

OLD SURREY & BURSTOW BRANCH

Team Selection Policy 2026

This policy applies to all Pony Club competitions.

Team competitions are a great chance to make friendships and have fun spending time with Pony Club friends, and all team members are expected to support and encourage each other, being kind when someone doesn't have the best day.

Teams at friendly Inter-Branch competitions

OS&B PC is keen to enter teams (and where appropriate individuals) in as many competitions throughout the year at every level.

For Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing and Tetrathlon, the procedure is as follows:

1. You enter your child as an individual and then inform the relevant Branch Discipline Manager that you would like to be part of a team, advising them which class(es) you have entered.
2. The Branch Discipline Manager will then put those who have entered into teams. Usually, we can have teams made up of either three or four riders. One rider in a team can ride two different ponies.
3. In the unfortunate event that we have say five members entered in a Class, one member will need to be an individual and the Branch Discipline Manager will decide who will represent the team with advice from the Branch DC and/or Chief Instructor.

Note: *Regular Branch Rally attendance will be taken into account. If someone is left out of a team at one competition then we will endeavour to make sure that they are in a team at the next competition so that everyone has an equal opportunity.*

For Mounted Games, the procedure is as follows:

1. The Mounted Games Team Manager will enter a team or teams which will consist of four or five members.
2. If we have more than the five members for one team but not enough for two teams then the Mounted Games Team Manager will decide who will represent the team with advice from the Branch DC and/or Chief Instructor.

Note: *Regular Branch Rally attendance will be taken into account. If someone is left out of a team at one competition then we will endeavour to make sure that they are in a team at the next competition so that everyone has an equal opportunity.*

Teams at Area Qualifiers for the Regional and National Championships.

During the summer months there are Area Pony Club competitions for all the principal disciplines. These involve individuals and teams competing against other PC branches within Area 11. Individuals and teams that are placed highly at Area Competitions can qualify for either of the following:

1. The Regional Championships for the PC70 and PC80 levels which are held at Rectory Farm in Wiltshire towards the end of August;
2. The Main JCB Pony Club Championships which are held at Offchurch Bury in Warwickshire, mid-August and are for those competing at PC90 level and above.

These are *highly* prestigious events and are the peak of the competitive year for all PC members. The standard at these competitions is high, so it is important that those representing the Branch are both *well prepared* and *capable* of achieving the standard. **This selection process is in place to ensure both Team success AND rider and horse safety.**

Selection for Area Competitions

Selection will be undertaken by the District Commissioner (DC), Discipline Team Manager and the Chief Instructor and/or Discipline Team Trainer/Instructor. Any conflicts of interest will be disclosed in the interests of fairness and all information held will be confidential.

Selection will consider both the Branch commitment of the individual and the performance of the combination in previous competitions, at rallies and in training.

Parents are encouraged to keep the Discipline Managers informed of their child's performance outside of Pony Club as we do not have access to these results.

Eligibility and availability

Full eligibility rules are available in each Pony Club Discipline Rule Book which are available to download for free from the Pony Club website or you can buy hard copies from Amazon. **Each Rider/Parent is responsible for ensuring they understand and comply with the Rule Books and are eligible for selection.** You must pay particular attention to the Pony Club's Vaccination Policy.

Note: *If you declare yourself as eligible and you are not, this may rule you out from being included in teams in the future.*

Dates for Area, Regional and Championship competitions are widely publicised and riders wanting to be in Area Teams MUST confirm that they will be available and willing to travel to the Championships should they be lucky enough to qualify. If a member cannot commit to Championship dates, but is still keen to compete at Area level, then you can either compete as an individual or as a fourth team member to a team of three to help them to qualify.

Selection Criteria

1. The combination of horse and rider must be **active members** of OS&B PC at the time of both entry and competition.
2. **Rally requirements:** The combination of horse and rider must have completed at least two Rallies since 1st January that year, with at least one of these in the discipline(s) they are wanting to compete in. If the combination is competing in more than one discipline, then they will need to complete at least one Rally in each discipline to make up their two (or more) rallies. (A qualifying Rally must have been organised by the Branch Committee, Area Representative or by the Training Committee and must be a minimum of 1 hour in length. It must be open to all Members within the age range or ability level for which it is intended. It may be mounted or unmounted and must have been advertised at least seven days prior to the date of the event).
3. **Proven track record:** to ensure the safety of both horse and rider, those competing in eventing or tetrathlon must have competed and/or attended XC training twice in the current year at the height at which they intend to compete. This is to demonstrate their competence at this height.
4. Where a rider will struggle to comply with the eligibility criteria listed above due to studying away from home or being in employment, then some of the above requirements can be waived at the DC's discretion.
5. The combination must have **confirmed their eligibility** for Area competition.
6. The combination must have **confirmed they are available** for Area, Regional and/ or Championship dates.
7. The horse or pony must be able to **comply with the Pony Club rules** of flu and tetanus vaccination and also the minimum horse/pony age requirements.
8. Both the rider and the horse/pony must be **fit and well enough to compete**. This is not only so that the combination can be successful but the welfare of both must be considered.

Other Information

Team Spirit - Being selected for a Pony Club Team is a great privilege. OS&B PC expects riders and their supporters to have a 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 to support and help each other at all times.

Note: *An example of this is the expectation to stay, regardless of your results, for the prize giving at the event to support other members.*

Clothing and Turnout – Competitors and their ponies must be smartly turned out at Pony Club competitions and adhere to the appropriate OS&B dress code for each discipline. This will be explained to you by the discipline leaders.

Finance - Once selected, the member's place at Area is only confirmed on receipt of the relevant entry fee. Each member is responsible for their entry and stabling costs at both Area and Championships levels. If a member feels they are unable to put themselves forward due to financial constraints, they should discuss their position (in strict confidence) with the DC to see if OS&B PC could subsidise their 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 only the DC or the DC's representative may take the query to the officials.