

**PONY
CLUB**



RULEBOOK 2025



SHOW JUMPING

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CONTENTS

THE PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING OBJECTIVES.....	3
RULES	3
THE PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING COMMITTEE	4
PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FOR AREA COMPETITIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	5
1. ELIGIBILITY FOR AREA COMPETITIONS AND THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	5
2. THE TEAM COMPETITION	8
3. ENTRIES.....	8
4. WITHDRAWALS (ALL COMPETITIONS & CHAMPIONSHIPS).....	9
5. ABANDONMENT (ALL COMPETITIONS & CHAMPIONSHIPS).....	9
6. SUBSTITUTIONS.....	9
7. ORDER OF JUMPING.....	10
8. METHOD OF JUDGING - TEAM COMPETITION.....	11
9. METHOD OF JUDGING - INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION.....	12
10. NUMBERS TO QUALIFY.....	13
11. AWARDS - AREA COMPETITIONS.....	15
12. COURSE DESIGNERS/TIMING/JUDGES/TACK STEWARDS/RING/ COURSE	15
13. COURSE DIMENSIONS.....	16
PART II - GENERAL RULES FOR PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING.....	21
14. AGE	21
15. HORSES.....	21
16. DRESS.....	22
17. SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT	27
18. ELIGIBILITY - GENERAL.....	32
19. ACTION AFTER A FALL.....	32
20. HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSION.....	32
21. MEDICAL SUSPENSION.....	33
22. UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOUR.....	33
23. PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS.....	33
24. DISQUALIFICATION.....	35
25. SPONSORSHIP.....	35
26. INSURANCE.....	35
27. SUPPLIES FOR ORGANISERS AVAILABLE FROM THE PONY CLUB SHOP	36

28. GUIDELINES FOR BRANCH TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS	36
29. THE COURSE	37
30. PLAN/INSPECTION/ACCESS.....	37
31. PRACTICE FENCES.....	38
32. EXERCISE	38
RULES FOR JUDGES.....	39
33. FAULTS FOR PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING COMPETITIONS	39
34. TIME FAULTS.....	39
35. TIMING	39
36. TIME PENALTIES.....	39
37. FALLS.....	40
38. DISTURBING THE OBSTACLE AS A RESULT OF A DISOBEDIENCE.....	40
39. ADJUSTMENT OF SADDLERY, DRESS & OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.....	41
40. JURY OF APPEAL	42
41. PROTESTS OR OBJECTIONS.....	42
42. BRANCH/CENTRE REPRESENTATIVES.....	42
43. OFFICIAL STEWARD.....	43
44. MEDICAL AND VETERINARY	43
45. RING STEWARDS	44
46. TURNOUT COMPETITIONS.....	44
47. EXPLANATION OF HORSEMANSHIP AWARD JUDGING (PC 110 and PC100)	45
GUIDELINES FOR TURNOUT JUDGES	46
COURSE DIMENSIONS - AREA COMPETITIONS.....	47
COURSE DIMENSIONS - CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	48
APPENDICES	49
BRITISH SHOWJUMPING – TABLE OF DEFINITIONS.....	49
METRIC CONVERSION TABLE	50
HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSION FLOWCHART.....	51

THE PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING OBJECTIVES

The Pony Club Show Jumping objective is to provide Members with an opportunity to compete against each other and to encourage a high standard of riding.

These Rules cannot provide for every eventuality, and where a situation is not covered by Pony Club Show Jumping rules, it is the duty of officials to resolve the matter arising in a sporting spirit consistent with the intention of these Rules. It is the competitors' responsibility to ensure that they comply with Pony Club Show Jumping Rules.

The term "District Commissioner" includes "Centre Proprietor", "Branch" includes "Centre" and "horse" includes "pony".

RULES

These Rules are made by the Pony Club Show Jumping Committee in conjunction with other Pony Club Committees.

The Pony Club Office provides administrative support. Queries relating to these rules should be directed to the Show Jumping Chairman at sichairman@pcuk.org and copied to the Office [at showjumping@pcuk.org](mailto:at.showjumping@pcuk.org).

NOTE: Rules which differ from those of 2024 appear in bold type and side-lined (as this note).

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THE PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING COMMITTEE

Chairman

- ▶ Liz Lowry
sichairman@pcuk.org

Members

- ▶ Holly Coles
- ▶ Hannah Jackson
- ▶ Claire Leitch
- ▶ Julie Tilley
- ▶ Kirsty Hardstaff
- ▶ Jane Ogle
- ▶ Sue Peasley
- ▶ Nicky Morrison (Area Representative)
- ▶ Georgie Mackley (Area Representative)

Sports Officer: showjumping@pcuk.org

Health and Safety: safety@pcuk.org

The Pony Club

Lowlands Equestrian Centre, Old Warwick Road, Warwick, CV35 7AX

Telephone: 02476 698300

pcuk.org

PART I – ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FOR AREA COMPETITIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

To be used in conjunction with all General Rules

Some of these rules can also be used for Branch/Centre competitions.

The competition comprises a Team competition and an Individual competition. The Individual competition is open to all competitors in the Team Competition, whose scores are automatically count for this competition, and to additional individual competitors.

When a rule states District Commissioner, Centre Proprietor also applies, and where Branch is stated, Centre applies.

Each Pony Club Area shall organise a qualifying competition in the summer. Branches/Centres shall compete within their own Areas. In the event of a genuine reason why a Member cannot compete at their own Area Competition at PC90 and above, they may apply to their DC/Centre Proprietor to compete out of Area clearly stating the reasons why. The DC/Centre Proprietor will forward the request to their Area Rep, who will seek approval from the relevant Sport Chairman. The final decision lies with the Sports Chairman. The following points should be noted:

- ▶ Only individuals may be permitted to compete out of Area.
- ▶ Should a Member compete out of Area and place in a qualifying position, the next placed member of a Branch/Centre belonging to the Area shall also qualify.
- ▶ A Member who qualifies out of Area cannot displace any Members in a qualified complete Branch/Area team.
- ▶ Out of Area qualification is not permitted for PC70 or PC80 (Regional Championships).

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR AREA COMPETITIONS AND THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The District Commissioner or Centre Proprietor is required to certify the eligibility of horse and rider as follows. Should a breach of eligibility subsequently be discovered, then the Show Jumping Committee may disqualify the offending competitor.

Area and Championships – Members must fulfil all the following eligibility

rules on the day of the Competition.

PC110, PC100, PC90, PC80, PC70 and PC70 PLUS

- ▶ Horses must be 5 years of age or over and there is no height limit. A horse or pony shall be deemed to reach the age of 1 on the 1st January following the date on which it is foaled and shall be deemed to become a year older on each successive 1st January.
- ▶ Combination of horse and rider can compete at two adjacent levels of the same sport at the Area Competition or at the Championships i.e., combinations can compete at PC70 and PC80, **PC80 and PC90**, PC90 and PC100 or PC100 and PC110.
- ▶ No horse may be ridden more than once at the same level in any one year in any of the qualifying competitions or at the Show Jumping Championships.
- ▶ Stallions may only be ridden by Members if written permission is obtained from their District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor and they must wear identifying discs on their bridles in the interests of safety.
- ▶ All competitors must be Members of The Pony Club both at the closing date for entries to the competition and at the date of the relevant competition to be eligible to compete at Area qualifying competitions and at the Championships (including the Regional Championships).

a) PC110

Combination of horse and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- ▶ **previously completed any competition with a starting height of 1.30m or above in the previous or current calendar year.**

Horses are NOT eligible if they have:

- ▶ **jumped 1.40m in the previous or current calendar year.**

b) PC100

Combination of horse and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- ▶ **previously completed any competition with a starting height of 1.20m or above in the previous or current calendar year.**
- ▶ previously ever finished 1st to 3rd as an individual at the Pony Club Championships at PC100 level or above on two occasions.

c) PC90

Combination of horse and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- ▶ **previously completed any competition with a starting height of 110cm or above in the previous or current calendar year.**
- ▶ previously ever finished 1st to 3rd as an individual at the Pony Club Show Jumping/Eventing Championships at PC90 level or above on two occasions.

d) PC80

Combination of horse and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- ▶ **previously completed any competition with a starting height of 100cm or above in the previous or current calendar year.**
- ▶ previously ever finished 1st to 3rd as an individual in Show Jumping or Eventing at a PC80 Regional Championships on two occasions.

e) PC70

Riders must be aged 13 and under on 1st January of the current year.

Combination of horse and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- ▶ **previously completed any competition with a starting height of 90cm or above in the previous or current calendar year.**
- ▶ previously ever finished 1st to 3rd as an individual in Show Jumping or Eventing at a PC70 Regional Championships on two occasions.

f) PC70 PLUS

This is a class solely for individuals. There is no team competition.

Members must be aged 14 and over on 1st January of the current year.

Combination of horse and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- ▶ **previously completed any competition with a starting height of 90cm or above in the previous or current calendar year.**
- ▶ previously ever finished 1st to 3rd as an individual in Show Jumping or Eventing at a PC70 Regional Championships on two occasions.

2. THE TEAM COMPETITION

a) BRANCH/CENTRE TEAMS:

Teams must consist of three or four Members from each Branch/Centre of The Pony Club in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (**only the best three scores of each team are counted, but at least three members must complete the competition**)

b) AREA TEAMS:

If a Branch/Centre has a Member/Members who are entered as individuals at the Area Competition and not included in a Branch/Centre team, they may combine with one or more other Branch/Centre Members to form a team at the Area Competition. This team shall be eligible to qualify for the Championships. Should an Area Team qualify for the Championships, then the next placed eligible Branch/Centre Team shall also qualify. Area Teams can only be put together by the Area Representative and/or Area Organiser.

