

IMPORTANT RULE REMINDERS AND CLARIFICATION

Please read below re important Rule reminders including some points that have been amended for clarity. Please note all amendments are effective immediately, so please make sure committees and members are aware.

NO LED JUMPING

Led riders are not to jump at any pony club fixture. This includes:

- Rally days – led riders can use poles although there is no height and the pole must be on the ground
- Gymkhanas – no led jumping and sporting modified as below
 - Sporting events – in the event a sporting event includes a jump, led riders will use a pole on the ground. In the event hay bales or drums are used, they must be separated for led riders to pass through.
 - Obstacle courses - in the event of an obstacle course including a jump, led riders will use a pole on the ground. In the event hay bales or drums are used, they must be separated for led riders to pass through.

LENGTH OF REINS

- Reminder the blue book currently confirms reins should not pass the riders toe when being held – please include this at your gear check. This includes split reins. Noting there are several older riders on smaller ponies PCANSW has confirmed split reins should not extend below the riders boot or the elbow of the horse whichever is higher.

COVERED FOOT WEAR

- Reminder (which will be reinforced in the blue book) No thongs or uncovered shoes at any pony club fixture. All footwear must be covered footwear. This includes non-riding children parents and spectators. In the event a spectator (or similar) is in thongs or uncovered shoes they must be requested to remain in the non-horse area (and outside of the kitchen) or leave the grounds. Please also be aware in our region it will not be long and snakes will be on the move again – snakes do pose significant risk in our region as well.

DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HORSE RIDING AND EVENTS – HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW

- It is essential we are aware of the draft code of practice for horse riding and events. As pony club understands this code is very close to implementation it will need to be considered at pony club fixtures. All pony club instructors and committee members are encouraged to take the time to read this information <http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/Draft-horse-code-of-practice-for-consultation-2.pdf>

Key items

- Pony club is considered a PCBU
 - State level noting state office workers are employees
 - Zone level – as zone books and runs paid instructors panel events they are considered a PCBU
 - Club level – as clubs runs paid instructors panel events (unless your club never does and never will) they are considered a PCBU

- This has highlighted the importance of performing your annual club risk assessment (annual safety checklist) and providing a copy to zone and state office. As I understand many clubs have not completed or forwarded the risk assessment – I am awaiting a list of clubs with outstanding risk assessments and will follow up as soon as possible. Please ensure your club committee minutes clearly record outcomes arising from the safety checklist. The assessment form can be accessed at http://www.pcansw.org.au/docs/general/80/safety_officer_checklist_-_quarterly_-_yearly.pdf

- With many clubs offering events in the coming months please remember to perform the event safety checklist, respond to issues, and clearly minute in club minutes http://www.pcansw.org.au/docs/general/80/safety_checklist_-_rally_days.pdf

- Instructional – at pony club we have a responsibility to teach and reinforce safe and effective horsemanship activities. The pony club green riding manual clearly outlines these practices. Our state coach quarterly report will be forwarded to all clubs by state office, this communication raises significant safety concerns for pony club in general and an urgent need to ensure we continually support our young riders and their families in safe horse practices. It is requested all clubs have a green riding manual to support rally day instruction and parent education. The green riding manual is the key reference required by volunteers/ riders doing NCAS or certificates and is endorsed by very renowned equestrian professionals. Colleen Brook is one of the strongest advocates for this manual.

- The green riding manual can be purchased from PCANSW for \$30 http://www.pcansw.org.au/docs/general/81/merchandise_order_form_2016-3.pdf