**DRESS CODE**

We value your safety and want everyone to have a sense of belonging. Let’s celebrate being the North Staffordshire Hunt branch of The Pony Club by looking smart and safe.

Tack and turnout will be checked to ensure safety at the beginning of each activity.

**For all mounted activities**

**Hats and Body Protectors** – These are to be in accordance with guidance and meet recommended Safety Standards as detailed in the Rulebooks via this link <https://pcuk.org/health-safety/> Your DC will tag your hat upon joining. If you have a new, untagged hat, please ask for it to be checked and tagged.

**Footwear** - Only standard riding or jodhpur boots 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. No other footwear will be permitted.

**Clothing**  - Cream, white or beige jodhpurs to be worn with a white, long-sleeved shirt, PC tie and hacking jacket with black or brown gloves.

**Pony Club Badge** – this should be worn on your left lapel.

**No jewellery may be worn and should be removed.**

**No clothing with hoods can be worn when riding.**

**Spurs are not permitted without permission of the DC.**

**For unmounted activities**

**Clothing** – PC sweatshirt, jeans or long trousers

**Footwear** – stout boots / yard boots

**Safety** – when handling horses you should wear your hat and gloves.

**Tack**

* Tack should be plain and in good, clean condition.   <https://pcuk.org/health-safety/>
* Numnahs/saddle clothes should be black, brown, white or navy.
* Equine boots should be black or brown.

**Rules**

**Hat Rule for 2021**

It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet at all times when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall. This rule defines the quality of manufacture that is required. The individual sports also have additional requirements with regard to colour and type. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.

The hat standards accepted as of 1st January 2019 are detailed in the table below:



* For Cross Country riding, Tetrathlon, Pony racing and Mounted Games, a jockey skull cap must be worn with NO fixed peak. Noticeable protuberances above the eyes or to the front not greater than 5mm, smooth and rounded are permitted. A removable hat cover with a light flexible peak may be used if required.
* No recording device is permitted (e.g. hat cameras).
* The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the strap is as crucial as the quality. Most helmet manufacturers recommend you visit a qualified BETA fitter.
* Hats must be replaced after a severe impact as the protection will be reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced every 3-5 years
* Hats, must be worn at all times when mounted with chinstrap fastened.
* For Show jumping and Mounted Games the hat silk, if applicable, shall be navy, black or brown ONLY
* For Dressage, hats and hat silks must be black, navy or a conservative dark colour that matches the riders jacket for Area competitions or above. Pony Club hat silks are acceptable
* The Official Steward/Organiser may, at their discretion, eliminate a competitor riding without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened or with a hat that doesn’t comply with these standards.

**Hat Checks and Tagging**

* The Pony Club and its Branches and Linked Centres will appoint Officials, who are familiar with The Pony Club hat rule, to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the requirements set out in the hat rule with an aquamarine Pony Club hat tag. Hats fitted with an aquamarine Pony Club, British Eventing (BE) or British Riding Club (BRC) hat tag will not need to be checked on subsequent occasions. However, the Pony Club reserves the right to randomly spot check any hat regardless of whether it is already tagged.
* Tagging indicates that a hat meets the accepted standards, NO check of the fit and condition of the hat is implied. It is considered to be the responsibility of the Member’s parent(s) /guardian(s) to ensure that their hat complies with the required standards and is tagged before they go to any Pony Club event. Also, they are responsible for ensuring that the manufacturer’s guidelines with regard to fit and replacement are followed.

Your DC will check and tag your hat at the first rally you attend. If you purchase a new hat, please ask the DC to tag in accordance with the rules.

**Body Protector Rule for 2021**

* Body Protectors are compulsory for Cross Country and Pony racing whether training or competing. If a body protector is worn for any Pony Club activity it must meet BETA 2009 Level 3 standard (purple label) or BETA 2018 Level 3 standard (blue and black label)
* For general use, the responsibility for choosing body protectors and the decision as to their use must rest with Members and their parents. It is recommended that a rider’s body protector should not be more than 2% of their body weight.  When worn, body protectors must fit correctly, be comfortable and must not restrict movement.
* BETA recommend body protectors are replaced at least every three to five years, after which the impact absorption properties of the foam may have started to decline.
* Riders who choose to use the Woof Wear Body Cage EXO must lodge a key with the Event Organiser when they collect their number.
* BETA 2009 Level 3 standard body protectors will continue to be accepted until 31st December 2024

 

**Air Jackets**

* Air Jackets are not permitted in groups within an enclosed area
* Air jackets can be worn in Cross country and Pony racing
* Air jackets must be worn with a normal body protector underneath which complies with the body protector rules.
* If the rider falls off and has a normal body protector underneath they may remove the air jacket and continue providing the rider has been passed as fit to ride from the First Aid Providers.
* Must not be worn under a jacket and number bibs should be fitted loosely or with elasticised fastenings over the air jacket

**Medical Armbands**

Not compulsory but are advised if members are not accompanied by a responsible adults, including hacking on roads and are compulsory for Pony racing and for Endurance rides.