



GLADSTONE CALLIOPE EQUESTRIAN GROUP INC.

Affiliated with Equestrian Australia

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Dear member,

As you are a new member of GCEG, we have chucked together a few notes to try to help you through your first show jump competition. Feel free to contact one of the committee if you have any questions – we are only too happy to help.

How to enter a competition

Contact the Club and ask where you can obtain a copy of the competition schedule and an entry form. The schedules and entry form gives you all the information you need, such as the date and venue of the competition, along with the articles used in each class, entry fee, closing date for entries.

The rules and articles are available for download from the EA web site: <https://www.equestrian.org.au/Jumping-rules>

Remember to take the draw with you if one is used and place it somewhere where you can easily refer to it. Plan your arrival and travel plans accordingly so you arrive at the venue allowing you plenty of time to get ready. If a draw is not used make sure you are warmed up in the practice ring ready to go when you find a place in line.

What to wear

Some riders think they need to spend a fortune on expensive clothes and leather boots to compete in lower level jumping. This is not the case.

You need to wear:

- An approved safety headgear must be worn at all times at an event. Your local Saddlery will be able to help you select an approved hard hat.
- A shirt and tie or rat catcher is usually worn, preferably long sleeve. Sleeveless is not allowed.
- A coat is to be worn in championship classes and optional in others.
- White, off white, light canary or beige breeches or jodhpurs for official competitions, unofficial any colour is fine.
- Riding boots, either long or short with smooth soles and heels – these can be in leather or rubber. You can wear plain gaiters with short boots as long as they match the colour of the boots which must be black or brown. The exposed side of the gaiter must be full leather.
- Spurs are allowed at all levels. Refer the rules for types of spurs allowed.
- Whips are allowed but please refer to the rules or ask a knowledgeable member and they will be able to help.

Your Horse

Show jumping may not suits all types of horses, but that's why we have lower heights so everyone can have a go. Horses and ponies must be over 4 years of age. To compete in "Restricted Competitions" your horse does not always have to be registered with EA, check the current rules for details. For Official Competitions horses competing 105cm and over must be registered with EA and have a current show jumping performance card. Horses competing under 105cm can also be life registered or base registered.

Gear and Saddlery



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- A jumping type (including all purpose) saddle fully mounted is compulsory and can be worn with a saddle cloth.
- There are a tonne of bits that are approved, but some aren't. You are best to consult the rule book to make sure your bit is allowed.
- Boots, including overreach boots are able and highly recommend to be used. but you are best to check the rule book to make sure the ones you have are approved.
- Breast plates are allowed.
- The following is also allowed: blinkers, ear bonnets, hidez hoods, bit guards, bearing, running or balancing reins, nasal strips.
- Bridles numbers (one of either side of the horse on the bridle or attached to the saddle cloth) is required for official interschool showjumping.

See EA Showjumping Rules and Procedures for full details. Please be aware that rules change and above is a guide only, check the current rules to be sure before you start competing.

At The Event

- Arrive in plenty of time. If you are in the lower heights you will be the first of the classes to jump. Most organisers will contact you to let you know about any changes however they may not be able to get in touch with you so it is worth checking.
- Check where your class is being held, where the warm up arenas and lunging areas are. Follow the code of practice for warming up in the warm up areas (see below) and remember your gloves.
- Keep an eye on the ring. It is up to you to be at the arena at the right time when your height is set. Make sure your gear is correct before you present to the gear check steward.
- You are welcome to ask a friend to video or photograph your round.
- You are allowed to ride in an area on the flat to warm up before heading to the practice arena, generally this will be in the show ring in a designated area. Once in the practice arena please try to limit to 3 riders using the practice fences at once. Also be courteous and do not cut another rider off who is approaching a jump. Try to limit your horse to a maximum of 6 practice fences so they still have plenty of energy to jump the course.
- When it is your turn, you have a couple of option to enter the ring. For the more experienced riders they may enter the ring and make their way to the judge at a walk when the rider before them is approaching their last 2 fences as long as you will not be in their way. For the less experienced with the jumping ring it is recommended that you wait until the rider before you has jumped their last fence, then you may enter the ring and trot or canter to the judge. Once you are at the judge they will ask your name and your horses' name (some riders will have more than one horse).
- The judge will then ask if you are ok with your course. Once you are ready to go, salute the judge and the judge will ring the bell. Do not go through the start pegs until the bell has rung.
- If you go wrong, this could be for a couple of reasons and the judge will ring the bell during your round to indicate something is wrong. This could be because you have gotten lost in your course and crossed your track. Another reason could be because your horse has stopped at 3 jumps on the course, which unfortunately both of these result in elimination. There is also a catch to remember, If you horse stops at obstacles B or C on a combination you are required to come back and jump A or A and B again as well. If your horse stops at a jump and slide knocking rails, the judge will ring the bell which means you need to stop and wait for the fence to be rebuilt before you present to that fence again and continue on. But don't worry, if your horse knocks a rail just keep going.



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- There is a time allowed for the course. If you run over your time, you will get time faults for going too slow. This could stop you moving forward to the jump off in a 2 or 3 round events or could cost you a higher placing in a 1 round event if you have no other faults.
- Once you have completed your round please walk your horse out of the ring and wait around to see if you have made the jump off (which is a shortened course) or for presentation for that class.
- If you are just waiting for presentation and have another horse in the next height/ class, you are welcome to get that horse ready and that horse can be ridden in place of the horse you have won a ribbon on.

Although show jumping can be a bit much for some horses and riders, remember to enjoy the day and that everyone, even top riders, make mistakes.

You will get to notice the more experienced riders and they are always willing to share knowledge and help.

If you feel you would like more help, check the EA web site to locate an EA Accredited Coach near you. Our trainers want to help you improve, whatever level you ride at.

Riding in the warm up arena

Refer the EA Show jumping rule book for the etiquette for warm up arenas

In order to extend courtesy to other riders and to prevent accidents, it is customary to practice the following conduct:-

- Safety is paramount and a collision should be avoided at all times.
- Max 3 horses in practice fence arena.
- Red ribbons will be placed on 1 wing of each practice fence. When jumping the practice fences ensure the red ribbon is on your right.
- Before entering the warm-up area make sure the gateway and immediate track are clear
- Pass left shoulder to left shoulder when meeting another rider coming in the opposite direction.
- If you are in walk always give way to horses trotting or cantering. If you are in walk ride on the inside track.
- The more progressive gait has priority on the outside track
- Halt should not be on the track
- Trot has priority over walk
- Canter has priority over trot
- Make tack adjustments outside the arena
- Do not lunge in the warm-up arena without the permission of the Organiser. There are usually separated designated lunging areas on the grounds.
- Trainers or other pedestrians should not stand in the warm up arenas.
- Stallions should be clearly identified with a green disc on the saddlecloth. If in doubt feel free to ask any one on the committee, we are all here to help.

Once again, thank you for considering our club; we hope this has been helpful and we look forward to seeing you out and about!

Regards

The Committee

Gladstone Calliope Equestrian Group Inc.