

Pony Club Association of South Australia
Technical Criteria Document

Patch: Orienteering

Candidate Name	Date
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Item	How the Rider must Present	C	NYC	Examiner Notes
Wear pony club uniform	The rider must wear full official uniform (rally uniform accepted) for their club, and must be clean and tidy.			Encourage the CI to ensure the Rider is satisfactorily turned out before presenting.
	Clean boots (as permitted by the rules).			
	The helmet must be of current standard and correctly fitted.			
	The rider must not be wearing any jewellery (except per the rules).			
Turnout of Mount	The pony should be reasonably neat and tidy and be free of loose mud and sweat.			
Safety wear	A fluorescent safety vest should be worn, and is compulsory if the rider will pass along or over public roadways during the course of the exercise.			

Item	What the Rider must demonstrate	C	NYC	Examiner Notes
General	A reasonably well balanced seat, legs stretched with heels down and light steady hands. The rider must have control of the horse at all times without the need to use excessive pull on the reins.			Legs should be steady with heels stretched down. Hands should be steady, flexible and light; use judgement based on age of rider. The rider should not use excessive pull on the reins to control the horse.
Mounting	Mount correctly and safely, using a mounting block or being legged up (if necessary)			Look for correct use of rein and a smooth, soft seat on landing.
Walk, Trot and Canter	Demonstrate a balanced seat and giving hands			Riders should only canter in clear open sections and only if permission is granted by Ride leader.
Dismount	Demonstrate correct use of rein whilst dismounting and jumping smoothly to the ground on feet.			Look for reins in one hand, swift smooth dismount landing on feet.
Paces	The rider must demonstrate that they have a sound understanding of their pony or horse's paces and the distance covered for each - walk, trot and canter.			The rider must know the distance their horse covers at each of the paces in order to follow a direction " trot 2 kms down the road and enter the gate on the left hand side of the road".
Safety	The rider must be able to demonstrate that they are familiar with the rules for riding on roads and public highways.			The Examiner can assess this by asking the rider about road rules and riding on busy roadways.
General	The rider must be able to demonstrate that they know directions; left from right, and north, south, east and west.			
	The Candidate must be able to demonstrate an ability to read a Direction Compass.			
	The Candidate must be able to demonstrate an ability to read a map.			
	The Candidate must be able to demonstrate that they are able to follow directions. These may be given verbally at a pre ride briefing, or from written instructions given to the rider to assist them during the ride.			

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Item	What the Rider must Know	C	NYC	Examiner Notes
Balance and control	Why it is important to maintain balance and control without using the rein to balance. The use of a neckstrap or the mane to regain balance (if necessary) so as not to pull on the horse's mouth.			
Safety	The etiquette of riding with others in a group. The problems and dangerous situations which a rider can cause if they canter past other riders. The dangerous situations which can arise when riding in a group too close to other horses.			The Examiner can discuss these aspects with the rider and assess the rider's response to various scenarios.
	Riders must know what to do if their horse becomes agitated and causes the difficulties to keep it under control. Understand that some horses are more suitable than other to ride on trail rides			Some horses tend to display their feisty side when ridden in a group. The Ride Leader should bring such horses to the front of the riding group and this will help to settle the horse or pony down.
	Knowledge of road rules and riding in groups along public roadways.			Ask the rider about riding on roadways, crossing highways and busy traffic roads.
	The reasons why an approved safety helmet, properly fastened, and approved riding boots must be worn. A safety vest is recommended, and should be mandatory if riding on public roads.			Ask what gear the rider should wear.
Other Safety Aspects	An awareness of what can happen and what to do with the sudden unexpected sightings of wildlife (kangaroos and emus), or snakes.			Sightings of wildlife will be dependent on the areas where rides are held. Discuss with the rider what affect a sudden appearance of such wildlife may have on the horse and what the rider should do in such situations.
Environmental	An awareness of environmental issues, such as cleaning up any rubbish from lunch/rest spots and not leaving any litter lying around.			
	An awareness of the necessity to remove horse manure from picnic areas.			
	An awareness that any camp fires must be extinguished and cleared up before leaving rest areas. Candidates must also be aware of fire restrictions in summer months.			Discuss with the rider the implications of leaving burning embers in a campfire in forest areas.
	Candidate must be able to demonstrate an ability to read a Direction Compass			
	Candidate must be able to demonstrate an ability to read a Direction Compass			

Candidate Name		Club	
Examined By		Date	