

Team selection policy for 2024 Area competitions

1. Introduction

During the summer months, we select our teams for Area competitions for the principal disciplines.

For those of you newer to the Pony Club, these are the "regional" competitions that are the qualifiers for the various Pony Club Championships which are held in the majority of cases in August of each year.

Wylve Valley PC is part of Area 14 of the Pony Club and it's against these other branches that we compete at the Area competitions.

To qualify for the main Pony Club Championships, which are held at Offchurch Bury, is highly prestigious and is the peak of the competitive year for our members. The same applies to the Regional Championships, held at Bicton Arena. We've had much success in recent years including:

- Our PC100 Eventing Team winning the Championships in 2018
- Our Junior Tetrathlon team winning in 2021 and 2022
- Our Junior Mounted Games team winning in 2022 and retaining their trophy in 2023
- Our Open Dressage team winning both the team and individual trophies in 2023

This paper clarifies the selection process for these Area competitions.

2. Area competitions

For each of the key disciplines, we are invited to enter teams for the Area (regional) qualifying competitions. In some instances, we can enter multiple teams, in others not. Teams normally comprise four team members, although we can also enter riders as individual competitors.

Area competitions take place for each of the key disciplines of dressage, showjumping and eventing (together with mounted games, tetrathlon, polo, etc.). The majority of Area competitions take place in June and July. **This document focuses on our selection process only for the three disciplines of Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing and you should get in touch with the appropriate discipline managers if you wish to be considered for any of the other Area competitions.**

The dates for this year's Area competitions and PC Championships are as follows:

| AREA DRESSAGE | LOCATION | DATES |
|---|--|---|
| All levels | South & West Wilts PC Turnpike Showground | 23rd June 2024 |
| AREA SHOW JUMPING | | |
| 70/80/90/100/110cm | Mendip Farmers PC Mendip Plains EC | 30 th June 2024 |
| AREA EVENTING | | |
| PC110 | Nunney International HT Run as a section within the BE Novice class | 14 th June 2024 |
| PC70, PC80, PC90, PC100 and Chairmans Cup | Royal Artillery PC Larkhill | 21 st July 2024 |
| PONY CLUB NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | | |
| All levels and disciplines, excluding Regional Championships | Offchurch Bury | 9 th –17 th August 2024 |
| PONY CLUB REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | | |
| Regional Championships | Bicton Arena | 23 rd – 25 th August 2024 |
| PONY CLUB PC110 EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS | | |
| PC110 Eventing Championships | BE Wellington International Horse Trials | 23 rd – 25 th August 2024 |

3. Structure of Area competitions

For each age/ability group, we have a Team Manager who is responsible for organising team training on a regular basis, proposing the team selections themselves and co-ordinating our entries for the Area competitions. The Team Managers are organised as follows and cover all three disciplines:

Open & Intermediate (Dawn Clarke) email: dawn.clarke1@icloud.com

These are generally our older and most able/experienced competitors.

- **Area Dressage**
This is divided into the Open and the Intermediate competitions. The Open dressage test this year is The Pony Club Open Dressage Test 2020 and for Intermediates is a new test PC Intermediate Dressage Test 2024.
- **Area Showjumping**
Open PC110 level normally has a first round of 105cms, with a second round of 110cms; Intermediate PC100 starts at 100cms, with a second round of 105cms.
- **Area Eventing**
Open PC110 is broadly equivalent to BE Novice and Intermediate PC100 equates to BE100. The dressage test for PC110 is the PC110 Eventing Test 2022 and for PC100 it's the PC100 Eventing Test 2015. The PC Chairman's Cup (replacing the old PC100+ competition). The dressage test for this is the PC110 Eventing Test 2022.

Novice/PC90 (Stellar Powell) email stell101@hotmail.com

Generally for those who are regularly competing and are jumping 90cms confidently; there are no age restrictions, however.

- **Novice and Novice Open Area Dressage**
The dressage test is at Pony Club Novice level and is broadly equivalent to BD Preliminary. The Area test this year is The Pony Club Novice Dressage Test 2020.
- **Novice PC90 Area Showjumping**
The first round is 90cms and the second 95cms.
- **Novice PC90 Area Eventing**
This is broadly equivalent to BE90. The dressage test is the PC90 Eventing Test 2013.

Pony Club Regional Championships (Laura Read) email:

laura.read28@gmail.com

Replacing the old Junior competitions, the Pony Club Regional Championships is an entry-level Team Competition in Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing reserved for more novice members. Members can be of any age and ride any size of pony or horse. **However, riders must not have previously taken part in any Area competitions at Novice level or above in Dressage, Show Jumping or Eventing.** It's a great way for the younger, nervous or less experienced member to start competing, where the focus is on fun and taking part!

