



Announcing the 2019 Pony Club WA Gear Checking Manual

2019 BRIDGING DOCUMENT

The Manual is available for download (free) from Pony Club WA Gear Checking page
 Pony Club WA → Resources → Club Resources → Gear Check Manual
www.ponyclubwa.asn.au/gear-check-manual/#1510812259514-3c6a3a34-d889

Purchase the Manual from the Pony Club WA Bookshop (online) for \$40.00
www.ponyclubwa.asn.au/product/pony-club-wa-2019-gear-checking-manual

The manual for 2019, as per 2018 still has five key sections, with competition and rally rules in Section 1. Other sections feature Guidelines, Process, Forms and Templates and Precs.

The 2019 version supersedes all prior versions.

Rows highlighted with yellow, indicate areas where a rule change has been brought in.

Rows not highlighted (white background), indicate areas where text has been improved for clarity.

Accreditation is now valid for three years instead of two years.

If reading the 2018 version, the following table may assist in comparing changes made for 2019:

Changes Made to 2019 Version	
1.	<p>Rule Change - Jewellery – Earrings / Piercings. The word ‘piercings’ inserted.</p> <p>Reasoning: Jewellery – Earrings / Piercings. The word ‘piercings’ inserted, intent is that the rule applies equally to facial piercings as for earrings. Reasoning behind this is after discussion, we found it was very unlikely that facial piercings of a very small size <5mm will cause injury. Sleepers, hoop earrings and spacers do not apply for this rule as they are clearly dangerous.</p>
2.	<p>Rule Change – discrete diamantes allowed on jodhpurs/breeches</p> <p>Reasoning: Jodhpurs / Breeches – We decided that elements on jods that don’t make them unsafe, we should permit. So discrete diamantes were deemed to fit this. We still believe that logos and embroidery should not be allowed, in keeping with our traditions. This does not come up very often. Diamantes however are quite prevalent.</p>
3.	<p>Rule Change: Pony Club Badge optional for Pony Club Mount</p> <p>Reasoning: PC Badge – Games asked that the badge be optional and not mandatory for PC Mount</p>



4.	<p>Rule Change: Bit guards permitted in Dressage and Eventing Dressage</p> <p>Reasoning: Bit Guards – GCAP believe the comfort of the pony is very important. Pony club is where we will predominantly have junior riders with junior hands that will not be kind on a pony’s mouth. Bit guards can assist with this, in minimising discomfort from a bit being pulled through their mouth. We believe that if this is a tool that suits our members most, then it should be allowed across the board, in all disciplines. EA does not allow in dressage or dressage eventing for bit guards to be used. We are aware of this. However we would like PC to put the pony first, and be the movement where a piece of equipment that can help comfort of the pony, be allowed.</p>
5.	<p>Rule Change: Shadow Rollers/Any shield fitted to the noseband. Permitted if less than 3 cm in all except Dressage and eventing Dressage. Not permitted if greater than 3 cm. Shadow rollers can be worn in Musical Ride.</p> <p>Reasoning: Shadow Rollers – GCAP has become aware of members curiously asking if they can ride with shadow rollers. However, the members just want to wear them because the big guys wear them in World Cup and high-level eventing. Shadow rollers have their place in the racing industry. However, we believe this is a piece of gear that the majority of members will think ‘looks cool’ but actually have no idea what it does to the horse’s vision, head movements and head carriage. Therefore, we believe it is a dangerous piece of gear to be fitted in junior and uninformed hands.</p>
6.	<p>Rule Change: Nosebands are now permitted in all activities, but NOT mandatory.</p> <p>Reasoning: Bridle – Nosebands are now permitted in all activities, but NOT mandatory anymore. We see far too many nosebands fitted, very poorly. We would rather see no noseband on the horse, than one fitted incorrectly that may then be too tight, too low or ineffectual. This is like Number 180, we wish to let go of some tradition and make rule changes forward that allow the comfort of the pony. We don’t think that many members will compete without nosebands but if they do, fine. Horses can go very nicely with no noseband at all. This is also aimed at the members joining pony club and they may come from a camp drafting / polocrosse environment where this is not fitted. So we suggest this rule change to increase inclusiveness.</p>
7.	<p>Rule Change: Hoods during ridden activities – Not permitted except for Musical Ride.</p> <p>Reasoning: Hoods – There are new hood products coming onto the market and members have asked if they can compete with hoods i.e. skinny hoods, therapeutic head hoods. We don’t think this type of gear is suitable for horses being exercised or ridden. Much like shadow rollers, we think these are a gadget that members will think looks cool or makes their horse comfortable, when it actually does nothing at all. Much like the majority of ear bonnets which became the rage a few years ago.</p>
8.	<p>Rule Clarification: Horse Boots – remove the words ‘over tensioned’</p>



	Reasoning: Horse Boots – Removed words “that can be over-tightened”. This was often misinterpreted and some boots that are used widely were being banned by ill-informed gear checkers.
9.	Rule change: Expanded nosebands listed Reasoning: Nosebands – Expanded nosebands listed in line with those mentioned in EA and FEI.
10.	Rule Change: Medical Armband mandatory in Eventing and Hickstead/Hunter Trials Reasoning: Omitted in 2018 manual
11.	Rule Change: Mouthguard permitted in all disciplines Reasoning: safety

Fundamental changes to bits in Pony Club

1.	Rule Change: WTP normal plate mouthpiece allowed in all disciplines Reasoning: WTP normal plate mouthpiece allowed in all disciplines. This is a kind bit with a lozenge style middle piece. Arguments against it by EA/FEI in dressage is that the middle piece is a tongue suppressant which is frankly questionable. Also EA / FEI argue that the bit does not fully hinge to a “v” as a single jointed snaffle or french link snaffle. We find this a moot point.
2.	Rule Change: New cheekpieces added Reasoning: New cheekpieces added: Williams Wilkie, Williams Universal, Williams 4-ring, American Gag, DC Morgan, Eggbutt 2.5 ring, Bomber kimbelwick, Bomber tom thumb, Taylor tom thumb, Universal Wilkie, Kimberley Dee, T-Bar 3-ring. The matrix tells you where they are and are not permitted. These cheekpieces really do only operate in the same way many permitted cheekpieces already do. However they are on the market, look different and were not in our 2018 manual. It is these that make many bits restricted in given disciplines.
3.	Rule Change: New mouthpieces added: Bomber Elliptical, Bomber Barrel 20/30, Bomber Ported Barrel, Bomber Blue, Bomber Blue Mullen, Buster Roller, McHardy, Happy Tongue and Control Plate Reasoning: Bomber mouthpieces are engineered with comfort in mind and offer varying degrees of tongue relieve and diverting pressure kindly across the tongue.