3. ENTRIES

a) Area Competitions: Entries should be made to the organising Branch/Centre. Details to be found in the Area Competition schedule.

b) The Championships: Entries for competitors who have qualified for the Championships, should be made via the online entry system as per the competition schedule.

- i. Branches/Centres qualifying for the Championships but do not wish to go forward must inform the organiser before prize-giving so that the qualifying place can be given straight away to the next highest-placed team which does wish to go.
- ii. Should qualified teams/individuals be unable to compete at the Championships the next competitor/team down may be invited to compete, provided the substitution is made by 12 noon on Monday 4th August 2025.
- iii. If a qualified team has less than three members available to compete at the Championships due to withdrawals, the remaining individual/s from the team will be given a place in the Individual Championship class, **provided that they have completed the Area Competition.**

c) Regional Championships: refer to the relevant Championship venue schedule for entry details. Should qualified teams/individuals be unable to compete at the Championships the next competitor/team down may compete providing the substitution is made before the start of the

competition or any earlier deadline set by the organisers. If a qualified team has less than three members available to compete at the Championships due to withdrawals, the remaining individual/s from the team will be allowed to compete as individuals, **provided that they have completed the Area Competition.**

4. WITHDRAWALS (ALL COMPETITIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS)

If a Branch or Centre withdraws a team or individual prior to the closing date for a competition, a full refund of entry and stabling fees will be made, less an administration charge. Withdrawals after the closing date for a competition will not be refunded.

5. ABANDONMENT (ALL COMPETITIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS)

In the event of a competition being abandoned, for whatever reason, a refund of 50% of the entry fee will be given. In such an instance the refund process will be communicated and must be followed.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

a) Area Competitions: After the closing date for declarations no substitutions may be made of horses or riders except in cases of illness, lameness or other unavoidable circumstances which must be certified by the District Commissioner or their appointed Representative **and made before the start of the class.** In such a case:

- i. If a horse has to be substituted an alternative rider may be nominated.
- ii. If a rider has to be substituted an alternative horse may be nominated.
- iii. If a Branch/Centre enters two teams substitution may be made from one team to the other.

b) The Championships and Regional Championships: No substitutions may be made of horses or riders except in cases of illness, lameness or other unavoidable circumstances which must be certified by the District Commissioner or their appointed Representative **and made before the start of the class.** In such a case:

- i. any substituted horse/rider that makes a new combination must be eligible for the level at which it is the substitute

ii. Teams:

- ▶ Members and/or horses may be substituted, but at least two combinations of horse and rider must be the same as those that started in the qualifying team at the Area Competition.
- ▶ If a horse has to be substituted an alternative rider may be nominated.
- ▶ If a rider has to be substituted an alternative horse may be nominated.
- ▶ If a team of three qualifies for the Championships, then a fourth team member may be entered at the Championships, as long as both the horse and rider are eligible under Rule 1 for the level in which they are competing **and completed the Area Competition.**
- ▶ Substitutions of rider for Area teams are only permitted if the replacement rider competed at the Area qualifier (at the same height) and completed both rounds of jumping without elimination, retirement or disqualification.

iii. Individuals:

- ▶ A substitute horse may be entered but not a substitute rider.

c) Area Competitions and the Championships:

- i. No substitutions are allowed after the competition has started under any circumstances.
- ii. No horse or rider replaced by a substitute may re-enter the competition.
- iii. In all cases of substitution the District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor or Appointed Representative must certify in writing that the substitute is eligible.
- iv. It is the strict responsibility of the District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor or their Appointed Representative to ensure that both the Competition Secretary AND the Judges are aware of any substitutions before the start of the class concerned.

7. ORDER OF JUMPING

After entries have been received, the order of jumping shall be drawn, but, at the organiser's discretion, due regard may be given to the convenience of Branches/Centres travelling great distances. This order shall be maintained throughout the competition, except in the case of a jump-off, when the

order may be redrawn. Competitors who are not ready to jump in their turn may be eliminated.

a) Area and Championship Team Competitions

- i. First Round – the whole team to jump in succession.
- ii. Second Round – **can be run in a suitable order at the discretion of the organiser, which will be announced before the start of the class.**

b) Turnout Competitors should be judged in the same order as they compete in the first round.

8. METHOD OF JUDGING – TEAM COMPETITION

PC110, PC100, PC90, PC80 and PC70 Area Competitions

Only in exceptional circumstances and with the express permission of the Chairman of Show Jumping will a change of format/competition be considered at Area Competitions.

a) This is a two-round competition. The total of the best three scores to count in each round. That total is carried forward to the second round. The highest score is discarded in each round and may or may not be the scores of the same competitor.

b) If a team is eliminated in the first round any member not eliminated will be allowed to jump in the second round. If a team member is eliminated in the first round he/she may jump again in the second round, provided the team has not been eliminated, and is eligible to count.

c) For PC110 there will be two rounds run under Table A. If there is equality for qualifying places then there will be one jump-off against the clock and there will be a draw for the order of jumping. All members of the team must jump off. The first team member of each team will jump first followed by the second and so on. The whole team jumps irrespective of previous faults or eliminations and the best three in each team will count. If their jumping faults are equal, their aggregate times will decide. Lower placings will be decided by total faults from the first two rounds with times taken from the second round.

If a competitor is in a qualifying place for both their team and an individual place, they will only jump off once.

d) PC70, PC80, PC90, and PC100 Area Competitions to be run over two rounds (Table A) with a separate jump off for qualifying places

OR can be run over two rounds (first round Table A and second single phase).

PC110, PC100, PC90, PC80 and PC70 Championships

a) This is a two-round competition. The total of the best three scores to count in each round. The total from the first round is carried forward to the second round; the highest score is discarded in each round and may or may not be the scores of the same competitor.

b) In the event of equality for first place at the Championships then there will be one jump-off against the clock and the order for jumping will **be as for the first two rounds**. All members of the team must jump off. The first team member of each team will jump first followed by the second and so on. The whole team jumps irrespective of previous faults or eliminations and the best three in each team will count. If their jumping faults are equal, their aggregate times will decide. Lower placings will be decided by total faults from the first two rounds with times taken from the second round.

c) In the event of an invited or international team being the clear winner and there being two or more national teams tying for second place, there will be a jump off **as per rule b)** above to find the National Champions.

d) **For PC90 and PC100 - There are two separate competitions at the Championships. This means a competitor can qualify for both the Individual and Team Championships.**

9. METHOD OF JUDGING – INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

PC110, PC100, PC90, PC80 and PC70 Area Competitions

Only in exceptional circumstances and with the express permission of the Chairman of Show Jumping will a change of format/competition be considered at Area Competitions.

The scores for all competitors in the Team Competition automatically count for this Individual Competition.

a) This is a two-round competition. Faults from the first round will be carried forward to the second round. If a competitor is eliminated or retires in the first round, then they do not jump in the second round.

b) **PC70, PC80, PC90, and PC100 Area Competitions to be run**

over two rounds (Table A) with a separate jump off for qualifying places OR can be run over two rounds (first round Table A and second single phase) if necessary.

c) For PC110 – the two rounds will be run under Table A. If there is equality for qualifying places then there will be one jump-off against the clock and there will be a draw for the order of jumping.

PC110, PC100, PC90, PC80 and PC70 Championships

a) This is a two-round competition. Faults from the first round will be carried forward to the second round. If a competitor is eliminated or retires in the first round, then they do not jump in the second round.

b) If there is no clear winner those competitors placed equal first after the two rounds will qualify for the jump-off which will be against the clock. If the jump-off is to be re-drawn this must be made clear to competitors before the second round starts and must be announced frequently during the second round. If they are to jump-off in the same order as in the previous rounds, this too, must be made clear, and frequently announced, to the competitors.

c) For PC90 and PC100 - There are two separate competitions at the Championships. This means a competitor can qualify for both the Individual and Team Championships.

10. NUMBERS TO QUALIFY

a) PC110

Teams

- ▶ The top three teams shall qualify.
- ▶ 6 or more teams compete on the day = 4 teams qualify.
- ▶ 10 teams compete on the day = 5 teams qualify.
- ▶ 14 or more teams compete on the day = 6 teams qualify

Individuals - The first 5 placed individual competitors will qualify. Combinations may also qualify for the PC110 Championship by achieving four double clears (Table A7 or single or two phase competitions only) in BS classes with a starting height of 1.10m or above between August 18th 2024 and 31st July 2025.

Where a qualifying individual is a member of a qualifying team, the qualifying place should be passed down the line.

b) PC100

Teams

- ▶ The top two teams shall qualify.
- ▶ 5 or more teams compete on the day = 3 teams qualify.
- ▶ 8 or more teams compete on the day = 4 teams qualify.
- ▶ 11 or more teams compete on the day = 5 teams qualify.

Individuals - The first 5 placed individual competitors will qualify.

c) PC90

Teams

- ▶ The top two teams shall qualify.
- ▶ 6 or more teams competing on the day = 3 teams qualify.
- ▶ 10 or more or more teams competing on the day = 4 teams qualify.
- ▶ 14 or more teams compete on the day = 5 teams qualify.

