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NOTES FOR GEAR INSPECTORS AT PONY CLUB COMPETITIONS AND RALLIES

1. OBJECTIVES

To ensure the **safety** of the rider, the **correct fit** of gear and the **comfort** of the horse, correct uniform of the rider and that these conform to the rules of the competition or rally.

All horses attending State run events must be microchipped.

2. GEAR CHECK AREA

Prior to all pony club competitions, rallies or schools, the organizing committee or Senior Instructor is required to appoint gear steward/s who will be on duty at an appointed area prior to the commencement of the day or competition and at other times as stipulated.

At state championships the gear check area must be an enclosed area and competitors are not permitted after their gear check to *leave this enclosure* prior to taking part in the competition. Following the check **no** gear must be exchanged without the permission of the gear check steward. Failure to observe this rule could entail elimination. Where circumstances arise at State Championships such as a split venue, two Chief Gear Check Stewards will be appointed.

It is recommended that horses not be loaded (with rider and tack) by more than 20% of the horse's weight, at all levels.

3. DUTIES

- a) To inspect the gear of the mount and the dress of the rider and to recommend any change or removal of gear considered to be dangerous, cruel, **ill-fitting**, unsafe or not conforming with association regulations.
- b) At championships, it is the responsibility of the team manager to thoroughly check all competitors before they present to the gear stewards and to be in attendance when the official gear check is carried out for each of his/her team members.
- c) Bearing in mind the safety of the rider and the legal liability, the gear inspector should not under any circumstances alter or adjust any equipment and is required to request that the competitor or his team manager *effect the necessary adjustments* and that he report back when these have been carried out.
- d) Should there be any dispute regarding gear, the matter is first referred to the Chief Gear Check Steward, and if still unresolved may be referred to the Disputes/Advisory Committee.
- e) At a Club or Zone competition it is the responsibility of the appointed instructor/team manager in charge of the competitor to check the gear prior to presenting to the gear steward.
- f) At any rally or fixture, in the absence of an appointed gear steward, the responsibility of the gear check should be undertaken by the senior instructor of the day or an instructor appointed for that purpose.

- g) For pony Club events at Agricultural Shows, the local Club should arrange for instructor/s to carry out a gear check prior to the event/s. Any unauthorized change of gear following the inspection may be penalized by disqualification.

GEAR CHECK STEWARDS ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS SECTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SECTION ON DRESS AND GEAR REGULATIONS.

4. SAFETY

It is the responsibility of the gear steward to ensure that:

All gear appears safe, paying particular attention to:

- All stitching i.e. stirrup leathers, reins, girth points, girths etc.
- Stirrups are not too small or large for competitor and not too smooth on the tread surface.
- 10mm clearance is required at each side of the boot.

Bits are to be safe and not badly worn at joint or rings.

Bridle leather, reins, stirrup leathers, girth points and girth are not to be worn or split or appearing unsafe. Reins must be buckled, stitched or joined in a safe manner at the hand held end.

Horses may not be ridden with rugs or when not fully and correctly harnessed.

It is the responsibility of gear check stewards to decide if a retention harness on an approved equestrian helmet is correctly in place and securely fastened.

Retention harness that is worn loose, frayed, insecurely fastened or in any way considered “suspect” is not permitted. Hard chin cups on retention harness are not permitted.

Sun protection covers are permitted on helmets provided that the cover is secure and does not interfere with the safety effect of the helmet.

In the interests of safety, the stirrup iron and the stirrup leather (this also applies to safety stirrups) must hang freely from the bar of the saddle on the outside of the flap. There must be no other restriction or attachment of any kind. The rider must not directly or indirectly have any part of his/her body tied to the saddlery. The ‘Stayput Seat’ is not permitted at pony Club the only exceptions are under the Sports Connect Program please refer to the Associations website for details.

Shadow rolls are not permitted.

Body Protectors are permitted to be worn for all disciplines.

Tail weights are not permitted at Pony Club Association NSW

Any person outside of a horse free area at a Pony Club event must wear covered solid footwear.

No rider may be led over a jump at Pony Club (a single pole on the ground is not a jump).

