

## PCANT NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION POLICY

### PURPOSE

This policy documents and communicates the criteria applied by Pony Club Association of the Northern Territory (PCANT) to select Club nominated riders for selection for National teams and exchanges. PCANT is ultimately responsible for the final selection decision.

PCANT aims to select the most competitive team while noting that the objectives of Pony Club Australia include providing opportunities for members. PCANT is a Territory organisation and teams should have a broad representation of Clubs.

### NATIONAL TEAMS AND EXCHANGES

PCANT have teams participating in a range of events including:

PCA National Championships (Bi-annually) which include but is not limited to:

- Dressage
- Show Jumping
- Eventing
- Tetrathlon
- Formal Gymkhana
- Quiz
- Mounted Games

The Prince Philip Mounted Games for Junior Riders (held annually)

### SELECTION PANEL

Each calendar year, PCANT will appoint an independent Selection Panel of five persons, comprised of one person from each club affiliated with PCANT. No person shall be a member of a Selection Panel for more than 6 years in total.

A panel of selectors will make the final Team selection which will be ratified by Territory Board. The Selection Panel will assess applications for compliance with the general and specific selection criteria and decide (Selection Decision) which applicant(s) will be nominated to Pony Club Association of the NT for selection to a Territory Team or exchange. The Selection Panel's assessment will include a review of all documents, including video footage, submitted by the applicant and may include an interview of the applicant.

A Selection Panel member must not participate in a Selection Decision in relation to an applicant:

- (a) who is related to the Selection Panel member by birth or by marriage; or
- (b) where to do so would give rise to a conflict of interest. A Selection Panel member must declare any such conflict of interest.

A Selection Decision is made by a simple majority of votes of eligible Selection Panel members, with one vote per eligible Selection Panel member. If the Selection Panel is unable to achieve a simple majority, the application will be referred to the President of PCANT or a PCANT Board member nominated by the President of PCANT, who will make a casting vote on the application.

## GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ALL

### NATIONAL TEAMS AND EXCHANGES

While the selection of a competitive team is important, Pony Club Association of the Northern Territory (PCANT) aims to provide opportunities for all members of Pony Club.

Team members represent Pony Club Association of the Northern Territory (PCANT). While the specific selection criteria for each event are listed under the relevant event heading below, all applicants must be:

- Current financial members of PCANT;
- Good ambassadors for Pony Club Australia;
- Effective communicators;
- Resilient to cope with national travel and unfamiliar surroundings;
- Aware of and compliant with the PCA Code of Conduct and PCA Member Protection Policy which may be accessed at [www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au](http://www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au) ;
- Willing to cheerfully participate in all activities on tour;
- Physically fit and in good health;
- Able to provide written references and video evidence as to their suitability for selection; and
- Except for the National Quiz team, skilled and competent in riding unfamiliar horses in the open.
- Be able to meet expenses of competition and travel;
- Rider's Age – at 1st January in the year of competition

All competitors in National Pony Club Teams must be qualified. Rider must meet the set riding criteria in Reference to and accordance with the PCANT Handbook and PCA National Schedule to compete at any National competition.

In addition to completing the attached application form, Applicants will be required to provide written references (no more than two) as to their suitability for selection. Applicants may be interviewed by the Selection Panel to determine their suitability for nomination. Applicants may be required to provide unedited video evidence of their riding competencies to ensure a level playing field of all applicants from remote or non-remote locations.

*It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that complete application forms are submitted. PCANT will review submissions on receipt to ensure that they are complete. If pages or attachments are missing, PCANT will contact the applicant to allow them to submit the missing material prior to the closing date.*

## NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

*All riders nominated for NT squads must meet individual club and PCANT qualifying requirements to be considered by the selectors.*

Competition criteria are a guide to minimum performance required for consideration by selectors for inclusion on the National team.

