

The Pony Club Phased Operational Plan for resumption of activities under Covid19

12th May 2020

The Pony Club Board of Trustees have considered various contingency options for the resumption of ridden activity as lockdown restrictions are eased. These have been influenced by government guidelines, consideration of the welfare of horses and ponies and the safety of our members. The trustees are very mindful of the need to keep safe and reduce the impact on the NHS, and the consequent social perception and pressure around riding, together with considerations to social distancing, travel and safety guidelines.

We have been responding in a reactive way to the crisis over the past few weeks. The plan is to move into a period of resumption of ridden activity and the recovery of the organisation. The phased plan below sets out short, medium and long term objectives. We cannot predict the specific timescales for when the different phases can start but we want to be ready to resume riding and training as soon as it is safe to do so. We also want to support our centres to open again as soon as safely possible. The Government restrictions may have a geographical difference and we are mindful that not all areas across the UK will be in a position to move through the phases at the same time.

The enactment of our phased operational plan will depend on the current state of lockdown and restrictions. If the pressure on the NHS eases, our proposed Phase 1 may start. This would see riding resuming if possible (acknowledging that many members may not be able to travel to their horses or centres). The focus in this phase will be our members' and their families' safety. As horses and ponies get fitter, and if conditions continue to improve, Phase 2 - the resumption of online competition or training - could then start. Depending on social distancing, travel restrictions and medical cover, training and lessons may start as part of phase 3, this could include smaller rallies for example. Phase 4 would be the resumption of competitions where we will be guided by the Government limitations on numbers / first aid cover and other restrictions including toilets, catering, parking, stabling etc. At any point, if the virus flares up again, we may have to restart the phased approach. We also need to be very mindful of our volunteers, many of whom may be in a vulnerable category and will need to maintain careful social distancing.

Phase 1&2	Home based riding if possible, focus on Safety, Fitness and Welfare. Centre Staff start getting ponies fit.
Phase 3	Small ridden activity (lessons at centres / rallies)
Phase 4	Small competitions / camps
Phase 5	Larger competitions / recovery of usual timetable of activities

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Phase and Conditions	Pony Club Members	Pony Club Branches	Pony Club Centres	Pony Club Staff and Volunteers
Lockdown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government lockdown Restrictions on non-essential travel NHS under pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ride only when it is necessary and safe to do so, in order to avoid pressure on the NHS and emergency services Enjoy unmounted online activities, badges, competitions and training through the branch, centre or the Members area on the website. Support your branch or centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No organised ridden activity Promote online learning and activities, follow safeguarding guidance Run competitions, quizzes, badges, unmounted training sessions, unmounted virtual day camps Share ideas and activities in The Pony Club Shared drive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No organised ridden activity Promote online learning and activities, follow safeguarding guidance Run competitions, quizzes, badges, unmounted training sessions, unmounted virtual day camps Share ideas and activities in The Pony Club Shared drive Access business support and grant information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff working from home Most staff on furlough, essential operational, IT, communications and finance functions remain Online Meetings with Volunteers Communication: at least weekly updates, website FAQs, social channels content, National online competitions and activities
Phase 1: Riding 2-3 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure on NHS reduced Social acceptance of riding at home Horses and Ponies brought back into work Travel restrictions may be in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep Safe Bring horses and ponies back into work with care and in line with Government restrictions on travel etc. Use Guidance on getting horses and ponies fit Continue to enjoy online unmounted activities If you do not own a horse or pony or cannot travel to them, support your centre or livery yard and follow their guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support members with guidance on getting their horses and ponies fit, safely. Continue to provide online unmounted learning and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centres start to get horses and ponies fit, safely. Continue to provide online learning and activities Communicate with members how fit the ponies are getting and communicate the plan for the return to lessons and members coming back on site if travel restrictions and social distancing allows. Access guidance on return to business, risk assessments etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on safely getting horses and ponies fit. Considerations: fresh ponies, spring grass, level of ability of rider, eg: at least 2 weeks' walk/trot. Week 3 basic fitness including some schooling / cantering Support Centres with guidance on business activities – risk assessments, social distancing and medical requirements etc. link with BEF, BHS/RDA Communication plans
Phase 2: Online Competitions / Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of Phase 1 conditions Travel restrictions may be in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep Safe Awareness of fitness for competition / training – you and your horse or pony. Take part in online training or competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support members with access to appropriate online training and competitions Continue to provide online learning and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide online learning and activities If members are allowed to travel and visit centre, consider appropriate lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote safe online training and competitions. Support centres in preparations for opening Continue Communication plan

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<p>Phase 3: Small Ridden Group Activities: rallies, lessons, tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel with horses allowed • Government allows small, socially distanced groups • Appropriate medical cover available • Member and Volunteer health and safety a priority • Availability of suitable PPE / sanitisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you and your horse or pony are fit enough and you are allowed to travel, consider attending rallies, mounted or unmounted. • Your safety and those of your family and friends is a priority – follow the guidance of your branch or centre • Continue to enjoy online activities and competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise rallies within Government restrictions (number attending, social distancing etc.) • Rallies can be mounted / unmounted, be mindful of fitness and ability of riders – rebuild confidence and skills • Undertake tests and badges as appropriate • Ensure risk assessments in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open within Government Guidelines on social distancing etc and with appropriate risk assessments in place • Resume lessons and rallies, mounted and unmounted, be mindful of fitness and ability of riders – rebuild confidence and skills • Undertake tests and badges as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff still working from home where possible. • Plan office reopening • Return from furlough of some staff • Staff / Volunteers support branches and centres in resumption of rallies and lessons. • Communication and Marketing plan, change in pattern of updates as appropriate
<p>Phase 4: Small Competitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All conditions of Phase 3 still in place, particularly medical cover availability • Volunteers able to help and be kept safe • Consideration for Toilets, parking, catering, social distancing (prize giving, secretaries etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to travel to small competitions • Enjoy day camps and branch and centre activities • Continue to enjoy online activities and competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with rallies, tests badges • Consider organising smaller competitions, within Government restrictions (number attending, social distancing etc.) • Ensure risk assessments and medical cover are in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with rallies, tests badges • Consider organising smaller competitions, within Government restrictions (number attending, social distancing etc.) • Ensure risk assessments and medical cover are in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff return to office as appropriate • Sports Committees and ARs input how sport can be run at a local or regional level • Staff and Volunteers support branches and centres in running competitions and activities • Communication and Marketing: Membership and Volunteer Experience. Education and Training.
<p>Phase 5: National / larger Competitions and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation 'normal' or possible with specific conditions eg: social distancing and good hygiene • All considerations in place, medical, safety etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy riding your horse or pony at all levels • Take part in rallies, tests, badges and all activities • Qualify for Regional and National Competitions • Appreciate all the work done by the staff and volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a full Branch programme of events • Support members and teams in qualifying competitions • Develop membership and volunteer experience • Work with Area Rep and other Branches and Centres to develop offering to members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a full programme of events • Support members in competing as appropriate • Develop membership experience, coordinate with Branches and other centres • Sustain business with support from Centre Coordinator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and Volunteers return to usual pattern of activity • Organisation of National Competitions • Focus on Members and Volunteers • Drive Membership campaign • Promote charitable and educational priorities

