



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

Follow these steps to get there:

1. Pony Club WA website
2. Resources
3. Club Resources
4. Gear Checking manual

Purchase the Manual from the Pony Club WA Bookshop (online) for \$40.00

It is recommended that each club has a hard copy for gear checkers to be able to refer back to at events..

The manual for 2019, as per 2018 still has five key sections:

Section 1. Competition and rally rules

Section 2. Guidelines (these are not rules but recommendations on fit etc)

Section 3. Process

Section 4. Forms and Templates

Section 5. Precis (at times you may need to refer back to section 1)

The 2019 version supersedes all prior versions.

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

Again I would recommend that you do purchase/download the 2019 version as in the 2018 version we had required for, permitted in and it became quite complicated to understand. We have now changed it to permitted in and then either **Y (yes permitted)** **N (not permitted)** **M (mandatory)**

CHANGES MADE TO 2019 VERSION

1. RULE CHANGE: Jewellery – Earrings/Piercings The word piercings inserted

Reasoning : The word piercing inserted, intent is that the rule applies equally to facial piercings as for earrings. After many discussions, we found it was very unlikely that facial piercing of a very small size <5mm will cause injury.

2. RULE CHANGE : Discrete diamantes permitted on Jodphurs/breeches

Reasoning : It was 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 permitted, in keeping with our traditions.

3 .RULE CHANGE: Pony Club Badge optional for Pony Club Mount

Reasoning : Active riding committee asked that the badge be optional and not mandatory for pony club mount

4. **RULE CHANGE:** Bit guards permitted in all Disciplines

Reasoning : GCAP believe the comfort of the pony is very important. Pony club is where we will predominantly have junior riders with hands that will not always be kind on their ponies mouths. Bit guards can assist with this, minimising discomfort from bit being pulled through ponies mouth. We believe if that if this is a piece of equipment that suits our members most, then it should be permitted across all disciplines. EA at this stage do not permit it in dressage but we would like to think Pony club put the welfare of the pony first.

5. **RULE CHANGE :** Shadow/rollers/Any shield fitted to the noseband. Permitted if less than 3cm in all except dressage and eventing dressage. Not permitted if greater than 3cm. Shadow rollers permitted in Musical ride.

Reasoning : GCAP became 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 the world cup and high level eventing.

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 horses vision, head movements and head carriage. Therefore, we believe it is a dangerous piece of gear to be fitted in junior and uninformed hands.

6. RULE CHANGE : Nosebands are permitted in all activities, but NOT mandatory

Reasoning : We see too many nosebands fitted, very poorly. We would rather see no nosebands on the horse, than one fitted incorrectly that may then be too tight, too low or ineffectual. This is a rule change moving forward for the comfort of the horse/pony. Horses can perform quite well without nosebands, so should be the choice of the rider.

7. RULE CHANGE : Hoods during ridden activities – Not permitted except for musical ride.

Reasoning : 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 feel these are not suitable for being ridden in.

8. RULE CLARIFICATION : Horse Boots – remove the words over tensioned.

Reasoning : This was often misinterpreted and some boots that are widely used were being banned by ill informed gear checkers.

9. RULE CHANGE : Expanded nosebands listed

Reasoning : Expanded nosebands listed in line with those mentioned in EA and FEI. (we do not always align with EA but if particular gear is suited to pony club we can include it in our manual).

10. RULE CHANGE : Medical Armband mandatory in eventing and Hickstead/hunter trials.

Reasoning : This was a rule that was accidentally omitted from the 2018 manual.

11. RULE CHANGE : Mouthguard permitted in all disciplines.

Reasoning : Safety

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO BITS IN PONY CLUB FOR 2019

1. RULE CHANGE : WTP normal plate mouthpiece permitted in all disciplines.

Reasoning : This is a kind bit with a lozenge style middle piece.

2. RULE CHANGE : New Cheek pieces added

Reasoning : Williams, Wilkie, Williams Universal, Williams 4-ring, American Gag,

DC morgan, Eggbutt 2.5ring, Bomber kimblewick, Bomber Tom Thumb, Taylor Tom Thumb, Universal Wilkie, Kimberley Dee, T Bar 3 ring, The bit matrix in section 1 will tell you where they are permitted or not permitted. These cheek pieces really do operate in the same way as many permitted cheek pieces already do. However they are on the market, look different and were not in our 2018 manual.

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 the comfort of the horse in mind and offer varying degrees of tongue relief and diverting pressure kindly across the tongue.



WANTED

GCAP MEMBERS

- Do you want to be part of gear checking rules decisions?????
- Do you want to be part of change, for the better of horse and rider comfort?????
- Our role at GCAP is to :
 1. Promote gear checking education throughout the state
 2. Deal with enquiries in regards to exemption requests.
 3. Perform research on rider attire, horse/pony turnout and saddlery.

4. Prepare documentation for the gear checking manual.
5. Receive gear checking report forms from events conducted and keep log of offenders.
6. Update accredited gear checkers list via office

Meeting are via Go To Meeting software so you do not even have to leave the comfort of your home.

BE PART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Please contact Dianne Ould at gearchecking@ponyclubwa.asn.au or phone: 0418905324

Thank you for your attention

