

3.28 Policy

Afterschool Equestrian Policy



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Afterschool Equestrian Policy

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to outline Victory College's vision for the Afterschool Equestrian Program offered to College families.	
Scope:	The policy covers parents/carers, students and staff and describes the College's desire for a program that is open to students of all ages and riding abilities; from young students still on lead-line, through to advanced students who spend every weekend attending competitions.	
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.20 Complaints Policy• 3.29 Victory College Equestrian Policy• 3.30 Bus Facility and Equestrian Policy• Form - Equestrian Team Information and Participation	
Supersedes:	Not Applicable	
Authorised by:	Victory College Committee of Management	Date of Authorisation: April 2023
Review Date:	Biennially	Next Review Date: April 2025
Policy Owner:	Victory College Committee of Management	



INTRODUCTION

This Policy has been developed for parents of students who are wishing to participate in the Afterschool Equestrian Program. This program is open to students of all ages and riding abilities; from young students still on lead-line, through to advanced students who spend every weekend attending competitions.

In order to join the Afterschool Equestrian Program, students will require their own horse, tack and transportation i.e. horse float. Parents must also ensure appropriate clothing for riding is provided. There is a \$100 levy (per student, per term) to participate in the Afterschool Equestrian Program. This levy must be paid at the commencement of each College Term. Only once the levy has been paid is the student able to participate in the program.

Lessons are held after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the school term, in the Equestrian Centre. The Afterschool Equestrian Program is overseen and ran by the College's Equestrian Coordinator with the support of Senior College Leadership. Parents must also complete and submit the Colleges **Equestrian Team Information and Participation Form** prior to students participating in the Afterschool Equestrian Program.

VISION

Victory College's vision for its Equestrian facilities is to be utilised by its College students enabling them to have access to state of the art facilities, being the first undercover arena in Queensland at a private College. The approach taken by the College for the Afterschool Equestrian Program is that of a community group environment. There are no individual private lessons provided to students; it is group coaching provided to students at an extremely affordable rate.

The Afterschool Equestrian Program is an extra-curricular activity available for students who attend Victory College. It is not a Pony Club nor is it an Equestrian Australia Club. It is Victory Equestrian, a place for students to come and participate in lessons and attain skills and knowledge about a discipline of equestrian that they may have not had access too or an interest in without the College's program.

AFTERSCHOOL LESSONS

The Afterschool Equestrian Program commences the second week of each College Term. Lessons are available each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. There are three time slots available for lessons being 3.15pm, 4.15pm and 5.15pm. The lessons are broken down into skill levels, with the more novice riders participating in the earlier time slots. The Equestrian Coordinator nominates Coaches at the commencement of each Term who instruct on their nominated afternoon. It is the Coaches discretion to stipulate the level for the rider with the advancement or lowering of the level of competency coming into effect the following lesson. However should the horse and/or rider be participating in the incorrect level and pose a danger to either the student, another participant and/or the Coach, then the removal and/or relocation to a different class will take place immediately.

There is a one horse/per student cap each afternoon. Students are only permitted to attend one lesson an afternoon. Students do not have to attend three afternoons a week. Victory



College encourages students and parents to find a class and discipline that suits the horse and rider and attend those lessons, while encouraging students to reach out into different disciplines to broaden their equestrian skills and knowledge.

Each lesson runs for an hour in length. The first fifteen minutes of the lesson is dedicated to tacking up, gear checks and warm up of the horse. Students and horses must be mounted on their horse, warmed up and ready to commence their lesson fifteen minutes after the lesson commencement time. For example:

- 3.15pm Lesson – Horse tacked, gear checked, horse warmed up and in the arena ready to commence the lesson at 3.30pm
- 4.15pm Lesson – Horse tacked, gear checked, horse warmed up and in the arena ready to commence the lesson at 4.30pm
- 5.15pm Lesson – Horse tacked, gear checked, horse warmed up and in the arena ready to commence the lesson at 5.30pm

Should a horse and rider arrive late to their nominated lesson, then entry into the lesson late will be at the discretion of the instructing Coach.

Tuesday afternoon lessons have been dedicated to the show jumping discipline. The participation of this discipline relies solely on parent and student volunteers to assist with setting up the jump course for the afternoon as provided by the Coaches. The Coaches will provide the course information via the College's Equestrian Facebook page. The Equestrian Coordinator will be onsite to oversee the set up of the course, with the assistance from parent volunteers.

