec
Novice and Open Riders	1000m	4 mins	± 4 pt/sec

Swimming

RECOMMENDED DISTANCE, OPTIMUM TIME AND PENALTIES PER SECOND

The table below gives the recommended distances, optimum times and penalties per second for events run in WA, these will be used at the WA State Tetrathlon Championship. Club event organisers may vary these at their own discretion.

Age Group	Distance	Optimum Time	Penalties
12 years and under	100m	1 min 20s	± 6 pt/sec
13 years and over	200m	3 mins	± 4 pt/sec
Novice and Open Riders	100m	1 min 20s	± 6 pt/sec

HEATS

While swimming in seeded heats is preferable, the Event Organisers may allocate heats in any format that assists the smooth running of the event.

TIMED SWIM FORMAT FOR CLUB EVENTS

Club events may use a Timed Swim as an alternative to a Set Distance Swim. Competitors score 4 points for every metre swum within the 4 minutes allowed. The distance swum is measured at the point reached by the swimmer's head when the 4 minutes has elapsed. The starter will give two loud whistles when three and half minutes have elapsed and use the starting hooter to signify the end of the 4 minutes. One lane judge is allocated to each swimmer. The lane judge follows the progress of the swimmer on the side of the pool and records the point at which the final hooter sounds.

Shooting

GENERAL

The shooting phase does not have to be completed in details, as long as it offers a safe, clearly explained and fair format for the competitors. If individuals are being allowed to move to a shooting bay as it becomes available then the commands are called by the Shooting Bay Judge to the individual shooter rather than by the Range Officer to the entire detail.

MALFUNCTION

If a competitor is using a pool pistol and the pistol runs out of power during their competition series, this is considered to be beyond the control of the competitor and is a permissible malfunction.

Equathon

The Equathon is a variation of Tetrathlon including only the running, swimming and riding phases. For competitors 6 years and over, the Equathon format can be run following the current Tetrathlon rules, with the omission of the shooting phase in the final score.

[2023-Pony-Club-WA-Tetrathlon-Reference-Document.pdf \(ponyclubwa.asn.au\)](#)

[Tetrathlon-Rule-Book-2021-FINAL-Feb-2021.pdf \(ponyclubaustralia.com.au\)](#)

General Rule Variation: Minimum rider age - 6 years on 1st January. Age divisions are at the discretion of the Organising Club as long as the minimum rider age is adhered to.

Running Phase: 500m

Optimum Time: 2 minutes +/- 6 points

Swimming Phase: 50m

Optimum Time: 35 seconds +/- 8 points

A qualified lifeguard MUST be present for the duration of the Equathon event.

Floatation devices MUST be available and can be used with no penalty.

Riding phase:

1. Show Jumping and Hickstead formats are the only formats permitted for the Riding Phase for classes including 6 and 7 year olds and have a maximum height of 30cm.
2. Riders aged 6 and 7 years must be in an enclosed arena, in sight of the Technical Delegate at all times.
3. Lead Line events - For the safety of the rider and handler the Pony Club WA Tetrathlon Committee require all Lead Line events to have a maximum jumping height of 30cm. The handler must hold current Pony Club WA insurance.
4. The one horse one rider rule will apply to all Pony Club and Open classes (except lead line so the horse/pony can compete in another class and still be used for lead line).