OBJECTIVES

To provide an opportunity for all Members interested in Racing to compete against each other and to encourage a high standard of riding.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules.

In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, or any other issue in connection with Pony Club Pony Racing, it is the duty of the relevant officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules. It is the competitors’ responsibility to ensure that they are complying with the Rules of the competition.

When a rule states District Commissioner, Centre Proprietor also applies, and where Branch is stated, Centre applies.

As a Member of The Pony Club, I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship. I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in my stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being. I shall at all times treat my horse with due consideration.
All Rules are made by The Pony Club Volunteer Committees including consultation with others.

The Pony Club Office provides administrative support and any queries or questions relating to these rules must be directed to the Chairman of the relevant sport.

Chairman
Charles Barnett
Tel: 01978 806152 / racingchairman@pcuk.org

Members
Deborah Custance-Baker – Area Representative (retires 2021)
Sara Tremlett – Area Representative (retires 2020)
Christine Barratt-Aitken (retires 2019)
Jane Clark (retires 2019)
Maureen Costello (retires 2021)
Ruth Hurley (retires 2021)
Patrick Scott (retires 2020)
Louise Shephard (retires 2019)

NOTE: New rules appear in red (as this note).
GENERAL RULES FOR
PONY CLUB PONY RACING

1. RIDERS
   a) All riders must be Members of The Pony Club.
   b) All riders must be aged 9-15 years on 1st January in the current year to compete in Pony Club Race Days.
   c) All riders must walk the course with the nominated official and must attend the briefing at the start of the race day. Riders will be notified of this by the individual Race Organiser. Non-attendance will result in not being allowed to ride.
   d) All riders must not have ridden in a Point-to-Point (does not include Point to Point “Young Riders” Pony Racing).
   e) Riders may ride more than once on a Pony Club Race Day.
   f) Riders competing in 138cm and under Open Races must weigh a minimum of 7st 10lb.
      Riders competing in 148cm and under Open Races must weigh a minimum of 9st.
      Members must supply their own lead and weight cloth.

2. PONIES
   a) All ponies must be aged between 5 and 20 years.
   b) Open to ponies 128cm and under, 138cm and under and 148cm and under.
   c) Stallions can only be ridden by Members if they have obtained written permission from their District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor and in the interests of safety must wear identifying discs on their bridle.
   d) No pony that has raced under the rules of any recognised turf authority may compete in PCPR.
   e) If there is a discrepancy and the height of a pony is found to exceed the maximum height (if a JMB Certificate is not provided), the pony will be disqualified.
   f) Stables will not be provided for ponies.
   g) All ponies entered do so under the condition that they may be routine-tested for prohibited substances in accordance with BHA regulations
   h) No pony may compete in more than one race on the same day.
   i) Vaccinations
      All ponies taking part in a Pony Club Race Day must be vaccinated against Equine Influenza. All vaccination certificates will be checked at declaration, anyone not able to produce a valid
certificate meeting the Minimum Vaccination Requirements will not be allowed to run. This is a requirement of all Licensed Racecourses.

This Rule applies to ALL Pony Club Race Days:

1. **Passports** –
   A valid passport and a Record of Vaccinations meeting the Minimum Vaccination Requirements must:
   - accompany the pony to the event,
   - be available for inspection,
   - be produced on request at any other time during the event.

   Failure to comply with the Minimum Vaccination Requirements is a breach of this Rule.

2. No pony may take part in a Pony Club Race Day (which includes entering competition stables) unless it has a Record of Vaccination against equine influenza which complies with the Minimum Vaccination Requirements.

3. The Minimum Vaccination Requirements for a pony are that it has received:
   - A Primary Vaccination followed by a Secondary Vaccination given no earlier than 21 days after and no later than 92 days after the Primary injection; and
   - if sufficient time has elapsed, a booster vaccination given not less than 150 days and not more than 215 days after the Secondary Vaccination and further booster vaccinations at intervals of not more than a year apart.

4. No pony may compete on the same day as any relevant vaccination is given or on any of the 6 days following such a vaccination.

5. The Record of Vaccination in the pony’s passport must be completed by a veterinary surgeon, signed and stamped line by line.

