

Welcome to the GEAR CHECK SCHOOL



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from*

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TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PCASA CURRENT RULE BOOK:

**WHY HAVE A
“GEAR CHECK”**

Gear check is to keep our Safety Standards high.
Comfort of the horse.
To keep all members aware of the rules.
Allow the competition to run smoothly.
Screen inappropriate or illegal equipment.

THE “GEAR CHECK”

Is done by Committee appointed Gear Checker’s at a competition (before each phase) Instructors or other knowledgeable appointed persons at Pony Club rallies.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF
THE “GEAR CHECKER”**

To uphold the rules and conditions governing use of correct gear in the Pony Club movement and the comfort of the horse.
A Gear checker **cannot** eliminate a rider but can prevent a rider from continuing until correction is made and represented.

**QUALITIES OF A
“GEAR CHECKER”**

Know the rules and have possession of a current rule book on the day.
Be punctual, decisive and suitably dressed for the job (don’t wear thongs on a hot day).
Take the job seriously (don’t encourage your friends to hang around for a gossip and jokes).
Be polite, friendly and helpful to riders and their mount.
Have a sense of humour (you will need it)
Know where you fit in the running of the event
Be aware and be brave.
If in doubt **ASK!**

**CHECK LIST FOR A
“GEAR CHECKER”**

Rule books Pony club (current) EA. Adult dress
Depending on the weather, dress appropriately.
Thermos, tea coffee etc.
Biros and note pad (the shortest pencil is better than the longest memory)
A person to help if needed
Tape measure for whips/spurs.
Scissors and electrical tape for people to use for small adjustments.

**WHAT THE
ORGANISERS PROVIDE
FOR AN EVENT**

Draw, complete with scratchings and HC on a clip board with a biro.
Start times of all classes.
Morning tea, afternoon tea, lunch.
Marked area with sign for gear checking.
Stickers for identifying those who have passed the gear check.
Pony Club Stewards.

**WHEN DOES A
“GEAR CHECKER”
COMPROMISE**

Never on the comfort of the horse .
Never on the safety of a rider.

**WHO DOES THE
“GEAR CHECKER”
ANSWER TO?**

The organising body/committee.
The Pony Club Steward on day of comp.

**WHAT TO DO WITH
AWKWARD/UNHAPPY
RIDERS**

Quote the rules
Direct them to the Pony Club Steward if at an event
At a rally direct them to the Chief Instructor/Club President
Don't get into an argument.

**IT'S THE RIDERS
RESPONSIBILITY TO**

Know the Rules.
Be punctual
Have correct gear and uniform
Make sure gear fits correctly and is comfortable for the horse.
When given the chance by a gear checker to re-present with the correct gear, be grateful, not argumentative.
Wear correct body number when competing.
Carry own spare tack in case of breakages.
Treat gear checker with respect.

**FROM A RIDERS
SIDE (THE HITLER
“GEAR CHECKER”)**

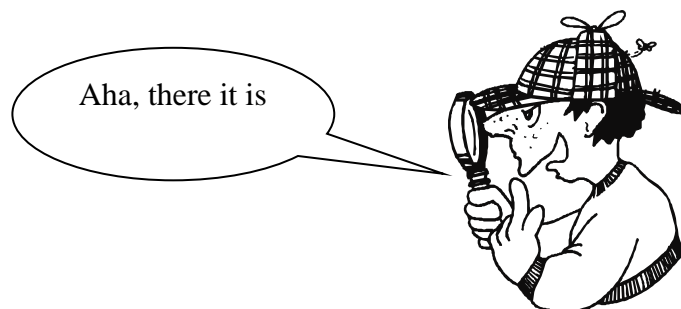
Loud comments about wealth (or lack of it) of a rider.
Making delaying conversations about nothing.
Being dead wrong at the cost of the rider.
Treating riders as though they are 2nd. Class citizens.
Ignoring riders when your friends come to have a chat.

