



Representing Woodland Hunt Pony Club as a Team Member 2019

Here are some notes designed to help you understand our expectations when you represent the club. Part of the process is that you are a good team player and you show consideration for your horse/pony, your team mates, your parents, designated trainers and the army of volunteers that make all this possible. These requirements also apply to your supporters. In short, your part of the deal is to be a good ambassador for Woodland as well as be a successful competitor!

Tack and turnout is compulsory and all competitors will be inspected. You should be ready for judging at least 30 minutes before your time. If you are incorrectly dressed or your horse poorly turned out you will be turned away and asked to re-present.

Below are our guidelines but please familiarise yourself with the Pony Club discipline rule books for 2019

TACK

Ensure all tack is safe and fits. Check stitching and buckles ahead of the competition. Tack must be clean. Tack and turnout is part of this competition.

Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots. They must have 7mm (1/4") clearance on either side of the boot.

TEAM KIT

As a member of the team you are required to turn out in WHPC team kit. This is a white Woodland Hunt saddlecloth for all disciplines and white XC skins (for Novice and above) and Emerald Green XC skins for Grassroots. Saddlecloths and skins can be purchased from GG Gear. Follow the link on the Woodland website.

ABSOLUTELY NO coloured reins, brow bands (including any bling), stirrups, whips or boots are to be used. Please keep tack plain and simple and in dark colours. If you are unsure, please ask before the day.

RIDER TURNOUT

Make sure you have a current standard body protector and your hat has been tagged with the new Aquamarine tag. Hat covers should be dark blue, black or brown. Hair must be secured in a hairnet and gloves should be worn.

Pony Club prefers you to wear **light, plain coloured jodhpurs** (beige, cream or white) and **preferably a hacking jacket**. Again if you do not have a hacking jacket but you have a smart non 'blingy' show jacket this will be fine. You should wear a **white shirt**, your **Pony Club tie** (or stock for older members) and **your Pony Club badge and felt on your left lapel**.

Long leather riding boots or jodhpur boots with a well defined square cut heel may be worn with plain black or brown half chaps worn with boots of the same colour.

PONY TURNOUT

Your pony should be well shod, clean, with its mane plaited. No stains and hooves oiled.

OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER

Be meticulous in your preparation ahead of the day. Make full kit lists in duplicate. Keep a box of 'spares' to include a headcollar, reins, spare set of shoes (with stud holes) girth, leathers, studs, spanners, gloves, hairnets etc - all of which are commonly forgotten items. Ensure you have hay/ feed for your horse.

Keep an equine first aid kit in your lorry/ trailer. Ensure you have plenty of water in containers for rehydrating your horse and washing off. Carry at least 2x buckets and sponges and appropriate rugs for the time of year. Make sure your horse is unbooted, walked and **thoroughly** washed off as soon as you have finished.

Be aware of course walk times and plan accordingly – you **need** to know your distances.

Report for tack and turnout inspection **30 mins before your time**.

Take responsibility for your own performance and become empowered to make your own decisions at an event. Your trainers/ parents are there to guide you on the day only – the rest is down to you. The outcome is normally determined by your preparation.

Thank **every** steward, starter and official you meet – a smile and good manners go a long way.

If it goes wrong and you have a bad day, maintain dignity and composure at all times. Learn how to lose - horses are great levellers even with the best preparation in place! Public displays of anger or emotion are never acceptable, however disappointed you feel. Pat your horse and walk away, go somewhere quiet until you have calmed down. Do not direct your anger at your parent/s – if it wasn't for them you wouldn't be there! As was discussed, agree a strategy with them well ahead of the season to allow you to get into your 'zone' before you perform and to 'cool down' after you have performed (parents note -this is not a good time for needless interruptions, your nerves are a separate matter!) Anger directed at your horse will not be tolerated and **will** compromise future selection - this includes misuse of spurs/ whips and reins. If this is seen, you will also be reported to the chief steward and are likely to be eliminated and your name kept on a blacklist.

Learn how to do well – winning is fabulous, but you should also be thrilled if you and your horse have performed to the best of your ability and are not placed. Again, dignity needs to be maintained even if you do want to dance for joy on the top of the trailer!

Be supportive of your team mates – however they have done. Every team has a discard score and that could be any member, perhaps you next time. Give your peers the space they need and be kind and considerate when appropriate. Never complain about their status or lack of performance; it is destructive and does not create 'team spirit'. If you have nothing nice to say, say nothing. Likewise, refrain from being publicly opinionated about other riders – this is unforgiveable and embarrassing for all.

If you have a genuine objection, you need to go through your team manager, DC or representative and follow the correct protocol. This will include laying down a deposit which, will only be returned if the objection is upheld. It is fine to do, but must be done politely and correctly. Have a copy of the rules book to hand.

EVERY team member **MUST** attend prize giving **correctly dressed** in correct riding kit (including jackets, hats and gloves, right one held in left hand), even if they are the discard score if you have a team or individual placing. This is a **non-negotiable** part of being on the team and a courtesy to organisers and sponsors. However late it is, be assured that they will be there long after you have left. Accept that this is part of the process and factor in the timing.

Congratulate other winning clubs or section winners.

Make sure you go and **thank the organisers** as a team and that they **know** you are representing WOODLAND.

If you have a long wait, make sure your pony is walked regularly and not left on trailer for hours, especially if hot. Check him carefully on your return and trot him up and check his legs the following day. If time allows and the event is close, you can always whisk him home and come back in the car (dressed correctly) for prize giving.

We hope these notes help and that you have a fantastic time representing your club – please ask if there is anything you are not sure about.