



## FAQs on the abandonment of the 2019 Pony Club Championships scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August at Cholmondeley

We have had a huge number of supportive messages in response to the very difficult decision made on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August to cancel this prestigious and much-loved event.

Of course, we have received many calls, emails and messages with questions about the event's cancellation; with this in mind, The Pony Club team and Musketeer Events have put together the following responses to the queries received so far.

Please note: this is a live document and will be regularly updated. Please do visit the website to check for updates over the next few weeks.

1. We are being asked by many of you why are we not able to relocate the event. This is not possible for several reasons:

**Time** – to relocate an event of this scale, either to one or several locations, is just not feasible in the time frame.

**Resource** – We understand that many of our amazing volunteers would be prepared to give their time to make this happen but, unfortunately, we require a whole infrastructure of resources to be able to safely and successfully run so many (16) Championship classes, especially if we had to use more than one venue. Finding resources such as stabling, catering, vets, doctors and security is not possible in the time frame.

**Cost** – the costs of relocating an event of this size at such short notice are significant.

**Disparity** – it would not be fair to relocate some sports and provide those competitors with a Championships, but not others.

**Postponing the event is also not an option – here is why:**

It would simply not be fair. So many families build their summer around the

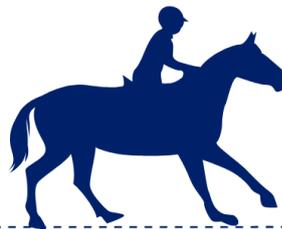
Championships, to hold it on another date now will mean that some children miss out – especially as children start going back to school very soon.



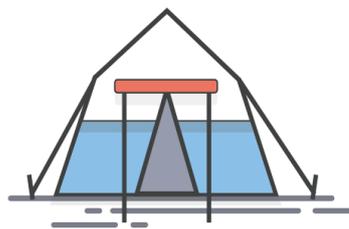
## The Championships in numbers...



**10,000** people visiting over 5 days to watch more than **1,800** Pony Club members compete in **16** Championship classes.



More than **2,000** horses and ponies on site over the Championships using over **700** stables and requiring **150,000** litres of water.



Over **5 miles** of rope and string, **3,500** hand-painted white posts, almost **1,500** square metres of tentage, **185** radios, more than **60** trade stands and **150** showers and portaloos!



**200** volunteers a day contributing more than **10,000** hours of volunteering fulfilling a range of roles from stewarding, car parking, catering and fence judging.



**16** dressage arenas, over **125** show jumps and cross country fences and **25,000** square metres (that's 4 football pitches!) of Polocrosse and Mounted Games fields.

## 2. What information can you give about refunding entry fees?

We are currently working hard to mitigate our costs, so that we may be in a position to offer refunds. Please bear with us whilst we negotiate with our suppliers, who had been involved in building much of the Champs infrastructure, as you will see in the videos and photos we have shared so far.

Stabling is processed through Musketeer Events on behalf of The Pony Club; we are continuing to work together and we will let you know as soon as further information is available.

## 3. Does The Pony Club not have abandonment insurance?

We believe that this is the first time that the event has ever had to be abandoned (during the Foot & Mouth outbreak in 2001, the event neither the qualifiers took place that year). It is not economical to insure a one-off event of this scale.

We have to assess the risk to The Pony Club and its members of the unlikely event that the event should be cancelled, against the balance of the ongoing cost of insurance to The Pony Club.

The decision was made that it would not be in the best interests of our members, because the cost of the insurance premium would then have to be reflected in entry fees and stabling costs for competitors.

#### 4. Can we organise our own events?

Yes! We know that our members are hugely creative and resourceful, and we encourage you to get together to organise your own events over the dates of the Championships – whether this is an alternative competition at a local level or simply to come together to have fun with your ponies and friends.

Please note that events cannot be run under the name of ‘the Championships’ as it would not be fair on children that could not attend, but we hope that many of our members choose to come together to celebrate The Pony Club and fantastic equestrian sport as is the ethos of the Champs.

We have created a special hashtag, **#PonyClubSpirit**, as we did with ‘Ride Around The World’ day on 3rd August, to enable Pony Club members to share and showcase what they get up to between 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August (Championships dates) – keep an eye out for this on social media and please use it in your own posts.

#### 5. What does this mean for 2020? And is this ‘multi sports’ championship format still viable?

People have raised concerns as to whether a ‘multi sports’ format all held on grass is the right approach, especially as competitors in sports such as dressage and show jumping are now so used to competing on a surface.

We will be reviewing the Championships format in due course.

#### 6. Can we still buy hoodies and other Championships merchandise?

Both of our Championship merchandise suppliers will still be offering commemorative merchandise online.

- Beewear have produced special Championship hoodies which can be purchased through their website (<http://www.beewear.co.uk>).

- Special offers on much of The Pony Club's 90th Anniversary commemorative range with Harry Hall, available on the Harry Hall website (<https://www.harryhall.com/ponyclubshop>) from Thursday 15th to Tuesday 27th August.

## 7. What will happen to the Pony Club Championship plaques?

We would like these to be sent to everyone who entered the event; we are currently finalising how and when they will be distributed.

## 8. Can we still use the rosettes produced for the Championships?

It would be unfair for some children to receive 2019 Championship rosettes for their sports, when others won't, so therefore we will not be issuing them this year.

## 9. What is happening about the Mounted Games qualifiers for HOYS? Will members still be able to qualify?

The 'Runners Up Competition' for HOYS qualification will go ahead as there are still two places left to decide. Please note this is not a Championship class it is a double Zone.

We have been able to find an alternative venue for these qualifiers – they will be held at Stanford Hall, Leicestershire on Monday 19th August. Please contact Emma Holliwell ([Emma.Holliwell@pcuk.org](mailto:Emma.Holliwell@pcuk.org)) for further information.