

HORSE RIDING CLUBS ASSOCIATION of VIC. INC.**GUIDELINES FOR SHOW JUDGES**

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The HRC AV abides by the generally accepted traditional practices of showing. However, unlike the open arena, it caters for the inexperienced horse and rider through to the experienced combination and in a variety of traditional and non-traditional events. The emphasis is on participation, friendship amongst competitors and mutual support both during and outside of the competition.

Horse and rider combinations are assessed according to their ability and level of training and the competition is governed by approved Association Rules, Guidelines and suggestions. Any type of saddle is permitted with the exception of side saddles and snaffle bits only are allowed except for assessed level 1 combinations who may use a simple double bridle or Pelham (including a Rugby Pelham).

Stallions cannot be excluded from classes; a riding crop or cane is permitted at all levels in all mounted classes and a dressage whip may only be used in led classes. Where a class requires a combination to jump, the width of the jump cannot exceed the height. Competitors must wear their Club colours whilst competing and in led classes they are required to wear long or short riding boots and helmet.

LEVEL 1

Horse on the bit at all times showing suppleness, collection, impulsion and submission without apparent effort of the rider. Medium/collected paces. Rider to sit to these paces showing a strong deep seat with soft, still, sympathetic hands. The rider will have correct positional lines.

LEVEL 2

Horse working consistently from behind into a steady contact and showing willing acceptance of bridle. Work will show impulsion, energy and lightness. Clear lengthened paces in trot and canter. Rider will sit to the trot and have soft, still, sympathetic hands and strong deep seat. The rider will have correct positional lines and the combination will be working together to show a picture of harmony and enjoyment.

LEVEL 3

Horse working in outline but not always consistently. Lengthening stride at trot and canter. Halt through walk. Rider will be able to sit to the trot, have still hands and be working towards a steady seat and correct positional lines with the correct use of aids to maintain rhythm, balance and straightness.

LEVEL 4

Rider may not be able to ask his/her horse to work from behind into a contact but may be able to show sitting trot and be able to pick correct diagonals and leading legs. The horse should be moving forward willingly and the combination will show an over picture of being happy in their work.

LEVEL 5

For combinations who may be inexperienced. Can execute changes of pace and be in control of their horse. Not necessary to know diagonals or leading legs. Martingale permitted but spurs are not.