



IRISH PONY CLUB NATIONAL MINIMUS Competition 2020

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October, 2020

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Saturday 10th October

Swimming at The Watershed, Kilkenny.

Provisionally Beginning approx. 5pm

Members will be allotted individual times according to ability.

Sunday 11th October

**Cross Country Riding at Nuenna Farm Equestrian
Centre, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.**

First pony on course provisionally at 9:30 am

Sunday 11th October

**Running at Nuenna Farm Equestrian Centre,
Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.**

Provisionally Beginning approx. 11am

In strict numerical order

Due to Covid-19 protocols and guidelines, many elements of the National Minimus Competition will be different this year. Read this document carefully and in its entirety to ensure that all rules, guidelines and Branch requirements are understood and adhered to. Take note of the opening and closing dates highlighted throughout.

Entry Criteria for the National Minimus Competition 2020

- IPC Members wishing to compete in the Minimus Competition must be under 12 years on 1st Jan 2020.
- Entries must be submitted on or before midnight on Thursday 1st October at 9.30am. Ponies name must be entered as recorded on the passport. Pet / stable names are not acceptable.
- Branches must pay the Office either via banking online or post a cheque for €55 per entry, made payable to the Irish Pony Club. Postal address is Irish Pony Club, Main Street, Urlingford, Via Thurles, Co. Kilkenny to
 - **REACH THE OFFICE BY Tuesday October 6th.** Contact office for Banking-online information.
- DCs must ensure all competitors are capable of riding a cross country course built to a maximum height of 80 cm. and the combination of pony and rider have cross country competition experience and are capable of swimming 1 length of the 25m. pool.
- Only siblings may share ponies. No pony may be used more than twice over the cross-country course. Ponies which are to be shared must be noted on the entry form using *.
- A member may compete only once in this competition.
- Competitors / Trainers must adhere to the times and numbers given for swimming and running. No Trainers or parents allowed on the deck at the swimming pool.
- All ponies must have up to date vaccinations against flu / tetanus. The injections must be accurately recorded and stamped by the vet on the passport.
- Best Turn-out Trophy presented by the Ward Union Branch, will be judged by persons on the cross-country course. **The Tack and Turnout prize has been extended to include team spirit, good manners, behaviour and attitude of members, parents and branch officials. This will be a branch prize rather than presented to one team.**
- All branches with entries must provide at least one fence steward, two stewards if you have a large number of entries. Names and phone number for fence stewards must be included on Entry Form.
- Please tell your parents and members about **the rule re fall of rider. If the competitor has a fall he must ride his pony home at a walk, provided he is unhurt, and not jump any more fences.** Positive scoring ensures points for fences jumped.

Rules for Team Entry:

- DCs should enter their competitors under 12 years in teams of 3 or 4, boys or girls or mixed teams in whatever combinations they wish.
- Minimus will be scored as one competition i.e. teams made up of any combination of boys and girls.
- Where a branch has only one or two competitors, they should enter their individuals and where possible mixed branch teams will be made up by the Chairman of Tetrathlon and the IPC office.
- Team rosettes will be awarded from 1 to 20 places.
- DCs and / or Minimus Trainers should take care when making their entries in relation to Swim lengths expected.
- Please note the number of lengths expected in a 25 metre pool in the column that says Lengths Expected. Also, please enter the additional meters the member is expected to swim in the metres column. e.g. 3 lengths and 10 meters:

Do not enter 3 lengths and 10 metres as 85 metres.

