

12-14 October 2018

★ Mystery Creek Event Centre ★

20-21 October 2018

★ Canterbury Agricultural Park ★

TOP TALENT

COMPETITOR INFO

Two competitions will run:
Equidays Top Talent Mystery Creek and Christchurch

Prize Money

- **Amateur: 1st \$800, 2nd \$400, 3rd \$200**
Amateur is someone who rides for fun and pleasure and takes NO payment for riding/training horses or riders. Prize money is excluded. Finalists in the amateur competition will be thoroughly checked for amateur status.
- **Professional: 1st \$2000, 2nd \$1000, 3rd \$500**
Professional is a trainer/clinician that takes payment of ANY kind for training of horses or riders. Or a competitor that is paid to compete horses.
- *The Equidays team reserve the right to adjust your category if required.*

What you need to know

- To audition, please complete the form and upload a two-four minute audition video here.
<https://fs22.formsite.com/mysterycreek/form98/index.html>
- Auditions open 31 July and close 2 September 2018.
- The top four in each category will be selected and notified by 17 September.
- Wild card online voting will take place 18-21 September.
- All finalists will be publicly announced 24 September.
- Top Talent entry fee applies only to the finalists selected.
- **Equidays:** A finalist's entry fee of \$150 is to be paid by Friday 28 September entry fee includes two wristbands, one for the performer and one for a groom, and one yard. Wristbands allow entry into Equidays for all three days. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday Night Shows and extra yards are to be purchased separately.
- **Equidays Christchurch:** A finalist's entry fee of \$125 is to be paid by Friday 28 September. This entry fee includes two wristbands, one for the performer and one for a groom, and one yard. Wristbands allow entry into Equidays Christchurch for both days. Tickets for the Masterclass, the Friday and Sunday nightshow and extra yards are to be purchased separately.

Judging Criteria

- **Points will be awarded out of 100**
The competition encourages performers to choose music, costumes and props which permit them to show the skilled training and partnership with their horse/s in an entertaining, crowd pleasing way.
- **Horsemanship 50 points**
Communication and partnership between horse/s and handler/s and the horse's overall willingness to perform in a relaxed and comfortable manner.
- **Artistic Impression 35 points**
Components of choreography – use of the arena, interpretation and suitability of the music as well as costumes and props used to enhance the performance.
- **Public Vote 15 points**
The public vote will take place during the nightshow on Social Media and will be live for the duration of the evening, contributing 15 points to the award.
- **Timing**
Competitors will be allowed two minutes to set up any props necessary for their performance. The actual performance will last four minutes and then another two minutes is allowed for the competitor to remove any props.
- **The FEI Code of conduct should be considered when training and competing:**
https://inside.fei.org/system/files/Code_of_Conduct_Welfare_Horse_1Jan2013.pdf

Conditions of entry

1. Horses may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles.
2. Horses may be shown at liberty or ridden.
3. Competitors may use any number of people and horses in their performance.
4. Riders/handlers are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear which reflect the style of their riding.
5. Equidays recommends that everyone rides in a helmet – but helmets are compulsory for all riders aged 18 and under. Please contact Equidays if you require an exception.
6. Judges reserve the right to stop any performance they consider to be unsafe, inappropriate or an act of cruelty.
7. Training aids (whips, sticks, martingales, etc) will not be restricted, although excessive use is prohibited.
8. There are to be NO pyrotechnics or guns.
9. Music is compulsory and competitors are to supply their own music on two separate USB, clearly labelled with the competitor's full name.
10. All those successful in the selection process are required to supply a 200 word speech/bullet point list for the announcers. For example horse's age, trainer's age, horse's personality, the journey to Equidays, fun facts, training methods etc.! Parts or all of this will be used as an introduction during the two minute arena set up.
11. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up and pack down - it is the trainer's responsibility to make sure all props are cleared from the arena immediately following the conclusion of their performances.
12. Live commentary from the trainer is not allowed during their performance.
13. No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to their horse/s, either before or during the Equidays Top Talent event in accordance with the FEI Clean Sports. For a full list of prohibited substances visit <http://www.feicleansport.org/prohibited.html>. Equidays reserves the right to randomly or directly drug test any horse at the Equidays event. Positive tests may result in removal from the event and removal of prize money.
14. 50% of the prize money may be given as product.