

Participation Groundrules

There are several circumstances in the Pony Club when members, potential members, or volunteers may not participate in activities. There has been some confusion as to how to tell the difference between “participating” and simply being a spectator and also in deciding which Pony Club activities are included in any limitation of participation.

Which Activities?

When participation in Pony Club activities must be restricted, the restriction applies to **ALL** Pony Club activities, **NOT** just riding activities or other activities which include horses. Lectures, house meetings, parties, etc are included.

What is Participation?

Participation is **ANY** direct involvement in an activity which is not **CLEARLY** limited to being a spectator. In lectures and a few other activities, there may be little or no difference between a spectator and a participant, however in all cases involving horses and in most other cases, spectators must be separated from the participants by a physical barrier such as being in an observation room in an indoor arena or outside the fence of an outdoor ring. Even for stable management sessions where horses are involved in any way (grooming, conformation sessions, etc), or activities such as farrier demonstrations involving tools which could cause injury, there must be a physical barrier between the participants and the spectators.

Special Cases

Potential members visiting branches to see if they are interested in joining, volunteers or parents who ride horses in order to do their assigned task, and non-members riding in Pony Club activities are special cases which have sometimes not been clearly understood.

Potential new members may participate in Pony Club activities where HORSES ARE NOT involved in any way. They may attend activities where horses ARE involved BUT ONLY as spectators. Non-Member risk forms are not required in either of those cases.

Potential new members may participate in a maximum of 3 Pony Club activities where horses ARE involved PROVIDED that they are current members of their PSO AND that they provide a properly completed Non-Member Risk form BEFORE participating.

Any volunteer, instructor, official, or parent who rides for any reason as part of any Pony Club activity MUST be a member of their PSO, otherwise they may not ride either their own or anyone else's horse.

Trips to tack shops or other “field trips” where the Pony Club provides transportation ARE NOT open to non-members or non-participants. Being transported IS participation.

August, 2007