Request Outside Lane	Expected Swim Lengths	Expected Swim Metres (0 - 25)
No	3	10
No	4	24
No	5	0
Yes	1	2

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN FROM YOUR BRANCH ONLINE ENTRIES PAGE

How to Register an Entry for the IPC National Minimus Competition

- DCs are asked to note; parents enter their children to their branch and pay the entry fee to the branch for the IPC Minimus Competition.
- The DC or nominated Minimus Trainer then sorts the entries into teams, names the team using the branch name in the team name, and enters the members in the order in which you wish them to ride.
 - Please scan the entry form to make sure parents have entered the correct information and use correct spelling and correct case i.e. not all capitals and not all lower case etc.
- The DC must then upload the entries to the office and then pay the IPC for their entry.
- Branches with Its Plain Sailing pages may use this to accept entries for the **competitions**.
- All Branch entries must be submitted to the IPC office before **9.30am** on Thursday 1st October 2020.
 - It is recommended that Branches set a Branch Closing Date a few days earlier (at least 24 hours) than this to enable DCs to check the entries, create the teams on the system and follow up with any members who forgot to enter. This is optional to allow your Branch to verify all of your entries before you submit them to the IPC Office.
 - N.B. Each Branch must SUBMIT their entries to the IPC by clicking the submit button. IPC staff cannot access the entries until a Branch selects the SUBMIT button.
- Branches who do not have an Its Plain Sailing account will be e-mailed an excel spreadsheet which they can use to submit entries to the IPC.
- This spreadsheet must be completed in full. A value or text must be entered in all of the relevant columns.
- Do not alter the spreadsheet in any way because this will prevent it being successfully uploaded into Its Plain Sailing.

Information for the Commentator

Information for Commentator is a field that has been included on the entry form in recent years. This should be completed by the parents and verified / edited by the DC or whoever is uploading the entry form. It is not essential but would help the overall enjoyment of the day if the Commentator had some information about the member and his / her pony e.g. rode at Warrington and Area 5 Minimus this year, won the running, had a great swim, her pony Misty was on the Robbie Bailey team in 2016 etc.

Volunteers

Lots of voluntary help is needed for the smooth running of this competition. Each branch is asked to nominate at least one volunteer (in particular fence stewards). You are requested to note this information on the entry form. Please make sure that the person volunteered is aware, and has agreed, that their name has been put forward to assist on the day and that this is not the person in charge of the branch competitors for the cross-country day. Please help to make this a pleasant day for all involved by helping out.

Stabling

A list of private stabling will be available. These private establishments must be contacted by individuals if they wish to book stabling. They must be contacted directly to book stabling. Stabling will be subject to the rules and guidelines of the private establishment.

Camping

- There will be no camping available.

Collection of Numbers

- Branches must appoint one official to collect their competitor's numbers and timing chips on Saturday 10th October from 4pm at the swimming phase in The Watershed, Kilkenny.
- Branches will be given an envelope for each of their competitors containing all of the items that they need for the competition. The envelopes will clearly show the competitors name on the front.
- The Branch official must distribute the envelopes to their competitors.
- Please remind competitors that these envelopes will contain cross country numbers, running numbers and timing chips. They should not be misplaced during the course of the two days.

Cross Country Riding

- Cross Country Riding will be on **Sunday 11th October** in numerical order, **at 1-minute intervals**, from 9.30am. Tack inspection from 9am.
- Members must wear skull caps and body protector according to IPC Cross Country Tack Sheet 2020.
- **Please note that drop down or hunting stirrups are allowed.** Medical armbands must be worn with current membership card included.
- Those sharing will be allowed to go out of order but sharing must be noted on entry form.
- Cross country course will be open for inspection from 9.30am to 4pm on Saturday 10th October. Please ensure that children do not climb on fences or adjust them in any way when walking the course. Also, as per Covid-19 protocols, do not touch any of the fences, the gate or the slip rail.
- On Sunday competitors will be given an allotted time to arrive. All competitors are expected to proceed directly to the Running Phase once they have completed the Cross-Country Riding Phase.

Swimming

- Swimming will take place on Saturday 10th October in the Watershed, Kilkenny from 5pm.
- For directions follow the link below:
 - <https://goo.gl/maps/nxJapsUwV6semcBf7>

Running

- Running will be at Nuenna Farm Equestrian Centre on Sunday 11th October at 11am. Electronic microchip timing equipment will be used.
- Competitors will be started in their teams of 4 – i.e. all 4 (or 3) members of a team will start together and **will be run in strict numerical order.**

Results

- Provisional results will be published on line at www.irishponyclub.ie/tetrathlon throughout the weekend.
- Final results will also be published on this site at the end of the competition.