3. **ENTRY**
   a) To enter a Pony Club Race Day, the Combination of Member and Pony must have since 1st July the previous year participated in;
      i) a minimum of 2 (ridden) working rallies or
      ii) a minimum of 1 (passed) PRA/PC Training Day
   b) Member and Pony combination must be still eligible to compete in the race they have entered by the close of entries.
   c) Entries shall close at the time advertised. Failure to submit before
the specified date will result in the entry being declined.
i) Only entries received on the Official Entry Form will be accepted.
ii) Any entry which is received without the entry fee will be declined.
d) All Entry Forms must be signed by a District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor confirming that the rider is a current Member of their Branch/Centre at the close of entries. An email or letter from the District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor will also be accepted.
e) Maximum 12 runners per race—in the event of over-subscription, races may be divided, and a waiting list may be kept.
f) Should a breach of eligibility be proven, the offender will be disqualified.
g) The Judges' decision is final.
h) Points will be awarded to all pony/rider combinations who take part in 128cm, 138cm and 148cm Pony Club Pony Races in 2018. At the end of October (or after the last race day), a prize will be given to the highest-placed pony/rider combination in the three height categories.

Points will not be allocated to those combinations who are disqualified at a Race Day.

4. **EQUIPMENT**

**Saddlery**
New equipment is not expected, but what is worn must be clean, neat, tidy and safe. It is the competitors’ responsibility to ensure that their tack is in accordance with the rules and that they present themselves for inspection.

Any competitor who presents to the mandatory tack check in the wrong Saddlery / Equipment will not be allowed to race until they decide to re-present in the correct Saddlery / Equipment.

Any competitor who then changes their tack after the Tack Inspection will be disqualified from the race. The Official Steward has absolute discretion to forbid the use of any bit, gadget or spur which he considers cruel or misused.

Ponies must be turned out with well fitted and properly maintained Saddlery. Badly fitting or unsafe tack may result in disqualification.

Any misuse of a bit/bridle will be reported to the DC/Centre Proprietor, Area Representative and Training Chairman. Any reported riders will be recorded and monitored.

a) Saddles – Type optional.

Racing Saddles ‘made up’: (including the girth, irons, leathers and surcingle / overgirth – with a leather strap and buckle) measuring less than 16” (40.6cm) in length (from front arch to cantle) and weighing less than 3lb (1.36kg) are not permitted. If a Racing Saddle is used they must be used with a Racing Breastplate or Girth.
b) Saddle Cloths – Any solid colour is permitted. Contrasting piping is permitted. Branch logos are allowed when competing for the Branch; logos must not exceed 200 sq. cm. This does not preclude the wearing of clothing for horses or riders that has been presented by sponsors of the Championships in the current or previous years.

c) Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider’s boots. They must have 7mm (¼”) clearance on either side of the boot. To find this measurement, tack checkers should move the foot across to one side of the stirrup, with the widest part of the foot on the tread. From the side of the foot to the edge of the stirrup should be 14mm.

Note: There are now many types of stirrups marketed as ‘safety stirrups’. All riders must ensure that their stirrups are suitable for their type of footwear, the activities in which they take part and that the stirrup leathers are also in good condition.

There are no prescribed weight limits on metal stirrups, however with the advent of stirrups of other materials, weight limits are seen to be given by manufacturers. Any person buying these stirrups, should, take particular notice if weight limits are on the box or attached information leaflets.

Neither the feet or the stirrup leathers or irons, may be attached to the girth, nor the feet attached to the stirrup irons.

Only racing boots (with a well defined cut heel) can be worn with racing irons or jodhpur boots/riding boots with stirrup irons may be worn.

d) A surcingle/overgirth (with a leather strap and buckle) and Neck Strap is mandatory as is an Irish Martingale unless a running/bib martingale is worn. The surcingle/overgirth must be done up on the nearside below the rider’s foot.

e) Bridles – For safety reasons leather bridles are recommended. Reins must be stitched to or fastened by a buckle or attached by a loop to the bit. They must not be attached by a billet. The Micklem Multibriddle is permitted. Any rider deemed to have used their reins in the manner of a whip may be disqualified from the race.

f) See images of Permitted Martingales and Breastplates.

g) Nosebands – Nosebands – only one may be worn. If a Combination, Kineton, drop noseband or similar is worn with a Standing Martingale, then a Cavesson noseband must be used. Nosebands must be correctly fitted and should not cause discomfort. Nosebands must not incorporate chain or rope. Sheepskin
nosebands are permitted. Nose nets are permitted during competition and warm-up. Nose nets must be discreet, black, white or brown and cover the nose only, leaving the mouth and bit visible.

h) Bit guards made entirely of rubber and smooth on both sides are permitted.

i) Competitors using Saddlery and Gadgets which are not allowed in the competition will be eliminated. Lungeing in side reins, but not bearing, check or balancing reins, is permitted.

