

## Arcadia Pony Club Grading Process

The purpose of grading is to allow all riders whatever their age and/or experience the opportunity to enjoy the sport of Showjumping at a level where the horse and rider combination feels competent and comfortable.

**GRADING:** All horse/rider combinations must be graded prior to competing in any Pony Club competition. Proof of grading may be required at certain competitions. Arcadia Pony Club uses digital records to maintain each members grading competence. This is updated after each Grading day, published on our website and a copy sent to the ZCI of Zone 23.

If a member would like a grading card in addition to the digital record, a \$5 fee for the card plus a \$5 fee for update to the card will apply. If the grading card is lost and is required to be replaced, an additional \$5 will apply.

When riders are being graded they must jump confidently a minimum of 10cm higher and wider than the maximum starting height and width of the grade. Riders may be graded on more than one horse. Horses may be graded with more than one rider. Riders may only be graded on horses belonging to members of the same Pony Club (i.e the rider and the owner of the horse must be financial members of the same club) unless a lease agreement is in place and forwarded to the State Office.

**ALL GRADES:** To be given a grading the combination of horse and rider must show control of pace, change of direction, the ability to jump the height and width of the maximum starting height and width of the grade for which they are being assessed and to exhibit a sound lower leg position throughout the round. **The course should consist of a minimum of 8 jumping efforts, be inviting and fair with at least two changes of rein (direction) and one combination.** The equipment used should not be unfairly bright or scary. No rider may be led over a jump at Pony Club (a single pole on the ground is not a jump).

**Introductory Grade riders 30cm – 45cm (Previously known as F Grade)**(under 17 years of age)- for independent riders, (Maximum starting height of 30cm and width of 40cm for 1st round of competition), at the discretion of the Zone Chief Instructor or Club Senior Instructor at a Zone or Club competition. No grading points are to be allocated for these competitions.

**E Grade riders 45 – 60cm** - (Maximum starting height 45cms and width 50cm for 1st round of competition). The most important thing for E grade in addition to the above is that that the riders can control his/her pony at the canter (even though they will often trot around the course) as ponies will often canter after a jump.

**D Grade 60cm – 60 - 75cm**– (Maximum starting height 60cms and width 75cms for 1st round of competition). At D grade level the combination is progressing and while all the above is expected the rider is beginning to understand better the use of pace and control and is more confident over the slightly bigger and wider obstacles. The upper body position of the rider becomes more important as the horse is required to make a bigger effort.

**C Grade – 75cm – 90cm** (Maximum starting height 75cms and width 90cms for 1st round of competition). At C grade the combination is require to jump bigger and wider obstacles and the rider should have a better understanding of pace and rhythm as well as a basic understanding of distance and the relationship of one fence to another not only in combinations but during the whole of the

course. The C grade combination will have an understanding of jumping obstacles at an angle (when appropriate) and will be able to ride 'against the clock'.

**B Grade 90cm – 105cm** (Maximum starting height of 90cms and width 105cms for 1st round of competition). At B grade the combination will have a well-established jumping position and lower leg position and a very good understanding of pace and rhythm. The rider will have the ability to walk distances accurately and to recognise the challenges of the course.

**A Grade 105cm – 120cm** (Maximum starting height 105cms and width 120cms for 1st round of competition). At A grade the combination is competent in all aspects of understanding the course, the pace required, the questions asked by the track and the placement of jumps both in combinations and in related distances. The rider's position will be able to assist the horse to jump the course with confidence and safety.

**Introductory (F), E and D grades** are conducted at Arcadia Pony Club nominated rally days by an NCAS qualified Instructor with approval by the Senior Instructor.

**C, B, A grades** are conducted by the ZCI at nominated rally days, either at Arcadia Pony Club or an alternative Pony Club within Zone 23.

Those wishing to participate in C, B, or A grade grading must have a recommendation of competency from the Arcadia Pony Club Senior Instructor as well as have verified results from a Pony Club Show Jumping event or an Open event demonstrating competency at the level of grading the member is trying for.

Further information on grading and competing at Show Jumping events in Pony Club can be found here:

[http://www.pcansw.org.au/docs/general/45/section\\_09.pdf](http://www.pcansw.org.au/docs/general/45/section_09.pdf)