

BD Youth

Squads and Regional Training



Whether you're training or competing with BD Youth you can work your way through our amazing squad system. You can train and compete with your squad at Regional camps and competitions!

Riders will enter at D Squad (until the end of the calendar year of their 11th birthday), C Squad (until the end of the calendar year of their 14th birthday) or C+ Squad (entry level for riders joining BD Youth in the year of their 15th birthday) and progress your way through to reach the A Squad.

Instead of looking at traditional dressage movements, Youth riders are assessed on the difference you make to your horse and your level of understanding.

Every rider has an equal chance to excel!



All riders are required to have had a Formal Squad Assessment if they wish to apply for regional team selection and/or apply for the Foundation Academies. The Inter Regionals team competition is a competition specifically for squad riders. Selection for the Inter Regionals team competition is based on rider skills test marks, where there is more of a focus on the rider's position and effectiveness within a competitive environment.

THE SQUADS

There are three squads in which riders are placed according to their age. D, C and C+, all riders are required to attend a Formal Squad Assessment every year, but riders only need to be considered for squad upgrade if:

1. They are in **C+ Squad**, and are performing above that level
2. They won at the Youth Inter-Regionals so must move up a squad level.

There is no lower age limit on any of the squads and it is rare for a rider to have the experience and understanding for a squad higher than their entry squad, moving into a new squad before you are ready could put you at a disadvantage when contesting team places and other opportunities.

There is a Formal Squad Assessment/Evaluation Record for each Squad that will provide you and your parents with feedback from the coach/assessor to show you how you can develop further. Each squad has set criteria and you will be identified as 'Emerging', 'Developing', or 'Performing' in each area, this will inform whether you are recommended to upgrade.

- If any area on the criteria is **emerging**, you shouldn't move up a squad unless your age requires it.
- If you are **developing** in all areas, you are probably mid-range of your current squad, and will be encouraged to work towards performing in all areas.
- If you are **performing** in all areas, you will be top end of the squad and possibly nearing the time to move up a squad.



FORMAL SQUAD ASSESSMENT

The Formal Squad Assessments run from 1 December through to Inter-Regional cut-off date of the following year, where riders will be assigned to the appropriate BD Youth squad.

An in-person Formal Squad Assessment will be a coaching session, with no requirement to ride through either a dressage test or a Youth Rider Skills Test. The session will last around 30 minutes for a private session, or 45 minutes for a semi-private – with an additional 5 minutes allowed for a debrief at the end.

An online Formal Squad Assessment will require the rider to submit a video of the combination's training and take part in a short discussion with a Youth Assessor, online. More information about online assessments is available on the Remote Squad Assessment Guidance document.

SQUAD EVALUATION

The squad evaluation sheets are an ongoing training tool to monitor development and encourage a youth member to move up through the squad levels, a Squad Evaluation may be done at any time during the calendar year.

The sessions will be interactive and fun – just like other BD Youth activities!

For an idea of the criteria for each squad level take a look through the next few pages.

BD Youth D Squad Formal Assessment/Evaluation record



BD Youth D Squad Formal Squad Assessment/Evaluation Record



| Squad Assessment YES / NO <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i> | | Evaluation Session YES / NO | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Date: | | Venue: | |
| Rider's Name: | | Coach/Assessor: | |
| Rider's Name: | | Pony/Horse's Name: | |
| Emerging: An area that is currently limiting the rider's capability to achieve the criteria for D Squad but may be starting to emerge. | | Developing: An area in which the rider demonstrates some capability to achieve the criteria for D Squad but needs to develop more consistency. | |
| | | Performing: An area in which the rider is confidently achieving the criteria for D Squad. | |
| <i>Tick any highlights and underline those that require focus.</i> | | <i>Circle/delete as appropriate</i> | |
| | | Remarks <i>Riders should demonstrate knowledge relevant to their level.</i> | |
| Position Developing the skills needed to attain a correct, balanced position. A rider who has the skills to maintain balanced through most of the work. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Effectiveness and influence on the way of going A rider who shows the skills needed to ride in a fair rhythm and correct bend where necessary. Aware of when the pony is working happily forward and uses tactful aids. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Understanding and Knowledge A rider who demonstrates some understanding of the performance level required at D Squad, both in their riding skills and the way of going of their pony. Has the confidence to develop their performance under supervision. A rider probably in need of parental support but who shows some interest in learning new skills. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| COACH/ASSESSOR'S SIGNATURE: | | | |

