

2026 Royal Adelaide Show - Interschool Exhibition event

Date: Sunday 12th September, 2026

Purpose

The ESA Interschool Exhibition Day at the 2026 Royal Adelaide Show is designed to celebrate and showcase the talent, dedication, and sportsmanship of South Australia's young equestrian riders on one of the state's most iconic stages. We also invite other registered Interschool riders from interstate to join the event.

Bringing together schools, families, and the wider equestrian community, the event will foster school spirit, friendly competition, and equestrian excellence while providing riders with the opportunity to compete in a prestigious Royal Show environment.

The day will also help raise the profile of the ESA Interschool program, introduce riders to the Royal Adelaide Show as a future competitive pathway, and create valuable exposure and development opportunities for the next generation of equestrian athletes.

Prizes

- 1st to 6th placings for each Individual Class (not CT phases)

Eligibility to enter

This is an invitation only event extended to all registered combinations for the 2026 EA Interschool Discipline. Registered riders shall be invited to nominate their preferred classes directly to the ESA Interschool Committee.

The event will be promoted directly to all registered participants via:

- Email
- Interschool SA Facebook page

All entries shall be accompanied by the applicable fee and remain the responsibility of the rider to complete by the published date and time of closing. No late entries will be accepted.

Class categories

Primary competition is restricted to riders enrolled up to and including year 6 in the year of competition.

The Secondary competition is for those enrolled in years 7 to 12 inclusive in the year of competition.

Limits per combination and/or rider

Due to scheduling constraints, each rider may enter up to three classes, using one or two horses (maximum of three starts per horse, with CT equating to two starts).

All combinations must be registered with an EA State Interschool body prior to close of nominations by 30 June 2026. No horse substitutions are possible for the purpose of registration.

Special conditions

1. This exhibition event is open to registered EA State Interschool combinations and is not an official qualifying event for team selection for the 2026 Australian Interschool Championships. All interstate entries must include proof of registration.
2. The event is to be run under EA rules insofar as they are applicable to this event. It is the responsibility of all riders to understand the rules relating to the classes they are entering. We strongly recommend that all competitors obtain a copy of the relevant discipline rules through the EA website.
3. Riders entering classes must bear in mind the welfare of the rider, horse and relevant EA rules for the discipline relating to the number of starts per day.
4. Bridle or saddle blanket number shall be compulsory for dressage and jumping.
5. **Qualifications** are not necessary to be eligible for participation in the exhibition event.

6. **Gear:** The checking of gear is the responsibility of the rider. Discipline rules can be found on the EA website. Judges have the right to eliminate a rider if they compete in the incorrect gear.
7. **Interstate Competitors:** due to scheduling constraints, interstate interschool riders are not eligible to compete in this ESA Interschool exhibition.
8. Stallions are NOT permitted at any Interschool competitions. Stallions or colts are **not permitted** on the grounds at any time during the exhibition event.
9. All horses and ponies must be four (4) years of age or older to compete in Interschool competitions. Horses' ages are assessed from 1 August of the year of birth.
10. The organisers reserve the right to remove any unruly horses or persons from the grounds for the safety and welfare of other horses/persons.
11. **Scratching:** 50% of entry fee less \$30 administration fee will be refunded only if Veterinary Certificate or Doctors Certificate is produced within 3 days of the competition. Once an entry is accepted, the Admin Fee is non-refundable. Entry fees will not be refunded after the start of the competition.
12. Scoring shall be administered by RAHS Horses In Action. All results are final at the time of presentation and no protests shall be entered into before, during or after the event.
13. Parents and riders are reminded that the EA Code of Conduct shall apply at all times.
14. **Dogs are not permitted** on the grounds at any time, and competitors remain subject to direction from RAHS ground staff at all times.
15. **Liability: neither ESA Interschool, ESA, EA, RAHS nor the owners/lessees of the venue accept any liability for accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, spectators, persons or property whatsoever.**

EVENT ORGANISATION

16. In exceptional circumstances, the OC reserves the right to modify the schedule in order to clarify any matters arising from an omission or due to unforeseen circumstances. Any such changes must be notified to all competitors and officials as soon as possible.

CANCELLATION OF EVENT

17. If special circumstances demand it, the OC reserves the right to take all necessary actions including cancellation of the event. Refunds may or may not be paid depending on the circumstances.

