








The Irish Pony Club Hat Rule 2017

It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet at all times when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall. This rule defines the quality of manufacture that is required. The individual disciplines also have additional requirements with regard to type. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.

The hat standards accepted as of 1st January 2016, are detailed in the table below:

Hat Standard	Safety Mark
PAS 015:1998 or 2011* with BSI Kitemark	
VG1 with BSI Kitemark	
Snell E2001* with the official Snell label and number	
ASTM-F1163 2004a with the SEI mark	
AS/NZS 3838 1998, 2003 or 2006	

* The PAS 015: 1998 or 2011 and the Snell E2001 meet higher impact criteria and therefore give more protection.

- For cross-country riding including Eventing, Tetrathlon, and Hunter Trials and also Show Jumping, Pony Racing and Mounted Games (whether it be tests, rallies, competition or training) a jockey skull cap must be worn, with no fixed peak, peak type extensions or noticeable protuberances above the eyes or to the front and should have an even round or elliptical shape with a smooth or slightly abrasive surface.
- A removable hat cover with a light flexible peak may be used if required.

- No recording device is permitted (e.g. hat cameras) as they may have a negative effect on the performance of the hat in the event of a fall.
- The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit. The hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward. It is strongly recommended that second hand hats are not purchased.
- Hats must be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use.
- Hats, must be worn at all times (including at prize-giving) when mounted with a chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall.
- For Show Jumping and Mounted Games the cover, if applicable, shall be dark blue, black or brown only.
- For Dressage, hats and hat covers must be predominately black, navy blue or a conservative dark colour that matches the rider's jacket for Area competitions or above.

The Official Steward / Organiser may, at his discretion, eliminate a competitor riding in the area of the competition without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened or with a hat that does not comply with these standards.

Hat Checks and Tagging

The Area Representative may carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the above requirements or they may appoint an Official to do so e.g. a Senior Instructor familiar with the Hat Rule. Approved tags for 2017 are as follows:

- Green Tags for Skull Caps which must be worn for Cross Country riding.
- White Tags for riding hats with peaks which are not allowed for Cross Country riding but are suitable for other activities e.g. Dressage, Show Jumping and Mounted Games.

Tagging indicates that a hat meets the accepted standards, NO check of the fit and condition of the hat is implied. It is considered to be the responsibility of the Member's parent / guardian to ensure that their hat complies with the required standards and is tagged before they go to any Pony Club event. Also, they are responsible for ensuring that the manufacturer's guidelines with regard to fit and replacement are followed.