Individuals - The first 5 placed individual competitors will qualify.

d) PC80

Teams - The top 6 teams will qualify

Individuals - The first 16 individuals not in one of the qualifying teams.

Where a qualifying individual is a member of a qualifying team, the qualifying place should be passed down the line.

e) PC70

Teams - The top 6 teams will qualify

Individuals - The first 16 individuals not in one of the qualifying teams.

Where a qualifying individual is a member of a qualifying team, the qualifying place should be passed down the line.

f) PC70 PLUS

Individuals - The first 5 placed individuals will qualify.

The Show Jumping Committee may from time to time at their absolute discretion invite additional entries to the Championships at all levels.

11. AWARDS – AREA COMPETITIONS

a) Rosettes are awarded to the Members of at least the first six teams and the first six individuals.

b) Rosettes shall be awarded for Double Clears and Turnout at the Organiser's discretion.

12. COURSE DESIGNERS / TIMING / JUDGES / TACK STEWARDS / RING / COURSE

a) Course Designers

The course must be designed and built by a BS Panel Course Designer who must be present on the day of competition. For PC70 and PC80 qualifiers the course designer must be BS level one or above, for PC90, PC100, and PC110 qualifiers they must be BS level two or above. Any deviation from this must be approved by the Chairman of Show Jumping. It is preferable to have a dedicated course designer for each ring but if the designer agrees to officiate in more than one ring it is essential that another suitably experienced person is in charge of maintaining and repairing the course in each ring at all times.

Make sure the Course Designer is sent a copy of these Rules.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ONLY JUMPS OF BS STANDARD ARE USED

b) Timing

Electronic timing **must** be used. If the timing equipment permits, the 45-second count-down may be used according to British Show Jumping Rules. It should however be explained over the public address before starting and at intervals during the first round.

c) Judges

PC80 and PC70 Area Competitions: the organiser will appoint judges as follows:

One BS Judge (Level 2 or above) per ring and at least one but preferably two suitably experienced assistants to support the judge by writing or commentating or one BS Level 1 Judge and one BS Trainee Judge or above and an assistant. Any deviations from this must be approved by the Show Jumping Chairman.

PC110, PC100, PC90 (Area Competitions and Championships) and the

Regional Championships: the Organiser shall appoint a minimum of two BS Judges per ring, one of whom may be a BS Level 1 Judge but at least one must be Level 2 or above. It is strongly recommended that a suitably experienced writer or commentator is also appointed.

In cases where sufficient BS Level 2 Judges are not available, deviations from this minimum level will be considered but must be approved by the Show Jumping Chairman.

All Judges must be sent copies of these rules.

d) Tack Checkers

Tack checkers are recommended for PC70 and PC80 Area Competitions and Championships.

e) The Ring:

It is recommended that the minimum size of an outdoor Arena is 74m x 55m (80yds x 60yds)

f) The Course

The length of the course should not exceed 450m.

A full set of British Show Jumping fences will probably have enough material to build a course according to the requirements of these rules. When the fences have arrived at the venue check that there is sufficient and adequate equipment.

It is important that only jumps of British Showjumping Standard (or their equivalent) are used. Safety Cups are compulsory (both in the arena and warm-up).

Extra 'Dressing' (greenery, trees, flowers, etc.) should be provided so that the course-builder can build an attractive and inviting course..

13. COURSE DIMENSIONS

To be used for ALL Pony Club Show Jumping Competitions.

Please refer to the tables for Course Dimensions on pages 47 and 48. All heights stated are maximum.

PC70, PC80, PC90, and PC100 Area Competitions to be run over two rounds (Table A) with a separate jump off for qualifying places OR can be run over two rounds (first round Table A and second single phase) if

necessary.

PC110 Area Competitions to be run over two rounds with a separate jump off if necessary for qualifying places.

a) General PC110, PC100, PC90, PC80, PC70 and PC70 Plus

FEI standard breakaway safety cups in line with British Showjumping rules are compulsory.

- i. Speed – 325 metres per minute for PC80 and above, 300 metres per minute for PC70.**
- ii. Length of Course – should not exceed 450m.**
- iii. The First Round should be fairly easy to enable most teams to get round and to reduce eliminations to a minimum. The track should be altered for the second round which should be more difficult so as to ensure a result and avoid having too many teams in the 'jump-off'. It should include a fair proportion of fences of maximum height and spread.**
- iv. The second or third element of a double or triple combination must be a vertical. The first part only may be an oxer.**
- v. Ground poles are permitted, but must be supported in feet or pegged.**
- vi. Unless the competition class stipulates the height of pony the distances should be as for horses.**
- vii. All related distances must be on at least 4 strides, there must be no less than five strides on the approach or following any combination, (either double or treble).**
- viii. In competitions for mixed heights of horses and ponies all related distances must be on at least 5 strides**

b) PC110

For ponies (148cm and under), the distances in the doubles and combinations will be changed to the recommended 148cm distances. Riders must declare clearly on the entry form if they are riding in the 148cm and under section or the horse section.

Area Competitions: First Round – 1.10m Second Round – 1.15m

- ▶ There will be two double combinations in the first round and a double and a treble combination in the 2nd round.
- ▶ A water tray will be included in the second round.
- ▶ No parallel or ascending oxer may be more than 10cm wider than it is high (Triple Bar – width should not exceed the height + 1/3).

Championships: First Round – 1.10m Second Round – 1.15m

- ▶ There will be one double and one treble combination in both rounds. A water tray will be included in both rounds.
- ▶ No parallel or ascending oxer may be more than 10cm wider than it is high (Triple Bar – width should not exceed the height + 1/3).

c) PC100

Area Competitions: First Round – 1.00m Second Round – 1.05m

- ▶ There will be two double combinations (no treble combination). The second part of all double combinations must be uprights.
- ▶ A water tray will be included in the second round.
- ▶ No parallel or ascending oxer may be more than 5cm wider than it is high (Triple Bar – width should not exceed the height + 1/3)

Championships: First Round – 1.00m Second Round – 1.05m

- ▶ There will be two double combinations (no treble combination). The second part of all double combinations must be uprights.
- ▶ A water tray will be included in the second round.
- ▶ No parallel or ascending oxer may be more than 5cm wider than it is high. (Triple Bar – width should not exceed the height + 1/3).

d) PC90

Area Competitions: First Round – 0.90m Second Round – 0.95m

- ▶ There will be **one or** two double combinations **set on two strides** (no treble combination). The second part of all double combinations must be uprights.
- ▶ A water tray may be included in the second round.
- ▶ No parallel or ascending oxer may be wider than it is high.

Championships: First Round - 0.90m Second Round – 0.95m

- ▶ There will be **one or** two double combinations **set on two strides** (no treble combination). The second part of all double combinations must be uprights.
- ▶ A water tray will be included in the second round.

- ▶ No parallel or ascending oxer may be wider than it is high.

e) PC80

Area Competitions: First Round – 0.80m Second Round – 0.85m

- ▶ In the **first** round there is to be one double combination no more than 80cm high on two non-jumping strides consisting of two uprights.
- ▶ **In the second round there is to be one double combination no more than 85cm high on two non-jumping strides and consisting of two uprights or an oxer to upright.**
- ▶ Water trays are not to be used.
- ▶ No oxer may be wider than it is high.
- ▶ All distances should be suitable for horses.

Championships: First Round – 80cm, 2 single fences may be 85cm Second Round – **85cm**

- ▶ In the first round there is to be one double combination no more than 80cm high on two non-jumping strides and consisting of two uprights or an oxer to upright.
- ▶ In the second round there is to be one or two double combinations no more than 85cm high on two non-jumping strides and consisting of two uprights or an oxer to upright.
- ▶ Water trays may be used in the 2nd round under an upright.
- ▶ No oxer may be wider than it is high.
- ▶ All distances should be suitable for horses.

f) PC70

Area Competitions: First Round – 0.70m Second Round – **0.75m**

- ▶ **In the first round** there are to be no double or treble combination, only single fences.
- ▶ **In the second round there is to be one double combination no more than 75cm high on two non-jumping strides consisting of two uprights.**
- ▶ Water trays are not to be used

- ▶ No oxer may be wider than it is high.
- ▶ All distances should be suitable for horses.

Championships: First Round – 0.70m Second Round – **0.75m**

- ▶ **In the first round there is to be one double combination no more than 70cm high on two non-jumping strides consisting of two uprights.**
- ▶ **In the second round there is to be one double combination no more than 75cm high on two non-jumping strides consisting of two uprights.**
- ▶ Water trays are not to be used
- ▶ No oxer may be wider than it is high.
- ▶ All distances should be suitable for horses.

PART II – GENERAL RULES FOR PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING

Except where varied in this Rulebook, all Pony Club Show Jumping Competitions shall be judged under British Show Jumping Rules, which are available at www.britishshowjumping.co.uk. Where the same matter is covered by both British Show Jumping and Pony Club rules, then the Pony Club rule shall take precedence.

14. AGE

Unless specified otherwise in the schedule all Members are eligible to compete in any Pony Club Team or Individual Show Jumping competitions. See rule 1 for Eligibility to compete at Area Competitions and the Championships.

15. HORSES

- a)** No horse under 5 years of age is eligible. A horse or pony shall be deemed to reach the age of 1 on the 1st January following the date on which it is foaled and shall be deemed to become a year older on each successive 1st January.
- b)** There is no height limit.
- c)** Stallions can only be ridden by Members if they have obtained written permission from their District Commissioner and in the interests of safety, must wear identifying discs on their bridle. Stallions must be led with a bridle and chain lead and also wear tail ribbons.