**Disclaimer: These rule references are correct at the time of entry.
If they change before the competition, the new rules will be applied.**

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE - MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NOTE: This is a Provisional timetable only and is subject to change once all entries have been received and draws have been finalised. Please note that classes may start as early as 8am and finish as late as 4pm - please be prepared for this.

For the most up to date information on the timetable, please follow us on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Interschool - Equestrian SA](https://www.facebook.com/Interschool-Equestrian-SA)

RING 1

Dressage

Primary Preliminary – 1.3 (2023)

Secondary Preliminary – 1.3 (2023)

Primary Novice – 2.3 (2023)

Secondary Novice – 2.3 (2023)

RING 2

Combined Training (dressage phase)

Primary CT50 – EvA 45 & 60cm Test A (2020)

Primary CT80 – EvA 80cm Test A (2020)

Secondary CT65 - EvA 45 & 60cm Test B (2020)

Secondary CT80 – EvA Test B 80cm (2025)

RING 3

Show Jumping

Primary 70 cm – Article 220.2.1.2

Secondary 70 cm – Article 220.2.1.2

Primary 80 cm – Article 220.2.1.2

Secondary 80 cm – Article 220.2.1.2

Primary 90 cm – Article 220.2.1.2

Secondary 90 cm – Article 220.2.1.2

Secondary 100 cm – Article 220.2.1.2

Combined Training (jumping phase)

Primary CT50 – 50 cm maximum

Primary CT80 – 80 cm maximum

Secondary CT65 – 65 cm maximum

Secondary CT80 – 80 cm maximum

DRESSAGE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All dressage tests will be run under current EA National Dressage rules
- A maximum of 2 dressage tests per combination per day is allowed (this includes a dressage test in a Combined Training competition)
- A horse/rider combination may only compete in two consecutive levels
- Primary riders competing in Preliminary and Novice tests may have their tests called. Secondary, Intermediate and Senior riders must ride their tests without a caller unless they hold a current EA Interschool Exemption permitting the use of a Caller.
- Headsets/ ear phones are not permitted
- Gloves are compulsory for all Dressage
- All tests are EA 2023

SHOW JUMPING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- A maximum of 2 show jumping starts per combination per day is allowed (this includes a show jumping round and a Combined Training competition)
- A horse/rider combination may only compete in two consecutive height levels
- Course inspections are only permitted during designated times in official riding dress. Jumping courses will be open for inspection prior to the start of the competitions and re-opened between each class for approximately 15 minutes
- Riders must ride in the order of the draw and must not hold up proceedings on the day
- Course plans will be posted at the entry gate

Article 220.2.1.2 - All clear rounds, or rounds with the lowest faults, come back for the jump-off with an increased height. Placings determined by least penalties.

COMBINED TRAINING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- A horse/rider combination may only compete in 1 Combined Training level.
- Combined Training as per the 2026 discipline rules, the use of whips and the calling of dressage tests to EvA80 is permitted.
- Headsets/ ear phones are not permitted.

Scoring:

Combined training runs under Eventing rules, riders are placed based on the number of penalties they incur over the 2 phases. This means that the rider with the least penalties when penalties from the dressage and jumping phases are added will be the winner.

In the case of tied scores for placings in a class the rider with the best dressage score (least penalties) will be the higher placed. If equality still exists, the closest to the optimum time (under the time set) in the jumping element will be the higher placed. If there is still a tie, then the placings will be shared and the subsequent place not awarded. For example, if there is a tie for second place then no third place will be awarded and the points for second and third will be added together and then divided equally between the two tied riders.

CONDUCT FOR ESA INTERSCHOOL EVENTS

As a condition of entry, all participants shall accept and be bound by the rules of Equestrian Australia. All competitors and their associates shall accept and be bound by the Equestrian Australia Codes of Conduct for Competitors, Spectators, Horses, Volunteers as well as other relevant Codes and Policies relating to the conducting of an equestrian event.

The conduct of members of the sport overall is controlled by the "EA Member Protection Policy" which can be found on the Equestrian Australia website.

Please refer to the Codes of Conduct in the ESA Interschool Handbook.

