



## [Duhallow Hunt Branch of The Irish Pony Club](#)

### **Information Sheet for New Members**

[www.duhallowponyclub.ie](http://www.duhallowponyclub.ie)

Welcome to the Duhallow Hunt Pony club. This leaflet will inform you of the various activities within the club, and we look forward to you getting involved in the many activities.

#### **General Information**

All communications with members/parents will be via web text and the website. The District Commissioners (DCs) are in charge of the pony club, with the county divided into “areas” which are run by area managers.

The club will run rallies (group lessons) throughout the year.

There are a number of people in charge of each discipline (activity) within the club. Duhallow Hunt Pony Club (DHPC) is part of “area 5” within the geographical division of the Irish Pony Club. DHPC competes against other clubs in area 5 in the various disciplines, the winners at area level then progress to compete against the other areas in Ireland at the final held at PONY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Any pony attending camp will have to have a passport with up to date vaccinations. Initial vaccinations are administered over a period of time so it is advisable to ensure early in the year that all is in order, your vet can advise on this or please ask your area manager any questions. In the next few months you will receive a membership card with your pony club number on it. Please keep safely as you will need this when going cross country & when doing your eventing entries.

The Irish Pony Club website [www.irishponyclub.ie](http://www.irishponyclub.ie) is a very informative website for dates of national events throughout the year.

#### **Rallies**

Rallies are group lessons held at various venues throughout the year. Notice of these rallies will be posted on the website and or by web text. Members normally book in advance for rallies. Please arrive in plenty of time for rally & do not mount until the instructor has checked your tack & given you permission to mount. Ponies must be shod, clean, unplaited with correct fitting tack.

Riders must wear jodhpurs (can be coloured), approved footwear & riding hat and ALWAYS a back protector. Please ensure unmounted siblings, friends or relatives are properly supervised and understand rules of safety. No siblings or friends may ride a pony during a rally as they are not covered by insurance. The cost of the rallies will vary, normally €15/€20. It is also possible to purchase DHPC blue sweatshirts, ties, jackets, etc. It is advisable that all members buy the pony club manual of horsemanship.

The following is a brief synopsis of the disciplines within the club.

## **MOUNTED GAMES**

Mounted games are great fun & very good at improving riders balance & confidence. They begin with U10, then juniors U13, and finally seniors U16. Games training generally starts in the spring at an appointed venue. Games are played by teams of 5.

Under 10 & Junior teams will train towards “area qualifiers” in which they will compete against other teams in the area for a place at the PONY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS usually held in August. The senior teams compete at a number of qualifiers throughout the season for a coveted place in the final at the RDS. There is also an opportunity for individual members to train towards selection on Irish teams travelling each year to various venues in Nt. Ireland, U.K & Windsor.

Mounted games tack sheets can be viewed on [www.irishponyclub.ie](http://www.irishponyclub.ie), usual dress for competition is cream/white Jodhpurs, approved hat & blue DHPC sweatshirt.

## **SHOWJUMPING**

Throughout the year children can improve their SJ skills at rallies. Pony club show jumping includes the very popular ROBBIE BAILEY(RB) & JOHN LEDINGHAM(JL) competitions

In June/July DHPC will participate at an area 5 qualifier successful participants will qualify for the IPC festival in late July.

## **HUNTER TRIALS**

Hunter trails can take place at any time of the year but the most popular months are March/April/May. Please note that any member competing cross country must wear an approved SKULL CAP, a back protector (level 3) and a medical armband. It is advisable to keep your pony club membership card in your medical armband as you may on some occasions be asked to produce it.

In April each year the HUNTER TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS take place. Members **MUST HAVE C TEST** for this competition. Ponies must be at least 5yrs. There is not an area qualifier for these championships. There is a pairs competition for juniors and a team of three competitions for Intermediate and a singles for seniors and members.

## **EVENTING – One Day Events (O.D.E.)**

Eventing consists of three parts a dressage test, a round of show-jumping and a cross-country course which take place on the same day. The scores from all three phases are then added together, the winner having the lowest score. A list of all the pony club events will appear on [www.irishponyclub.ie](http://www.irishponyclub.ie)

You must have passed the C test to compete in Open, Intermediate, and Junior classes. Ponies & horses >5yrs for all competitions, there is no height limit for horses but a horse/pony is only allowed to go under one rider at one event.

Members who wish to compete at the IPC HORSE TRIALS championships must have competed at least 2 events in their age category, with at least one clear XC round & one round of not more than 20 penalties. The result from the previous year's championships may count as one of these rounds if 20 or less XC penalties. Red mills sponsor a league in each age group, the prizes being presented at the Championships.

There are very strict rules about tack and dress. You should consult the current tack sheets for each discipline, as there are three tack inspections at competitions.

## **DRESSAGE**

The art of riding and training a horse in a manner that develops obedience, flexibility, and balance. Dressage is a sport of beauty and is only possible when there is a true partnership with the horse and rider. The skills once learnt will help the rider to improve any horse and help both horse and rider enjoy any discipline. Competition dressage is judged on the paces, impulsion, submission and the rider's effectiveness over a series of carefully prepared test movements.

Dressage within the Pony Club is now becoming one of the more popular disciplines as members begin to realize that it is the basis upon which all aspects of riding is based. Once a member gains a competence in dressage it puts them on a very strong footing to compete successfully in Eventing, Combined Training & Pure Dressage competitions.

## **COMBINED TRAINING (DRESSAGE & SHOWJUMPING)**

Combined Training is a test of the horse and rider's ability to perform a simple dressage test followed by a straight forward show jumping round, both of which test the horse's obedience, suppleness and calmness

## **PONY CLUB CAMP**

This is a most enjoyable & fun week. Camp is held in July at Danny Duloherly's Kilguilkey where the ponies are stabled overnight. The dates for camp are posted well in advance on our website A typical camp day begins at 8.30am until 5pm. It is essential that your pony has a passport with up to date vaccinations, as no pony will be allowed into Kilguilkey without this. It's a good idea to ensure this is in order at the beginning of the year to avoid disappointment.

It is essential to attend at least 3 ridden rallies (on the pony coming to camp) before camp so that members are placed in a suitable ride. A list of what to bring & application form will be on the website in the preceding weeks.

## **MINIMUS**

Minimus is a “triathlon” competition involving swimming, running & cross country riding. Children under 12yrs on Jan 1st are eligible.

The competition is held over 2 days in May, cross country riding on the day 1 & swimming/running day 2. Children should be capable of jumping 75cm cross country, in the swimming phase they try to swim as many lengths as they can in 2 minutes, while in the running phase they run 1km as fast as they can! It is a fantastic competition and well worth considering.

## **TETRATHLON**

The Tetrathlon competition involves four stage running, swimming, shooting and riding, and for many is a natural progression from minimus. It is run over 2 days in August and is for teams of 4 and an individual comp. for both boys & girls. Juniors are under 15 on Jan. 1st, seniors under 21 on Jan 1st . Competitors swim for 3 minutes, run 1.5km and compete on a cross country course of 90cm. Children must have the C test to partake.

## **HUNTING**

Hunting is not a pony club discipline but Duhallow Hunt Club kindly allow all members of DHPC to hunt, cap is €20. We remind all members to at all times be respectful of hunt staff & landowners, keep to headlands, close gates, & always come well turned out with clean plaited pony.