



# WOODLAND HUNT PONY TEAMS 2025

“As a Member of The Pony Club, I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship.

I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in my stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being. I shall endeavour to treat my horse with consideration.”

## Non-Ridden Activities



Horse & Pony Care



Pony Club Quiz



Art Competition



Winter Triathlon

## Ridden Activities



Spring Festival



Regional Championships



Centre Equitation



Hacking Challenge



Musical Ride

and... →



**The Pony Club Championships**

Our biggest event of the year!

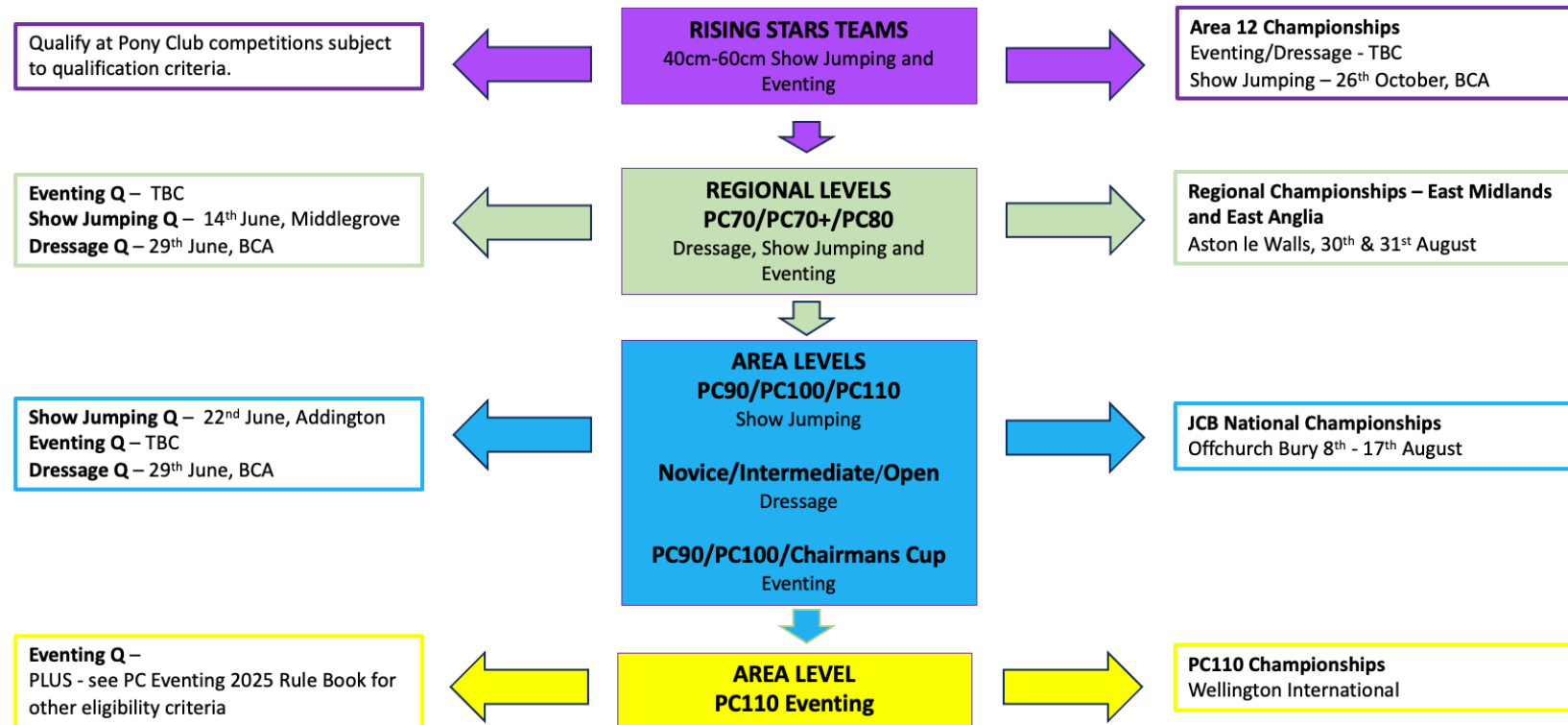
# Expectations from the Branch

- As per the rule books, riders must be **active members of the branch**. We'd like to see you regularly participating in rallies and training as well as participating in, and volunteering at WHPC organised events.
- Have read and understood the current year's **Rule Book**.
- Members must **be safely competing at the height/level** as a combination that they wish to be considered for on a regular basis.
- Members must have the **correct tack and equipment** in which to participate.
- **Volunteering is part of the application process** and parents must be able to commit to volunteer at either the event their child is participating in or at another discipline event.
- Everyone leads busy lives. If you sign up, you have to plan to be available all day including course walks and prize giving's. Best not to plan other engagements – it doesn't sit well with other team members, officials and our volunteers who give up their time to support you.
- Parents/guardians need to attend with their child. If you are unable to do so, you must advise the DC of the person appointed to attend with them, who must agree to codes of conduct, and sign and In Loco Parentis Form.

