

# Hat, body protector and FLU vaccination rules – 1st January 2023

## Hat rules effective 1st January 2023:

Please note that from the 1st January 2023, the following hat standards will **no longer be accepted**:

1. PAS O15 1998
2. SNELL 2001

To manage this change, a new colour of hat tag will be issued.

**VERY IMPORTANT: hats with fixed peaks are NOT allowed for jumping over 80cm as there is a risk of neck injury from these!! (Over extension of the neck backwards)**

We feel that a jockey scull type hat is therefore recommended for all Pony Club activities, whatever height you are jumping.

**Please read The Pony Club hat rules and make sure your hat qualifies.** If you are going to buy a new hat, it's a good idea to read the Rule carefully, print it out and take it with you to the shop to ensure you don't buy a hat which will not be usable.

UK equestrian organisations have joined together to unify the hat standards across all three Member Bodies; resulting in a single hat tag being accepted across British Eventing, The Pony Club and British Riding Club events from 2018 onwards.

The coloured hat tag will carry the logo of the body that checks the hat so that the source of the tagging can be tracked and will mean that riders no longer have to wear multiple tags on their hats. Make sure you get your hat tagged when you go to your first Pony Club activity of 2023!



## Body Protector Rule 2023

In simple terms, the 2018 black blue label is the one to have.

If you are planning to buy a body protector, only buy one that carries this label!

The 2009 purple on white logo is only ok until end of 2023

The 2000 purple on white label is no good at all – no longer accepted!

**No purple label body protectors will be accepted in 2024!**

We recommend body protectors are worn by all!

## Cross country rallies:

The Pony Club does not make the use of body protectors compulsory, except for all Cross Country riding and Pony Racing whether it be training or competing.

For general use, the responsibility for choosing body protectors and the decision as to

their use must rest with Members and their parents. It is recommended that a rider's body protector should not be more than 2% of their body weight. When worn, body protectors must fit correctly, be comfortable and must not restrict movement. BETA recommends body protectors are replaced at least every three to five years, after which the impact absorption properties of the foam may have started to decline.

Riders who choose to use the Woof Wear Body Cage EXO must lodge a key with the Event Organiser when they collect their number.

### **Flu vaccination rules:**

## **UPDATE: Equine Influenza Vaccine Shortage (8th September 2022)**

The Pony Club has been in discussion with fellow Members of the BEF and have worked on a joint approach to issues with the distribution of equine influenza doses (flu vacc) by Boehringer.

The Pony Club supports the effort to alleviate pressure on vaccine supply and is in agreement with the approach for general leisure horses at lower risk to defer the annual booster injection from 12 months to 15 months in consultation with their vet. The vet should sign and date the passport appropriately. If the booster is deferred, the subsequent booster must be within 9 months in order to maintain the 2 injections within 2 years protocol.

The "within 6 months +21 days" has been temporarily suspended by BEF Member bodies, for The Pony Club, this requirement is for horses and ponies competing at the Spring Festival final and the summer Area competitions and Championships so is currently unaffected.

The shortage is likely to be for a few weeks this autumn.

Members who affiliate or compete with other organisations such as the BHA, Olympic disciplines or have international aspirations to compete under FEI rules are strongly advised to stay within the 12-month vaccination requirement or be at risk of restarting. The BEF is working closely with venues such as racecourses that are used by Members and will provide further information regarding their acceptance of the 15 month interval.

### **Camp: annual booster given at least 7 days before camp which will follow the initial course outlined in the rules – please read!**

Did you know? It is now compulsory for all ponies and horses entering any competitions at Area Level and Above, to produce a valid equine passport and vaccination record, which must:

- must accompany the Horse to all Events
- must be available for inspection
- must be produced on request at any other time during the Event

Failure to comply with these requirements is a breach of the Vaccination Rule and the Horse will only be allowed to compete at the PC Steward's discretion.

No Horse may take part in a PC Event (which includes entering competition stables) unless it has a current vaccination against [equine influenza](#). For more details, please read the Pony Club rules with care!

FULL STORY HERE:

<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/news/update-equine-influenza-vaccine-shortage>

**General safety:**

Stirrups – please make sure that stirrups are the correct width for footwear being worn: they must be large enough to allow about 1/4" (7mm) at each side of the rider's foot. (The Manual of Horsemanship) **Please check this when you buy new boots – bigger sizes are wider!**

Stitching on stirrup leather (buckle end) and the fold where the stirrup hangs from  
– **check for wear and weak stitching!**

Girth straps on the saddle – **replace when worn!**

Girth – check for any weak stitching or wear

**No earrings, necklaces, bracelets – that includes the boys!**