### General Criteria

- Riders must meet the set riding criteria in reference to and accordance with the PCA National Schedule to compete at any national competition.
- As per PCANT Handbook 2017  
Section 38.1.c Riders must compete in recent State Competition to qualify for National and International selection.
- Rider's Age – at 1st January in the year of competition
- PCA and PCANT Codes of Conduct must be signed before inclusion into the National team.
- Sub-junior riders must have a D Certificate (by close of application)
- Junior riders must have C Certificate (by close of application)
- Senior riders must have C certificate and/or met the requirements of the PCA National Schedule (by close of application)

### Riders must:

- Have demonstrated fitness, and the ability to develop and maintain a consistent training program to the satisfaction of the Head Coach.
- Horse must be sound and fit to compete.
- Demonstrate an acceptable level of behaviour, citizenship and horsemanship and have the ability to cheerfully participate in all activities planned either by the hosting state, their chaperone or coach.
- Possess enthusiasm for team activities, good sportsmanship and have the desire and knowledge to be good ambassadors for Northern Territory.
- Be available for selection on Selection Day, date (TBA). If a selection is required.
- Compete in Territory Competition and /or 3 PCANT nominated events to qualify for National selection. – e.g. In the 12 months prior to competition
- Be able to demonstrate skills at a minimum of 3 events at the appropriate level.
- Horse and Rider combinations must have completed two rallies within the preceding 12 months at their club or previous club in the case of transfers or club where they are attending as an 'honorary' member because of school or work commitments.
- However, within the first six months of new club membership, only two mounted rallies by the combination are required. (Refer to PCANT HANDBOOK rule 13.13 for definition of a new club member).
- Attend all training sessions as negotiated between rider, coach and manager. If unable to attend rider must notify coach and/or manager with notice.
- On return, provide a written article to PCANT within four weeks of your return regarding the trip and accompanying photographs for promotion of the exchange.

## Mounted Games

- Each PPMG team will consist of a total of five riders in the Territory team. A reserve is named but is not part of the team, and does not travel with the team.
- Juniors – under 16 years
- Seniors – 16 years and under 26 years
- Have had experience in Mounted Games competitions.
- Have a sound knowledge of Mounted Games rules.
- Horsemanship – riders need to be skilled and competent in riding unfamiliar horses in the open.
- Riders must be able to provide a horse – not exceeding 15 hands – for training which others are allowed to ride.
- When the games are held in conjunction with the PCA National Championships, all riders will be required to compete on their own horses.
- The competition for the seniors is held biennially in conjunction with the PCA National Championships.
- The competition for the juniors is held every year. When the competition is held on non- National years, riders will not be required to take their own horses.

## Tetrathlon (As per PCA National Tetrathlon Rules)

- Sub-juniors: 10 years and under 13 years
- Juniors: 13 years and under 17 years
- Seniors: 17 years and under 26 years
- Horse/rider combination have successfully competed in the previous 12 months at heights set in accordance to PCA schedule.. This excludes Training Rounds.
- Must have been adequately prepared for each phase and are capable of successfully completing ALL phases of the competition.

## **For Dressage, Showjumping and Eventing: (As per PCA National Schedule and Rules)**

In the 12 months prior to competition riders must be able to demonstrate skills at a minimum of 3 events at the appropriate level as per PCA schedule.

Riders from all disciplines are required to keep a Performance Diary that must be completed and submitted to the PCANT Office with nomination form.

You can download a Diary form from the PCANT Website or by request.

Sub-juniors: 10 years and under 13

Juniors: 13 years and under 17 years

Seniors: 17 years and under 26 years

### **Dressage**

- Sub-junior Horse and Rider combinations to be competing at Preliminary and Novice level.
- Junior Horse and Rider combinations to be competing at Novice and Elementary level *successfully with a minimum 2 scores of 64% or above. Riders must have ridden 2 Elementary tests in competition achieving a score of 58% or above.*
- Associate Horse and Rider combinations to be competing at Elementary level *successfully with a minimum 2 scores of 62% or above.*
- All scores must have been achieved at a recognised dressage competition.
- Must attend any Squad training days.