5. GEAR

- a) The channel of the saddle must be clear of the horse’s backbone when the rider is mounted and there should be sufficient clearance at the wither. Covers over the top of saddles are not

permitted. The 'Stayput Seat' is not permitted at pony Club.

- b) The throat lash is to be correctly fitted. Brow bands and poll straps should not cause discomfort to the horse's ears. (Refer fitting of bridle — "Riding".)
- c) Saddlecloths must be worn and the cloth next to the horse is to be absorbent and larger than the saddle. Shaped numnahs and sheepskin saddlecloths are not permitted. The saddlecloth is to fit smoothly with no ridges or edges under the seat of the saddle. Saddlecloths may bear Zone or Club numbers or emblems. Riders selected to represent the State are permitted to display State approved logos on their saddlecloths.
- d) The bit used, is to be suitable to the experience of the rider and horse and be suitable for the particular competition. The bit should be checked for wear or rough surfaces, attention being given to any central joint of a bit. The bit is not to be considered cruel or uncomfortable and must have sufficient clearance each side of the horse's mouth. Bits may not have a diameter of less than 6mm in the centre of the bit mouthpiece and 8mm at the outside of the mouthpiece. Corrugated or ridged bits are not permitted. Bits must lie in the correct position in the horse's mouth. (Refer the current Bit Dictionary.)

Bits may only be used as designed. When examining a bit in a horse's mouth, this need not be removed unless it particularly requires checking, in which case the competitor must be dismounted and proper safety precautions observed.

Tongue depressors are not permitted for Dressage.

Tongue ties are not permitted.

The horse must have a *bit in the mouth*. The reins must be attached to the bit or running through as in the case of a gag bit.

Combined bit lifter and rubber cheeks are not permitted at Pony Club.

All riders who use an illegal bit will be eliminated at the discretion of the ground committee.

Grass reins are permitted at club and zone level only, with the exception of any event involving jumping, from the saddle to the bit i.e. not via the poll. The horse must be able to get its head to its knees.

That balance support reins with elastic be allowed for use in Pony Club Association NSW as an alternative option to the existing grass reins.

Balanced Support reins are a normal set of riding reins with Billet hooks to connect to the approved pony club bit. They have a second rein (elasticised support rein) on each side that is connected to the main reins via a buckle, the other end is connected to the D Ring at each side of the saddle. The elastic support rein should lie slack when the rider has a contact on the reins. The support rein will take over the contact if the pony tries to pull the reins from the riders' hands, naps, tries to put its head down to buck etc. Balance reins should not be used for jumping under any circumstances.

Any rein (split or otherwise) must not hang below the toe of the riders boot in the stirrup or the point of the horse's elbow whichever is higher.

- e) If a running martingale is used it must be correctly fitted. (Refer "Riding".) Reins used in

conjunction must be buckled or studded on to the bit and must have STOPPERS (meters) fitted. The rings are to be suitably held at neck strap level to prevent a large loop forming between girth and neck strap. Stoppers (meters) must be used on all reins and above the breast plate or neck strap.

- f) All girths must be correctly adjusted and appear safe. Two buckles are required or one buckle and a surcingle. Exception: Western or Stock Saddle with attachments as designed and manufactured for that particular saddle.
- g) Cavesson nosebands should be loose enough to allow two fingers (3cm) side on between the band and the jaw bone and should lie half way between the corners of the mouth and the projecting cheek bone.
- h) Dropped nose bands including Micklem drop nose band, must not be too low on the nose or too tight and should fit firmly. The use of Micklem Competition bridle without the use of the bit clips is permitted for use at Pony Club rally days, Dressage, Jumping Equitation, Showjumping and One Day Event competitions.
- i) Curb chains should come in contact with the chin only when the cheek pieces are at 45 degrees. Chains may have a cover. All bits with curb chains attached must have a rein on the top ring (at the bit). Rounders or split reins may be used.
- j) Surcingles should be fastened directly under the chest of the horse. A surcingle that is threaded through the flap of a saddle is permissible or a surcingle worn over a saddle is permitted as long as it does not restrict the removal of the stirrup leather from the bar.
- k) Stirrups or stirrup leathers must not be tied down to any part of the saddle or mountings in any manner. The foot may not be attached to the stirrup in any way. Stirrup leathers are worn OVER the outside flap at all times. (Exception: please see the rules of the Australian Horseball Association for rules surrounding pickup straps while playing Horseball).

