



The Burghley Branch of the Pony Club

Parent's Survival Guide

Welcome!

- This Parent's Survival Guide serves as both a very warm welcome to our newer members, and an opportunity to pull together key information to share as a reminder for everyone!
- The Burghley Pony Club is a busy, thriving and fun branch and we are very privileged to be based in the beautiful grounds of Burghley House, Stamford.
- We have members of all ages, with a wide range of interests and aspiration. We pride ourselves on being open and welcoming to all, whatever your experience, interests or goals. We all have a passion for horses and ponies, and we want to provide everyone with opportunities to learn, enjoy and develop with us..
- We understand it can sometimes feel like a minefield of jargon, processes and 'stuff', some of which makes absolutely no sense – Just remember that we are here to help de-mystify everything so you don't have to worry and can concentrate on having fun and learning !
- This handbook therefore contains a snapshot of "Good to Know" information. Our current programme and more can be found on our website [Burghley \(pcuk.org\)](https://burghley.pcuk.org) and in our closed Facebook page.



Our Rallies

Booking into Rallies and Training sessions

- Rallies are listed on our calendar on the website [here](#) and are also often advertised through our Facebook page. Please plan ahead and book into rallies as early as possible.
- All bookings are on-line via our website. Complete a [rally form](#) and send the corresponding payment (usually via Paypal). Please complete a separate form for each rally.
- Rally times for individual groups are placed on our Facebook page several days before a rally. For other training you will be advised by email of the start time.
- If you need to withdraw from a rally/training, please contact the organiser as soon as possible. Advance communication is very helpful and greatly appreciated as we often hold waiting lists.

Attending Rallies

- Please arrive approximately 15 minutes before your start time so as to be mounted and ready. Once mounted and waiting for a rally or training to start, please walk or stand quietly on your horse. Do not gallop around venue fields or arenas.
- At the end of your rally or training please remember to thank your coach and to thank your organiser before you leave. Remember to remove horse droppings, hay, straw etc from parking areas, even if you are parked in a field! We use some lovely venues and it would be a shame to lose them because we don't clear up properly.



What to wear



Dressage & SJ Rallies

Cream, beige, black or navy jodhpurs/ breeches
Burghley PC Polo, Sweatshirt (No hoodies for safety)
Burghley PC coat (or dark coloured coat)
Black or brown jodhpur or long boots
Hats must be tagged with a Pony Club Tag
Plain hat silk— Navy, Black or Brown
Hairnet for long hair
Plain saddlecloth or numnah – Navy, Black, Brown or white
Clean tack and groomed ponies
Metal Pony Club Badge
A body protector is optional



XC Rallies

As Dressage & SJ rallies, except

- Body protectors are **COMPULSORY**
- Hats cannot have a fixed peak
- Burghley XC colours are optional



SJ/ Dressage Competitions & tests

Cream or beige jodhpurs or breeches
White shirt and tie
(PC stock can be worn by older members)
Tweed /navy/ black jackets
Boots, hats, silks, hair, jewellery and body protector as per rallies
White Burghley /plain saddlecloth or numnah
Pony Club Badge worn on LEFT lapel

Burghley kit



Burghley branded clothing can be ordered from the very lovely people at **GG Gear**. Simply [click here](#):

The Basics:

The best items to start with are the **Burghley Polo Shirt** and/or **Club jumper**.

You will also need a **Pony Club** metal badge which you may have ordered with your membership, but if not, please get in touch with Sarah or Georgina.

Competing & tests:

The next stage would be getting a **PC tie**, and if you wanted to really splash out a Burghley Saddlecloth for competing in. Older members (usually 12+) often like to compete in the Burghley Competition Stock

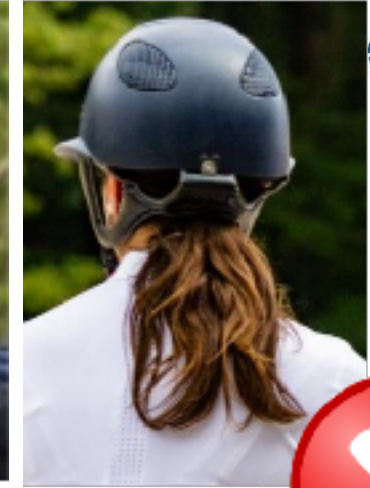
Then there are extras:

Whether it is a stylish Burghley Coat, a navy saddlecloth for rallies, or skins for XC - there are lots of choices!



