



**MELBOURNE
ROYAL**

Melbourne Royal Horses in Action Competition 2026 Performance Guidelines

For the Horses in Action competition 2026, Melbourne Royal will accept performances gained between 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026 for saddle, riding, stock horse, harness, and heavy horse. Please refer to relevant sections for performance details.

Hunt exhibitors' performance period is 1 May 2025 and 5 August 2026, and Show Jumping is 1 July 2025 to 20 June 2026.

1. PERFORMANCE DETAIL

Unless otherwise specified, all nominations for all Horses in Action competitions at the 2026 Melbourne Royal Show must be accompanied by the following performance details:

- (i) Name and date of the Show.
- (ii) Name of class in which the performance was gained especially designated heights or age specifications.
- (iii) Name of exhibit; and
- (iv) Place awarded.

Saddle classes must be accompanied by a list of current performances. The following classes **will not** count as qualifying performances:

- **Pony Club classes.**
- **Affiliated ASA novice classes**
- **Maiden and novice classes.**
- **Hack classes restricted by breed, colour, age, district:**
- **Pleasure or educated classes.**
- **Consolation classes.**
- **Pairs and team classes.**
- **Child's classes.**
- **Leading rein and first ridden classes.**
- **Elementary and intermediate classes; and/or**
- **Any other restricted classes unless otherwise specified in Section 3.**

Exhibitors are to provide **all** relevant qualifications that can then be verified by the relevant societies or organisations.

2. QUALIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Qualifications that will primarily be considered include:



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Capital City Royal Show Performance gained 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026

- (i) Champion open or show hunter and champion riders at any capital city royal show gained between 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026 is an automatic acceptance in the equivalent class at Melbourne Royal Show.
- (ii) Performances gained at any capital city royal show between 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026 in Open, ladies, gent's and novice 1st to 6th. One of each performance may be submitted as performances for Melbourne Royal Show 2026. Only one performance may be submitted for consideration per Royal Show. Special classes will **NOT** be considered i.e., child's (Geelong, Bathurst, Toowoomba and Launceston are considered agricultural shows).

ASA Affiliated Agricultural Shows 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026

- (iii) First and/or reserve champion place at ASA affiliated agricultural shows. Only one first or reserve champion from each affiliated ASA show will be considered within the qualifying period.

Non- agricultural performances gained 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026

- (iv) A maximum of two non-agricultural show performances from shows affiliated with Show Horse Council (SHC) and Equestrian Australia (EA). SHC, EA and VAS Ltd Winner, Runner up or Top 10 performances from a Horse of the Year will be considered as qualifications for Melbourne Royal 2026.
- (v) Final 10 in the following Melbourne Royal Show 2025 classes; Col. A.V. Pope Cup (Melbourne Royal Show only), Providence Cup Hack, Providence Cup Galloway, Grand Parade Trophy, Fairlight Acres Trophy and Lindsay Pudd Trophy are considered as qualifying performances for the 2026 Melbourne Royal Show and maybe used as a second performance for the 2026 Melbourne Royal Show.
- (vi) Performances for saddle horse, Galloway and pony classes should be gained in open saddle classes with specified heights.
- (vii) Performances for show hunter horse, Galloway and pony classes should be gained in show hunter classes, with specified heights.

3. SADDLE SECTION

An exhibit may only be entered in open saddle classes or show hunter classes not both.

- (i) Hack, Galloway, and pony classes – **Melbourne Royal recommends a minimum of five qualifications.** Refer to Section 2 for qualification listings, **with the exception of Section 2 (v)** maybe used as a second performance.
- (ii) Show hunter hack, Galloway, or pony classes – **Melbourne Royal recommends a minimum of five qualifications.** Refer to Section 2 for qualification listings
- (iii) Shetlands – **Melbourne Royal recommends a minimum of three qualifications** from individual registered breed shows and refer to Section 2 for all other qualifications to be considered.

4. JUMPING

All jumping entries must be accompanied by a list of current performances gained in the qualifying period.

5. HARNESS SECTION

Exhibits must have exhibited successfully at an affiliated agricultural show, harness show or capital city Royal Show in the qualifying period.



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6. RIDING COMPETITIONS

Melbourne Royal recommends a minimum of two qualifications (refer to Section 2).

Riding competitors must ride **an exhibit that is entered and accepted** in Horses in Action Saddle section. The exhibit must be stabled at Melbourne Showgrounds on the same date the riding competition is held.

7. STOCK HORSES

Exhibits must have exhibited successfully at **three** affiliated agricultural shows, stock horse shows or capital city Royal Shows.

8. HUNTING SECTION

Exhibits and exhibitors must be fully paid-up members of a member club of the Hunt Clubs Association of Victoria or an approved hunting body. Exhibitors and exhibits must attend **five** official hunt meetings going over the panels and must be of standard to jump 90cm with skill and total control. Qualifications must be gained from 1 May 2025 to close of entries in 2026. Attend a minimum of **one** hunter show held by a member club or approved hunting body. It is the responsibility of the Hunt Club Masters to adhere to the criteria of horse and rider suitability.

9. ACCEPTANCES

- (i) From the information supplied, Melbourne Royal will determine which entries are to be accepted. Melbourne Royal may, at its discretion, refuse to accept an entry, an exhibit or an exhibitor.
- (ii) Melbourne Royal will at its discretion, determine which entries are to be accepted based on the performance information supplied.
- (iii) Melbourne Royal will conduct performance checks on a random sampling basis, or any such basis that Melbourne Royal may determine at its sole discretion. If the performance details are found to be incorrect this will result in the disqualification of the entry and possibly the owner of the entry. Depending on the significance of the error, a penalty may be imposed up to five (5) penalty units, currently set at \$100 per unit. In addition, the owner and/or the exhibitor of the entry may be disqualified for a period of up to two (2) years from the date of disqualification.

MELBOURNE ROYAL, AT ITS DISCRETION WILL DETERMINE ACCEPTANCES. Refer Melbourne Royal General Regulations 9.1