

PONY CLUB VICTORIA

SUPPORTING RIDERS THROUGH PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATES



OVERVIEW

Pony Club Australia Proficiency Certificates create a pathway for riders to learn best practice care and welfare of their pony or horse.

Clubs are responsible for ensuring their riders/members/families are well prepared and informed. Learning happens best when clubs create opportunities for learning through creative and supporting environments.

The following guide will help your club provide the best support network to ensure your riders are successful in achieving their Pony Club Australia certificates and enjoy the journey.

CLUB & ZONE SUPPORT

- **Clubs need to have a set of the PCA Proficiency Manuals on site** – but someone needs to be responsible to ensure they are returned/available.
- **Clubs need a current printed off PCA Syllabus of Instruction on hand** – it is easy to access online – but the printed version always seems to add clarity.
- **Clubs to have the Certificate Assessment Sheet/ Guidelines printed off** and the PCA Syllabus available for volunteer/parent coaches and riders/families to view: We recommend following the PCV Assessment Guidelines as these have Directives collated by PCV, PCWA and PCT – they have extra details. The basic ones are on the PCA website for public access under COACHES then under SYLLABUS.
- **Rainy day rallies.** Utilise the Pony Club Australia Academy Moodle platform. All riders can create their own personal log in and use a device to navigate fun games and different ways to learn their certificate topics. [MOODLE - Pony Club Australia](#)
- Riders to **bring their Proficiency Manuals** to rallies – **if they are reminded**. A bit unreasonable to 'remember' their Manual these days, if when they arrive, and out of the blue told they should have it.
- **Club Coaches to be provided a plan as to which part of the Certificate and which level to be practiced.** Utilise the PCV Directive Assessment Guideline Sheets.
 - Practical riding – Jumping, Flat/Dressage, Pace, Agility, PX, CDraft, Wking Equitation, Games etc.
 - Ground handling and Lead Dressage
 - Theory and Horse Management
- Consider running extra sessions and involve groups from other clubs for face-to-face OR Zoom meeting Proficiency Certificate discussions.
 - Check to see if your zone could organize this as its a great way of networking riders and sharing ideas.
- Zones often organise certificate training days or camps for higher certificate candidates. These are great opportunities for riders and attendance should be encouraged by clubs. It is a great way for riders to network and share ideas.

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PROFICIENCY TESTS EXPLAINED

There are elements of Equitation Science in most areas of the Proficiency Certificates. Groundwork is just one element.

Riders should not be nominated for zone/state assessment unless they are fully aware of the criteria required and are deemed ready.

- E is optional, can start with D straight away.
- D then D* prerequisites for C Test
- C is a prerequisite for C* or K
- E, D and D* can be tested at club level by an experienced volunteer or a coach – remember to give to the Examiner the Directives and the PCA Syllabus to ensure they are up to date with criteria required.
- C up to B. Club Certificate Coordinator will organise forms and fees as required on behalf of candidate and contact the Zone Examining Secretary.
- Pre-A and Final A testing is to be organized through the Zone Examining Secretary with application made to the PCV State Office.
- C* is aimed at riders competent with Olympic disciplines and jumping height and width of 85cm
- K is aimed at general skilled and capable Pony Club riders
- K or C* are prerequisites for B Test. There is also a Restricted Jumping B Test.
- B is a prerequisite for the A test.
- Lungeing with different levels of expertise/criteria are required for C*, K, B and A tests. Please read the PCV Higher Certificate Resource for more information.

Many PCA/PCV coaches are learning alongside riders and beginning to embrace the terminology and inclusion in the PCA Syllabus.

Interesting to note: Riders will pick up the information quickly as it is pertinent to them.

Clubs/families/members need to be supportive of coaches – everyone is doing their best – some people naturally take longer to become confident with new information.

LIFE is a CONTINUAL PROCESS of LEARNING.

Thank you to Pony Club Tasmania for assisting in compiling this information for pony clubs.