

# WATAGAN EQUESTRIAN CLUB

## Frequently Asked Questions



Watagan Equestrian Club is a family-friendly club run by a volunteer committee that provides opportunities for riders of all ages to train and compete in a supportive, low-pressure environment. We operate in accordance with EA guidelines and our club constitution.

Our activities focus primarily on dressage and show jumping, with an emphasis on education, horse welfare, and rider development.

Committee members bring a range of riding experience, and all share a commitment to providing safe, enjoyable, low-stress equestrian events for our community.

## Our club values

- A welcoming, inclusive, multi-discipline community
- Fairness, sportsmanship, and respect for all members
- High standards of horse welfare
- Zero tolerance for aggression towards horses or people
- Safe, enjoyable participation for riders at all levels

## About the Club

### What type of events does WEC run?

WEC runs a combination of:

- **Club training days** conducted under EA insurance
- **Competition-style days**, which may be:
  - Club-only events, or
  - Open to EA members
- Diverse range of other activities such as clinics and educational seminars.

Training days are designed to be low-stress and educational, making them ideal for novice horses and riders to come along and try out something new in a supportive environment.

### At what age can a member join?

Riders must be:

- At least **8 years old** to ride a pony
- At least **10 years old** to ride a horse (over 14.2hh)

There is no upper age limit.

### How much riding experience is required to join?

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

### How do I become a member?

Membership is available through Nominate. [Click here to join.](#)

Membership fees and categories are listed on Nominate and are renewed each calendar year.

All membership applications are subject to committee approval in accordance with the club constitution.

## Where are the events held?

Events are usually held at:

- Morisset Showgrounds
- Cooranbong Equestrian Grounds

## Can I help out on club days as a non-rider?

Yes, we always welcome volunteers.

Helpers can assist with scoring, gear checks, set up and pack up of arenas and jumps, running errands, and other important tasks that help run the event smoothly.

## Can I sponsor an event or advertise my business?

Yes, we have several sponsorship packages available.

Please contact our Sponsor Coordinator at [wec@live.com.au](mailto:wec@live.com.au)

## Does the club have merchandise?

Yes. Club polo shirts are available at events in a range of sizes.

If you would like to buy a shirt, contact [wec@live.com.au](mailto:wec@live.com.au) with your preferred shirt size, or see a committee member at the next event.

## How do I become a committee member?

Committee positions become vacant each year at the **Annual General Meeting in July**.

Members are encouraged to attend and nominate for roles. For more information, contact [wec@live.com.au](mailto:wec@live.com.au)

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# Entering Events

## How do I enter an event?

All events are listed on [Nominate](#) under the Equestrian section (usually under the dressage interest). Direct Links to the event can be found on our website.

Due to the EA restrictions that ensure the health and safety of all horses and riders participating at our competition and training days, the following limits apply:

- 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

## Can I change my test after entering?

Changes to entries are usually **not possible once entries have closed**, as the draw has already been prepared.

If you need to make a change before the closing date, you may do so via **Nominate**.

## Do I need to be a member to ride?

For insurance purposes, you must be either:

- A member of WEC
- An EA member

At **'Members Only'** events you must be a WEC member, but you do not need to also be an EA member.

## 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 Elementary tests.

## What does a 'Closed' event mean?

A **Closed event** is open only to **members of WEC**. Classes may be of any level.

## Where can I find the dressage tests?

Riders are responsible for using the **current EA dressage tests** for their level. Tests are available on the Equestrian Australia website.

Tests from Preparatory through to Advanced, as well as FEI tests, Prix Caprilli, Freestyle and Pas de Deux, are available 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](#)

## How will I know my riding time?

Riders will receive a draw by email prior to the event.

Please be ready at the arena approximately **5–10 minutes before your scheduled time**.

## What if I miss my ride time?

If you are not present when your ride time arrives, the organisers may need to move on to the next rider to keep the day running on schedule.

If you believe you may miss your ride time, please notify the event secretary or a steward as soon as possible.

Depending on the circumstances and time available, the organisers may be able to fit you into another time slot, but this cannot be guaranteed.

## When should I present for a gear check?

Under EA rules, riders must present for a **gear check immediately after each test**.

Riders should ensure that:

- Helmet standards comply with EA rules
- Tack and equipment are compliant
- Whip length is within the permitted length

Failure to comply with equipment rules will result in elimination.

Riders may present prior to their test, but it is not mandatory.

## Do I need a bridle number?

Yes. Bridle numbers/Horse Identification Numbers are **compulsory**.

The number must be **clearly visible on both sides of the horse** at all times. This can be displayed on:

- The bridle
- The saddlecloth
- The halter when the horse is tied to the float

To obtain a bridle number/horse identification number, contact Equestrian NSW on 02 9620 2660, or email [info@ensw.org.au](mailto:info@ensw.org.au) with your horses name, height and EA registration number (if applicable).

Bridle numbers are free to obtain, but you will need to buy bridle number holders at a saddlery.

### Can someone call my dressage test?

Yes, callers are permitted at all levels up to Advanced.

