

WATAGAN EQUESTRIAN CLUB

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Club_____	2
The Events_____	3,4
Required Equipment/ clothing _____	5
In General _____	6

THE CLUB

Q. WHAT SORT OF EVENTS DOES WEC RUN?

WEC is a friendly multidisciplinary club which mainly runs dressage and show jumping training days and competitions in a low key, relaxed environment. Our club also hosts a diverse range of other activities and events. We have also organised clinics, educational seminars, one day events and more.

Our popular Training Days are the perfect place for novice horses and riders to come along and try out something new in a supportive environment.

Q. WHAT AGES ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB?

Members must be over 8 years old if riding a pony and ten years old if riding a horse (above 14.2hh). There is no upper age limit, all adults are welcome.

Q. HOW MUCH RIDING EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED TO JOIN?

We run our events in accordance with the Equestrian Australia rules, and as such our riders must be able to ride independently at our events – ie not on a lead line. We welcome novice riders right through to professional competitive riders to all our events.

Q. HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Membership is done on the 'Nominate' website on the Clubs tab. Scroll down to 'Watagan Equestrian Club' and follow the prompts. Currently as at March 2021 it is \$30 for individuals and \$65 for families.

See this link: www.nominate.com.au

THE EVENTS

Q. WHERE ARE THE EVENTS HELD?

Our events are usually held at the Morisset Show Grounds or Cooranbong Equestrian Grounds, NSW.

Q. HOW DO I ENTER YOUR EVENTS?

Our events are loaded onto Nominate (www.nominate.com.au) in the Equestrian section, usually in the dressage tab.

Q. DO I HAVE TO BE AN EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA (EA) MEMBER TO RIDE AT YOUR EVENTS?

For insurance reasons you need to be either a WEC member or an EA member to ride at our events. At our 'members only' days, you need to be a WEC member, but you do not need to be an EA member as well.

Q. WHAT DOES A 'RESTRICTED' EVENT MEAN?

A Restricted event is an event conducted by an EA club for its own club members and invited EA members to a maximum level of Participation competition, up to and including current Novice tests.

Q. WHAT DOES A 'CLOSED' EVENT MEAN?

A Closed event is open only to members of our club, ie WEC. Classes may be of any level.

Q. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ENTER A DRESSAGE TEST OR SHOWJUMPING ROUND?

Currently as at March 2021 it is \$25 per dressage test and \$30 for three rounds of show jumping. Plus a \$10 ground fee.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF I ENTER AND PAY, BUT CANNOT ATTEND ON THE DAY?

If you enter and then scratch before the closing date (by scratching via Nominate) then you will receive a full refund less the nominate admin fee of 5%. If you scratch after the closing date we can give you a refund only if you forward a vet or doctors certificate to us within 24 hours after the event. This is because we complete the draw the day after the closing date and you will have already been allocated your time slot.

Q. WHY IS THERE A CLOSING DATE?

We usually close our dressage entries two weeks prior to the event at midnight on Saturday night. Our competition secretary works full time and as it takes approximately six hours to complete a draw, so she completes this on the Sunday following the closing date. The draw is then sent off to committee and judges for approval and checking and then released to the riders at least one week before the event. This time schedule is required in the EA dressage rules and also allows people to organise their competition day ahead of time.

Q. WHY CAN'T I DO A LATE ENTRY?

Entries close on Saturday at midnight and our competition secretary downloads the entries from Nominate into an Excel file on Sunday morning and works on the draw which is generally completed that Sunday night and sent off to the judges for approval and checking. To log back onto Nominate later in the week, open it back up again at a certain time for late entries, close it again, download the extra entries, amend the draw by adding in extra people which involves shuffling everyone else's times around again, and re-send it to the judges is very time consuming, and our competition secretary simply has not got the extra time that takes during her busy week.

Please use the Nominate 'reminder' button to send you a reminder when the closing date is approaching, or put it in your diaries when we advise you via the newsletters or e-mails.

Q. CAN I COME TO AN EVENT AND JUST WATCH BEFORE I BRING MY HORSE?

Yes, you are very welcome to come and spectate.