VACCINATIONS

A valid passport and vaccination record:

- ▶ must accompany the horse/pony to all events
- ▶ must be available for inspection by the event officials
- ▶ must be produced on request at any other time during the event

All ponies/horses must be compliant with the current Pony Club minimum vaccination requirements - please see the website for the current rule.

Note: Events that are held at other venues may be subject to additional specific rules. For example, any horse/pony entering a Licensed Racecourse Property must comply with the Vaccination requirements as set by the British Horseracing Authority. Similar restrictions apply in the cases of

certain polo venues. If you are intending to compete under FEI Rules you will need to ensure you are compliant with those rules.

16. DRESS






New equipment is not expected, but what is worn must be clean, neat, tidy, and safe. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure their dress complies with the rules. Contravention may incur disqualification. Brightly coloured accessories must not be worn.

a) Hats and Hair

Hair: Must be tied up and back (**preferably in a hairnet**) and securely, in a safe manner to reduce the risk of hair being caught and to prevent scalp injuries.

Hats: Members must always wear a protective hat when mounted. Only hats to the following specifications are acceptable at any Pony Club activity. The Pony Club is consistent with fellow BEF (British Equestrian) Member bodies in its standards for riding hats. It is strongly recommended that secondhand hats are not purchased.

The hat standards accepted as of 1st January 2025 are detailed in the table below:

Hat Standard	Safety Mark
Snell E2016 & 2021 with the official Snell label and number	
PAS 015: 2011 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
(BS) EN 1384:2023 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
VG1 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
ASTM-F1163 2015 & 2023 with the SEI mark	



Note: Some hats are dual-badged with different standards. If a hat contains at least one compliant hat standard it is deemed suitable to competition, even if it is additionally labelled with an older standard.

- ▶ No recording device is permitted (e.g. hat cameras) as they may have a negative effect on the performance of the hat in the event of a fall.
- ▶ The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit. The hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward. The Pony Club recommends you visit a qualified BETA (British Equestrian Trade Association) fitter.
- ▶ Hats must be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use.
- ▶ Hats must be worn at all times (including at prize-giving) when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall.
- ▶ For Show Jumping: hat covers, if applicable, shall be **plain** dark blue, black or brown only. Branch/Centre team colours are permitted for team competitions. **There should be no additions to the hat cover e.g. pom poms.**
- ▶ The Official Steward / Organiser may, at their discretion, eliminate a competitor riding in the area of the competition without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened or with a hat that does not comply with these standards.

Hat Checks and Tagging

The Pony Club and its Branches and Centres will appoint Officials, who are familiar with The Pony Club hat rule, to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the requirements set out in the hat rule with an Pony Club hat tag. Hats fitted with a Pony Club, British Eventing (BE) or British Riding Club (BRC) hat tag will not need to be checked on subsequent occasions. However, the Pony Club reserves the right to randomly spot check any hat regardless of whether it is already tagged.

Tagging is an external verification of the internal label and indicates

that a hat meets the accepted standards. The tag does NOT imply any check of the fit and condition of the hat has been undertaken. It is considered to be the responsibility of the Member's parent(s) / guardian(s) to ensure that their hat complies with the required standards and is tagged before they go to any Pony Club event. Also, they are responsible for ensuring that the manufacturer's guidelines with regard to fit and replacement are followed.

For further information on hat standards, testing and fitting, please refer to the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) website: [British Equestrian Trade Association - Safety and your head \(beta-uk.org\)](http://British Equestrian Trade Association - Safety and your head (beta-uk.org))

b) Body Protectors

For general use, the responsibility for choosing body protectors and the decision as to their use must rest with Members and their parents. It is recommended that a rider's body protector should not be more than 2% of their body weight. When worn, body protectors must fit correctly, be comfortable and must not restrict movement. BETA recommends body protectors are replaced at least every three to five years, after which the impact absorption properties of the foam may have started to decline.



Air Jackets - may be worn without a body protector.

Air jackets must not be worn under a jacket. Number bibs should be fitted over the air jacket loosely or with elasticised fastenings.

c) Jackets: Traditional jackets must be worn with a Pony Club tie or hunting stock. A traditional jacket is one with collar, sleeves and buttons down the front. It is permitted to wear a Pony Club stock with any jacket. Jackets must be worn for the duration of the course. Jackets may be removed during warming up, provided the competitor is wearing a shirt that at a minimum covers the shoulders. Competitor numbers should be worn at all times. During hot weather the Judges may give permission for competitors to ride without jackets, but shirts must cover the shoulders.

d) Pony Club Badge: The official metal membership badge should be worn on the left lapel of the rider's jacket.

e) Jodhpurs/Breeches: must be white, fawn, beige, canary or light grey in colour. Dark-coloured contrast seats are permitted.

f) Footwear: Only standard riding or jodhpur boots with a well-

defined square cut heel may be worn. Plain black or brown half chaps may be worn with jodhpur boots of the same colour. Tassels and fringes are not allowed. No other footwear will be permitted, including wellington boots, yard boots, country boots, "muckers" or trainers. Boots with interlocking treads are not permitted, nor are the boots or treads individually.

Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots (see the Stirrup rule).

g) Spurs: may not be worn by a Pony Club member at a Pony Club activity or event unless that member has passed either the Pony Club C+ Riding Test or the Pony Club Spurs Test. Any misuse of spurs will be reported to the DC/Centre Proprietor, Area Representative and Training Chairman; any reported riders will be recorded and monitored.

Sharp spurs are not permitted. Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, and spurs that have a smooth rotating ball on the shank may be worn. If the spurs are curved, the curve must be downwards, and the shank must point straight to the back. **The Pony Club recommends a spurs length of no greater than 2.5cm - the measurement is taken from the back of the boot to the end of the shank. No spurs with a length greater than 4cm are permitted.**

Spurs must only be used to enhance the normal leg aids and allow for better communication from rider to horse.

- ▶ Spurs must never be used to vent a competitor's anger or to reprimand the horse.
- ▶ Use of the spurs which causes injury e.g. blood, broken skin or a weal, is always classed as misuse.
- ▶ Misuse of the spurs anywhere at the event will result in disqualification and will be reported to the DC/Centre Proprietor, Area Representative and Training Chairman. Any reported riders will be recorded and monitored.

h) Whips (padded batons): Riders may not use their padded baton before the start of the course and may be eliminated for doing so at the Judge's discretion.

A padded baton, if carried, must be held in the hand by the handle with the handle at the top. The padded baton must be "padded" and comply with the current British Showjumping rule (full wording is available to view online at www.britishshowjumping.co.uk).

The key points of that rule are as follows:

- ▶ The maximum length of the padded baton is 70cm and must be no less than 45cm.
- ▶ The “contact area”, is considered to be 2/5's (two fifths) of the overall length of the padded baton and must be covered with a “pad”.
- ▶ There must be no “binding” within 17cm of the end of the “pad”.
- ▶ The “pad” must be smooth, with no protrusion or raised surface, and be made of shock absorbing material throughout its circumference such that it gives a compression factor of at least 6mm.
- ▶ There is to be no wording, advertising or personalisation of any kind on the “pad”.

Before buying any padded baton, please check with the retailer that it is BS compliant. Carrying a padded baton (anywhere on the show ground) which does not meet with the specification above **will** result in elimination at the Judge's discretion.

At all times, the padded baton must only be used:

- ▶ For a good reason, as an aid to encourage the horse forward.
- ▶ At an appropriate time, namely when the horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of seat and legs.
- ▶ In the right place, namely down the shoulder or behind the leg but never overarm.
- ▶ Maximum of three times after entering the arena. For the purposes of this rule, use of the whip is defined as when the rider takes his/her hand off the reins to use the whip.
- ▶ Repeated slapping down the shoulder is discouraged and may result in disqualification.

Excessive use of the padded baton anywhere at the event will result in elimination of the rider from any competition which has already taken place and disqualification of the rider from competing for the rest of the day. The following are always considered excessive and will result in immediate elimination:

- ▶ Use of the padded baton to vent a competitor's anger.
- ▶ Use of a padded baton which causes injury e.g. broken skin or a weal.
- ▶ Use after elimination or retirement.
- ▶ Use on a horse's head, neck etc.
- ▶ Using the padded baton from the ground after a rider fall or dismount.
- ▶ If the rider's arm comes above the shoulder when using the padded baton.

i) Jewellery: the wearing of any sort of jewellery when handling or riding a horse/pony is not recommended and if done at any Pony Club

activity, is done at the risk of the member/their parent/guardian. However, to stop any risk of injury, necklaces and bracelets (other than medical bracelets) must be removed, as must larger and more pendulous pieces of jewellery (including those attached to piercings) which create a risk of injury to the body part through which they are secured. For the avoidance of doubt a wristwatch, wedding ring, stock pin worn horizontally and/or a tie clip are permitted. It is recommended that stock pins are removed for cross country.

j) Electronic devices: (i.e. headphones etc. enabling another person to communicate with the rider) are not allowed whilst the rider is competing. No recording device is permitted (e.g., head/bridle cameras etc.).

k) Riders' legs: Neither the feet nor the stirrup leathers or irons may be attached to the girth, nor the feet attached to the stirrup irons.

l) While walking the course and when dismounted in the collecting ring, competitors must be tidily dressed but not necessarily in riding clothes.

m) Prize giving: Mounted or dismounted, competitors must be correctly dressed in their competition riding clothes. Only tack that falls within the rules of the competition will be allowed.

17. SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

New equipment is not expected, but what is worn must be clean, neat and tidy.

It is the competitors' responsibility to ensure that their tack is in accordance with the rules and that they present themselves for inspection.

Any competitor who presents to compete in the wrong saddlery/equipment will not be allowed to compete until they decide to re-present in the correct saddlery/equipment.

Any competitor who then changes their tack after the tack inspection will be disqualified from the competition. The Official Steward has absolute discretion to forbid the use of any bit, gadget, spur, or boot which they consider cruel or misused.

Any misuse of a bit/bridle will be reported to the DC/Centre Proprietor, Area Representative and Training Chairman. Any reported riders will be recorded and monitored.

Any equipment not covered in these rules must be referred at least two weeks in advance of the competition to The Pony Club Office to allow time

for the Chairman of the Show Jumping Committee to be consulted. All tack must be correctly fitted. Riders needing special equipment are welcome to apply to The Pony Club Office under the Reasonable Adjustment Policy.

a) Saddles: may only be of English or Continental design.

b) Numnahs / Saddle Cloths: Any solid colour is permitted. Contrasting piping is permitted. Branch/Centre logos are allowed when competing for the Branch/Centre; logos must not exceed 200 sq. cm. This does not preclude the wearing of clothing for horses or riders that has been presented by sponsors of the Championships in the current or previous years.

c) Stirrups: Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots. They must have 7mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") clearance on either side of the boot. To find this measurement, tack checkers should move the foot across to one side of the stirrup, with the widest part of the foot on the tread. From the side of the boot to the edge of the stirrup should not be less than 14mm.

There are now many types of stirrups marketed as 'safety stirrups'. All riders must ensure that their stirrups are suitable for the type of footwear they are wearing and the activities in which they are taking part and that the stirrup leathers are in good condition.

There are no prescribed weight limits on metal stirrups, however with the advent of stirrups of other materials, weight limits are frequently given by manufacturers. Any person buying these stirrups, should comply with weight limits defined on the box or attached information leaflets. Neither the feet nor the stirrup leathers or irons, may be attached to the girth, nor the feet attached to the stirrup irons.

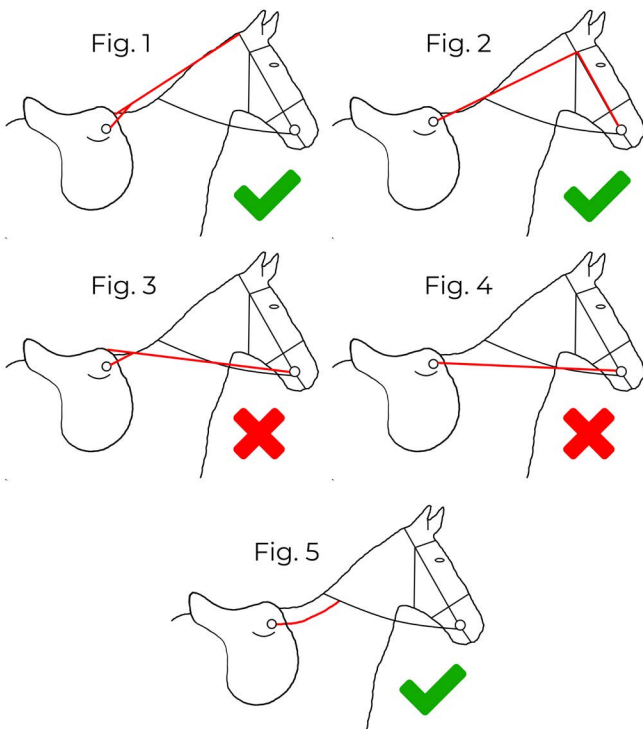
It is strongly recommended that the design of the stirrup chosen allows the foot to be released easily in the event of a rider fall.

Particular focus should be on ensuring that the boot and stirrup are the correct size for the rider taking part and used in line with the manufacturer's guidance.

For the avoidance of doubt, at Pony Club events:

- ▶ stirrups which connect the boot and the stirrup magnetically are not allowed
- ▶ interlocking boot soles and stirrup treads are not allowed
- ▶ **cage stirrups are not allowed**
- ▶ **composite matrix stirrup treads or similar are not allowed**

- d) Bridles:** For safety reasons leather bridles are recommended.
- e) Reins:** Market Harboroughs and running, draw or check reins of any kind are forbidden. (A running, draw or check rein is one which is attached to the saddle, girth, martingale or breast plate on the horse).
- f) Martingales:** The only martingales permitted are Irish, Standing, Running or Bib only one of which may be worn at the same time. Standing Martingales may be attached only to the cavesson portion of the noseband fitted above the bit.
- g) Nosebands:** Only one may be worn unless using a Standing Martingale with a combination, kinton, drop noseband or similar in which case the addition of a cavesson is allowed. Nosebands must be correctly fitted and should not cause discomfort. Nosebands must not incorporate chain or rope except that Myler combination bits and other similar bit designs that incorporate a rope nosepiece are permitted. Sheepskin nosebands are permitted.
- h) Grass and Balanced Support Reins:**



Grass reins and balanced support reins are permitted at Pony Club rallies

and competitions jumping up to 50cm.

- ▶ Only those grass reins shown in diagrams 1, 2 and 5 are permitted.
- ▶ Grass reins must be fitted to allow and not restrict the normal head position of the pony. The rein length must be sufficient to allow the pony to stretch over a small fence.
- ▶ Grass reins may be leather or synthetic material, if synthetic then a break point of leather or other suitable material must be included.

i) Fly hoods, nose nets and ear covers are permitted for all competitions and may also provide noise reduction. The ear cover/fly fringe must not cover the horse's eyes.

Ear plugs are not permitted, and spot checks may be carried out.

Nose nets are permitted. Nose nets must cover the nose only, leaving the mouth and bit visible.

j) Blinkers: Are prohibited except leather and sheepskin attachments on the cheek pieces of the bridle are allowed providing the material does not exceed 3cm in diameter measured from the horse's face.

k) Bits: Pelhams must be used with two reins or roundings. Weymouth bits must only be used as part of a double bridle. **Myler combination and bitless bridles are only permitted at 90cm and above.**

l) Bit guards: Only entirely rubber and smooth on both sides are permitted.

m) Protective boots for horses:

- i.** The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a horse's leg; front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings, etc) is 500g.
- ii.** The inside of the boot must be smooth, that is, the surface must be even and there may not be any pressure points on the inside of the boot; for the avoidance of doubt, stitching on the inside of the protective element that attaches the inner lining to the boot, is permitted.
- iii.** Sheepskin linings are allowed.
- iv.** Bandages may be worn in substitution of the above boots. Boots and bandages may NOT be worn together.

n) Hind boots:

- i.** Brushing type boots that cover the fetlock and cannon bone which are made from Neoprene, leather or other similar soft material are

permitted, provided that the boot contains no rigid inserts.

- ii. Ankle or fetlock type boots that have a maximum interior length of 16cm and a minimum exterior width of 5cm are permitted

The following criteria must be met:

- ▶ The inside protection must be smooth and the fixings must be made of non-elastic Velcro type fasteners with no hooks or straps permitted and must have a minimum width of 5cm.
- ▶ The rounded rigid part of the protection must be placed around the inside of the fetlock only. (**Only** single shell boots are allowed). No additional elements may be used in conjunction with the protection.
- ▶ Hind boots that have an extra flap for protection should be allowed providing the flap is soft and clearly intended for protection only.
- ▶ Fetlock rings (sausage boots) may be used in addition for protective purposes providing they are properly adjusted and providing the total weight of equipment on the horse's leg does not exceed 500g

No additional elements (e.g. pastern wraps) may be used in conjunction with the protection as detailed above.

Fasteners must be one-directional, that is, the fastener must be attached directly from one side of the boot to the other side and may not wrap around the entire boot; no mechanism permitting the fastener to double back on itself is permitted.

Failure to comply will incur disqualification.

o) The following are NOT allowed/permitted:

- ▶ The use of string, twine or cord in or round the horse's mouth is forbidden.
- ▶ Ernest Dillon reins, Split reins and Bridge reins.
- ▶ Tongue Straps and Tongue Grids.
- ▶ Weighted Boots.
- ▶ Humane Girths (having non-independent straps that will loosen if one of the straps were to break)
- ▶ Hoof Boots

Any unusual decoration of the horse with unnatural things, such as ribbons, flowers, glitter etc. in the mane/tail or applied to the coat is forbidden.

Red bows in the tail are permitted for horses that kick, **Green ribbons for young horses and Yellow ribbons for registered Para riders (following permission from the Pony Club Office) are allowed.**

Saddlery and equipment used during a Tack and Turnout Competition must be the same as that worn throughout the competition, except by permission of the Official Steward/Organiser.

The Official Steward has absolute discretion to forbid the use of any bit, gadget or spur which they consider cruel.

Competitors using saddlery and gadgets that are not allowed in the competition will be eliminated

18. ELIGIBILITY – General

No Member may ride more than 3 horses or ponies in the same class/competition. This rule applies equally to second round and final competitions for which horses and/or riders have qualified from a previous competition. Different rules apply at Summer Area Competitions. See Rule 1.

Horses/ponies may only compete in a maximum of three classes a day.

19. ACTION AFTER A FALL

Any competitor who has a fall or sustains a serious injury anywhere at the competition site must see the medical personnel on the day and be passed fit to ride before riding that horse in a further class or before riding any other horse.

20. HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSION

If a person is diagnosed with a concussion, they must not ride or take part in any Pony Club organised activity that involves close contact/handling or riding of horses or ponies for 21 days. This may need to be extended if symptoms persist, on the advice of the treating doctor. All concussion must be reported to Head Office using the online accident report form or by email if it occurred outside of The Pony Club. Concussion advice should be followed without exception.

Head injuries and concussion can be very serious and life changing. Serious head injuries are usually obvious, but concussion can be very subtle. It may not be immediately apparent but should be taken very seriously. Recovery from concussion should be managed carefully.

This rule should be read in conjunction with:

- ▶ [The Pony Club Concussion Advice](#)
- ▶ [UK Government Concussion Guidelines](#)

Please contact safety@pcuk.org for further support and advice.

Please see Page 51 for the Head Injury and Concussion Flowchart.

21. MEDICAL SUSPENSION

If a Member has been suspended from taking part in any activity/competition/sport for medical reasons, this suspension must apply to all Pony Club activities until such time the Member is passed fit by a medical professional to take part. It is the Member and parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure this rule is adhered to.

Medical letters are required, following a suspension for medical reasons, to allow a Member to take part in any activity again. The letter should be issued by either the hospital or specialist(s) involved in treating the injury, where appropriate.

22. UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOUR

Unseemly behaviour on the part of riders, team officials, or team supporters will be reported as soon as possible by the Official to The Pony Club Office. Offenders may be penalised by disqualification of the Branch or Centre concerned for a period up to three years.

Any competitor who in the opinion of the Official Steward, or Organiser, has been extremely rude or aggressive towards any officials at a competition, or who has behaved in an aggressive or unfair manner to their horse may be disqualified.

23. PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

All performance-enhancing drugs are strictly forbidden and The Pony Club supports 100% clean sport.

a) Equine – Controlled Medication

It is essential for the welfare of a horse/pony that appropriate veterinary treatment is given if and when required. Some medication, however, may mask an underlying health problem so horses and ponies should not take part in training or competition when taking such medication and any Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) should be confirmed in writing by a Vet.

For more information, please refer to the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Pony Club Activities Policy, available on The Pony Club website.

b) Human

Performance-enhancing drugs are forbidden. The Pony Club supports the approach taken by the UK Anti-Doping Agency in providing clean sport. The Pony Club disciplinary procedures would be used in cases where doping may be suspected including reporting to the UK Anti-Doping Agency.

c) Testing

All competitors should be aware that random samples may be taken for testing from both themselves and/or their horse/pony. The protocol used will be that of the relevant adult discipline.

Competitors and their horses/ponies at national or international level may be subject to blood tests in line with the Sports Council Policy on illegal and prescribed substances. All young people competing at these levels should be made aware of this.

d) Reporting

i. Anyone who has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a Member is using or selling an illegal substance must report their concerns to the District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor as soon as practicable. If there is an immediate risk to the health, safety or welfare of one or more Members then the Police must be informed as soon as possible. The person reporting their concerns must ensure that any material evidence is retained and should not influence any police investigation.

ii. Upon receiving a report of suspected use or selling of an illegal substance, the District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor should carry out an immediate investigation of the incident and the circumstances in which it occurred, and then decide upon the appropriate action to be taken. This will include:

- ▶ Informing the Member's parents/guardians
- ▶ Informing The Pony Club Area Representative who in turn will inform The Pony Club Office
- ▶ Informing the Police
- ▶ Suspending the Member concerned while investigations are completed
- ▶ Awaiting the completion of Police investigations and actions

e) Disciplinary Action

The normal disciplinary procedure should be followed in cases relating to alcohol or drugs, which can be found in The Pony Club Handbook.

24. DISQUALIFICATION

The Official Steward or Chief Judge may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition for:

- ▶ Dangerous riding.
- ▶ If, in their opinion, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted.
- ▶ Misuse of whip, spur or bit, or ill-treatment of the horse.
- ▶ Breach of the rules.
- ▶ Unseemly behaviour, including bad language.

25. SPONSORSHIP

In the case of competitors and horses, no form of advertising, and this includes a sponsor's name, may appear on the competitor's or horse's clothing and equipment at any Pony Club competition. This does not preclude the wearing of clothing for horses or riders that has been presented by sponsors of the Championships in the current or previous years. Sponsors at Area Competitions must not be business competitors of the main sponsors of the discipline and must be approved by The Pony Club Office.

Any advertising material that is used by sponsors, whether it be in the form of display banners or programme material, must be tasteful, and not inappropriate to the image of The Pony Club.

26. INSURANCE

The Pony Club 'Public and Products Liability Insurance' Policy includes cover for all the official Area Competitions and the Championships. Details of this insurance are available on The Pony Club website.

In the event of any accident, loss or damage occurring to a third party or to the property of a third party (including the general public and competitors) no liability should be admitted, and full details should be sent at once to The Pony Club Office.

The following statements should be included in all event schedules:

Health & Safety

Organisers of this event have taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective, everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the organisers and all the officials and stewards.

Legal Liability

Save for the death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the organisers, or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, neither the organisers of this event or The Pony Club nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies, nor the landlord or their tenant, accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, spectators, land, cars, their contents and accessories, or any other person or property whatsoever. Entries are only accepted on this basis.

27. SUPPLIES FOR ORGANISERS AVAILABLE FROM THE PONY CLUB SHOP

We suggest that you order your supplies at least 21 days in advance.

- a. Rules of The Pony Club Show Jumping.
- b. White/NCR Score Pads (200 competitors per pad).
- c. A3 Team score book pads (180 teams per pad).
- d. Eventing SJ Phase score pads (200 competitors per book).

28. GUIDELINES FOR BRANCH TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

(Does not apply at Area or Championships)

These Competitions should follow the principles of The Pony Club Show Jumping Rules.

Every Pony Club Show Jumping competition of any level should nominate an Official Steward.

This can be either the Organiser of the competition or someone nominated by the Organising Branch.

The Official Steward has absolute discretion to forbid the use of any bit, gadget or spur which they consider cruel or misused. The Official Steward can eliminate any competitor.

It is recommended that a Steward should be appointed to check the tack of each horse but the competitor remains responsible for complying with the rules for saddlery.

29. THE COURSE

a) **General:** It is recommended that a British Show Jumping Panel Course Designer is used if possible.

It is important to use some 'fill-in material' so that the fences look inviting. Hollow plastic poles are not allowed. All plastic covered poles must have a wooden core to ensure that they are the same weight as a painted timber pole.

b) **The Course:** If possible, the first two fences should be sited to be jumped towards the Collecting Ring.

One third to one half of the obstacles should be spreads and must include at least one square oxer.

c) **Distances: Unless the competition class stipulates the height of pony the distances should be as for horses.**

All related distances must be on at least 4 strides, there must be no less than five strides on the approach or following any combination, (either double or treble).

In competitions for mixed heights of horses and ponies all related distances must be on at least 5 strides

The second or third element of a double or treble combination **must be a vertical.**

d) **Safety Cups: It is compulsory to use FEI standard breakaway safety cups in line with British Showjumping rules.** To be used on the back rails of spread fences and middle and back rails of triple bars. This will also include practice fences in the collecting ring. These cups must be in use at all times and must NOT be removed from the wing stands.

30. PLAN / INSPECTION / ACCESS

a) **Plan:** A plan of the course shall be displayed by the time the course is ready for inspection showing:

- i. The course to be jumped and its length.
- ii. The time allowed and the time limit.

b) **Inspection:** The course shall be ready for inspection by competitors a reasonable time before the start of the competition.

c) **Access to the Ring:** Prior to the start of the competition, no

competitor may enter or practise in the ring mounted.

31. PRACTICE FENCES

- a)** Competitors must use only the practice fences provided in the exercise area.
- b)** The practice fences must be marked appropriately and must be jumped with red on the right and white on the left.
- c)** Practice fences may not be more than 10cm above the height, or exceed the spread, of the current round.
- d)** Practice fences shall be monitored and shall not be used when the Steward is absent. See particularly British Showjumping Rule regarding Practice Fences.
- e)** Safety Cups must be used on the back rails of spread fences. These cups must be in use at all times and must NOT be removed from the wing stands.

32. EXERCISE

- a)** Competitors must exercise their horse/pony in the area provided. Horses may not be exercised in the car park or horsebox area or among spectators.
- b)** On the day of the competition, the horse/pony may only be ridden by the rider who is riding the horse/pony in the competition.
- c)** Lungeing of a horse/pony is only permitted in areas designated by the organiser who may also prohibit it completely at their discretion. If allowed, lungeing may be carried out by either the rider or other persons. Lungeing of a horse AND rider is prohibited.
- d)** Whilst exercising, warming up or competing, it is ONLY permissible to use the saddlery allowed under the rules.

RULES FOR JUDGES

33. FAULTS FOR PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING COMPETITIONS

- ▶ **Knockdown**
4 faults
- ▶ **First disobedience**
4 faults
- ▶ **Second disobedience**
8 faults
- ▶ **Third disobedience**
Elimination
- ▶ **Error of Course**
Elimination
- ▶ **Fall of Horse or Rider**
Elimination
- ▶ **Exceeding the time limit**
Elimination
- ▶ **Failing to jump the first fence within 60 seconds of going through the start**
Elimination
- ▶ **Failing to jump the next fence within 45 seconds**
Elimination

34. TIME FAULTS

One time fault is incurred for each commenced second in excess of the time allowed. Failure to complete the course within the time limit incurs Elimination. (NB Time Limit = twice time allowed).

