

SPECIFIC CHANGES to previous PCQ Gear Rules plus IMPORTANT POINTS from PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA (PCA) NATIONAL GEAR RULES

- **Issued by PCQ Zone 1 CIP** >> This List does not include every change.

Excerpts from Pony Club Australia (PCA) National Gear Rules – effective 1 July 2022

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/sports/national-gear-rules/>

Disciplines are grouped together where they have the same or very similar rules:

Group A - Rallies & Musters, Clinics, Camps, Training Days, Trail & Navigation Rides, Endurance

Group B - Cross Country, Derby, Tetrathlon (Ridden), Hunter Trials, Ride to Time & Speed, etc

Group C - Dressage, Eventing Dressage, Combined Training Dressage, Freestyle Dressage

Group D - Showjumping, Jumping Equitation, Eventing SJ, Combined Training SJ

Group E - Mounted Games, Novelties, Sporting, Polocrosse, Campdrafting, Archery, Horseball, Tentpegging, Working Equitation, Stockman's Challenge

Group F - Formal Gymkhana, Showing, Show Ring, Hack Show

Group G - Musical Rides, Dressage to Music, Quadrille Dressage, Fancy Dress

Group H - Vaulting, Quiz

>> Please note: the Sporting events at a Formal Gymkhana come under Group E rules, not Group F.

SPECIFIC CHANGES plus IMPORTANT POINTS include:

RIDER ATTIRE:

Rally/muster uniform - Clubs can have a by-law which specifies what colour jodhpurs can be worn at rallies/ musters. This can be the same as their Formal uniform colour registered with PCQ, and/or include brightly coloured single and 2-tone pants.

Riders to wear close fitting black or brown equestrian boots, with firm sides; full, smooth soles and textured tread no more than 3mm in depth. Must have a low but defined and square cut heel at least 14mm high.

If boots have laces, the ends are to be tucked in for safety.

Short lace-up type riding boots are permitted under correctly fitted gaiters.

Jodhpurs, stockman's cut trousers, jeans CANNOT be worn tucked into boots.

Suede chapettes (also known as half chaps) are permitted except in Vaulting; MUST have a zip fastening. Chapettes with velcro tabs NOT permitted.

Pinned on metal badges & club tie pins permitted except for Group E (Sporting, etc) & Vaulting.

Earrings – ONLY Stud style earrings are permitted in all disciplines (except Mounted Games).

NO other types of earrings are permitted. They must be taped if the diameter is greater than 5mm.

Gloves are mandatory when wearing rings and lunging. Riders wearing rings must remove them or wear gloves. ONLY plain flat wedding bands can be taped.

Facial piercings - must be taped over.

Wristwatches are permitted, except in Vaulting.

Helmets covers should be in registered Club or Zone colours.

Medical armbands advised for Cross Country competition.

Body Protectors are mandatory when jumping fixed obstacles (Group B disciplines) and for Ride to Time and Speed to Safety.

Air Vests must be worn over a body protector.

SADDLERY and HORSE GEAR:

Leg bandages are NOT permitted for Groups B, C, D & F.

Bandages must be sewn with a blanket stitch from the first to last wrap, (i.e., from top to bottom of bandage) on the outside of the leg, using a thread of contrasting colour.

Winkers (18cm x 3cm) are permitted for Showjumping. Sheepskin cheek covers are not permitted. Bridle chin straps – if used to prevent the bit from being pulled sideways through horse's mouth, must be made from leather or synthetic leather. Correct fit is 2 fingers space between strap and chin. Ear covers/ Ear hoods are allowed in all disciplines, with exceptions in Group E where they are only allowed in Sporting and Mounted Games. Must not be tied down to the noseband. Nose nets permitted, must be translucent, advised to remove for Mounted Games. Fly veils/ Fly hoods are permitted at musters only, worn over the bridle.

Leading rein – for riders who need to be led, there are 2 options. If you are using a lead rope, it must be attached to a halter worn under the bridle (the bridle should not have a noseband). If you are using a Butterfly lead, it should be attached to both bit rings.

Running martingales are not permitted in Group C (e.g., Dressage), plus Campdraft, Polocrosse, Lungeing & Vaulting. There are different styles of running martingale. If the running martingale has a strap which runs from the girth, through the junction at the neck strap & then divides into the 2 martingale ring straps, a martingale stopper must be threaded diagonally where the neck strap meets the martingale ring straps. All styles of running martingales must have rein stoppers on the reins to prevent rings reaching the bit. No buckles permitted along the rein length, only at the bit.

