



# The Pony Club Hat Rule - 2015

It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet bearing the CE mark **and** manufactured to one of the minimum standards listed below; the CE symbol on its own is not sufficient to ensure consistent standard of manufacture:

<b>British</b> - PAS 015:1998 or 2011* / BS** EN 1384: 1996, 1997 or 2012 <b>European</b> - EN 1384:1996, 1997 or 2012	} <b>Only with the BSI Kitemark</b>	
<b>American</b> – Snell E2001* with the official Snell label and number		
<b>Australia and New Zealand</b> - AS/NZS 3838 1998, 2003 or 2006		

\* The PAS 015:1998 or 2011 and the Snell E2001 meet higher impact criteria and therefore give more protection.

\*\* The prefix 'BS' on the EN 1384 standard does not mean that the hat has undergone batch testing by the British Standards Institute – the hat must contain the BSI Kitemark as well.

- For cross-country riding (over fences 0.80m high and above), including Eventing, Tetrathlon and Horse Trials and also Pony Racing (whether it be tests, rallies or training) a jockey skull cap, with no fixed peak, must be worn. It is also strongly recommended that a jockey skull cap is worn for cross country riding over lower fences.
- **No recording device is permitted (e.g hat cameras) as they may have a negative effect on the performance of the hat in the event of a fall.**
- The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit. The hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.
- Hats must be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use.
- Hats, must be worn at all times (including at prize-giving) when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall.
- For Show Jumping and Mounted Games the cover, **if applicable**, shall be dark blue, black or brown only.
- **For Dressage – hats and hat covers must be predominately black, navy blue or a conservative dark colour that matches the rider's jacket for Area competitions or above.** The Pony Club Hat silk is also acceptable.
- The Official Steward/Organiser may, at his discretion, eliminate a competitor riding in the area of the competition without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened or with a hat that does not comply with these standards.

**Hat Checks and Tagging** - The Branch DC will appoint two Branch officials (one of whom may be the DC) who are familiar with The Pony Club rule for hats to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the above requirements with a Pony Club hat tag. Centre Members' hats may also be tagged by Centre Proprietors and Co-ordinators. Hats fitted with a Pony Club tag will not need to be checked on subsequent occasions.

Tags may only be fitted by one of the two appointed Branch officials, Area Representatives, the Health and Safety Committee Chairman, Centre Proprietors or Centre Co-ordinators after they have personally checked the hat.

Tagging indicates that a hat meets the above standards, NO check of the fit and condition of the hat is implied. It is considered to be the responsibility of the Member's parent or guardian to ensure that their hat complies with the required standards and is tagged before they go to any Pony Club event. Also, they are responsible for ensuring that the manufacturer's guidelines with regard to fit and replacement are followed.