

Pony Club Fact Sheet - Proficiency Certificates

Progress in pony club is recognised by gaining certificates on ability and sportsmanship. There are eight certificates a rider can achieve - D, D Star, C, C Star, K, B, H and A. The certificates are a measure the riders skill and knowledge encompassing both ridden and practical examinations. They are gained in order starting from D through to A.



C Certificate Information

The **C Certificate** is awarded for an independent seat with correct aids and a degree of competence in other aspects of riding, general knowledge and care of the horse. The minimum age for examination is 12 years. Candidates are encouraged to ride in snaffle bits wherever possible. If another bit is used, the child should know the name and understand its action. The rider should be able to maintain consistent contact through the reins.

Certificate & Badge Colour

Green

Pre-Requisite

Minimum Age 12 years

D Certificate

Exam Format .

Written Exam

Presentation

Riding

Jumping

Horsemastership and general knowledge

Guidelines

Candidates should be encouraged to ride in a snaffle bit wherever possible. If another bit is used, the child should know the name and understand its action.

The rider should be able to maintain consistent contact through the reins.

In checking diagonals or leading leg, the candidate may drop the eyes to look at the shoulders but may not drop the head or lean forward.

Ideally the concept of 'feel' through the seat should be introduced here.

The forward jumping position/s with a steady lower leg should be established by the time of the test.

Candidates should be encouraged to hold the mane or a neck strap over the jump.

Objective

To attain a balanced seat, independent of the reins on the flat and over small fences.

To show control of the pony at small paces.

Demonstrate a knowledge of horsemastership as outlined below.

Learning Outcomes

Riding

Mount and dismount from either side. A mounting block may be used.

Alter stirrups and tighten girth whilst mounted.

Ride with reins in either hand.

Knowledge of correct use of natural aids.

Change direction at all paces.

Increase and decrease pace.

Knowledge of paces and footfalls.

Walk and trot on a long rein.
Walk and trot without stirrups.
Sitting trot for short periods.
Know and use the correct diagonal.
Recognise leading leg at canter. (Rider may look down to check)
Canter on a nominated leading leg.
Gallop.
Balance exercises at the halt and walk.
Show proficiency in mounted games.
Know road rules and traffic signals when riding on roads.
Jumping: The candidate should be capable of:
Jumping fences minimum 45cm and maximum 70 cm, including spreads
Jumping spreads (width not less than height).
Jumping combinations with a minimum of one non-jumping stride.
Riding a small showjumping course.
Riding over varied terrain, including some cross-country obstacles.

Horsemastership

Care and fit of the saddle and bridle.
Parts of the saddlery and uses.
How to rug a quiet horse.
Fit, use and care of rugs.
Elementary knowledge of shoeing and care of the feet.
Explain the use of farrier's tools.
Tie a pony up:
 With an adjustable halter
 With a headstall.
Prepare a horse for travel.
Points of the horse, colours and markings.
Measure the height of a horse.
Describe what to look for when choosing a paddock for your horse.
Horse Health
Prevention and treatment of:
 Girth gall
 sore back
 sore mouth.
Prevention of tetanus.
Worm and bot control. Knowledge of particular worms not required.
Care of teeth and the reasons why they need attention.
Basic First Aid Kit.
When to call the Veterinarian.
Identify:
 Lameness, stone in the foot, and minor wounds.
 Swelling and heat in the leg or the foot.
 Common causes of injuries.
 Greasy Heel
 Thrush
 Seedy toe
 Laminitis (founder) – cause and prevention.
 Cold, colic and strangles.
Care and work of the Candidates own pony:
 Grooming
 Washing
 Recognise health and condition.
 Outline a daily feeding and watering routine.
 Preparation for a Pony Club camp.

General Knowledge

Knowledge of local area and horse places of special interest.
Know the names of the Pony Club Zone personnel.
Local equestrian personalities.

Examiner

Examined by Zone Examiners

Resources

Pony Club Australia Syllabus of Instruction

National syllabus for certificates sets out certificate requirements.

New Zealand Pony Club Manual No.1

Resource book with information for both educator and student.

D/D* Certificate Resource Kit PCAV Publication from PCAV Shop

More information about certificates in an upcoming edition of the newsletter. If you would like more information now, please refer to the pony club web site www.ponyclubvic.org.au