

Optimum Time

There is always trouble with optimum time. So lets get the rules agreed up front.

The purpose of optimum time is to teach young riders the benefits of riding in a steady rhythm, not rushing and taking the correct smooth lines to and from jumps. Yes, it can be a bit of a lottery and riders also have the opportunity to develop a sense of sportsmanship when the results are announced. At E & D grade winning is not the major objective. Learning something from each ride and improving technique should be the objective. If we can all have a good time too, then its been a great day.

Table A competitions are really the only competitions that can be run properly to optimum time. However if we only ran Table A competitions at E & D grade we would miss out on some of the really fun events that develop skills and an eye for a jump.

The PCA rules for Table A competition are:

Riders whose time for the round is either faster or slower by more than 10 seconds from the time allowed will be penalised by 1 time penalty for each 4 seconds or part thereof outside the 10 seconds faster or slower than the time allowed.

Riders whose time for the round is within 10 seconds faster or slower than the time allowed do not incur time penalties (even if they are slower than the time allowed).

The winner is the rider who's time is closest to the time allowed. If riders are equally timed above and below the time allowed the faster rider is the winner.

Ryde PC rules for non Table A competition ie: Top Score are:

As the time allowed is fixed at either 45 or 60 seconds and the rider can choose their own track an optimum time cannot be set. One of the objectives and lessons that can be learnt from this event is that riding smart not fast and choosing a clever flowing course can result in a short time on course with maximum points.

Remember the bell is rung after the time allowed has expired but the riders time is taken as they cross the finish line after receiving the bell.

Rather than penalise the riders with good courses our rules give the win to the rider with maximum points in the shortest time. To safeguard our young riders it is explained to them that reckless riding may result in elimination. Over may years of using these rules we have never experienced reckless riding in this event. Young riders are encouraged to have parents, instructors and older members help them work out 'smart' courses and to explain to them the benefits in riding intelligent tracks versus plain reckless riding.