

## Pony Racing Rider Pathway

The sport of Pony Racing is accessible and inclusive. The Racing Foundation funds a variety of Pony Racing activities through the PRA, Racing to School, The Pony Club and Careers in Racing, BRS and NHC on the 'Rider Pathway into Racing through Pony Racing'.

Pony Racing Authority – PRA – the governing body of Pony Racing. Delivers:

- free unmounted Taster Days
- subsidised mounted Training & Qualification Days
- funded Pony Racing Academies for riders who don't have a pony

Competitions include:

- Novice / Training Pony Races run on Taster Days
- Pony Racing at Point to Points
- The PRA Racecourse Series, the crème de la crème of Pony Racing

Racing to School – RtS - an education charity that aims to inspire young minds through the provision of free, interactive, and healthy outdoor educational events for schools, staged at a variety of racing venues. Delivers:

- subsidised 'Horse & Pony Racing Introductory Sessions' at Pony Club Branches and Centres
- free 'Careers Days at the Races' during half terms and school holidays

The Pony Club – offers Pony Racing as one of the 9 PC sports. Delivers:

- Pony Racing Rallies – the PC Office, the PRA, Area Reps and Centre Coordinators have a list of PC Pony Racing Coaches who will deliver these.
- Pony Club Race Days – usually 10 to 12 are held each year. These are the grass roots of Pony Racing.
- Train the Trainers – delivered with the PRA, this is Pony Racing Coach CPD for PC, PRA, RtS and BHA Jockey coaches.

Careers in Racing – guides and supports anyone interested in working in the racing industry  
<https://careersinracing.com/>

How to start and progress in the sport of Pony Racing

Step 1 – What's it all about?

Attend a PRA Taster Day to see pony racing in action

Attend a Race Day and / or a Point to Point with pony races

Invite RtS to come to your Branch / Centre or a group of Centres / Branches to deliver a subsidised Horse & Pony Racing Introductory Session

Attend a PC Pony Racing Rally

For riders without a pony who can canter in a group in an open space, apply for a place on the PRA Pony Racing Academy Scheme. Contact [academy@ponyracingauthority.co.uk](mailto:academy@ponyracingauthority.co.uk)  
<https://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk/get-racing/youth-training-scheme/>

Step 2 – Qualify – this can also be Step 1

Attend and pass a PRA / PC Training Day or

Attend and pass a Level 3 Training Day at one of the 3 racing schools – BRS, NHC or SQA  
OR

For Pony Club Race days, attend **2** group rallies held in a wide open space

For P2Ps and PRA Training races attend **4** group rallies held in a wide open space

Step 3

Enter a pony race

EITHER a PC Race Day OR a PRA Training Race Day OR a Point to Point Pony Race

Step 4

Having gained enough experience and qualified, move on to the PRA Racecourse Series

Explanations

- PRA Taster Day – An unmounted day run by the Pony Racing Authority alongside a Pony Racing day. In the morning, enjoy a variety of unmounted activities and learn about the sport of pony racing and how to get involved followed by an afternoon of watching pony racing. The day is free of charge but places are limited and must be booked. See flyer for more information. Email Lea on [lea@ponyracingauthority.co.uk](mailto:lea@ponyracingauthority.co.uk)  
<https://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk/get-racing/taster-days/>
- RtS Horse & Pony Racing Introductory session – RtS will come along to your venue with equicisors and fitness equipment for an unmounted or mounted session to introduce the sport and give help and advice on tack, equipment, PPE, how to get involved and rider skills and fitness working with the PC Pony Racing Rally format.  
<https://www.racingtoschool.co.uk/pony-racing-pathway/>
- Pony Racing Rally – PC, PRA and RtS coaches will run a rally in line with the PC Pony Racing sports badges. They will guide on preparation for race days including advice on tack and equipment working with the PC Pony Racing Rally format. Email Annabel on [ponyracing@pcuk.org](mailto:ponyracing@pcuk.org) <https://pcuk.org/sports/pony-racing/members-training/>
- PRA / PC Training Day: These days are used to learn about the sport and qualify to pony race. Riders and ponies are assessed as a combination, both in the arena in the morning and on the gallops in the afternoon. Usually run from October to March to qualify for PC and PRA Pony Racing but other days can be organised. A day of training that includes mounted & unmounted activities in the morning to prepare for riding on the gallops in the afternoon. There is also support and advice for

parents/guardians. Email Verity [verity@ponyracingauthority.co.uk](mailto:verity@ponyracingauthority.co.uk)  
<https://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk/get-racing/trainings-days/>

Training days are also available through the Racing Schools. To qualify, riders must attend and pass a Level 3 Training Day:

- British Racing School - <https://brs.org.uk/>
- National Horseracing College - <https://www.thenhc.co.uk/>
- Scottish Racing Academy – SRA - <https://scottishracingacademy.co.uk/>

### Which race should I enter?

We suggest a Pony Club Race Day or PRA Training Race Day as your first race day experience. If there isn't one near you, a Point to Point Pony race is a good way to start too.