Important Etiquette

Please respect the riders and horses by not yelling, running or interrupting when they are competing. It is particularly important during a busy competition to exercise restraint and quiet where possible, since horses are upset by sudden noise and movement and could endanger children and others on the grounds.

Please be mindful when entering classes that the welfare of the horse is paramount and organisers have the right to refuse entries should they believe this has been breached.

Riders

Only the nominated Interschool athlete competing in any given discipline/class may ride the nominated horse (on or off the grounds) on the day of competition until the whole event is concluded.

Lunging

Lunging by someone other than the nominated athlete is permitted, however lunging may be restricted to designated areas.

Uniform

Riders are to wear a shirt with either a school windcheater, jumper or hacking jacket (not school blazer) or their school's recognised equestrian uniform. White or light-coloured breeches or jodhpurs. Long or short riding boots. Riders may wear gaiters made from full grain leather, either black or brown to match boots.

Helmets

Athletes must ride in EA approved safety helmets at all times as per National Sport Rules for each discipline. Helmets must be securely fastened and failure to comply with this regulation will result in elimination from the competition. Riders competing in Showjumping and Combined Training must have their helmet tagged with a current visible EA 'helmet tag'.

Whips, bits and other gear

As per EA Rules for each discipline.

Competitors will be allocated numbers which are to be worn on the day.

Soundness

The judges are required to satisfy themselves regarding the soundness of all horses, therefore judges have the authority to stop an unsound horse from competing prior to or during competition.

Draw

The draw will be strictly adhered to. To keep the event running as close to schedule as possible, we will need the cooperation of riders and parents to ensure that riders are on time for their classes. Allocated rider times may vary slightly, but the draw order will not – unless there are individual scheduling conflicts. Riders must be ready to ride in the order in which they are called. Due to the nature of the Interschool Competition, it is likely that the draw will be tight. It is therefore the rider's responsibility to enter an appropriate number of Interschool classes. While Interschool SA will endeavour to accommodate all riders' competitive needs with respect to the draw, riders are under no circumstances permitted to request for a draw to be re-scheduled to meet their needs.

Course walk (Combined Training and Showjumping)

Course plans will be posted at the entry gate. The course will be opened for walking 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the class. Riders are to listen for announcements regarding their class and present in draw order when required.

No protests allowed as a condition of entry

No competitors or parents are to directly approach any judges, stewards, course builders or any other officials or volunteers before, during or after the competition with disputes or complaints. Due to the unofficial nature of this exhibition event, there shall be no protests permitted concerning any class or discipline championship result.

In the interests of promoting a friendly competitive atmosphere, individual riders, or their parents, may approach ESA Interschool for any of the following:

- ask clarifying questions;
- request a recheck or recalculation on a result should an obvious error be noted; and/or bring to the attention of ESA Interschool other errors (such as a rider allocated to the wrong school, or a child allocated to a primary class when they should ride secondary).

Presentations

Competition attire must be worn. Ribbons will be forfeited if neither the competitor nor a representative is present. No protests or disputes will be entered into after the presentations. All athletes are expected to attend presentations.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Neither Equestrian Australia (EA), Equestrian South Australia (ESA) or ESA Interschool nor any of their officers, servants, or agents shall be in any way liable for anything that may happen from any cause or circumstances whatever to exhibitors, competitors or members or their servants, agents or to anyone on the grounds or to any animals or article exhibited or to any property brought to the grounds or for any other loss, claim, matter, circumstances or event whatsoever in connection with or arising out of or attributable to the event or any journey to or from the event or any other Rules and Regulations or Special Conditions prescribed by them.

RESERVATION OF RIGHT

ESA Interschool as the Organisers of the **Interschool Exhibition at the 2026 Royal Adelaide Show**, reserves the right to:

- cancel any class or event
- divide any class
- amend the program as they see fit
- transfer riders between sections of a class
- alter the advertised times refuse any entry, with or without stating the reason.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Entry Timetable

Competitors' entries are to be coordinated through the ESA Interschool Committee regarding entries or draws must be directed to your Committee.

Please do NOT contact the Royal Show Society directly with any questions.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to accept or deny entries.

CLOSE OF ENTRIES: 5pm, Monday 24th August 2026

Event contacts

Name	Position	Email	Phone
Naomi Downer	ESA Interschool Committee	interschool@equestriansa.com.au	0425 714 946