



1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

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### **2022 S A Pony Rider Derby Statement**

Dear Parents and Competitors of the 2022 SA Pony Rider Derby

The rule for the SA Derby title is as follows:

*SECTION 3 – 4.4.2 The Derby shall not be classified as Official, nor the trophies and medals awarded, unless there are at least 10(ten) starters in ‘the Derby Competition’.*

*Should the number be less than 10 applications may be made to SASJ Exco for dispensation to this rule.*

In 2021 the SASJ Exco was criticized for a decision made by the SASJ Council for the Junior Derby to qualify as a National title, with less than 10 starters in the class.

Following Council’s decision to allow a dispensation in 2021, Exco was criticised of ‘bastardising’ the sport, and diluting the importance and status of the SA Junior title.

Exco was also ‘warned’ that if a dispensation for SA Pony Champs 2021 was given, the importance of the SA PR Championship title would also be minimized.

At a time that Exco is now trying to uphold the rules and principles of the sport we have been criticized for not instantly giving a dispensation for the 2022 SA Pony Rider Derby to take place with fewer than 10 starters.

At no stage do we want to stifle the sport and prevent any athletes from competing for a National title.

We do however want to be consistent and transparent at all times in the application of the rules.

Notwithstanding all of the above, a dispensation is granted for the 2022 South African PR Derby to be an official National title, with 8 starters or more at a height of 1.10m.

SASJ

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