

Pony Club Association of South Australia
Technical Criteria Document

Patch: Trail Riding

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 allowed) 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 ride will pass along public roadways			
Extra Tack	Members should take along a halter and lead rope, either correctly fitted and the lead rope tied around the horse's neck, or transported in a support vehicle, to tie the horse/pony up if a lunch break is to be taken on the ride. Feed, feed buckets, water, grooming kit and the horse's rug should be sent in the support vehicle. A mobile phone and First Aid Kit must be taken by at least one person on the ride, or taken by the support vehicle.			

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.
Mount	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.
Group Riding	The rider should at all times demonstrate that they have control of their own mount and not pass other riders without pausing and asking if it is okay to move ahead.			The rider should be able to demonstrate a sound understanding of the etiquette of riding within a group, both for the enjoyment of all riders and the safety of everyone on the ride.
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.
General	Demonstrate cooling down of the horse/pony, unsaddling and safe tying up of the mount during lunch or rest breaks			The rider should have an understanding of the necessity to cool the horse down before rest stops or not allowing the horse to drink cool water while it is still hot.
Care of the mount	Demonstrate care of the horse/pony during lunch or rest breaks, including grooming, rugging, feeding and watering.			Ask the rider why it is important not to give the horse/pony a large feed and why it should not be ridden on a full stomach.
Minimum Time Requirement	Rider must be able to ride for a minimum of 4 hours. A rest period is permitted but is not included in the actual riding time.			
Follow Directions	The Candidate must be able to demonstrate that they are able to follow directions.			Directions can sometimes be given at a pre-ride briefing, or at various points 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.			Ask why it is important not to pull on the horse's mouth. This can actually make the horse pull even more and can cause a sore 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.			Ask the rider about the etiquette of riding in a group and what dangerous situations could arise and why these can happen.
	What to do if their horse becomes agitated and causes the rider difficulties to keep it in control. Understand that some horses are more suitable than others to ride on trail rides.			Some horses tend to display their feisty side when ridden in a group. The Ride Leader should bring such riders to the front of the ride and the horse or pony will usually settle 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.
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 effect a sudden appearance of such wildlife may have on the horses and what they should do in these situations.
Permits/Permission	An understanding of the necessity to seek permission to ride on private properties, or to obtain permits to ride in Government or Council owned forests.			Candidates need not necessarily have sought the permits or permission, but must be aware that this has been done by the Ride Organisers.
Gates and Fences	An understanding that any gates opened to pass through during the course of the ride must be closed securely after passing through.			Candidates must be aware that if they open any gate during the ride, they must close it when their immediate group has passed through. Unless otherwise directed by the Ride Organisers, gates must not be left open for following riders to close.
Farm Stock	An awareness of stock, such as cattle and sheep, on properties, and of the necessity to ride in such a manner so as not to cause disturbance to these animals.			Riders must be aware of the movement of stock and ride in such a manner so as not to cause sheep, cattle etc. to panic and flee.
Environmental	An awareness of environmental issues, such as cleaning up any rubbish from lunch/rest spots and not leaving any litter lying around.			Discuss with the rider the problems which leaving litter lying around may cause.
	An understanding the seasons and areas where rides are held and aspects affecting the ride.			Fire safety, cleaning up of campfires, consideration to not destroying any native vegetation can be discussed with riders.

Candidate Name		Club	
Examined By		Date	