

# New Forest Hunts Pony Club

## SELECTION POLICY for Area & National COMPETITIONS

### Introduction

During the spring and summer months there are special Pony Club (PC) competitions for all disciplines. These are called 'AREA' Competitions and involve individuals and teams competing against other PC branches within Area 14.

Individuals and teams that are highly placed at AREA, qualify for the National Championship Competitions that are held throughout the UK, most generally in August. All National Championship competitions are highly prestigious and are considered to be the peak of the competitive year for all PC members.

The standard at all of these competitions is high, so it is important that those representing the NFHPC are both well prepared and capable of achieving the standard.

Unlike most other Pony Club Branches, our committee remains committed to supporting the entry fees up to 50%. However, this will only remain possible while our account balance is healthy. Our annual bill for Area entries is generally between £3,000 and £4,000.

There are a number of fundraising opportunities throughout each year with which you will be expected to help to ensure these funds are available. These include our branch competitions. Any other fundraising suggestions will be welcomed.

PLEASE NOTE: In previous years we have had a number of wasted entries (children the branch paid to enter Area's, who did not then turn up), so we have been forced to make the following amendment: From 2023 onwards, each individual will be required to pay their own entry fee for all area competitions. Once they have competed at the Area Competition, 50% of their entry fee will be reimbursed. If they do not compete the entry fee will not be reimbursed. (If anyone is unable to fund their entry in the first instance, the DC or ADC can be contacted in confidence to discuss other options).

## The Selection Process

***Selection will be undertaken by the NFHPC District Commissioner (DC), the Chief Instructor, the Discipline Coach and the Sports Manager ONLY***

Whenever the New Forest Hunts branch makes entries for AREA competitions, the individuals and team will be selected in accordance with the following policy:

1. All team selection will be done as fairly and openly as possible. All members who can demonstrate a commitment to the branch and a desire to compete for the branch can put themselves forwards for selection.
2. At the beginning of the selection phase, all NFHPC members will be invited to express their interest in representing their branch at Area Competitions. Please use the 'google form' that will be published on the NFHPC website.

3. Please Note: The Pony Club Rules state that *'The DC is required to certify that the competitor is a member of their branch and that they and their horse/pony are eligible to compete at the level they are entered for at the area competition. The DC must also be satisfied that each member entered is capable and competent enough to take part at the level at which they want to compete.'*
4. Selection will take into account both the **commitment** of the individual and their **performance** in previous competitions, at rallies, and in training.
  - You must fulfil the Area 14 '3 Rally Rule' (see separate '3 Rally Rule' policy)
  - You must be able to demonstrate evidence of **regular competitions**, at the appropriate level, on the horse / pony you are proposing to enter. Competitions can be affiliated, unaffiliated or Pony Club Competitions. Your results at these competitions can be used for evidence of your suitability to compete at AREA's.
  - You must attend **Team Training** during the assessment phase and in preparation for AREA's.
5. Other selection criteria will include evidence that you are an active and committed member of the NFHPC and are involved in a wide range of PC activities including fund raising and volunteering at branch events.
6. You must be available to compete at NATIONAL or REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS should you qualify. Please check and secure the dates of Championships before you put yourself forward for the Area competition!
7. If you are selected to represent NFHPC at any of these competitions, you are expected to stay, regardless of your results, for the prize giving. This is usually at the end of the day.
8. All AREA and NATIONAL competitions require that your horse / pony is vaccinated against influenza (Flu) correctly. Please familiarise yourself with the Pony Club Flu Vaccination policy that can be found on the home page of the NFHPC website.

We seek to manage expectations during the team selection process. Disappointment is inevitable; however we hope that those who fail to meet the selection criteria will have a plan for how to achieve it the following year.

**Updated: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024**