

February 2022

Important Information Re Changes to Pony Club Rules & Vaccination Policy

Dear All

The Pony Club Rulebooks for 2022 have been updated. There are some important changes/information about the following that we need to make you aware of re the following:

Whips, Stirrups, Jewellery, Hats, Falls at Competitions, Vaccination

Apologies that this email is quite long, most of the text is taken directly from the rulebooks. Main points are listed below:

Whips

For Show-jumping & Cross-country Competitions

Riders may not hit their horse/ pony before the start of the course and may be eliminated for doing so at the Judge's discretion.

A whip, if carried, must be held in the hand by the handle with the handle at the top.

The whip must be "padded" and comply with the current British Showjumping rule (BS Members Handbook, full wording is available to view online at www.britishshowjumping.co.uk). Often described as a 'padded baton'.

The key points of that rule are as follows:

The maximum length of the "Whip" is 70cm and must be no less than 45cm.

The "Contact area", is considered to be 2/5's (two fifths) of the overall length of the "Whip" and must be covered with a "Pad".

There must be no "binding" within 17 centimetres of the end of the "Pad".

The "Pad" must be smooth, with no protrusion or raised surface, and be made of shock absorbing material throughout its circumference such that it gives a compression factor of at least 6mm.

There is to be no wording, advertising or personalisation of any kind on the "Pad".

Before buying any whip, please check with the retailer that it is BS compliant.

In all disciplines and at all times, the whip must only be used:

For a good reason, as an aid to encourage the horse forward.

At an appropriate time, namely when the horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of seat and legs.

In the right place, namely down the shoulder or behind the leg but never overarm.

With appropriate severity.

No more than twice for any one incident.

Excessive use of the whip anywhere on the showground will result in disqualification:
Use of the whip to vent a competitor's anger is always excessive.
Use of a whip which causes injury e.g. Broken skin or a weal, is always excessive.
Use after elimination or retirement is always excessive.
Use on a horse's head, neck etc. is always excessive.
Using the whip from the ground after a rider fall or dismount is always excessive.
If the rider's arm comes above the shoulder when using the whip, this is always excessive

Stirrups

All stirrups must be capable of easy releasing.
Examples of stirrups that are prohibited, are any with enhanced grip features on stirrup treads, such as deep grooves or rivets, or interlocking boots for the rider.
For the avoidance of doubt, magnetic stirrups are not allowed at Pony Club events

Jewellery

Only medical jewellery is permitted. No other jewellery is allowed for safety reasons, other than a wristwatch, a wedding ring, a stock pin worn horizontally or a tie clip.
Members who are contemplating piercing their ears or any other part of their body should be aware that they will not be allowed to compete until such time as the "sleepers" can safely be removed. The reason for this is that sleepers have in the past caused injuries following falls. This rule will be strictly enforced.

Hats

The following Hat Standard Safety Marks are allowed at the following activities in 2022:
PAS 015:1998 or 2011* with BSI Kitemark All activities VG1 with BSI Kitemark
Snell E2001* onwards with the official Snell label and number
ASTM-F1163 2004a onwards with the SEI mark
AS/NZS 3838, 2006 onwards

From 1st January 2023 the following will not be allowed
PAS 015:1998
Snell E2001

If your hat displays safety marks with these dates you will need to purchase a new hat prior to 01/01/23.

New hat tags will be issued from then.

Please take care to ensure that any new hats purchased are complaint

Falls at Competitions

If you have a fall during show-jumping or cross-country you will be eliminated. If you have a class later the same day you must be passed fit by the First Aider on site.

Vaccinations

A valid passport and vaccination record:
must accompany the horse/pony to all events
must be available for inspection by the event officials
must be produced on request at any other time during the event

No horse / pony may compete (or be present at the event as a companion) unless it has a Record of Vaccination against equine influenza completed by the veterinary surgeon who gave the vaccination, signed and stamped line by line, which complies with the Minimum Vaccination Requirements set out in the Equine Influenza Vaccination Schedule below

Equine Influenza Vaccination Schedule:

An initial primary course of two vaccinations must be given: the second vaccination must be administered within 21-92 days of the first vaccination

Horses may attend events 7 days after receiving the second vaccination of the primary course. (for clarity: no horse or pony may compete on the same day as a relevant injection is given or on any of the 6 days following such an injection)

The first booster must be administered within 7 calendar months following the date of the administration of the second vaccination of the primary course

Booster vaccinations must be administered at a maximum of 12 months intervals

Horses competing at the finals of the Spring Festival and at qualifying competitions for summer championships, including the Grassroots Regional Championships, must have received a booster within the 6 months +21 days (but not within the 7 days) before

Please check the vaccination history of your horse or pony. You may have completed the booster vaccinations as per the requirements but please track back through all the boosters that may have been given before you owned the pony right back to the initial primary course. If the vaccination history is not complaint you will need to restart the vaccinations and will not be able to attend until 7 days after the second vaccination.

Passports are regularly checked at many venues and competitions and all qualifying competitions and it would be a great shame to be turned away at a competition.

Any queries with this please contact a committee member for guidance.

Kind regards

Charlotte & Rosie