Pony Club Race Day – the grass roots of Pony Racing. Held at racecourses around the UK including Ascot, Bangor-on-Dee, Cheltenham, Haydock Park, Kelso, Lingfield Park, Nottingham, Wincanton and at Milborne P2P course between March and October. Other days are being planned in 2024. Dates tbc There is no horse racing on these days so it's a great opportunity to have a tour of the racecourse along with the other activities.

- Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Open races
- for 128, 138 and 148cm & under ponies
- Riders aged 9 to 16 – riders must be 9 before 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the year they want to race
- Ponies aged 5 – 20 and under 148cm
- Riders must be Branch, Centre or Centre Plus Pony Club members

Pony and rider combination must qualify through one of the following ways. See Part 2, Rule 12, Entries on page 20 of the 2024 PC Pony Racing Rule Book – link below:

- at least 2 ridden group PC rallies that are held in a wide open space
- passed a PRA/PC Training Day
- passed a BRS, NHC or SQA Level 3 Training Day

PC Race Days are organised by Area / Branch Pony Racing committees and entries are made on Horse Events.

[https://pcuk.org/media/bannfhgc/rulebook-pony-racing-2024-final\\_web-v090124.pdf](https://pcuk.org/media/bannfhgc/rulebook-pony-racing-2024-final_web-v090124.pdf)

<https://pcuk.org/sports/pony-racing/competitions-and-events/pony-club-race-days/>

<https://www.horse-events.co.uk/events/?type=pony-racing>

<https://pcuk.org/media/s2yoydua/sport-badge-syllabus-intro-to-pony-racing-v21-2-0.pdf>

<https://pcuk.org/media/0sjcqyap/sport-badge-syllabus-pony-racing-v21-1-0.pdf>

PRA Training Races – Novice races, usually run alongside a PRA Taster Day when there is no Pony Club Pony Racing. These have been held recently at Exeter, Nottingham and Warwick with one postponed at Perth. Usually run between June and October. There is no horse racing on these days so it's a great opportunity to have a tour of the racecourse.

- Run under PRA Regulations.
- Riders and ponies must be registered with the PRA and qualify to enter by attending and passing a PRA Training day or 4 PC group rallies held in a wide open space.
- Riders aged 9 to 16
- Ponies aged 4 – 20 and under 148cm
- Ponies must be vaccinated in line with BHA Regulations. Vaccination checker as a guide <https://vaca.horseracing.software/>

Point to Point Pony Racing – Novice and Open (sometimes a Maiden) races held at 50 or so fixtures between January and June.

- Run under PRA Regulations and before or after the main card.
- Riders and ponies must be registered with the PRA and qualify to enter by attending and passing a PRA Training day or 4 PC group rallies held in a wide open space.
- Riders aged 9 to 16 on the day of their first race of the season
- Ponies aged 4 – 20 and under 148cm
- Ponies need a JMB certificate (See PRA regulations. Sometimes not in first season)
- Ponies must be vaccinated in line with BHA Regulations. Use this as a guide but also check with the PRA <https://vaca.horseracing.software/>
- Link to information about Point to Point Pony Racing and / or contact [lucy@ponyracingauthority.co.uk](mailto:lucy@ponyracingauthority.co.uk)

<https://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk/get-racing/point-to-pointponyracing/>

PRA Racecourse Series - the crème de la crème of Pony Racing, two races take place either before or after the main card on a race day usually between April and October. Ponies and riders who have competed in the previous year's Racecourse series can compete in the Racecourse AW Winter series where there is one race for 148cm ponies.

- Rider and pony combinations must be registered with the PRA and qualify to enter. <https://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk/get-racing/racecourse-series/>
- Riders aged 11 (on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year they are competing) to 16
- Ponies aged 4 – 20 and under 148cm
- Ponies need a JMB certificate and there are minimum weights

Qualification information for PRA Training Races, P2P Pony Racing and Racecourse Series: <https://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk/get-racing/am-i-qualified/>

For all races run under PRA regulations (PRA training Races, P2P Pony Races and Racecourse Series races), qualification runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> June.

PRA Regulations 2024: <https://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk/rules-and-regulations/>