# Teams or Individuals?

- As a Branch we can enter teams, individuals or a combination of both.
- Teams must consist of 3 or 4 Members. We will always field the strongest team(s) available, and our preference is teams of 4 members even if this leaves Individuals.
- Scores for all competitors automatically count for the Individual competition irrespective of whether they have been entered as part of a team or as an individual.
- Can I just go as an Individual if I don't want to be in a team? No, you enter on the understanding that you may be selected for a Team. Individuals will put into composite teams. (The more teams entered the more teams qualify).
- For Area and Regional Competitions refer to the relevant rule book for qualification criteria on Teams and Individuals.

# Disciplines and Levels (Eventing, Show Jumping, Dressage)



**No member may enter a Regional or Area Competition without first gaining permission of the DC and having submitted the team application form to the Teams Manager**

# Can I compete in more than one level as a combination?

- Yes, for Dressage and Show Jumping you can compete at two adjacent levels of the same sport but not Eventing. This includes all competitions from 40cm upwards.
- Check the relevant rule book for full details as there are eligibility exclusions.

## **Dressage**

- PC70 and Grassroots PC80
- Grassroots PC80 and Novice\* new for 2025
- Novice and Intermediate
- Intermediate and Open

## **Show Jumping (second rounds have a 5cm higher starting height for all fences)**

- PC70\* and PC80 (must not have completed at 90cm course or above in the previous year)
- PC80 and PC90 \* new for 2025
- PC90 and PC100
- PC100 and PC110

## However,.....at Regional/Area Level

- With Show Jumping you need to be jumping the height up from the class (second rounds 5cm bigger) so jumping the bigger class might be a push.
- The competitions are two rounds then a possible jump off. Is it fair to ask your horse to potentially jump 6 rounds and be out all day and travelling?
- Consider if it's better to jump one height well than two badly.



# Minimum Entry Requirements (MER's)

- These are specific to Woodland Hunt.
- 3 ridden rallies or C/C+/B ridden test training sessions since September the year previous as a combination of horse and rider with one rally having been in the current year.
- Summer Camps from the previous year qualify as one session.
- A strong competition record at the discipline level that you wish to be considered for.
- Results are taken from September of the year before up until Teams have to be decided in the weeks before the Area/Regional qualifier.
- For Eventing you need to have completed a minimum of 2 ODE's. Faults are acceptable but you must not have been eliminated. Hunter Trials will be taken in consideration when making Team selections but not as MER's.

# What competitions should I select for MER's?

## Show Jumping

- Any competitions that are run under The Pony Club, Riding Club or BS Rules
- Reputable venues such as Wellington, Bury Farm, BCA, Cherwell, Addington
- For Show Jumping you should be competing at the height above the level you are pitching for.

