

Changes to Helper Levies for 2026

Due to the rising cost of grounds hire and the proposed construction of sand arenas in 2026, unfortunately AHDC has no choice but to increase our helper levy and test costs for 2026.

Currently we are almost exclusively paying non-AHDC members to pencil for us. Very few members commit to a helper day or make themselves available on additional days, and without pencilers, there will be no competitions. In 2025, only 15 out of 100 AHDC members assisted us.

Therefore for the 2026 membership year the Helper Levy has been increased from \$50 to \$100, in line with at least four other SA Dressage Clubs. There will also be a \$2 per test increase for members and a larger increase for non-members, so AHDC members will save \$20 each time two tests are ridden. In addition to these savings, the \$100 Helper Levy will be refunded on your Helper Day.

Helper Levy Refund Conditions

- Our Penciller Coordinator (Julie Kershaw) will contact you by text two weeks before a competition where you have stated you are available and request that you confirm your availability by **replying by text with YES or NO**. Riders who reply with **YES** will be allocated duties for the competition day and will receive their Helper Levy Refund. Riders who reply **NO or do not reply** will **NOT** receive their Helper Levy Refund until they complete a Helper Day during the membership year.
- You may nominate up to three Helper Days in a membership year. If at any time you wish to complete extra Helper Days, please contact our Penciller Coordinator (if possible at least two weeks prior to the competition, but we may be able to accept a “last minute” offer).
- If you are unable to assist on your nominated day, please reply with an alternative day.
- If we have more Helpers on a day than we can allocate pencilling duties to, we ask that you assist us instead with another job e.g. a runner or Gear Check assistant. Your \$100 will still be reimbursed.
- A family member or friend may complete the Helper Day on your behalf – but please inform the Penciller Coordinator when she contacts you.

Cancelled Competitions

- **Riders who were contacted by us and replied YES to that text** will have their Helper Levies refunded as though the competition had proceeded. You will not be required to complete another Helper Day in the membership year but you may offer an alternative day if you wish to receive an extra \$100.
- **Riders who did NOT reply to their text messages** will **NOT** have their Helper Levies refunded.

Illness or Injury

If you or your horse are ill and you are unable to attend your nominated day, and the competition runs as normal without being cancelled, please contact Julie ASAP to nominate and complete an alternative Helper Day.

Any rider who wishes to change a Helper Day or complete an additional Helper Day must contact the Penciller Coordinator as soon as practicable: Julie Kershaw on 0408 823 596.

If any of the above needs clarification, please contact the Secretary (Sally) on 0429 190 653.

