



# PONY CLUB

## NEW SOUTH WALES

The Pony club Association of New South Wales Incorporated

Gear Check Certificate

As approved by State Council November 2012 V4

# GEAR CHECKING CERTIFICATE – NSW PCA

## CERTIFICATE GUIDELINES

This certificate is designed for Pony Club Members eighteen years and over who have an interest in helping out at Rally Days, competitions, camps etc. as gear checkers.

Note: The rules for all approved / appropriate gear and uniform are available from the PCA NSW Rule Book (the Blue Book) under Section 7.

### PRE-REQUISITES:

Minimum age 18

The course / assessment may be undertaken at any time after the age of 18 years.

Attend a suitably convened Gear Checker's course (see below)

### THE COURSE:

The candidate will be required to attend at least one State run Gear Checker's course covering the aspects under "Practical Gear Check – Guidelines" below.

The course must be organised by a Zone Chief Instructor and be recorded at the Pony Club Office as an official course.

Assessment for the Gear Checking Certificate will include -

1. A practical gear check.
2. Completing Work Sheets on gear / uniform rules (may be done on the day of the assessment or prior to the assessment and submitted on the day.
3. The following people are eligible to be Assessors -
  - a. Zone Chief Instructors.
  - b. NCAS (Pony Club) Level One Coaches
  - c. PCA Old system Level Two Examiners (as invited by the ZCI conducting the Assessment)

### PRACTICAL GEAR CHECK – GUIDELINES:

Gear Checking from the line-up –

- Bring the odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7 etc.) forward at least two horse lengths.
- Ensure that there is plenty of room between horses so that you are safe and that horses are not able to kick each other.

Have a routine for each time you gear-check so that you don't miss anything.

E.g. Start on the near side of the horse and proceed in this order:-

1. Introduce yourself to the rider (if you don't already know him/her) or say hello if you do.
2. Tell the rider that you are going to do a gear check.

**BRIDLE:** - Check that all stitching is in good order.

**Fit of brow band** - The brow band should sit comfortably below the ears and should be wide enough so that it doesn't push the ears back.

**Fit of noseband/s** - Depends on the type of noseband and its purpose but must allow at least two fingers on edge between noseband and horse.

- **Cavesson noseband** should sit between the protruding cheek bone and the bit and should allow two fingers on edge between the noseband and the horse (not too tight).
- **Dropped noseband** sits above the horse's nostrils and in the curb groove and allow two fingers on edge to be inserted (as above).
- **Hanovarian noseband** – the Cavesson sits two fingers below the protruding cheek bone and must not be too tight (two fingers on edge between noseband and the horse) and the nose strap must sit above the nostrils and sit in the curb groove – it also must be firm but not tight.
- **Greckle or crossover noseband** – The strap goes through the loops of the headpiece and the crossover of the strap must sit above the nostrils (it is advisable to have padding on the nose bone where it crosses over) It should be firm but not tight (two fingers on edge between noseband and horse).

**Fit of bit** - **The gear checker should be familiar with different types of bits**

- Check whether it is an allowable bit for the discipline (allowable bits are those shown in the PCANSW Bit Dictionary).
- As a general rule the bit should be wide enough to fit a finger on either side and should sit in the mouth with 1½ wrinkles at the corner of the mouth on each side.
- Check for cleanliness of bit and any sign of wear or rust.
- Check that the bit is not too thin (should be at least as thick as a normal pen).
- Check that the bit has no sharp edges etc.

**Fit of throat lash** - The purpose of the throat lash is to prevent the bridle slipping over the horse's head. It should be done up to allow four fingers on edge between the throat lash strap and the cheekbone.

**Fit of cheek straps** -The cheek straps must be short enough to keep in the bit in place when the bit is in the correct position in the horse's mouth,(The horse should not have to hold the bit up)

**\*\*\* Check that all straps are through the keepers \*\*\***

**REINS:**

1. Reins must be joined.
2. Check the stitching
3. If the reins are joined at the bit with studs, check that the studs have not worn thin.
4. Reins must not be too long (i.e. the loop of the reins, when the rider is holding the reins in the normal riding position, should not be able to go over the rider's foot (no longer than the rider's ankle).

