Understanding the Basics of Eventing

Safety

Helmets

All Athletes must wear properly fastened protective headgear whenever mounted at an EA or FEI event in Australia.

"Protective Headgear" is a helmet that:

i.   meets one of the current approved safety standards

HELMET STANDARD	SAFETY MARK
AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) provided they are SAI Global marked	
ARB HS 2012 provided they are SAI Global marked	SAI GLOBAL
ASTM F1163 (2004a and any subsequent updates) provided they are SEI marked	SEI
SNELL E2001 (and any subsequent updates)	E2001 SNELL ###SAMPLE###
PAS 015 (1998 or 2011 and any subsequent updates) provided they are BSI Kitemarked	Kitemark Licence No. KM07701
VG1 (01.040: 2014-12) with or without BSI Kitemark	

ii.   is tagged with a current visible EA 'helmet tag'

Body Protector for Cross Country

Body protectors are compulsory for Cross-Country. A body protector manufactured after 2009 and labelled as complying to one of the following standards is mandatory effective January 1st 2020

- EN13158:2009 Level 3
- BETA 2009 Level 3
- EN13158:2018 level 3
- BETA 2018 Level 3

Compliant body protectors – do not require tagging but will be randomly checked. Air vests will not have the rating as they are required to be worn with a compliant body protector underneath. The hybrid air vests – do require to be labelled as complying.

Rider Representative

Every event will have a rider representative each level. The names and phone numbers of the Rider Representatives are distributed to all riders and available from event secretary's. The Rider Representatives role is to act as your conduit to the Technical Delegate and the event committee, to answer any procedural questions you may have. Please make sure you utilise them.

Useful Information

Dressage Test Links are [here](#)

Calendar of Victorian Events are [here](#) events fill early, so set your alarm.

Eventing Australia refund policy is [here](#)

Equestrian Victoria – [Eventing Web Page](#)

Types of Events

Short Format^

National (CCN - S)

EvA80, EvA95, CCN1*-S, #CCN1.5*-S and CCN2*-S, #CCN2.5*-S, CCN3 *-S, #CCN3.5*-S and CCN4*-S – are all National Horse Trials of short format and follow the National Eventing Rules.
The National Eventing Rules can be found here: [National Eventing Rules](#).

International (CCI-S)

CCI1*-S, CCI2* -S, CCI3* -S and CCI4* -S - are all
International Horse Trials of short format and follow the FEI Eventing Rules and they can be found here: [FEI Eventing Rules](#)

Long Format□

National (CCN-L)

EvA80-L, EvA95-L, CCN1*-L and CCN2*-L, CCN3*-L and CCN4*-L – are all National Horse Trials of long format and follow the National Eventing Rules.

International (CCI-L)

CCI1*-L, CCI 2*-L, CCI3*-L , CCI 4*-L and CCI5*-L - are all International Horse Trials of long[1] format and follow the FEI Eventing Rules.

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[1] ^ Short Format – Dressage, Showjumping and Cross Country tests usually completed over one or two days, but can be completed over three consecutive days. The Show Jumping test may be before or after the Cross Country test, the Cross Country is of a shorter duration than the Long Format Horse Trials.
The .5 classes consist of the Cross Country test at the class level and the Dressage and Show Jumping tests at the level above. For example CCN1.5* has CCN1* cross country and CCN2* dressage test and showjumping tests.

□ Long Format - A Long format Competition may take place over three or more days. The Dressage Test will be spread over one or more consecutive days, depending on the number of competitors, directly followed on the next day by the Cross Country Test that will be directly followed on the next day by the Jumping Test.
In the Long format Competitions the Cross Country course will be of such a length that the horse is required to be supremely fit and stamina will be required for success.
The Cross Country Test will always take place before the Jumping Test.

Age of Athletes

An Athlete is considered a Senior from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

Level	Age	Express Permission
4* and 5*	Senior Athletes Only	NO
3*	Senior Athletes	YES - from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 16
2*	Senior Athletes	YES - from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 14
1*	Senior Athletes	YES - from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 12

CNC/CCN Age of Athletes

Four Star (CCN4*-L & CCN4*-S) Classes:
From the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 18.

Three Star (CCN3*-L & CCN3*-S) Classes:
With the express permission of their National Federation, an Athlete may compete in a three star competition from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 16.

Two Star (CCN2*-L & CCN2*-S) Classes:
With the express permission of their National Federation, an Athlete may compete in a two star competition from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 14.

Young Rider Classes:
With express permission from his National Federation, an athlete may compete in a Young Rider Classes from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider reaches age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which the rider reaches the age of 21.

Junior Two Star (CCN2*J-L CCN2*J-S) Classes:
With express permission from his National Federation, an athlete may compete in Junior Two Star classes from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider reaches the age of 14 until the end of the calendar year in which the rider reaches the age of 18.

CCN1* - L or S (previously EvA105) Classes:
From the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider reaches the age of 13.

CCN1*J – Long or Short Classes:
From the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider reaches the age of 13 until the end of the calendar year in which the rider reaches the age of 18.

CNC/CCN EvA95 Classes:
From the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 10. Riders under the age of 13 must have completed an EvA80.

CNC/CCN EvA80 Classes:
From the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 8.

OC's who are concerned regarding age of young riders should add a specific box to entry forms for riders under 11 to identify themselves in order to make the list easy for the TD monitor the ability of the rider and address any safety concerns that may arise.

Lower Level Classes: As per State Rules

Express Permission

What is Express Permission?
Express Permission must be sought from Equestrian Australia's Eventing Committee via your EA Portal, for a junior rider (before the year they turn 18), wanting to compete at 1* 2* or 3* competitions (depending on their age as described above)

How Do You Apply For it?
A Junior Rider applying for express permission to compete at 2* for the First time must have a minimum 5 MERs at CCN1* (previously EvA105)
Should a rider who has been granted Express Permission to ride at a Higher Level, be subsequently "Reverse Qualified" at that Level, their Express Permission will be revoked and they will be required to achieve 3 MER's at the lower level before applying for Express Permission again.

The form to apply for Express Permission can be found in My EA Portal (the EA membership portal) [HERE](#)

Having completed 5 MER's does not guarantee endorsement by the State or National Eventing Committees.

The State Eventing Sub Committee will either:
- Endorse Express Permission and will forward the recommendation to the National Eventing Committee or
- The State Eventing Sub Committee will advise the applicant that they are not endorsed for Express Permission and what is required to attain the endorsement.

Registration Requirements

	Rider	Horse

Level	EA Registration	FEI Registration	EA Registration	EA Competition Licence	FEI Registration	FEI/National Passport[2]
EvA80 / EvA65	Yes – can be Participation Registration	No	No-but recommended	No	No	No
EvA95	Yes – Competitive Registration	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
CCN1*- CCN4* Either L or S	Yes – Competitive Registration	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
CC1*(not currently any events in Australia due to requirement of FEI registration)	Yes – Competitive Registration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	National Passport - Yes
CCI2*and CCI3* - S&L	Yes – Competitive Registration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	National Passport -Yes –
CCI4*-S & L and CCI5*-L	Yes – Competitive Registration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	FEI Passport - Yes

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[2] National Passport is not required for horses that have been registered with the FEI prior to 2017.

Qualifications

Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER)

A Minimum Eligibility Requirement is achieved by completing a competition within minimum parameters of all round performance as follows:

    a) Dressage Test: not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%).

    b) Cross Country Test:
  - a clear round at obstacles
  - not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross Country Test for all level Competitions and 100 seconds in the case of five star level Competitions.

    c) Showjumping Test: not more that 16 jumping penalties.

Exceptions for MERs:

a)   The 1st activation of a frangible/deformable device (11 penalties) will allow a MER.

b)   When multiple Minimum Eligibility Requirements are required (for CIs and CIOs), one of the Minimum Eligibility Requirements can be achieved incurring 20 penalties at the obstacles of the Cross Country Test
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MER's must be achieved:

a)   At least 24 days before the Cross Country Test of the Competition for which is needed, if the MER has been achieved at a Long format Competition (CCI-L).

b)   At least 10 days before the Cross Country Test of the Competition for which is needed, if it has been achieved at a Short format Competition (CCI-S).

EA Minimum Eligibility Requirements (applies to National Events)

A rider becomes Established at a level when they have achieved 15 MERs at that level over an 8 year rolling period.

- For a horse and rider to start in CCN1*- S they must have 3 qualifying results in official EvA95 or Grade 2 Pony Club competition or NSW B Grade Pony Club. Results must be as a combination for Junior riders - if established/categorised exemption by application may be considered**.** One of these results may not have more than 20 Cross Country jumping faults. The other 2 must be clear of Cross Country faults and at least one of the results must be at an Official EA competition. A rider who is established/categorised, as per 519.1, to ride at CC3* level, may enter a horse at CC1* level competitions without the horse having any previous qualifying results.

- For a horse and rider to start in CCN2*-S they must have three (3) qualifying results in official CC1* classes **or** 2 x CC1* plus one Grade 1 (or NSW A Grade) Pony Club Competition. One of these results may have not more than 20 cross country jumping faults; the other two must be clear of cross country jumping faults. A rider who is established/categorised, as per 519.1 to ride at CC4* level,

may enter a horse at CC2* level competitions without the horse having any previous qualifying results. Juniors need Express Permission as a combination, refer rule 503.2

- For a horse and rider to start in CCN3*-S they must have three (3) qualifying results in any of the following: CC2*-L or CC2*-S. One of these may not have more than 20 cross country jumping faults.   The other two must be clear of cross country jumping faults. Juniors need Express Permission as a combination, refer to rule 503.2

- For a horse and rider to start in CCN4*-S they must have three (3) qualifying results in any of the following: CC3*-L or CC3*-S. One of these may not have more than 20 cross country jumping faults. The other two must be clear of cross country jumping faults. Open to senior riders only - in the year of turning 18 or older.

- All qualifying results must have a dressage score of not less than 55% of dressage good marks.
- All qualifying results may not have more than 75 secs (30 penalties) exceeding the optimum XC time.
- All qualifying results may not have more than 16 jumping faults.

EA CCN1*-L, CCN95-L & CCN80-L		
CCN1*L	Categorised 3* & 4* riders	None
	Not established riders	**1 x CCN1*-S or 2 x EvA95** and 1 PC Championship at A grade (105 height) or grade 1(105 height). Jnrs as a combination - if categorised (rule 519.1) exemption by application may be considered
CCN95-L	Categorised 2* 3* & 4* riders	None
	Not established riders	1x EvA95 Jnrs as a combination if categorised (rule 519.1) exemption by application may be considered
CCN80-L	Categorised 1*, 2* 3* & 4* riders	None
	Not established riders	1 x EvA80 Jnrs as a combination - if categorised (rule 519.1) exemption by application may be considered

FEI Athletes Categories

FEI Athlete categories for Eventing define a recognition of proven competence of the Athlete at a certain level.

Athletes will be categorised (National, D, C, B, A) according to their performance in a rolling eight years period as defined in the following table. If an athlete does not meet the criteria to be categorised, they are classed as uncategorised. Athletes categories can be found on the FEI Database.

D	Fifteen (15) MER at FEI short (CCIs) or long (CCIs) format Competitions of one star level or above; or five (5) MERs at FEI short (CCIs) or long format (CCIs) competitions at a higher level
C	Fifteen (15) MER at FEI short (CCIs) or long (CCIs) format Competitions of two star level or above; or five (5) MERs at FEI short (CCIs) or long format (CCIs) competitions at a higher level
B	Fifteen (15) MER at FEI short (CCIs) or long (CCIs) format Competitions of three star level or above; or five (5) MERs at FEI short (CCIs) or long format (CCIs) competitions at a higher level
A	Fifteen (15) MER at FEI short (CCIs) or long (CCIs) format Competitions of three star level or above of which five at four star level

The Athlete category will be updated according to the performances on 1st July and at the end of each calendar year taking into account the relevant rolling eight years.

EA Minimum Eligibility Requirements (applies to FEI Events)

- **FEI** MER's are to be achieved as a combination except when the Rider is already categorised
- When multiple Minimum Eligibility Requirements are required (for CIs and CIOs), one of the Minimum Eligibility Requirements can be achieved incurring 20 penalties at the obstacles of the Cross Country Test
- MER's in **bold** font signifies FEI requirements
- MER's in *italic* font signifies National Federation requirements

Class	Category of Rider	MER Requirements
CCI5*-L	**A - with 5*-L MER's**	**2 x CCI4*-S** + *2x CCI4*-S or CCN4*-S* (as combination*)*
	A - without 5*-L MER's	**1x CCI4*-L** + *2x CCI4*-S or CCN4*-S* (as combination*)*
	B	**1x CCI4*-L + 3x CCI4*-S** + *1x CCI/CCN4*-S* (as combination)
	C, D, uncategorised	**2x CCI4*-L + 2x CCI4*-S** + *1x CCI/CCN4*-S* (as combination)
CCI4* -L	**A**	**1x CCI3*-L** + *2x CCI3*-S or CCN3*-S (any time frame) or 1x CCI/CCN3*-S or in previous 12 months + 1x CCI/CCN4*-S or 1x CCI3*-L* (Horse only)
	B	**1x CCI3*-L** + *2x CCI3*-S or CCN3*-S (any time frame) or 1x CCI/CCN3*-S or in previous 12 months + 1x CCI/CCN4*-S or 1x CCI3*-L* (Horse only)

	C, D, uncategorised	**1x CCI3*-L + 1x CCI4*-S +***1x CCI/CCN4*-S or 1x CCI/CCN3*-L* (as combination)
CCI4* -S	**A**	**1x CCI3*-S or CCI3*-L** + *1x (CCN4*-S or 1x CCI3*-S)* (Horse only)
	B	**1x CCI3*-S or CCI3*-L** + *1xCCI/CCN3*-S +1x (CCN4*-S or 1x CCI3*S)* (Horse only)
	C, D, uncategorised	**2x CCI3*-S or CCI3*-L** + *1x (CCN4*-S or 1x CCI3*-S)* (As combination)
CCI3*-L	**A**	**1x CCI2*-L or 1x CCI3*-S** + *1x CCI/CCN3*-S In prev 12 mths* (Horse only)
	B	**1x CCI2*-L or 1x CCI3*-S** + *1x CCI/CCN3*-S In prev 12 mths* (Horse only)
	C	**1x CCI2*-L or 1x CCI3*-S** + *1x CCI/CCN3*-S In prev 12 mths* (Horse only)
	D	**1x CCI2*-L or 1x CCI3*-S** + *CCI3*-S +1x CCI2*-L* (as combination)
	uncategorised	**1x CCI2*-L or 1x CCI3*-S + 1 x CCI3*-S** + *1x CCI2*-L or CCI/N3*S* **(as combination)** **One MER must be at long format and at least 2 x 3* MER's**
CCI3*-S	**A**	*1x CCI/CCN2*-S + 1x (CCI2*-S or CCN3*-S)* (Horse only)
	B	*1x CCI/CCN2*-S + 1x (CCI2*-S or CCN3*-S)* (Horse only)
	C	*1x CCI/CCN2*-S + 2x CC/CCN2*-S* (Horse only)
	D	*1x CCI/CCN2*-S + 2x CC/CCN2*-S* (As combination)
	Uncategorised	**1 x CCI2*-S** + *2x CC/CCN2*-S* **^**
CCI2*-L	**A**	*None*
	B	*None*
	C	*2x CCI/CCN2*-S (Completed) or 1x CCI/CCN2*-S MER + 1x CCN1*-L MER (Horse only Seniors) Junior & YR MERs to be as a combination*
	D	*3x CCI/CCN2*-S or 2x CCI/CCN2*-S MERs + 1x CCN1*-L MER (Horse Only Seniors) Junior & YR MERs to be as a combination*
	Uncategorised	*3x CCI/CCN2*-S or 2x CCI/CCN2*-S MERs + 1x CCN1*-L MER (As combination)*
CCI2*-S	**A**	*None*
	B	*None*
	C	*3x CCN1*, PC Grade 1 or NSW Championship level (horse only)*
	D	*3x CCN1* MERs, or 2 x CCN1* plus 1 x PC grade 1 or Championship Grade (Horse only Seniors) Junior & YR MERs to be achieved as a combination*
	Uncategorised	*3x CCN1* MERs, or 2 x CCN1* plus 1 x PC grade 1 or Championship Grade (As combination))*

Junior Riders need express permission, as a combination, to compete in CCI/CCN2*-L&S and CCI/CCN3*-L&S as per rules 503.2.

Junior riders applying for express permission, for the first time, must have a minimum of 5 MER's at CCN1* (previously EvA105) Express permission for juniors is required until the year they turn 18 years.

Reverse Qualification

FEI Reverse Qualification – Horse

A reverse qualification is the obligation for a Horse to show restored competence at a lower level (MER) after a number of unsuccessful attempts at a certain level. Reverse qualification only applies to the Horse.

A reverse qualification is triggered
- by two (2) consecutive Cross Country eliminations

Or
- a total of three (3) Cross Country eliminations within a twelve (12) months rolling period of time in International Competitions.

For this purpose the relevant reasons of elimination on Cross Country would be
    a) Three (3) refusals
    b) Fall of Horse or Athlete
    c) Dangerous riding

Reverse qualifications remain unless cleared by an MER.

In the case of a reverse qualification at certain level the Horse must obtain a Minimum Eligibility Requirement in an international Competition at a lower level before being allowed to compete again at the original level (e.g. Horse with 2 eliminations at 3 star level (any format) must obtain MER at 2 star level (any format) before going back to 3 star level (any format).If a reverse qualification is triggered by eliminations that occur at different levels (any format), then the Horse must obtain a MER at the level below (any format) the highest level of Competition at which an elimination occurred.

If a reverse qualification is triggered following eliminations at 1 star level (any format) then the NF must assess the Horse and provide a written report to the FEI Eventing Department before the Horse may again take part in any international Eventing Competition.

FEI Reverse Qualification - Athlete

In addition to the above, should an Athlete be fully involved with two (2) reverse qualifications within a twelve (12) months rolling period of time his category (Art 519) will drop down one (1) level for one (1) year, as of the date of the second reverse qualification.

CCN/CCN Reverse Qualification
- Reverse qualification applies to National levels EvA95, CCN1*, CCN2*, CCN3* and CCN4*.
- Any MER that is required at the lower level before being allowed to compete again must be obtained as the combination that triggered the reverse qualification.
- If reverse qualification is triggered by eliminations at CCI2*CCI the combination will be required to obtain an MER at the lower level.

Written results and/or report to be forwarded to the FEI Eventing Department, by the Victorian Eventing Coordinator.

Where can I find my results?

EA Results

If you are not sure of your results you can look them up. All results from EvA 95 and above are on the website and states whether it is an MER or not. This is also helpful if you are buying a horse as you can look up its results. Eventing Results

FEI Results/Categories

FEI Rider Results are also available here: FEI Rider Results

FEI Rider Categories are available here: Eventing Categories

FEI Horse Results are available here: FEI Horse Results