## Dressage

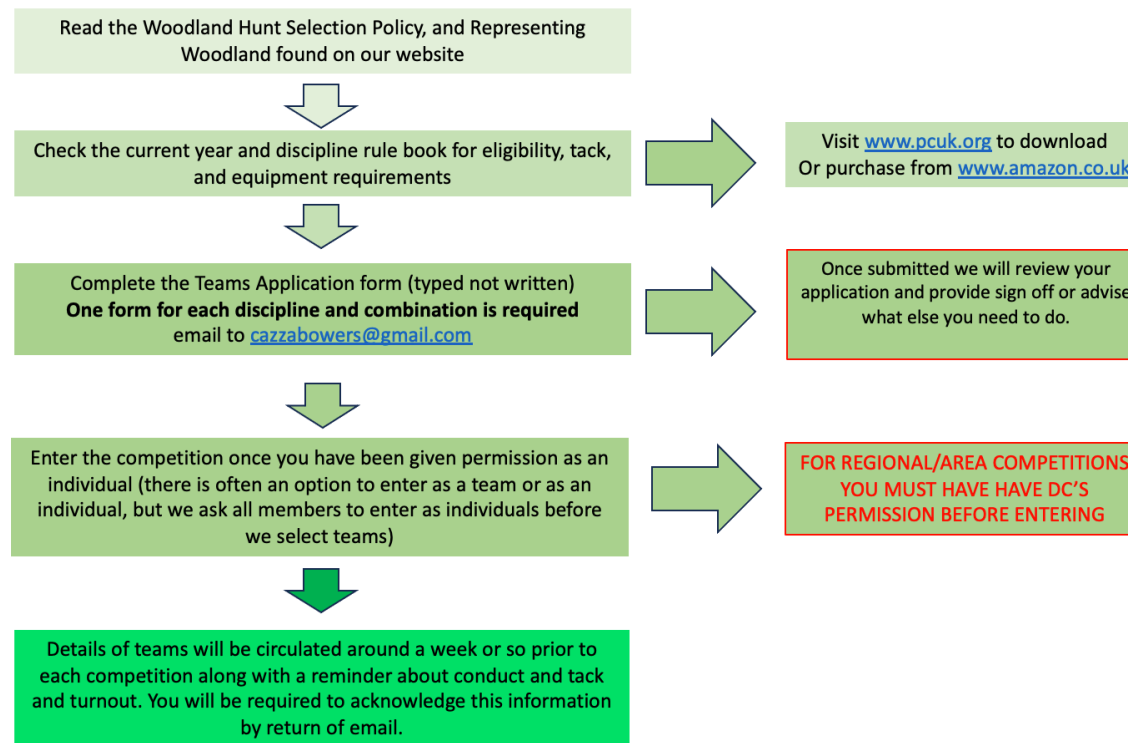
- Any competitions that are run under The Pony Club or BD Rules.
- Be aware that BD and PC levels have different names.

## Eventing

- Any one-day events that are run under The Pony Club, BE, Horse Events or The Cotswold Cup rules.

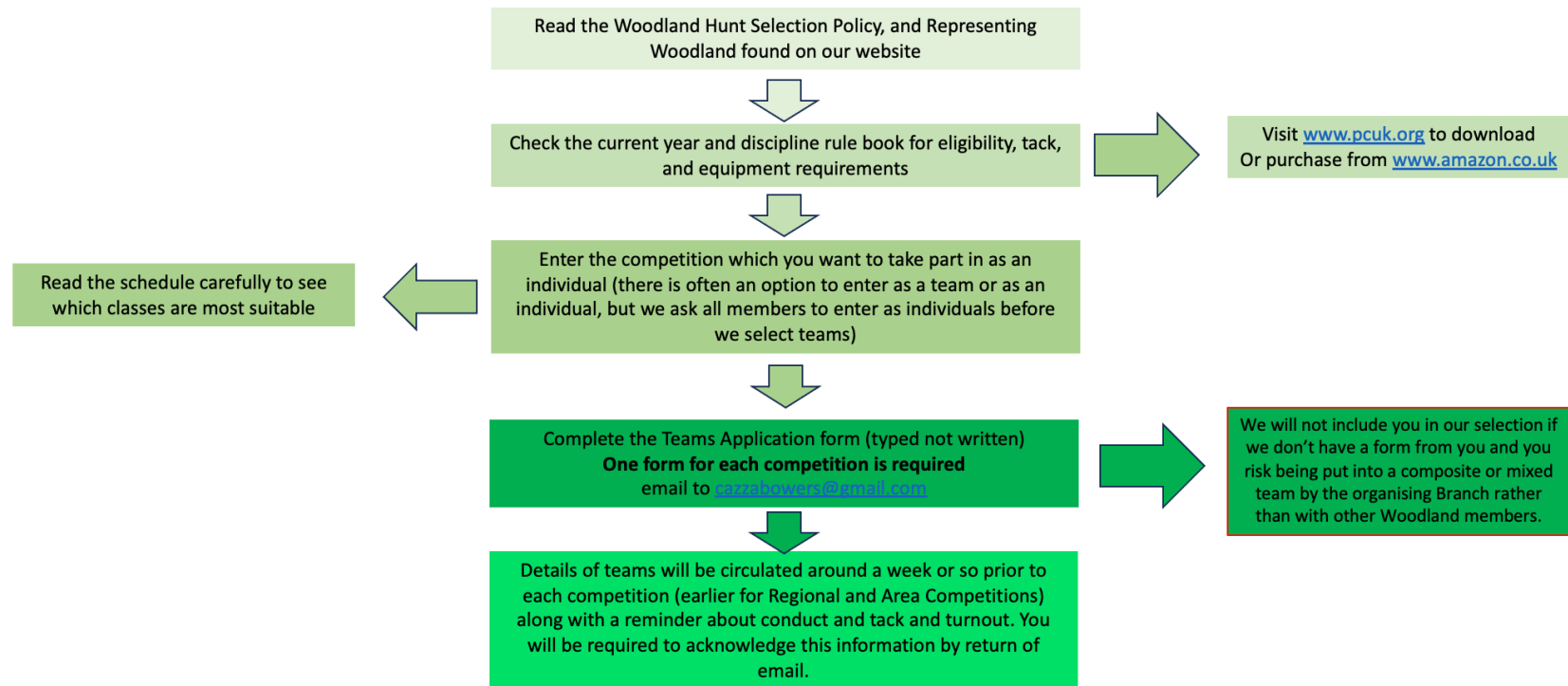
**ALL RESULTS MUST BE VERIFIABLE VIA PC RESULTS OR VIA THE RELEVANT ORGANISING BODY  
ONLINE RESULTS SYSTEM**