### **Showjumping**

- Sub-juniors must show competency over a course height set by PCA national schedule.
- Juniors must show competency over a course height set by PCA national schedule.
- Seniors must show competency over course height set by PCA national schedule.
- In all instances when assessing performance, the standard of competition, the number of competitors, the level/experience of Course Designers and the overall quality of the competition will be taken into consideration.
- Consistent successful performances will be given greater consideration over occasional successes.
- Riders must show competency over a jumping “competition” course and not an “eventing (ODE)’ jumping course of the equivalent height.

## Formal Gymkhana

Rider's Age – at 1st January in the year of competition

- Junior teams 13yrs & under 17yrs
- Senior teams 17yrs & under 26yrs
- Individuals

Classes on offer: (as per PCA schedule) which include but is not limited to:

- Presentation Class
- Rider Class
- Showjumping
- Youth Handler
- Mounted Games

## PCA Quiz

Rider's Age – at 1st January in the year of competition

- Junior and Senior teams to comprise of 4 riders of mixed gender, where relevant, the best three scores in a team will count.
- Seniors 17- under 26 years (Min. C\* level)
- Juniors 10-under 17 years (Min D\*, Max C\* level)
- Junior and Senior teams will be comprised of four riders of mixed gender.
- Quiz competitors may or may not be competitive riders in other disciplines at the PCA Nationals.

*The Quiz will consist of three phases: (As per PCA National Quiz Guidelines)*

- *Identification Phase – is to provide the competitors with an entertaining, interactive experience that encourages a strong knowledge of horses..*
- *Games Phase – is to provide the competitors with an entertaining, interactive experience that encourages a strong knowledge of horses.*
- *Written Test Phase – The Written Test is comprised of up to 25 questions addressing the efficiency standards and up to one level above associated with that age group.*

## **COMPETITION CRITERIA**

**Competition criteria are a guide to minimum performance required for consideration by selectors for inclusion on the National team.**

### **The Competition:**

Will be conducted under the current Pony Club Australia Rules

#### **Consideration when selecting will be given to the following:**

- Recent performances at all levels of competition
- Current form at or above the National Championship competition criteria
- Experience and length of time at Required Discipline
- Performance at PCANT Territory Championships and/or PCANT nominated qualifying events

### **Riders with Two Horses for Consideration:**

**As per PCA schedule of events.**

### **Pony Club Rally Attendance (minimum):**

- Horse and Rider combinations must have completed two rallies within the preceding 12 months. at their club or previous club in the case of transfers or club where they are attending as an 'honorary' member because of school or work commitments.
- However, within the first six months of new club membership, only two mounted rallies by the combination are required. (Refer to PCANT HANDBOOK rule 13.13 for definition of a new club member).

### **Training Requirements:**

- Attend all training sessions as negotiated between rider, coach and manager. If unable to attend rider must notify coach and/or manager with notice.

### **Team Selection Timeline:**

The team selection will be announced.

### **Cost:**

Whilst PCANT helps support fundraising and coaching costs this essentially is a self-funded activity.

Fundraising both individually and as a team also occurs.

Ultimately the team member is responsible for remaining costs incurred in relation to:

- uniform costs - approximately \$250
- share in team nomination – approximately \$400
- accommodation and stabling (camping is usually available on site)
- travel costs of both horse and rider
- Equal share of travel and accommodation costs of team coach and manager.

On Selection into the NT team candidates are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$500 within a month of notification. Riders will receive an invoice for this.

