



Membership Booklet March 2025

McLaren Districts Riding Club
McLaren Flat Recreation Grounds
Main Road, McLaren Flat SA 5171
P.O. Box 1190 McLaren Flat SA 5171
mdrc.entries@gmail.com
www.mclarendistrictsridingclub.net
www.facebook.com/mclarendistrictsridingclub

1. About the Club

The McLaren Districts Riding Club Inc. (the Club) is a friendly and fun club catering to all ages and riding levels. We provide a range of events throughout the year for our members to try out and improve their skills in numerous equestrian disciplines.

Our members range from pleasure to competition riders and instructors, whose horses vary from young and inexperienced to older and very experienced.

The Committee welcomes any feedback, ideas and suggestions that you may have for club events and rally days.

History

The McLaren Districts Riding Club Inc. was established at the McLaren Flat Recreation Grounds in 1981. The Club became affiliated with the Horse Riding Clubs Association (HRCA) in 1988. In 2007, after a unanimous vote at our Annual General Meeting, the Club resigned from the HRCA to enable us to pursue our own agenda. In 2015 the Committee saw value in becoming an “Equestrian Australia affiliated club”, allowing us to adapt procedures and policies that will see us continue well into the future.

2. Aims and Objectives

Short term:

- To provide members with a structured program to obtain the benefits and enjoyment of correct education by well-qualified instructors in matters of horsemanship and training.
- To be recognised as an integral part of the McLaren District’s community in addition to creating a community within the club..
- To ensure all economic and administrative decisions are managed effectively and efficiently to ensure longevity and financial security of the Club.
- To continue to develop protocols and policies ensuring the safety and welfare of members and their horses.

Long term:

- To provide a safe equestrian complex where members can learn, train, and develop their horsemanship skills.
- To provide a safe equestrian complex in which non-club horse owners/riders can train or compete at the invitation of the club.
- To provide the McLaren Districts community with an outdoor facility in which equestrian activities can be enjoyed in a semi-rural environment.
- To promote competitive and social interaction with and provide support to other persons and groups involved in non-commercial equestrian activities.

3. Membership

The Club endeavours to keep membership fees to a minimum by using other fundraising ventures to help keep the Club financially viable.

Membership categories

Membership of the Club shall be comprised of the following categories:

Ordinary (single) Membership – a person who is a riding participant in club activities and shall have one vote.

Family Membership – a family, defined as one or two adults and their children and any child under 18 years residing with them as legal dependents and shall be entitled to two votes per family.

Associate Membership – a person who is a non-riding participant in club activities and shall have one vote.

Honorary Life Membership – the Committee may at its discretion, in recognition of outstanding service rendered, or for contributions made to the Club, for not less than five years, confer upon a person honorary membership for life and that person may have one vote.

Membership fees

For club insurance purposes, no person is permitted to ride on Club grounds until full membership payment has been received by the Club, and a membership application made to and accepted by the Club.

Find our Membership application form and fee schedule at www.mclarendistrictsridingclub.net.

- Club membership starts on 1st January of each year and ends on the 31st of December in the same year.
- Half yearly membership runs from 1st July to 31st December each year.
- Day pass memberships are available for non-members to attend open events.

Membership benefits

Members may use the grounds and facilities at any time outside of rally days, unless the grounds are booked out by another user or weather conditions make the grounds unsuitable for use.

The Committee will issue a combination code to unlock the gate at the grounds entrance for each membership (calendar) year.

Due to club insurance and liability requirements, private use of the grounds is strictly limited to members only. Misuse of grounds, including sharing the access code with non- financial members or allowing non-members to ride your horse on Club grounds, will result in your membership being revoked.

4. Member volunteer contributions

We ask our members to contribute, by way of volunteer assistance, with:

1. The smooth running of events (rally days and open events)
2. Allowing all members time to be able to participate
3. The maintenance of club grounds
4. Ensuring membership fees are kept to a minimum.

It is a membership requirement that all members give a minimum of 4 hours of volunteer service per year.

Signing the membership form is acknowledgement and acceptance of this requirement.

In addition to the compulsory requirements listed above, members are asked to assist with setting up/packing away of equipment and help where needed on the rally days that they attend.

5. Program

Rallies are held at the grounds generally once a month on a Sunday, or as programmed by the Committee.

The program is subject to change due to weather conditions or availability of instructors, judges and venues.

Committee will notify members if changes to the program are necessary. We will reschedule cancelled events, where possible.

Find the program at www.mclarendistrictsridingclub.net.

You can also find regular updates about the Club, including upcoming rallies, news, and competition times, at our Facebook Page: @mclarendistrictsridingclub.

6. Attending Club events

Participants and visitors must sign in at the club rooms at every club event.

You must pay entry for all instruction and competition days before participating.

For some events, you will receive a wristband when payment is received and you sign in on arrival at the Club. You must present this wristband to enter any classes.

Weather

Where the Bureau of Meteorology's forecast temperature is 34 degrees or higher for Noarlunga on the Friday evening preceding a Club event, the event will automatically be cancelled. Committee will advise members and entrants via email and Facebook of any re- scheduling for that event.