Ox-bow stirrups are permitted on Stock, Stock type and Western saddles.

Stirrup bars having safety clips at the end must be easily pushed up and down and not fixed. The loose end of the stirrup leather must not be threaded back through the buckle but may be threaded through a keeper on the flap.

Open sided safety Freejump Stirrups are permitted in the disciplines of Showjumping, Jumping Equitation and Cross Country- only. All other disciplines, open sided stirrups are not permitted for use in Pony Club.

The fender saddle is permitted at Pony Club. Fender-type leathers are permitted on Stock saddles. Stirrup leathers on Stock saddles may be done up at the stirrup iron.”

- l) Blinkers, standing martingales, Market Harborough's, running reins, draw reins, hackamores and bosals are not permitted. (Exception: fixed head checks (standing martingales) are permitted for mounted games, polo, polocrosse and Horseball please see respective rules for clarification).
- m) Dropped nose bands including Micklem drop nose bands, Hanoverian nose bands or any nose band which fits the horse's curb groove may not be permitted when a curb chain is being used and vice versa.

- n) If split reins are used, the ends of the reins are not to protrude lower than the tip of the riders boot
- o) For Dressage only - Martingales, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins etc.) any kind of boots or bandages, tongue depressors and any form of blinkers, including ear muffs, hoods and any others, are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. BREASTPLATES (without rings) are not defined as “gadgets” and are permissible for dressage.

6. WHIPS

Dressage Whips which must be at least 95cm long and not over 110cm long (excluding tassel or flap), are permitted in dressage competition up to and including advanced level. They are also permitted in the warm-up area for the competition and for dressage instruction with the permission of the Senior Instructor. Dressage whips may have either a tassel or a flap on the end. Other than as above, whips shall not exceed 75cm in length overall nor must they be weighted at the end. No substitute for a whip or a whip without a flap is permitted. Hacking canes (with or without a flap) not exceeding 75cm in length overall are permitted in Riding and Hacking classes only. Whips when used must be carried in the hand only. Only one whip may be used at a time.

7. SPURS

Dummy type, the neck not exceeding 30mm in length and must not be under 7mm in width at the point of the neck. The neck if curved must point downward and the neck must jut from the centre back of the heel. Short necked roller ball (rubber/synthetic/steel) spurs are permitted for use at Pony Club. Bumper Spurs are permitted for use at Pony Club. All spurs must be correctly fitted.

SPORTING & CAMPDRAFTING COMPETITIONS — Spurs

Members have the option of wearing rowel spurs as defined: The length of the shank not to exceed 4.5 cm from the shank to the centre of the rowel. The rowel at its tip or outside edge is to be as thick as a \$2 coin.

8. BANDAGES AND BOOTS

If bandages are used, padding must be incorporated, the bandages are to be sewn on the first round as well as the finish. Kold wrap bandages are not permitted. Horse boots with Velcro (with or without buckles) are acceptable. The use of plastic and/or electrical tape is not permitted.

The fetlock/hind boots with purple inserts are banned for use at Pony Club Association NSW events.

9. UNIFORM

For all Club, Zone or State competition, full uniform is to be worn. Long sleeved shirt (worn with sleeves down and buttoned up), tie, beige, fawn or oatmeal jodhpurs, if jodhpurs have a different colour insert, this insert must only be from the same colour palette, (the wearing of a coat is NOT permitted). All parts of the uniform are to be correctly fitted.

Riding Trousers may be worn at all Disciplines except Dressage, Showjumping, Eventing and flat work riding events at state level.

Riding Trousers shall be fawn, bone or oatmeal coloured trousers designed specifically for riding or labelled stockman cut, moleskin or similar appellation, the top of which shall be at the rider's waist and the length of which shall be such that when mounted the top of the rider's boot shall be covered. Riding trousers may not be worn with long boots.

Club or Zone polo shirts (tucked into rider's jodhpurs) shall be worn during competition at Championship events for Mounted Games and Polocrosse as a matter of comfort and safety for riders.

