



# WATAGAN EQUESTRIAN CLUB

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[www.watagan.org.au](http://www.watagan.org.au)

A friendly and relaxed multi-disciplinary club in Morisset NSW. We provide an opportunity for the training and preparation of both horse and rider for dressage and showjumping events under competition rules, without the stress and pressure of an official competition.

The Watagan Equestrian Club Committee club objectives are:

- Family, friendly, multi-discipline equestrian club
- Promote the highest ideals of fellowship, citizenship, fairness and loyalty towards all club and committee members
- To abide by our code of conduct
- Maintain an environment free from threats and acts of intimidation and violence
- Zero tolerance around aggression towards horses and humans.

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## 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. WHO RUNS THE CLUB?**

The Watagan Equestrian Club operates in accordance with EA guidelines and has a small committee of volunteers. We all work in other jobs/roles and do this as passionate equestrians. We come with different riding experience but have a commitment to bring low key equestrian events to our community.

For more information about who our current committee members are click on the link: <http://www.watagan.org.au/aboutus/>

### **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?**

You can become a member through the 'Nominate' website by clicking on the Clubs tab. Scroll down to 'Watagan Equestrian Club' and follow the prompts. As at August 2022 membership is \$35 for individuals and \$60 for families. A non-riding membership is \$15.

All membership applications are reviewed by the WEC committee for approval based on our constitution and club rules.

See this link: [www.nominate.com.au](http://www.nominate.com.au)

## Our 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 posted onto Nominate [www.nominate.com.au](http://www.nominate.com.au) in the Equestrian section, usually in the dressage tab.

Due to the EA restrictions that ensure the health and safety of all horses and riders participating at our competition and training days, there are maximum entry limits that apply as follows:

- A horse may compete in a maximum of 2 tests.
- A horse may compete in two consecutive levels only.
- Riders can enter a maximum of two horses.
- Maximum of 4 tests per rider.

### **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?**

As of August 2022, each dressage test is \$25 per and \$40 for three rounds of show jumping. A ground fee of \$10 is also payable

### **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) 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 the nominated close date. Our Competition Secretary works full time and as it takes approximately six hours to complete a draw, so she completes this 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 allows people to organise their competition day ahead of time.

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

Entries close on at midnight on the nominated close date and our Competition Secretary downloads the entries from Nominate into an Excel file soon after and works on the draw which is then sent off to the committee and 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 it takes during her busy work 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 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 unsafe, or the forecast is for storms or extreme

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

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/dressage-rules>

**Q. HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT TIME MY DRESSAGE 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. On the day, it's important to ensure you have been through a "gear check" prior to your test time and ready to ride at the designated arena approximately 5-10 minutes before your test.

## Required Equipment and Clothing

### **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.

All riders must wear an approved safety helmet with the chin strap fastened at all times. Yellow tags which show your helmet is approved must be clearly visible.

Bridles must be a snaffle type (up to Elementary level) of black or brown and made of leather. If you are competing in Dressage competitions, you will require a bridle number - please ring the Equestrian Australia office on 02 9620 2660 to obtain this number or email [info@ensw.org.au](mailto:info@ensw.org.au).

ENSW will require the following information - Horse's Name, Horse's Height - so they know to give you either a horse number or a pony number.

Bridle Numbers must be visible on both sides of your horse at all times, even when tied to your float or being led around in a halter. The number must be showing either on your halter or bridle or on your saddlecloth.

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 warmup 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, a polo shirt of any colour is fine, however it must have 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.

## General Information

### 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 Sponsorship Coordinator at [wec@live.com.au](mailto:wec@live.com.au) and we would be happy to discuss sponsorship and advertising opportunities with you.

We currently have 4 sponsorship packages available

Bronze Individual Event Sponsorship	Silver Individual Event Sponsorship	Gold Individual Event Sponsorship	Platinum Yearly Event Sponsorship
<b>What's in it for you</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mention on the draw</li><li>• Thank you mention on prizes given</li></ul>	<b>What's in it for you</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 x advertising post on our FB page in the leadup to a competition</li><li>• Half page ad in our newsletter before the competition</li><li>• A mention in our Sponsors list on the competition draw</li><li>• Thank you mention on the prizes given</li></ul>	<b>What's in it for you</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 x advertising post on our FB page in the leadup to a competition</li><li>• Half page ad in our newsletter before the competition</li><li>• A mention in our Sponsors list on the competition draw</li><li>• Thank you mention on the prizes given</li><li>• Opportunity to have a trade stand at the event with someone from your company in attendance, including posters and flyers</li></ul>	<b>What's in it for you</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 x FB post per month</li><li>• 1/4 page ad in every newsletter</li><li>• A mention in our Sponsors list on all competition draws</li><li>• Thank you mention on the prizes given</li><li>• Opportunity to have a trade stand at the event with someone from your company in attendance, including posters and flyers</li></ul>
<b>What we'd like in return</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prizes in the form of company vouchers or products to the value of \$50 or more to be given at one event. Preferably 5 individual prizes (valued around \$10 each) that we can use as prizes for a number of classes</li></ul>	<b>What we'd like in return</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prizes in the form of company vouchers or products to the value of \$150 or more to be given at one event. Preferably 10 individual prizes (valued around \$15 each) that we can use as prizes for a number of classes</li></ul>	<b>What we'd like in return</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prizes in the form of company vouchers or products to the value of \$250 or more to be given at one event. Preferably 10 individual prizes (valued around \$25 each) that we can use as prizes for a number of classes</li></ul>	<b>What we'd like in return</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prizes in the form of company vouchers or products to the minimum value of \$500 for the year spread over our 5 events</li></ul>

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

Yes, we have a full Covid safe plan and keep up to date with NSW Health and Government rules and advise.

### Q. DOES THE CLUB HAVE MERCHANDISE?

Yes, we have club polo shirts available for sale at any of our event days from ladies size 6 to 18 and Men's sizes from M to XXL. Club shirts are \$50

We also have branded coffee/tea keep cups for \$20

### Q. I WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED, HOW DO I BECOME A COMMITTEE MEMBER?

We are always excited to welcome new committee members and when we have a vacancy during the year, we will post it on our Facebook page or email a notification to our members. We have an AGM every July where all committee positions become vacant, and members are encouraged and invited to attend and nominate for a



role on the committee. If you are interested in becoming a committee member and want information on the roles email [wec@live.com.au](mailto:wec@live.com.au) and our Club Secretary can send you the role descriptions.