

SAMFORD GOLDEN VALLEY PONY CLUB

Proficiency Certificates



What are Proficiency Certificates?

Pony Club encourages riders to learn about horse and pony care as well as riding. To do this, it provides tests which are designed to allow riders to progress from one standard of learning to the next. PCQ provides further details about the proficiency tests on their website at www.pcaq.asn.au under 'Rule Books' where you will find the "Syllabus of Instruction" document.

When you have covered all of the topics in the syllabus, and your instructor is satisfied that you are riding at the required level, you are ready to sit the test. Assessments for levels E, D and D* are held by our Club as required while assessments for C and above are usually conducted at Zone testing days held twice a year at alternating Pony Club venues.

When do I need to attain each Certificate?

In addition to forming part of the Pony Club syllabus, certificates are evidence of competency which are required before riders are able to compete at certain levels:

- To compete at Zone Championships and State Championships you must have a D Certificate
- If you are 13 years or over and want to compete at State Championships you must also have a C Certificate.

Recommended ages for Queensland pony club members are as follows:

- E Certificate < 7 Yrs
- D Certificate 7 Yrs
- D* Certificate 9 Yrs
- C Certificate 12 Yrs
- C* Certificate 14 Yrs
- K Certificate 14 Yrs
- B Certificate 15 Yrs
- H - A Certificates 17 Yrs

What do I need to get started?

Workbooks are available to assist with studying for each certificate. These can be purchased from the Club or from PCQ, and are designed to be worked through at home with the help of one of the following text books:

Riding – The Pony Club Association of NSW ("Green book")

Pony Club Manual 1 – D, D+ and C Certificates

Pony Club Manual 2 – C+, B, A and H Certificates

These books are fantastic long term references that cover both riding skills and horse management. 'Riding' is a more general reference book for riding and horse management and originates in Australia, while the two Pony Club Manuals originate from NZ and are more detailed with more up-to-date illustrations and photographs. The books can be obtained directly from the PCQ office, or can be posted out at an extra cost. The price list and order form can be found on the PCQ website at www.pcaq.asn.au under 'Forms'.

Proficiency Certificates

E, D and D Star Certificates

These certificates cover basic skills in riding, horse care and basic knowledge, and are intended to help the riders gain confidence in riding, handling and caring for their horse or pony, and to encourage them to learn and improve. Here is a brief summary of the requirements:

E Certificate

To sit for E level, there is no age requirement.

E level assessment includes:

- Mounting and dismounting
- Starting, guiding and stopping the pony
- Take part in a simple mounted games and rider exercises
- Handling and horse care as per list in level E workbook.

D Certificate

To sit for D level, you must be 7 yrs or over.

D level assessment includes:

- Mounting and dismounting
- Using reins in one or two hands
- Halt, walk, trot and canter without being led, in an enclosed area
- Road safety rules and hand signals for riding on the road
- Rider exercises
- Riding in a mounted game
- Handling and horse care as per list in level D workbook.

D Star Certificate

D* certificate encourages more rider control and development of a more secure seat, including small jumps. The certificate is optional (not a prerequisite for subsequent certificates).

To sit for D* level, you must hold D Certificate (or be taking D certificate in conjunction with D*) and be 9 yrs or over. D* level assessment includes:

- Mounting and dismounting from both sides
- Walk, trot and canter in an open area
- Upward and downward transitions
- Trot and canter at varying speeds
- Trot on a loose rein
- Riding over trot poles
- Jumping to 45cm
- Knowledge of road rules
- Handling and horse care as per list in level D* book.

C Certificate

To sit for C level, you must hold D Certificate and be 12yrs or over. C Level assessment includes:

- Rein Drill
- Footfalls
- Alter stirrups and girth whilst mounted
- Know correct diagonals and canter leads
- Jump fences ranging in height from 50 cm to 65 cm including a spread
- Bandaging for training and travel
- Health and Horsemanship as per list in Level C workbook

C Star Certificate

C*Level assessment includes:

- Diagonals and Canter leads by feel

- Circles – 10m walk, 15m trot, 20m canter

- Serpentines

- Lengthen strides

- Lead horse from another

- Jump fences ranging in height from 70 cm to 85 cm

- Lungeing

- Health and Horsemanship as per list in Level C* workbook

K, B and A Certificates

Further certificate work can be studied and assessed, and is particularly recommended for riders considering becoming instructors. These certificates encourage continual improvement in knowledge, horsemanship and riding skills.