Zone polo shirts (tucked into rider's jodhpurs) shall be worn during competition at Championship events for Team Sporting.

Full uniform must be worn to all State Championship presentation parades (excluding Sporting, Campdraft, Mounted Games, Team Sporting and Polocrosse).

Zones have the option of allowing members to wear polo shirts in Club colours as a summer uniform for Sporting, Campdrafting, Polocrosse and Mounted Games events up to and including State level events.

Note: The definition of the polo shirt allowed is as follows "must have a collar and may be either short or long sleeved". Polo Shirts are to be in Zone or Club colours (i.e. may consist of the main Zone or Club colour and up to two trim or contrast colours).

Spray Jackets are permitted to be worn up to and including State level competitions in adverse weather conditions. The spray jackets are to be in Zone or Club colours and zipped closed whilst riding. Adverse weather conditions include (but are not limited to) driving wind and/or rain, sleet, snow and the like.

Notwithstanding any other rules in regard to boots only correctly fitted black or brown riding boots be worn at Pony Club.

The only acceptable approved equestrian **SNELL E2001** helmets for use at Pony Club are those that carry the ASNZS 3838, ARB HS 2012, SNELL E2001, ASTM F1163, PAS 015, EN 1384 (manufactured prior to 31 December 2015) or VG1 (from 1st January 2016) all helmets must show Standard accreditation and be specifically designed for equestrian use.

The approved equestrian helmet must be correctly fitting (it must not fall forward on to the rider's nose, rotate on the head or obstruct sight in time of emergency) and must have effective retention harness attached and in place under the chin whenever the rider is mounted. If a rider's helmet has lost the Standards Approval label, the helmet cannot be used.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT PERMITTED:

a) Hard chin cups fitted to retention harness;

b) Helmets not having an outer shell (i.e. made only of polystyrene) whether or not the same carries a Standards Accreditation Label for an ASNZS 3838, ASTM F1163 EN 1384

(manufactured prior to 31 December 2015) or VG1 (from 1st January 2016) approved equestrian helmet.

All mounted personnel, whether juniors, associates, seniors, instructors, competitors, or helpers are required to wear an approved equestrian helmet with retention harness in place and approved riding boots. This also applies to helpers at championships or other fixtures (whether members or not). (Refer section 5.)

Slip covers on helmets coloured brown, black or in Club or in Zone colours are permitted. These slip/helmet covers should only be segments of solid colour with no designs, pictures, monogram, bling etc. permitted.

Sun protection covers are permitted on helmets provided that the cover is secure and does not interfere with the safety effect of the helmet.

The use of approved Body Protectors for all disciplines is permitted. They may be worn over or under Pony Club uniform with preference to wearing under the shirt or the jumper. Back numbers must be worn on the outside.

Cross Country – the use of a Body Protector is mandatory at all levels for competition and training for Cross Country at all PCA NSW activities and events. A body protector manufactured after 2009 and labelled as complying with one of the following standards is mandatory effective 1st January 2020.

EN13158:2009 level 3
BETA 2009 Level 3
EN13158:2018 level 3
BETA 2018 Level 3

If a jumper is worn at State Championships it must be of knitted wool or wool blend. At other times it may be made of knitted wool or wool blend and/or cotton polyester blend and in every case it shall have long sleeves or be a sleeveless pullover, with a V-neck and be of one plain colour.

Gloves are optional.

Sloppy Joes and t-shirts are not official uniform. Exception: Refer paragraph. 13. O.D.E. cross country phase.

The only jewellery permitted to be worn by riders when mounted are one stud per ear not exceeding 5mm in diameter and wristwatches (medical alerts are permitted). If gloves are not worn then the only ring to be worn is one flat band (i.e. wedding) ring which must be taped.

Riders under 17 years have the option of wearing correctly fitted short Jodhpur boots defined as “elastic sided, reasonably smooth, fully soled and leather uppers that may incorporate a zipper but no laces or buckles”.

Or correctly fitted short Jodhpur boots and correctly fitted gaiters which must be made of solid leather and be full grain leather on the exposed side and the same colour as the boots.

