2026

VICTORIAN EQUESTRIAN INTERSCHOOL SERIES

HANDBOOK

VEIS Committee

Contents

1 Introduction 2

2 What is the VEIS? 2

2.1 VEIS Events 2

2.2 VEIS Website/guidance 2

2.3 VEIS Event guidance 3

3 UNIFORM/COMPETITOR REQUIREMENTS 4

4 Event organiser requirements 4

5 VEIS dates 4

6 VEIS Levels 5

7 Qualification for the Victorian Interschool team 7

8 APPENDICIES 8

1 Introduction

The Victorian Equestrian Interschool Series (VEIS) handbook describes the rules and principles under which the VEIS operates.

The VEIS operates under Equestrian Australia (EA) rules, regulations and polices as they apply to interschool competitions and in alignment with Interschool Victoria (ISV) and Equestrian Victoria (EV) policies and guidelines.

The VEIS runs events for Dressage and Jumping under the discipline rules for these disciplines, where applicable, and other policies and guidelines including:

- Equestrian Australia Codes of Conduct
- Child Safe Code of Practice and EA Child Safeguarding Policy
- Equestrian Interschool Victoria General rules

2 What is the VEIS?

The VEIS is committed to:

- providing a safe and supportive environment for dressage and show jumping competitions for primary and secondary students and
- supporting the development of quality equestrian competitions that foster talent and skill development

The VEIS is an incorporated organisation run by a committee of volunteers. The VEIS committee consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and General Committee members who are involved in running the individual series events, and the Grand Final.

The VEIS committee meets approximately four times a year.

2.1 VEIS Events

The VEIS facilitates the running of a series of eight events each year.

These include three 'qualifier' events and a grand final in dressage and in showjumping.

The VEIS aims to promote a Dressage and Jumping qualifier event in each region.

The champion and reserve champion series winners in 'national qualifier' levels qualify for the team to represent Victoria at the Australian Interschool Championships.

2.2 VEIS Website/guidance

The VEIS website provides

- guidance to help organisers comply with current standards and expectations for running VEIS Interschool horse events
- VEIS series calendar of events and series scores
- Links to current policies, rules and guidelines and the ISV handbook

2.3 VEIS Event guidance

VEIS events are governed under the following rules:

- EA rules
- EA National Interschool Rules
- ISV handbook including any rules that over-ride EA rules (e.g. no stallions are allowed at interschool events)
- Specific rules that apply to VEIS events. These include:
    1. Schedule of classes – see Appendix A (dressage) and B (show jumping)
    2. *Champion exclusion rule* - Rider and horse combinations who have been Individual VEIS Champions may not compete in that level in subsequent years. *(In exceptional circumstances, exemptions may be given to this rule. For consideration of an exemption, riders must apply to the VEIS Committee prior to 31 December).*
       This rule does not apply when riders move from primary to secondary school levels or have reached the top level i.e. PSG/Inter 1 dressage and Stars (120cm) jumping.
    3. VEIS scoring -
       Dressage – There will be two tests offered at a level. Riders must attain a minimum of 57.5% in a test, to obtain a qualifying score for points.
       Riders are awarded points as per EA Dressage rules in each class. Riders must compete in both classes to be eligible for the championship.

       Show jumping – There will be two classes offered at a level. Both classes will be awarded equal points. Riders must compete in two classes to be awarded Championship points.

       VEIS Grand Final – points awarded at Dressage and Jumping Grand Finals are multiplied by 1.5 (i.e. the Grand Final is worth 50% more than other qualifying rounds).

       The Series Championship points consist of a riders 3 best round scores, which is typically 2 of the 3 qualifying rounds and the grand final score (due to value of the 1.5 multiplier)

3 UNIFORM/COMPETITOR REQUIREMENTS

- All riders must wear approved boots and helmets (done up) when mounted.
- Please note all helmets used in Dressage and Show Jumping competitions must be safety tagged. Helmet rules: http://www.equestrian.org.au/news/helmet-regulations-updated.
- School equestrian uniform must be worn in all competitions and for presentations.
- Blazers or Riding Jackets are **not** permitted at all VEIS interschool events.
- Riders may be eliminated for incorrect dress.
- Gloves must be worn in Dressage.
- All riders must provide own numbers as per the published event draw. Numbers should be on both sides of saddle blanket or bridle.
- As a courtesy to judges, riders should be neat and well presented in their school team uniform or an appropriate jumper or the sports top of their school. If hair is long, it needs to be secured.

