BLUE BOOK

DRESS AND GEAR REGULATIONS

SECTION 7



PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

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NOTES FOR GEAR INSPECTORS AT PONY CLUB COMPETITIONS AND RALLIES

1. OBJECTIVES

To ensure the safety of the rider, the correct fit of gear and the comfort of the horse, correct uniform of the rider and that these conform to the rules of the competition or rally.

All horses attending State run events must be microchipped.

2. GEAR CHECK AREA

Prior to all pony club competitions, rallies or schools, the organizing committee or Senior Instructor is required to appoint gear steward/s who will be on duty at an appointed area prior to the commencement of the day or competition and at other times as stipulated.

At state championships the gear check area must be an enclosed area and competitors are not permitted after their gear check to leave this enclosure prior to taking part in the competition.

Following the check no gear must be exchanged without the permission of the gear check steward. Failure to observe this rule could entail elimination. Where circumstances arise at State Championships such as a split venue, two Chief Gear Check Stewards will be appointed.

It is recommended that horses not be loaded (with rider and tack) by more than 20% of the horse's weight, at all levels.

3. DUTIES

a) To inspect the gear of the mount and the dress of the rider and to recommend any change or removal of gear considered to be dangerous, cruel, ill-fitting, unsafe or not conforming with association regulations.

b) At championships, it is the responsibility of the team manager to thoroughly check all competitors before they present to the gear stewards and to be in attendance when the official gear check is carried out for each of his/her team members.

c) Bearing in mind the safety of the rider and the legal liability, the gear inspector should not under any circumstances alter or adjust any equipment and is required to request that the competitor or his team manager effect the necessary adjustments and that he report back when these have been carried out.

d) Should there be any dispute regarding gear, the matter is first referred to the Chief Gear Check Steward, and if still unresolved may be refered to the Disputes/Advisory Committee.

e) At a Club or Zone competition it is the responsibility of the appointed instructor/team manager in charge of the competitor to check the gear prior to presenting to the gear steward.

f) At any rally or fixture, in the absence of an appointed gear steward, the responsibility of the gear check should be undertaken by the senior instructor of the day or an instructor appointed for that purpose.

g) For pony Club events at Agricultural Shows, the local Club should arrange for instructor/s to carry out a gear check prior to the event/s. Any unauthorized change of gear following the inspection may be penalized by disqualification.

GEAR CHECK STEWARDS ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS SECTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GEAR RULES

https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/resource-hub/competition/

4. SAFETY

It is the responsibility of the gear steward to ensure that:

All gear appears safe, paying particular attention to:

- All stitching i.e. stirrup leathers, reins, girth points, girths etc.
- Stirrups are not too small or large for competitor and not too smooth on the tread surface.
- 10mm clearance is required at each side of the boot.

Bits are to be safe and not badly worn at joint or rings.

Bridle leather, reins, stirrup leathers, girth points and girth are not to be worn or split or appearing unsafe. Reins must be buckled, stitched or joined in a safe manner at the hand held end.

Horses may not be ridden with rugs or when not fully and correctly harnessed.

It is the responsibility of gear check stewards to decide if a retention harness on an approved equestrian helmet is correctly in place and securely fastened.

Retention harness that is worn loose, frayed, insecurely fastened or in any way considered "suspect" is not permitted. Hard chin cups on retention harness are not permitted.

Sun protection covers are permitted on helmets provided that the cover is secure and does not interfere with the safety effect of the helmet.

In the interests of safety, the stirrup iron and the stirrup leather (this also applies to safety stirrups) must hang freely from the bar of the saddle on the outside of the flap. There must be no other restriction or attachment of any kind. The rider must not directly or indirectly have any part of his/her body tied to the saddlery.

Body Protectors are permitted to be worn for all disciplines. Refer to National Gear Rules for current standards.

