

MEMO - MANDATORY GEAR CHECKING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CLUBS



Release April 2017

Pony Club WA is committed to providing training opportunities for not only its riders, but also volunteers and officials. This memo is to inform clubs and event organisers of the new requirements regarding gear checkers at clubs, club competitions and state championship events.

Pony Club WA would like all its members to be able to attend training moments so that through our movement they acquire new skills, especially to help manage a safe environment for its riding members.

In the past, the association has invited members and clubs to request gear checking training clinics. Despite even funding being made readily available, the take up on these training opportunities has not been strong. Making our goal to increase the skill set of our membership challenging. Skilled volunteers are more effective, enjoy their roles and bring value to the association.

In 2016, GCAP drafted a proposal and sent this for comment to all discipline committees. It was ratified by State Coaching Panel in November and later ratified by the Board.

The following policies are the result of this consultation and drafting. To incentivise clubs to ensure they have skilled members in gear checking:

Policy 1.

Club Level Gear Checkers:

As of July, 1 2017 – All Pony Club WA Clubs are highly recommended to ensure that they have at least 1 current Accredited Gear Checker.

As of January, 1 2018 – All Pony Club WA Clubs will be required to have at least 1 current Accredited Gear Checker to be allowed to host ANY PC competition. A club must ensure that an Accredited Gear Checker is present for each of their competitions. It may be their own club Accredited Gear Checker, or an Accredited Gear Checker from outside their club.

Policy 2.

State Championship Level Gear Checkers

As of January, 1 2017, all PC State Championship Events must appoint a Chief Gear Checker (that is Accredited) to supervise gear checking and support officials at the event. Gear Checkers (as helper duties) are recommended to be assigned and confirmed prior to the commencement of the event. A Gear Checker briefing will be held prior to the event to brief all Team Managers and Gear Checkers. Event Organisers recommended to provide a pencil/pen to support the Gear Checker/s also.



Policy 3.

Club Event Gear Checking and Pencilling Allocation

As of January, 1 2017, all PC Events are strongly recommended to appoint a Gear Checker plus a Penciller to the post of Gear Checking. Not recommended for a Gear Checker to operate on their own. Gear Checker encouraged to be known to be experienced and capable of observing the Pony Club WA Code of Conduct for Officials. Event organisers may contact GCAP for an updated list of accredited gear checkers and members that have attended gear checking clinics.

In conclusion, Pony Club WA feels the above three policies are needed to improve gear checking knowledge at the club level, support at state championship events and better resource gear checkers at events. Our goal is not to be restrictive or bureaucratic, but rather to set a minimum standard for our pony club community with regards to the gear checking function. Which is so critical in performing the safety and comfort check for our riders and their horses / ponies.

GCAP meets monthly and the group are happy to discuss any gear checking feedback that members may have. The group are contactable at gearchecking@ponyclubwa.asn.au