4 Event organiser requirements

4.1 Who can run events for VEIS?

Any suitable club, school or incorporated organisation that:

- is affiliated with EV
- has insurance (which may be through EA)
- has a commitment to meet the required standards expected at Interschool events as outlined in the ISV handbook including Child Safe and medical requirements.

4.2 Entry fees for VEIS events must include the following:

- a levy of $2 per rider/horse combination at VEIS qualifier events
- a medical levy of $10 per rider

5 VEIS dates

VEIS dates are set by the VEIS committee in consultation with ISV. Requests to host a series round must be sent to the Committee in the year prior between June and September.

6 VEIS Levels

Required levels and classes for series rounds are specified in the Appendices of this Handbook. Any level that is divided into junior, intermediate and/or senior age group may be run as one class but must be scored and series points awarded for each level. Rider year levels will be applied for state team selection as per Interschool Victoria rules. Riders may compete at a different height or dressage grading to Interschool State Championships and, therefore, may qualify at two levels for the Victorian Interschool Team.

- Riders are encouraged to enter levels most suited to their level of riding competency and their horse's ability. In disciplines where grading or qualification applies, the EA rules for eligibility must be adhered to, e.g. dressage grading for horses.
- Primary students are permitted to compete in Secondary only grades; however, they are not restricted to ride in 'Primary Only' classes. However, Primary riders are not permitted to ride at higher levels (ie. Advanced, Prix St. George and Inter 1) at Interschool National events irrespective of their standing on the VEIS Series Championship. For the avoidance of doubt, Primary riders are only permitted to compete in Primary classes or classes nominated as 'All-Primary & Secondary' at national events – points accrued in a higher level at VEIS events do NOT contribute to qualification for the Victorian Team at a lower level.
- Secondary riders may participate in 'Primary only' classes but they will be deemed to be competing HC ("hors concours"), i.e., no points will accrue towards either the individual event results or the VEIS team or individual championships.

VEIS Scoring

- Rider/horse combinations score points for the VEIS Team and Individual Championships at the VEIS Qualifier events (4 dressage and 4 show jumping qualifier events)
- A rider must be entered in the two classes at a level to be eligible for series points. If eliminated in one class, the combination will receive points for the class completed.
- At each VEIS qualifier event a champion and reserve champion award are awarded for the top two placed competitors at each level.
- The VEIS Grand Final event is open to all riders but to score individual or school series points, combinations must have competed at one or more series qualifying competitions. To place in the VEIS series and therefore be eligible for Victorian Team selection through the VEIS, riders must have competed at a minimum of two VEIS series events, which may include the Grand Final.
- At the Grand Final, any horse/rider combination must compete at the highest level that they have competed at during any Qualifier event, e.g., a rider/horse combination that has competed at Novice as its highest level during the Qualifier events may not compete at any level below this at the Grand Final.

This rule will not apply to the first qualifier event in any given year or series. For example, a horse/rider combination may enter the first qualifier at Advanced Show Jumping height and subsequently wish to move down a grade, in this instance the combination will have the ability to use the lower height as its qualifier and Grand Final height. The same rule and logic will apply to the dressage grades and applies only to the first qualifier in any given season as indicated by the VEIS calendar in either discipline.

- For each horse/rider combination per discipline, the highest total aggregate score from **3 of the Qualifier events** *(which may* include the Grand Final worth 1.5 times points) will be the winner of the Individual Championships
- If a rider scores at all 4 Qualifier events (including the Grand Final), the 3 scores to count to the overall aggregate score will be the 3 highest scores, i.e., the lowest score from the Qualifier events is dropped

NB: For clarity, there is no "dropped score" in the VEIS Teams Championship – team scores achieved at each qualifier count toward the overall VEIS Series Dressage and Show Jumping School Team Championships – schools are therefore encouraged to ensure teams are fielde at each Qualifier event

- In the event of an equality of points at the end of the Series, the count back methodology will first be the number of wins achieved at the Qualifier events (including the Grand Final). In the event of a tie at this level, the highest score at the Grand Final prevails

- If one round of the VEIS series is cancelled (for any reason) the scores from the other 3 events in the series will be counted. If the Grand Final is cancelled the three rounds/events that have been held are weighted equally. The Grand Final coefficient of 1.5 will remain if this event is run.
- If a VEIS series event is shortened on the day (for example due to bad weather), all classes completed will count for individual series scores. No school scores will be included in the series for that round.

