**Guideleines for Tack and Turnout Inspections – 2024**

Please use the ***‘OBHS T&T Score Sheet – 2024’***

Put the name of each Pony at the top of a column and when the sheets are complete, transfer the T&T totals to the relevant rider on the ***‘OBHS Event Cost Sheet – 2024’*** for that rally.

**Purpose**

A Tack and Turnout inspection serves two purposes, a safety check plus an assessment for correct attire and cleanliness.

The safety check is for the well-being of the rider and the pony/horse. Safety is ultimately the responsibility of the parent, but no member should be allowed to ride if your inspection gives rise to a concern over safety. If in doubt, seek a second opinion from the coach.

The check for attire and cleanliness is to ensure that branch dress codes are adhered to and that members know how to achieve a high standard of turnout. At certain Pony Club activities, such as the Interbranch Show Jumping, there are Tack and Turnout competitions. We want to do well in such competitions and so training at ‘home’ events is helpful. Also, the branch awards Tack and Turnout rosettes and Cups to the members with the best T&T marks at rallies over the previous year.

**Marking**

The marks are awarded for three sections – Pony, Tack, Rider. Each section has a maximum of 10 marks awarded and each category within a section, has one, two or three marks available.

Please make objective assessments. Assume maximum marks for each category in a section, then for every item that is unsatisfactory, deduct 1 mark. If asked, you can tell the rider why something was unsatisfactory, so they have the opportunity to improve. Do not give out marks unless asked.

**Marks in Detail**

**Pony -** First determine if it is stabled or kept out. A grass-kept pony will be less easy to keep clean in the winter and especially if it is wet and muddy weather. Also, a greasy coat keeps them warm in winter so is allowable, but huge patches of mud are not.

**Eyes, Nostrils** **and Muzzle**– sponged.

**Face and forelock** – brushed and tidy.

**Mane** - brushed. Run fingers through to check for tangles. No mud under the mane.

**Tail** – brushed. Run fingers through for tangles. Washed for stabled ponies and not too muddy for a grass-kept pony. In dry weather it is reasonable to expect the tail to be washed for grass-kept ponies as well as stabled.

**Dock** – sponged.

**Hooves** – should be picked out and oiled.

**Coat** – brushed and no dried-on stable stains for stabled ponies. Stable stains that have been well brushed are allowable. No dried mud for grass-kept ponies. In dry weather, white socks should be washed and in muddy weather, as clean as is reasonable.

**Tack -** Safety is very important, so check carefully for weak stitching, cracked leather and poor fitting.

**Saddle** – clean, girth straps not worn out, leather supple and well maintained. Correct fit.

**Girth** – clean and not cracked as this can cause sores. Humane girths are NOT allowed.

**Numnah/saddle cloth** – any solid colour. Contrasting piping is permitted. Clean, retaining straps done up correctly.

**Stirrup irons and leathers** – stitching is secure, leather not cracked, no tearing to the holes, peacock stirrup rubbers not perished and fitted the correct way round (rubbers on outside of the foot). Stirrups should not be too wide or too narrow. Allow a finger-width gap (0.7mm) either side of the foot. Check treads are clean and look under the stirrup irons for mud. Stirrups which connect the boot and stirrup magnetically are not allowed, neither are interlocking boot soles and stirrup treads.

**Boots** – if fitted, check they are clean and fitted correctly. Weighted or pinch boots are not allowed.

**Bridle and martingale** – clean and fitting correctly. Martingale and rein stops should be black or brown. Check for worn stitching on reins and frayed rubber. Check for over long reins – children can get feet caught in them – put in a knot and suggest the correct length for next time.

**Bit** – clean and fitting correctly. Especially curb chains – often too tight or on upside down (lip strap ring to be at the bottom if present).

**Rider**

**Electronic (e.g. mobile phone) or Recording Devices –** NONE allowed.

**Hat** – must be tagged - pink for 2023/4. Fixed peaks are NOT allowed for XC at any height.

**Hair** – Must be tied back securely, in a safe manner to reduce the risk of hair being caught and to prevent scalp injuries.

**Shirt** – plain pale coloured with collar.

**Tie/Stock** – Pony Club tie or stock knotted or tied correctly.

**OBHS Rugby Shirt, Polo Shirt or Sweatshirt** – clean and tidy.

**N.B.** Long sleeves are required for mounted games. Shoulders MUST BE COVERED for all activities

**Jacket** – must be traditional style but can be any colour.

**PC Badge** – with Test felt on LHS lapel, if a jacket is worn.

**OBHS Jacket** – clean and tidy in cold/wet weather.

**Over trousers** – allowed in wet weather

**Gloves** – Should be worn. Any colour.

**Whip** – Any colour but must be PADDED type for jumping

**Jodhpurs/breeches** – Clean.

**Half chaps or gaiters** – in same colour as boots. Clean and polished. No fringes or tassels.

**Boots** – black or brown. Clean and polished and no mud on sole (slips in stirrup). No Wellingtons, yard or ‘mucker’ boots. Must have well defined square cut heel.

**Spurs** – must be blunt and no longer than 4cm measured from boot to end of shank.

**Jewellery** – necklaces and bracelets (other than medical bracelets) must be removed, as must larger and more pendulous pieces of jewellery (including those attached to piercings) which create a risk of injury to the body part through which they are secured. A wristwatch, wedding ring, stock pin worn horizontally and/or a tie clip are permitted.