

EAST CHESHIRE BRANCH OF THE PONY CLUB TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Whenever it is necessary or appropriate for the Branch to enter a team or teams in any sport or activity, that team or those teams will be selected in accordance with the following policy:

All team selection will be done as fairly and openly as possible. Once those members willing and eligible to be selected for the team in question have been identified, further selection will take into account a number of factors including:

1. Commitment - in all respects - to the Branch, to training and rallies, to the competition and to their fellow members; and

2. Performance - both in previous competitions, at rallies and in training.

The order in which these two factors are placed is significant. The policy is not a “win at all costs” policy but where members are broadly equal in terms of commitment, the member who has demonstrated superiority of performance is the more likely to be selected. We want to win and encourage winners but not at the expense of all else. At the same time, we want to acknowledge and reward loyalty but sometimes it is right that other factors take precedence.

This may sometimes mean that a member is disappointed. It is almost inevitable - but that adds to the learning curve upon which all children and young people will travel and, hopefully, will act as a spur to future commitment and performance.

Team selection will, as far as possible be carried out by the person best qualified for the task. Ideally this would be someone who attends all training and most competitions - but there will always be difficulties if it is left to members (or, more particularly, member's parents) and these can lead to problems which are best avoided if possible.

It is the role of the sport head, where applicable, to select, in consultation with others if appropriate, teams to represent the Branch. They will try to take into account all factors but most particularly will assess commitment and performance. In the absence of the discipline head the selection will be the responsibility of the Branch District Commissioner who may nominate a third party to carry out the role.

Any member not selected for a team but still eligible to enter the competition as an individual is encouraged so to do since they may be needed for the team as a last minute substitute and in any event their individual performance may influence future team selection.

Geoff Bell

District Commissioner

East Cheshire Branch of the Pony Club

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