Dressage

- Rider/horse combinations may ride 3 dressage tests (subject to event capacity) and points are awarded as per EA rules
- Riders must achieve 57.5% in a test to be awarded points, noting that points are awarded on a per test basis.
- A rider must be entered in the two classes at level to be eligible for series points. If eliminated or retired in one class, the combination will receive points for the class completed.
- If a third test is ridden, no points for the series will be attributed to that placing,
- If a rider competes one test at Advanced and one test at Prix St Georges, then they will be counted for points based on their Prix St Georges placing (i.e. riders will only earn individual and team points for the Prix St Georges, no points will be awarded for an Advanced test competed at the same event).

Jumping

- The two classes offered will have points awarded 1st 35, 2nd 34, 3rd 33 etc according to placings. If there are more than 35 riders in class, the remaining riders, who have completed the class will receive 1 point.
- A rider must be entered in the two classes at the same level to be eligible for series points. If eliminated or retired in one class, the combination will receive points for the class completed.

School Teams

- School points are awarded based on a rider's total score in the championship (i.e. their ranking across the two tests at the same level, or two jumping classes). The winner of the championship will score 10 points, Reserve Champion 9 points, and so on down to 1 point for 10th placing. The maximum a school can score is 40 points- 4 individual Championships

VEIS Series School Team Championship scoring will be for:

- Victorian Champion Dressage School
- Victorian Champion Show Jumping School (The Annie White Champion Show Jumping School Trophy)
- The top four combinations' points from each school will be totalled to determine each school's point at an event. These points will be aggregated across the Qualifier events, including the Grand Final (where the 1.5x's premium is applied), to determine the school rankings for the Series in each of the Dressage and Show Jumping School Team Championships. The maximum a school can achieve at the qualifying events is Dressage 40 points (4 combination Championships) and Show jumping is 40 points (4 combination Championships). At the Grand Final. The maximum score that a school can achieve is 60 in Dressage and 60 in Show Jumping
- There is one team score per school at any given event for each discipline
- At VEIS event schools may have multiple campuses for team scoring purposes. These campuses must come under the same Governance/Board and same Principal (Head of School). For example, a school may have a Senior Campus Year 7-12 and Primary Campuses Prep-Year 6

7 Qualification for the Victorian Interschool team

- The series champion and reserve horse/rider combinations from the VEIS qualify for a place in the Victorian Team at national qualifier levels.
- Where the same horse/rider combinations have already qualified for the Victorian Team through the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships, the next best qualified rider will be offered the spot according to the ISV Team Selection Policy.
- Riders in dressage and show jumping may qualify the same horse for the Victorian Team in two levels- one level at State Championships and a different level in the VEIS series.

8 APPENDICIES

APPENDIX 1

DRESSAGE

VEIS Dressage competitions are run under current EA dressage rules. The current rules are effective 1 January 2025: https://www.equestrian.org.au/dressage-rules

Dressage classes offered at VEIS events are:

Class	Year Level	Arena Size
Preparatory (Primary only) *	Primary Only	40m x 20m or 60m x 20m
Preliminary Primary	Primary Only	60m x 20m
Preliminary Intermediate Preliminary Senior	Secondary Only Secondary Only	60m x 20m 60m x 20m
Novice Primary	Primary Only	60m x 20m
Novice Intermediate	Secondary Only	60m x 20m
Novice Senior	Secondary Only	60m x 20m
Elementary	All-Primary & Secondary	60m x 20m
Medium	All-Primary & Secondary	60m x 20m
Advanced	Secondary	60m x 20m
Prix St Georges**	Secondary	60m x 20m
Intermediate 1 **	Secondary	60m x 20m

* Not EA Interschool Nationals class ** The VEIS runs the Series as Small Tour

Primary riders who compete in Elementary and Medium classes and gain the relevant qualification, will be eligible for the Victorian Team at these levels.

See the ISV Team Selection Policy for information on how to achieve qualification for the Victorian team for the Australian Interschool Championships. Note that selection is based on the year level of a student at school.

Rider/horse combinations must score a minimum of 57.5% in a dressage test for the combination's score to accrue points for the VEIS team or individual championships. If the minimum 57.5% is not attained in a test no points will be gained for that test.

The allocation of points for championship placings and series scores at VEIS events is consistent with EA Dressage scoring:

- Points are awarded 35 points for first placed horse, 34 points for second and so on to the last-placed horse.
- The aggregate points over the two classes determines the Championship placings.
- In the event of a tie for Championship placings, the higher placing is awarded to the combination with the highest aggregate percentage over the two tests. In the event of a further tie, the higher placing is the combination with the higher percentage score in the more advanced test.
- In the event of equal placings in a test, no half/split marks are allocated. The equal placings receive the same points, then the next placing and points are skipped. i.e., 2 riders finishing equal 4th receive 32 points, with the next placing being 6th receiving 30 points. If a clear

winner or placing is required in a class for individual tests the best total of the 4 collective marks would place higher.