BD Youth C Squad Formal Assessment/Evaluation record



BD Youth C Squad Formal Squad Assessment/Evaluation Record



| Squad Assessment YES / NO <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i> | | Evaluation Session YES / NO | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Date: | | Venue: | |
| Rider's Name: | | Coach/Assessor: | |
| Rider's Name: | | Pony/Horse's Name: | |
| Emerging: An area that is currently limiting the rider's capability to achieve the criteria for C Squad but may be starting to emerge. | | Developing: An area in which the rider demonstrates some capability to achieve the criteria for C Squad but needs to develop more consistency. | |
| | | Performing: An area in which the rider is confidently achieving the criteria for C Squad. | |
| <i>Tick any highlights and underline those that require focus.</i> | | <i>Circle/delete as appropriate</i> | |
| | | Remarks <i>Riders should demonstrate knowledge relevant to their level.</i> | |
| Position Developing the skills needed to attain a correct, balanced position. A rider who has the skills to follow the horse's movement in working paces. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Effectiveness and influence on the way of going A rider who shows the skills needed to maintain a fair rhythm, contact and correct bend where necessary. Aware of developing a harmonious partnership. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Understanding and Knowledge A rider who demonstrates some understanding of the performance level required at C Squad, both in their riding skills and the way of going of their horse. Has the confidence to develop their performance under supervision. A rider likely to need parental support but who shows some initiative in organising and planning. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| COACH/ASSESSOR'S SIGNATURE: | | | |

BD Youth C+ Squad Formal Assessment/Evaluation record



BD Youth C+ Squad Formal Squad Assessment/Evaluation Record



| Squad Assessment YES / NO <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i> | | Evaluation Session YES / NO | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Date: | | Venue: | |
| Rider's Name: | | Coach/Assessor: | |
| Rider's Name: | | Pony/Horse's Name: | |
| Emerging: An area that is currently limiting the rider's capability to achieve the criteria for C+ Squad but may be starting to emerge. | | Developing: An area in which the rider demonstrates some capability to achieve the criteria for C+ Squad but needs to develop more consistency. | |
| Performing: An area in which the rider is confidently achieving the criteria for C+ Squad. | | | |
| <i>Tick any highlights and underline those that require focus.</i> | | <i>Circle/delete as appropriate</i> | |
| | | Remarks <i>Riders should demonstrate knowledge relevant to their level, without prompting.</i> | |
| Position Developing the skills needed to attain a correct, balanced position. A rider who has the skills to follow the horse's movement in working paces. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Effectiveness and influence on the way of going A rider who shows the skills needed to maintain a fair rhythm, bend (suppleness) and contact in all three paces and is aware of the horse's straightness. Aware of developing a harmonious partnership. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Understanding and Knowledge A rider who demonstrates the understanding of the performance level required at C+ Squad, both in their riding skills and the way of going of their horse. Has the confidence to develop their performance under supervision. A rider who may require parental support regarding organisation and planning but is showing some enthusiasm and initiative in this area. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| COACH/ASSESSOR'S SIGNATURE: | | | |