j) No pony shall enter the Parade Ring or run in shoes which has protrusions on the ground surface other than calkins or studs on the hind limited to 3/8” in height. The parent / legal guardian is responsible for ensuring that their pony is shod in accordance with the requirements of the Pony Racing Regulations. Ponies may race unshod.

k) Every pony running in a race shall carry a number cloth provided by the Organiser and the parent / legal guardian is responsible for ensuring it is worn so that the number is clearly visible and is the correct one for the pony. Parent / legal guardians are also responsible for ensuring that their ponies are properly saddled when they leave the parade ring.

l) It is the parent / legal guardian’s responsibility to ensure the child and pony equipment meets the specifications required to compete.

m) The following are not permitted in any recognised pony race – jewellery whips, watches, bandages, nickel bits, nickel stirrup irons, blinkers, hoods, eyeshields, eyecovers, visors, sheepskin/leather cheek pieces, ear plugs, nasal strips, tongue ties, Humane Girth (a humane girth is described as having non-independent straps that will loosen if one of the straps were to break), seat savers, hoof boots, Grass Reins/Balance Support Reins, Split Reins, Bridge Reins, Ernest Dillon Reins, Market Harboroughs and side, running, draw or check reins (a side, running, draw or check rein is one which is attached to the saddle, girth, martingale or breast plate on the horse).

The use of string, twine or cord in or round the horse's mouth is also not permitted.
Note: Due to a variety of girths available on the market now being referred to as humane girths, it was felt a description was required to specify the style / design of girth that was not permitted for Pony Club. Description as follows –
A humane girth is described as having non-independent straps that will loosen if one of the straps were to break.
n) Bits – All synthetic bits must be black, brown or white. Bitless bridles including hackamores are not permitted.

Any unusual decoration of the horse with unnatural things, such as ribbons, flowers, glitter etc. in the mane/tail or applied to the coat is forbidden. Red bows in the tail are permitted for ponies that kick.

Permitted Martingales and Breastplates

A: Running Martingale
B: Hunting Martingale
C: Racing Breastplate
D: Bib Breastplate
E: Irish Martingale
F: Neck Strap
G: 5 point Breastplate
H: Standing Martingale*

Not Permitted – Elastic Neck Collar

Note:
* Standing Martingales may be attached only to the cavesson portion of the noseband fitted above the bit.
5. DRESS
New equipment is not expected, but what is worn must be clean, neat, tidy and safe. The Competitor is ultimately responsible for complying with all Rules relating to Dress for the particular Discipline they are participating in.

a) Hats
   i) 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 sports 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 1st January 2019 are detailed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hat Standard</th>
<th>Safety Mark</th>
<th>Allowed at the following activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAS 015:1998 or 2011* with BSI Kitemark</td>
<td></td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VG1 with BSI Kitemark</td>
<td></td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snell E2001* onwards with the official Snell label and number</td>
<td></td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTM-F1163 2004a onwards with the SEI mark</td>
<td></td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS/NZS 3838 , 2003 or 2006/</td>
<td></td>
<td>All activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• For cross-country riding (over 80cm) including Eventing, Tetrathlon, Horse Trials, Pony Racing (whether it be tests, rallies, competition or training) and Mounted Games competitions, 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, having no peak or peak type extensions. Noticeable protuberances above the eyes or to the front not greater than 5mm, smooth and rounded in nature are permitted. A removable hat cover with a light flexible peak may be used if required.
• It is strongly recommended that a jockey skull cap is worn for cross-country riding over lower fences (less than 80cm) as there is research evidence that a fall onto the fixed peak can result in an over extension of the neck backwards with the potential for serious injury.

• 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. Most helmet manufacturers recommend you visit a qualified BETA (British Equestrian Trade Association) fitter.

• 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 Pony Club and its Branches and Linked Centres will appoint Officials, who are familiar with The Pony Club hat rule, to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the requirements set out in the hat rule with an aquamarine Pony Club hat tag. Hats fitted with an aquamarine Pony Club, British Eventing (BE) or British Riding Club (BRC) hat 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.