35. TIMING

Electronic timing **must** be used. If the timing equipment permits, the 45-second countdown may be used according to British Show Jumping Rules. It should however be explained over the public address before starting and at intervals during the first round. **Organisers are strongly recommended to have timing display in each arena.**

36. TIME PENALTIES

- a) Time penalties are incurred when an obstacle is displaced as a result of a disobedience.

- b)** A displacement of any single obstacle or any subsequent part of any open or closed combination will incur the addition of 6 seconds.
- c)** Starting the clock following such displacement will be taken from take off or attempted take off.
- d)** Time penalties are added to the time taken to complete the round before the calculation of time faults.

37. FALLS

- a)** At all Pony Club competitions and Championships, the first fall of a horse and/or rider after entering the arena and before completing the course will result in Elimination.
- b)** A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and quarters on the same side touch the ground or touch the obstacle and the ground simultaneously.
- c)** A rider is considered to have fallen when there is separation between them and their horse which necessitates remounting or vaulting into the saddle.
- d)** A fall of horse and/or rider anywhere on the course, (including a fall after the starting bell but prior to going through the start and a fall during interrupted time), will always incur elimination in any competition.
- e)** After an elimination which has resulted from a fall of horse or rider, the rider must leave the arena dismounted. For training purposes (except at Regionals, Area Competitions and Championships) subject to being checked by the onsite first aid provider, competitors may return to the arena at a suitable time before the class is finished in order to jump another round "hors concours".

38. DISTURBING THE OBSTACLE AS A RESULT OF A DISOBEDIENCE

- a)** A disobedience which disturbs the obstacle, including the displacement of a lower element, such that the obstacle must be re-erected and/or checked incurs a 6 second time penalty in addition to the faults and/or elimination incurred.
- b)** The bell is rung, and the clock is stopped immediately.
- c)** Penalties at combinations – if there is a disobedience at obstacle B or subsequent obstacles of a combination without disturbance of that

obstacle and any of the previous obstacles have been disturbed and require re-erection or checking, the procedures for ringing the bell and stopping the clock in (b) must be applied.

d) The clock is restarted at the moment when the horse takes off or attempts to take off at the obstacle where the refusal occurred.

If a disobedience occurs at the second or subsequent part of a combination the clock is restarted when the horse takes off or attempts to take off at the first element of the combination.

e) Penalties for knockdowns are only incurred in respect of obstacles which are knocked down as a direct result of having been jumped in the correct order and provided the obstacle has started to fall before the competitor crossed the finishing line. Any other knockdown is not penalised.

EXAMPLE: A rider/horse knocks into and displaces a fence not being jumped, which has either already been jumped, is still to be jumped or is not part of the course. If the fence is still to be jumped or is impeding the safe jumping of another fence the Judge will ring the bell to stop the rider, and the clock, at an appropriate place to allow the fence to be rebuilt without penalty. After the restart bell the clock will restart when the rider/horse passes the place where they were stopped.

Before leaving the arena after being eliminated as a result of a third refusal or run out, the competitor may take up to two attempts to jump any single obstacle in the arena in the direction as indicated on the course plan. After a fall or horse fall a rider must leave the arena dismounted.

39. ADJUSTMENT OF SADDLERY, DRESS AND OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

Jumping or attempting to jump any obstacle or passing through the finish without a hat, or with the chin strap incorrectly fastened incurs elimination unless the Judge decides that the competitor was so far committed to jumping the obstacle at the moment when the chin strap came undone that he could not be expected to pull up before attempting the obstacle.

In the case of adjustment to hat, chin strap, or saddlery becoming necessary during the round, for safety reasons outside assistance may be given. The clock will NOT be stopped, and faults will be given as for a resistance (ceasing to go forward). If it becomes necessary for the rider to dismount, the rider will be eliminated.

40. JURY OF APPEAL

Area Competitions: The Jury shall consist of the Official Steward, one of the Judges and the Organiser.

The Championships: The Jury shall consist of the Official Steward, one of the Judges and such Members of the Show Jumping Committee as are present.

At least three members of the Jury of Appeal must remain on the ground until half an hour after the scores have been published. The Official Steward may appoint a replacement for any member of the Jury if the need arises.

41. PROTESTS OR OBJECTIONS

Apart from the Official Steward, the Area Representative and Officials of the Competition, only District Commissioners or their appointed representatives are entitled to lodge protests or objections. Protests must be made in writing and addressed to the Organiser of the Area Competition or Secretary of the Championships. They must be accompanied by a deposit, £50 at Area level and the Championships, which is forfeit unless the Jury of Appeal decides that there were good and reasonable grounds for the objection.

Protests or objections must be made not later than half an hour after the happening which gives rise to them or half an hour after the scores have been published. The Official Steward shall give his/ her decision in the first instance.

If this is not accepted, the Jury of Appeal shall give their decision after investigation and this decision is final.

Should a breach of eligibility subsequently be discovered, then the Sport Committee may disqualify the offending team or individual.

If said individual was a Member of a qualifying team and their score contributed to the qualification the team will be disqualified unless the qualification holds up using the discard score.

42. BRANCH/CENTRE REPRESENTATIVES

If the District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor of a competing Team is unable to be present at the competition he or she must inform the Organiser of the Area Competition or Secretary of the Championships, in writing, of the name of the person appointed to be his or her representative. The Representative must carry with him a copy of the District Commissioner

letter of appointment.

43. OFFICIAL STEWARD

An Official Steward for each Area Competition and for the Championships should be appointed who will contact the Organiser prior to the event to offer help/advice. They shall be responsible for inspecting and approving the course in conjunction with the BS Judge before it is shown to the riders. They are authorised to insist on alterations being made if, in their opinion, the course is not in all respects within the limits laid down in the Rules or is unsuitable for the Competition. They have absolute discretion to forbid the use of any bit or gadget which they consider cruel and shall adjudicate on any unforeseen eventualities.

They shall be present on the day of the Competition, to ensure that it is conducted in accordance with the Rules and to give what help and guidance may be required. They should satisfy themselves that the Medical and Veterinary arrangements are in accordance with the rules.

They are responsible for ensuring that the final results are verified and published, if the competition has been judged on ponyclubresults OR if judged on paper judging sheets, then they should ensure that the final results sheet is completed and signed.

At a competition running multiple rings the organiser may also appoint assistant stewards for the Official Steward. They will be briefed by the Official Steward at the start of the day and must be responsible for no more than two rings each. The assistant stewards must immediately report any incident to the Official Steward so that they can take further action. The assistant stewards may undertake another role such as manning the ring entrance or commentating but in this case they must only be given responsibility for stewarding the ring where they are working. Only the Official Steward is authorised to issue instructions or take decisions about the rules or the running of the event, the assistant stewards' role is to report to the Official Steward.

Official Stewards will retire from the Panel at 85 years of age.

44. MEDICAL AND VETERINARY

a) Medical – for further details please see the Health and Safety Rulebook or go to pcuk.org.

b) Veterinary

Branch Activities and Competitions – If a vet is required the member's

parent will normally call their own vet and arrange treatment.

Area – Arrangements should be made for a Veterinary Surgeon to be 'on call' and able to attend the site in a reasonable time. The telephone number should be noted in the Secretary's Tent.

The Veterinary Surgeon and medical personnel and the Ambulance are best situated near Control/the ring.

A tarpaulin should be available to cover a horse should one be killed, and the telephone number for the local horse disposal noted in the Secretary's Tent. See the Health and Safety Rulebook for further information.

c) Vaccinations – refer to Rule 15.

45. RING STEWARDS

Organisers shall appoint stewards for the following purposes.

- a)** To send competitors into the ring.
- b)** To watch the practice fences.
- c)** To send competitors to the Turnout Judges and to assist the Turnout Judges if required.

46. TURNOUT COMPETITIONS

- a)** Organisers of Area Competitions may hold Turnout Competitions.
- b)** Competitors shall be judged individually in the Collecting Ring before their first round and must report as a Team at least 30 minutes before the time they are scheduled to jump. A parade may be held before the second round at the discretion of the Organiser, or if the Judges wish to see Teams together in order to obtain a result.

Uniformity of turnout within the team does not in itself earn extra marks.

- c)** Riders and ponies shall appear for judging in the clothing and saddlery in which they are competing and these shall not be changed thereafter without reference to the Official Steward.
- d)** Neither the Official Steward nor the Judges shall be asked to judge this competition.
- e)** The Turnout Judges shall be genuine Pony Club volunteers with a clear and experienced knowledge of the standard required.

f) Only Judges whose own turnout is beyond reproach should be appointed.

47. EXPLANATION OF HORSEMANSHIP AWARD JUDGING (PC110 and PC100)

The Horsemanship Competition is an attempt to reward riders who show ability, talent and effectiveness. They will not necessarily have the best horses/ponies. Each rider is judged during the PC110 and PC100 Team and Individual Show Jumping Championships. The winners will be those who give their horses/ponies the greatest chance to jump a clear round by:

- a)** Maintaining rhythm and balance.
- b)** Intervening only when necessary to keep the horse/pony's attention and to help them to arrive on a good stride for the fence with sufficient impulsion to jump it easily.
- c)** Giving their mounts the confidence to jump in a settled, supple way by sitting in an independent position (not dependent on the reins) and with an effective leg position at all times on the flat and while jumping.
- d)** Riding good lines and corners – showing correct use of the arena space.

