



**UK Coaching Certificate**  
**Equestrian**

## UK Coaching Certificate – Equestrian

At last 2007 has arrived, and we are on schedule to start the delivery of the UKCC Equestrian coaching qualification.

**The Pony Club** is one of the generic disciplines, together with the British Horse Society, the Association of British Riding Schools, and the Scottish Equestrian Association. We are not a single discipline body like for example, British Dressage. We shall offer the UKCC Generic Equestrian qualification at Levels 1, 2 and 3 at first, starting with Level 2.

The difference between this qualification and any which have gone before is that the emphasis is equally on the “HOW TO COACH” skills and the way to make coaching more rider-centred, as well as the “WHAT TO COACH”. We hope in this way to raise the general standard of equestrian coaching in the UK. This does **not infer** that the majority of our coaches do not work in this way at present, but it will enable particularly our less experienced coaches to raise their game.

### Where the Levels are placed:

**Level 1** is “Assistant to the Coach”. Holders of this are **only** able to work under direct supervision to take part of a lesson. They are not qualified or accredited to do more than this, and will not be insured for more.

**Level 2** is the general practical coach who can work unsupervised. The technical equestrian knowledge required is around B Test level, and this coach will be able to plan a short series of linked lessons, eg for Camp or similar.

**Level 3** is the slightly more knowledgeable coach who would be able to plan a longer training strategy if required, eg for an Area Team. This coach has a technical knowledge at around A Test level. This coach could also “mentor” Level 2 coaches who needed support.

**Level 4** is still in development, so watch this space!

**Below are the answers to some of the questions we have been asked, which we hope will dispel some myths!!**

- **The UKCC Equestrian is a stand-alone nationally recognised coaching qualification, approved by sportscoachUK.**
- No one will be forced to attempt this qualification or to upgrade their presently-held qualification, though we would encourage all coaches to consider doing so.
- **The BHS qualifications will not disappear.** The UKCC equestrian levels are being incorporated into them where appropriate. UKCC Equestrian Generic Level 2 is part of the PTT, and Level 3 is part of the BHSII. The syllabuses for the PTT and II have been rewritten extensively to cover this.
- A holder of a UKCC qualification can use it across discipline assuming they have the necessary technical knowledge.
- Someone who for example holds the UKCC Level 2, can take that into the BHS exam system and “top up” to achieve the PTT.
- Any recognised qualification, eg those of the BHS, ABRS, RDA, achieved before January 2007 will **NOT** disappear either. For example, a BHSII will still be a BHSII, but in order to hold the UKCC Level 3 will have to “top-up” with necessary coaching information and practice, and will need to go through a Final Assessment.
- There is a clear pathway up the Levels, but it is NOT mandatory to start at the bottom.
- We shall put on Coach Training Courses for registered candidate coaches, but it is not mandatory to attend one before coming to the Final Assessment. **HOWEVER** the content and format is very different from what has been done before, so we do **advise** candidate coaches to attend a course.

- Holders of the UKCC Equestrian are expected to accept and conform to the British Equestrian Federation Code of Conduct and Ethics.
- UKCC Coach Training **MUST** (under the terms of the agreement with scUK) be presented by an **scUK CTS qualified equestrian Coach Educator**, and will be organised centrally.
- Evidence for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL or Grandfather Rights) will be considered by the Training Committee and the Coaching Development Officer, and by the BEF Coaching APL sub-committee.
- Both presently-held qualifications and relevant experience which can be substantiated by evidence and testimony will be taken into account when we advise a coach on which Level to aim for and how to prepare.
- Eventually there will be a pathway which will recognise a coach who is better at what they do, rather than expecting them to teach at a higher level, but this is still in development at present.
- UKCC qualified coaches will be expected to attend CPD (Continuing Personal Development) days periodically for their qualification to remain current. This is what we require of our accredited coaches at the moment, as does continuing membership of the BHS Register of Instructors.
- The Instructors' Register will be open to UKCC qualified coaches without their having to join the BHS.
- Prerequisites prior to Final Assessment will be:
  - Level 1 - Basic 1<sup>st</sup> Aid qualification, Child Protection Course
  - Levels 2, 3 & 4 - CRB check; attendance on a child protection course; **EITHER** 4 day 1<sup>st</sup> Aid At Work or Equine 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Certificate **OR** other approved 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Certificate dependant on whether the Membership of the Register includes insurance or not

## Approximate Costs

Training days - £30 to £40 each

Level 1 Registration and Final Assessment Cost £120.00

Level 2 £130.00

Level 3 £140.00

It will be possible to pay this in instalments.

## EQUESTRIAN QUALIFICATIONS LTD (EQL)

The awarding body for the UKCC Equestrian qualification is EQL. Everyone who wishes to qualify for the UKCC with The Pony Club needs to apply via The Pony Club. Applicants from England and Wales will be registered with them. Anyone resident in Scotland will be registered with SQA, and there may be separate funding available for these candidates. Applicants from Northern Ireland should contact me at the address below.

The BEF is using the expertise and experience of the BHS in dealing with the Qualification and Curriculum Authority (QCA) who also have to approve the qualification, but **EQL (and SQA) will deal with every discipline in the BEF equally**, in the interests of the BEF and coaching generally.

I hope this may make the whole thing a little clearer to you. If you have any more questions, please get in touch with me.

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