Pony Club (Aquamarine) hat tags are only available to purchase from shop.pcuuk.org.
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(s) / guardian(s) 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.

ii) Hair – In the interest of safety, long hair must be secured appropriately in a hairnet.

b) i) Footwear

Only racing boots (with a well defined cut heel) may be worn with racing irons. All racing boots MUST have a smooth, thin sole and well defined cut heel (minimum 5mm). If jodhpur/riding boots are worn they must have a smooth, thin sole and well defined square cut heel. Only standard riding or jodhpur boots with a well defined square cut heel may be worn. Plain black or brown half chaps may be worn with jodhpur boots of the same colour. Tassels and fringes are not allowed. No other footwear will be permitted, including wellington boots, yard boots, country boots, “muckers” or trainers. Boots with interlocking treads are not permitted, nor are the boots or treads individually.

Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the riders boots (see the Stirrup rule). Laces on boots must be taped for Mounted Games only

ii) Half chaps (black or brown) are permitted. Tassels are not allowed.

iii) Riders must wear beige, white or cream jodhpurs, breeches or racing breeches (see Rule 19 – Sponsorship).

iv) Silks / racing / Cross Country colours are to be provided by the competitors. Long sleeves – as a minimum shoulders must be covered.

c) Body Protectors

The Pony Club does not make the use of body protectors compulsory, except for all Cross Country riding and Pony Racing whether it be training or competing. If a Body Protector is worn for any Pony Club activity it must meet BETA 2009 Level 3 standard (purple label) or BETA 2018 Level 3 standard (blue and black label).
For general use, the responsibility for choosing body protectors and the decision as to their use must rest with Members and their parents. It is recommended that a rider’s body protector should not be more than 2% of their body weight. When worn, body protectors must fit correctly, be comfortable and must not restrict movement. BETA recommend body protectors are replaced at least every three to five years, after which the impact absorption properties of the foam may have started to decline.

BETA 2009 Level3 (purple label) body protectors will continue to be accepted at Pony Club competitions until 1st December 2024.

Riders who choose to use the Woof Wear Body Cage EXO must lodge a key with the Event Organiser when they collect their number.

**Air Jackets**

When an air jacket inflates the sudden noise startles horses in the immediate vicinity thereby causing difficulties for the other members of a ride if used in a group ride in a confined area, e.g. an indoor school or outdoor manège. Air jackets are therefore not encouraged for group rides.

If a rider chooses to wear an air jacket in Cross Country or Pony Racing, it must only be used in addition to a normal body protector which meets the BETA 2009 Level 3 standard (purple label) or BETA 2018 Level 3 standard (blue and black label). Parents and Members must be aware that riders may be permitted to continue after a fall in both competition and training rides for Cross Country and/or Pony Racing, provided the rider has been passed as fit to continue by First Aid Providers. In the event of a fall, it must be fully deflated or removed before continuing, after which, the conventional body protector will continue to give protection. Air jackets must not be worn under a jacket and number bibs should be fitted loosely or with elasticised fastenings over the air jacket.

d) **Medical Armbands / Cards**

Medical armbands are advised if members are not accompanied by a responsible adult, including hacking on roads and are **compulsory for Pony Racing** and for Endurance rides. Riders must wear their Medical Armbands at all times when mounted with the correct card enclosed. These **MUST** be worn on the rider’s arm or the shoulder protector/pad of their body protector.
e) **Electronic Devices** (i.e. headphones, mobile phones etc. enabling another person to communicate with the rider) are not allowed whilst the rider is competing. No recording device is permitted (e.g. head / bridle cameras etc.).

f) **Jewellery** – No jewellery is allowed for safety reasons, other than Medical jewellery, a wristwatch, a wedding ring, a stock pin worn horizontally or a tie clip. It is recommended that stock pins are removed for Cross Country and Pony Racing. Members who are contemplating piercing their ears or any other part of their body should be aware that they will not be allowed to compete until such time as the “sleepers” can safely be removed. The reason for this is that sleepers have in the past caused injuries following falls. **This rule will be strictly enforced.**

All Equipment will be checked by an Official Tack Steward.

6. **WEIGHING OUT**
   a) The parent / legal guardian is responsible for ensuring that the pony carries the correct weight, where relevant, in accordance with the Regulations and for ensuring that the pony as named at the time of entry is the pony that runs in the race.
   b) When weighing out or weighing in the rider must put on to the scale and include in their weight everything that the pony is to carry or has carried, except the bridle, skullcap, goggles, breastplate or breastgirth, neck strap, rings, plates and anything worn on the pony’s legs.
      In addition when weighing out, the number cloth will also be excluded from the scale but must be presented to the Clerk of the Scales at the time.
   c) A 2lb allowance will be made for the body protector.

