**MORPETH HUNT PC TEAM SELECTION POLICY 2025**

All members are expected to abide by the following principles:

**“As a Member of the Pony Club I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship.**

**I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in my stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being. I shall at all times treat my horse with due consideration.”**

This policy applies to the following competitions:

All Area Competitions, Regional Qualifiers, Interbranch Competitions and Championships.

All Mounted Games Friendlies, Areas, Zones and Championships

Team selection will, as far as possible be carried out by the person best qualified for the task. Ideally this is the team trainer and where required branch chief instructor and District Commissioner. They will try to take into account all factors but most particularly will assess commitment and performance.

Any member not selected for a team but still eligible to enter the competition as an individual is encouraged so to do since they may be needed for the team as a last-minute substitute and in any event their individual performance may influence future team selection.

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**

Full eligibility rules are available in the associated Pony Club Sport Rule Book.

Each rider/parent is responsible for ensuring they understand and comply with the PC Sport Rule Book and are eligible for selection. Dates for the Area and National events are on the relevant websites and all riders applying for consideration for selection MUST be available for the dates of the respective competitions and associated Championship should they qualify.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

All team selection will be done as fairly and openly as possible. The Selectors reserve the right not to send a team or individual to any competition. In order to be eligible to compete at Area and other Competitions, members and their horse/pony must have actively taken part in at least 3 rallies during the previous 12-month period unless prevented from doing so by illness, absence from home, or any other reason which in the opinion of the DC justifies the absence. For the purposes of this rule a rally is one which is organised by a Branch Committee and must be a minimum of 1 hour in length. Camp shall be counted as one rally.

In addition to demonstrating loyalty to the Branch, the combination of horse and rider may also be required to prove their competence, safety and fitness of horse or pony, in the specific sport and level that the member wishes to participate at. Recent form will take priority. Past form at major and team events may be taken into consideration by the Selectors. Rider behaviour and attitude will also be taken into account.

Riders need to register their interest in being considered for teams by completing the expression of interest form available on our website and which is emailed to all parents at the beginning of each year.

**TEAM SPIRIT**

MHPC expects riders and their supporters to have a good attitude and participate in as many activities within the Branch as possible, either riding or helping. A high level of commitment is important.

We expect the members to support and help each other at all times as well as accepting advice in a constructive way. All team members must respect the decisions made by the team trainer at all times. Take pride in the turnout of yourself and your pony, be polite and thankful to the organisers.

If you are involved in prize giving, please wear your hair net and riding attire including your hat unless directed otherwise by the organiser.

If you are unsure of any rules please contact the relevant team trainer.

**MOUNTED GAMES TEAM SELECTION**

As you will all be aware we have a number of talented children and ponies competing for team places this year. Undoubtedly there will be movement between teams. Possibly even after Areas, depending on how children and ponies develop and cope with different races. Competitions already attended and those coming up will give all children a chance prove that they deserve a team place. It is understood that there will be circumstances beyond parents’ control which mean children may not always be able to attend training or a competition. However, it must be understood that Pony Club competitions and training should take priority, if at all possible. Places will be allocated on ability, attendance at competitions as well as training throughout the year, positive attitude and a willingness to listen and try to do as asked and good team spirit.

MHPC 2025