

VALE OF AYLESBURY HUNT PONY CLUB TEAM SELECTION POLICY 2024

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING COMPETITONS:

- All Area PC70, PC80, Novice, Intermediate, Open Dressage and Prix Caprilli competitions and any associated Championships;
- All Area PC70, PC80, PC90, PC100, PC110 Show Jumping competitions and any associated Championships;
- All Area PC70, PC80, PC90, PC100, PC Chairman's Cup and PC110 Eventing and any associated Championships;
- All PC invitation only Showjumping or Eventer Challenge competitions (Hickstead, Burghley, Gatcombe, Blenheim and any others)

N.B. In respect of Blenheim Eventer Challenge, Windsor Pony Club Jumping and any similar event nominations, priority will be given to those who have not have not competed in these competitions on two previous occasions.

VAHPC is keen to enter teams (and individuals) in as many competitions at every level as we can throughout the year. For all competitions, riders must be active members of the branch and out competing at the height/level they wish to be considered for on a regular basis.

As a club we can enter teams, individuals or a combination of both. Teams must consist of three or four members. We will aim to field our strongest team(s) available and our preference is teams of four members. Scores for all competitors usually automatically count for the individual competition irrespective of whether they have been entered as part of a team or as an individual.

AREA ELIGIBILITY / AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

All competitors must be members of the Pony Club both at the closing date for entries and at the date of the relevant competition.

New for 2024 (in italics)

Dressage

*Combinations of Horse and Rider **CAN** compete at two adjacent levels of the same Sport at the Area Competition or at the Championships apart from at both Grassroots and Novice.*

At the Championships, each level will have a separate section for riders/combinations that have competed at a higher level.

Show Jumping

*Whilst Pony Club have made changes in their rule books so that Combinations of Horse and Rider **CAN** compete at two adjacent levels of the same Sport at the Area Competition or at the Championships apart from PC80 and PC90, VAHPC recommends that rider/horse combinations compete at only one level as upto 4 rounds (PC70/80) and upto 6 rounds (PC90/100/110) incl potential jump offs is not considered sensible for the welfare of the horse. If members want to be considered for 2 levels priority for Teams may be given to members competing at one height only.*

Eventing

No horse may compete at more than one level of Eventing at the Area or above (PC70, PC80, PC90, PC100, PC Chairmans Cup or PC110) in any one year nor may any horse be ridden more than once in any one year in any of the qualifying competitions or at the Eventing Championships.

Combination of Horse and Rider cannot compete at two different levels of the same Sport at the Area Competitions. Except any combination of horse and rider may qualify and compete at both the PC110 Championship, and the PC Chairman's Cup Championships.

Schooling

Riders or horses who have "schooled" over the Area or Championship Cross Country courses during the previous two weeks are not eligible to compete. Competing over the course is permissible and does not render the competitor ineligible.

The DC or Team Manager is required to certify the eligibility of the horse and rider. Any breach may result in disqualification.

All horses and ponies must have genuinely participated at minimum of three Qualifying Rallies/Coaching/Training Sessions of this or their previous branch or centre since 1st July in the previous year, and one of these must be in the current year (preferably at a training session at the level wanted to compete at), with the current rider as a combination. Camp shall count as one Rally/Coaching/Training Session.

The following will also be considered as Qualifying Rallies/Coaching/Training:

- Proficiency Ridden Training (one level of ridden training in 2024 will count as one rally)
- Area 12 centrally organised Training Sessions

In the event that a member has a reasonable justification for not achieving the 3 rally count, they may be permitted into a team but only in the event that all those with their 3 rally count have been offered places first.

Full eligibility rules should be referenced in the associated Pony Club Discipline Rule Book. Each Rider/Parent is responsible for ensuring they understand and comply with the PC Discipline Rule Book and are eligible for selection.

NEW FOR 2024 (in italics)

Each pony club Area will organise a qualifying competition. Branches/Centres will compete within their own Areas. In the event of a genuine reason why a member cannot compete at their own Area Competition at Novice/PC90 and above, they may apply to their DC/Centre Proprietor to compete out of Area clearly stating the reasons why. The DC/Centre Proprietor will forward the request to their Area Rep, who will seek approval from the relevant Sports Chairman. The following points should be noted:

- *Only individuals may be permitted to compete out of Area.*
- *Should a Member compete out of Area and place in a qualifying position, the next placed member of a Branch/Centre belonging to the Area shall also qualify.*
- *A member who qualifies out of Area cannot displace any members in a qualified complete Branch/Area team.*
- *Out of Area Qualification is not permitted for Preliminary PC70 or Grassroots PC80 (Regional Championships)*

LEVELS

The following is an indication of the various tests and heights for Area and Championships. Further information is given in the respective discipline rulebook.

