

The Pony Club Standards of Efficiency

ROAD RIDER CERTIFICATE 2023

The Pony Club Road Rider Certificate may be completed separately or on the same day, following completion of the Road Rider Badge.

AIM

The aim of the Road Rider Certificate is to promote safety on the road by recognising riders who can show that they ride with courtesy and responsibility. Riders must be aware of and obey the law, and be familiar with the Pony Club Road Rider book

ELIGIBILITY

Riders must be over 12yrs to take the certificate and should have been well prepared by working through the two pre-requisite badges:

- The Pony Club Road Rider Mini Achievement Badge (E/D Test)
- The Pony Club Road Rider Achievement Badge (D+/C Test)

It is recognised that many members have to ride on roads. From 2018, members may be assessed during the ridden phase of the assessment on suitable roads once a full written risk assessment has been completed. Members must have passed the Road Rider Achievement Badge using the complex simulated route and have demonstrated the skills to be safe.

Parent's/Guardians/Carers must give written permission for assessors to take members onto the road on their ponies.

The details of training, running, organising and administration of this test must be run in conjunction with one of the SA Pony Clubs Regional office's.

ASSESSORS FOR THE PONY CLUB ROAD RIDER CERTIFICATE

Riding Assessor: A Pony Club C Test assessor or above who is also an experienced driver

Road Safety Assessor: Road Safety Officer

How the Certificate is assessed.

The assessment is of the rider's road craft and riding ability and not of the horse or pony.

NB. There is no such thing as a bomb proof horse or pony.

The assessment is undertaken in three parts as follows;

1. THEORY

Designed to assess the rider's knowledge of the Rules of the Road and of the generally accepted rules of riding on the road as set out in the Road Rider Certificate Manual and current edition of the Junior Road Rider.

Ten questions may be given orally or in the form of a written paper and should invite factual answers, not opinions.

Candidates should achieve 8 out of 10 to pass this section.

2. TACK AND TURNOUT INSPECTION

This inspection is entirely a safety measure carried out to make sure that the horse's tack and rider's clothing are in a safe and satisfactory condition for riding.

It is not a 'show' inspection. Hats must be to the current Pony Club standard and properly secured.

Members should be able to demonstrate:

1. Dress appropriately for the road (horse and rider)
Hi Viz strips for horse and Hi Viz vest for rider must be worn at all times on the road.
2. Know the importance of Be Seen to Be Safe
3. Necessary checks before going on the road
4. Recognition of common road signs
5. Understand the sequence of traffic lights and the meaning of the Amber light and how to behave at traffic lights
6. Be able to explain what position a rider should take when negotiating a traffic circle

3. COMPLEX SIMULATED ROUTE

Designed to test, in a safe environment, a rider's precautions against and reactions to a series of sights, sounds and situations which could be encountered on local roads and may cause horses to shy or become agitated.

Road junctions must be included so that candidates may demonstrate their road craft and ability to use arm signals.

Hazards must be placed far enough apart to allow candidates to show TROT between each or any of them.

Trot must be shown by candidates at this stage of the assessment..

To be ridden as a complete route

- Major to Minor and Minor to Major Two Left Turns and Two Right Turns
- A Stop and Give way sign, Hazards and Trot Observation, Road Positioning and Signals
- Correct sequence for making a Left or Right signal
- Look – Signal – Look Again (Life Saver Look) Manoeuvre
- How to say 'Thank You'

Marking

- To be successful the candidate must pass all three parts of the assessment
- Candidates who fail in either part one or part two may not take part three
- The assessment is of the rider not of the horse
- To be successful, the candidate must satisfy the examiners in all three parts of the assessment consecutively
- Eight out of ten theory questions must be correctly answered

Notes for assessors

Any manoeuvre which is judged as dangerous to other road users could result in failure.

On-road Exercise

From 2018, members who have passed the 'off road' assessment may be taken onto roads to put into practice the information they have learnt in the theory and complex simulated route. A full written risk assessment will be completed in advance of the exercise.

The following considerations must be taken before this is completed;

- The route should be walked to note any particular hazards on the day and the risk assessment update as appropriate
- A full plan of the route and hazards to be encountered should be identified
- A full verbal briefing must be given to members and volunteers in advance of going out on to the road
- A plan of what to do in the event of a problem must be discussed with members and volunteers
- Depending on the route, it may be necessary to contact the local neighbourhood policing to inform them the exercise is taking place if you have more than one group
- The route should be manned at suitable distances/locations throughout the test

Notes for coaches

Going onto roads is a situation where conditions will be difficult to control. For this purpose, a great deal of consideration must be given as to whether it is appropriate for your members in the area in which you are training. Hazards such as roadworks, litter or animals in fields can all cause certain horses to take fright.

There are good compromises that should be considered in the first instance – for example a farm with a network of farm roads and tracks, a private estate with a network of roads and tracks.

Members will require written permission from a parent or guardian to be allowed to be taken out onto roads –this will confirm that the pony is suitable to be taken into a 'live road' situation.

If you have any concerns you can reserve the right at any time to refuse to take a member and pony onto the road.

A full risk assessment must be completed of the route in advance of members being taken onto the road, in a 'live road' situation. The sorts of considerations in the risk assessment include:

- The maximum number in each group/pair/individuals (max 4 in a group)
- The type of road being used – junctions, blind bends, width
- Pony's' suitability to be ridden on the road
- The weather
- The number of volunteers to support the exercise (on foot/mounted/following in a vehicle with hazards on)
- Hi-viz required for volunteers
- Any significant facilities/premises bordering the route – for example building sites, factories, fields of cattle/horses that could all cause ponies to be frightened
- How to handle an incident
- Any issues picked up on the day of the exercise e.g. hedge cutting, activities behind perimeter fences likely to cause horses to be frightened

Essential Reading

The Pony Club Junior Road Rider Book and DVD

Certificates and badges available from The Pony Club

Caution

The Pony Club recommends that young riders who have passed the Road Rider Safety Certificate should still exercise caution before riding on the road unaccompanied and ensure that the person responsible for their safety is entirely satisfied that, in their opinion, it is safe for the young person (s) so to do.

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