

## Hat Rule 2016

It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet at all times when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall. This rule defines the quality of manufacture that is required. The individual disciplines also have additional requirements with regard to colour and type. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.

The hat standards accepted as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 are detailed in the table below:

Hat Standard	Safety Mark	Allowed at the following activities:
PAS 015:1998 or 2011* with BSI Kitemark		All activities
<b>VG1 with BSI Kitemark</b>		All activities
Snell E2001* with the official Snell label and number		All activities
<b>ASTM-F1163 2004a with the SEI mark</b>		All activities
AS/NZS 3838 1998, 2003 or 2006		All activities
NOCSAE certificate		Polo <b>ONLY</b>

\* The PAS 015: 1998 or 2011 and the Snell E2001 meet higher impact criteria and therefore give more protection

- For cross-country riding (over fences 0.80m high and above), including Eventing, Tetrathlon and Horse Trials and also Pony Racing and **Mounted Games** (whether it be tests, rallies, competition or training) **a jockey skull cap must be worn, with no fixed peak, peak type extensions or noticeable protuberances above the eyes or to the front and should have an even round or elliptical shape with a smooth or slightly abrasive surface. A removable hat cover with a light flexible peak may be used if required.** It is also strongly recommended that a jockey skull cap is worn for cross-country riding over lower fences.
- No recording device is permitted (e.g. hat cameras) as they may have a negative effect on the performance of the hat in the event of a fall.
- The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit. The hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.

- Hats must be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use.
- Hats, must be worn at all times (including at prize-giving) when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall.
- For Show Jumping and Mounted Games the cover, if applicable, shall be dark blue, black or brown only.
- For Dressage, hats and hat covers must be predominately black, navy blue or a conservative dark colour that matches the rider's jacket for Area competitions or above. The Pony Club Hat silk is also acceptable.
- The Official Steward / Organiser may, at his discretion, eliminate a competitor riding in the area of the competition without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened or with a hat that does not comply with these standards.

### **Hat Checks and Tagging**

The Branch District Commissioner will appoint two Branch Officials (one of whom may be the District Commissioner), who are familiar with The Pony Club hat rule, to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the requirements (as explained in *Section 10A Hats*) with a white Pony Club hat tag **or a red British Eventing (BE) hat tag**. Linked Centre Members' hats may also be tagged by Centre Proprietors and Regional Co-ordinators. Hats fitted with a Pony Club **or British Eventing (BE)** tag will not need to be checked on subsequent occasions. **However, The Pony Club reserves the right to randomly spot check any hat regardless of whether it is already tagged.**

**Note: From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, The Pony Club will either accept red British Eventing hat tags or white Pony Club hat tags.**

White hat tags are available to purchase from The Pony Club Online Shop.

Tags may only be fitted by one of the two appointed Branch Officials, Area Representatives, the Health and Safety Committee Chairman, Centre Proprietors or Centre Co-ordinators after they have personally checked the hat.

Tagging indicates that a hat meets the accepted standards, NO check of the fit and condition of the hat is implied. It is considered to be the responsibility of the Member's parent / guardian to ensure that their hat complies with the required standards and is tagged before they go to any Pony Club event. Also, they are responsible for ensuring that the manufacturer's guidelines with regard to fit and replacement are followed.