INSURANCE WISE

BE CAREFUL
NEVER ADJUST ANY EQUIPMENT YOURSELF.
NEVER INSIST THAT A RIDER CHANGE THEIR
GEAR UNLESS IT IS FOR COMPLIANCE OR COMFORT.

ADULT RIDERS

PCASA affiliated Adult level riders & EA run under Pony Club rules except for dress.
PCASA club Adults run under Pony Club rules including dress.
Adult level riders **must** have a gear check as per Pony Club rules prior to each phase. This is compulsory.



GEAR INSPECTION: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

FIRSTLY:

Gear checking is a tiring, thankless job. But just think how many accidents you may have prevented because of your dedication, thoughtfulness and consideration to both riders and ponies.

Here are some things to look for:

ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY – WRITE IT DOWN!

Don't gear check a rider too early before they are ready to ride. (it is best if they can go into a marshalling area after gearcheck.)
If a rider has a gearcheck and then says they have to go back to the float for something, tell them to report back to you before they start that particular phase.

If you come across a horse that appears to be very difficult and or dangerous, ask the rider to dismount for your safety as well as theirs. **I**f the horse still appears dangerous in your opinion, then advise the rider that you are going to call the Pony Club Steward if you are at an event. Make sure you make a note of this on your programme.

At a rally call the Chief Instructor/Coordinator and or committee person.

Know the definition of a snaffle: ie – “A snaffle bit is a bit which has **one** common ring to which the cheek piece and the reins are attached.” Just because other bits may be called “a snaffle”, doesn't necessarily mean they are a snaffle. You may hear “but I wore it at the last event and got through gear check”. Bad luck, if it's not legal, then change it.

BRIDLE:

Soundness of stitching, fitting of browbands, can fit a finger under.

Throatlash - 4 fingers on the side of cheek.

Noseband - 2 fingers from top of band to the bottom of cheek bone, 2 fingers between jaw and noseband

BIT:

Right way up, correct size, curb chain & guard (if required), correctly fitting. Cheek guards are **not** allowed in dressage.

List of allowed bits in rule book

REINS:

Correct length : As per rule book

Stitching where the reins join to the bit.

Grass reins may be fitted in accordance with general rules. They must be made of non-wearing material. Are permitted for riders of any age at rallies and competition up to and including grade 5 and E grade.

- GIRTH:** Check that girth is not too tight or loose. **Always** ask the rider if this is how tight/loose they have their girth before suggesting tightening or loosening it. Check girth at buckles for wear and broken stitching.
- BOOTS/BANDAGES:** If boots or bandages are used make sure they are correctly fitted. Bandages must be stitched with different colour. Boots/bandages are **not** allowed in Dressage.
- NECKSTRAP:** (optional) Fitting depends on what discipline you are doing. E.G. Flatwork fitted as for martingale or Jumping fitted approx half way up the neck.
- MARTINGALE:** Correct fitting. Stoppers on reins and at the chest (if not fixed). **Make sure the martingale is not too short. See rule book.**
- SADDLE:** Fitting pony correctly: ie. 2 fingers between pommel and wither. No weight on any part of the spine. "Gear checker to advise the rider to find a pony club instructor or friend who can help with fixing this problem."
Check both flaps are not bent under.
Check girth points for wear/stitching. **Check that holes have not run together.**
Close Contact Saddles: If a Close Contact Saddle has been fitted correctly i.e. the saddle is not touching the spine/withers and can get at least one finger clearance whilst rider is standing in their stirrups then this is permissible.
Stock Saddles, Half Breed Saddles & Swinging Fender Saddles including those with latigo attachments are allowed (Saddles with horns not permitted), stirrup leathers must be on a bar designed for the leathers to come off OR if the saddle has solid bars it must have breakaway stirrups or toe stopper type attachments.
Treeless Saddles are permitted
- Note:** With the exceptions listed above in regards to girth attachment on Stock/Half Breed & Swinging Fender Saddles all other saddles must conform with current rules, 2 separate girth points, surcingle in place where required, surcingle must be fitted in such a way to allow stirrup leathers to slide off the stirrup bar.
Some riders will saddle fitting card from a saddle fitter, they must show this card if the saddle doesn't fit by the rules

