

ESSEX & SUFFOLK HUNT PONY CLUB

RULES AND GUIDANCE FOR DRESS AND TACK

Clothing

For all **mounted** and **unmounted** rallies and camp, riders should wear the following:

- Riding jacket or Branch sweatshirt
- White collared shirt (short or long sleeved) and Pony Club tie
- Plain-coloured* jodhpurs (no denim look or diamante embellishment)
- Gloves – black, brown or blue
- Footwear as listed below
- Hooded clothing is not permitted when riding

***Beige or cream jodhpurs are to be worn for any tack and turn out activity or competition.**

For branch or open competitions clothing as above but jackets should be worn with Pony Club badge (with felt underneath if applicable) on left lapel. Older riders may wear a stock instead of a tie but it is advised that stock pins are removed for cross country.

As a minimum. shoulders must be covered for ALL riding activities, except for Sports where long sleeves are compulsory (eg mounted games).

Glasses and contact lens

Glasses and contact lens are permitted whilst riding, the materials these items are made of should meet the necessary British Standards to reduce the risk of harm. To support security whilst riding members may wear a glasses safety strap if they wish to.

Footwear

Only standard riding or jodhpur boots in black or brown with a fairly smooth, thin sole and a well-defined square cut heel may be worn. Plain black or brown half chaps may be worn with jodhpur boots of the same colour. Tassels and fringes are not allowed. No other footwear will be permitted, including wellington boots, 'muckers' or trainers. Boots with interlocking treads are not permitted, nor are the boots or treads individually. Laces on boots must be taped for Mounted Games only.

Jewellery

The wearing of any sort of jewellery when handling or riding a horse/pony is not permitted within our branch unless it is a medical bracelet.

A wristwatch, tie pin and/or stock pin is allowed but stock pins are to be removed for cross country.

Hair

Hair should always be tidy with no stray strands hanging down over the eyes.

Long hair must be tied back securely in a hair net and in a safe manner to limit the risk to hair being caught and prevent scalp injuries.

Sports may have additional rules.

Medical armbands

Medical armbands are advised if Members are not accompanied by a responsible adult, including hacking on roads, and are compulsory for Pony Racing and Endurance rides.

Hat and Body Protectors

Riding hats must be worn at all times when mounted. Only Pony Club approved hats or skull caps may be worn. Please check your current hat. It must have a correctly fitted harness and be fastened at all times. We strongly recommend purchasing a skull cap when buying a new hat, so that it can be worn for all disciplines, including eventing, tetrathlon and all cross-country training. Each hat which complies with the above requirements should be tagged with a Pony Club current tag.

The Pony Club Hat Rule 2024: [Hat Rule 2024](#)

All members need to have their hats checked for safety by a committee member, to see that they comply with the current standard and then be given a "hat tag" to be attached to the chin strap. Wearing 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.

Body Protector: Body Protectors must be used for Cross Country, Arena Eventing and Pony Racing and must meet the Pony Club Body Protector Rule 2024: [Body Protector Rule 2024](#)

Spurs

Spurs must only be used to enhance the normal leg aids and allow for better communication from rider to horse.

Spurs must never be used to vent a competitor's anger or to reprimand the horse.

Use of the spurs which causes injury e.g. blood, broken skin or a weal, is always classed as misuse.

Misuse of the spurs anywhere at an event will result in disqualification.

Specific sport rules are detailed in respective rulebooks.

Tack

Tack must be clean and in good order.

Please check it regularly for worn stitching (particularly stirrup leathers) and flattened saddle stuffing and also make sure it fits your pony properly.

We have regular tack inspections at rallies and you will be informed of any irregularities that your instructor may find.

Numnahs and saddlepads should be white, cream, navy, brown or black with no coloured piping or lettering.

Girths in dark colours are preferred and humane girths are not permitted.

Stirrups

Stirrups must have 7mm clearance on either side of boots and adhere to the Pony Club Stirrup Rules [Stirrup Rule 2023](#)

Whips

Please see specific rulebooks for details regarding use of whips
<https://resources.pcupk.org/rules/>

Mary Thornley DC
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