

September 22, 2021



Pony Club National Championships Start – Virtually

Championships go online due to lockdowns

How do you run the eagerly anticipated Pony Club Australia National Championships when riders and horses cannot get together to compete? You go online.

The biennial Nationals were due to be held in late September in Benalla, Victoria for around 300 competitors from every state and territory, but border closures and lockdowns put an end to that.

“Rather than disappoint all the riders, who go through state qualifiers for a year to get there, we decided to take the event online,” PCA CEO Dr Catherine Ainsworth said.

“The Nationals involve seven sports – showjumping, dressage, eventing, quiz, mounted games, Ride to Time and tetrathlon (running, swimming, shooting and riding). Other than reducing the eventing to a combined training competition* we are running everything as planned, but in State hubs with identical courses.

“Because Quiz is conducted without horses, all States teams of four will compete via Zoom, in their three age groups, on September 28, 29 and 30. Dressage competitors are able to be filmed individually at home or at their Pony Club grounds. Meanwhile the other five sports will be competing in their State hubs over the next few weeks and will be filmed following strict guidelines,” Dr Ainsworth added.

“All videos will be sent in and we will put together a package and then screen each sport on separate nights later in the year, where everyone will hear the winners announced for the first time.

“It is not the same as the best in the country getting together for a major event, but for the first time, riders’ extended families, friends and Pony Clubs will be able to see the whole competition unfold and cheer on from home.”

To find out when the events will be screened, please follow the dedicated ‘Thoroughbred Industry Careers PCA National Championships’ Facebook page or check www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au

*Eventing is dressage, cross country and showjumping; combined training has no cross country. It would be impossible to duplicate a cross country course in each state.

More information and photos: (PTO)

We are grateful for the support of national sponsors:



The Australian Government through Sport Australia recognises Pony Club Australia to develop Pony Club in Australia. The financial support of Sport Australia is gratefully acknowledged.

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The SPORTAUS logo consists of the word "SPORTAUS" in a bold, sans-serif font. "SPORT" is in yellow and "AUS" is in blue.

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