# Area & Regional Teams Application Process



# General Teams Application Process

## Teams Application Process



# Selection Policy

- The DC is required to certify the eligibility of the horse and rider when signing off teams. Any breach may result in disqualification. *Full eligibility rules should be referred to in the associated Pony Club Discipline Rule Book for that year. Each parent/rider is responsible for ensuring they understand and comply with the Pony Club Discipline Rule Book and are eligible for selection.*
- The Selectors reserve the right not to send a Team or Individual to any competition.
- Those applying for consideration must be available for the relevant Championship date for their respective discipline, considering possible overnight stays.
- Applications must have been made within the timeframe given.
- We will select the strongest members to make up teams.
- We reserve the right to make changes to team selection up to the declaration at the event if we see fit. Such examples are poor performance, health, conduct, pony changes etc.
- Parents have signed up to volunteer at an Area event as part of the selection criteria.

# Conduct

- Woodland Hunt expects Riders and their supporters to have a good attitude and fully support the members and Team Trainers in the process.
- A high level of commitment to the varied aspects for the preparation process is important. Members should be supportive accepting of advice.
- We will require all members who would like to be considered and accompanying parents to read and agree to the Codes of Conduct as laid down the The Pony Club.
- Please consider the Social Licence of the sport including your own use of social media channels.
- Volunteers and Officials should be thanked and not abused.
- If you have a complaint, please take it to the DC or appointed Branch Official. Grievances should not be aired in public.
- More information can be found on Representing Woodland Hunt Pony Club as a Branch member on our website.
- We reserve the right to exclude members or supporters from teams or events who do not adhere to our policies or those of The Pony Club.

# Fitness (Horse and Rider!)

- Horse and Rider fitness is crucial not only to the success of the competitor but also the safety and wellbeing of the Horse and Rider.
- Riders must notify the DC, Team Trainer or Team Manager of any change in their own health or fitness status, and/or that of their horse/pony or veterinary/medical management immediately, where such a change could impact performance.
- Ponies must be vaccinated, and verified by branch, in accordance with the latest PC requirements.
- Please remember that it not only the physical but mental toll on your horses that needs to taken into consideration when completing your MER's and at qualifiers.

# Training

- Appropriate discipline training sessions will be provided which you should attend as frequently as possible.
- Train and compete as much as you can on the surface the qualifier/Championship will be held on. This might be different for each event/discipline.
- This is usually on a Wednesday evening at Upper House Farm where we can train on the grass for Show Jumping and Dressage. Only Area Show Jumping is on a surface.
- Dressage and show jumping sessions for example will be applicable to those doing either pure discipline or Eventing.
- The more you do, the better the team dynamics!



# What events are on which surface

Competition and Surface Run on	Regional Qualifier	Regional Championships	Area Qualifier	National Championships	Area 12 Champs
<b>Dressage</b>	Grass	Surface	Grass	Grass	N/A
<b>Eventing</b>	All on grass	Dressage: Surface Show Jumping: Surface	All on grass	All on grass	Grass
<b>Show Jumping</b>	Grass	Surface	Grass	Grass	Surface

# Horse Welfare

- To help you prepare, we'll host an online session to discuss fitness and training programmes (will be open to all not just teams).
- Plan easy/recovery days around your lessons, rallies, competitions. E.g. horses should be having an easy day or two the day before and the day after competitions as part of your programme.

# Team Trainers

- Team Trainers will be appointed by the Branch and training will be undertaken by these Trainers (wherever possible).
- Team Trainers will attend qualifiers and Championships where applicable where we have TEAMS participating. Where we do not have teams, other arrangements can be made.
- Team Trainers are remunerated from Branch funds hence the importance to run and support our events as this is where some of that funding is generated from.
- You may bring your own Trainer if you wish but you will still be expected to course walk with the WHPC Trainer and other Team members. You may walk with your own Trainer/Parent after the Team course walk.

