



PONY RACING
—AUSTRALIA—

What is Pony Racing



Pony Racing is an exciting sport that's been administered in Ireland, England, and the US for some time. It varies slightly from country to country but is a sport that predominantly involves young riders and their ponies competing on a racecourse.

It is important to note, Pony Racing is NOT about speed, the emphasis is on advancing your riding ability and skill, learning how to better control your pony, your balance, and the fitness and well-being of both you and your pony.

It is also a chance to explore the vast range of career opportunities available in the thoroughbred industry, which spans from media to veterinary, marketing, breeding, sales, hands-on horse care, riding roles and much more.

In Australia, Thoroughbred Industry Careers (TIC), in conjunction with Pony Club Australia (PCA) has been running pop-up exhibition races around the country to showcase this sport. Given their popularity, we are now developing a series of races for riders aged between 9-15 yrs.

Many Pony Racing riders in Europe have had very successful careers in the thoroughbred industry worldwide.

How will it work?

TASTER DAYS

Everyone is welcome (all ages on any size pony or horse) to come and have a fun day and learn new skills. The only criteria for this day are that you need to be able to walk, trot and canter independently in a group situation.

TRAINING DAYS

These days will be made up of riders and ponies who are SELECTED from the taster days (and have expressed interest) to further their skills towards displaying their ability and control on a racetrack.

RACE DAYS

Fields of 10 will be SELECTED from the TRAINING DAYS (in two age/height categories - see more information) to compete on a racetrack.

*All riders must be a current Pony Club member.

What is a TASTER DAY?

Local Pony Clubs in conjunction with TIC and PCA will be running taster days on Pony Racing where everyone of all ages and sizes (horses/ponies) who can walk, trot and canter independently and in a group situation are welcome to come and learn new skills including:

- Health and well-being of horse and rider
- Riding with control and balance
- Mount and rider fitness with advice on equine feed programs
- Explanation of Pony Racing and what it entails
- General racing rules and safety expectations
- Careers in the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry

The opportunity to be selected to compete on one of Australia's best racecourses.

Who's welcome to a TASTER DAY?

All ages and sizes of riders who can walk, trot and canter independently and in a group situation are welcome to come and learn new skills.

At these TASTER DAYS, riders who wish to progress to the next level (and are within the Pony Race selection criteria) will be invited to progress to the next stage of Pony Racing, the TRAINING DAYS.

The Eligible criteria for selection to the next stage are:

Riders aged between 9-15 yrs on a pony 12.2hh or under
Riders aged between 9-15 yrs on a pony 13.3hh or under
*Age at 1st January 2023

TRAINING DAYS

If you have been SELECTED to attend a TRAINING DAY, riders and their ponies will attend a racetrack and further their skills towards displaying their ability and control on a course.

Final fields and reserves for RACE DAYS will be selected on these training days.

RACE DAYS

Final fields will line up in two races on a selected race day. Riders will be supplied silks from famous racing stables, studs or owners and be mentored by leading jockeys and industry people to prepare them for the race.

Race Categories

450m - ponies 12.2hh and under (riders aged 9-15yrs)
650m - ponies 13.3hh and under (riders aged 9-15 yrs)
*Age at 1st January 2023

What do I need?

For the TASTER DAYS, all you need is your regular rally day uniform and gear compliant with the PCA National Gear rules

For the TRAINING DAYS, all-purpose saddles or jump saddles will be required, along with other gear compliant with the PCA National Gear rules.

About Thoroughbred Industry Careers (TIC)

TIC was founded in 2019 to address the lack of awareness of careers in the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry. TIC is a not-for-profit organisation backed by the preeminent stables, studs and owners in the industry.

Gallop towards a racing career.

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