7. **PROCEDURES PRIOR TO WEIGHING IN**
   After completion of the race and upon dismounting:
   a) The Rider must neither accept anything from any person nor discard anything that the pony has carried in the race which might affect the weight upon weighing-in.
   b) Riders must always remove their own saddles (permission for assistance may be given).
   c) The Riders should then go at once with the saddle to the Weighing Room to report to the Clerk of the Scales.
8. **WEIGHING IN**
   a) The first four riders must weigh-in.
   b) Immediately after pulling up, the riders of the first four ponies in each race must ride their ponies to the place appointed for unsaddling.
   The ponies shall remain at the appointed place until ordered to be taken away.
   The other riders may dismount within a reasonable distance in the unsaddling area.
   c) It shall be a breach of the Regulations for a rider to dismount before reaching a place appointed for that purpose, unless they can satisfy the Stewards and Officials that they were justified by the circumstances.
   d) If a rider does not present themselves to be weighed in, their pony shall be disqualified, unless the Stewards and Officials are satisfied that they were justified in not doing so by reason of illness, accident or other extraordinary circumstance, that they weighed out at not less than their correct weight and that the proper weight was carried throughout the race.
   e) When weighing in, a rider shall include in their weight everything that the pony has carried in the race except as provided in the above Regulations (see Weighing Out).
   f) If a rider weighs in at 2lb or more over the weight at which they weighed out they shall be disqualified.
   g) If a pony carries less than the weight they should carry during the race in accordance with the conditions they shall be disqualified.
   h) When the riders have weighed in to the satisfaction of the Clerk of the Scales at not less than the weight at which they weighed out, the Stewards and Officials shall authorise the announcement of “weighed in” provided the Judge has announced and confirmed his decision to the Clerk of the Scales on all placings. After the announcement has been made no alteration shall be made.

9. **THE RACE**
All ponies running shall be saddled in the Pre-Parade Ring and then brought into the Parade Ring at a reasonable time before the signal to mount is given for the race in which they are engaged. (This may be specific to a particular Racecourse).
10. **CLERK OF THE SCALES**

The Clerk of the Scales shall:

a) Weigh the riders in accordance with the Regulations.

b) Display changes on the screen or number board or have announced alterations to the following information published in the official racecard;
   (i) declared ponies
   (ii) colours

c) Furnish the Starter with a list of runners.

d) Should a pony be withdrawn the cause must be stated at once over the public address system if a pony is withdrawn which indicates whether such pony has come under Starter’s Orders. They shall also immediately report to the Stewards and/or Officials where a pony is withdrawn by order of the Starter.

e) In all cases weigh in the riders

f) Should an Objection be lodged or an enquiry be called for an announcement must be made immediately over the public address system.

11. **EXERCISE**

Lungeing of a horse is only permitted in areas designated by the organiser who may also prohibit it completely at their discretion. If allowed, lungeing may be carried out by either the rider or other persons. Lungeing of a horse and rider is prohibited.

12. **STARTER AND STARTING**

a) Ponies may not be led to the start other than in exceptional circumstances. Permission must be given by the Organiser/Chief Steward.

b) Every pony shall be at the Start ready to start at the appointed time.

c) A Jockey skull cap must be worn by anyone leading a pony at the Start. The hat must conform to the current Pony Club Hat Rule and the chinstrap must be fastened at all times.

d) All riders who arrive at the Start must immediately place themselves under the control of the Starter where girths will be checked by an Official and tightened as necessary.

e) The ponies must be started by the Official Starter, or the authorised substitute, and all races shall be started with a Flag.

f) Following the recall flag ponies which complete the course shall not be considered as having obeyed the recall flag and shall be withdrawn by the Starter.

g) Should the Starter declare a false start and the recall flag not be raised, the race shall be void, unless all the ponies pull up before completing the course. The Starter’s decision is Final.
Procedure:
The Starter is in charge, therefore, all instructions given by the Starter MUST be adhered to. When girding is complete the Starter in charge shall mount the rostrum. When girded up ponies will walk round on course some distance back from the Start. When the Starter wishes the field to walk forward he will raise his flag to indicate this and also give the normal voice instructions. The Advanced Flag Operator will simultaneously raise their flag which should also be visible to riders. The field must come forward at a walk and no faster than a jig jog. The start will be effected by the dropping of the flag when the field have approached the Starter in such a way that he is satisfied that the start will be safe and fair. Races will not be started if the field break into a canter/gallop before the flag is lowered. If the above happens the Starter will wave his flag to indicate that the race will not be started and the field must pull up. The Advance Flag Operator will also wave their flag to enable riders furthest away from the Starter to understand that the race will not be started. Should the field be unable to pull up the Starter will continue to wave his flag and declare a false start which will be reciprocated by the Advanced Flag Operator. If the race is not started at the first attempt the field will regroup at the marker poles and a standing start to the satisfaction of the Starter will be affected by flag. There will not be a further attempt at a walk-in start and runners will not be sent back further than is necessary to regroup at the marker poles. The Starters will report offending riders to the Stewards.