### Can I attend an event just to watch?

Yes. Spectators are welcome at all WEC events.

### Can I bring my horse but not compete?

Yes, you can bring a **non-competing horse** but you must enter it via Nominate.

### What happens if the weather is bad?

If weather conditions make the grounds unsafe or extreme weather is forecast, the committee may cancel the event.

Notification will be sent by **email and posted on our social media pages**.

Refunds will be issued via Nominate less their administration fee.

# Before You Attend an Event

## What time should I arrive?

Please allow plenty of time to arrive, unload and warm up before your ride time.

Riders should aim to arrive at least 60 minutes before their scheduled test, and ensure they are ready near the arena 5-10 minutes before their ride time.

This helps the day run smoothly and avoids delays for other competitors.

## Are dogs allowed at WEC events?

Dogs are permitted at the grounds **but must be kept under control at all times.**

Dogs must be:

- On a lead at all times, and
- Kept well away from horses and competition arenas.

Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs.

If a dog becomes disruptive or unsafe, the committee may ask that it be removed from the event area.

## Is there anything else I should be aware of when attending events?

WEC events are run by volunteers and aim to provide a friendly and supportive environment for riders of all levels.

Please remember to:

- Treat other riders, volunteers and officials with respect
- Handle horses in a safe and considerate manner
- Follow directions from stewards and committee members
- Prioritise horse welfare at all times

Our goal is for everyone to enjoy a safe and positive day.

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## On the Day (Parking, Warm-up, Arena Rules)

### Where should I park my float or truck?

When you arrive at the grounds please follow any parking directions provided by committee members or event volunteers.

Horse floats and trucks should park in designated areas so that:

- Emergency access is maintained
- Horses can be safely unloaded
- Vehicles can move in and out safely throughout the day

Please avoid blocking roadways, gateways or arena access areas.

### What are the warm-up arena rules?

Please ride **considerately and safely** in the warm-up arena.

Basic arena etiquette includes:

- Pass **left shoulder to left shoulder** where possible
- Call out if entering the arena
- Maintain a safe distance between horses
- Be mindful of riders on young or inexperienced horses
- Avoid standing or stopping in the track

Warm-up arenas can become busy, so patience and awareness are important for everyone's safety.

### When can I enter the competition arena?

Riders must remain outside the arena until the judge rings the bell or sounds a horn.

Once the bell has rung, you have **45 seconds to enter the arena at A** and begin your test.

### Can I circle inside the arena before starting my test?

No. Once you enter the arena, you should proceed directly down the centre line and begin the test.

### What happens if my horse leaves the arena during the test?

If your horse leaves the arena **with all four feet**, the judge will usually ring the bell and you will be eliminated.

## What should I do after finishing my test?

After completing the final salute:

- Salute the judge
- Exit the arena at A in a calm and controlled manner
- Exit at A unless directed otherwise by the judge or steward

Please clear the arena promptly so the next rider can begin their test on time.

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# Equipment, Tack & Dress Code

WEC events follow the **Equestrian Australia Dressage Rules**.

Only the key requirements relevant to club-level events (Preparatory to Elementary) are summarised below. Riders are responsible for ensuring their equipment complies with the **current EA rules**.

## What clothing and tack do I need for a dressage and/or show jumping training day?

The EA rules for clothing is also on the EA Dressage Rules.

### Helmet

Protective riding helmet meeting current Australian or recognised safety standards (e.g. AS/NZS 3838, VG1, ASTM/SEI). It must be worn and fastened whenever mounted.

### Breeches/Jodhpurs

White, off-white or beige. The seat may be a dark colour.

### Shirt/Stock Tie

Shirts should be tucked in and must have a collar.

For Competitive days, clothing visible under the jacket should be **white or a pale colour**, worn with a **stock or tie**.

For training days, a **collared polo shirt of any colour** is acceptable.

### Coat/Jacket

A short, solid dark coloured coat/jacket is normally worn for competition days.

A rider may decide not to wear a jacket if they are too hot.

### Boots

Long boots or short boots with matching gaiters may be worn.

Boots must have a smooth heel and are typically black or brown.

### Whips

Whips are permitted but must not exceed:

- 1.2 meters for horses
- 1.0 metre for ponies.

### Gloves

Gloves must be worn, preferably the same colour as your jacket. White gloves are also permitted.

### Saddles

A **dressage, all-purpose or show jumping saddle** is permitted

Saddles must be black or brown and fully mounted.

A white saddlecloth is preferred but pale colours are permitted.

### **Bridles**

Bridles must be a **snaffle bridle up to Elementary level** and must be made of leather in black or brown.

### **Bits**

Bits must be smooth and not twisted, sharp, corrugated or made of wire.

Bitless bridles are not permitted in dressage.

If in doubt, check with the gear steward. They have a reference manual with pictures of bits.

### **Boots and bandages**

Boots and bandages are permitted in the warm-up arena but must be removed before entering the competition arena.

## *Do I need to plait my horse?*

No, plaiting is not compulsory, although riders may choose to plait if they wish.

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