

“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.

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR ALL PONY CLUB ACTIVITIES

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.

Equine Influenza Vaccinations To protect the health of all horses and ponies and the biosecurity of the venue, the following rules will apply to all Pony Club activities. The passport should accompany the horse/pony and be available for inspection at any time. **The minimum requirement is V1 & V2 and had a 7 day post-vaccine stand-down before being allowed entry to any Pony Club activity.** For the complete guidance please refer to the Resource Hub on the Pony Club website <https://resources.pcuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/The-Pony-Club-Equine-Influenza-VACCINATION-RULE-.pdf>

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. Leathers should be checked on a regular basis in particular the stitching.

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.

Spurs: May not be worn unless the member has passed their C+ or above PC Test or the Pony Club Spurs Test. Members who are entitled to wear spurs will be issued with a ‘yellow hat tag’. Please refer to the Spurs Rule 2025 which is available in the Resource Hub on the Pony Club website <https://resources.pcuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/the-pony-club-guidelines-on-the-use-of-spurs.pdf>

Use of the whip Specific sports have different rules for the size and type of whip permitted. These are detailed in respective rulebooks.

However, at all times, the whip must only be used:

- For a good reason, as an aid to encourage the horse forward.
- At an appropriate time, namely when the horse is reluctant to go forward under

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normal aids of seat and legs.

- In the right place, namely down the shoulder or behind the leg but never overarm.
- With appropriate severity.
- No more than twice for any one incident.

Excessive use of the whip anywhere at an event will result in disqualification:

- Use of the whip to vent a competitor's anger is always excessive.
- Use of a whip which causes injury eg. Broken skin or a weal, is always excessive.
- Use after elimination or retirement 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 always excessive.

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 2025 which is available in the Resource Hub on the Pony Club website

<https://resources.pcuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Hat-Rule.pdf>

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, Louise Cairns or Pennie Drummond to see that they comply with the current standard and have a "pink 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. A pink hat tag is 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 long hair twisted up in a bun.

Jewellery: – the wearing of any sort of jewellery when handling or riding a horse/pony is not recommended and if done at any Pony Club activity, is done at the risk of the member/their parent/guardian. However, to stop any risk of injury, necklaces and bracelets (other than medical bracelets) must be removed, as must larger and more pendulous pieces of jewellery (including those attached to piercings) which create a risk of injury to the body part through which they are secured. For the avoidance of doubt a wristwatch, wedding ring, stock pin worn horizontally and/or a tie clip are permitted. It is recommended that stock pins are removed for cross country.

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RALLIES

Clothing: When attending mounted rallies, members should wear light-coloured (beige, cream or white), navy or black (solid coloured, no 2-tone, patterned or denim) jodhpurs or breeches; branch royal blue short-sleeved, 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 of a 'blouson/bomber style' either branch royal blue, or plain dark coloured **with no hood**. Long all weather style coats ie 'Equi Dry' may **NOT** be worn for any Pony Club mounted activities. Body protectors ideally dark coloured.

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 to download in the Resource Hub on the Pony Club website (<https://pcuk.org/pony-club-rule-books/>) or purchase hardcopy via Amazon.

Show Jumping: Hats as rallies (above); boots; plain black, navy or tweed Jackets; light coloured (beige, cream, white, navy or black) jodhpurs/breeches; tie or stock and metal membership badge. Body protectors should be of BETA 2018 standard. Gloves may be worn. See relevant Rule Book for further details.

Dressage: Hats as rallies (above); boots; plain black, navy or tweed jackets; light coloured jodhpurs/breeches (contrast dark coloured seats are permitted); tie or stock and metal membership badge. Body protectors should be of BETA 2018 standard. Gloves **MUST** be worn. See relevant Rule Book for further details.

Cross country: For dressage and show jumping see above for guidance. For the cross country phase 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. Gloves may be worn. Body protectors are compulsory (BETA 2018). See relevant Rule Book for further details.

Tetrathlon (riding phase) – as above for cross country. For the swim, shoot and run phases see relevant Rule Book for further details.

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. Bibs and branch games numnahs will be issued on the day by the team coach. See relevant Rule Book for further details.

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