

What is Jumping Equitation?

A jumping equitation competition is when the rider and horse are judged on their ability to jointly execute a round that is well balanced, with a mutual understanding of each other's needs and abilities and make every aid or change seem effortless which should reflect their training and ground work. The rider should be effective and sympathetic and have a clear understanding of what the course and tasks are asking of them, i.e. it should look pretty!

There are various types of equitation rounds – some may be just a simple round of fences where the rider is given a mark out of 10 for:

- Leg Position (10 x 2)
- Eye Contact
- Seat
- Hands
- Upper Body
- Rhythm & Tempo (10 x 2)
- Control
- Approach & Line
- Take-off

A mark out of 10 is added for presentation. Horses and riders are expected to be clean and tidy with the appropriate jumping gear.

4 penalties are added for each rail. 1st disobedience is 8 penalties, 2nd is elimination as is a fall.

Another type of equitation round may involve tasks to be completed during the round. These may include :-

- Jumping a nominated fence at an angle
- Showing a stipulated number of strides between 2 nominated fences
- Increasing the tempo between nominated fences
- A flying change at a nominated spot on course
- Approaching a nominated fence in trot

These tasks are marked out of 10 and added to the marks above. The rider receives the judge's scoresheet at the end of the competition and the rider with the highest marks less jumping penalties is the winner.

There are qualified EFA Jumping Equitation judges who are affiliated to the NSW Jumping Equitation Council and there are NSW State Titles for Professional Seniors, Amateur Seniors, Young Riders and Juniors at the end of the year, usually at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. There is also a final for 20 Juniors at the Royal Easter Show where they need to qualify by being placed 1st or 2nd at an EFA Equitation event held at Agricultural shows around the State during the year. The top 10 juniors receive a free week of tuition at a live-in camp with a top jumping instructor.