

Pony Club Accredited Centres

Frequently Asked Questions

Become a Pony Club Accredited Centre and deliver pony club to riders with your school horses

What is Centre Membership all about?

Centre Membership is for riders who do not own (or have exclusive use of) a horse or pony.

Why has PCA introduced Centre Membership?

Owning a horse is not for everyone - you don't need your own horse to be a great rider. Centre Members can get all the benefits of Pony Club without committing to owning a horse or pony. In the UK, 40% of Pony Club members ride at Centres.

One of the greatest barriers to participation in horse riding is having access to a horse. PCA is passionate about increasing participation in equestrian sport in Australia by making Pony Club available to riders without horses.

Increasing the number of horse riders in Australia is good for everyone in our industry.

Pony Club receives many enquiries from people who don't have their own horses. The new Centre Membership program means that we can confidently direct those people to their nearest Pony Club Accredited Centre.

What is the difference between a Centre Member and a Club Member?

Centre Members do not have their own horse, or exclusive use of a horse. Their membership is primarily with PCA and they ride school horses at a Pony Club Accredited Centre. Club members have their own horse, or exclusive use of a horse (eg. a lease). Their primary membership is with a Pony Club.

What kind of riders will become centre members?

Anyone aged between 5 and 80 can become a centre member. Centre Membership is for:

1. Children new to riding
2. Adults new to riding
3. Adults returning to riding after a break

Do I need school horses to be a Pony Club Accredited Centre?

Yes, you need at least one horse suitable for new and inexperienced riders.

What are the benefits for me?

A business edge

- Third party validation from Australia's largest and oldest equestrian organisation
- Use the PCA Syllabus to structure mounted, unmounted and in-hand activities
- Be licenced to use PCA and Pony Club Accredited Riding Centre brands, trademarks and logos
- Receive 'Pony Club Accredited Centre' signage
- Receive credits for recruiting new Centre Members
- Use **Hopoti** – an online scheduling, booking and payment system tailored to riding centres and exclusive to Pony Club Accredited Centres.



Increased reach to potential clients

- Listed on the PCA website and 'Find a Centre' page
- Feature in PCA publications and social media
- Be promoted through local media and tailored online geo-marketing
- Promotional materials and marketing advice
- Centre Spotlight for your new Accredited Centre.

Professional development

- PCA coaching manuals, lesson plans and other resources
- Access to PCA coaching qualifications and development.

Support

- Our dedicated Participation Manager will work with you
- Centre Members are covered by their own personal accident and public liability insurance while participating in Pony Club activities at your Centre



What are the benefits for Centre Members?

Offer an enhanced experience for your riders:

- A Pony Club experience without the responsibility of owning a horse
- A structured, proven program for progressive goal setting and skills development
- Certificate manuals, proficiency certificates and achievement awards
- Newsletters, information and education
- Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance
- The potential to participate in local, state, national and international competitions, exchanges and activities
- Discounted access to The Riders Pod app
- Our internationally-recognised syllabus combines the best of tradition with the latest in equitation science to help riders develop skills in horse riding, training, ground work, care and management.

How will riders know about this new program?

PCA will be running extensive promotions in magazines, newspapers etc. We will be promoting Pony Club Accredited Centres as a great way to learn about horses and make decisions about owning a horse and becoming a Club Member or continuing to enjoy the freedom of being a Centre Member.

What are the benefits for my staff?

Coaches at Accredited Centres will be able to teach Centre Member riders using the PCA Syllabus of Instruction.

We provide a systematic program of mounted and unmounted activities for you to structure your lessons, motivate your riders and celebrate their achievements. Coaches will have access to PCA coaching manuals, lesson plans and other coaching support tools.

What's in it for horses?

Centre Membership gives people the chance to learn about horses and ponies before they commit to buying their own. If they do go ahead with a purchase, they will have more knowledge to be able to better care for horses and be safer.

Does it matter if I have never been involved in Pony Club?

Not at all! We will provide all the information you need to teach riders using the PCA syllabus. This includes lesson plans, notes for coaches and checklists for certificates.

Do I need to have a PCA Coaching qualification?

