

## **The 2025 Pony Club Coaching Bursary**

The Pony Club is delighted to announce, thanks to the kind support by The Worshipful Company of Saddlers, an opportunity for existing or aspiring coaches to apply for a bursary to support them completing a Level 1 or Level 2 Pony Club Coaching Certificate in 2025.

This bursary is aimed at supporting and aspiring coaches from underrepresented groups in equestrian sport, specifically lower socio-economic groups and culturally diverse communities. Please see below information about why these groups are being prioritised.

This bursary is open to coaches / prospective coaches residing in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland only.

### **The Bursary aims to support individuals from the following three categories:**

**Category 1** - Pony Club Members aged 17 and over from lower socio-economic groups and/or culturally diverse communities who would like to achieve a coaching qualification.

**Category 2** - Coaches or prospective coaches involved with a Pony Club Branch or Linked Centre who are from underrepresented groups in equestrian sport, particularly those from lower socio-economic groups and culturally diverse communities.

**Category 3** - Staff and volunteers at Pony Club Branches and Linked Centres who would like to get started with their coaching qualifications, giving opportunity for young people from lower socio-economic groups and/or culturally diverse communities to access the sport.

### **What will the bursary scheme fund?**

The 2025 Pony Club Coaching Bursary will contribute 50% of the total qualification value for the Pony Club Coaching Certificate Level 1 or Pony Club Coaching Certificate Level 2.

The bursary will not fund retrospective course bookings or qualifications. The bursary cannot be used in conjunction with any other active bursary for an equestrian coaching qualification.

Those applying must meet the necessary pre-requisites for the course they are applying for. A full outline of the qualification pre-requisites can be found on The Pony Club website: <https://pcuk.org/pccc/>

Those successful in receiving a bursary must commence their coaching course by September 2025.

### **Application Process**

Applicants must complete the online application form, found [here](#), by the closing date of **31st May 2025**.

Once the application window has closed, The Pony Club Team will review applications.

Those that meet the specific bursary priorities will be discussed by The Pony Club Coaching Bursary Panel.

If you are successful with your application, we will inform you by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and liaise with you on next steps.

We regret that we will not be able to provide individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

## Context Notes

The Pony Club as a British Equestrian Member Body pledges to make equality, diversity and inclusion fundamental to our organisation. HorsesforAll research shows that equestrian sport isn't truly representative of all communities across the UK and therefore initiatives such as the Pony Club Coaching Bursary aim to tackle specific inequalities in our ecosystem:

**Lower socio-economic groups** are defined by a combination of occupational and economic criteria. Around 12 million adults in England alone are in a lower socio-economic group, demonstrating the need to make education opportunities accessible to everyone regardless of their background.

**Culturally diverse communities** are defined as groups of people with common cultural backgrounds, ethnic origins, cultural heritages, linguistic and/or religious backgrounds. Analysis from the latest Sport England Active Lives Survey shows that South Asian, Black and those with other ethnic origins are least likely to take part in sport. Furthermore, the Sporting Equals Race Representation index shows a lack of diversity in sporting coaches visible across all ethnic groups and more prominent from those from Asian backgrounds.

Further reading:

<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/news/horses-for-all-strategy-outlines-equestrianism-s-equitable-future>

<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/news/british-equestrian-reports-on-a-year-of-progress-for-its-horses-for-all-strategy>

[https://socialmobility.independent-commission.uk/app/uploads/2023/08/SMC-Employers-Toolkit WEB updated July2021.pdf](https://socialmobility.independent-commission.uk/app/uploads/2023/08/SMC-Employers-Toolkit_WEB_updated_July2021.pdf)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassification/soc2020/soc2020volume3thenationalstatistics socioeconomic classificationnssecbasedonthesoc2020>

<https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/equality-and-diversity>

<https://www.sportingequals.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Sporting-Equals-Race-Representation-Index-2023-4.pdf>