

Fernie Pony Club – Team Selection Policy

1. Introduction

Sometimes, for competitions, we need to select and group members into teams.

A core philosophy of Fernie Pony Club is that every member is on their own individual development journey – and we want to support members whatever their aspirations and want them to feel supported wherever they are.

Our goal is to enable:

- combinations feel confident, prepared and ready for the level and sport for which they are being selected
- teams are selected through an open, consistent and fair process
- any questions or concerns raised during the process are handled fairly, respectfully and transparently.

This is especially important at competitions, whatever a member's level of experience, and particularly when someone's day may not go quite to plan.

Please take time to read the Area 6 eligibility criteria and relevant sport rulebooks carefully, as responsibility for eligibility sits with the member. We are always happy to answer questions and support you in deciding which level may be the most appropriate to apply for.

2. When do we select teams and who is involved?

We support both individual and team competition across the following sports - Triathlon, Quiz, Horse & Pony Care, Tetrathlon, Show Jumping (SJ), Dressage, and Eventing.

Area, Regional Qualifiers and Spring Festivals

For qualifying competitions, the Pony Club rulebook asks all combinations to have District Commissioner (DC) approval. This is so the combination is ready to compete and safe at the given level.

Within the Fernie, team selection is led by the Team Manager, working collaboratively with other Team Managers and in liaison with the DC and ADCs. Combination can enter directly once selection has been confirmed.

Inter-Branch Competitions (Non-Qualifiers)

For non-qualifying competitions:

- Members can enter directly
- Attendance is coordinated via relevant WhatsApp groups
- Teams are often formed based on entries received

If we see a combination is entered at a level that may not be appropriate, a Team Manager or DC will contact you. We want to support and help you have a safe and positive experience.

For all selections:

- In many cases, formal selection is not required if numbers match team requirements.
- If a team manager has a child or grandchild involved in the selection process, the final decision will be made by the other team managers
- A minimum of three team managers, DCs or ADCs will be involved in selection decisions

3. Conflicts of interest

To ensure fairness and transparency:

- Team selection discussions involve at least two people, and ideally three
- These may include Team Managers, coaches, and/or the DC

If a selector has a conflict of interest (e.g. family connection or private coaching relationship), this is declared. That individual will not take part in the final decision.

4. What we ask from members and parents

To support the process, we ask that you:

- Keep a record of your competition history (both Pony Club and non-Pony Club)
- Join relevant WhatsApp groups and respond to requests and deadlines promptly
- Support all members positively and respectfully

This is especially important when things don't go to plan. Please be mindful of members who may have not had a great day before commenting on team selection decisions (top phrases to avoid – they should/ or shouldn't have been...' , 'I would have/ wouldn't have...' 😊) - **#bekind**.

5. Selection criteria

Each sport has its own eligibility criteria, detailed in the relevant Pony Club rulebooks. The below is in addition to rulebooks and the [Additional criteria](#) from Area 6 (updated annually).

To compete, members need to be active members of the club, this can include Achievement Badges, Area Organised Activities, Camps, Coaching, Sport Specific Training, Rallies, Test Training and Volunteering.

Jumping Qualifiers and Major Events

For Jumping Qualifiers (Area, Regional and Spring Festival) and larger events such as Osberton and Burghley SJ, combinations are asked to:

- Have completed a competition at the same height, with a verifiable record (this does not need to be Pony Club)
- Be active members of the club, this can include:
 - Achievement Badges, Area Organised Activities, Camps, Coaching, Sport Specific Training, Rallies, Test Training and Volunteering.
- Have recent competition results at the same level
- Be assessed as ready to compete safely and confidently at that level

Team Competitions

- For all team competitions:
- Where members apply with two rides or for two classes, priority will be given to allow as many members as possible the opportunity to ride once

In addition, Fernie Pony Club considers:

- The combination's experience at the level and in similar environments
- The rider's and combination's competition record and results

6. Final note

We recognise that competition can bring both highs and challenges.

We are incredibly proud of the supportive culture within Fernie Pony Club, shown consistently by both members and parents—regardless of team selection outcomes.

Please remember that all committee members and Team Managers are volunteers. We always aim to do our best, make fair and supportive decisions and strive for excellence, we are human too.

#teamfernie