A PCA coaching qualification is ideal but is not a requirement. Coaches delivering the PCA Syllabus to Centre Members will need a recognised qualification such as PCA NCAS

Preliminary coach or Level 1, Riding for the Disabled Australia, Horse Safety Australia Senior Instructor, Equestrian Australia, Australian Horse Riding Centres NCAS Level 1, and International Horse College Certificate 3 in Sports Coaching with Equestrian Electives.

Other qualifications can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Can my coaches get a PCA NCAS coaching qualification?

Yes. Coaches at our Pony Club Accredited Centres can gain coaching qualifications and ongoing personal development at affordable rates.

Can Centre Members join a Pony Club?

If a Centre Member gets their own horse, they will need to join a Pony Club. They can still train with you, but any further PCA certificates and achievements will be undertaken by their club.

Can my existing riders become PCA Centre Members?

Absolutely! This is another way to engage, motivate and develop your current riders. Plus you will have the protection of insurance cover.

What does Centre Accreditation involve?

A PCA assessor will visit you to assess your Centre. Site assessment will cover horse welfare, rider safety, supervision and instruction, facilities and saddlery. Our approach is all about removing barriers to participation. A friendly assessor will work with you to help you meet the requirements and start an ongoing conversation about how we can work together to help you get the most out of being a PCA Accredited centre.

Why do I have to be accredited?

PCA is a highly respected brand. We need to know that we are approving centres with suitable horses, safe facilities and capable staff to make sure that our Centre Members have a high-quality experience.

Can I list my riding centre as PCA Accredited?

Yes - once you have received official notification of your PCA Centre accreditation and signed a Trademark Licensing Agreement. You will then be able to use the Pony Club logo and trademarks.

How will riders find me?

All of the PCA Accredited Centres will be listed on the PCA website, which also includes an interactive "find a centre" map, so that Centre Members can find you. When riders make enquiries, we will direct them to their closest Accredited Centre.

How much does it cost?

The total annual cost of Centre Membership is \$440* (\$165 for site assessment and \$275 for licensing, including GST).

What is a membership year?

Annual fees are due on 1 January each year.

How do I get a \$100 credit?

We will give you a \$5 credit towards your following year's accreditation up to a total of \$100 (20 riders) for each new Centre Member who starts their Pony Club journey at your Centre.

How much do riders pay?

Centre membership costs \$110 per calendar year. You set your own fees for lessons and camps etc.

What are the four steps to becoming a Pony Club Accredited Centre?

1 Application

Ask us for an application form. Once you have all the requirements in place, submit your application and we will arrange an initial site visit from a friendly assessor.

2 Assessment

We will conduct a site assessment, covering horse welfare, rider safety, supervision and instruction, facilities and tack. There is a non-refundable deposit of \$165 for site accreditation (later subtracted from your \$440* annual fee), including GST.

To apply to become a Pony Club Accredited Centre, you will need to provide evidence of:

- Current Public Liability insurance (at least \$10 million)
- Workers Compensation insurance (if you have employees)
- A recognised coaching qualification for each coach
- A current Working with Children Check for each coach
- A current First Aid Qualification for each coach

We will happily assist you to get these requirements in place.

3 Licensing

Following a satisfactory site assessment, you will receive a PCA Trademark licencing agreement to sign and return, together with a licensing fee of \$275 (which is the remainder of your \$440 annual fee).

4 Welcome

We will then send you a 'New PCA Centre Pack' containing everything you need to get started, including free signage for your Centre.

Your Centre will be added to our public 'Find a Centre' page and map so that potential customers have help to find you. We will celebrate your accreditation across our social media channels. We will help to generate a buzz for your Centre's accreditation.

We can even help you with a launch, should you wish to have one. Our dedicated team means that we can celebrate your Centre, coaches and riders on an ongoing basis. Got any other ideas? Let us know.

Can I share my Centre Member journey on social media?

We can't wait to hear about how Centre Membership has helped you, your centre, your coaches and your riders - and how you adapt our system to meet your needs.

Social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are great ways to share your successes, please tag us @ponyClubAus and our funder @sportAUS in your posts.

You might also like to use the hashtags: #noponynoproblem, #getbackinthesaddle #takebackthereins.

I want to become a Pony Club Accredited Centre!

If you want to provide an enhanced experience for your riders and be associated with one of the world's most recognisable and trusted equestrian institutions, ask our participation manager for an application form.

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