



EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Advanced Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives/What you will learn:

Know the importance of correctly fitting, appropriate safety equipment and how to check for safety and recognise any issues.

Syllabus

- 1 Realise the difference between peaked and non-peaked hat and know when it is suitable to wear either. Check retention harness (straps) adjustments and fittings.
- 2 Discuss different styles of body protector, the fit and current safety standards.
- 3 Understand the use of air jackets and how they work. Also Back Protectors.
- 4 Members should know when hats and body protectors may need replacing.
- 5 Be able to find the current standards for Pony Club activities and competitions.
- 6 Realise that it is often safer to wear gloves around horses and ponies.
- 7 Check a saddle, bridle, headcollar and rope for wear and safety.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Look at different styles of riding hats and skull caps note the different peaks. Peaks are not allowed for x-c in case they cause leverage and causes a more severe injury if a rider falls forwards. Make sure the group are aware of the hat rules for Pony Club activities. Look for information on Pony Club website.
- 2 Using your own body, (so as not to embarrass a member), show the

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group where to measure themselves to know the correct size of body protector to use/buy. Members to use their phones to access this information on a UK manufactures web site.

Look at different styles and type of body protector. Check the length once fitted and discuss the problems when it doesn't fit properly e.g if it's too long it can push up once seated in the saddle or tip the riders hat forwards over their eyes.

- 3** Air jackets inflate as the rider parts from the saddle. They protect the neck, spine, and hips. A body protector MUST always worn under the air jacket. Show the members an air jacket and how it is attached to the saddle. Ask the class why air jackets are not recommended by Pony Club to be worn in a group lesson. Explain that an Air Jacket only provides protection once it has been inflated. A Body Protector provides protection for the moment that it is put on.
Back Protectors simply provide minimal protection over an area of the rider's back. NO front or side protection. They are quite different to a Body Protector.
- 4** Discuss with the group the reasons for replacing a hat- a fall or if it receives an impact. If available, show the group a damaged hat or a hat half that has received an impact to illustrate the need for replacement. Stress that damage to a riding hat or skull cap very often cannot be seen externally. It is important that they understand that a badly damaged hat may still look fine from the outside.
Body protector may be out of date, damaged or no longer fit.
Air canisters for air jackets need replacing once the jacket has been activated.
Padding for hats and body protectors deteriorates over time and in the sun.
- 5** Using their telephones show the members where on the PC web site this information is available. Rule books found on PC web site under Sports and information.
- 6** Members to make individual lists on when it is safer to wear gloves. See who can make the longest list. Ask if members wear gloves? Which activity do they think it is the most important to wear gloves, allow them to vote on this?
- 7** Discuss problem areas on tack where stitching can rot and cause a safety issue e.g stirrups, girth straps, reins etc. Buckle holes can become worn, elongated and leather weak at the turns. Also check with care all buckle tongues for wear or bending.
Headcollar buckles, lead ropes fraying.
Use some damaged equipment as examples.
Members to look at all the tack being used in a ride, was any of it

dangerous, did anything need repairing?

Recommended Reading

The 14th Edition Manual of Horsemanship P141 The Pony Club web site. Hat and body protector manufacturers web sites. Safety information leaflets from the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA)

Questions

- 1 Show how and why you have fitted your hat retention harness (straps). When may you not use a fixed peak hat?

Answers

- 1 Hat retention harness (straps) correctly fitted to prevent hat tipping forwards and coming off when the head goes down. The primary harness under the jaw should be tight enough to allow room for just 1 (one) adult finger. The secondary (back) harness should then be worn areas on the bridle around billets and buckles. Stitching on reins and rubber coverings. The holes on the bridles cheek pieces.