Any person outside of a horse free area at a Pony Club event must wear covered solid footwear. No rider may be led over a jump at Pony Club (a single pole on the ground is not a jump).

5. GEAR

a) The channel of the saddle must be clear of the horse's backbone when the rider is mounted and there should be sufficient clearance at the wither. Covers over the top of saddles are not permitted.

b) The throat lash is to be correctly fitted. Brow bands and poll straps should not cause discomfort to the horse's ears. (Refer fitting of bridle — "Riding".)

c) Saddlecloths must be worn and the cloth next to the horse is to be absorbent and larger than the saddle. Shaped numnahs and sheepskin saddlecloths are not permitted unless worn with club/Zone/State saddlecloth. The saddlecloth is to fit smoothly with no ridges or edges under the seat of the saddle. Saddlecloths may bear Zone or Club numbers or emblems. Riders selected to represent the State are permitted to display State approved logos on their saddlecloths.

d) The bit used, is to be suitable to the experience of the rider and horse and be suitable for the particular competition. The bit should be checked for wear or rough surfaces, attention being given to any central join of a bit. The bit is not to be considered cruel or uncomfortable and must have sufficient clearance each side of the horse's mouth. Bits must lie in the correct position in the horse's mouth.

   Bits may only be used as designed. When examining a bit in a horse's mouth, this need not be removed unless it particularly requires checking, in which case the competitor must be dismounted and proper safety precautions observed.

e) If a running martingale is used it must be correctly fitted. (Refer "Riding" manual.) Reins used in conjunction must be buckled or studded on to the bit and must have STOPPERS fitted. The rings are to be suitably held at neck strap level to prevent a large loop forming between girth and neck strap. Stoppers must be used on all reins and above the breast plate or neck strap.

f) All girths must be correctly adjusted and appear safe. Two buckles are required or one buckle and a surcingle. Exception: Western or Stock Saddle with attachments as designed and manufactured for that particular saddle.

g) Cavesson nosebands should be loose enough to allow two fingers (3cm) side on between the band and the jaw bone and should lie half way between the corners of the mouth and the projecting cheek bone.

h) Dropped nose bands including Micklem drop nose band, must not be too low on the nose or too tight and should fit firmly.

i) Curb chains should come in contact with the chin only when the cheek pieces are at 45 degrees. Chains may have a cover. All bits with curb chains attached must have a rein on the top ring (at the bit). Rounders or split reins may be used.

j) Surcingles should be fastened directly under the chest of the horse. A surcingle that is threaded through the flap of a saddle is permissible or a surcingle worn over a saddle is permitted as long as it does not restrict the removal of the stirrup leather from the bar.

k) Stirrups or stirrup leathers must not be tied down to any part of the saddle or mountings in any manner. The foot may not be attached to the stirrup in any way. Stirrup leathers are worn OVER the outside flap at all times. (Exception: please see the rules of the Australian Horseball Association for rules surrounding pickup straps while playing Horseball).

Ox-bow stirrups are permitted on Stock, Stock type and Western saddles.

Stirrup bars having safety clips at the end must be easily pushed up and down and not fixed. The loose end of the stirrup leather must not be threaded back through the buckle but may be threaded through a keeper on the flap.

The fender saddle is permitted at Pony Club. Fender-type leathers are permitted on Stock saddles. Stirrup leathers on Stock saddles may be done up at the stirrup iron.

l) Dropped nose bands including Micklem drop nose bands, Hanoverian nose bands or any nose band which fits the horse's curb grove may not be permitted when a curb chain is being used and vice versa.

m) Any rein (split or otherwise) must not hang below the toe of the riders boot in the stirrup or the point of the horse's elbow whichever is higher.

6. UNIFORM

For all Club, Zone or State competition, full uniform is to be worn. Long sleeved shirt (worn with sleeves down and buttoned up), tie, beige, fawn, white or oatmeal jodhpurs, if jodhpurs have a different colour insert, this insert must only be from the same colour palette. The wearing of a coat is NOT permitted. All parts of the uniform are to be correctly fitted.

