



# Pony Club Association of Queensland Inc.

Pony Club House  
Unit 11, 913-915 Ann Street  
PO Box 2378

Fortitude Valley BC 4006  
ABN: 49 040 247 044

Phone: (07) 3216 1255  
Fax: (07) 3216 0255  
email: admin@pcaq.asn.au  
www.pcaq.asn.au

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## DOWNGRADING RULES

Combinations allowed to "Ride Down" in the following manner:

A horse/rider combination may ride down a grade below the horse's existing grade with the commencing points of the lower grade, or if riding down more than one grade starting with half the commencing points the next grade.

### *Example*

Showjumping C Grade to D Grade start with 0 points  
A & B Grade to D Grade start with 8 points (half)  
A & B Grade to C Grade start with 16 points

Eventing Preliminary to Introductory start with 0 points  
Pre Novice or above to Introductory start with 5 points (half)  
Pre Novice to Preliminary start with 11 points

Dressage Novice to Preliminary start with 0 points  
Elementary to Preliminary start with 15 points (half)  
Elementary to Novice start with 30 points

Riders then work their way up through the grades **OR** may apply to return to the horse's original grade when they feel ready **OR** move up one grade when ready.

When the rider's points have reached the original grade of the horse, the horse will commence at the points accrued thus far. The horse does not start with the points it had before downgrading.

- **Horse/Rider combination can only be downgraded once.**
- **Rider/owner may only downgrade one horse per calendar year.**
- **A horse can only be downgraded once per calendar year.**
- **A rider who has successfully achieved a grade of competition (A/B or C) will not be permitted to downgrade a horse of that same grade to a lower grade.**
- **A rider who can demonstrate they have not competed at their horse's grade of competition or higher (Pony Club or EA based events) for a period of two years will be permitted to downgrade their horse one level only.**
- **The downgrading ONLY applies to the Horse/Rider combination.**
- **If after downgrading is approved, the horse competes with any rider in its original grade, or any height above the downgrading height in pony club OR ANY OTHER competition, then they will assume the pony club grading of the equivalent height.**

Riders need to have owned/leased a downgraded horse for a period of six months prior to competing at a State Championship & achieved the qualifying criteria at two other events, with the exception of Horse Trials where qualifying at one event is sufficient.

**Please keep original card & downgrade card together at all times**