Gaiters will not be permitted for riders under 17 years of age where a particular competition has a

rule preventing junior riders from wearing gaiters.

Riders under 17 years are not permitted to wear gaiters at the State Show Riding Championship.

That riders are permitted to wear correctly fitted roper or dogger type boots (including those with a chiseled/square toe) at all levels and disciplines, whenever riding trousers are permitted. All visible parts of these boots to be brown or black. The widest part of the boot must have the required clearance in the stirrup as per Pony Club rules.

Riders 17 years and over, are permitted to wear correctly fitted short lace up type riding boots under correctly fitted leather gaiters.

Correctly fitted Chapettes are permitted to be worn by riders at Pony Club Rally (Instruction) days but not in any competition. Chapettes to be below the knee, plain in colour and may not have fringes. Solid leather gaiters of the same colour as the Jodhpur boot may be worn wherever long boots are permitted.

Riders who wish to do so may wear medical arm bands at any Pony Club fixture. It is also recommended that riders with particular medical problems are encouraged to wear medical arm bands. Prescription spectacles or Australian Standards (AS1337) safety sunglasses are the only spectacles or glasses to be worn whilst riding.

The carrying of mobile phones whilst under instruction or competing is not permitted.

10. **DRESSAGE** — Competitions

English type saddles — either leather or synthetic.

A drop nose band including Micklem drop nose band, a cavesson or a Hanoverian nose band must be used with a snaffle bridle.

Tests requiring an ordinary snaffle — allowable bits refer to the Bit Dictionary.

Martingales, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balance reins etc.) any kind of boots or bandages, tongue depressors and any form of blinkers are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Breast plates without rings are permitted in dressage competition.

Rubber bit guards are not permitted for dressage.

A dressage whip may be used in dressage competition up to and including advanced level and in the warm up area for the event only.

Dummy spurs are permitted.

Rowel Spurs, blunt or smooth, that are free to rotate be allowed for all Pony Club Dressage competitions. These spurs are to have a curved or straight shank directly back from the centre of the spur when on the riders boot.

11. **POLO AND POLOCROSSE**

Fixed head checks (standing martingales) may be worn. Breastplates are compulsory at

Polocrosse. No bits with protrusions/shanks are allowed at Polocrosse. (refer the Bit Dictionary)

Playing uniform shall be fawn/beige jodhpurs or fawn/beige stockman cut trousers, polo shirt (with collar and sleeves) in Zone or Club colours, together with regulation helmet and boots.

Full uniform must be worn to all State Championship presentations.

12. MOUNTED GAMES

No spurs or whips are permitted.

13. ONE DAY EVENT

Time pieces are permitted to be worn by riders C grade and upwards.

Polo shirts of one plain colour may be worn in the cross country phase of a one day event. Zone numbers may be displayed on the sleeve, or association, Zone or Club emblems may be displayed on the front — no other display is permitted.

If a long sleeved shirt is worn in the cross country phase, a tie does not have to be worn. Medical armbands are to be worn at State Championships during the cross country phase. Clubs and Zones encourage riders to wear them during the cross country phase of the Zone and Club events.

DRESSAGE: O.D.E. and COMBINED TRAINING:

In dressage tests for eventing or combined training either a cavesson, dropped including Micklem drop nose band, crossed or flash nose band must be worn.

Bit — as per the Bit Dictionary.

The carrying of a whip is not permitted.

A breastplate (without rings) may be used.

Martingales, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing side, running or balancing reins, etc.) any kind of boots or bandages, tongue depressors and any form of blinkers, fly shields, nose covers and seat covers are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden.

Running martingales, boots, bandages, fly shields and side reins are permitted for lungeing only.

14. SPORTING

If reins are knotted to shorten, the buckle at the hand held end must be undone.

15. CAMPDRAFTING

No whip of any type may be carried.

Horse must have free use of its head, no head check, tie down, running rein etc. may be used.

Ox-bow stirrups are permitted on stock, stock type and western saddles. The tread surface should be suitably roughened. Exception: Ox-bows of a triangular shape with a concave tread are not permitted.

Spurs: Willoughby type spurs may be worn. The rowel must be at least as thick as a 20 cent coin on the outside edge.