Riding Trousers may be worn at all Disciplines except Dressage, Showjumping, Eventing, Combined Training and Jumping Equitation events at state level.

Riding Trousers shall be fawn, bone, white, beige or oatmeal coloured trousers designed specifically for riding or labelled stockman cut, moleskin or similar appellation, the top of which shall be at the rider's waist and the length of which shall be such that when mounted the top of the rider's boot shall be covered. Exception: For polocrosse only trousers may be worn inside riding roper style or long boots. Riding trousers may not be worn with long boots for other disciplines.

Club or Zone polo shirts (tucked into rider's jodhpurs) shall be worn during competition at Championship events for Mounted Games, Team Sporting, Tetrathlon and Polocrosse as a matter of comfort and safety for riders.

At State Championship Presentations competitors must wear the full uniform worn in competition.

Long Sleeved Zone or Club coloured Work shirts may be used at Club and Zone rally days and competitions.

Note: The definition of the polo shirt allowed is as follows "must have a collar and may be either short or long sleeved." Polo Shirts are to be in Zone or Club colours which may consist of the main Zone or Club colour and up to two trim or contrast colours.

Spray Jackets are permitted to be worn up to and including State level competitions in adverse weather conditions. The spray jackets are to be in Zone or Club colours and zipped closed whilst riding. Adverse weather conditions include (but are not limited to) driving wind and/or rain, sleet, snow and the like.

Notwithstanding any other rules in regard to boots only correctly fitted black or brown riding boots be worn at Pony Club.

The approved equestrian helmet must be correctly fitting (it must not fall forward on to the rider's nose, rotate on the head or obstruct sight in time of emergency) and must have effective retention harness attached and in place under the chin whenever the rider is mounted. Refer to National Gear Rules for current helmet standards https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/resource-hub/competition/

All mounted personnel, whether juniors, associates, seniors, adults, instructors, competitors, or helpers are required to wear an approved equestrian helmet with retention harness in place and approved riding boots. This also applies to helpers at championships or other fixtures (whether members or not).

The use of approved Body Protectors for all disciplines is permitted. Cross Country – the use of a Body Protector is mandatory at all levels for competition and training for Cross Country at all Pony Club NSW activities and events including rallies.

If a jumper is worn at State Championships it must be of knitted wool or wool blend. At other times it may be made of knitted wool or wool blend and/or cotton polyester blend and in every case it shall have long sleeves or be a sleeveless pullover, with a V-neck and be of one plain colour.

Riders under 17 years are not permitted to wear long/tall boots or gaiters with jodhpur boots at the State Show Riding or Formal Gymkhana (Flat Riding section) Championships.

The carrying of mobile phones whilst under instruction or competing is not permitted.

Rowel Spurs, blunt or smooth, that are free to rotate be allowed for all Pony Club Dressage competitions. These spurs are to have a curved or straight shank directly back from the centre of the spur when on the riders boot.

7. POLO AND POLOCROSSE

Fixed head checks (standing martingales) may be worn. Breastplates are compulsory at

Polocrosse. No bits with protrusions/shanks are allowed at Polocrosse.

Playing uniform shall be white/fawn/beige jodhpurs or white/fawn/beige stockman cut trousers, polo shirt (with collar and sleeves) in Zone or Club colours, together with regulation helmet and boots. In Polocrosse competitors may tuck their riding trousers into their boots for safety reasons.

8. MOUNTED GAMES

No spurs or whips are permitted.

9. ONE DAY EVENT

Time pieces are permitted to be worn in all grades

Polo shirts in club, Zone or State colours may be worn in the cross country phase.If a long sleeved shirt is worn in the cross country phase, a tie must not be worn. Medical armbands are to be worn at State Championships during the cross country phase. Clubs and Zones encourage riders to wear them during the cross country phase of the Zone and Club events.

