



Becoming a Pony Club Overseas Linked Centre

The Pony Club is a Member Body of the British Equestrian Federation and has over 85 years of experience, knowledge and history that we use to assist all of our Pony Club Branches and Centres.

The Centre Membership scheme was introduced in 1998 to allow children who do not own their own pony, or have any transport for that pony, to take part in Pony Club activities through their local riding school. We now have over 520 riding schools and equestrian centres throughout the United Kingdom offering Pony Club activities.

We have overseas Centres in Singapore, Dubai, Austria, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Trinidad and Tobago.

There is an initial affiliation cost of £100 for the overseas riding establishment to become linked to The Pony Club. This covers the initial set up administration including a start up folder (we do try to email as much as possible to you), affiliation to the scheme, regular bulletin mailings, listing on our website and one free copy of the yearbook every year.

Each potential member joins - £10 per person, per year. Membership is open to anyone under 25 years of age. This includes a Member's badge.

Pre-requisites

In the UK, the essential items are the riding school license, public liability insurance, enhanced disclosure checks and safeguarding courses for those members of staff who will be coaching and supervising the Pony Club Members independently. All our Overseas Linked Centres have different systems in place depending on the country they are based. All overseas establishments interested in the scheme go through a simple approval process as it is obviously tricky for us to visit all the overseas venues annually but if anyone happens to be in your direction then we may try to coordinate a visit. Previous experience of The Pony Club is obviously an advantage.

Coaches

It is preferable that there is a minimum of BHSAI qualified staff (or equivalent), however experience is always taken into account and certainly not ignored. Every year in the UK we run Instructor Conferences and various standard setting training sessions across the country (all listed on the Training pages of the Pony Club website) so if anyone is able to attend those if they happen to be in the UK then that would be great!

Information required at this stage

- Address and main contact at the Centre.
- Proprietor/Instructor background & qualifications
- Child Protection/Safeguarding checks (equivalent for your country) for those coaching and supervising the Members IMPORTANT
- Does the country that you operate in have a licensing system in place for equestrian centres and riding schools?
- Insurance provision – Public liability as necessary for running a riding stables and providing lessons.
- Facilities and type of riding currently offered to clients (lessons, clinics, competitions, hacking, etc)
- How long have you been established as a riding school/equestrian centre?
- Website/images

Riding Schools linking with The Pony Club receive the following benefits:

- Use of the brand/logo.
- Riding Coaches can structure their lessons around The Pony Club test structure so that children and young riders have goals to work towards.
 - Achievement badges
 - Efficiency and Progressive Tests
 - Competition Badges
- All Centres are listed on our website and are included in the Year Book
- Coach development courses held at very reasonable prices (if coaches overseas are able to attend at some point it is extremely beneficial)
 - Pony Club coach CPD courses including a National Coach Conference.
 - Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshops
 - Online DBS checks
- Dedicated department at The Pony Club Office to field emails, telephone calls and queries.
- An extensive online shop for purchasing training materials such as wall charts, texts and scoring materials for all The Pony Club disciplines and Membership essentials – all at a discounted rate for Members and Pony Clubs (postage charges apply)
- Online database for monitoring membership and recording test passes
- Regular ebulletin updates to keep the linked Centres up to date with new Pony Club initiatives and rule changes.
- Access to downloadable online marketing materials.
- A dedicated Office Team and Volunteer Committee who strive to improve and develop the scheme. Centres are represented at Management and Trustee level meetings through our Committee Chairman.

Benefits for Young Riders

The scheme provides a clear but flexible structure, for Members up to the age of 25, through a combination of ridden lessons and stable management sessions. Members and their parents should be able to see a progression in their riding and care abilities.

*Friendship

*Riding

*Awards for learning

*Fitness

*Fun!

*Global Youth Organisation

Pony Club Coaching

Pony Club Coaches are divided into four categories according to their use and role within The Pony Club. Each category has specific requirements, as detailed below. It is a requirement that all Coaches used by The Pony Club are listed on the Instructors Database. As a new Centre, we will provide you with a log in to register your Coaches.

1. Fully Accredited Equestrian Coaches

These Coaches can take sole charge of the groups they coach.

2. Supervised Coaches

These Coaches must not earn their main income from coaching riding. They may be paid to coach for The Pony Club. They must be supervised (within full sight and sound at all times) by a Fully Accredited Coach (category 1), the DC or Centre Proprietor, or any other official who fulfils the requirements for category 1. The supervisor must be able to hear exactly what the Coach is saying and must be able to see all their actions the whole time they are in contact with children or vulnerable adults.

3. Volunteer Coaches

These Coaches must be unpaid and supervised by a Fully Accredited Coach (category 1), the DC or Centre Proprietor, or any other official who fulfils the requirements for category 1.

4. Coaches for non-riding / horse related activities

These Coaches can be used for coaching sports / disciplines other than riding for Pony Club activities e.g. Swimming, Shooting, Running.

The requirements for each category of Pony Club Coach are detailed in the table below:

PONY CLUB COACH / INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS	1. Fully Accredited	2. Supervised	3. Volunteer	4. Non-Riding
Be present on The Pony Club Instructor Database	✓	✓	✓	✓
Have attended a Pony Club Instructor CPD course in the past two years	✓	✓		
Have a current DBS or PVG or Access NI check	✓	*	*	✓
Have a current first aid certificate	✓			✓
Have attended a Safeguarding & Protecting Children workshop	✓	*	*	✓
Own The Pony Club Instructor's Folder	✓			
Have access to The Pony Club Instructor's Folder		✓	✓	

Accredited Coaches for another BEF Member Body (i.e. are currently listed as a Coach by the Member Body and have attended CPD as required by that Body) may be used in The Pony Club but only for the discipline that they are accredited in, if the Member Body is specific to a particular sport. This includes Coaches who are on the BHS Register of Instructors. These Coaches are also required to be listed on The Pony Club Instructor Database.

* Where Supervised / Volunteer Coaches are coaching regularly (i.e. four or more times within any 30 day period) a DBS (or PVG or Access NI) check and attendance at a Safeguarding & Protecting Children workshop is required.