SHOWJUMPING	PC70 Regional Championships PC70 Plus Regional Championships	PC80 Regional Championships (previously Regional)	PC90 (previously Novice)	PC100 (previously Intermediate)	PC110 (previously Open)
Area 1 st Round	70cm	80cm	90cm	100cm	110cm
Area 2 nd Round	70cm (2 single fences may be 75cm)	80cm (2 single fences may be 85cm)	95cm	105cm + water tray	115cm + water tray
Champs 1 st Round	70cm	80cm (2 single fences may be 85cm)	90cm	100cm	110cm
Champs 2 nd Round	70cm (2 single fences may be 75cm)	80cm (2 single fences may be 85cm)	Some fences will be 95cm + water tray	Some fences will be 105cm + water tray	Some fences will be 115cm + water tray

Notes: Heights stated are the maximum fences will be at for each round.
 PC70 is for teams and individuals aged 13 and under on 1st January of the current year
 PC70 Plus is and individual only competition for members aged 14 and over on 1st January of the current year

EVENTING	PC70 Regional Championships PC70 Plus Regional Championships	PC80 Regional Championships (previously Regional)	PC90 (previously Novice)	PC100 (previously Intermediate)	PC Chairmans Cup (previously PC100+)	PC110 (previously Open)
Dressage Test – Areas	Preliminary PC70 Dressage Test 2022	Grassroots PC80 Dressage Test 2018	PC90 Eventing Test 2013	PC100 Eventing Test 2015	PC110 Eventing Test 2022	PC110 Eventing Test 2022
Dressage Test – Championships	Preliminary PC70 Dressage Test 2022	Grassroots PC80 Dressage Test 2024	PC90 Eventing Championship Test 2015	PC100 Eventing Championship Test 2013	PC110 Eventing Championship Test 2015	PC110 Eventing Championship Test 2015
Showjumping	Max height 75cm	Max height 85cm	Max height 95cm	Max height 105cm	Max height 110cm	Max height 115cm
Cross Country	Upto 25 Obstacles, Max height 70cm	16-25 Obstacles, Max height 80cm	18-25 Obstacles at areas, Max height 90cm 25-30 at champs	18-25 Obstacles at areas, Max height 100cm 25-30 at champs	20-27 Obstacles at areas, Max height 105cm 25-30 at champs	20-28 Obstacles at areas, Max height 110cm 25-30 at champs
XC Speed	435mpm (Penalties only for going too fast)	435mpm (Penalties only for going too fast)	450mpm	475mpm	500mpm	520mpm
XC Course Length	Upto 1800m	1600 to 2500m	1600 to 2500m in Areas, 2500 to 3500m at champs	1800 to 2800m in Areas, 2500 to 3500m at champs	1800 to 3120m in Areas, 2500 to 3500m at champs	2400 to 3120m in Areas, 2500 to 3500m at champs

Note: new tests for 2024 are marked in **RED TEXT**

Please see the PC Eventing Rule Book for full dimensions and specific information on spreads, drops, water etc

DRESSAGE	PC70 Regional Championships PC70 Plus Regional Championships	PC80 Regional Championships (previously Regional)	Novice & Open Novice	Intermediate	Open
Area Tests	Preliminary PC70 Dressage Test 2022	Grassroots PC80 Dressage Test 2018	Novice Dressage Test 2020	Intermediate Dressage Test 2024	Open Dressage Test 2020
Championships Tests	Preliminary PC70 Dressage Test 2022	Grassroots PC80 Dressage Championship Test 2024	Novice Dressage Championship Test 2017	Intermediate Dressage Championship Test 2023	Open Dressage Championship Test 2018

Note: new tests for 2024 are marked in **RED TEXT**

COMPETITION DATES

We would expect those applying for consideration to be available for the relevant Championship date for their respective discipline (taking into account possible overnight stays). Priority is given at Team selection to those who can be available for both Area and Championship competitions. Wherever possible, if a member is still keen to compete at an Area competition (but is not available for the Championships and would otherwise have been selected), we will try to secure an individual place for them.

Dates for the Area and National events will be on our website and riders applying for consideration for respective competitions and associated Championship (should they qualify) should confirm availability at a date to be confirmed by each Team Manager.

Current dates advised are as follows:

DISCIPLINE AREA QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS	Date	Venue
PC70 & PC80 Showjumping	Saturday 15 June	Middlegrove Farm
PC90, PC100 & PC110 Showjumping	Saturday 22 June	Addington Equestrian
PC70 & PC80 Eventing	Sunday 9 June	Elmwood
PC90, PC100, PC Chairmans Cup & PC110 Eventing	Sunday 7 July	Hambledon
Area Dressage incl Prix Caprilli	Sunday 30 June	BCA
CHAMPIONSHIPS		
National Pony Club Championships	Friday 9 to Saturday 17 August (likely Tuesday 13 onwards for SJ, Eventing & Dressage)	Offchurch Bury, Warwickshire, CV33 9AR
PC110 Eventing Championships	TBC (between Friday 23 & Monday 26 August)	Wellington
PC70 & PC80 Championships	Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 August	Aston Le Walls

SELECTORS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

For Area and Regional events, where the team is selected to represent the VAHPC, the selection will be made by:

- District Commissioner or Joint District Commissioner's
- Associated discipline/level Team Manager(s)
- Associated discipline/level Team Trainer

If any one of the Selectors is either the parent / legal guardian, a relation or privately trains any rider on a regular basis who is being considered for selection they must not take part in the selection decision involving that individual.