APPENDIX 2

SHOWJUMPING

Showjumping is run at VEIS events under current **FEI and EA National Jumping Rules**.

See the **ISV Handbook** for information on general rules for equestrian interschool events and qualification for the EA Australian Interschool Championships. The procedure for Victorian team selection for the Australian Interschool Championships is outlined in the **EV Interschool Captain and Team Selection Policy**.

Note: Victorian team selection is based on the year level of a student at school. VEIS series scores will be awarded according to the rider's level Primary, Intermediate, Senior or Secondary in line with National Interschool classes.

The jumping classes offered at VEIS events are:

One Round Table A- (Article 238.2.1)

- Athletes with equality of penalties are placed in accordance with the time taken to complete the round. In the event of equality of penalties and time for first place, there may be a jump-off over a shortened course over obstacles, which may be increased in height and/or spread in accordance with the provisions of the schedule. Please note – this is only if faults and times are exactly the same, so it is very rare that this second round jump off is ever run.

One Round with Jump off under Table A (Article 238.2.2)

- This is a competition not against the clock, but in the event of equality of penalties for first place, there will be one jump-off against the clock. Other athletes are placed according to their penalties and time in the first round. All riders who jump clear in the first round will be invited back to compete in the second round at a raised height (approx. 5cm)

Scoring to determine championship placings and series scores

- In both classes, first place is awarded 35 points, second place 34 points, and so on down to 1 point for 35th.
- Points over the two classes are aggregated to determine places for the championship on the day for each VEIS qualifier, and for the VEIS series scores. In the event of an equality of points, points earned in article 238 2.2 are used for the count back.
- Riders must complete both classes to be awarded Championship points on the day, however, they may be awarded series points if not completing two classes due to elimination or retirement.

VEIS showjumping events run two classes at each level as follows:

Class	Year Level	Class		Height	National class
Freshman 50-60cm	Primary Only	AM2: Article 238.2.1		50cm (min)	No
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	55 - 60 cm	
			Jump off	60cm (max)	
Primary Encourage 70cm	Primary	AM2: Article 238.2.1		65cm (min)	Yes
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	70- 75cm	
			Jump off	75cm (max)	
Secondary Encourage 70cm	Year 7-12	AM2: Article 238.2.1		65cm (min)	No
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1St Round	70 - 75cm	
			Jump off	75cm (max)	
Primary Improvers 80cm	Primary	AM2: Article 238.2.1		75cm (min)	Yes
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	80 -85 cm	
			Jump off	85cm (max)	
Secondary Improvers 80cm	Year 7-12	AM2: Article 238.2.1		75cm (min)	No
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	80 - 85cm	
			Jump off	85cm (max)	
Primary Progressive 90cm	Primary	AM2: Article 238.2.1		85cm (min)	Yes
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	90 -95cm	
			Jump off	95cm (max)	
Intermediate Progressive 90cm	Year 7-9	AM2: Article 238.2.1		85cm (min)	Yes
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	90 - 95cm	
			Jump off	95cm (max)	
Senior Progressive 90cm	Year 10-12	AM2: Article 238.2.1		85cm (min)	Yes
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	90 - 95cm	
			Jump off	95cm (max)	
Intermediate Aspiring 100cm	Year 7-9	AM2: Article 238.2.1		95cm (min)	Yes
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	100 -105cm	
			Jump off	105cm (max)	
Senior Aspiring[1] 100cm	Year 10-12	AM2: Article 238.2.1		95cm (min)	Yes
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	100 -105cm	
			Jump off	105cm (max)	
Advanced 110cm	All	AM2: Article 238.2.1		105cm (min)	Yes Secondary
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	110 - 115cm	
			Jump off	115cm (max)	
Stars 120cm	All	AM2: Article 238.2.1		115cm (min)	Yes Secondary
		AM5: Article 232.2.2	1st Round	120 - 125cm	
			Jump off	125cm (max)	

Classes of the same height may run consecutively with places, points etc awarded at each level.

[1] Note – 'Aspiring' is the new name for what was called the 'Intermediate' section previously. The name change has been made to avoid confusion with 'Intermediate' level for years 7-9.

**Stated minimum starting heights are a guide, and discretion is with the course builder, however the maximum height is fixed.