BD Youth B Squad Formal Assessment/Evaluation record



BD Youth B Squad Formal Squad Assessment/Evaluation Record



| Squad Assessment YES / NO <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i> | | Evaluation Session YES / NO |
|--|---|--|
| Date: | Venue: | Coach/Assessor: |
| Rider's Name: | | Pony/Horse's Name: |
| Emerging: An area that is currently limiting the rider's capability to achieve the criteria for B Squad but may be starting to emerge. | Developing: An area in which the rider demonstrates some capability to achieve the criteria for B Squad but needs to develop more consistency. | Performing: An area in which the rider is confidently achieving the criteria for B Squad. |
| <i>Tick any highlights and underline those that require focus.</i> | <i>Circle/delete as appropriate</i> | Remarks <i>Riders should demonstrate knowledge relevant to their level, without prompting.</i> |
| Position A correct position showing some depth of seat, balance and security. A rider who has the skills to follow the horse's movement in working paces, and maintain good balance in the medium paces. | Emerging Developing Performing | NOT COPY |
| Effectiveness and influence on the way of going An effective rider demonstrating skills that positively influence their horse's rhythm, suppleness, contact and straightness. A sympathetic rider who has harmony with the horse, and deals with issues in a constructive and positive way. | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Understanding and Knowledge A rider who demonstrates an understanding of the performance level required at 'B' Squad, both in their riding skills and the way of going of their horse. Has the confidence to exercise their horse independently and develop their performance under supervision. A rider who is aware of goal setting/planning and shows skills and initiative to be actively involved in all aspects, in conjunction with parents/coaches etc. | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| COACH/ASSESSOR'S SIGNATURE: | | |

BD Youth B+ Squad Formal Assessment/Evaluation record



BD Youth B+ Squad Formal Squad Assessment/Evaluation Record



| Squad Assessment YES / NO <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i> | | Evaluation Session YES / NO | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Date: | | Venue: | |
| Rider's Name: | | Coach/Assessor: | |
| Rider's Name: | | Pony/Horse's Name: | |
| Emerging: An area that is currently limiting the rider's capability to achieve the criteria for B+ Squad, but may be starting to emerge. | | Developing: An area in which the rider demonstrates some capability to achieve the criteria for B+ Squad but needs to develop more consistency. | |
| | | Performing: An area in which the rider is confidently achieving the criteria for B+ Squad. | |
| <i>Tick any highlights and underline those that require focus.</i> | | <i>Circle/delete as appropriate</i> | |
| | | Remarks <i>Riders should demonstrate knowledge relevant to their level, without prompting.</i> | |
| Position A poised correct position showing depth and independence of seat, balance and security. A rider who has the skills to remain soft, balanced and supple through all the work. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Effectiveness and influence on the way of going An effective rider demonstrating skills that positively influence their horse's rhythm, suppleness, contact and straightness and impulsion. A sympathetic rider who has harmony with the horse, and deals with issues in a constructive and positive way. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Understanding and Knowledge A rider who demonstrates the understanding of the performance level required at B+ Squad, both in their riding skills and the way of going of their horse. Has the confidence to exercise the horse correctly independently and develop their performance under supervision. A rider who has some knowledge of goal setting/planning and self-reflection and has the necessary motivation and initiative to develop their skills in conjunction with parents/coaches etc. | | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| COACH/ASSESSOR'S SIGNATURE: | | | |

BD Youth A Squad Formal Assessment/Evaluation record



BD Youth A Squad Formal Squad Assessment/Evaluation Record



| Squad Assessment YES / NO <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i> | | Evaluation Session YES / NO |
|---|---|--|
| Date: | Venue: | Coach/Assessor: |
| Rider's Name: | | Pony/Horse's Name: |
| Emerging: An area that is currently limiting the rider's capability to achieve the criteria for A Squad, but may be starting to emerge. | Developing: An area in which the rider demonstrates some capability to achieve the criteria for A Squad but needs to develop more consistency. | Performing: An area in which the rider is confidently achieving the criteria for A Squad. |
| <i>Tick any highlights and underline those that require focus.</i> | <i>Circle/delete as appropriate</i> | Remarks <i>Riders should demonstrate knowledge relevant to their level, without prompting.</i> |
| Position A poised correct position with a deep and independent seat, demonstrating balance and security. A soft supple rider who has the skills to follow the horse's movement with ease at all times. | Emerging Developing Performing | NOT COPY |
| Effectiveness and influence on the way of going An effective rider demonstrating skills that positively influence their horse's rhythm, suppleness, contact, straightness, impulsion and engagement. A rider who shows empathy and harmony with their horse in all aspects of their riding. | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| Understanding and Knowledge A rider who demonstrates the understanding of the performance level required at A/YH Squad, both in their riding skills and the way of going of their horse. Has the confidence to develop their performance both independently and under supervision. A knowledgeable rider who plans, sets goals and self-reflects in order to develop their rider skills, enabling them to train their horse correctly and successfully through the levels. | Emerging Developing Performing | |
| COACH/ASSESSOR'S SIGNATURE: | | |