

PCANT INTERNATIONAL TEAM SELECTION POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy documents and communicates the criteria applied by PCANT to select and nominate riders to Pony Club Australia for selection for international teams and exchanges. Pony Club Australia is ultimately responsible for the final selection decision.

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

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS AND EXCHANGES

Pony Club Australia has international teams participating in a range of events including:

- Inter Pacific Exchange held every 2 years
- International Mounted Games Exchange held every year
- International Tetrathlon held every 2 years
- International Quiz held every 3 years
- French Exchange (Show Jumping) to be held every 2 years commencing 2018
- Activities for riders in China hosted by China Pony Club

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 Australia for selection to an International 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 INTERNATIONAL TEAMS AND EXCHANGES

While the selection of a competitive team is important, Pony Club Australia aims to provide opportunities for all members of Pony Club. Applicants who have been a member of an International Team or Exchange **on 4** separate occasions are not eligible to apply.

Team members represent Pony Club and Australia. While the specific selection criteria for each event is listed under the relevant event heading below, all applicants must be:

- Current financial members of PCANT;
- As per PCANT Handbook 2017
Section 38.1.c Riders must compete in recent State Competition to qualify for National and International selection.
- Good ambassadors for Pony Club Australia;
- Effective communicators;
- Resilient to cope with international 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 ;
- Willing to cheerfully participate in all activities on tour;
- Physically fit and in good health;
- Able to provide written references (1 from their current club) and video evidence as to their suitability for selection; and
- Except for the International Quiz, skilled and competent in riding unfamiliar horses in the open.
- 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.

In addition to completing the attached application form, Applicants will be required to provide written references as to their suitability for selection (no more than three). 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.

INTER PACIFIC EXCHANGE

The Inter Pacific Exchange is held every two years with teams from Australia, Britain, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand and the USA having participated in the past. Selection to represent Australia in the Inter Pacific Exchange is the highest honour for a Pony Clubber.

There are four riders in a team, plus a coach and a manager. States/territories are rotationally rostered to select and nominate one rider. The coach and the manager are selected by Pony Club Australia.

Teams participate in competitive riding activities and non-riding social functions arranged by the host nation. The competitive riding activities include the Nations Cup Show Jumping and the One Day Event.

In the Nations Cup Show Jumping, each team of 4 riders represents their own country. In the One Day Event, riders from each participating country form a “scrambled” team of 5 riders.

The host nation provides the horses and saddlery, allocated to riders by ballot, and team members of the host nation are not permitted to ride their own horse.

Specific selection criteria

In addition to the general selection criteria above:

- Applicants must have their B certificate.
- Applicants must be aged 17 to 25 years at 1 January in the year of competition.

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES EXCHANGE

The International Mounted Games Exchange is governed by the rules made by the Pony Club International Alliance and is hosted each year by either Great Britain, USA, Canada or Australia on a rotational system. There are 5 riders in a team plus a coach and a manager. States/territories are rotationally rostered to select and nominate one rider for the team. The coach and the manager are selected by Pony Club Australia.

Specific selection criteria

In addition to the general selection criteria above:

- Riders must be under 16 years at 1 January in the year of competition.

INTERNATIONAL TETRATHLON

Each participating country enters a team of four males and a team of four females for the International Tetrathlon hosted on a rotational system by Great Britain, USA, Ireland and Australia. States/territories are invited to nominate one male and one female. The coach and the manager are selected by Pony Club Australia.

Specific selection criteria

In addition to the general selection criteria above, riders must:

- be between 16 and 21 years at 1 January in the year of competition;
- have their C Certificate;
- be capable of jumping 90cm; and
- provide information on past results including swimming and running distances.

INTERNATIONAL QUIZ

The International Quiz Exchange is held every three years, rotated between the USA and Canada, with invitations extended to Australia and Great Britain. Quiz is the only discipline in Pony Club where a member does not need a horse to compete. Teams participate in the Quiz competition and non-riding social functions arranged by the host nation.

The aim of the Quiz competition is to promote a deep understanding and familiarity with the material presented at each certificate level. There may be five phases to the competition called Classroom, Stations, Mega Room, Barn, and Written Test.

- In the Classroom phase, team members are asked individual questions which they must answer orally in a specific amount of time.
- During the Stations phase, teams move through a variety of 'stations' and answer questions at those stations as a team. The stations may be written, hands-on, or even games.
- The Mega Room is filled with horse related items. Each individual gets an answer sheet and has to identify items in the room that are each labelled with a number or letter. Teams then move on to the Barn phase, which is presented in a barn, or barn-like, setting. Members must be able to physically demonstrate their knowledge and many questions are hands-on. Each team member is given an individual question before the whole team is given one question.
- The final phase of Quiz is the Written Test. This is an individual, multiple choice test that each team member must complete.

Specific selection criteria

In addition to the general selection criteria above, applicants must:

- be aged between 16 and 25 years on 1 January of the year of competition; and
- have their K or C* Certificate.

FRENCH EXCHANGE (SHOW JUMPING)

Pony Club Australia has developed a collaborative arrangement with the Normandy Committee of the French Equestrian Federation. A French team competed in the 2017 PCA Nationals in Toowoomba and it is expected that this will continue for future PCA Nationals. In 2018, and every second year thereafter, Pony Club Australia will send a team to France to compete in show jumping at the Mondial des Clubs competition held at the headquarters of the French Equestrian Federation during the National Clubs Championships.

Teams consist of four riders with each state/territory invited to nominate a suitable rider and Pony Club Australia will select a representative team of mixed gender (2 males and 2 females) with no more than one rider from each state/territory. One person will fulfil the role of coach and manager and will be selected by Pony Club Australia.

Specific selection criteria

In addition to the general selection criteria above, applicants must:

- be aged from 16 to 19 years on 1 January of the year of competition;
- have their B Certificate;
- have relevant competition experience and results;
- have a demonstrated commitment to Pony Club; and
- provide written references as to their suitability for inclusion on the team.

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 (2nd 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 International Member Application

Applicant's Name: _____

Duplicate as necessary

This recommendation must be completed by the Club Chief Instructor/president, and a 2nd or 3rd person (no more than 3 reference letters are required), and returned to

PCANT

PO Box 1257 Coolalinga NT 0839

Or

Email: admin@ponyclubnt.org.au

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

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