



District Commissioner

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Fermanagh Harriers Pony Club Camp 2026

31st May 2026

Dear Parent,

We're delighted to finally share the plans for Camp 2026! This year we've made a few exciting changes to the format of camp, and we can't wait to welcome both new and returning campers to Castle Irvine for four busy days of riding, learning and fun.

Dates and Times

Camp starts on **Thursday 2nd July** and finishes on **Sunday 5th July**.

Ponies may arrive from **8am on Thursday morning** and will stay for the duration of camp.

Members will return home each evening, however we will be organising a parent rota to ensure ponies are checked throughout the .

There will be a signing-in sheet at the entrance to the stables and we would ask that parents ensure their child is signed in and out of camp each day.

A short camp briefing will take place each morning during the allocated breakfast time.

A rough guide to the daily timetable is below. Once final numbers are confirmed and rides have been organised, timetables will be issued.

Thursday 2nd July & Friday 3rd July

- **8am** – Morning yard duties
- **10am – 1pm** – Teaching sessions (one ridden & one theory)
- **1pm – 2pm** – Lunch
- **2pm – 5pm** – Afternoon teaching sessions (one ridden & one theory)
- **5pm – 6pm** – Evening yard duties

For the second half of camp, we are moving to a more clinic-style format covering Showjumping, Dressage and Cross Country.

We have some fantastic coaches booked and hope that everyone enjoys the opportunity to work with different instructors throughout the week.

Showjumping, Dressage & Cross Country Clinics

Saturday will focus on Showjumping and Dressage clinics. Riders will remain within their allocated rides but will receive targeted coaching in each discipline from a variety of coaches. Morning yards, lunch and evening yards will remain similar to day 1 & 2. A separate timetable will be issued for Day 3 & 4.

Theory sessions will continue throughout the day and coaches will be assessing riders throughout the clinics to provide feedback and award points towards the ever-popular camp prizes.

Sunday is dedicated to the Cross Country clinic. Whether you love cross country or are slightly less confident, the sessions will be designed to suit all levels and will include a variety of exercises using fences and combinations similar to those found on xc courses.

These sessions will also be hugely beneficial for our showjumpers. We hope to finish camp early to mid-afternoon on Sunday following lunch and prize giving.

Stabling

As mentioned above, ponies will stay overnight at camp.

There will be a prize awarded within each ride for the tidiest stable, so we'll be expecting everyone to give mucking out their best effort throughout the week!

Bedding will be provided. Please bring sufficient feed & hay for your child's pony for the duration of the camp.

Vaccinations

There has been a huge increase in the incidents of Equine Influenza across the UK. As a result, we are going to be extra vigilant about vaccinations. Vaccinations will be strictly checked at area competitions this year also.

All passport vaccination pages will need to be sent to me via WhatsApp color for checking prior to camp. My number is 07500657155. **Ponies that do not have up-to-date and valid vaccinations will not be permitted to participate in the camp.**

The last date for restarting vaccinations prior to camp is 3rd of June.

Here is a link to the Pony Club Vaccination Rule:

<https://resources.pcupk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/The-Pony-Club-Equine-Influenza-VACCINATION-RULE.pdf>

This is also a really useful tool for checking dates of vaccinations: <https://vaca.horseracing.software/>

Kit List

Please see the final page for a detailed camp kit list and checklist. We recommend printing this page so campers can tick items off as they pack. Please remember to label everything clearly. Please ask any of the committee for clarification regarding camp kit – we are happy to chat though the essentials and standards required before you make any purchases.

Teaching Sessions

For camp purposes, members are divided into groups called rides. Members will remain with their allocated ride for the duration of camp for both ridden and theory sessions.

Each day will include:

- Two ridden sessions
- Two theory sessions

Theory sessions are designed around Pony Club badges and practical learning, giving members the opportunity to develop skills and work towards badge achievements throughout camp. For the first two days, each ride will work with the same coach. During the clinic phase of camp, rides will rotate through coaches depending on discipline.