**SADDLE:** Check that:

1. The saddle sits behind the horses shoulder bone.
2. The saddle does not sit down on the horse's spine.
3. Check all stitching – girth points, girth buckles, stirrup leathers,
4. Check that the correct girth is being used (two buckles or one buckle with a Surcingle. Note: Some stock / western saddles are permitted with a single buckle girth. (Bates Fastening).

5. Check that the girth is done up firmly so that the saddle doesn't roll or move backwards or forwards.

**STIRRUPS - VERY IMPORTANT:**

- a. The stirrup iron must allow at least the width of an adult finger on each side when the riders boot is in the stirrup at its widest point.
- b. It is also important that the distance between the top of the stirrup iron and the tread allows the riders boot to be turned sideways and allows the same distance at top and bottom i.e. one adult finger width.
- c. Stirrups that are too wide can be dangerous – the rider's foot must not be able to go through the stirrup iron.

**OTHER GEAR (such as martingales, cruppers, breastplates etc.)**

All gear should be checked for fit and safety (Stitching).

Running martingales should be long enough to allow the reins to go in a straight line from the riders hands to the bit when the horses head is in a normal position i.e. the nose is approximately in line with the wither.

**RIDER: (Riding Helmet)**

Check that the hat is the correct standard as listed in the PCA NSW Handbook AUS.NZ 38:38, EN 1384 if manufactured prior to 31/12/2015, VG1, ASTM F1163.

Check that the hat fits the head

Check that the harness is adjusted correctly and that the hat is not loose.

Check that the chin strap is adjusted to prevent the hat coming off.

Check for any jewelry which is not permitted.

Check riding boots for a smooth sole and correct type.

Uniform is appropriate for the occasion.

**HORSE: Boots and bandages –**

- Check that the boots are done up correctly – fastenings to the outside of the leg and Velcro done up on the outside of the leg with the slack of the Velcro pointing to the rear.

Bandages must have padding underneath and be stitched.

**GENERAL:**

Check the horse for any visual signs of distress or injury (cuts etc.) and that the horse's shoes are not loose (if shod).

**NOTE:-**

If any gear does not comply or does not fit correctly you must ask the rider and/or parents or Team Manager to either change it or give you permission to do so.

**RENEWALS:-**

Gear Check Certificates are valid for a period of three years or part thereof and must be renewed by attending a State or Zone run renewal school in line with Old System Instructors Certificates.

OPEN BOOK EXAMINATION for GEAR CHECKING CERTIFICATE.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the uniform for riders at Rally Days? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Circle the three types of helmets which are permitted for Pony Club riders in NSW.

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AUS.NZ 38:38

EP F 2766

EN 1384/VG1

ARB HS2012

EUR 0842

USA 90:1246

ASTM F1163

SNELL E2001

3. What jewelry is permitted to be worn at competitions and/or rally days?

4. Which of the following is not allowed? (circle)

Head check (standing martingale)

Market Harborough

Running martingale

Running Gag Bit

Numnah

Crupper

5. Are tongue ties or tongue guards permitted. Yes / No

6. Are shadow rolls permitted? Yes / No

7. When are Western Bits permitted? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Which bit sits higher in the horse's mouth when wearing a double bridle? (circle)

Bit or Bridoon.

9. What is the permitted length of the following whips? -

Riding crop \_\_\_\_\_

Dressage whip \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the correct position for spurs on the riders boot? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What steps would you take to check a riders helmet if you cannot identify the standard from the ground.

C = competent NYC = not yet competent. CIRCLE ONE AND SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_  
COPY OF THIS ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE SENT IN WITH APPLICATION FOR THIS CERTIFICATE