

# Hobby Horse Riders

## Hobby Horse Club Handbook



# Introduction to Hobby Horse Riders



INTRODUCING this fabulous new sport to all HOBBY HORSE LOVERS around the world, to enjoy the pleasure and freedom of spirit and imagination that the experience of riding your horse through fantastic adventures, overcoming obstacles, adversity and challenges by riding your amazing Hobby Horse forward, onward and into the future.

From Conventional to Extreme there is something for everyone. Bring your favourite horse, chosen, gifted, rescued or make your own. There are many types to choose from and patterns available to help you make your own.

Sources can be found on lots of media like PINTREST, YOUTUBE and soon from

**THE SPECIAL MEMBERS ONLY NEWSLETTER**

**[“Welcome to the Wonderful World of Hobby Horses”](#)**  
**[FREE RIDER MEMBERSHIP -JOIN HERE](#)**

**<https://form.jotform.com/232497016377866>**

FUN FANTASY & FITNESS

Mission Statement/Pledge:

**Members of HOBBY HORSE RIDERS agree to respect and accept all other members, their Hobby Horses and all involved with the sport of**

**HOBBY HORSE RIDING.**

**HOBBY HORSE RIDERS aim is to provide opportunities to develop a network of HOBBY HORSE GROUPS around Australia and the World where young people can participate in a Safe, Respectful and Inclusive Community.**

**As a Member I will always behave fairly and be a ‘good sport’**

Ride the amazing and diverse range of Horses from all sources and places to the realistic replicas of all the wonderful Horse Breeds throughout the world. Explore the Mystical world of Fantastic Creatures, Jurassic Giants, Miniature, Medieval and Modern can all join IN, come alive and partner with you in your chosen field.

# HOBBY HORSE - NEW CLUB

## How to Start

Meeting and join the growing number of brave, individuals and groups of riders who share your interests and want to learn all about this new Fun Fantasy and Fitness activity.

This new sport has unlimited opportunities to branch out into many directions of Horse Sports events in a safe, friendly and inclusive environment.

JOIN US NOW and be the **first** to help us to design the framework and develop this sport as your own brave new and amazing world.

### STEP ONE- Let's get started.

Advertise Your Event (Come & Try) Event - Include Program of Events and Nomination Form. or Send out a Personal Individual Invitations to your friends.

Include: time, day and date, venue address, reply date, for catering with a short note explaining the activity, or Email as a Birthday or Special Party Card (or make a Handmade card to Post.

- Riders can bring their own Hobby Horses or share or borrow one.
- Some Clubs keep a herd of schoolmaster horses for new riders.

To build a herd you can *rescue* forgotten champions and give them a good home or make your own breed: [CLICK HERE](#)

### STEP TWO – Activity Checklist

Include: Events you think would interest the people in your area.

- Keep it simple to start with and just use equipment that you have. A great place to source stuff is your local Council Recycle Depot or charity shops.
- Staging an official program requires all the infrastructure of an equestrian show ring, You will need experienced officials, judges and course builders.

These can be sourced from the “Real Horse Organisations” to start with .

**HOBBY HORSE RIDERS** can offer training, clinics and workshops

### Popular indoor / outdoor events include:

**DRESSAGE** - Dressage tests (set by organiser) Range from Preliminary - Grand Prix. A favourite for spectators is the Freestyle to music, with levels from Novice to Grand Prix. Riders perform to min. and max. time limits with prescribed movements for each level. Riders choreograph the movements and paces of their test to harmonise with their chosen Music.

Freestyles can also be done in pairs (mirror image) and quadrilles of 4-8 riders, as seen at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna.

Continued...

### **COWBOY DRESSAGE – New to Hobby Horse**

This style of Dressage, as a sport has become a new sensation in the modern performance horse world, and attracts a special group of like-minded people interested in the welfare of their horse and riding friends. It is a softer, more inclusive style than is seen in main-stream equestrian events

#### **LA GARROCHA – ‘Dance with your Horse’**

Performed with a long pole, and frequently includes music, in this event the **HH Rider** performs a set of dressage movements in all paces, gracefully around the Garrocha.

The **Garrocha** pole is a tool that is used to give better precision and purpose to the suppling lateral movements that are often use in Cowboy Dressage.

Great skill is needed in handling the pole and the horse simultaneously requiring the rider to guide the horse with all the body and aids.

The presence of the pole and perhaps musicians or a dance partner gives horse/rider a focus point while demonstrating bend and suppleness.

It's an excellent cross training tool that you can add to your workouts.

