

15. COMBINED TEAMS

Members from a Branch/Centre unable to raise a complete team may combine with another Branch/Centre from within their Area to form a combined team. A combined team may consist of riders and ponies who would be eligible under these rules to compete in a Branch/ Centre team or of riders who would be ineligible only because the rider was not a Member

of the Pony Club as required by rule 14(a)

A combined team which consists entirely of riders who, and ponies which, would otherwise be eligible to compete in a Branch/ Centre team, will be eligible to score points and qualify for finals and overall placings. A combined team which contains one or more riders or ponies which would not be eligible to compete other by virtue of this rule may not qualify for

finals or overall placings. A combined team cannot qualify for the Zone Final (see note at end of this rule), but their inclusion in the Area Competition will contribute to the overall number of qualifying teams from Area to Zone.

A combined team may only be created with the permission of all District Commissioners/Centre Proprietors concerned and the Area Representative. Teams must have practised together at least once before the Area competition and the Area Competition Entry Form must be fully completed naming the Team Trainer and District Commissioner/Centre Proprietor/ Representative with overall responsibility for the combined team.

NB. In exceptional circumstances if an eligible combined team can demonstrate that both Branches/Centres cannot make up a team, and this is confirmed by the Mounted Games Committee and by both DC/ CP signing the appropriate Declaration Form, they will be allowed to go forward to Zone Finals, however combined teams would be unable to

progress further to The Pony Club Championships or qualify for HOYS.

Combined Teams would be reviewed every year and Branches/Centres will be encouraged to seek new Members to compete as a Branch/ Centre Team.

16. TRANSFER OF MEMBERS

Any member who has transferred from one Branch/Centre to another since the previous year's competition, other than as a direct result of a permanent change of residence into the district of the new Branch/ Centre, may not represent their new Branch/ Centre in the Area

Competition or any of the subsequent qualifying stages for the Prince Philip Cup, if they have represented their previous Branch at any such level in the previous calendar year. This does not apply to the Juniors, Pairs, Novice & Grassroots competitions. However, should a junior rider represent their senior team in the Prince Philip Cup then the above rule applies.

20. GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR/NOVICE COMPETITION - AREA COORDINATORS

- a) **AREA COORDINATORS:-** This is a voluntary role with the aim of giving as many Pony Club members as possible the opportunity to try the sport of Mounted Games.

An Area MG Coordinator must be passionate about Mounted Games and knowledgeable about its rules. They should be over the age of 21 and have experience of being a team trainer, team manager, line steward, MG Committee member or DC. They can be an existing or previous member.

Main areas of focus:

- 1) To give support to the Official Steward at the Area Mounted Games competition.
 - 2) To respond to any branch or centre request for help in starting up Mounted Games or a branch or centre request to give some initial help with grass roots and novice teams, riders and their team trainer.
 - 3) Work with the Area Representative and Branches and Centres in the Area to enable them to offer Mounted Games. This should be done by being a source of advice and support to help understanding of the game and by helping them find coaches and equipment.
 - 4) Support the development of Mounted Games within the Area. To help promote branches and centres to start up grass roots & novice 'Give it a Go' taster Rallies and fun training days.
 - 5) Where possible, to help branches to organise Area training events which are open to all Pony Club members from within the Area.
 - 6) Act as a point of contact within the Area for Parents, 31 Guardians, members and Branches/ Centres who want to know about the sport of Mounted Games and opportunities to play it.
- b) JUNIOR/NOVICE COMPETITION - These competitions are envisaged as a preliminary step for children wishing to compete at Area Pony Club Mounted Games. The spirit of the novice games is about encouraging children to take part and achieve, with suitable support and simplified races. Area Coordinators are there to provide help and support. This may be organised as a lead rein competition and children that are managing novice games competently will progress quickly into Junior/ PPC mounted games teams. The aim is safe, encouraging fun! Novice level competitions can be run very successfully as part of Branch/ Centre friendly competitions using the same arena and equipment. To help children start to learn mounted games rules, competitions should be run according to The Pony Club Mounted Games Rule Book, with some additional guidelines: Note: This competition is for Members learning the skills and rules of Pony Club Games (who may need a leader). A list of suggested games can be found on the Mounted Games page of the website, these games are proposed so to help provide different skills to help develop riders and ponies for future Mounted Games competitions.
1. Ponies may be ridden in any normal riding bit with a single rein, excluding English gags and bitless bridles (grass reins may be used)

2. Trainers are allowed to be with their team and talk the Members through the races.
3. Ponies may be led, but help may only be given by the leader for safety reasons.
4. A leader may leg up children too small to mount.
5. Children should correct their errors, dismounting if necessary, but may be helped to remount.
6. The safety of the children and ponies is paramount and it is the responsibility of the trainers and DC's to ensure that children are suitably mounted.
7. It is recommended that heats are scored according to placings rather than heats and finals.
8. Members who are confidently competing at novice level should be 32 encouraged to compete at Area Competitions (Junior/PP Cup)
9. Entry Fees to be kept by the organising Branch.