



GUIDELINES FOR TACK STEWARDS

Tack Inspection endeavours to ensure and promote safety, animal welfare, learning and general correct turn-out for pony and rider.

Tack Stewards role is to check:

- The tack is fit for purpose
- Tack conforms to the rules
- Turnout
- Welfare of horse/rider

When should this take place:

- At every pony club activity where members are mounted (including Mounted Games training sessions)
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Who should do this:

- It should be performed by a competent and knowledgeable adult over 18 years
- This person should be considerate, friendly and tactful.
- **At rallies and camp, Instructors should set a good example with their own personal turn-out.**

The Tack Steward should check:

- The overall picture – individual or team (if team the full team must be present).
- Check correct hat and body protector.
- Jacket (if used) or sweatshirt, stock or tie, gloves where appropriate.
- Shirt – collared and long sleeves. For dressage–stock shirt & stock allowed
- Correct boots and gaiters where appropriate.
- Spurs – correct length & type. None for Under 12's.
- Hairnet where required or tidy hair.
- No jewellery visible.
- Medical Armband (if required) – check that name and photo correspond to member and that medical details are complete.

Pony – Check:

- General health (shoeing, worming and feeding), well being, and cleanliness.

Tack – Check:

- **Bridle** for fit, correctness (according to Tack Sheet) and safety of stitching (check reins especially). Check breastplate and martingale if worn.
- **Bit** – correct bit according to Tack Sheet for relevant discipline.
- **Saddle** – check for fit (especially over withers).
- **Girth** – check that it is not too long, & stitching at buckles and girth straps.
- **Stirrup leathers** – check stitching, size of stirrups relative to boots, stirrup bar down.
- **Numnah** – check for correctness.
- **Boots & bandaging** – correctly fitted, bandages should be stitched or taped.
- **Surcingle** – recommended for cross country.

Tack Inspection at Competitions: (branch, area & national)

- The member or team should present at least 30 minutes before their start time. Correctly attired for the discipline.

Where there are concerns:

- Consult with Chief Steward if unsure about compliance with rules or safety.
- Where tack is not fit for purpose to an acceptable standard – member cannot be allowed proceed to competition.
- The Parent/Team Trainer should be informed about what is allowed and advised to consider their options.
- Allow time to make necessary changes.
- If the Parent/Team Trainer wishes the child to compete, where tack is not compliant with rules, they have the option to compete HC or risk being disqualified. Rule violations incur disqualification.
- Where a difficulty/dispute arises the competition Chief Steward is consulted and an amicable solution found.

Tips for Turn-out:

- Judging of the Turn-out competition is often performed by the Tack Steward. Where it is a team competition, all members must present together.
- Suggest the Tack Steward allows a maximum of 10 merits for perfect turn-out.
- **Pony** – marks given for cleanliness & grooming. Bonus points for plaiting of mane and tail (where appropriate) and bonus points for hoof oil.
- **Tack** – marks given for cleanliness, safety and tidiness, bonus marks for polished stirrups, bits and buckles.
- **Rider** – Marks given for uniformity of team (where appropriate). Tidiness & cleanliness. Bonus points for polished badges, test discs worn, gloves (where appropriate), polished boots, hairnets/neat hair and smiles!!