

Tack Check guide for parents before Lessons. Bearing in mind that the Coach cannot, under current rules, do their normal tack check.

Make sure you have everything! With these strange times please try to travel the pony already tacked up and your child dressed for riding, if you can. This is helpful for making sure that nothing has been left behind. In normal times there is plenty of opportunity for borrowing if something is forgotten but during Covid 19 times are at a premium. And if you miss your "slot" you are unlikely to be fitted in later on.

In the main the reason for a coach or a tack checker to have a look at tack is for safety purposes.

Rider:

Hat to current standards and tagged. Make sure chin strap is not too loose. Jodhpur boots/boots or smooth soled shoes only. Hairnet or hair securely tied up. No jewellery – if something simply cannot be removed then it must be taped over. Gloves, (whip, spurs if needed). Do all this before you leave home!

Pony/Horse

Saddle:

Stirrup leather stitching – it is amazing how quickly this can deteriorate.

Girth straps and girths. Again check for worn stitching. Tighten the girth before your child mounts.

Numnah – should be plain without names on it and also without a makers or sponsors logo unless the name is a Pony Club sponsor. Branch logos are great.

Saddle fit. Should be checked every 6 months by a saddle fitter.

Stirrup size. Too big is as bad as too small. A guide is that you should be able to fit your finger between your child's boot and the edge of the stirrup. New boots often require new stirrup irons as everyone grows, but do not be persuaded to get enormous stirrups to cater for future growth. It is just as unsafe for the foot to go right through the stirrup as it is for the foot to get caught on the sides.

Does your Pony wear boots? Don't leave them behind, they can be worn under travel boots whilst travelling.

Bridle:

Remember to check the height of the bit in the pony's mouth, this is important if your child has cleaned the tack and undone all the buckles, and might not have done it all up again correctly. Is anything twisted, check tightness and height of noseband too.

Reins – stitching, check for worn rubber.

Martingale stops. A must with a martingale.