

August 2024

The Pony Club Guidelines on the Use of Spurs

Members wishing to ride with spurs at Pony Club activities must have achieved the C+ Riding Test or the Spurs Achievement Badge.

It is important that spurs are only worn by riders who have a stable lower leg and who are able to use – or not use – the spur intentionally.

Minimum expected requirements that should be discussed by the rider and coach

- If wearing spurs, the rider must:
 - Have achieved the C+ Riding Test or the Spurs Achievement Badge.
 - Have still hands and a seat that is sufficiently independent that they can maintain a quiet, stable, still leg position.
 - Understand that spurs are a refinement of a leg aid.
 - Be able to use their seat, hand, and leg aids individually.
 - Be mindful of the impact spurs may have on the horse/pony they are riding.
- If wearing spurs, the spurs must:
 - Comply with the maximum dimensions defined in the rulebook for the sport in which the member is participating.
 - Be fitted correctly, with the shank pointing slightly downwards.
 - Only be used as an additional aid, to back up and refine the leg aids.
 - Never be used to punish the horse.
- If the pony/horse needs a strong bit for control, spurs are unlikely to be an appropriate aid.

Misuse of spurs

Failure to meet the minimum expected requirement constitutes a misuse of spurs, as does evidence of spur-induced rubs or injuries. A rider misusing spurs will be required to remove their spurs and should only resume wearing spurs when they have demonstrated to an accredited Pony Club coach that they can meet the minimum expected requirements consistently and understand that the misuse of spurs is never acceptable.