

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME

If you are planning attending a State Championship event for the first time, these notes will assist you. Zone is the qualifier, and it is important that at the Zone event, you compete in the exact test level, height and age level for the age **you will be at the date of the STATE EVENT.** To quote the Pony Club Handbook: “At all state championships the standard of competition will be high.” You will also be required to have attended at least three rally days as a horse and rider combination. To have competed in the event at least three times successfully at other competitions at the same level, or at a higher level, than the level you will be competing at the State Event. You must have proof of your performance, usually a Pony Club Performance Card which you take with you to the competition and have the secretary of the club, or an official on the day, sign to record your results.

Entries to State Events can be downloaded from the PCA website. As well as an entry form you will be required to fill in a horse ID form. These must be filled in correctly, as they are checked at the event. All forms must be signed by the parents (if under 18), the competitor, club secretary, senior instructor, and the Zone Chief Instructor. Entries are given to the ZCI to mail to PCA at least a week before the closing date; so don't leave it to the last minute. Late entries are never accepted by PCA. If you are planning to nominate for a State event, you must send in a completed nomination form and record of your performance on the horse you wish to ride, to the ZCI at least a week before the Zone championships. This way the ZCI can work out who is applying to go to State and watch each rider at the Zone competition. Also she can contact the Senior Instructor of their club to clarify any issues prior to the deadline, of the close of entries date. Stabling and camping for the State Event are to be filled in on the State Event entry forms as well. If you are staying off grounds, remember your horse must stay on the grounds after vet check. All Cheques for entry costs and ground fees, are to be made out to Pony Club, Zone 23.

When competing at State, the entry form gives the two days of competition, usually Saturday and Sunday, but vet check and presentation are always on the day before the start of competition, that day being Friday, usually at 3pm. This means for certain competitions horses must be plaited up, gear spotless and riders dressed for competition by that time. Vet Check is always a parade for Presentation followed by Vet Check which is a trot up in front of a vet, plus executives from PCA. If you are unable to be at Friday Vet Check, a 7am Saturday Vet Check is available, if you notify your Team Manager BEFORE the event. Exceptions are made if you break down on the way, but it is advisable to take mobile numbers to notify another member of the team or the team manager before the presentation parade.

Team Managers are appointed for all age groups. These managers contact you before you leave for the event. They will give you information on uniform, venue and should be able to answer any questions you have. Managers will attend the team manager's briefing meetings at the event. From these meetings they will supply you with your back

numbers, and your position on the draw, if there is one, and up to the minute information. Results are usually put on a board, but the manager will assist you if there any problems. You will be told where and when to meet the manager before your competition, and they will lead you to gear check and stay with you in the warm up arena. If your event is dressage, they will be at the entrance of the arena to close the chain, or gate for you and open it when you have finished your test. They will then walk you out of the competition area. Please remember they are in charge of a large group of riders, so be on time to meet your team manager.

**IT IS NOT THE TEAM MANAGER'S ROLE OR DUTY TO LOOK FOR YOU. YOU ARE TO LOCATE THEM.**

**REMEMBER: NO PARENTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE WARM UP ARENA, AS YOUR CHILD WILL FACE DISQUALIFICATION IF YOU ARE THERE.**

Attending a State event is a big time commitment, with the travel time and competition days. Think about your school, exam and extra curricular commitments prior to entering, as your entry and ground fees become non-refundable some time well prior to the event.

Uniform for State is red Zone 23 Jumper, tie and saddle blanket. These can be hired or purchased, currently from Cheryl Miller of Forest Hills Club on ph 0410 472823 . This may change in the future, so ask your club secretary who has the uniforms. You have to supply long sleeve white shirt, black velvet 3838 helmet, beige jodhpurs, black gloves, short brown boots for under 17 with jodhpur clips. Over 17s can wear black leather chaps and boots or long black boots. Rules for these must comply with the usual Showjumping, Dressage and ODE rules. All horse gear, boots, whips, spurs, etc must comply with the Pony Cub Association rules.

Trust this helps, and best wishes to all future Zone 23 State Championship riders.

Yours in Pony Club,

Helen Wilkinson  
Zone Chief Instructor