

2017	HENDRA PONY CLUB – INFO SHEET – TACK	1
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This information is provided as a quick reference to members regarding the most commonly asked questions regarding PCAQ saddlery rules, specifically relating to tack.

- Compliant helmets must be worn by riders at all times. Any helmet tested and meeting the VGI helmet standard is acceptable for use in all Pony Club activities. Helmets need to comply with the following standards: AS/NZS 3838 (AU) and ARB HS 2012; PAS 015 (UK); ASTM F 1163 (USA); VGI (Europe).
- Helmet compliance expires 5 years from date of manufacture. Helmets must be replaced if subjected to any heavy knock (they are designed to protect the wearer from one single significant impact only).
- Helmets and boots must be worn by juniors when lunging horses (gloves are also strongly recommended).
- Stirrups need to be appropriate for riders boot size and should be replaced as riders feet grow. 10mm clearance is required on each side of the boot, only exemption is where a rider is already using the maximum size stirrup commercially available (125mm), in which case the use of breakaway stirrups is recommended.
- Spurs may be worn by competitors of all levels, however spurs capable of wounding a horse are forbidden. The arms of the spur must be smooth (metal or plastic) and the shank must point only towards the rear from the centre of the spur. Curved shanks must only be worn with shank directed downwards and the ends of all spurs must be blunt to prevent wounding the horse.
- Impulse and dummy spurs with no shanks are allowed. Both soft touch spurs with a rolling ball on either plane and metal spurs with hard plastic knobs are permitted.
- Reins must be attached to a bit and joined by a buckle, or knot, or securely taped so as to not allow movement at join of reins or any likelihood of reins coming undone or apart during use. If reins are knotted, the buckle must be undone.
- Reins must be appropriate length for the horse, ie; reins that can end up around a rider's foot are not allowed. When holding the reins in contact with the horse's mouth, and in the normal position the end of the reins must not hang down past the top of the stirrup iron
- TWINE - Baling twine or similar material is not permitted for any use on any equipment in any way, including repair or adjustment.
- Crops are to be no more than 75cm long, including flapper, which should be a minimum 50mm long and not less than 20mm wide. Dressage whip in its entirety (including tassel) must not exceed 1.2m (4ft.).

Detailed information is available online at PCAQ (Uniform and Saddlery Rules). Individual disciplines have varying rules for competition (ie; dressage whips are not permitted in sporting). Members are encouraged to go online and check the information as needed, or ask a club instructor if they are unsure of any issue concerning tack and/or saddlery.