The round should appear purposeful and harmonious.

Judging begins the moment the rider enters the ring (preparation for the round), continues throughout the round and finishes when the rider leaves the ring – the Judges noting whether or not the horse/ pony was improved or not as a result of the round.

Riders are judged individually. For team awards, the total marks of all four riders are counted. For teams of three the average mark of the three is taken and added on as the fourth score.

GUIDELINES FOR TURNOUT JUDGES

HORSE

- a)** Healthy appearance
- b)** Well groomed
- c)** Appropriately trimmed
- d)** Tidy mane and tail
- e)** Well shod
- f)** Clean, correctly fitted saddlery, in good repair
- g)** If used, correct and tidy boots and bandages
- h)** Proper use of keepers, martingales, etc.
- i)** Polished bits, stirrups and other metal ware
- j)** Any other points which may arise

RIDER

- a)** Plain equipment is recommended.
- b)** Tidy hair, hairnet and hat
- c)** Clean, workmanlike clothing
- d)** Smart shirt with tidy collar
- e)** Neatly tied stocks or ties
- f)** Clean, correctly fitting spurs and straps
- g)** Clean badge

COURSE DIMENSIONS - AREA COMPETITIONS

Course Dimensions - Area Competitions

	PC70	PC80	PC90	PC100	PC110
Speed	300mpm	325mpm	325mpm	325mpm	325mpm
Course Length	Approx 450m	Approx 450m	Approx 450m	Approx 450m	Approx 450m
No. Of Fences	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9
Max. Height	0.70m	0.80m	0.90m	1.00m	1.10m
Max. Spread	0.70m	0.80m	0.90m	1.05m (Triple bar = height + 1/3)	1.20m (Triple bar = height + 1/3)
Combinations	Single fences only	1 x double of verticals set on two strides	1 or 2 x doubles set on two strides	2 x doubles	2 x doubles
Water Tray	NO	NO	NO	Optional	Optional
No. Of Fences	10 - 12 (Single-phase) / Minimum 9 (Table A7)	10 - 12 (Single-phase) / Minimum 9 (Table A7)	10 - 12 (Single-phase) / Minimum 9 (Table A7)	10 - 12 (Single-phase) / Minimum 9 (Table A7)	Minimum of 9
Max. Height	0.75m	0.85m	0.95m	1.05m	1.15m
Max. Spread	0.75m	0.85m	0.95m	1.10m (Triple bar = height + 1/3)	1.25m (Triple bar = height + 1/3)
Combinations	1 x double of verticals set on two strides	1 x double set on two strides	1 or 2 x doubles set on two strides	2 x doubles	1 x double & 1 x treble
Water Tray	NO	NO	Optional	YES	YES
Area 1st Round					
Area 2nd Round					

ALL LEVELS

- All related distances must be on at least 4 strides, and in competitions for mixed height horses and ponies related distances must be on at least 5 strides
- There must be at least 5 strides on the approach or following any combination
- All combinations must have a vertical as the 2nd or 3rd element, oxers may only be used as the 1st element where applicable. Maximum heights and widths are not to be used in combinations
- For competitions 60cm and below – follow the Guidelines for PC70 First Round – i.e. single fences

COURSE DIMENSIONS - CHAMPIONSHIPS

Course Dimensions – Championships

	PC70	PC80	PC90	PC100	PC110
Speed	300mpm	325mpm	325mpm	325mpm	325mpm
Course Length	Approx 450m	Approx 450m	Approx 450m	Approx 450m	Approx 450m
No. Of Fences	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9
Max. Height	0.70m	0.80m 2 single fences at 0.85m	0.90m	1.00m	1.10m
Max. Spread	0.70m	0.80m	0.90m	1.05m (Triple bar = height + 1/3)	1.20m (Triple bar = height + 1/3)
Combinations	1 x double of verticals set on two strides	1 x double set on two strides	1 or 2 x doubles set on two strides	2 x doubles	1 x double & 1 x treble
Water Tray	NO	NO	Optional	Optional	YES
No. Of Fences	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9	Minimum of 9
Max. Height	0.75m	85cm	0.95m	1.05m	1.15m
Max. Spread	0.75m	85cm	0.95m	1.10m (Triple bar = height + 1/3)	1.25m (Triple bar = height + 1/3)
Combinations	1 x double of verticals set on two strides	1 or 2 doubles set on two strides	2 x doubles set on two strides	2 x doubles	1 x double & 1 x treble
Water Tray	NO	Optional - must be placed centrally under a vertical	YES	YES	YES

ALL LEVELS

- All related distances must be on at least 4 strides, and in competitions for mixed height horses and ponies related distances must be on at least 5 strides
- There must be at least 5 strides on the approach or following any combination
- All combinations must have a vertical as the 2nd or 3rd element, oxers may only be used as the 1st element where applicable. Maximum heights and widths are not to be used in combinations
- For competitions 60cm and below – follow the Guidelines for PC70 First Round – i.e. single fences

APPENDICES

BRITISH SHOWJUMPING – TABLE OF DEFINITIONS

Table A4	Against the clock. Competitors placed on faults and time.	
Table A7	Those placed first equal qualify for the jump off.	Against the clock. Competitors placed on faults and time.
Two Phase	First phase: 7 to 9 obstacles not against the clock with a time allowed. Clear rounds continue straight on to the second phase without a bell being rung.	Second phase: 4 to 6 obstacles which must be higher than the first phase. Competitors placed on faults and time.

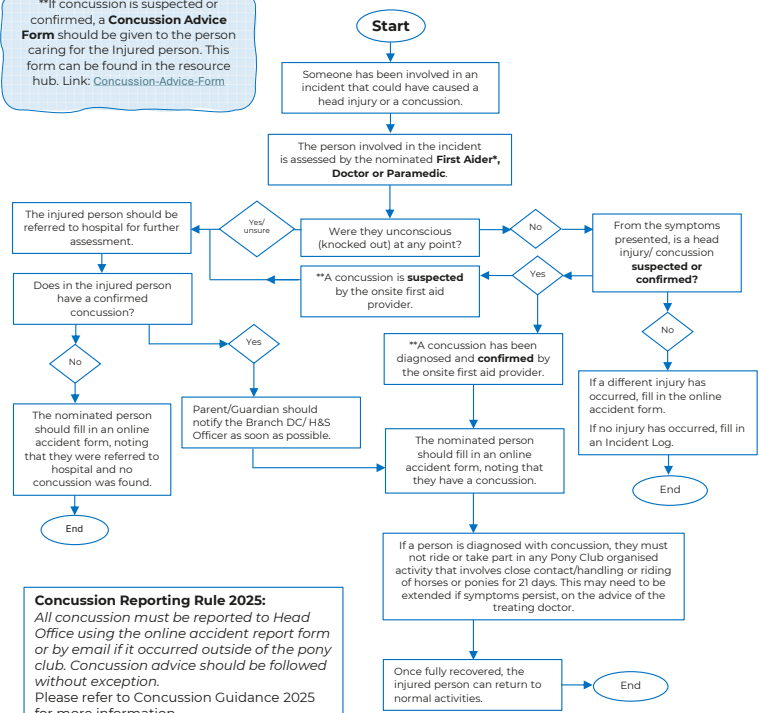
Single Phase	First phase: 5 to 7 obstacles not against the clock with a time allowed. Unless eliminated, continue straight on to the second phase without a bell being rung.	Second phase: 5 to 7 obstacles which must be higher than the first phase, (maximum 12 obstacles in all). Competitors placed on total faults from both phases and time in second phase.
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METRIC CONVERSION TABLE

Metres	Feet/Inches	Metres	Feet/Inches	Metres	Feet/Inches
0.50	1' 7 ½"	1.10	3' 7 ½"	1.70	5' 7"
0.55	1' 9 ½"	1.15	3' 9 ½"	1.75	5' 9"
0.60	1' 11 ½"	1.20	3' 11"	1.80	5' 11"
0.65	2' 1 ½"	1.25	4' 1"	1.85	6' 1"
0.70	2' 3 ½"	1.30	4' 3"	1.90	6' 3"
0.75	2' 5 ½"	1.35	4' 5"	1.95	6' 5"
0.80	2' 7 ½"	1.40	4' 7"	2.00	6' 6 ½"
0.85	2' 9 ½"	1.45	4' 9"	2.05	6' 8 ½"
0.90	2' 11 ½"	1.50	4' 11"	2.10	6' 10 ½"
0.95	3' 1 ½"	1.55	5' 1"	2.15	7' ½"
1.00	3' 3 ½"	1.60	5' 3"	2.20	7' 2 ½"
1.05	3' 5 ½"	1.65	5' 5"	2.25	7' 4 ½"

HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSION FLOWCHART

****If concussion is suspected or confirmed, a Concussion Advice Form should be given to the person caring for the Injured person. This form can be found in the resource hub. Link: Concussion-Advice-Form**



Concussion Reporting Rule 2025:
All concussion must be reported to Head Office using the online accident report form or by email if it occurred outside of the pony club. Concussion advice should be followed without exception. Please refer to Concussion Guidance 2025 for more information.

* If concussion is diagnosed by a first aider, this diagnosis can only be overruled by a doctor and letter evidence will be required.

If you need any advice or support, please contact the Safety Team Safety@PCUK.org



The Pony Club

Lowlands Equestrian Centre
Old Warwick Road
Warwick
CV35 7AX

02476 698300

enquiries@pcuk.org