There are two classes being taught by two Coaches simultaneously in the large covered arena. One Coach will be dedicated to the more competent of the two groups, with the other Coach focussing on the less competent group. The timeslots and classes for Tuesday are as follows:-

- **Show jumping**
 - 2 x 3.15pm – Novices/Young Students (lead liners/trotting poles)
 - 2 x 4.15pm – Young Students (semi competent)
 - 2 x 5.15pm – Advanced (competent and able to successfully jump)

Wednesday afternoon lessons is only one class being taught in the large covered arena. However, there are two time slots for the first lesson, as set out below:-

- **Flatwork**
 - 3.15pm – **Equestrian Coordinators Beginners Guide to Equestrian**
 - This is a lesson for extremely novice riders (young riders on a lead line). This lesson will go for as long as the students and horse would like to participate.
 - 3.15pm – Novices/Young Students
 - 4.15pm – Semi Competent
 - 5.15pm – Advanced



Thursday afternoon lessons have been dedicated to the flat work discipline. There are two classes being taught by two Coaches simultaneously in the large covered arena. One Coach will be dedicated to the more competent of the two groups, with the other Coach focussing on the less competent group. The timeslots and classes for Thursday are as follows:-

- **Flatwork**
 - 2 x 3.15pm – Novices/Young Students (lead liners/trotting poles)
 - 2 x 4.15pm – Semi competent
 - 2 x 5.15pm – Advanced

NOMINATING FOR LESSONS

Once parents have paid for the Levy for the Term to participate in the Afterschool Equestrian Program, parents are emailed a link and booking code by College Administration. Using the link supplied in the email from the College parents are then able to insert their booking code and nominate the days and sessions they would like the College student to participate in.

Each booking code only lasts for a period of one Term. At the commencement of the following Term, once parents have paid for the Terms levies, they will be provided a new link and code.

SAFETY & BIOSECURITY

Parents and Students may stable their horses at the Victory College Equestrian Centre during the day for lessons scheduled for that afternoon. No horses may be stabled or agisted overnight. When the horse is placed into the stable, the horse's name and the name of the person responsible for the horse must be clearly labelled on the stable door. All manure, wet or soiled bedding must be removed from the stable and placed on the manure pile and replaced with clean sawdust/wood shavings before departure that afternoon. All buckets and feed must also be removed from the stable, even if the horse is returning the following day for lessons.

Students who participate in the final lesson for the afternoon are not permitted to use the stables to feed their horses, as this time should be utilised in cleaning the stable used by the horse and departing the equestrian facility.

Safety in relation to arrival and departure of vehicles and floats, and student safety in the Equestrian Facility is addressed in the College's Bus Facility and Equestrian Policy available on the College website.

All other biosecurity information and declarations are contained in the Colleges **Equestrian Team Information and Participation Form**.

EXPECTATION FROM COACHES & THE COLLEGE

There are expectations placed on College students when participating in any extra curricular activity at Victory College and the Afterschool Equestrian Program is no exception. Students must behave in the same manner in which they would whilst attending the College during the school day.



The covered arena is viewed by Victory College as a classroom for its attending equestrian Coaches, providing them with facilities to instruct our students in the disciplines around equestrian, resulting in valuable lessons at a very reasonable cost.

The instructing Coach is to be shown the same respect and honour that the College students and their parents show College staff. If a Coach is instructing a lesson then the students participating are to follow the directions given by the Coach. Parents who are spectators must remain silent and not interfere with any lessons or coaching taking place regardless of their personal views and/or opinions.

Coaches instructing classes have the ability to assess horses and riders and how they synch together. If at any time a Coach is not confident in the student's level or skill for that discipline, then the Coach may refer the student to a different skill level and class. Further if the Coach deems that the student's skill level does not match the level of the horse being ridden that afternoon, the Coach will inform the student and/or parents that the horse is not suited to the Afterschool Equestrian Program. If the parents dispute the Coaches request, then the Equestrian Coordinator will be requested to assess the horse and rider capabilities and provide a decision. The Equestrian Coordinator makes the final decision in relation to horses attending the Afterschool Equestrian Program and parents must support the decision made. If the Equestrian Coordinator is unavailable or the Coach deems it unsafe, the student and horse will be excused from the remainder of the lessons for the day. If a horse is deemed unsafe then the Equestrian Coordinator will determine the length of time that the horse is excused from the Afterschool Equestrian Program. The horse may only be permitted back into the program once the horse and rider have shown the correct level of competency to the Equestrian Coordinator.

Should the Coach and/or Equestrian Coordinator address a student, or their parent, for poor behaviour or conduct, then the student and/or parent will be requested to leave the Afterschool Equestrian Program for the remainder of the day. For example, should a student be removed from a 4.15pm lesson, then the student is not able to then participate in the 5.15pm lesson.

In cases where parents believe a complaint is required, parents are reminded not to approach Coaches or the Equestrian Coordinator. Only complaints following the College's Complaints procedures, will be considered by the College. Any complaints wanting to be made by parents in relation to the Afterschool Equestrian Program can be made in accordance with the College's Complaints Policy located on the Victory College website.