

Crash Helmets – Revised arrangements with effect from 1st September 2012.

With effect from the beginning of the Autumn 2012 season it will be compulsory for anyone taking part in an MFHA regulated Team Chase to have a hat that has been checked and complies with the standard required by the MFHA Rules, and is colour-tagged to confirm as such. To implement this change, please note:

(Amended) Rule 7 – Safety and Protection

It is compulsory for competitors to wear crash helmets to current recognised Safety Standards, and which are identified by a Team Chasing, BE, BRC, BSJA or Pony Club approved Hat Tag. I.e. Hats must meet one of the following standards:

British All PAS015, BSEN1384 or European EN1384 provided they are BSI kitemarked or SEI. American All SEI ASTM 95, ASTM F1163:2004, SNELL E2001. Australian and New Zealand All AS/NZS 3838

Competitors are strongly recommended to check their hats regularly and to replace them if damaged or following a fall.

All those mounted at an event (including grooms and helpers) must wear a hard hat complying to the above standard when mounted.

All competitors must also wear a British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) approved and appropriately labelled Level 3 body protector manufactured in the year 2000 or after.

Competitors are strongly recommended to check their body protectors on a regular basis and replace them if damaged or following a fall and are advised that the body protector should impede neither flexibility nor balance.

All horses being ridden at an event, including riding in exercise areas, must be ridden in a bridle with reins directly attached to a bit or leather 'D' rings or attached as per the manufacturer's specification to a purpose designed bitless bridle (such as a mechanical or jumping hackamore, Dr Cook, Sidepull or Scawbrig).

Guidelines for Competitors:

If your hat has not been colour-tagged previously, please take it to the Secretary's Tent at the next Team Chase where you intend to compete, and ask the Organiser of that event to check the hat and to provide you with a tag which will indicate to all subsequent events that the hat complies with the required standards. The Tag may cost up to £2 from the Organiser of the Team Chase, at their discretion.

Guidelines for Event Organisers:

With effect from 1st September 2012, any rider taking part in an MFHA affiliated Team Chase is required to wear a crash helmet complying with Rule 7 (as amended), which includes a requirement for approved hats to be tagged. As with all Team Chase rules, it is the responsibility of the local Event Stewards to enforce the rules of Team Chasing at each event, and we urge all event Organisers to make regular spot checks of all rider's crash helmets in the collecting ring prior to every competitor's round.

Hat tags are already provided by BE, BSJA, BRC, and The Pony Club. Any hat carrying a colour tag from one of these organisations satisfies the new criteria, and is acceptable for Team Chasing.

Where a competitor's hat has not been tagged previously, it must be presented to the local Organiser of a Team Chase who shall be responsible for checking the hat to ensure that it complies with the minimum standards of Rule 7. To confirm that the hat does comply, the Organiser is to supply a standard Team Chasing Hat Tag (as supplied by the MFHA Standing Committee) to the competitor for attachment to the crash helmet prior to the competitor's round. In addition to verifying that the hat complies with the rules at the event in question, it will also avoid the necessity for the hat to be checked again at any subsequent Team Chase events.

The Organiser of every Team Chase event will be sent 250 hat tags in advance of their event, at a cost of £1 per tag. Any unused tags must be returned to Belinda Walkinshaw (in person or by post) within 7 days of the date of the event, in which case no charge will be made for any of the returned tags. The cost of all used hat tags at each event will be deducted from the National Sponsorship monies paid to each event following its conclusion.

It is left to the discretion of each event Organiser to determine the price of any hat tags supplied to competitors at their event. The MFHA Standing Committee recommends that the cost should not exceed £2 per tag.

14th August 2012