**SPURS**

Spurs can be a useful riding aid for those who have been taught and know how to use them correctly. However, they can also lead to concern that riders misuse them and this in turn can lead to suggestions of ill-treatment. They can draw negative inferences which reflect badly on the Pony Club

Whilst Pony Club rules allow the use of spurs in some circumstances, they can only be used by riders who have passed their Pony Club “B” test or where they are permitted to wear them by their District Commissioner. In the latter case, this permission will have been endorsed on the member’s current membership card.

**General Use**

Spurs should be used to emphasise a leg instruction and should be applied in a squeezing or stroking movement and not in a kicking motion. They should not in any way be used to make life easier for the rider but to make the instruction clearer or more positive for the horse. Please see the detailed information set out below.

They should also not be used by an inexperienced rider. For this reason, I will not authorise the issue of a spurs signed membership card unless or until I have a clear indication from a F&D discipline head that the rider fuller understands how and when spurs should be used.

There should be no occasion upon which a rider wears spurs “because I always wear them” or “because I have permission to wear them”. The very fact that permission has been granted to a rider who knows how and when to use them would preclude such answers being given.

**Style**

The only style of spurs approved for use in PC activities are ones that are “*blunt, without rowels or sharp edges and, if curved, must curve downwards with shank pointing straight to the back and not exceed 3.5cm in length. Sharp spurs must not be worn. Spurs which have a smooth rotating ball on the shank are permitted. The measurement is taken from the heel of the boot to the end of the shank.”*

Please note, the information regarding types of Spurs below includes types NOT permitted.

**Permission to use**

B test holders will be experienced riders who have been trained in the proper use of spurs and do not require any special permission.

All other members should discuss the use of spurs with their instructor and/or one of the Flint & Denbigh discipline heads. Once the instructor/discipline head is satisfied that the member is proficient in the safe and appropriate use of spurs, the instructor may make a recommendation to a discipline head for spurs permission to be granted to that rider and the discipline head may in turn, or of their own volition, make a recommendation to the District Commissioner for the issue of a membership card endorsed with spurs permission. **Cards endorsed with spurs permission must be carried whenever a member is taking part in a pony club activity, including rallies, if the member wishes to wear spurs at that activity.**

A Branch record is maintained of all members who have been granted permission to wear spurs prior to passing their B test and those members will normally be issued with a spurs signed membership card at the beginning of the membership period. Where a member is approved to wear spurs during the current membership year, they should send their current membership card to the DC with a note as to which discipline head has approved the use of spurs.

**Withdrawal of permission**

Where it is brought to the attention of a discipline head by any person that a member may be misusing spurs in any way, the discipline head will, after proper enquiry, discuss the report with the DC and spurs permission may then be withdrawn.