Riding Safety Wear

- Long hair needs to be tied back and in a **hairnet** (scalping risk 🤢)
- **No jewellery, earrings or hoodies** - risk of getting caught
- **Hats** are checked to be at standard and **tagged** (contact a committee member BEFORE your first rally)
- (If you are considering buying a new hat, please note that from the 1st January 2023, PAS 015 1998 and 2. SNELL 2001 hat standards will no longer be accepted, due to the age of hats made to these standards)



Body protectors are compulsory 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 2018 Level 3 standard (blue and black label). BETA 2009 Level 3 (purple label) body protectors will continue to be accepted at Pony Club competitions until 1st December 2024 but you may wish to bear this in mind if purchasing new kit!



Wellbeing & Safety

As well as being warm, open and welcoming – we are very serious about have a safe environment for our members, parents, coaches and volunteers.

The Pony Club has a number of policies designed to help all our members be safe and promote their wellbeing.

So, grab a cuppa ☕ and have a read of these:

[Social media](#)
[Anti-bullying](#)



Conduct....

- Burghley Pony Club is committed to the highest ideals of **sportsmanship**, support and respect – these contribute to your strength of character and self-discipline. The Pony Club Code of Conduct is very important and must be adhered to at all times. Please make sure you have read and familiarised yourself thoroughly with these three documents:
- [Member code of conduct](#)
- [Parent & guardian code of conduct](#)
- [Official & volunteer code of conduct](#)
- Please remember that we are very much “on public display” in Burghley Park. Visitors to the Estate enjoy watching our rallies and events in the sunshine, and we must therefore be morally beyond reproach at all times. **Respect** each other, be friendly and supportive, and listen to your coaches, and above all, please ensure that you respect and care for your ponies.
- Note:** The definition of ‘excessive use’ within the Whip Rule 2022 (next slide) will be enforced at our rallies as well as at competitions, and this also applies with regard to loading and unloading your ponies. If you have a difficult loader, please could you communicate with the rally organiser ahead of the event.

Members have the right to:

- Be safe and happy in their chosen activity.
- Be listened to, respected and treated fairly.
- Privacy.
- Be protected from harm.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability.
- Experience competition and the desire to win.
- Be believed and supported.
- Ask for help.
- Have their concerns taken seriously and acted on as appropriate.



The Whip Rule 2022

Please be aware that the **specifications for whips for show jumping and cross-country** have changed for all Pony Club competitions and details can be found [here](#)

In competition, excessive use of the whip will result in disqualification.

In Burghley Park, we are publicly very visible and so we ask you to reflect on this and behave appropriately with reference to use of the whip at our rallies too!

Note:

- Use of the whip to vent anger is always excessive.
- Use on a horse's head, neck etc. is always excessive.
- Using the whip from the ground after a rider fall or dismount is always excessive.
- If the rider's arm comes above the shoulder when using the whip, this is excessive

Remember:

At all times, a whip must only be used: for a good reason, as an aid to encourage the horse forward; at an appropriate time; in the right place (down the shoulder or behind the leg); with appropriate severity; and no more than twice for any one incident.



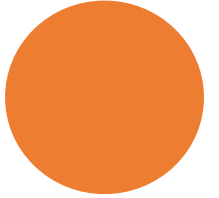
The Stirrup Rule 2022

- Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots.
- There must be 7mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") clearance on either side of the boot
- Riders must ensure that their stirrups are suitable for the type of footwear they are wearing and the activities in which they are taking part and that the stirrup leathers are in good condition
- Feet/stirrup leathers/stirrup irons must never be attached to the girth
- Interlocking boot soles and stirrup iron, and stirrups which connect the boot and the stirrup magnetically are NOT permitted
- **Further information** about the Stirrup Rules and specific sports can be found by clicking here: [stirrup-2022.pdf \(pcuk.org\)](https://www.pcuk.org.uk/stirrup-2022.pdf)



Vaccinations

- Burghley Pony Club horses and ponies must be fully vaccinated if ridden at rallies and other events to protect the health of other horses and for venue biosecurity . Annual boosters are required.
- Please ensure that your horse or pony has up to date vaccinations and remember to bring your equine passport to PC competitions and to camp.
- Please note: Stricter requirements can be requested at some venues, and 6-monthly boosters are required for Area competitions and above, so please make sure that you always check before attending somewhere new for competitions.
- The most up-to-date rules on Vaccination can be read by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions after reading this, please get in touch with a committee member.



