

2024

VICTORIAN
EQUESTRIAN
INTERSCHOOL
SERIES

HANDBOOK

VEIS Committee

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1 Introduction

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

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

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

- Equestrian Australia Codes of Conduct
- Child Safe Code of Practice and EA Child Safeguarding Policy
- Equestrian Interscholar 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 representatives from 3 regions- Northern, Barwon and South East – and includes event organisers for series competitions.

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 Interscholar Championships.

2.2 VEIS Website/guidance

The VEIS website provides

- guidance to help organisers comply with current standards and expectations for running VEIS Interscholar 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
- 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 January).
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 – riders must attain a minimum of 57.5% in a test, to obtain a qualifying score for points.
Show jumping – the ‘grand prix’ is scored double the points of the A2 class.
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).

3 Event organiser requirements

Who can run events for VEIS?

Any suitable 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.

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 (to be paid into the VEIS medical levy fund)

4 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.

5 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 may be run as one class. Rider year levels will be applied for state team selection as per Interschool Victoria rules.

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)
- At each VEIS qualifier event a champion and reserve champion award is 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
- In the Grand Final, any horse/rider combination must compete at the highest level that they have competed at during any Qualifier event. This rule will not apply to the first qualifier event in any given year or series.
- 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 only ride 2 dressage tests and points are awarded as per EA rules
- Riders must achieve 57.5% in a test to be awarded points
- 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 'Grand Prix' jumping class is run over 2 rounds and is scored double points i.e. 35 points to the winner of the A2 (article 238.2.1) and 70 points to the winner of the Grand Prix (article 273.3.3.1).

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

6 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.

7 APPENDICIES

APPENDIX 1

DRESSAGE

VEIS Dressage competitions are run under current EA dressage rules. The current rules are effective 1 January 2023: <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	Secondary Only	60m x 20m
Preliminary Senior	Secondary Only	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	60m x 20m
Medium	All	60m x 20m
Advanced	All	60m x 20m
Prix St Georges**	All	60m x 20m
Intermediate 1 **	All	60m x 20m

* Not EA Interscholar Nationals class

** The VEIS runs the series at Small Tour.

See the ISV Team Selection Policy for information on how to achieve qualification for the Victorian team for the Australian Interscholar 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 Interscholar 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 Selection Policies and Procedures**.

Note: Victorian team selection is based on the year level of a student at school. VEIS series scores will indicate the rider's year level to clarify selection to Primary, Intermediate, Senior or Secondary team places.

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 to 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.

“Grand Prix” (Article 273.3.3.1)

- Competition over two rounds. This competition comprises, with the same speed, two courses, identical or different, either in track or in number of obstacles or in the dimensions of the obstacles. Each Athlete must participate with the same horse. Athletes who have been eliminated or retired during the first round, may not take part in the second round and may not be placed. All the athletes go forward to the second round according to the conditions of this schedule. The second round may be in reverse order of penalties in the first round; athletes retain their drawn order in case of equality of penalties. The second round is the Jump Off. There is no extra jump off.

Scoring to determine championship placings and series scores

- In the A2 class, first place is awarded 35 points, second place 34 points, and so on down to 1 point for 35th.
- The “Grand Prix class” is worth double points so that first place is awarded 70 points, second place 68 points, and so on down to 2 points for 35th place.
- 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 the Grand Prix are used for the count back.

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	No	
		Grand Prix: Art. 273.3.3.1	1st Round		55cm
			2nd Round		60cm
Encourage 70cm	All	AM2: Article 238.2.1	65cm	Yes Primary only	
		Grand Prix: Art. 273.3.3.1	1st Round		70cm
			2nd Round		75cm
Improvers 80cm	All	AM2: Article 238.2.1	75cm	Yes Primary only	
		Grand Prix: Art. 273.3.3.1	1st Round		80cm
			2nd Round		85cm
Progressive 90cm	All	AM2: Article 238.2.1	85cm	Yes - Primary Intermediate & Senior	
		Grand Prix: Art. 273.3.3.1	1st Round		90cm
			2nd Round		95cm
Aspiring ¹ 100cm	All	AM2: Article 238.2.1	95cm	Yes Intermediate & Senior	
		Grand Prix: Art. 273.3.3.1	1st Round		100cm
			2nd Round		105cm
Advanced 110cm	All	AM2: Article 238.2.1	105cm	Yes Secondary	
		Grand Prix: Art.273.3.3.1	1st Round		110cm
			2nd Round		115cm
Stars 120cm	All	AM2: Article 238.2.1	115cm	Yes Secondary	
		Grand Prix: Art. 273.3.3.1	1st Round		120cm
			2nd Round		125cm

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.