13. ACTION AFTER A FALL
Any competitor who has a fall or sustains a serious injury anywhere at the competition site should see the medical personnel on the day and be passed fit to ride before riding that horse in a further test or before riding any other horse.

14. HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSION
(i) General Advice
Head injuries and concussion are life threatening and potentially life changing incidents. Serious head injuries are usually obvious, but concussion can be very subtle and not always immediately apparent.
Head injuries result from a mechanical insult to the head, and can cause traumatic brain injury, possibly leading to permanent disability or death.

Concussion is a disturbance in brain function caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head. Some people describe concussion as mild traumatic brain injury. Concussion should be seen as part of a spectrum of brain injury with traumatic brain injury at one extreme and no injury at the other. Typically concussion cannot be seen on standard brain scans, which makes it difficult to diagnose objectively. Repeated injury to the head can worsen an already pre-existing concussion, even if the time between injuries is counted in days or weeks.

The Pony Club wants to ensure members / riders attending Pony Club activities enjoy themselves and get the most out of riding. At the same time, they must also balance that enjoyment with members’ / riders’ safety. This may mean on occasion that members / riders are asked not to ride by officials who believe they may have sustained a concussion either at the time of injury or from a previous injury (which may not have been sustained whilst riding). Parents / guardians, members, officials and other riders must respect this decision. It is a decision sometimes made without having objective evidence, but it is made in good faith and in the pursuance of avoiding further harm.

(ii) Incidents that could cause head injuries or concussion
Any member / rider who, at a Pony Club activity, suffers an incident that could cause head injury or concussion (for example, a fall from their horse / pony) should be assessed. Who does this assessment will depend on the first aid cover that is in place for that activity. Depending on the level of first aid cover then the exact process of diagnosing whether the member has suffered no head injury / concussion, a suspected head injury / concussion or a confirmed head injury / concussion will be slightly different. The process for diagnosing each option is talked through in more detail below.

From the assessment being carried out it may be immediately obvious that there is no cause for concern. In the course of Pony Club activities, The Pony Club is well aware that there are different kinds of falls and that assuming every fall leads to a head injury would be counterproductive to the aims of the organisation. We ask that reasonable care is taken to ensure members / riders have not sustained a serious head injury or concussion.
(iii) Unconsciousness
If a member / rider is unconscious following an incident they should be treated as if they are suffering with a confirmed concussion and the steps in points vii) below should be followed.

(iv) Who can diagnose head injury or concussion?
Diagnosis of a head injury or concussion (both confirmed and suspected) can be carried out by any level of first aid cover officiating at a Pony Club activity. These could be a trained or qualified first aider (including a coach), a paramedic or a doctor. If there is any doubt as to the diagnosis the member / rider should see the highest level of first aid cover that is present and they should make the diagnosis. If the first aid cover at the activity cannot reach a definite diagnosis then they should refer the member / rider to a hospital or a doctor off site for them to make a diagnosis.

It would be more usual for a trained or qualified first aider to say they suspect a head injury or concussion than to diagnose it themselves. If they are the highest level of first aid cover available at the activity that will mean the member / rider has to go off site to have the diagnosis made by a doctor.

The member / rider should not ride again until they have been seen by a doctor. This may mean that the rider will miss any part of an activity or competition.

(v) Actions to be taken in the event of a suspected head injury or suspected concussion diagnosis
If a diagnosis of a suspected concussion or head injury is made by a first aider, they should advise the parents / guardians to take the member / rider to hospital.

Any member / rider who has been diagnosed with a suspected or confirmed head injury or concussion should not be left alone and must be returned to the care of their parents / guardians where appropriate.

Once a diagnosis of suspected head injury or concussion is made by the highest level of official first aid cover present at the activity, then that decision is final. No one may overrule that decision on the day if it is made in good faith. If a member / rider is advised to see a doctor because of suspected head injury or concussion and the parents / guardians decide not to allow the member to be examined (either at the activity or in hospital), the member will not be allowed to ride again on the day and will be treated as if they have sustained a confirmed head injury / concussion. Depending
on the circumstances, the decision not to allow further examination may be considered a safeguarding issue.