Queries

- Queries may only be lodged by the Branch District Commissioner or their appointed representative.
- Exact details on how to submit a query will be published as they are finalised.

Appointment of Branch Representatives

- As mentioned in previous points Branches must appoint officials to supervise their members at each phase of the competition. This may be the same person or it may be a different person for each phase. This is at the Branches discretion.
- **This year, Branches must submit the names and contact details for the officials that they have appointed to each phase. Only the appointed officials submitted to the Irish Pony Club will be allowed into the competition zones with their members. If a person is not on the list they will not be allowed to enter.**
- An Its Plain Sailing form will be available on the Irish Pony Club Its Plain Sailing page where the Branch DC or the Branch Its Plain Sailing Administrator can fill out and submit the details for their Branch Appointed Phase Trainers or Supervisors.
- **This form must be completed before Wednesday 7th October 2020.**
- Note: Branches will be only allowed to appoint one trainer or supervisor per phase.

Prize Giving

- There will be no prize giving.

Tetrathlon Rule book

- The Tetrathlon Rule Book is available to download from the Downloads page of the IPC website:
<https://irishponyclub.ie/index.php/downloads>

Covid-19 Protocols

This section summaries the Covid-19 protocols which all attending must follow during the course of the National Minimus competition.

- The Covid-19 Compliance Officers must be obeyed at all times throughout the competition.
- Social distance must be observed at all times.
- Gatherings are strictly prohibited.
- Respiratory etiquette and good hygiene practices must be implemented throughout.
- **No spectators or additional family members to attend the competition. Only those required to assist the competitor prepare for the competition should accompany the member.**
- **Everyone in attendance must bring their own face covering and hand sanitiser. Competitors will be required to wear them over the course of the two days.**
- Temperature checks will be carried out at the entrance to the phases.

Contact Tracing

There will be a form on Its Plain Sailing to capture the contact details for all those attending the National Minimus Competition

- **Competitors and parents or guardians** contact information for those who will be attending the competition will be captured through the competitor's entry form.
 - Advise members and their parents or guardians when completing the entry form that they must list the person who will be attending with the member.
- **Nominated Branch representatives, officials, volunteers and stewards** must complete a contact tracing and Covid-19 declaration form on the Irish Pony Club Its Plain Sailing page. (This form is completely separate to the Branch Competition Entry Form).
 - Note: Only those who have successfully completed this form will be allowed to enter the competition sites over the two days.

A Covid-19 Assistant Steward will be present at the entrance to all sites to record and check off the details of everyone entering the site. This job will run smoothly if all of the contact tracing information is submitted accurately in advance of the competition. Otherwise competitors and vehicles will be required to queue as the contact names and details are recorded on site.

• Travelling to the Competition

- Before travel, competitors should observe good hygiene practices, use the bathroom and wash hands.
- Competitors should procure and bring hand sanitiser, to support their own health and safety.
- Families travel together to the competition with no sharing of lorries or jeeps outside of the family group.
- Punctuality is extremely important. Time slots and arrival times will be published closer to the competition. These must be strictly adhered to. If competitors arrive at a venue outside of their allotted time period, they will not be allowed to enter the venue.
 - Plan travel arrangements carefully.

- **Finished Competing, Depart the Venue**
 - As soon as the competitor completes the Cross-Country Riding Phase, they should go immediately to the Running Phase with their Branch and only the Appointed Branch Running Trainer or Supervisor is permitted to attend this phase. There will be no spectators. All parents must stay in their cars.
 - On completion of the Running Phase, all competitors must leave the venue. The Covid-19 Stewards must be obeyed at all times, in the interest of safety.
 - There should be no hanging around or spectating.
 - All competitors should be instructed to arrive and exit in an orderly manner, obeying directions at all times.

- **Score Board**
 - There will be no score board at the venues.
 - Provisional results followed by final results will be published online.

