

EAST CHESHIRE BRANCH OF THE PONY CLUB

What to wear?

Branch Dress Code (updated 2018)

“What to wear?” is a recurring theme and we thought it would be useful, particularly for new members, to produce some guidelines for the correct Pony Club dress code for the various events which members attend.

RALLIES

CLOTHING: When attending mounted rallies, members should wear light-coloured (beige, cream or white), navy or black (solid coloured, no 2-tone, patterns or denim) jodhpurs or breeches; branch royal blue long-sleeved polo shirt or branch skin; white shirt with Pony Club tie along with a branch royal blue sweatshirt (with no hood). Coats should be either branch royal blue, or plain dark coloured with no hood. Body protectors ideally dark.

FOOTWEAR: Black or brown leather shoes, jodhpur boots or rubber or leather riding boots should be worn. Half chaps may be worn with jodhpur boots, provided they are the same colour as the boots and not fringed or decorated in any way. Long socks are NOT to be worn outside jodhpurs. Wellington boots, trainers or boots with heavy treads are not suitable – this is because the foot can easily be trapped in the event of a fall.

HATS: Hats or hat covers **MUST** be black or dark blue.

Hard hats must be worn at all times when mounted. Only Pony Club approved hats or skull caps may be worn. Please refer to the Hat Rule 2018 which is available on the branch website (Parents Information page).

Please check your current hat. It must have a correctly fitted harness and be fastened at all times when mounted – and this includes at prize-giving. Please note that hats with fixed peaks, including those sold specifically for show jumping, are not allowed for cross-country or games training or competition, or for the farm ride during camp. We strongly recommend purchasing a skull cap when buying a new hat, so that it can be worn for all sports, including eventing, tetrathlon, games and all cross-country training.

All members need to have their hats checked either by Heather Pearson or Louise Cairns to see that they comply with the current standard and have a “hat tag” attached to the chin strap. Displaying the hat tag will mean that members will not need to have that hat checked again at any Pony Club event in the appropriate year, but **don't forget to get any new hat checked the first time it is worn to a Pony Club event or rally. New for 2018 – “aqua” coloured hat tags acceptable for PC, BE and BHS activities whoever issues them.**

HAIR: should always be tidy with no stray strands hanging down over the eyes. Hair should be worn in a net. Long hair must be tied back in a plait or plaits with plain dark bands and preferably very long hair twisted up in a bun.

COMPETITIONS

The following is a guide for dress code at branch and other Pony Club competitions. All members should buy the relevant Rule Book for the Sport(s) in which they are competing. They are available from Pony Club Headquarters or via the Branch Secretary.

Show Jumping: Hats as rallies (above); boots; plain black, navy or tweed Jackets; light coloured (beige, cream or white) jodhpurs/breeches; tie or stock and badge. Gloves may be worn. See relevant Rule Book.

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Dressage: Hats as rallies (above); boots; plain black, navy or tweed jackets; light coloured jodhpurs; tie or stock and badge. Gloves MUST be worn. See relevant Rule Book.

Cross country: Skull caps must be worn; light coloured jodhpurs; boots; Cross country colours may be worn although when competing in a team ideally branch royal blue colours for top and hat silk. Body protectors are compulsory (see current Eventing Rules). Gloves may be worn.

Mounted Games: Skull caps must be worn with either black or blue cover; white shirt; Pony Club tie; beige or cream jodhpurs; jodhpur boots in black or brown. For friendly competitions, the Branch sweatshirt may be worn, but not for Area competitions. If very cold, a white V necked sweater may be worn. No watches, jewellery or spurs. See relevant Rule Book.

Tetrathlon (riding phase) – as above. See relevant Rule Book.

Polocrosse – Hats as rallies (above), beige, cream or white jodhpurs/breeches or white riding trousers or white jeans, numbered shirts or bibs to indicate position of the player. See relevant Rule Book.

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR ALL PONY CLUB ACTIVITIES

JEWELLERY: Only medical jewellery is permitted. No other jewellery is allowed for safety reasons, other than a wrist watch, a wedding ring, a stock pin worn horizontally or a tie clip. 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.**

SPURS: With effect from the 1st January 2018, the Pony Club rules regarding the use of spurs changed. Previously the rules required all those members who had not yet achieved “B” test level to obtain the permission of the District Commissioner before spurs could be worn. The new position is that no permission is required in any circumstances. **However, that does not mean that the use of spurs by members will not be monitored and therefore the branch has amended its policy regarding such use.** See guidance document which is available on the branch website (Parents Information page).

STIRRUPS: It is very important that stirrups are checked regularly, particularly if members have recently had new boots. There should be ½” clearance between the foot and stirrup (i.e. ¼” either side). Stirrups which are too big are equally as dangerous as those which are too small.

Members are expected to look clean and tidy at rallies, shows and competitions. Please be polite, leave dogs at home and take your litter away with you. When attending rallies, accompanying small children must be kept under control at all times. When parking boxes or trailers, please do not tie a hay-net up outside for the pony to eat as it makes an awful mess. If the pony needs hay, feed in your box. Clean up all droppings, even if your pony didn't drop them.

Horses and ponies should only wear black, brown, navy or white numnahs and girths, and plain brow-bands. The East Cheshire royal blue saddle cloths with the Pony Club logo are also allowed.