#### **And best of all, it's FUN!**

There is something magical that happens when you ride with the **Garrocha**. It's almost as if there is something hardwired into the horse/rider to move around and with the long pole. It adds focus, bend, and purpose for the horse as you perform movements such as turn on the forehand, turn on the haunches (pirouette), leg yield, roll backs with perfect bend.

[TO SEE CLICK HERE:](#)

**BREED CLASSES -In hand Showing:** this is where **HHR Members** can Showcase their Amazing Creative Talents, Craft Skills in Design and producing horses. Includes all Breeds, Levels and Ages. They are Paraded in Hand and can wear the accessories and saddlery for the sport the Hobby Horse is designed to participate in.

**SHOW JUMPING** – There are many event types :- fastest time, ideal time, equitation/style, high jump, six bar and agility courses can be designed to challenge all HHR MEMBERS Skill levels. Also in pairs, fours and teams .

**ONE, TWO OR THREE DAY EVENTING** –a SUPER EVENT– Run over 1-3 days and *Includes Dressage, Show Jumping and a 1k OUTDOOR Cross- Country Course over solid natural jumps.* A true marathon event of Hobby Horse Riding!

**TRAIL RIDING Endurance** – a trail ride Held outdoors over a long distance (different for each level) over rough terrain with obstacles, hills, ravines, bridges and creeks.

**CTR's –COMPETATIVE TRAIL RIDES** –timed outdoor rides with challenges along the way.

**SOCIAL RECREATIONAL RIDES** - re great outdoor adventure experiences, for the whole family to enjoy, exploring nature or the local neighbourhood. Share a picnic or even Camping out.

**OBSTACLE TRAIL COURSE EVENTS** – HHR's navigate a series of Obstacles with a time limit on each task. Points are awarded for each challenge.

Continued... **WESTERN EVENTS: - Indoor or Outdoor.**

**WESTERN DRESSAGE:** Dressage Tests are ridden in a 10M x 20M arena. Riding Style is English. The Paces are walk, trot and canter and require the horse to be very calm, responsive and in a round frame on contact. Dress and saddlery is English..

**WESTERN PLEASURE** – Dress and saddlery is Western. The horse and rider are judged on their presence, appearance and posture and style. Riders ride in a group to begin and are called in, in turn, by the judges. They are asked to do an individual workout, reassessed, and the placing is decided on the execution and quality of the workout. The Judge explains the reasons for their placing order and advises each rider on how they can improve the performance.

**REINING** - A Pattern is set at varied levels. Saddlery is also dictated by the Horses' level of schooling and age.

**CUTTING** – Competition can be with a real, mechanical cow or human substitute. The HH Rider's skill level, age and horse's training may be an entry requirement.

**ROPING** – Riders are required to cast a lariat from a subscribed distance over the head of an artificial, static 'cow' Levels of competency are designated by distance and accuracy and technique of throw.

## EVENT PROGRAMS CHECK LIST

### STEP THREE

#### Check List for your PROGRAM

**Plan to Advertise your Event approximately 4-6 + weeks in advance**

**Announce with an early 'Date Saver'**

**Include on your event programs:**

- Date of event.
- Start and finish times
- Venue address - link to or include map
- Venue site map - arenas, parking, catering, first aid, office, entry, exit amenities
- Entry Fees – concessions (family or age)
- Conditions of entry (Unofficial/Official/Club Members Only)
- Nominations: (on the day, or if pre- nomination is required.
  - Closing date of nomination & link to entry form
- Organiser Contact: (details for enquires and for officials on the day.)

- **OFFICIALS** – judges, timekeepers, stewards, course builders, arena erection, first aid, catering, nomination office persons clean up team, event manager.

(Choose these from among the participants who can take turns in these roles as well as being contestants or riders.) *This can be a condition of participation*

In general, the idea is for the members/participants to learn and share the running of their own events with minimal adult assistance.

*How good is it to own your sport for youth by youth.*

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### **An example club training /Practice Day Formant**

This format can be used for all the different disciplines.

**9.30 am** Ice breaker game – meet and greet – e.g. What am I ? card game

**9.40 am** Explain event: To new and first time HH Riders (maybe buddy up)

e.g. **Show Jumping**, (Set up a course or just a couple of jumps, trot poles or Cavaletti to start with. (Broom handles, pvc pipes and curtain rods make great lightweight jump poles.)

Discuss jump types and styles, rules of competition. See **Event Rules** - Available to [REGISTERED HOBBY HORSE MEMBERS and CLUBS](#)

**10.00 am** Start with a demonstration and then practising jumping or riding.

**10.30 am** Short break for feedback and discussion

**10.45 am** Let's go again 'Yeah!'

**11.30 am** Refreshments and hand out survey for copy of one of ours. This is to gather contact information from the riders so you can let them know what/when your next Event will be held and share new ideas on how to do things differently or better.

