

Policy for Team Selection

In line with Pony Club guidance, the Branch committee has agreed the following policy for selection of members to represent the West Kent Sevenoaks Branch of the Pony Club.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all members within the Branch have an equal opportunity to compete at all sports and, provided a member is able to demonstrate a commitment to the Branch and a desire to compete for the Branch, they should be available for selection.

The welfare of our members and their ponies while competing is our primary concern. Being part of a Pony Club team should be a fun and rewarding experience, where many memories are made. Our members are expected to support each other, treat others with respect and be kind to their ponies. Always remember to thank the organisers of the competition and listen to the advice of the instructor/team manager. Enjoy the good days and learn from the not-so-good days (“We either win or we learn”).

This policy exists to:

- Ensure that all riders and mounts are capable of the task for which they are being selected
- Ensure that teams are selected in an open and fair process
- Ensure that issues raised during the process are managed in a fair, courteous, and transparent way.

This policy is published on the Branch website and will be reviewed periodically and updated when necessary.

West Kent Sevenoaks has a named team manager for each discipline. Members who are interested in representing the Branch at competitions should make this known to the team managers, preferably at the beginning of the season or when they are fit and able to compete at the required level. Team managers’ contact details can be found on the Branch website and in Branch newsletters. The member should keep in touch with the team manager to keep them updated on any changes in their circumstances which may affect their ability to compete (e.g. injury, new pony, change of school/university etc.).

In addition to the stipulations set out in the [Area 11 team selection policy](#) (link to document), the requirements for representing West Kent Sevenoaks are as follows:

- Our members are required to demonstrate that they are confident, capable, and safe to ride at the level at which they wish to compete. Evidence might include results obtained in competitions outside Pony Club, and/or the assessment of Branch instructors at rallies, training sessions or Pony Club camp.
- Our members are required to show a proven track record at the relevant level (for Area competitions) or to prove development towards the level required (for interbranch competitions).
- Our members are required to demonstrate a commitment to the Branch by attending a minimum of 1 working rally in the relevant discipline to represent the Branch at an interbranch competition. And a minimum of 3 working rallies, 1 of which must be in the relevant discipline, to represent the Branch at Area level. These rallies must have been in the preceding 12 month period running from 1st July. Camp counts as 3 rallies. The District Commissioner has discretion to overrule this for members who are working or studying away from home.

- Members are required to commit to being available to compete at the next stage of the competition (if there is one) if the team is fortunate enough to qualify.

Selection Process

- Team selection is decided by the District Commissioner, the Chief Instructor, and the Team Manager.
- The Pony Club's conflict of interest policy is adhered to when making team selections.
- Members should be aware that, where the rules allow, qualifying team members for Area/Championship competitions may be subject to change at the discretion of the team manager/District Commissioner.

Team Trials

- Where it is deemed necessary to run team trials, the date of the trial will be advertised on the Branch website and Facebook sufficiently in advance to give all members adequate notice of the date of such trial.
- All specific instruction will be provided by a qualified, accredited instructor, the cost of which will be published in advance of the session.
- Members under 18 should be accompanied by a parent/guardian.