

POLOCROSSE FOUR NATIONS 2025

INITIAL SELECTION GUIDANCE

The following selection guidance is not finalised and could be subject to change. However, we wanted to give members as much notice as possible as to how we intend to go about selecting the teams for the Four Nations in 2025.

The Pony Club Polocrosse Four Nations will return in 2025 and will once again see teams being selected to play for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Pony Club members chosen to take part must be excellent representatives of their Branch or Centre as well as good players and team members.

Members are expected to be active within the Pony Club and taking part in Pony Club activities. This includes the polocrosse events such as the Pony Club Polocrosse Championships (and its qualifiers), the Arena Challenge and competing in Pony Club sections for joint UKPA/ Pony Club events. This not only shows that the Members are active within the Pony Club but also allows for us to see the Members who will be going for selection play against each other in a competitive environment.

Members should be able to act as part of a team, be supportive and kind to one another and their horse. They should have high standards of riding and horse care and be able to demonstrate that they understand the need to ride in true partnership with their horse, taking into account how horses learn so as to achieve longer term success and high welfare standards, and not be solely focused on short term results.

Members will be asked to send in a short CV and a reference from their District Commissioner / Centre Proprietor as selection will not only be on their polocrosse playing, riding and horse care abilities but also on their ambassadorial qualities and current Pony Club involvement.

The format will be as follows:

- One Senior Section – Members any age, any size of horse (minimum 138 cms)
- One Junior Section – Members 15 years and under, any size of horse (minimum 138 cms)
- One Mini Section – Members 12 years and under and ponies to be 138 cms and under, in line with Minis rules

Ages will be taken from 1st January, 2025.

Detailed Selection Criteria

Eligibility for each Nation – We will ask members to indicate their eligibility for each nation and also express any preferences for selection. Eligibility can be based on a members' home address, Branch/ Centre location, nationality or parents' / grandparents' nationality.

Eligibility based on previous playing appearances - Given that the Senior section of the Four Nations can cover 9 years of a member's life we have decided that in order to ensure that there are opportunities to play in the Four Nations for a wide range of members, we will not be selecting members who have been played in the senior age category three times before. If members have played in other sections three times before they are still eligible to nominate for this year's competition in their relevant age section.

Pony Club involvement - The Pony Club believes that it is important that members do participate in a range of activities and also, when appropriate, give back to the organisation and help develop other members. So as well as considering the members' playing ability and their participation in Pony Club Polocrosse competitions, selectors will consider members' involvement in the Pony Club generally and specifically their Branch/ Centre. This can include involvement in non polocrosse related activities such as social activities, other sports or PC tests and also involvement in activities such as coaching and umpiring, though these would probably be most relevant for members going for selection in the senior sections and obviously we would still be keen to see them playing where appropriate).

Achievement of Pony Club tests – For 2025 it is expected the members going for selection should have the following level of tests as a minimum

- Minis – D test
- Juniors and Seniors – C test (horse and pony care section as minimum)

This is because Pony Club tests demonstrate that Members can not only ride to a certain standard but also that they can care for their pony. Ideally Junior and Senior members would have their C riding test. However, we are aware that the current Pony Club C test involves jumping small fences and not all polocrosse playing members continue to jump. We will discuss this with the Pony Club training committee to see if we can find a solution. We will also look to work with Branches/ Centres and members during 2022 to help ensure members can achieve the relevant tests.

Experience and vaccination of Horses

Horses that members intend to play on should be suitably experienced at polocrosse and safe to play. They should be full vaccinated in line with Pony Club rules.