- **Queries and Results**
 - Queries will be accepted within a timeframe announced closer to the competition, from the publication of the provisional results online.
 - Queries to be made by a District Commissioner (DC) or their representative only.
 - Provisional results will be published online. Competitors will have a specific time frame to lodge a query. Final results will be published following this time frame.

- **Swimming**
 - **Branches must appoint a Branch Swimming Trainer or Supervisor** to support and supervise their members during the swimming phase. The Branch Swimming Trainer **will not be allowed** to enter the swimming pool
 - **No trainers or parents will be allowed** on the deck at the swimming pool.
 - A one-way system will be in place for entering and leaving the pool.
 - A temperature check will be carried out on all personnel entering the swimming pool who did not get it checked earlier in the day. A sticker will be issued to everyone who receives a temperature check.
 - A Covid-19 Steward will manage the entrance to the swimming pool, checking off competitors as they enter and supervising the numbers entering the pool.
 - A Covid-19 Steward will also manage the exit of the swimming pool.
 - Competitors should arrive with their swimming gear on under their clothing, ready to compete with their swimming goggles and hat. An area will be available to undress before entering the pool.
 - Changing rooms **will not be** available.
 - There will be **no warm-up and no warm-up dive** for the swimming phase.
 - All competitors will start from the pool side. There will be no starting blocks.
 - One heat will swim and there will be one heat waiting on the deck.
 - Competitors will complete their swim, leave the pool and towel dry in a specific area.

- **Running**
 - Covid-19 Stewards will manage both the entrance and the exit to the Running Phase.
 - Temperature checks will be carried out on all competitors and personnel as they enter the venue, if they have not already completed a temperature check.
 - If any person has a temperature of 37.5° or above will be requested to return home and if symptoms persist, it would be recommended that they see their GP.
 - A sticker will be issued to everyone who completes the temperature check. Don't lose the sticker. It will be checked at each entrance to a venue throughout the Sunday.
 - As soon as the competitor completes the Cross-Country Riding Phase, they should go immediately to the Running Phase with their Branch and only their Appointed Branch Running Trainer or Supervisor is permitted to attend this phase. There will be no spectators. All parents must stay in their cars.
 - **Branches must appoint on Branch Running Trainer** to supervise members in the warm-up zone for the running phase. This appointed person will be the only individual allowed in this zone. Parents must remain in the parking area.
 - Once competitors have completed the running phase, they should prepare to leave the venue directly.
- **Cross Country**
 - Dependent on the final number of entries, competitors will be divided into blocks. Each block will be given a cross country start time and based on this time slots where they should present for tack inspection and warm up.
 - Competitors must bring their own cross-country number bibs for this phase. Cross country numbers will be issued within the competitor information packs.
 - Competitors should wear a disposable face covering for the cross-country riding phase under their chin.
 - There will be no spectators around the cross country course during the competition.
 - As soon as the competitor completes the Cross-Country Riding Phase, they should go immediately to the Running Phase with their Branch and only their Appointed Branch Running Trainer or Supervisor is permitted to attend this phase. There will be no spectators. All parents must stay in their cars.

Exact details of competitor start times, group details, arrival times etc. will be published once entries have been analysed.

- **Cross Country Course Walks**
 - Nuenna Farm Equestrian Centre will be open for course walk:
 - Saturday 10th October from 9.30am to 4pm.
 - Covid-19 Stewards will manage the entrance and exit to Nuenna Farm Equestrian Centre throughout the course walk periods.
 - Only the competitors and the Appointed Branch Trainer or Supervisor will be allowed to walk the course on Saturday 10th October from 9.30am to 4pm at their allotted time.
 - (This is to prevent large numbers of people entering the course at the one time.)