- SADDLE BLANKET:** Must be Pony Club saddle cloth. Pushed up into front arch. No wrinkles under the weight of the saddle
- STIRRUP IRONS:** There must be at least 5 mm clearance between the boot (widest part) and irons on both sides. A 10mm block **MUST** be used at all times when checking this. Safety stirrups which require rubber bands **must** be used with their correct rubber bands. Collapsible (hinged) stirrup irons are permitted but are not recommended. STS stirrups (not including jockey stirrup) approved for use for a 12mth trial, clearance rule not applicable to STS stirrups
- Clogs are permitted. It is essential that there be at least 5 mm clearance between the boot and clog on both sides and at least 2 cm at the top. Toe stoppers are classed as clogs.
- Bent irons (Safety Irons) are not allowed. Oxbow stirrups allowed but **must** be used with correctly fitted toe stoppers or must be breakaway stirrups (oxbows)
- STIRRUP LEATHERS:** Stitching OK at the top and leathers not worn thin where stirrup iron sits.
Never rip the leathers apart to see if they are stitched properly.
“Common sense should prevail if stitching is starting to come away – allow if safe for the day – and inform rider/parents that this must be fixed before next rally/event or next ride.”
- RIDER:** Must be in correct Pony Club Uniform/adult uniform when appropriate. Approved cross country tops for cross country. - No exposed Jewellery.
Medical bracelets/necklaces excepted.
If hair touches body number then it must be either in a plait or in a hair net.
Helmets must be of approved standards and worn at all times when mounted and secured. Must have helmet tag attached, this will verify correct number and date. Gear checker must still check fit and look for wear and tear.
Footwear must be of approved type, no sneakers, work boots etc.
Leggings (chappettes) are permitted for rallies, training and limited competition but not for State Championships or Nationals.
Only leather gaiters which are part of a boot system are Permitted provided they are the same colour as the boot.

Spurs: Only spurs without rowels are permitted. The neck of a dummy spur must only point to the rear and may not exceed 35mm in length and must not be under 7 mm at the point of the neck,. If the spur is curved the curve must point downwards.

Prince of Wales's spurs are permitted.

GENERAL PURPOSE WHIP Whips of not more than 75 cm overall length, including flap, may be used. The loop **must** be removed from the handle of any whip.

General purpose whips permitted for

- Rallies
- Show Jumping
- Cross Country
- Dressage Tests under Preliminary level in a dressage competition – not including One Day Events/Horse Trials
- Warm up for any dressage competition including ODE

DRESSAGE WHIP

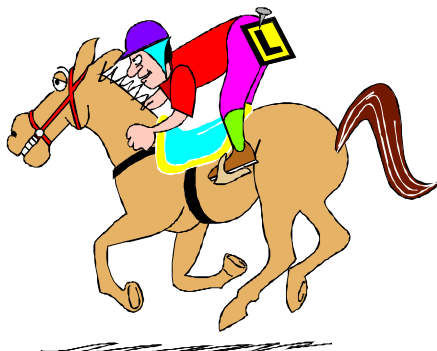
Dressage whips may be used by

- a. Riders who hold their "C" certificate and have **written** permission from their club chief instructor.
- b. Adult combinations 26 years and over

Dressage whips must not exceed 1.20m length including lash and must not be modified (i.e., flap removed). The loop **must** be removed from the handle of any whip.

Dressage whips are permitted for:

1. Flatwork at rallies
2. Dressage competition which is not part of a one, two or three day event
3. Warm up for any dressage, competition including ODE's



Come back here you
little #&!@*#

Come and have your
Gear check!!!!