If the grounds are too wet for use, the Committee will advise members and entrants via email and Facebook of any rescheduling for that event.

Canteen

Uniforms, drinks and snacks are available for purchase from the canteen at most events. Lunch will also be available on Open Competition days and some rally days. Members may be asked to help on rally days with the canteen or BBQ in addition to the compulsory volunteer hours, or to provide a cake or sweets for the canteen.

Yards

We have day yards available for use at rallies and events. When booking an event on nominate you can pre-booked at a cost of \$10 per yard to guarantee the yard is held for you or take a chance that one is available on the day to use.

The yard are first come-first served basis.

You must leave the yard clean and tidy when you depart.

Float Parking

Please park where directed, and try to minimise the space you take up. We have limited parking available, so need to ensure we are economical with our parking.

You must have your float attached to a towing vehicle if a horse is tied to the float.

Manure

An essential part of our lease agreement with the McLaren Flat Recreation Grounds is that manure is to be spread only within the clubs boundary i.e. the grassed area inside the fence.

Do not leave manure in the float parking area, around trees or anywhere outside the fenced area of the riding club grounds.

Grounds

Entry gates must be closed at all times when horses are present. Please only take horses through the signed horse gate.

Dogs are not allowed within the grounds when horses are present and must be on a leash in other areas. This is a safety requirement under the Club's risk management policy.

Smoking is not permitted within 20 metres of the clubrooms. Place all rubbish in the bins before you leave.

7. Safety

Safety is imperative for you, your horse and bystanders, and must be given the highest priority.

Participants must wear a helmet that meets current Equestrian Australia (EA)-approved standards and flat-soled riding boots at all times when riding. Visit our website to see if your helmet meets the current standards. EA helmet tagging will be available at some events - the dates and times will be advised on the Club's Facebook page.

Participants must wear an appropriate safety vest when participating in jumping events. Family and friends assisting you should wear suitable footwear to prevent any injury.

Please familiarise yourself with any First Aid trained people in attendance. These details will be provided at the clubrooms.

Spectators should be aware of horse movement at all times and take due care when in the Club grounds. Spectators must give way to horses at all times. Small children must be in the care of a responsible adult at all times.

Horses known to kick must wear a red tail ribbon. All horses being ridden over jumps must wear front boots.

Only one horse at a time is permitted in the round yard. Horses must not be lunged in the arena.

Do not ride closer than 2 metres to the rear of another horse. Allow an even greater distance if the horse in front has a red ribbon in its tail, indicating that it may be prone to kicking.

Travel in the same direction as other riders when warming up. When passing oncoming riders, pass left hand to left hand. Never pass another rider from behind at a fast pace, especially if that horse is young or green.

Don't let your horse run close to or through spectators or other horses – common sense and safety go hand in hand.

If your horse is unsettled, please use your discretion to ensure your safety and that of other members and their horses by moving away quickly to avoid any potential problems. If you are unable to settle your horse, please ask for assistance.

Stallions are not permitted to attend McLaren Districts Riding Club events.

Horses are to be properly treated and cared for. Members must comply with any direction from the Club and its associates to retire an unwell or unsound horse from any club event.

Any neglect, ill treatment or bad behaviour towards a horse will result in the offending person being counselled by the Committee.

Abusive behaviour will not be tolerated, offenders will be asked to leave the grounds.

8. How to ensure gear safety

Members are responsible for ensuring their horse's gear and equipment is well-fitted, appropriate to the horse, fit for purpose, and in good repair.

Keeping your gear in good condition will prevent cracking of the leather and possible breakage.

You should regularly check your gear to ensure it is in good condition and isn't showing signs of rotting, damage or cracking leather, paying particular attention to:

- the stitching and buckles on your bridle, and
- the girth points and attached webbing on your saddle, and
- the stitching and buckles on your stirrup leathers

You may like to get a reputable saddler to check your saddle for wear in areas of which you may not be aware. They will also be able to advise you when to have the saddle repacked or the gullet altered to properly fit your horse, which is especially important as your horse changes condition and shape.

The stirrups should not be too small or too large for the rider. Generally, a 1.5cm clearance at each side of the boot is required.

The girth itself should be in good order and kept clean to prevent girth galls or breakage.

9. Insurance

McLaren Districts Riding Club holds a current public liability insurance policy. This is NOT personal injury insurance.

Individual members and/or their guardians are responsible for seeking professional advice to decide what is appropriate in their circumstances. One source of information members might find useful is Equestrian SA.

10. Uniform Non-competition days

Members are expected to wear neat and tidy dress to all club events.

Jodhpurs may be light or dark colour, but please no excessively bright or multi coloured jodhpurs.

It is preferred that members wear Club uniform and a black Club saddle cloth with club logo, but this isn't mandatory.

Uniform items are available in the club room for sizing, and can be ordered on rally days.

Competition uniform

Dress code for competitions will be at the discretion of the committee, and advertised as part of each competition.

11. Club Trophies

At the committee's discretion, the Club may provide a range of trophies at the conclusion of each riding club year. These are presented at the last event of the season.