- Therefore, Branches must arrange a time where all of their competitors meet at the cross-country course, to walk the course together as one group, with their Appointed Cross-Country Trainer or Supervisor.
 - Branches will only be allowed to walk the course once on Saturday 10th October.
 - A Covid-19 Steward will mark off every Branch that walks the course and the Branch will not be allowed to re-enter the course after that course walk on Saturday. (No Branch will be allowed a second course-walk.)
- A temperature check will be carried out at the entrance to Nuenna Farm Equestrian Centre for all competitors, trainers etc.
 - Anyone with a temperature in the group will be advised to return home and will not be allowed to enter the venue.
- Those walking the course will be required to wear a face covering during the course walk while maintaining a 2m social distancing at all times.
- Each person walking the course must carry their own individual hand sanitiser and use it before and after using the slip rail and gate.
- Avoid clustering in these areas and around the fences. Due to Covid-19, please advise all members etc. that they should not handle the slip rail or gate on any of the course walks.
- Only a certain number of competitors will be allowed to be on the course at any one time with a 15-minute period between each group walking. The Covid-19 Steward at the gate will manage these numbers to prevent large numbers walking the course at any one time.
- Parents or Guardians will only be allowed to walk the course with their competitor on the morning of the cross-country phase before their competitors start time. A window of 20 to 30 minutes will be allowed for this. Only the parent or guardian noted on the competition entry form will be allowed to accompany their competitor on the course walk.
- **Tack Inspection**
 - A thorough check of tack should be carried out by the parent or guardian accompanying the competitor before leaving the box prior to presenting for Tack Inspection.
 - Only the appointed Branch Cross Country Trainer or Supervisor will be allowed to accompany a Branches competitors to Tack Inspection.
 - The Branch Cross Country Trainer or Supervisor will complete any corrections to tack required at Tack Inspection.
 - The Branch Cross Country Trainer or Supervisor should bring hand sanitiser and a face covering to Tack Inspection and sanitise their hands between competitors.
 - Parents may wait for their children at the finish to help them with their horse or pony and proceed back to the horse box or lorry.

Option Fences 2020

The Tetrathlon Committee would ask Branch DCs and Minimus or Tetrathlon Trainers to ensure that all members taking part in the National Minimus and Tetrathlon competition and their parents become familiar with and encourage the use of the Option fences especially for the less experienced newer and younger riders going out cross country.

Option fences have been incorporated into the cross-country courses for Minimus and Tetrathlon for a couple of specific reasons.

- To help inexperienced and or young IPC riders and teams to successfully complete the cross-country course.
- To help riders to complete the cross-country course as safely and quickly as possible while not blocking up the course for other Branch team members and competitors.

The Option fences were introduced in 2016 in response to feedback. However, they have not always been fully utilized because of the lack of understanding and the reason for having them at local level by parents, trainers and committee members.

Option fences will be numbered the same as the fence it is beside but with an O beside the number. It will be of a lesser height and more encouraging to jump, to allow members to move forward on the course. The penalty for taking the option is 70 penalties this year.

The Tetrathlon committee have prepared a couple of examples to help explain how the scoring can be managed using the Option fences to best effect to get the best score for the cross-country riding phase.

(Selecting the Option fence incurs 70 penalties, a first refusal incurs 60 penalties, second refusal incurs 90 penalties and a third refusal incurs 100 penalties).

- If a rider selected the Option fence at the 5 toughest fences on the course, they would incur 5 x 70 penalties, totalling 350 penalties. In total that rider would get 1,050 points for their cross-country phase (1,400 – 350).
- In contrast if the same rider had three refusals at either the main obstacle or the option, they would incur 250 penalties at just one obstacle (60 + 90 + 100) and be asked to move on to the next fence with the potential for further penalties.
- In the case where a rider wishes to attempt the main obstacle once and incurs a refusal, it is often their best option to attempt the Option fence next. This will incur a penalty of 130 (60 + 70) rather than the higher penalties which would be incurred for a second and a third refusal at the main obstacle (250 penalties).
- A second refusal at the main obstacle followed by the rider taking the option fence would incur 220 penalties (60 + 90 + 70).
- Three refusals at any combination of the main obstacle or Option fence and the competitor will be asked to move onto the next fence.
- Extra 100 points for any team whose whole team go clear. Individual does not get the points.