Standing martingales are ONLY permitted in Mounted Games, attached to a cavesson noseband. There are different styles of standing martingale. If the strap goes from the girth, through the junction at the neck strap, and attaches to the cavesson noseband, it must have a diagonally fitted martingale stopper at the junction.

Martingale stoppers and rein stoppers are leather or rubber.

Market Harborough or German martingale- NOT permitted in any discipline.

If a noseband is used with any bit with a chain, any lower strap must be removed (e.g. Flash strap on Hanoverian noseband).

Rein length: any rein loop must not hang below the toe of the rider's boot in the stirrup, or the point of the horse's elbow, whichever is higher.

Grass reins, anti-grazing reins, balance reins - permitted in Group A & riders under 12 years may use them in competition. (If jumping – obstacles must be under 30cms)

Balance reins are the only type permitted to have a buckle along the length of the rein.

Short sporting reins (which have a buckle along the length of the rein) are NOT permitted. Also, the reins must at least reach the pommel of the saddle when the horse is standing square and relaxed. Split reins are ONLY permitted unjoined for Campdrafting activities, to avoid entanglement with cattle. For details of use when joined, and how to knot & shorten, see Section 2.22.1 Reins.

Bit clips (joining any type of rein to the bit) are permitted, open part of clip must face inwards. Bit clips must be taped for Mounted Games

Saddles: swinging fender, stock and poley saddles allowed all disciplines with appropriate girth. Pony pads are permitted.

Treeless saddles: See Appendix 9 Fitting of Gear, for how and when treeless saddles can be used.

Saddle Cloths – only one saddlecloth, with/without a commercial riser pad or gel pad, is permitted.

Minimum of 15mm and maximum of 20mm gap between widest part of rider's boot and the stirrup. (This is not per side, but in total. It is equivalent to min 7.5mm and max 10mm per side of boot).

Stirrup bars must be in the Open position (relates to a stirrup bar with an end clip/ swivel end).

Closed stirrup bars can only be used with clogs, safety stirrups or toe-cage stirrups.

Stirrups with magnetic treads and magnetic boot soles are NOT permitted.

Stirrups made of pure aluminium, nickel or wood not permitted.

Oxbow stirrups permitted ONLY in Gymkhana, Campdraft, Stockman's Challenge, Sporting & Novelties.

Whip loops must be cut off. For more details & changes to racing whip use, see Section 2.30 Whips

Dressage whips - ponies under 14.2hh, up to max 1m long; for larger horses, up to max 1.2m long.

Bit thickness MUST be at least 10mm, and should measure between 11mm and 17mm in diameter.

Mouthpiece diameter is measured near the cheekpiece.

Curb bits used on double bridles, Pelhams and Kimblewick/ Spanish snaffle bits must all be used with a curb chain.

Pelham bits & Slotted Kimblewick bits/ Spanish snaffles (with 2 slots in the D-ring of the bit) must be used with forked reins/ rein dividers/ roundings/ equalisers/ rein connectors.

Kimblewick bits/ Spanish snaffles are permitted in Group E except Mounted Games.

For all the rules on Bits and when they can be used – read Appendix 2.

For the new recommendations for fitting Bits – read Appendix 2.2 Fitting Bits.

Among bits NOT permitted in any discipline are Running Gags, Waterford & Cherry Roller snaffle.

Dutch Gag/ Pessoa Gag/ 3-Ring Gag – not allowed Group C, Mounted Games, Sporting, Novelties.

Spurs: See Appendix 3: Spur Directory for more specific details. Maximum length is 45mm.

Spurs – NOT allowed in Mounted Games, Archery, Lungeing, Vaulting, Fancy Dress.

Blunt Daisy Rowel spurs – allowed in Group B and D (eg Showjumping and Cross Country).

Rowel spurs - "permitted in specific disciplines". Must meet all specifications for Spurs.

Lungeing: See Appendix 5 for Lungeing details, including compulsory helmet, gloves and boots for person lungeing, with NO spurs to be worn. Note changes to the use of a bridle when lungeing.

There is ONLY 1 method of lungeing with a bridle. A lungeing cavesson with or without bridle is permitted.

* Gear Exemption Form: on PCA website, to apply for permission “to use gear which is listed as not permitted or is too new to be in this Rule Book”.

** This list does NOT include all changes to the previously followed PCQ Gear Rules. Refer to PCA National Gear Rules dated 1st July 2022.