

## **Guide to Pony Club Teams for Parents**

### **General**

Being in a team can be quite daunting for our young riders, and they often feel pressure that they wouldn't do when competing individually. For this reason, we always try to put them into competitions at a height that they are confident and competent at, so please consider putting them forward for heights that they have been competing at regularly and going clear at.

Team selection is based on the current / most recent results.

We really want to encourage our members to take part in team competitions, especially when they are young and jumping the lower heights, so when they are older and ready for area competitions, they will be confident.

Whilst the children may find it more challenging doing team events, when we put out for riders for our teams, please don't ask for them to compete as individuals, as they will only get more confident the more they do it. Sometimes individuals will be entered where we cannot accommodate everyone in a team.

We will always endeavour to provide a team manager for the event. This isn't always possible, but where it is, they will collect the numbers, walk the course with the children and help them in the warmup as well as let them know where and when they should be ringside and warm up. This person is not an instructor and not there to give instruction. But they are very good at calming their nerves. We would ask parents to allow the team manager to provide that support to the children. However, if a parent wishes to be present in the warm up, of course they can be and should a parent wish to walk the course with their child, we would ask that they do this separately with their child again after the team manager has taken the whole team round, so the child still feels part of the team.

To cover the time and travel for our team managers, it is expected that members pay a contribution in lieu of their entry, a rough guide is usually £5 per class for SJ / dressage and £10 per class for eventing.

### **Rider**

All riders must be smartly turned out for team events.

Hat silks should be plain, black, brown or blue.

Hairnets must be worn under helmets

Hats must be tagged

Hacking jackets or show jackets should be worn

Pony club tie or stock must be worn

Pony Club badge should be worn on the lapel of the jacket, with the felt of any tests awarded underneath.

Jodphurs / breeches should be white, beige, or canary yellow

Boots should be brown or black, and can be long or short, with half chaps. Please avoid patent or bling.

## **Horse /Pony**

Horses / ponies must be plaited for all team events

They must be clean and well groomed

Hooves should be clean and oiled

## **Tack**

All tack must be legal – please check the pony club rulebook if you are not sure

All tack must be clean and well maintained

Tack must be brown or black, no coloured stirrups

No bling

## **Entry Fees**

We are very fortunate that our pony club pays for most team entries, which includes the area competitions and championships, where the entry fees are considerably higher than most events. Very few pony clubs provide this level of financial support to members.

Once entries have gone in, should a member withdraw, the entry fee will need to be refunded to pony club by the member. The only exception to this is where a vet or doctor's certificate is provided.

## **Results and Presentations**

Our riders often do better than they think, so unless you have been told by the event organiser or the team manager that they will not be placed, you must wait for the final results and presentations.

Presentations can be either mounted or dismounted and you need to be aware of which it will be, so that the team is ready and appropriately dressed for presentation.

All riders must be dressed in their riding gear, including jackets and hats for presentations (even if dismounted).

Please encourage the children as a team to go and thank the organisers. They really appreciate it.

Above all, we want the children to enjoy their team events, so remember, it is supposed to be fun. If they are relaxed and having fun, they are likely to ride well. Supporting other members of the team when it goes well and when it doesn't is really important too.

Sue Cameron

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