Check Results: Most popular (loudest applause) Survey gets prizes (lollies). Survey helps you learn the most popular Hobby Horse activity or event of those attending so you can plan your **Next Club Muster**.

Learn: How often, When day/time and Where would suit the majority to attend the club days.

**12.00 pm:** collect Surveys and hand out a small eco- friendly gift pack containing:

- a. Information and Contact Details and if budget allows include:
- b. Brochure or Flyer - Email **Hobby Horse Riders** for a **free** copy Or make your own.
- c. Stickers, notebook, pen toper, craft supplies, Hobby Horse journal, Hobby Horse patterns, links for event rules. membership and horse registration forms.

*We like to promote using natural and eco- friendly products.*

Your Club Member Benefits: Membership Card, (decide what you provide when you have a regular group of riders who can collectively decide how they would like to run *their* club.

Other Ideas: Lessons, use of event equipment, free horse hire (for new members) Competitions - program ideas (templates), sports event rules, dressage tests, organisers' check lists.

*NEED HELP - Contact Matty PH 0429870870*

Email: [admin@hobbyhorseriders.com](mailto:admin@hobbyhorseriders.com)

## **STEP FOUR**

### **PLANNING THE NEXT STEP**

**Congratulations**, Everyone will want to know when they can come again.

Now that you have a group of people interested in forming a **HOBBY HORSE RIDERS' CLUB** and their contact details, it is **important** to follow up with when the next/first Club Day will be. ***About 2 weeks after the first event is best.***

Send out a 'welcome back' and 'thanks for coming' note that also invites participants to the **First Muster** and **Sign-on Day**.

This should be done within 2 weeks of the 'Come and Try' day, while the great memories of all the fun are still fresh.

The **welcome back** note should include: next muster day, date, time and venue (chosen from what the majority in the survey voted for). The time should be no more than 4-6 weeks from first 'Come and Try' event.

You could also invite a special guest coach (HH Rider from nearby club, riding instructor, arts & crafts or dance coach) depending on the type of event the majority chose as their favourite in the survey.

**PLEASE NOTE: All persons over 18yrs in Australia should have a Blue Card "working with children check".** (State may have different requirements)

Program Plan- Use the same format as the previous one but, modify as needed from what you learnt about what people wanted.

Your guest speaker can do the Introductory talk, detailing their speciality area. Include a short update on house rules around safety, behaviour and respect for each other and venue (if at a new one).

Choose venue : Your venue can change to better suit activity of the day, but good to have a regular 'home' base. (either private home, public park, National Park, local hall, sports complex, Council or School Hall, gymnastic centre etc.)

By now I trust you have your Hobby Horse Club plans in full-go mode and are galloping off to a great start. Please Keep in Touch.

**[REGISTER YOUR CLUB WITH HOBBY HORSE RIDERS](#)**  
**[HERE](#)**

## **STEP FIVE**

As your club grows as we expect it will, and the workload needs sharing, you have a number of options to consider.

Up to this point once you have a regular group of participants, you could decide to share *the fun and responsibility* of decision making and ask members to help with organising the Musters by taking on tasks they enjoy.

More hands make light work. We have found the best way to learn is to do then teach to others.

If structure is your thing, this can become more formal with small go-too group of members that are responsible for different jobs. They could be the coordinators of advertising, musters and events. Roles of committee president, secretary and treasurer each have specific roles. Members could even decide to become a more formal entity, such as a registered not-for-profit, business (sole trader or Pty. Ltd.) with a board of directors, or an incorporated or unincorporated club or association. This would also require registration your name with the Dept. of Fair Trading or relevant government body in your area.

This progression usually happens when there is a need to manage groups' financials and set up a bank account on behalf of the club. Usually, two or more people are required to be signatories to these funds and all expenditure is approved before it is drawn.

To continue spreading awareness of your club you may create a website and register business and domain name

HHR CLUBS can also link to HOBBY HORSE RIDERS website

In Australia, information about formalising a club is available through the Dept. of Fair Trading, ACNC and ASIC.

## **CONCLUSION**

I hope this booklet has been helpful in starting up your HOBBY HORSE CLUB and look forward to hearing how you progress. *Please* send us feedback on what went well and what we can do better.

We are available to continue helping you develop and keen to have you join us when your members are ready to compete in local, regional, state, national and international competitions. And - who knows - the Finland Championships might be your next goal.

Happy Hobby Horsing with

## **FUN FANTASY AND FITNESS**

Matty Sormani and the team at HOBBY HORSE RIDERS.

[www.hobbyhorseriders.com](http://www.hobbyhorseriders.com)



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