

# The Pony Club Polo 2016 Dress and Saddlery Rules

## *Taken from The Pony Club Polo Rule Book*

### PLAYERS DRESS

a) **General** - At tournaments all players must wear team shirts with numbers and the sponsors logo, white breeches/white jeans, kneepads and proper riding boots (leather or rubber).

b) **Footwear** - Boots and stirrups with interlocking treads are not permitted, nor are the boots or treads individually. JOR, HX and SUR players may wear jodhpur boots and half chaps. Shoes may not be worn.

c) **Kneepads** - Players in all Sections, other than HX and JOR, must wear kneepads. It is recommended that HX and JOR players do as well, but it is not compulsory.

d) **Shirts** - A register of team colours for Pony Club Polo is kept at The Pony Club office. Teams wishing to change or select colours should apply to The Pony Club office. In the event of a clash of colours in a match the team to change shirts will be the one lower in the draw (as per HPA rules).

e) **Hats**. 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 1st 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>G1 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 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 1st 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.

f) **Hair** - In the interest of safety, long hair is to be secured appropriately.

g) **Spurs** - Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, may be worn. If the spurs are curved the curve must be downwards and the shank must point straight to the back and not exceed 3cm in length. Sharp spurs may not be worn. Spurs that have a smooth rotating ball on the shank are permitted. No spurs are allowed in JOR, HX or SUR.

h) **Whips** - Restricted to 48 inches in length, including the tag. Broken whips are not allowed.

i) **Jewellery** - For safety reasons players may not wear jewellery or studs. Members who are contemplating piercing their ears or any other part of their body should be aware that they will not be allowed to participate in any Pony

Club mounted activities until such a time as the 'sleepers' can safely be removed. The reason for this is that sleepers have in the past caused injuries following falls.

j) **Faceguards/Goggles/Gum Shields** - The wearing of faceguards or goggles and gum shields are recommended. Gum shields should be properly fitted by a dentist.

k) **Electronic Devices** - Headphones, mobile phones etc. enabling another person to communicate with the rider are not allowed whilst the rider is playing. No recording device is permitted.

## **EQUIPMENT FOR PONIES**

a) **Boots and Bandages** - Ponies must be bandaged or wear protective boots on all four legs and tails must be put up. In the event of a bandage coming undone play will be stopped. It is at the discretion of the umpire whether play waits while the bandage is done up securely. Undue delay will not be accepted. It is therefore important that all players have the ability to do up bandages quickly and efficiently.

b) **Bridles** - Plain black or brown leather bridles only may be used.

c) **Blinkers** - Blinkers are not allowed. Nor is any form of noseband or cheeks that obstructs the vision of the pony such as sheepskin.

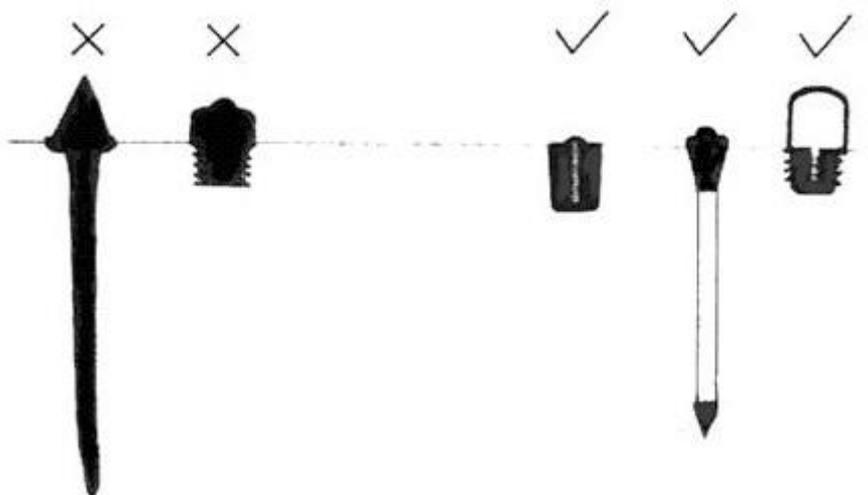
d) **Bits** - All bits should fit properly and be suitable for playing polo. Any bits deemed by The Pony Club Polo Committee to be excessively thin in the mouthpiece will not be accepted. All synthetic bits must be black, brown or white. Ponies may not be played in a bitless bridle (hackamore). Any misuse 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. Any abuse of the pony's mouth will be penalised and the player will not be allowed to play.

### e) **Studs**

i. Only one recognised polo stud without a hard centre of 1/2 inch (13mm) cubed can be fitted to the outside of each hind shoe within 1 inch (25mm) of the heel. The studs should not be placed at the widest part of the shoe. This is the recommended method.

ii. Road nails with a hardened tip are allowed on the outside of each hind shoe.

iii. Ponies found with the incorrect studs will not be allowed to play until the studs are removed.



f) **Standing Martingales** - Are to be worn by all ponies and must be of leather.

g) **Nosebands** - Only one may be worn unless using a standing martingale with a combination, kinton, drop noseband or similar in which case the addition of a cavesson is allowed. Nosebands must be correctly fitted and should not cause discomfort. Nosebands must not incorporate chain or rope, but plaited rawhide is allowed.

h) **Clip on Tack** - Is not permitted.

i) **Reins** - Rope reins are not permitted. Bridge reins are not allowed.

j) **Humane Girths are NOT permitted.**

k) Incorrectly or badly fitting tack or tack in a dangerous condition is not allowed. Nosebands and curb chains must be properly fitted.

l) It is the player's responsibility to ensure that their tack and equipment is in accordance with the rules and safe. Players must present themselves for inspection as required.