



# **CATTLEKIDS & PODDIES**

## **Mini Challenge**

### **2025 Official Rule Book**



**2024 Cattle Kids and Poddies with their group leaders**

## **Information:**

Welcome to all our CattleKids and Poddie riders to the 2025 Molyullah Get Together– we really want you to enjoy competing in our event, because we hope one day it will be you riding in our Open and impressing the crowd.

The CattleKids and Poddies are relatively new events, and this will be the second time they are run as a “mini challenge”. Both events are the same but are for different aged riders, and both are based on the Challenge ridden in by older competitors.

The Committee wishes everyone the best of luck throughout the weekend. We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable time, and please come and find us in the Secretary’s tent if you have any issues at all.

**To compete in the Cattlekids, riders must be aged between 11 – 13 on the day of competition.**

**To compete in the Poddies, riders must be aged between 7 – 10 on the day of competition.**

## **The Competition:**

The competition is set up in a similar format to the Challenge. Competitors must negotiate an obstacle course, must complete a dry-work pattern and must complete a whip-crack course. All phases of the competition will be age appropriate and while they are designed to test both rider and horse, our overall goal is to ensure everyone has a good time.

The challenges you will face are designed to introduce young riders to the types of riding required for the Junior Cattlemen’s Challenge.

Components MAY include speed riding (maximum canter), whip cracking, jumps and each year the challenges are tweaked to suit the terrain and provide variety. Riders will be given a generous maximum time to complete the courses.

Points are scored for negotiation of obstacles, the dry work and the whip crack – the maximum points are awarded for a first try success and points are deducted after that with the judges discretion being final.

The types of competition requirements that riders may face include seesaws, crossing bridges, small log jumps, flags. The dry work element will be an Australian Stockhorse Society pattern chosen and distributed before the competition. Whip Cracking should have the capability to crack their whip on their horse whilst aiming at targets. We recommend that all kids be comfortable with trotting and ideally cantering.

All CattleKids and Poddie riders will receive a letter one month from competition with a hint on what obstacles they can expect to help in preparation. This will also include a copy of their dry work pattern.

The event will be programmed for Friday, October 18 with the CattleKids running first followed by the Poddies.

## **Event Details**

The MCAV will accept up to 20 riders in each of the two competitions.

- **CattleKids entrants must be 11 and not older than 13 on the day of competition.**
- **Poddies entrants must be 7 and not older than 10.**

It is anticipated the event will commence at 12pm. Updates will be communicated at check in.

Any rider found to be mistreating their riding horse or any other horse or animal in their or another person’s care will be disqualified.



## **Parents/Guardians:**

As part of entry, a guardian must submit a signed waiver and acceptance of risk. All riders and their parent/guardian **must** register at the Event Secretary's Tent on Friday October 17 2025 prior to their event starting. All riders will receive their Registration Pack including event map, bib and advice regarding any changes prior to the event starting.

## **Other details:**

### **Vet and Gear Check**

Gear Check will take place prior to the event. A vet check may also be required if officials feel is required. All competitors must present their horse saddled. Any competitor that has not completed the relevant checks will not be permitted to compete. Please refer to the Cattlemen's Challenge rulebook for further information.



### **Riders Briefing**

There will be a time provided for course walk prior to each group starting their course. Rider briefing, will be mounted directly after gear check. Riders are permitted to have their parent/guardian with them. It is your responsibility to attend the Gear check, briefing and course walk.

### **Riders Profile/Details**

Please provide as much information as possible on your entry form about the rider and horse – what have they done together – what sort of horse - what are the highlights – ambitions – fun facts. It's great to have insights so our commentators can let the spectators know your story. Forms will be emailed.

### **Important points to remember**

- If your child needs to withdraw for whatever reason leading up to the event, please let us know as soon as possible as there may be other riders on a waiting list.
- All riders must wear a helmet at all times whilst mounted. Please refer to helmet regulations in either the Challenge or Obstacle Rulebooks, available for download at [www.mcav.com.au](http://www.mcav.com.au).
- It is recommended that all riders wear a safety vest, however this is not a requirement of the event.
- Dogs are permitted at the event providing they are kept under control and on a leash at all times.
- It is recommended that every rider have ambulance cover.
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour will not be tolerated.
- All Judges' decisions are final.
- All refunds subject to 20% admin fee. No refunds after close date without a medical or vet certificate. No refund on day of competition.

We are so excited to be hosting our fifth CattleKids mini challenge in 2025, and even more excited to be continuing our new format. We have endeavoured to provide kids with a challenging, yet achievable, course true to the Mountain Cattlemen and their heritage. We hope that you are excited about the event and would love to hear any and all feedback after the 2025 Get Together.

Many questions can be answered by reading through the Cattlemen's Challenge rulebook, but if you require further assistance or other information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

# Terms and Conditions:

## Horses

1. A rider must not misrepresent the identity of any horse in their or another person's care.
2. All horses participating in the event must be 4 years old and/or older.
3. A Veterinary Practitioner may conduct a pre-event inspection of all competition horses prior to the commencement of the event to determine fitness to complete the event. All decisions made are final.
4. Any horse deemed lame or unfit by the Veterinary Practitioner will not be permitted to take part in the event. The rider may present a reserve horse to the Veterinary Practitioner before the completion of the Vet and Gear Check and still be eligible to ride.
5. Horses used in the event must be free of any drug or substance that influences performance.
6. Horses with an infectious disease must not enter the venue at any time. If the owner becomes aware that their horse has contracted an infectious disease, they are to inform the Event Organisers immediately.

## Riders

1. Any rider under the influence of drugs or alcohol must not take part in the event.
2. A rider must not ride dangerously, compromise the welfare of a horse or another competitor.
3. Any rider who falls from a horse during the competition must be assessed by a First Aid member. Points will count up until the fall in whatever section of competition is being ridden. If there are still additional sections to be ridden, and if the rider is cleared by First Aid, the remaining sections may be completed. The rider may not finish the course where the fall occurred.
4. All riders must treat the animals they interact with humanely and obtain prompt veterinary assistance if a horse or any other animal they are in charge of becomes ill or injured.

## Gear

1. All gear will be inspected at the compulsory Vet and Gear Check prior to commencement of the event and must be in good repair, properly fitted and must not cause discomfort or injury to the horse.
2. All riders must wear an EA Approved helmet at all times whilst mounted (AS/NZ 3838 2006 onwards, ARB HS 2012, ASTM F1163 2004a or 04a onwards, SNELL E2001, PAS 015 1998 or 2011, VGI 01.040:2014-12).
3. Riding crops are not permitted at any time.
4. Standing martingales and/or tiedowns **must not be used at any time.**
5. All competitors to wear flat soled, riding boots, a long-sleeved shirt and riding trousers.
6. Australian stock whip must be carried for Cattle kids at all times, Poddies may attach their whip to the saddle.
7. Full length oil skin coat must be attached to saddle at all times.

## Other

1. A parent/guardian of Under 18 competitors **must** sign and return the Acceptance of Risk as part of the online entry.
2. All competitors and their parent/guardian are to treat Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Committee Members, Horse Event Coordinators, Judges, Stewards, Volunteers or person associated with the co-ordination of the event with respect at all times.
3. The judges' decision is final.
4. In extreme heat and/or adverse weather, the event may be cancelled, modified or moved to another time over the weekend. Safety of horse and rider will be the key consideration and refunds will not apply.

