



PONY CLUB

NEW SOUTH WALES

The Pony club Association of New South Wales Incorporated

Gear Check Certificate

As approved by State Council November 2012 V1

Updated April 2016 V2

Updated June 2016 V3

Updated November 2017 V4

Updated November 2018 V5

Updated March 2019 V6

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 at Rally Days, competitions, camps etc. as gear checkers. Clubs must have a least one qualified Gear Checker or a current ticketed Pony Club Coach on the grounds to run a rally day.

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 details on the course)

THE COURSE:

The candidate will be required to attend at least one State run Instructors School OR Zone run Gear Checkers 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 the open book examination for Gear Checking Certificate on gear / uniform rules (this 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 (as invited by the ZCI conducting the assessment)
 - c. PCA Old system Level Two Examiners (as invited by the ZCI conducting the Assessment)

PRACTICAL GEAR CHECK – GUIDELINES:

There are a number of ways a Club can perform Gear Checks at Rally Days. This will depend on how the Club feels it is most appropriate and how many people are accredited to do the Gear Checks.

- (i) Individual riders to be unmounted and lead their horse to the Gear Checker. Not to mount until they are gear checked.

OR

- (ii) When in a group situation and the Gear Checker/Coach checks each horse and rider. Rider arrives mounted and then dismounts to be Gear checked

OR

- (iii) Gear Checking from the troop line before being put in their groups
Bring odd numbers (1,3,5,7) forward at least two horse lengths to ensure that there is plenty of room between horses so that you are safe and that horses are not able to kick each other. Riders dismount are checked and remount to complete gear check.

Have a systematic approach to Gear Checking so you don't miss anything.

Have a routine for each time you gear-check.

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.

To be able to do a thorough and appropriate gear check it should be done with the rider dismounted and then finish off being mounted. The rider should be dismounted when checking or adjusting anything on the horse's head and checking the fit of the saddle and safety of the girth straps up under the saddle.

BRIDLE: - Check that all stitching and leather is in good order and that it fits the horse properly and comfortably.

Fit of brow band - The brow band should sit comfortably across the forehead and below the ears. It should be wide enough so that it doesn't pull the ears forward.

Fit of noseband/s - Depends on the type of noseband and its purpose but must allow 1.5-2cm between noseband and horse. Devices are available for this measuring.

- **Cavesson noseband** should sit between the protruding cheek bone and the bit and should allow two fingers on edge between the noseband and the cheek bone.
- **Dropped noseband** sits above the horse's nostrils and in the curb groove.
- **Hanoverian noseband** – the Cavesson should sit one finger below the protruding cheek bone. Flash strap must sit above the nostrils and sit in the curb groove – it also must be firm but not tight.
- **Grackle 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)

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 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 making sure it is firm enough to stop the bridle coming off but also not too tight that when the horse is asked to work on the bit or collection it is not in contact with the horse's throat latch.

Fit of cheek straps - The cheek straps must be of the correct length to keep 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 is not coming undone and leather is sound.
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 never be able to go over the rider's foot).

SADDLE: Check that:

1. The saddle does not have any pressure on the horse's spine from a downward or sideways position. If it does other arrangements need to be made. Different saddle, saddle pad etc.
2. Check all stitching – girth points, girth buckles, stirrup leathers.
3. 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 Fastener).
4. Check that the girth is done up firmly so that the saddle doesn't roll or move backwards or forwards. But also check it is not too tight to cause discomfort or colic.

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. Preferably use an object of this size. A piece of dowel is preferable to using a finger.
- 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 not be too tight allowing the same distance at top and bottom i.e. one adult finger width. Or also not too big allowing a small riders foot to slip through.
- 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, whips, spurs 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 rider's hands to the bit when the horses head is in a normal position i.e. when the nose is approximately in line with the wither.

Check the length of a whip.

Check the neck of the spur if curved is pointing down.

RIDER:**(Riding Helmet)**

Check that the helmet is the correct standard as listed in the PCA NSW Handbook AUS/NZS 38:38, EN 1384 if manufactured prior to 2016, VG1, ASTM F1163, ARB H2 2012, SNELL E2001, PAS015 (1998 or 2011).

Check that the helmet fits the riders head properly.

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

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

Check for any jewelry that is not permitted.

Check riding boots for a smooth sole and correct type of boot.

Uniform is appropriate for the occasion.

HORSE:

Boots and bandages –

1. 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.
2. They are correct size and clean.
3. Bandages must have padding underneath and be stitched.

GENERAL:

Check the horse for any visual signs of distress or injury (cuts etc.) if the horse has blood it should not be ridden.

That the horse's shoes are not loose (if shod) and no nails protruding.

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 four years or part thereof and must be renewed by attending a Zone run Gear Checkers Course.

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT:

The following must be assessed.

PRACTICAL GEAR CHECK	Competent (C)	Not Yet Competent (NC)	Assessors Signature	
Correct procedure (unmounted and mounted)				
Check Rider				
Check Bridle				
Check Saddle				
Leg protection				
Other equipment				
Performed in a safe manner				
Related well with the rider				

OPEN BOOK EXAMINATION for GEAR CHECKING CERTIFICATE.

DATE _____ ASSESSOR _____

C = competent NYC = not yet competent

ASSESSOR INITIAL ONE

NAME: _____ CLUB: _____

1. (a) What is the required type of sole of a Pony club rider's boot? _____

(b) What is the required colour of a Pony Club rider's boot? _____

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

AUS.NZ 38:38 EP F 2766 EN 1384/VG1 ARB HS2012

PAS 015 USA 90:1246 ASTM F1163 SNELL E2001

3. What jewellery is permitted to be worn at Pony Club competitions and/or rally days? _____

4. Which of the following is allowed at Pony Club? (circle)

Head check (standing martingale) Market Harborough

Running martingale Running Gag Bit

Numnah Crupper

Tongue Ties Shadow Roll

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

Riding crop _____

Dressage whip _____

6. What is the correct position for spurs on the rider's boot? _____

7. Where can you find information on bits used in Pony Club NSW? _____

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

Bit or Bridoon.

9. What should you be looking for to check if the bit is sitting correctly in the horses' mouth? _____

10. Where should the browband sit? _____

11. Is the use of a dropped noseband and curb chain together allowed?

12. Must the rider's reins be joined when riding at Pony Club?

13. a. How many girth points should a saddle have? _____

b. Which saddles are an exception to this rule? _____

14. How high above the wither should the saddle sit? _____

15. How much room should there be between the widest point of the rider's boot and the stirrup iron?

Assessment paper to be sent to State office

Assessors signature : _____ Name (print): _____