10. SPORTING

If reins are knotted to shorten, the buckle at the hand held end must be undone.

11. CAMPDRAFTING

No whip of any type may be carried.

Horse must have free use of its head, no head check, tie down, running rein etc. may be used.

Ox-bow stirrups are permitted on stock, stock type and western saddles. The tread surface should be suitably roughened

Spurs: Willoughby type spurs may be worn. The rowel must be at least as thick as a 20 cent coin on the outside edge.

12. TEAM MANAGER DUTIES

a) Prior to each state championship (or Pony Club competition at the RAS), Zones are required to nominate a junior and senior team manager, or as many team managers as stipulated and required according to the entries from that Zone.

   Team managers can also be used in inter-Club and inter-Zone competition. Team managers should be responsible persons and must be current financial members of Pony Club NSW holding current Working with Children Checks.

b) Prior to departure for any competition or championship, team managers will receive from their Zone Secretaries a list of competitors for whom they are responsible.

   Team members should also be notified by their Zone Secretaries through their Club Secretaries, the name of their team manager and advised of their responsibility to team managers prior to their departing for any championship or competition.

c) If possible it is advisable for the team manager to contact or meet with the team and discuss all aspects of the championship or fixture prior to the actual date. In this way the team can obtain any information and be fully prepared for their event.

d) Team Managers should wear identifying badges at all times as well as uniform of the Zone or Club that they are responsible for.

e) Team Managers should inspect uniform and all saddlery for correctness and safety prior to the competitors' presentation to the gear steward. They should ensure that team members report to the gear steward at the correct time. Team managers are required to BE IN ATTENDANCE during official inspection of their team members and to ensure gear is adjusted as required by the gear check steward.

f) Team Managers are to be suitably attired and available to walk courses with team members. For identification purposes it is recommended that team managers wear the uniform of their Zone. They must ensure that all team members are correctly attired for the walking of a course for showjumping phases and for all events at the RAS. If walking the course with their team at the RAS they MUST be suitably dressed with hat, coat and tie.

g) Team Managers should walk cross country courses with team members.

h) To ensure that all team members are present and ready to start when called.

i) Team Managers are to be in attendance with their team members at the practice jumps at showjumping or eventing championships.

j) Represent team members to the administrative office at the venue or technical delegate, relative to queries or information sought. Communications to the office at the event such as scratchings, horse substitutions, early leave requests or protest must be made by the Team Manager only.

k) The Team Manager must check the scores of team members within the allotted time for protest and report any discrepancy to appropriate official. Protests must be accompanied by a lodgement fee, as specified in the event schedule.

   The Team Manager must be familiar with the rules of the particular championship and have access to same for reference by team members.

l) The Team Manager must attend Team Managers briefings and communicate any additional information to all their team.

m) To assemble and check ALL team members for correct dress and saddlery prior to final presentation and then accompany the team (on foot) for any official occasion and presentations. The Team Manager is responsible for the team's conduct during proceedings and their dismissal at the conclusion. Any application for absence from presentation parade must only be made to the advisory committee, by the respective team manager.

n) To be in attendance at the venue whilst ever their team is present and be available for supervision and advice.

o) To ensure that no person other than the nominated rider, exercises or rides the competition horse at any club, Zone or state fixture and that anyone lunging a horse is authorized to do so.

p) To ensure that no team member is mounted at any time unless the horse is correctly saddled as for competition and the competitor is wearing an approved equestrian helmet with the retention harness in place and wearing approved boots. Horses MUST NOT be ridden in rugs. At no time is a horse to carry more than one rider whilst at any fixture.

q) To supervise the stabling and handling of horses with emphasis on safety at all times.

r) To be responsible for the conduct of all members of their team whilst ever they are at the venue and act in a supervisory capacity at all times. To generally care for the welfare and happiness of all team members whilst they are at the competition venue.