What to Wear

One of the main changes for our campers this year is the turnout aspect of camp. Please see below for the turnout expectations for each day:

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd (Day 1&2)

- White shirt
- Pony Club tie or stock
- Pony Club sweatshirt
 - <https://www.wainwrightscreenprint.co.uk/fermanagh-harriers-pony-club-new-logo-sweatshirt-14100-p.asp>
- Plain coloured jodhpurs (navy, black, beige or white)
- Gloves
- Hair Net (if required)
- Long or short boots
- Correctly tagged hat
- Overall aim: to present a clean pony, with clean tack and a tidy rider.

Saturday 4th – Show Turnout (Day 3)

During the theory sessions on Thursday and Friday (Day 1&2), campers will spend time learning about turnout standards for the various disciplines. On Saturday, we are asking campers to aim for full show turnout:

- Plaited manes
- Plaited tails (if safe to do so)
- White or beige jodhpurs
- Show jacket
- White shirt
- Pony Club tie or stock
- Pony Club badge
- Gloves
- Hair Net (if required)
- Clean boots
- Correctly tagged hat

Lots of parents will have spare show jackets that can be borrowed & returned or offered second hand during camp.

Sunday 5th – Cross Country Turnout (Day 4)

For cross country day, members should wear:

- Red base layers
- Red & white hat silks or plain navy/black
- A jockey skull cap must be worn for all cross country riding
- **Body Protector** – Compulsory for cross country riding. If a body protector is worn for any Pony Club activity it must meet the current Pony Club Standard.

Ponies do not need to be plaited on Sunday.

Camp Food

We provide all food throughout the day for campers and tend to stick to a simple but very successful formula!

Breakfast / Morning Snack

Served around 9am:

- Pancakes
- Bacon rolls
- Fruit
- Tea/Coffee Juice/Water

Lunch

Served between 1pm and 2pm:

- Chicken goujon wraps
- Lasagna
- Hot dogs
- Other camper favourites

Camp food is designed to be hearty, filling and child-friendly — perfect for keeping busy campers fueled throughout the day. Adults and siblings are very welcome to eat at camp too. We would simply ask that any additional meals are paid for online using the following link:

Link for food payment

We provide juice and water for campers throughout the day, however we ask that all campers bring a named water bottle with them. To help reduce waste, we do not provide disposable cups. Any adults wanting tea or coffee are very welcome to bring along a reusable mug.

If your child has any allergies or dietary requirements, it is very important that these are communicated to us in advance.

We'd also love if parents could contribute a few traybakes or sweet treats for after lunch each day. Donations can be dropped to the kitchen area each morning.

Please note that we have a child with a nut allergy, so we have a zero nut policy.

Parents & Helpers

It's important to acknowledge that organising camp is a huge undertaking, and we genuinely rely on the support of parents and volunteers to help make camp fun, safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Over the coming weeks we will circulate a volunteer rota and would love as many parents as possible to get involved. We really are a fun bunch, and camp is always much more enjoyable when everyone pitches in and works together.

For campers of primary school age, we would ask that a parent or guardian is available to assist with tacking up and mucking out. That said, an important part of camp is encouraging members to become more independent and confident around their ponies.

Coaches will always reward effort and willingness to try things independently, so please don't be offended if instructors occasionally ask parents to step back and allow children to have a go themselves — it's all part of the learning experience.

Evening Activities 6pm-8pm approx.

Thursday 2nd July

Rider fitness & Tetrathlon run training with Karin & Cheryl – This is a free event for anyone interested in rider fitness or potentially taking part in tetrathlons.

Friday 3rd July

We are excited to be heading to Johnny Rockos for food followed by an evening of bowling.

This gives campers a chance to relax and enjoy some downtime with their friends after a busy day at camp. Adults are more than welcome to join us.

