

The Pony Club is the only organisation to offer its Members the opportunity to take part, and compete in, up to nine different sports, including – Dressage, Endurance, Eventing, Mounted Games, Polo, Polocrosse, Pony Racing, Show Jumping and Tetrathlon.

We have put together a brief overview of each Pony Club sport so you can find out a bit more about them. For further details visit our website www.pcuk.org or call **024 7669 8300**.



Dressage

A Dressage rider performs a series of set movements, known as a Dressage test, under the watchful eye of a judge who marks each movement out of ten. The judge will look at how well the horse or pony listens to the rider's aids, as well as how supple and relaxed he or she is. At the end of the competition marks are added up and the winner is the rider with the highest score.

There are lots of ways to get involved, and you may be able to have someone read your test out so you don't have to remember it. You can also team up with a friend to take part in pairs competitions or strut your stuff to your favourite tunes in Dressage to Music. Pony Club Dressage is from Novice to Elite level; perfect whether you're just learning the basics or you're proficient at the piaffe!



Endurance

An Endurance ride takes place along a specified route for a set distance which increases in length as you work your way up through the levels. You will be given a map of the route a few days before the competition which you will need to study carefully in order to plan your pace so you finish in time.

There are five levels in Pony Club Endurance and there is no restriction on older members competing in Novice rides. You don't need any special equipment to begin with, and anyone over the age of five can take part.



Eventing

Eventing involves three different phases of competition; Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country. Dressage is usually ridden first, and involves performing a series of set movements, usually at walk, trot and canter. Next comes the Show Jumping round, where you will jump a course of colourful show jumps, being careful not to knock any down. The final phase is the Cross Country round which is a longer course of solid fences, as well as other obstacles like ditches to jump and water to cross.

Pony Club Eventing offers something for everyone; from fun training and competitions suitable for Members starting their eventing journey, to high level events held over one or two days for the more experienced who want the opportunity to ride as part of a team or as an individual.



Mounted Games

If you love gymkhana games and being part of a team, Pony Club Mounted Games is for you! Fast, furious and lots of fun, teams take part in a variety of relay races requiring speed, control, co-ordination and balance.

Anyone under the age of 15 can take part, and you will see Pony Club Mounted Games thrilling the crowds at events and shows up and down the UK, including Horse of the Year Show where Members compete for the coveted Prince Philip Cup.



Polo

Polo is often described as hockey on horseback. It's a team sport where riders strike a ball with a stick in order to score goals. Pony Club Polo can be played between the ages of 6 - 21 across seven sections based on age groups and handicaps, so you can play whether you're just starting out or you've got a bit of experience under your belt. Tournaments are held during the spring and summer holidays, and our Championships are the pinnacle of a Pony Club Polo player's year.



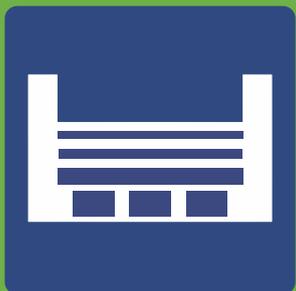
Polocrosse

Thrilling to watch and take part in, Polocrosse is a combination of Polo and Lacrosse. It is a team sport requiring courage and determination, which helps develop all-round riding ability. Each player uses a stick which has a net on the end of it to carry the ball in. The ball is passed from player to player and, like Polo, the idea is to score goals. Any type of horse or pony can take part, and The Pony Club offers a wealth of training and competing opportunities from Mini to Open levels including annual Championships where players battle to clinch the coveted top spots in their sections.



Pony Racing

Pony Racing is a brilliant way for Pony Club Members to get a taste of what real racing is like, but on a smaller scale! Riders aged between 9 and 15 with a pony 14.2hh (148cm) and under can take part in races at varying distances at some of the best known racecourses in the UK. Just like professional jockeys, riders wear their racing silks or cross country colours, weigh in, weigh out and parade in The Paddock before the race starts. We offer Novice races for beginners right up to Open races for the more experienced.



Show Jumping

In Show Jumping, you jump a course of numbered, coloured fences in a grass field or in an arena. Penalties, known as 'faults' are incurred if the poles are knocked down by the horse, if they stop at a fence (known as refusing) or run around it (known as a run out). Riders with fault free rounds can be eligible to take part in a shorter course, known as a 'jump off' where the fastest rider with the fewest faults will be declared the winner. Pony Club Show Jumping training and competitions are held all year round, and with enough practice riders can reach Elite level and take part in Championships with fences up to 1.25m.



Tetrathlon

Pony Club Tetrathlon is a challenging competition requiring practical horsemanship, all round athletic ability and a steady hand for the shooting phase. Tetrathletes shoot, swim, ride and run their way to success throughout the year at training sessions and competitions all over the UK. The riding phase typically takes place over cross country fences, but also includes a slip rail requiring you to dismount then get back on again to complete the course. If you're new to Tetrathlon you will be able jump show jumps instead of cross country fences, and throw bean bags at a target instead of firing a pistol. Levels are from Minimus to Open, and there are separate sections for boys and girls.