## **PART B: CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **RIDERS**

1. Ride by the rules.
2. Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your Team Manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
3. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit so will you.
5. Be a good sport. Applaud all good efforts whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
6. Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
7. Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
8. Show respect to team coaches and managers and respect the decisions that they make.
9. Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
10. Respects the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **PARENT/GUARDIANS**

1. Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment.
2. Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
3. Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
4. Encourage children always to play according to the rules and settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
5. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember that children learn by best example. Appreciate good performances and skillful plays by all participants.
7. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
8. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
9. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
10. Show respect to team coaches and managers and respect the decisions that they make.
11. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### **SPECTATORS**

1. Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
2. Never ridicule or scold a young rider for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
3. Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or riders.
4. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
5. Do not use violence, harassment or abuse in any form (that is, do not use foul language, sledge or harass riders, coaches, officials or other spectators)
6. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent /Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



## VIDEO REQUIREMENTS:

### Mounted Games

Supply unedited copies of a video which show the following, using regulation size Games Arena (the videographer is to remain at line B and film the rider through the entire exercise from that spot) which show the following:

- i. The Candidate must ride and video 2 mounts (and specify the actual height of the demonstration mount on the written application form).
- ii. With a bending pole on line A and a bending pole on line C, the Candidate will ride from line A to line C with the bending poles on their right and being recorded from their left, performing as many “left side” vaults as they can. They will then turn around so that the bending poles are on their left and they are being recorded from their right, and ride from line A, performing as many “right side” vaults as they can.
- iii. With a barrel (or heavy duty trash bin as shown in the Games Rules) on line A and another on line C, each with two tennis balls on top, and a bucket as specified in the Games Rules for Ball & Bucket Race, the rider will start at the back of the 6 yard line behind line A, ride to and remove a ball from the barrel at line A, dunk it into the bucket at line B, continue to the barrel at line C, remove a tennis ball from that barrel and return to line A, dunking the ball into the bucket on line B along the way; remove the second ball from the barrel at line A, dunk it into the bucket on line B, continue to the barrel at line C to collect the second tennis ball from that barrel, and dunk it into the bucket on line B, continuing to line A to finish.
- iv. The Candidate shall ride the pony (2<sup>nd</sup> mount) they are most familiar with, and repeat the exercises outlined above in the same fashion. The size of this second mount shall be noted in the application.
- v. Using the pony detailed in **iv**, the rider shall ride singly as the 4th rider in any game of his/her choosing to further demonstrate his/her skills.
- vi. A DVD of the two different ponies need not be recorded on the same day, but they must be on the same DVD, recorded continuously for each segment, and be unedited.

### Show Jumping

Video is Optional. A copy of current Grading card and performance record sheet must be submitted with application.

### Dressage

Video is optional. A copy of current grading card, recent dressage test score sheets and performance record sheet must be submitted with application.

## PCANT National Member Application

**Applicant's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Duplicate as necessary

This recommendation must be completed by the Club Chief Instructor/president, and a second person (no more than 2 reference letters are required), and returned to

**PCANT**

PO Box 1257 Coolalinga NT 0839

Or

Email: [admin@ponyclubnt.org.au](mailto:admin@ponyclubnt.org.au)

**NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED  
FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED  
(VIDEO & RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED)**

If the candidate is related to the Club Chief Instructor/President, please have another club officer complete this form.

Potential Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Pony Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Person writing reference:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the reverse side of this form (or attach a letter on club letterhead) to tell us what you can about this applicant that would help the Selection Panel know him/her better.

Please address each of the following points in your recommendation of the candidate. It is essential that you be totally candid in your assessment of the candidate's suitability for the International Exchanges. All replies will be confidential.

We very much appreciate your interest in writing on behalf of this applicant.

- Full Compliance with the entry qualifications set by the event organisers (club only)
- Is financial and not owing monies to club/PCANT (Club only)
- Riding capability on own and borrowed horses.
- Quality of horse management skills.
- Strong Pony Club record and support of Pony Club ideals.
- Does the candidate relate well with peers and adults.
- Are there particular qualities that will make this person an effective team member and a good ambassador for the PCA and his/her maturity, social skills, patience, team experience, consistently high standard of behaviour.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & date