

EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA INTERSCHOOL SELECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Responsible person	CEO EV Board	Scheduled review date	1 Jan 2026

OVERVIEW

This policy outlines the criteria and procedure for selection of the Equestrian Victoria (EV):

Part 1 - Interschool Equestrian Team for the Australian National Interschool Equestrian Championships, including the disciplines of:

- Dressage
- Jumping
- Combined Training
- Show Horse and Horse Trials

Part 2 - Interschool Team Captains' Selection Process

Part 3 - Disputes

Note: This policy supersedes:

EV020 - Equestrian Victoria Interschool Horse Trials Team Selection policy.

EV022 - Equestrian Victoria Victorian Interschool Equestrian Team Captain(s) Selection Policy and Procedure.

EV023 – Victorian Interschool Equestrian Team National Selection Policy. EV025 - Equestrian Victoria Interschool Selection Policies and Procedures

1. VICTORIAN TEAM SELECTION

1.1. OVERVIEW

The Victorian Interschool Team is selected under the jurisdiction of Equestrian Victoria. In selecting the Victorian Interschool Team, this policy seeks to identify those athletes who are the best candidates to represent their chosen sport as part of the Victorian Interschool Equestrian Team. At all times the safety of the rider and the welfare of the horse will be paramount.

Riders may only compete in up to three events at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships.

In special circumstances this may be increased to four events at the discretion of the EA Interschool Committee:

- As a reserve rider after close of entry
- When the location of the national championships restricts the ability of riders to accept team positions

A horse can complete in two consecutive levels of jumping (three jumping phases per level)

A horse can compete in two consecutive levels of dressage e.g. Novice and Elementary, but not Preliminary and Elementary (2 tests per level)

A horse can only compete in one level of Combined Training

A horse can only compete in one type of Show Horse class

A horse can only compete at one level of Horse Trials and may compete in one other class under specific circumstances (see Horse Trials Selection 1.3.5)

Riders may compete in up to three divisions on two different horses or in three divisions on the same horse. This must comply with national horse welfare and discipline rules, and any extra requirements made in the schedule, by the host State, in regard to horse or rider maximum events.

Rider levels are based on the school year, from January 1 to December 31.

Primary - Prep to Year 6

Intermediate - Years 7, 8 and 9

Senior - Years 10, 11 and 12

Secondary - Year 7 to Year 12

In the event that the Selection Policy, as written creates an unfair weighting of selection between Victorian Equestrian Interschool Series (VEIS), and Interschool Victoria (ISV) State championships, the Victorian Team Manager in conjunction with the Chair of Interschool Victoria will appoint an independent panel to finalize the team.

1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

After the closing date of entry to the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships, changes or substitutions will only be made through the Victorian Team Manager. This will follow the reserve list procedure and may be done in collaboration with the relevant Team Discipline Coordinator and an independent person qualified to assess riding abilities, for example a Team coach. In the event of a conflict of interest, the substitution will be referred to the relevant Equestrian Victoria Discipline Committee.

- Team reserves may be selected and substituted after the closing date of entries, up to 3 weeks prior to the competition if the competition is interstate and up to 2 weeks prior if the competition is held in Victoria.
- After this time substitution riders will be selected from the existing team. In the event of a rider scratching, substitution(s) will be made after consideration of riders who may have also ridden at State Championships or the VEIS series in the level or discipline.
- The rider who is selected to replace the withdrawing rider, after closing, is responsible to pay the associated class entry fee(s).

- If the withdrawal is less than 3 days from the first day of all competition, the substituting rider is required to pay half of the class entry fee.
- The substituting rider will be sent an invoice from Equestrian Victoria and is required to pay this prior to being placed in the team.

1.3 SPORT DISCIPLINE SELECTIONS

1.3.1 DRESSAGE SELECTION

Dressage levels at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships are:

- Primary Preliminary
- Primary Novice
- Intermediate Preliminary
- Intermediate Novice
- Senior Preliminary
- Senior Novice
- Elementary (Open)
- Medium (Open)
- Secondary Advanced
- Secondary PSG
- Secondary Inter 1

Selection Criteria for the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships:

*Selection Policy when there is **NO** split division at Interschool State Championships*

1. First and second placegetters at the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships, will be selected for the team, with riders placed 3rd to 6th making up the reserve list.
2. Champion and Reserve Champion from the VEIS series will be selected for the team, with riders 3rd to 6th making up the reserve list.
3. If a rider has more than three team positions or withdraws prior to the VEIS Grand Final, the consequential vacancy will, first, be filled from the State Championships' reserve list, and will stop after the 1st reserve position, (3rd placegetter).
4. If either the first or second placegetters in the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships is also the Champion or Reserve Champion in the VEIS series, the third placegetter in the VEIS series will be eligible to represent Victoria at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships.
5. If the 1st reserve rider from the State Championships (point 3) is appointed to the team, and that results in a horse/rider combination having 3 positions in the team following the VEIS Grand Final then the next vacancy will be to the 3rd placed VEIS rider
6. Where Points 3-5 do not apply the next selected team member will alternate between VEIS and State Championships with the VEIS placegetter being selected first

*Selection Policy when there **IS** a split division at Victorian Interschool State Championships*

The State Championships Reserves list will be based on the points for the for the two tests in each division:

1. First placegetters for each Division at the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships will be selected for the team
2. The riders placed 2nd in each division will then be ordered as 3rd and 4th or first and second reserve based on the following process.
 - 1st reserve spot will go to the second placed rider from the division with the most points (e.g. 1st 35pts, 3rd 33pts = 68pts is ahead of 2nd 34pts, 4th 32pts = 66 pts). The rider with the 68 points is the 1st reserve.
 - The other second placed rider is then the 2nd reserve.
3. The riders placed 3rd in each division will then be ordered as 5th and 6th or third and fourth reserve based on the following process.
 - 3rd reserve spot will go to the third placed rider from the division with the most points (e.g. 3rd 33pts, and 3rd 33pts = 66pts is ahead of 3rd 33pts, 4th 32pts = 65 pts). The rider with the 66 points is the 3rd reserve.
 - The other third placed rider is then the 4th reserve.
4. If the riders in each of the above steps are equal on points, (e.g. 1st and 3rd = 68pts and 2nd and 2nd = 68 pts) then the higher reserve position will go to the rider who has the highest placing in either of the tests, e.g. the rider with a 1st is ahead of the riders with 2 seconds
5. If they are still equal it goes the rider with the higher place in the harder test e.g. the preliminary 1.3.
6. If they are still tied it will be determined by toss of the coin.

Once the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships reserve list is declared, the selection between VEIS Series combinations and State Championships combinations will be applied in the same way as points 3-8 where there is NO Split Division

- Combinations must have scored over 58% as an average across the two tests competed at that level in the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships or VEIS competition.
- Freestyle tests are optional at National Championships. If they are run by the hosting state, riders will be selected from the State Championships results with consideration to other classes already being ridden in. Riders may be asked to submit relevant results, not necessarily from Interschool competitions.

1.3.2 JUMPING SELECTION

Jumping levels at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships:

- Primary 70cm
- Primary 80cm
- Primary 90cm
- Intermediate 90cm
- Intermediate 100cm
- Senior 90cm
- Senior 100cm
- Secondary 110cm
- Secondary 120cm

Selection Criteria for the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships:

1. First and second placegetters at the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships, will

be selected for the team, with riders placed 3rd to 6th to make up the State Championships Reserves list in that order.

2. Champion and Reserve Champion from the VEIS series will be selected for the team, with riders 3rd to 6th making up the VEIS series reserves list in that order.
3. If a rider has more than three team positions or withdraws prior to the VEIS Grand Final, the consequential vacancy will, first, be filled from the State Championships' reserve list, and will stop after the 1st reserve position, (3rd placegetter).
4. If either the first or second placegetters in the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships is also the Champion or Reserve Champion in the VEIS series, the third placegetter in the VEIS series will be eligible to represent Victoria at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships.
5. If the 1st reserve rider from the State Championships (point 3) is appointed to the team, and that results in a horse/rider combination having more than 3 positions in the team following the VEIS grand final then the next vacancy will be to the 3rd placed VEIS rider
6. Where Points 3-5 do not apply the next selected team member will alternate between VEIS and State Championships with the VEIS placegetter being selected first.
7. Combinations must have attained a satisfactory MER as determined by the selection committee
8. A rider may qualify a horse at two show jumping levels. The option of two levels of selection, on the same horse, will be offered through the two pathways to the Victorian Team-State Championships and the VEIS Series. The horse may compete at two different heights throughout the season and be selected in both levels.

1.3.3 COMBINED TRAINING SELECTION

Combined Training levels at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships:

- Primary 50cm
- Primary 65cm
- Primary 80cm
- Secondary 65cm
- Secondary 80cm
- Secondary 95cm
- Secondary 1*- 105cm
- The first to fourth place getters from the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships are eligible to represent Victoria at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships. Where there is one division of a class, placing 5th and 6th in those events will be the team reserves.
- If the competition in a class has 2 divisions, the riders placed 1st and 2nd in each division will be selected and riders placed 3rd in each division will be the team reserve.
 - The riders placed 3rd will be the first reserve for EACH division.
 - If a 1st or 2nd placed rider declines their position the 3rd placed rider of that division will be appointed to the team
 - If the 3rd placed rider does not accept the position, (arising from the withdrawal of the 1st or 2nd placegetter in that division) the 3rd placed rider from the other division will be the next reserve.
 - This will then set up the order for alternating from each division to make a team of 4 riders at that level

1.3.4 SHOW HORSE SELECTION

Show Horse classes at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships:

- Primary Show Horse
 - Primary Show Hunter
 - Intermediate Show Horse
 - Intermediate Show Hunter
 - Senior Show Horse
 - Senior Show Hunter
-
- The first to fourth placegetters from the Equestrian Victoria Interschool State Championships are eligible to represent Victoria at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships.
 - Placing 5th and 6th in those events will be the team reserves, in that order.
 - In the event of exhausting the Reserve list, the Team Manager may call for the submission of other relevant results, from the competitors at State Championships. Results will be assessed by an independent panel.

1.3.5 HORSE TRIALS SELECTION

Horse Trial classes at the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships:

- EvA 80cm
- EvA 95 cm
- EA 1*
- EA2*

Riders are required to register for the Interschool Eventing Leader Board.

Their best results, from up to 3 official EA Horse Trials, between 1 October of the previous year and 15 June of the year of selection will be used.

1.3.5.1 INFORMATION REQUIRED

The following information will be required to register the combination:

- Horse name
- Rider name
- Level seeking selection for (EvA80, EvA95, EA1* or EA2*).

Up to two levels may be nominated but riders will be selected in only one level.

1.3.5.2 SELECTION PROCESS

The scores for all riders will be compiled after each competition and the final rankings will be submitted to the EV Eventing subcommittee for verification and checking of any relevant Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs).

- A Team of up to 6 riders and 2 reserve riders will be selected for each level (EvA80, EvA95, EA1* or EA2*) based on the sum of each combination's 3 lowest scores (best 3 results). i.e., the final score is the sum of penalties for the three phases – Dressage, XC and Show Jumping. This is dependent on the host State of the Australian Championships each year.
- A fourth result may be used to separate riders with an equal score. A combination that has completed only 3 EA events during the qualifying period is considered equally to a combination that has completed 4 qualifying events but may be disadvantaged in the events of equal scores.
- If there is an equality of penalties, combinations will be selected on the basis of (i) least total XC penalties (ii) least total SJ penalties (iii) lowest dressage score.
- An independent panel appointed jointly by the Equestrian Victoria Interschool and Eventing Committees will review and confirm final team selection and resolve any disputes.

The process on how to register for inclusion on the Interschool Eventing Leader Board will be advised in October each year. The progressive Leader Board will be published on the Interschool Victoria Facebook Page, website and in ISV/EV communications.

1.3.5.3 NOTES

- Only results from official EA events qualify for consideration (no Pony Club or unofficial open events qualify). Riders may change levels during the season but results will not be carried between levels.
- EA events from interstate are eligible for consideration. These must be submitted by the rider, within two weeks of the event occurring.
- Horse Trials are open to Primary and Secondary riders.
- EA age criteria apply at some levels.
- Results cannot be added **retrospectively**

TEAM CAPTAIN SELECTION PROCESS

2.1 OBJECTIVES

To select the most qualified and suitable person/s to serve as Victorian Team Captain(s) and individual Discipline Captains for the Equestrian Victorian Interschool Team.