# Finances

- Tack and equipment necessary to the undertake the discipline to be provided by the members including Branch branded saddlecloths (white) base layers and hat silks for cross country as well as PC ties, stocks, badges etc.
- Entry fees for competitions including Regional and Area qualifiers to be paid by the members directly.
- Entry fees for Area and Regional Championships are paid for by the Branch.
- The Branch does not cover stabling, travel or other overnight/associated costs.

# Turnout

Full details of this can be found on the website. However, we expect:

- Clean bathed horses and ponies (no poo, stains, mud)
- Plaited (even native ponies unless your pony is BSPS registered in current year)
- Hooves polished
- Tack in good repair and cleaned so its free from grease and dirt
- White shirts **with tie or stock** (shirts should be stiff collared with a tie. No shirts to be worn without a stock or tie)
- Clean show or hacking jackets
- Breeches or jods without branding
- Polished boots
- PC Badge on left lapel with test felt underneath
- WHPC white saddlecloth
- Hats tagged
- Jewellery removed (studs and watch ONLY permitted)

# Prize Giving

- It is common courtesy to stay for Prize Giving out of respect for the sponsors, organisers and other competitors and we'd strongly encourage this among our members. Unless:
  - You are not in a team and are out of the Individual placings.
- If your team is likely to be placed but not as an individual you need to stay. It's never over until the last person jumps or goes down the centre line!
- **Correct turnout for Prize Giving is compulsory. No phones in pockets and spurs removed.**
- We appreciate everyone leads busy lives but when signing up you have to plan to be there until the end of the class.

# Reasonable Adjustment

- The Pony Club promotes equality and diversity and recognises that due to the practical nature of the activities undertaken, adjustments may need to be made to be accessible to the widest range of people. This applies to members, volunteers and Coaches.
- Reasonable adjustment can be requested on the grounds of impairment (physical or mental) that could be long term or temporary.
- It may also be made for members who wear religious clothing or for whom English is not their first language.
- Reasonable adjustment for competitions needs to be made well in advance of the closing date.
- Please show sensitivity for those receiving reasonable adjustment in their activities and be assured that it does not give them a competitive advance but rather a level playing field.

## Reasonable Adjustment Matrix

1. No known disability
2. Cognitive processing such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, visual processing speed, visual perception, literacy, numeracy, verbal reasoning, verbal memory, nonverbal memory.
3. Social/communication need such as autistic spectrum condition.
4. Long standing illness such as cancer, epilepsy, Crohn's, IBS, Chronic Fatigue.
5. A mental condition such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder.
6. A physical need such as crutches or wheelchair use, arthritis, paraplegia, quadriplegia, cerebral palsy.
7. Hearing need.
8. Visual needs including blind, partially sighted or serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses.



# Reasonable Adjustment

Reasonable Adjustment	Mounted	Unmounted
Details of the event ahead of time eg. Venue, coach, timings, other riders	2, 3, 5	2, 3, 5
Personal support worker or buddy in attendance	2, 5, 6, 8	2, 5, 6, 8
Timed rest breaks	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Bathroom breaks	4, 6	4, 6
BSL interpreter	7	7
Flexibility with location	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Additional or adapted tack or equipment	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Additional or adapted arena eg: large letters, additional marker poles, caller	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

# Volunteering

- The Pony Club is a voluntary organisation. We expect all members to make a concerted effort to give up their time to volunteer at events.
- Those selected for Regional and Area competitions **MUST** provide an adult volunteer. This is not to be done around your child competing but for half or a whole day as required by a dedicated family member or friend. This can be at a competition your child is not involved in.
- The same applies for those lucky enough to qualify for any Championships. We will expect you to provide a volunteer (either yourself or someone on behalf of you) and sign up in good time. This is a requirement for every Branch in order for these event to run.

# Next Steps.....

- **Consider what is achievable!**
  - Can you realistically manage qualifying for multiple disciplines?
  - What is the impact for Champs if you qualify on your horse
  - Be your own person. Don't be influenced by what others are doing.
- **Buy and read your rule books**
- **Plan:**
  - Fitness programme
  - Your rallies
  - Your competition schedule
  - Vaccinations
- **Start to fill in your application form** with competitions you have already completed. Continue to do this as you go along.
- Check your tack and equipment.
- **Find your volunteer for qualifiers and sign them up!**

# Discipline Specific Info

- After today we will start to host online sessions to deep dive into discipline specific rules for:
  - **Eventing**
  - **Show Jumping**
  - **Dressage**
  - **Mounted Game**

# Q&A