Camps

Pony Club just wouldn't be Pony Club without our summer camps- and at The Burghley, we run three! Members are grouped with others of a similar age and ability and throughout the week enjoy coaching on flatwork, SJ and XC with our wonderful coaches.

Resi Camp – 5 days

- Designed for members who can independently manage their pony and are at least 11 years old. The children sleep in tents for the week – no parents allowed!

Day camp - 4-day

- Designed for members who are 8 years and older, including those not quite ready for the full 'sleepover for the week' experience. Younger members are buddied up with more experienced older 'helper' members who will encourage and support them. Parents don't stay.

Mini camp – 3-day

- Designed for members under 8yrs or aren't quite ready for main camp. Parents stay 'on hand' to offer help and support where needed.

The emphasis at all camps is on fun and friendship and making lifelong memories. Applications and details for camp usually come out in April.



Competing

There are a growing number of sports in Pony Club, the most popular within our branch are Eventing, Show Jumping, Dressage and Polocrosse.

The main split of competitions are:

- **Inter-branch or branch run competitions** – which include shows, eventer trials, show jumping, dressage, hunter trials and tetrathlon. There really is something for everyone and branch-run competitions usually have classes for all ages - from the tiniest riders on lead rein right up through the levels.
- **Qualifying competitions** – Areas, Regionals & the Winter Series

We include the Pony Club competitions coming up locally on our website and in our **closed Facebook group**.

We have lots of information about each of the disciplines on our [Burghley website](#):

You can also find extra information about the sports [here](#):



Tests

- The **Pony Club Training structure** encourages members to take tests which enables them to learn progressively about horse and pony care and riding.
- Starting with the 'E test' at 4yrs and go up to the prestigious 'A test', the tests are progressive and must be taken in order (with the exception of E which is optional). The tests are taken at recommended ages and are designed with certain objectives in mind.
- E, D, and Mini Road Rider are taken at Day Camp, then we organise standalone programmes and tests for D+ level upwards. Please contact Sarah Hind to get your name added to waiting lists for these standalone programmes.
- To show what level they have achieved they get a 'coloured felt' that goes under their metal PC lapel badge, a sew on badge & certificate
- There is a [quick overview](#)
- And then the more [detailed syllabuses](#)



Badges

NY
B



FUN | FRIENDSHIP

There are **over 100 badges**..... covering equine, non-equine, competitions.....

- 32 [Mini achievement badges](#)
- 55 [Main achievement Badges](#)
- 18 [Sports Badges](#)

Members who achieve 14 mini badges will be awarded the **Mini Gold** badge.

The Gold Achievement Badge is awarded to those gaining 21 main achievement badges. For many of our members collecting ALL the badges has become an ambition - although there are always new ones coming out...!

Throughout the year (and during camps) there are opportunities to gain badges. Some of these are run in partnership with our friends at Bulby Equestrian Centre

For badge rallies, please come **wearing** your Burghley Polo/ Jumper, jods or jeans and footwear suitable to wear around horses. Hats and gloves should also be brought for safety reasons.



Our fundraising competitions

The Burghley Branch runs several major competitions each year:

- The Spring Hunter Trial
- The Spring Mini & Junior Eventer Trial
- The Novice Show
- The Burghley ODE
- The Autumn Hunter Trial
- The Autumn Mini & Junior Eventer Trial

The purpose of the events are twofold – they give members a wonderful chance to compete and they raise valuable club funds. The funds enable us to subsidise rallies, subsidise test training and other events, and pay for coaches at competitions so we don't need to add a Branch Fee to subscriptions 🙌😄.

For these events WE NEED YOU. There events cannot run without our amazing team of volunteers. We will match your skills to jobs, and it can be very satisfying.

Please note: volunteering at at least one event is a pre-requisite for applying for a place at camp 🤖 !



Final survival tips.....

- If in doubt, ask – we will ALWAYS aim to support you and most importantly your child 😊 !
- If you don't know why we've done something, talk to us..... we spend an insane amount of time thinking before we do things.... 🤔
- Finally, have fun & don't sweat the small stuff, if you turn up at an event with the PC equivalent of white socks & sandals, or forget your girth...then you're normal and we'll do our best help 😊.