The Selectors reserve the right not to send a team or individual to any competition. The following criteria apply to those wishing to compete in a team or as an individual.

- Combinations should be actively and successfully competing within the discipline at the associated level, with visible results.
- Results from the previous September up until the time of selection will be taken into account.
- Selectors will consider all results which shall be submitted to Team Manager, Trainer and DC. Consideration will be given to consistency, soundness, results at or above the level being considered for selection and engagement with VAH. Selectors have absolute discretion to select combinations they deem best placed to secure the highest placing for VAH.
- Combinations should have attended the required Rallies/Coaching/Training Sessions and any organised team training sessions. Exceptions are at the discretion of the DC; where attendance may not be possible due to work or school commitments, illness or other reasons.
- In the event that a member has a reasonable justification for not achieving the 3 rally count, they may be permitted into a team but only in the event that all those with their 3 rally count have been offered places first.
- Riders need to register their interest in being considered for teams by completing the appropriate forms that will be available on the website and from Team Managers.
- It is a condition of selection that members will nominate someone who is prepared to assist at Area Competitions or on the Competition day at other VAH or Area 12 events during the year on a minimum of 2 occasions. Assistance will be needed at various events during the 2024 year.

RESERVES/REPLACEMENTS

Reserves/replacements for Championships will be selected primarily on results from the current year's Area competitions. Where an Individual has qualified the Reserve will, in the first instance, be chosen from an alternative Team entry in order to maintain the Individual qualification place. Should we need to consider members who did not compete at Areas, this will be done as a last resort and the original selection criteria as above will be used.

Where a replacement is needed for an Area competition, this will be primarily based on those already selected. This will be at the complete discretion of the Team Manager, Team Trainer and DC to enable VAH to be best placed to have VAH teams able to secure qualification to the Championships. This may result in changes to previously advised team and/or individual entries. This may be due to issues outside VAH control, such as changes of circumstances affecting riders or horses. If this occurs members being moved between teams, to achieve the preferred number of 4 in a team. If this results in another team no longer being feasible those members would end up competing as individuals. Decisions on this will be made by the Team Manager, Team Trainer and DC.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Guidelines and those involved in its application both as riders, owners, selectors or other officials, that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection.

TEAM SPIRIT

One of the great benefits and pleasures of Pony Club is the chance to be involved in a team. VAHPC expects riders and their supporters to have 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 members (and parents) to support and help each other at all times as well as accepting advice from Team Trainers, Managers and other Officials in a constructive way.

We would like to remind all members to read the following code of conduct documents that are on the VAH and PCUK Websites:

- Pony Club Code of Conduct for Members (updated September 2022)
- Pony Club Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians (updated September 2022)

ATTIRE

When competing at Area level or other Pony Club events VAHPC Team attire for both rider and pony should be worn. Please contact the appropriate Team Manager in good time if this may not be possible and VAHPC shall try and help facilitate.

If you are involved in prize giving, please wear your riding attire including hat unless directed to do otherwise by organiser.

TRAINING

Appropriate discipline training sessions will be provided which members should attend as frequently as possible. Dressage/Flatwork and Showjumping sessions for example will be applicable to those doing either pure single discipline or Eventing.

FITNESS

Horse and rider fitness is vitally important, not only to the success of competitor, but also to the safety and welfare of the horse and rider. Riders must notify the DC, Team Manager or Team Trainer of any change in their own health or fitness status, and/or their horse / pony or veterinary / medical management immediately, where such change could have an impact on performance.

FINANCE

Once selected, the member's place is only confirmed on receipt of the relevant entry fee. No entry fees can be refunded without a vet or doctors certificate and there is usually a cut off date for this for each event.

VAH will provide a Team Trainer for any Area or Championship events where we have a Team competing. If this is the case, it is compulsory for all selected team and individual riders to take part in all course walks with the trainer. All combinations will be expected to warm up under the guidance of the trainer when on offer.

VAH may not provide a Team Trainer for events where we are only sending individuals. If this is the case members are either responsible for making their own arrangements using a suitable trainer or ask the DC to co-ordinate with another Area 12 Pony Club that is attending for the Member(s) to utilise their trainer and pay an equal share of the trainer costs whatever that may be.

Each member is responsible for the entry costs and stabling costs associated with both Area and Championship competitions. VAHPC will cover the trainer costs at Championships.

If a member is unable to put themselves forward for selection due to the financial constraints, they should discuss their position (in strict confidence) with the DC to see if VAHPC could subsidise some of the costs.

RULES

All selected riders agree to abide by the rules of the competition always. Should there be any query about rules or results on the day of the competition the rules state that the DC or the DC's representative must take the query to the Officials.

ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries on selection should be directed to the DC or Assistant DC.