Where a member / rider is diagnosed with a suspected concussion by a first aider or paramedic and that member / rider subsequently sees a doctor who is sure that they do not have a concussion and did not suffer a concussion and will provide evidence that they are satisfied that the member / rider is well, that member / rider will be treated as if they did not sustain a concussion.

(vi) Actions to be taken in the event of a confirmed head injury or confirmed concussion

In the event of a diagnosis of a confirmed head injury or confirmed concussion, the doctor will advise the member not to ride or take part in any activity that potentially involves hard contact for three weeks. They will advise the member that they could, after 10 days, ask a doctor, who is experienced in assessing concussion (including in children where appropriate), whether they have any concerns about any ongoing concussion problems. If that doctor is happy to certify that the member is not suffering with a concussion, the member may ride again, providing evidence regarding that decision is provided. If no evidence that such an assessment has been made, the member should not take part in any Pony Club riding activity and/or any unmounted activity that may involve any hard contact for at least three weeks after the initial injury.

(vii) Actions to be taken in the event of a diagnosis of a confirmed or suspected head injuries/ concussions outside of Pony Club activities

The Pony Club has no official way of automatically knowing about members who sustain a confirmed or suspected head injury / concussion outside of Pony Club activities. A concussion may be sustained outside Pony Club activities, for example at riding activities organised by other BEF member bodies or at school football / rugby / hockey matches. It is for parents / guardians ultimately to make a decision about the welfare of their child.

However, if a Pony Club official in charge of any Pony Club activity becomes aware that a member has sustained a suspected or confirmed head injury / concussion and has been advised not to take part in any potentially hard contact activities for three weeks, they should not allow the member to take part in any mounted activities and/or any unmounted activities that could potentially
involve hard contact for three weeks, unless the member or their parents / guardians can produce appropriate medical evidence of fitness to ride dated at least 10 days after the initial injury.

See Appendix A – for Head Injury and Concussion Flowchart

15. SUSPENSION FROM COMPETING FOR MEDICAL REASONS
If a rider is banned/suspended from competing in any sport for medical reasons, they should not compete at any Pony Club event until passed fit for the sport in which they are banned/suspended. It is the responsibility of the rider or parent/guardian to ensure that this rule is adhered to.

16. UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOUR
Unseemly behaviour on the part of riders, team officials, or team supporters will be reported as soon as possible by the Official to The Pony Club Office. Offenders may be penalised by disqualification of the Branch or Branches concerned for a period up to three years. Any competitor who in the opinion of the Official Steward, or Organiser, has been extremely rude or aggressive towards any officials at a competition, or who has behaved in an aggressive or unfair manner to their horse may be disqualified.

17. PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS
   a) Equine
      Controlled Medication
      It is clearly essential for the welfare of the horse that it is given appropriate veterinary treatment if and when required and that this should include appropriate medication. Medication, however, may mask an underlying health problem and horses should not compete when taking medication where such medication may have a detrimental effect on the horse’s welfare.
   b) Human
      Performance-enhancing drugs are forbidden.
   c) All competitors should be aware that random samples may be taken for testing from both themselves and/or their horse. The protocol used will be that of the relevant adult discipline.
18. DISQUALIFICATION
The Official Steward or Chief Judge may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition
a) for dangerous riding, or
b) if, in their opinion, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted, or
c) for misuse of whip, spur or bit, or ill-treatment of the horse, or
d) for any breach of the rules, or
e) for unseemly behaviour, including bad language
f) Any person who has been disqualified through the British Horseracing Authority or Pony Racing Authority (PRA), so long as their disqualification continues, shall not attend, enter, run, train, own or ride a Pony in any Pony Club Race Day. If any entry made by a person disqualified be mistakenly or inadvertently accepted, the same shall, despite such acceptance, be void and the Pony shall not be qualified to be entered or to start.

19. PROTESTS OR OBJECTIONS
Objections must be made in writing and addressed to the Organiser of The Pony Club Race Day. They must be accompanied by a deposit of £50. Protests or objections must be made not later than half an hour after the published Race Start Time.

20. SPONSORSHIP
In the case of competitors and horses, no form of advertising, and this includes a sponsor’s name, may appear on the competitor’s or horse’s clothing and equipment at any Pony Club competition. This does not preclude the wearing of clothing for horses or riders that has been presented by sponsors of the Championships in the current or previous years. Sponsors at Area Competitions must not be business competitors of the main sponsors of the discipline, and must be approved by The Pony Club Office.