16. TEAM MANAGER DUTIES

- a) Prior to each state championship (or pony Club competition at the R.A.S.), Zones are required to nominate a junior and senior team manager, or as many team managers as stipulated and required according to the entries from that Zone. The names, contact details are to appear on the Zone entry form.

Team managers can also be used in inter-Club and inter-Zone competition. Team managers should be responsible persons and must be current financial members of the Pony Club Association of N.S.W.

- b) Prior to departure for any competition or championship, team managers will receive from their Zone Secretaries a list of competitors for whom they are responsible, together with a list of scratching's (to be handed to the organizers). Team Managers must be aware of the rules relating to Hendra Vaccination and have a copy of the new horses Hendra Vaccination certificate (to be handed to the organizers).

Team members should also be notified by their Zone Secretaries through their Club Secretaries, the name of their team manager and advised of *their responsibility to team managers* prior to their departing for any championship or competition.

- c) If possible it is advisable for the team manager to contact or meet with the team and discuss all aspects of the championship or fixture prior to the actual date. In this way the team can obtain any information and be fully prepared for their event.
- d) To wear identifying badges at all times.
- e) To be responsible for the collection and payment of deposit for team back numbers and to check and return same immediately following the conclusion of the event. Faulty back numbers must be reported to the collection agent at their time of return. No deposit will be refunded for torn or damaged back numbers.
- f) To advise all scratching's, change of horse etc.
- g) To ensure all stable fees are paid and that stables are left as required. To supervise stable management of his/her team. To ensure cattle levies and other applicable dues are paid before team members leave the venue.
- h) To inspect uniform and all saddlery for correctness and safety prior to the competitors' presentation to the gear steward.

To ensure that team members report to the gear steward at the correct time and prior to the commencement of any competition.

Team managers are required to BE IN ATTENDANCE during official inspection of their team members and to ensure gear is adjusted as required by the gear check steward.

- i) To marshal all team members for fitness inspections as required, and TO BE IN ATTENDANCE during the inspection. Also refer section for each competition discipline.
- j) To be suitably attired and to be available to walk courses with team members. For identification purposes it is recommended that team managers wear the uniform of their Zone. To ensure that all team members are correctly attired for the walking of a course for showjumping phases and for all events at the R.A.S.

Note: Team Managers may walk the showjumping course with their teams *at the R.A.S. but must be* suitably dressed with hat, coat and tie.

- k) To walk cross country courses with team members.
- l) To ensure that all team members are present and ready to start when called.
- m) To be in attendance with their team members at the practice jumps at showjumping championships. Also refer section 9.
- n) To check the scores of team members within the allotted time for protest and report any discrepancy to appropriate official.

Protests must be accompanied by a lodgement fee, as set by council.

- o) Represent team members to the administrative office at the venue or technical delegate, relative to queries or information sought.
- p) To be familiar with the rules of the particular championship and carry a copy of same for reference by team members.
- q) To attend team managers' briefings and communicate any additional information to all their team.
- r) To assemble and check all team members for correctness of dress and saddlery prior to the final presentation at any championship and to make sure that all nominated team members are present for this presentation (whether ribbon winners or not) unless special dispensation has been obtained. Any application for absence from presentation parade must only be made to the advisory committee, by the respective team manager.
- s) To accompany the team (on foot) on to the parade ground for any official occasion and presentations and be responsible for the team's conduct during proceedings and their dismissal at the conclusion.
- t) To be in attendance at the venue whilst ever their team is present and be available for supervision and advice.
- u) To ensure that no person other than the nominated rider, exercises, lunges or rides the competition horse at any Zone or state fixture.

- v) To ensure that no team member is mounted at any time unless the horse is correctly saddled as for competition and the competitor is wearing an approved equestrian helmet with the retention harness in place and wearing approved boots. Horses MUST NOT be ridden in rugs. At no time is a horse to carry more than one rider whilst at any fixture.
- w) To supervise the stabling and handling of horses with emphasis on safety at all times.
- x) To be responsible for the conduct of all members of their team whilst ever they are at the venue and act in a supervisory capacity at all times. To generally care for the welfare and happiness of all team members whilst they are at the competition venue.