There are Area qualifiers for each discipline and the top 10 teams at these competitions qualify for the South West Regional Championships, comprising qualifiers from Pony Club Areas 14, 15 and 16, which will be held at Bicton Arena from 23rd – 25th August 2024.

- **Preliminary PC70 Dressage**
This is a relatively straightforward test for novice riders. The test at this year's Area competition is Preliminary PC70 Dressage Test 2022.
- **Grassroots PC80 Dressage**
This is a relatively straightforward test for novice riders. The test at this year's Area competition is The Grassroots Dressage Test 2018.
- **Regional Championships Area Showjumping 70cm and 80cm**
There are two rounds with a maximum height of 70cm or 80cms, but in the second round two single fences may be 75cm or 85cms. The course is designed to be accommodating for less experienced riders.
- **Regional Championships Area Eventing PC70**
Riders must be confident over a 70cms XC course. The test at this year's Area competition is The Preliminary PC70 Dressage Test 2022.
- **Regional Championships Area Eventing PC80**
Riders must be confident over a 80cms XC course. The test at this year's Area competition is The Grassroots PC80 Dressage Test 2018.

4. Selection process

In order to be considered for any Area team, you must be able to demonstrate the appropriate competition experience with the same rider/pony combination in the relevant discipline at the appropriate level of difficulty. This is simply so that we can ensure members are not entered into competitions which undermine their

confidence or, worse, cause a risk to their safety. Our Team Managers organise regular team competitions and these, together with our programme of regular rallies and training, will bring relevant experience and demonstrate a commitment to the club.

If you wish to be considered for selection for **any** of the Area competitions for Dressage, Showjumping or Eventing, please see the guidelines below:

- You must notify the appropriate Team Manager of your desire to be considered for selection by no later than **1st May 2024**. You must specify which discipline and level you wish to be considered for. If you are at all unsure of which level you should apply for, please don't hesitate to contact the Team Manager or Miles Toulson-Clarke.
- You must be able to demonstrate evidence of regular competitions on the horse/pony you are proposing to enter with at an equivalent level for each of the disciplines you wish to be considered for. This is simply to ensure we don't mistakenly position you in the wrong team and is also important from a safety perspective. **It is important that you should have taken part in at least two competitions within the previous 12 months for the relevant discipline at the appropriate level** and you should submit evidence of these (together with results) to the relevant Team Manager by no later than **two weeks before the relevant competition you wish to be considered for.** These competitions can be ones that you've entered individually or as part of a WVPC team and can be affiliated or unaffiliated. **Please note that for eventing, we must have evidence of at least 2 clear rounds XC at the appropriate level** (with or without time penalties) so that we can be confident of safety.
- You must have attended **three rallies on the proposed rider/pony combination** in the 12 months from 1st July 2023. Attendance at Camp 2023 counts as one rally.
- You must also attend at least **two** Team training sessions **per discipline** you wish to be considered for. These generally start later in April and run on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Details are updated regularly on the web site. We do quite understand that, for some, this is difficult to achieve every week, but our Instructors and Team Managers must see you train with them in order to assess you. It is also unfair on those who do attend every week throughout the winter and spring if those who don't attend training are selected ahead of them.
- We recognise that older members at university or working full-time may find it difficult to attend regular rallies or training sessions and discretion is granted to these members, although participation when possible must be adhered to.
- We will consider competitive results (affiliated or unaffiliated) as part of the selection process, together with attendance at training organised by WVPC, as part of designating which teams members compete in.
- Other criteria that will be taken into account for selection include being an active and loyal member of WVPC.

- **It is essential you are available for the appropriate competition at the PC Championships or Regional Championships in August, so please check these dates.** There is nothing more disappointing for other team members than if the team qualifies for the Championships and a fellow team member is then unable to participate.
- Team selection will be finalised before entries for the Area competitions close and is undertaken by the relevant Team Manager, Chief Instructor and the District Commissioner.

We seek to manage expectations during the team selection process and to provide feedback on an ongoing basis. There is clearly the prospect of some disappointment as we are ultimately limited by the number of teams we're able to enter and it is important we all communicate well together during the period of selection.

As stated above, please feel free to contact the appropriate Team Manager or me at any point if you require any clarification about the selection process.

We wish all our members fun and success at this year's Area competitions – and hopefully at the Championships too!

With best wishes,
Miles

Miles Toulson-Clarke
District Commissioner