Any advertising material that is used by sponsors, whether it be in the form of display banners or programme material, must be tasteful, and not inappropriate to the image of The Pony Club.
21. **INSURANCE**
The Pony Club Third Party Legal Liability Insurance Policy is extended to give cover for all the official Area Competitions and the Championships. Details of this insurance are given in the “Administrative Notes” in the current issue of The Pony Club Handbook. In the event of any accident, loss or damage occurring to a Third Party or to the property of a Third Party (including the general public and competitors) no liability should be admitted, and full details should be sent at once to The Pony Club Office.

22. **HEALTH AND SAFETY**
Organisers of this event have taken reasonable precautions to ensure the Health and Safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective, everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the organisers and all the officials and stewards.

23. **LEGAL LIABILITY**
Save for the death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the organisers, or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, neither the organisers of this event or The Pony Club nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies, nor the landlord or his tenant, accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, spectators, land, cars, their contents and accessories, or any other person or property whatsoever, whether caused by their negligence breach of contract or in any other way whatsoever. Entries are only accepted on this basis.

24. **MEDICAL AND VETERINARY**
   a) Medical – for further details on Medical Cover, please see the Health and Safety Rule Book 2019 or go to pcuk.org
   b) Veterinary – for further details on Medical Cover, please see the Health and Safety Rule Book 2019 or pcuk.org

A tarpaulin should be available to cover a horse should one be killed, and the telephone number of the Hunt Kennels or Knacker noted in the Secretary’s Tent. See the Health and Safety Rule Book 2019 for further details.

PARENTS / LEGAL GUARDIANS MUST SIGN THE ENTRY FORM CONFIRMING THAT THEY HAVE READ THESE RACING RULES AND THAT THEY AGREE TO ABIDE BY THEM. PARENTS / LEGAL GUARDIANS MUST ALSO SIGN THE PARENTS DECLARATION ON THE REVERSE OF THE ENTRY FORM.
APPENDIX A
Head Injury and Concussion Flowchart

1. Has the member been involved in an incident that could have caused a head injury or concussion, e.g. a fall from a horse?
   - No: No action required
   - Yes: Member to be referred to hospital for further assessment. Member must not ride again that day and should be returned to the care of their parents/guardians. Member should not be left alone.

2. Was the rider unconscious at any point?
   - No: No action required
   - Yes: Member to be referred to hospital immediately for a suspected head injury for further assessment. Member must not ride again that day and should be returned to the care of their parents/guardians and should not be left alone.

3. What medical cover do you have onsite?
   - Doctor or Paramedic (Route A): Member to be assessed by first aider before being allowed to continue
   - Trained or Qualified First Aider, including coaches (Route B): Member to be referred to hospital for further assessment. Member must not ride again that day and should be returned to the care of their parents/guardians.

4a. Has the Doctor / Paramedic confirmed the member has suffered from a head injury or concussion?
   - Yes: No action required
   - No: Member does not ride again for three weeks at any activities and should follow medical instructions given by the medical professional. This may include immediate referral to hospital depending on symptoms.

4b. Has the member suffered a confirmed or suspected head injury / concussion?
   - Yes: Member to be referred to hospital immediately for a suspected head injury for further assessment. Member must not ride again that day and should be returned to the care of their parents/guardians and should not be left alone.
   - No: No action required
   - Unsure: Refer to a Doctor / Hospital for further assessment. Member must not continue riding until they have been assessed.

5a. Has the Doctor / Paramedic diagnosed the member as suffering from a suspected head injury and / or suspected concussion?
   - No: No action required
   - Yes: Member to be referred to hospital for further assessment. Member must not ride again that day and should be returned to the care of their parents/guardians.

5b. Has the hospital confirmed the member has suffered from a head injury or concussion?
   - No: No action required
   - Yes: Member does not ride again for three weeks at any activities and should follow medical instructions given by the medical professional.

6. Has the hospital confirmed the member has suffered from a head injury or concussion?
   - No: No action required
   - Yes: Member does not ride again for three weeks at any activities and should follow medical instructions given by the medical professional.

7. Do the parents / guardians want the member to ride again before the three week period has passed?
   - Yes: Continue as planned - Member does not ride again for three weeks and should follow professional medical advice about restarting any contact sport.
   - No: Medical evidence of member’s fitness is required before they can ride again.

Note: This letter must be obtained from a medical professional (Doctor, hospital consultant, etc) and dated at least ten days after the incident where the injury was sustained.

Please note, if you are unsure at any stage, follow the ‘yes’ route.