

2026

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TETRATHLON REFERENCE DOCUMENT

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

[PCA National Tetrathlon Rule Book](#)



PONY CLUB
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Effective 1st January 2026

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WA State Tetrathlon Championship

WA STATE TETRATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

The WA State Championship will have 11 Individual Championship classes. Boys and girls may be split into separate classes if there are sufficient entry numbers. In the 12 months prior to close of entries, riders in Championship classes must meet the State Championship requirement to attend three working rallies as per the [Working rally definition](#). Riders entering classes 1 or 2 must have completed without elimination or retirement two Show Jump competition rounds at 45cm or higher on the mount they are entered on. Riders entering classes 3 to 11 must have completed without elimination or retirement two Tetrathlon, Cross Country, Hickstead or Hunter Trials competition rounds on the mount and at the same height or higher than they are entered.

Individual Class	Age	Ride	Run	Swim	Shoot
1	8-12 years	45cm Show Jump	1km	2 minutes	7m, 2 hands
2	13-24 years	45cm Show Jump	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
3	8-12 years	45cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	7m, 2 hands
4	13-24 years	45cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
5	9-12 years	65cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	7m, 2 hands
6	13-24 years	65cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
7	10-12 years	80cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	7m, 2 hands
8	13-16 years	80cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
9	17-24 years	80cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
10	11-24 years	95cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
11	12-24 years	105cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand

WA STATE TETRATHLON NON CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

The WA State Championship will offer Non-Championship classes at each jumping height. There are no qualification requirements to enter Non Championship classes. Riders will need to submit a signed competency declaration that they are deemed competent to jump the entered height by their Club Chief Coach.

Class	Age	Ride	Run	Swim	Shoot
12	8-12 years	45cm Show Jump	1km	2 minutes	7m, 2 hands
13	13-24 years	45cm Show Jump	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
14	8-12 years	45cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	7m, 2 hands
15	13-24 years	45cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
16	9-12 years	65cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	7m, 2 hands
17	13-24 years	65cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
18	10-12 years	80cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	7m, 2 hands
19	13-24 years	80cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
20	11-24 years	95cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand
21	12-24 years	105cm Cross Country	2km	4 minutes	10m, 1 hand

WA STATE TETRATHLON OPEN RIDER CLASSES

The WA State Championship will offer individual classes for Open Riders at each jumping height. There are no qualification requirements to enter Open Rider classes.

Class	Age	Ride	Run	Swim	Shoot
22	Open rider	45cm Show Jump	1km	2 minutes	10m, 1 hand
23	Open rider	45cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	10m, 1 hand
24	Open rider	65cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	10m, 1 hand
25	Open rider	80cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	10m, 1 hand
26	Open rider	95cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	10m, 1 hand
27	Open rider	105cm Cross Country	1km	2 minutes	10m, 1 hand

WA STATE TETRATHLON TEAM CLASSES

The WA State Championship will have a team competition at each jumping height, riders can be in any age class at that jumping height and be in the same team. Clubs are encouraged to make teams if possible. Riders without a club team will be allocated to a composite team.

Team Class	Age	Ride	Run	Swim	Shoot
1	8-24 years	45cm Show Jump		As appropriate for age	
2	8-24 years	45cm Cross Country		As appropriate for age	
3	9-24 years	65cm Cross Country		As appropriate for age	
4	10-24 years	80cm Cross Country		As appropriate for age	
5	11-24 years	95cm/105cm		As appropriate for age	

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RIDE COURSE FORMAT

The State Championship Ride Phase will be a cross country course with obstacle specifications, speed and number of efforts conforming to the current Pony Club WA Eventing Rules specifications for each height. At 45cm there will be an alternative class with a show jumping ride phase. The show jumping course will be in an enclosed arena, will have a maximum of 14 jumping efforts and the speed will be 250m/min. A total of 60 seconds will be added to the time allowed to cater for the time required to negotiate the gate and slip rail (30 seconds each). The slip rail and gate are not included as jumping efforts.

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, Non Championship 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;

Equathon – 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 who are not Pony Club Australia members can register for mounted day insurance. 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 or derby events with a 105cm class an Eventing Technical Delegate and Cross Country Course Designer must be used. For cross country or derby events with a maximum height of 95cm and where all fences have been approved by an Accredited Cross Country Course Designer in the previous 12 months, a Tetrathlon TD, a Hickstead Inspector or an Eventing TD can be used. For courses including only show jump fences a Show Jump Judge and Show Jump Course Designer can be used.

It is recommended to appoint a person 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 or a different person to the mandatory ride phase official.

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.

Table of Officials required for Tetrathlon

Ride Phase	Course Designer	Mandatory Official	Recommended Official
Show Jumping	Show Jump Course Designer	Show Jump Judge	Person confident in the Tetrathlon Rules to oversee the unmounted phases
Derby or Cross Country up to 95cm	Cross Country Course Designer within 12 months prior to event	Tetrathlon TD, Hickstead Inspector or Eventing TD	Person confident in the Tetrathlon Rules to oversee the unmounted phases
Derby or Cross Country incl. 105cm	Cross Country Course Designer	Eventing TD	Person confident in the Tetrathlon Rules to oversee the unmounted phases

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 Tetrathlon Technical Delegate or the most suitable alternative person if TTD is not presiding over the event, 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 TTD 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.

Adoption of the 'Miss an Obstacle' Eventing Rule

To support riders to complete the ride course, all Tetrathlon events in WA with cross country and derby ride course formats will adopt the 'miss an obstacle' eventing rule. Riders are allowed to miss a maximum of 2 obstacles on course, the third missed obstacle will incur elimination. Each missed obstacle will incur 200 penalties. This rule applies at all jump heights.

TIME

The speed for Cross Country courses will use the speeds for each jumping height as specified in the Pony Club WA Eventing Rules Appendix III. The speed for a Derby or Show Jumping Course will be 350 mpm for 95cm and above, 325 mpm for 80–90cm, 300 mpm for 60–75cm and 250mpm for 55cm and below. 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 on both sides, white/beige/cream/black/navy jodhpurs 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

Age of rider is taken as of January 1st, and age allowances for each jumping height for any course 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

EQUATHON RIDING PHASE

Show Jumping and Hickstead formats are the only formats permitted for the Riding Phase for Equathon classes including 6 and 7 year olds. Riders aged 6 and 7 must be in an enclosed arena in the sight of the Ride Phase Official at all times.

Lead Line events – All lead line events are to be over cross rails with a maximum height of 30cm. The handler must hold current Pony Club Australia insurance.

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
Equathon (6 yrs and over)	500m	2 mins	± 6 pt/sec
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. For Equathon competitors, flotation devices must be available and can be used with no penalty.

Age Group	Distance	Optimum Time	Penalties
Equathon (6 yrs and over)	50m	35 secs	± 8 pt/sec
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

TIMED SWIM FORMAT

A Timed Swim can be used an alternative to a Set Distance Swim. Competitors score 4 points for every metre swum within the 4 minutes allowed, or 7 points for every meter swum within the 2 minutes allowed. The distance swum is measured at the point reached by the swimmer's head when the 4 (or 2) minutes has elapsed. The starter will give two loud whistles when 3:30 (or 1:30) minutes have elapsed and use the starting hooter to signify the end of the 4 (or 2) 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.

RECOMMENDED TIME AND POINTS PER METRE FOR THE TIMED SWIM FORMAT

Age Group	Time	Points per metre swum
Equathon (6 yrs and over)	1 minute	18 points/m
12 years and under	2 minutes	7 points/m
13 years and over	4 minutes	4 points/m
Novice and Open Riders	2 minutes	7 points/m

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.

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.