

Poole & District Branch Selection Policy for Area, Regional & National Competitions

Introduction

During the summer months, there are special Pony Club (PC) competitions for all the principal sports. These are called "Area" competitions and involve individuals and teams competing against other PC Branches in Area 14.

Individuals and teams that are highly placed at Area can qualify for (a) The Pony Club National Championships; (b) The National Tetrathlon Championships; (c) The Regional Championships (previously called Grassroots); (d) Endurance National Championships and (e) Zone Finals (for Mounted Games). They are highly prestigious and considered to be the peak of the competitive year for all PC members.

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

This policy is to ensure that all riders, horses and ponies are capable of the task for which they are being selected. That the selection process is an open and fair process and to ensure that any issues raised during the process are managed in a fair, courteous and transparent manner.

The Branch are committed to funding entry fees for Area, Zone and National Championships and to support this, we run a number of fundraising events throughout the year. Your support of these events is much appreciated and is what allows us to cover the cost of the entry fees. Suggestions for fundraising events are very welcome.

Whilst we are committed to funding entry fees, any costs associated with travel, stabling, penning, accommodation, camping, etc will be at the members expense.

Due to the more complex nature of on-line entries, members are required to make their own entry fee which will be reimbursed following attendance at the appropriate event. This cannot be done until your selection is confirmed.

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.

Selection Process

Whenever Poole & District makes entries for Area competitions, the individuals and teams will be selected in accordance with the following policy:

1. All team selection will be done as openly and as fairly as possible. All members who can demonstrate a commitment to the Branch and a desire to compete for the Branch can put themselves forward for selection.
2. At the beginning of the selection phase, all members will be invited to express their interest by contacting the appropriate Team Manager or the DC.
3. In order to be considered for selection to compete at Area competitions and above, members and their horse/pony **must** have actively taken part in a minimum of three

Rallies since 1st July in the previous year. Attendance at summer camps will also count towards this.

4. Selection will take into account both the commitment of the individual and their performance in previous competitions, at rallies and in training.
5. You **must** attend Team Training during the selection phase and in preparation for Area's.
6. You are encouraged 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.
7. Other selection criteria will include evidence that you are an active and committed member of the Poole & District Pony Club and are involved in a wide range of PC activities.
8. You should be available to compete at the Zone or Championship should you qualify. Please check and secure the appropriate dates when putting yourself forward for the Area competition.
9. If you are selected to represent Poole & District and attend any of these competitions, you are expected to stay, regardless of your results, for the prize giving which may not be until the end of the day.

Final team selection will be made by the relevant team managers in consultation with the regular team coaches and the District Commissioner(s).

If you have not been selected, the Branch will ensure that you understand why and support you in planning how to achieve it the following year. Please contact the Team Manager and/or DC to discuss in more detail.

Member Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that their horse/pony has been vaccinated against Equine Influenza correctly and in accordance with Pony Club rules, and in compliance with any specific competition or venue regulations.

Passports should always accompany your horse/pony to competitions at all levels and you will have to present it to be inspected if required. Failure to do so will result in elimination from the competition.

It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that their hat and body protector are compliant with the relevant rules.

All competitors are expected to have familiarised themselves with the relevant Pony Club Rulebook for the sport in which they are competing. These can be accessed online on the Pony Club website or purchased via Amazon.

All members and parents are expected to comply with the appropriate Pony Club Code of Conduct.

Members are responsible for making themselves aware of any whip rules, spur rules, gun and safety rules governing the sport in which they are competing.