Please book using the following link by **Friday 26th June**: <https://itsplainsailing.com/org/fermanaghpc>

Saturday 4th July

Camp Games will be provided for our junior members (primary age) Then Mahon's will be feeding our hungry campers and parents before the post primary children head off into the grounds of Castle Irvine for the ever-popular "Night Line", organised by Susie.

Members will work their way around a route blindfolded — it always guarantees plenty of fun and laughter!

Prize Giving

Prize giving will take place after lunch on Sunday 5th July once the yard has been tidied, tack and equipment is loaded up and ponies are ready for home. A full list of final day jobs will be issued during the week.

Any members sitting Pony Club tests will complete these on Sunday am, and plenty of support and guidance will be provided beforehand.

If you have a camp cup from last year, please ensure it is engraved, cleaned and returned before Sunday. Cups can be given to Roisin, Ruth, Karin, Debbie or Susie.

Codes of Conduct

The Pony Club requires all branches to adopt Codes of Conduct for both members and parents.

Please read through the attached Parent and Member Codes of Conduct carefully.

In order for your child to attend camp, both forms must be signed and returned by **Friday 26th June**.

Digital signatures can be completed here:

Parent Code of Conduct Link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/riNDeYVuX3>

Member Code of Conduct Link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/1aviZ1jHsW>

Payment

The cost of camp this year is **£180 per member**.

This includes:

- Stabling
- Bedding
- 7 ridden sessions
- 7 theory sessions
- Camp food
- Prizes

Camp may be paid either in full or in instalments.

Please complete bookings by **Sunday 14th June** so that we can finalise numbers and planning.

<https://itsplainsailing.com/org/fermanaghpc/>

The evening activities and any additional meals for adults or siblings can also be booked using the same link.

Welfare & Important Notes

Pony Club camp is one of the highlights of the year and we hope all children leave camp having had lots of fun, made new friends, improved their riding and learned more about caring for their ponies.

Please encourage your child to speak to an instructor, myself or Karin Lilly (Safeguarding Officer) if they are unhappy or unwell at any point during camp.

Please also ensure that the welfare questionnaire is completed by **Sunday 26th June**.

Reasonable Adjustment

If you feel that your child needs additional support, please talk to myself or Karin to discuss this further. This link might also be helpful:

<https://resources.pcuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/reasonable-adjustment-policy.pdf>

Parents Zoom Meeting

We will be hosting a Camp Information Zoom meeting on **Tuesday 9th June @8pm**.

This will give parents an opportunity to ask questions and raise any queries before camp begins.

The Zoom link will be circulated in advance.

And finally....

Pony Club camp is a huge amount of fun, but it is also hard work and takes a massive team effort behind the scenes. Your committee has spent months organising coaches, activities and logistics to try and create the very best experience possible for our members.

Please remember that everyone involved in running camp is volunteering their time alongside busy family and work lives, so any support offered is always hugely appreciated.

We can't wait to welcome you all to Camp 2026!

Roisin Cathcart
District Commissioner

CAMP EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

What to Bring

Please ensure that your child's belongings are labelled clearly with their name. Items to bring include:-

- Water bucket
- Feed bucket
- Haynet (if required)
- Saddle
- Bridle
- Grooming Kit (rubber curry comb, dandy brush, body brush, hoof pick, hoof oil/dressing, plaiting bands, mane comb)
- Tack cleaning items
- Hat (correctly tagged –can be done at camp)
- Whip (if required must be a padded “baton-style” whip)
- Gloves
- Hair Net (if required)
- Back Protector (note – a back protector is not compulsory except for cross country riding).
- Riding wear (as listed above – jodhpurs, shirt, tie, jacket, sweatshirt, boots)
- Waterproof Jacket
- Change of clothes is useful in case we get wet
- Casual clothes for evening activities if members wish
- Mucking out equipment – barrow, shavings fork, pooper scooper
- Notebook & Pen

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NAME ALL OF THE ITEMS THAT YOU ARE BRINGING TO CAMP

Pocket money/valuables

Please do not send your child to camp with items of value. The Branch is not liable for any personal loss or any damage incurred.