Notes for Mounted Games Competition attendees:

**Briefing**

If possible, this will be conducted online a day or more prior to the competition where questions from the trainers can be taken by the Official Steward. All teams need to be reminded about the need to adhere to the COVID measurers in place. If the briefing has to be done on the day, it is recommended that only trainers attend and remain socially distanced at all times.

**Close Contact**

By adhering to The Pony Club COVID guidance, with appropriate social distancing, sanitising and wearing of masks, we are minimising the risks of transmission of COVID. If there is a positive COVID case, only close contacts would be asked to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace.

Close contact is someone who has to be closer than social distancing requirements, for example a team member, trainer or official. Neighbouring teams should be able to keep sufficiently apart from each other so that they are not close contacts. Following the event, if the organiser is made aware of a positive test result, close contacts of that person should be informed, without the individual being identified.

**Tack Checking:**

The tack check is primarily for safety and welfare reasons (ensuring correctly fitted tack). The tack checker should wear a mask and sanitise between each pony. For 2021, it is suggested that the competitive element of the tack and turnout is removed.

A suggested method of conducting the safety check:

- Rider starts mounted on pony so the saddle fit can be checked (alongside any concerns on height / weight)
- Rider then dismounts and holds pony, staying clear of the tack checker

**Scoring Heats / Teams remain in one Lane**

To minimise transmission through equipment contact ("fomite transmission"), it is recommended that teams remain in the same lane throughout the competition, with a dedicated set of equipment that is only used by that team.

This would therefore need the competition to be run as scoring heats: The teams compete once in each race, remaining in the same lane. The total scores from the heats would dictate their final placings.

If there are more than 7 teams, 2 or more separate scoring heats can be run (randomly drawn) an “A final” consisting of the top 7 teams could run to decide the final top 7, qualifying positions. Lower placings would be decided by the scored heats.

**Spectators**

Current Government regulations restrict the numbers on site and do not allow for spectators to attend. The track and trace forms must clearly state who is expected on site and this is checked on entry by a marshall. Competitors can be accompanied by up to 2 other people. Each team would therefore have a maximum of the following people on site:
6 riders, 12 parents, team trainer, line steward, 2 equipment

**Officials / Support adults in the Arena**

During COVID restrictions, we need to minimise the number of people in the arena:

For safety reasons anyone in the arena can catch a pony

**Equipment:** 2 equipment stewards for each lane (Branch / Centre parents) to put out the equipment for their lane. It is recommended that one equipment steward is responsible for all the middle equipment and one for the equipment at the top end. The line steward at the top does not touch the equipment nor hold the pony. The team equipment steward at the top may hold the pony in the junior competition as allowed for in the rules (the team receives 1 point)

**Line Stewards:** it is recommended that line stewards are used at the top end only. Infringements at the start line are monitored by the starter, finish judges and writers, assisted by with 2 experienced, independent line judges at the official stewards discretion. Infringements that are not corrected may result in elimination.

**Starter finish judges and writers:** socially distanced, inside the Arena.

**Commentator and scorer:** socially distanced, outside the Arena.

**First Aid:** socially distanced, outside the Arena until needed

**Trainers:** to remain socially distanced outside the Arena in the collecting ring, together with the spare (5th) rider and pony.

**Equipment Sanitising**

It is recommended that each lane has their own, separate set of equipment, which should be sanitised before and after each heat. A tack box or similar, containing a spray gun of sanitiser, or an aerosol spray with a sponge / cloth works well. A bucket of water with sanitising fluid can also be a quick way of dunking equipment in after each race.

**Rosettes**

Time on site should be minimised. With mounted games, as the competitors are already in the ring, it is recommended that, at the end of the competition, rosettes can be placed on a table / on the ground for the team to collect or put into a bag for the trainer to collect and distribute to the team. It is recommended not to have a parade before or after the competition, however the winning team may do a lap of honour.

Organisers will confirm in the briefing.

**Overnight stays**

Overnight stays are subject to Government legislation in each country. Where it is allowed, they need to be carefully managed to comply with legislation over social mixing.