Earn points by:

- attending club rally days (clinics, competitions, and general rallies) o 5 points per sign-on
- wearing the club uniform to rally days (one item minimum e.g. saddle blanket and/or club shirt)
- 3 points maximum for one or more uniform items
- placing up to 4th place in a club competition
- 12 points for 1st place
- 8 points for 2nd place
- 5 points for 3rd place
- 2 points for 4th place
- volunteering at any club event including our rally days, sausage sizzle and BBQ fundraisers, and MDRC-hosted dinners at the McLaren Flat Community Club
- 5 points per event

You must sign in on arrival to earn points for each rally.

High Point (Senior & Junior)

Presented to the senior and junior members who have received the highest points throughout the riding club year for attendance, competition placings, uniform, and volunteering.

Encourage Trophy (Senior & Junior)

This award is at the discretion of the committee and presented to any member who has shown improvement and commitment throughout the riding club year.

The Tosca Cup – Best all-rounder in memory of Tosca, the best all-rounder!

Presented to the horse/pony that has shown themselves to be of good temperament and has participated in all disciplines of equestrian sports associated with the Club (although not necessarily having won).

Volunteer Trophy

Presented to a member or person who has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to the Club throughout the year.

12. Biosecurity

Members must only bring horses that are healthy and sound to club days and events. Members must comply with any direction from coaches, coordinators and committee to remove a horse showing symptoms of infectious or contagious disease from the club grounds. Members must provide their Property Identification Code for disease traceback.

13. Website/Facebook

Website: www.mclarendistrictsridingclub.net Facebook: @mclarendistrictsridingclub
Find all the information you need about the Club on our website, including the current program, upcoming events, photos from previous events, and how to become a member.

The Committee regularly update the website and Facebook page, providing the best way to keep informed of what is happening at the club.

Please be aware when signing your membership form of the clause stating you give your permission for photos taken of you and your horse at Club events to be posted on the Club's website and/or Facebook page.

Social media

Members are expected to comply with the Club's Code of Conduct when using any form of social media or internet publishing with respect to the Club, its activities and its associates.

14. Additional references

- McLaren Districts Riding Club Inc Constitution 2013
- McLaren Districts Riding Club Risk Management Plan 2021
- McLaren Districts Riding Club Codes of Conduct
- McLaren Districts Riding Club Child Safe Environments Policy

If a matter arises that is not covered by existing Club documents, then the following documents may be relied upon:

- Equestrian Australia rules and regulations;
- Corporations (South Australia) Act 1990;
- Any other relevant legal instruments or rules.

15. Version control

Date	Notes
2019	
25/02/2024	Revised to reflect current policies and practices as agreed by committee.

Attachment A: McLaren Districts Riding Club By-Laws

MEMBERSHIP FEES

1.1 Fees shall be determined for the following year at the Annual General Meeting and shall be payable on the first mounted rally day.

1.2 Members renewing membership and those joining before 30th June shall pay full membership fees. Those joining after 30th June shall pay one half of membership fees or a proportion as set by the committee.

UNIFORM

2.1 The uniform of the Riding Club consists of jodhpurs (preferably bone, beige, white or banana coloured), club polo shirt or black t-shirt, vest or jacket with Club logo and black saddle cloth with club logo. Any hard hat as approved by the Horse Riding Club Assoc (with safety harness) and either short topped elastic sided fully soled riding boots (as recommended for juniors) or long top riding boots. Club competition days require the polo shirt to be substituted for a white collared shirt worn with the black club tie with gold and red diagonal striping club and bone jodhpurs.

2.2 Members are encouraged to wear uniform at all Riding Club functions.

2.3 All riders attending a rally day must wear helmet and boots as described in 2.1 whilst on horseback.

SADDLERY

3.1 All horses are to be ridden in a saddle and bridle. Any variations in tack are subject to the discretion of the Riding Master and their appropriateness to the activity.

RALLY DAYS

4.1 Rally/open days shall be held on the second and fourth Sundays, or as per the program set by the committee at the commencement of the season.

4.2 Any rider or other member acting in an offensive or discourteous manner or in a manner likely to endanger others or their horses, render themselves liable to suspension from activities at the discretion of the Committee in attendance and to be reported to the committee for any further action.

4.3 No non-financial members to ride on club grounds.

4.4 Mounted members must display proof of financial membership.

STALLIONS

5.1 No stallion is to be brought to any Riding Club function.

DOGS

6.1 No dogs to be on club grounds during mounted rally days.

AGE OF HORSES

7.1 A horse should be a minimum of 4 years of age before taking part in jumping at Riding Club events.

7.2 The age at which a horse is capable of being ridden in flatwork at Riding Club events may vary slightly and will be considered individually by the committee.

INSURANCE

8.1 The Club provides public liability insurance only. It is up to the individual members to provide their own personal insurance for themselves and their horses.

AGE OF MEMBERS

9.1 Members are considered to be juniors if under 18 years of age, If turning 18 in the year of membership renewal they are then a senior.

Officially updated and lodged with Office of Consumer and Business Affairs 8/3/01

9.1 updated at AGM 9/12/01

1.1,1.2,4.4,4.5 & 6.1 updated at Special General Meeting 9/7/02