

North Herefordshire PC Team Selection Policy 2026

All members are expected to abide by the following principles:

"As a Member of the Pony Club I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship.

I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in my stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being. I shall at all times treat my horse with due consideration."

This policy applies to the following competitions:

All Area Competitions.

All Regional Area Qualifiers.

Interbranch Show Jumping.

All Mounted Games Friendlies, Areas, Zones and Championships.

All Polocrosse competitions.

For AREA and REGIONAL (and Zones/Championships/Friendlies in the case of Mounted Games), and Polocrosse, events where the team is selected and entered by the Branch, the decisions as to the team members will be made by the Selectors as listed below:

- 1. Associated Sport Coach**
- 2. The District Commissioner**
- 3. Associated Sport Team Manager (where applicable) or the Assistant DC if there is no Team Manager.**

If any one of the Selectors is either the parent/legal guardian or a relation of any rider who is being considered for selection they must not take part in the selection decision involving that individual. The DC's decision on the team selection is final.

ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

Full eligibility rules should be referenced in the associated Pony Club Sport Rule Book. Each rider/parent is responsible for ensuring they understand and comply with the PC Sport Rule Book and are eligible for selection. Dates for the Area and National events are on the relevant websites and all riders applying for consideration for selection MUST be available for the dates of the respective competitions and associated Championship should they qualify.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Selectors reserve the right not to send a team or individual to any competition.

In order to be eligible to compete at Area and other Competitions listed above, members and their horse/pony must have actively taken part in at least 3 rallies, qualifying coaching or training sessions during the previous 12-month period unless prevented from doing so by illness, absence from home, or any other reason which in the opinion of the DC and Area Rep justifies the absence.

For the purposes of this rule a rally, qualifying coaching or training session is one which is organised by a Branch Committee or Sport Coach and must be a minimum of 1 hour in

length. Each day of a Camp shall be counted as a separate rally, qualifying coaching or training session.

In addition to demonstrating loyalty to the Branch, the combination of horse and rider may also be required to prove their competence, safety and fitness of horse or pony, in the specific sport and level that the member wishes to participate at. Recent form will take priority. Past form at major and team events may be taken into consideration by the Selectors. Rider behaviour and attitude will also be taken into account.

Riders need to register their interest in being considered for teams by emailing the DC and notifying the Discipline Coach.

TEAM SPIRIT

North Herefordshire PC expects riders and their supporters to have a good attitude and participate in all the required activities within the Branch, either riding or helping. A high level of commitment to all the varied aspects for the preparation process is important. We expect the members to support and help each other at all times as well as accepting advice in a constructive way. All team members must respect the decisions made by the Sport Coach at all times.

FINANCE

If you have been selected and/or committed to a team and pull out, where the Branch is paying the entry fee, you must still pay your share of the cost. If a substitute is found you may be refunded.

North Herefordshire PC will cover the costs of the Branch appointed Sport Coach attending the competition (as long as these fees are pre agreed by the committee) for all Area 9, National and Regional Championships and Zones in the case of Mounted Games, but will not cover the costs of entries. All other costs of the members attending these competitions are to be paid by the members themselves subject to committee approval for the North Herefordshire Branch agreeing to cover additional costs.

ALL OTHER TEAM COMPETITIONS

For all other Pony Club Competitions, there is not a selection criterion for ridden team events, the Sport Coach and Team Manager (if applicable) will enter teams comprising of anyone who is available, and has entered and is keen to represent the Branch as long as in the best interests of the combination and deemed safe to do so.

All of these competitions (unless listed above) are **fully self-funded**.

All that we ask is for you to support your team members, take pride in the turnout of yourself and your pony, be polite and thankful to the organisers. If you are involved in prize giving, please wear your hair net and riding attire including your hat unless directed otherwise by the organiser. Always ensure you leave the venue tidy and free from your horse/pony droppings. If you are unsure of any rules please contact the relevant Sport Coach.