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Information for Member States, 7th September 2016

PCA National Championships ~16th Sept – 23rd Sept 2017

Update on Toowoomba Showgrounds as the Competition Venue

All member states and their sporting committees are reminded, that if you forecast the need for accommodation in Toowoomba during the 2017 PCA Nationals – book it now! The 2017 PCA Nationals will be hosted at the very same time as the “Carnival of Flowers” in Toowoomba. This means that accommodation will in demand and highly likely to book out. Furthermore, it is known that upon the completion of the 2016 Carnival of Flowers (25th September), attendees rebook accommodation for the next year’s carnival a year in advance. **Come on pony clubbers** – get in and beat the rush!

Update on Hendra Policy and the PCA Nationals

At the PCA Nationals in Toowoomba 2017, a horse movement register will be kept. **A formal decision on whether the event will be Hendra/Non-Hendra is still under discussion at the local QLD level.** This is because the decision made must be in alignment with best biosecurity practices and current policies in QLD for handling horses moving through Hendra zones. Current discussions are that the event may be a non-Hendra vaccinated event, and that horses from states where Hendra is a concern i.e. QLD & NSW, will be stabled separately to the other states. Confirmation of this decision is promised to be communicated to states by year end.

Furthermore, all member states are advised to *now* review their own state policies for horses returning from interstate, and after passing through a Hendra zone.

Update on Pool Horses and the PCA Nationals

Pool horses will be offered for the International Challenge class, featuring a team representing France, China and Australia. This will be a showjumping style competition and should you be aware of any suitable pool horses, the QLD Host team would love to hear from you – email Tonia Murtagh tonia@boxsells.com.au.

This is the only class for which pool horses will be coordinated.

Update on PCA International Showjumping Challenge

A NEW event at the PCA Nationals will be a showjumping competition, across a series of days and showjumping courses. Guest teams from France and China will be invited to ride against a selected team from Australia. All riders will be required to ride pool horses – even the team riders from Australia. Selection criteria are being prepared, however member states are encouraged to start thinking of possible nominees to represent Australia. More details to come!

New Gymkhana for 2017 PCA Nationals

Also new to the PCA Nationals is the 1-day National Gymkhana. Horses entered in 2 competitive activities for the 2017 PCA Nationals (e.g. showjumping and dressage) are not eligible to be ridden in the National Gymkhana, due to horse welfare and workload considerations.

Feedback Sought: Tetrathlon Class Categories at 2017 PCA Nationals

The PCA Nationals Committee have drafted class categories for the Tetrathlon competition at PCA Nationals. The age categories are already set.

However, we seek state representative feedback on **appropriate offerings of team classes for boys / girls / mixed**. We are also interested in **appropriate height levels for the age groups in Tetrathlon**.

Please share your thoughts by emailing info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au. This is your chance to have a say to ensure we prepare classes for optimal participation in this sport:

A) GENDER MIX FOR TEAMS FOR TETRATHLON

Option 1 – Offer <u>only</u> mixed gender teams	
Age Groups	Team Size
10-12yrs	Min 3
Sub Juniors	Max 6
13-16yrs	Min 3
Juniors	Max 6
17-25yrs	Min 3
Seniors	Max 6

Option 2 – Offer only boys or girls teams	
Age Groups	Team Size
10-12yrs	Min 3
Sub Junior Boys	Max 6
10-12yrs	Min 3
Sub Junior Girls	Max 6
13-16yrs	Min 3
Junior Boys	Max 6
13-16yrs	Min 3
Junior Girls	Max 6
17-25yrs	Min 3
Senior Boys	Max 6
17-25yrs	Min 3
Senior Girls	Max 6

B) JUMPING HEIGHTS FOR TETRATHLON

Age Groups	Option 1 As per PCUK	Option 2 As per PC/EA Eventing	Option 3 As per PCA Nationals 2015
10-12yrs Sub Juniors	80cm	80cm	80cm
13-16yrs Juniors	90cm	95cm	85cm
17-25yrs Seniors	100cm	105cm	85cm



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Feedback Sought: Appropriate Heights for NEW class 10-12yrs

In response to feedback, PCA is now offering classes at the PCA Nationals for riders 10 to 12 years. They will participate in an additional 10-12yrs competition category.

As this AGE CLASS is *new*, we invite member state input on appropriate jumping heights. The table below is a draft based on our research of heights offered to these age categories across states and EA levels.

Competition	Jump Height
PCA Nationals - Tetrathlon	80cm
PCA Nationals - Eventing	80cm
PCA Nationals - Showjumping	80cm
PCA National Gymkhana Showjumping	65-80cm

Member states should select representatives that meet state selection criteria and that states feel have the proven horsemanship and riding skills to travel to, ride and care for their horses at PCA National level.

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