

The Pony Club Guidelines on the use of spurs

It is important that spurs are only worn by riders who have a stable lower leg and who are able to use – or not use – the spur intentionally

Minimum expected requirements that should be discussed by the rider and coach

- If wearing spurs, the rider must:
 - Have still hands and a seat that is sufficiently independent that they can maintain a quiet, stable, still leg position.
 - Understand that spurs are a refinement of a leg aid
 - Be able to use their seat, hand, and leg aids individually
 - Be mindful of the impact spurs may have on the horse/pony they are riding
- If wearing spurs, the spurs must:
 - Be a maximum of 1.5 cm long or, if fitted with a ball at the end, a maximum of 4 cm long; this length is measured from the back of the boot to the end of the shank
 - Be fitted correctly, with the shank pointing slightly downwards
 - Only be used as an additional aid, to back up and refine the leg aids
 - Never be used to punish the horse
- If the pony/horse needs a strong bit for control, spurs are unlikely to be an appropriate aid

Misuse of spurs

Misuse of spurs is defined as:

- Spurs used aggressively
- Spurs used to bully the horse/pony
- The rider kicking with the spurs as opposed to using them as a refinement of an aid
- Evidence of spur-induced rubs or injuries.

. A rider misusing spurs or unable to meet the minimum expected requirements will be required to remove their spurs and should only resume wearing spurs when they have demonstrated to an accredited Pony Club coach that they can meet the minimum expected requirements and/or that they understand that the misuse of spurs is never acceptable.