Q. CAN I BRING MY HORSE TO AN EVENT BUT NOT ENTER A CLASS, JUST TO EXPOSE HIM/HER?

Yes, we have a 'Non-competitive class' in our Nominate entries where you can be put on the event riders list but not actually compete in any class. This is a great way to expose young or green horses to the competition environment and even practice your warmup - without actually riding a test.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE WEATHER IS HORRID ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT?

Our committee will check the grounds and the weather forecast the day before the event and if the grounds are too wet or unsuitable, or the forecast is for storms or hot weather we will cancel the event. You will be notified via e-mail and we will also announce it on Facebook and Instagram. If we cancel due to unrideable weather conditions you will receive a full refund from Nominate less their admin fee of 5%.

Q. WHERE CAN I FIND A COPY OF THE DRESSAGE TESTS?

The dressage tests from Preparatory to Advanced, plus the FEI tests, the Prix Caprilli, The Freestyle and the Pas de Deux are all on the Dressage tab on the EA (Equestrian Australia) website. They are also on the EA NSW website, and the Dressage NSW website.

See this link: [Dressage Rules & Tests | Equestrian Australia](#)

Q. HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT TIME MY TEST OR SHOWJUMPING ROUND IS ON?

All entrants will receive a draw the week leading up to the event, usually at least 5 days before the event. This will list all riders and their test times.

REQUIRED TACK/EQUIPMENT

Q. WHAT EQUIPMENT/TACK DO I NEED TO RIDE AT A DRESSAGE DAY?

The EA National Dressage rules has pages and pages of tack that is allowed or not allowed. Please see this link: [Dressage Rules & Tests | Equestrian Australia](#)

But basically, a fully mounted dressage (or all purpose) black or brown saddle is compulsory and may be with or without a saddlecloth. White saddlecloth is preferred but pale colours are permitted.

Bridles must be a snaffle type (up to Elementary level) of black or brown and made of leather, Brow bands, nose bands and throat latches are compulsory. Reins must be black or brown. Bitless bridles are not permitted for dressage. Bits must be smooth and not ridged, sharp, corrugated, twisted or made of wire and can be made of metal or rigid plastic. Bell boots and bandages can be worn in the warm up but not the competition.

Q. DO I NEED TO PLAIT MY HORSE?

No, plaiting is not compulsory, However if you wish to, you can.

Q. WHAT CLOTHING DO I WEAR FOR A DRESSAGE AND/OR SHOW JUMPING TRAINING DAY?

The EA rules for clothing is also on the EA Dressage Rules, here is the link again: [Dressage Rules & Tests | Equestrian Australia](#)

In summary you need to wear an approved safety helmet, (marked 3838) secured with a retaining harness, in black, or the same dark colour as your coat.

Long or short boots must be smooth heeled, and can be black, brown or same colour as your coat. If short boots worn, gaiters can be also worn but must be full grain leather and match the colour of the short boots.

Whips cannot be longer than 1.2 meters for horses and 1.00m for ponies.

Shirts should be tucked in and must have a collar. For Competitive days the parts visible when wearing a jacket must be white or a pale colour with a stock or tie, and the jacket must be short (up to Advanced level) and of a solid dark colour.

For our training days, however a polo shirt of any colour is fine, as long as it has a collar.

Jodhpurs must be white or light coloured, but the seat may be a dark colour.

Gloves must be worn, preferably white or a co-ordinating colour.

IN GENERAL

Q. CAN I HELP OUT ON CLUB DAYS AS A NON RIDER?

Yes, we would love your help. You could assist with scoring, learn how to gear check, pick up tests from the judges or several other helpful jobs await you.

Q. CAN I OR MY BUSINESS SPONSOR AN EVENT IN EXCHANGE FOR ADVERTISING AND EXPOSURE?

Definitely – please e-mail our secretary at wec@live.com.au and we would be happy to discuss sponsorship and advertising opportunities with you.

Q. DO YOUR EVENTS COMPLY WITH COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES?

Yes, we have a full Covid safe policy and are very careful to abide by any NSW Health and government rules and advise.

Q. DO YOU HAVE CLUB SHIRTS I CAN BUY TO WEAR?

Yes, we have club polo shirts available for sale at any of our event days from size 8 to 18 and Men's sizes from M to XXL.