2.2 VICTORIAN TEAM CAPTAINS

Applicants for the position of Victorian Team Captain must have previously attended at least one Australian Interschool Championship and must be full time secondary students in Year 11 or 12

Competitors in the higher level of their discipline, who have placed 1st or 2nd in their qualifying classes, will be considered favorably.

A sound knowledge of EA and Interschool rules across the five disciplines and participation in more than one discipline at Interschool events will be highly regarded.

Preference will be given to candidates who have demonstrated their co-operation and leadership potential, according to the team managers of past Australian Championships and EV squad coaches.

Duties and responsibilities of the Victorian Team Captain.

- Provide a positive role model to all members of the Interschool team.
- Represent all members of the team across all disciplines.
- Work closely with the Team Manager, Discipline Coordinators and Discipline Captains to coordinate team members as required.
- Attend functions at the discretion of EV, team management and/or coaches and be able to speak confidently and articulately in public to promote Interschool Equestrian.
- Be prepared to represent the team at the Australian Championships in whatever capacity is required.
- Devise and implement team building activities in liaison with the Team Manager, Discipline coordinator and or Interschool coach/es.
- Be accessible, approachable and responsive to all members of team and treat all team members with respect and consideration.

Interschool Team members applying for the Victorian Interschool Team Captain may also apply to be selected as a Discipline Captain. If successful in being appointed as Victorian Team Captain they may only hold this position.

2.3 DISCIPLINE CAPTAINS

Captains will also be selected for each of the following disciplines:

- Combined Training
- Dressage
- Eventing
- Show Horse
- Jumping

Consideration will be given to candidates who have attended an Australian Interschool Championship and who demonstrate a sound knowledge of EA and the Interschool rules in the relevant discipline.

Duties and responsibilities of a Discipline Captain.

- Support and work harmoniously with the other Captains and coaches.
- Provide a positive role model to all members of the Interschool team.
- Be proactive on the Team App coordination team members and answering questions as they arise.
- Work with the adult Discipline Coordinator in the leadup and during the event.
- Mentor junior riders.
- Attend functions at the discretion of EV and/or coaches and to be able to speak confidently and articulately in public to promote Interschool Equestrian.
- Be prepared to represent the team at the Australian Championships in whatever capacity is required.
- Devise and implement team building activities in liaison with the Team Manager, Discipline coordinator and or Interschool coaches.
- Be accessible approachable and amenable to all members of the team and to treat all team members with respect and consideration.

2.4 SELECTION PANELS

PART A

An independent panel of a minimum of 3 and no more than 5 persons will be convened to consider the applications for the positions of Victorian Team Captain and individual Discipline Captains pursuant to the established criteria and may include but not limited to:

- An EV Sport Discipline Chair or nominated representative.
- An EV High Performance Discipline Squad Coach or Assistant Coach.
- EV Victorian Interschool Team Manager or Assistant Manager.
- The Chair or representative of the Interschool Victorian Committee.
- The EV Interschool Discipline Manager or representative

In the event of a conflict of Interest a substitute panel member will be nominated.

PART B

Captains will be asked to be actively involved in Team Training and Information days. They will be asked to give a short presentation to the Team or Discipline group. Examples of positive engagement with Vic Team riders will be taken into consideration during the selection process.

2.5 NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations will be called for the positions of:

Victorian Team Captain(s)

Discipline Captains

This shall occur, annually, where a Victorian Team is required for the Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships. It will follow the final selection of athletes to represent Victoria.

Confirmed Victorian Team members are invited to apply, with the final decision to be made at the discretion of the Interschool Committee (ISV) and its advisory panel.

2.6 SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants will be asked to complete a nomination form and email it, with a high-resolutions photo of the applicant competing on the national-qualified mount, at an interschool equestrian competition, to:

isv@equestrianvictoria.com.au

The nominated Selection Panel will consider all applications and short list if necessary.

Shortlisted applicants will be required to attend an online interview. Captain selections will be made and announced prior to Victorian Team Training or Information sessions. Successful Captains are required to attend any Team events and be available for regular online Captains' meetings

Training and support for the selected Captains, to assist with the undertaking of these positions, will be given.

DISPUTES

In the instance where a dispute arises from the implementation of this policy the dispute will be adjudicated by the Equestrian Victoria Interschool Committee, having consideration for the Equestrian Victoria Conflict of Interest Policy.

END