



New Zealand Polocrosse Inc

www.nzpolocrosse.com

NOTICES TO CLUBS OCTOBER 2017



Dear Club Secretary,

Please forward information on to your members.

2017 AGM:



Thank you to everyone that attended this year's AGM, held at the Hamilton Airport – I think everyone will agree the Runway Room was a lovely venue and it was great that people stayed afterwards to mingle. It was great to see a few more people in attendance this year.

This was the first year with Neil Smith as President and Neil encouraged people to have discussions on the remits – even though most Associations had already been directed on how to vote. One Association was “given the right” to vote as they saw fit, by the members of their Association, which can be a good thing if you are unsure of the reasoning behind a remit. It was also good to have people ask questions about the reports (Financial) – it shows that you are reading them and hopefully the Board will always be able to provide the required answers. Overall it was a very positive AGM and Conference with lots of great discussion and information for the Associations and the Board to take away.

Patron: The New Zealand Polocrosse Board is very pleased to announce that Anne Mickell will remain as Patron for New Zealand Polocrosse for the coming year – thank you Anne! Anne has been the President of New Zealand Polocrosse and the national Secretary, as well as being the Manager of many tours, including the 2011 World Cup tour. Anne is a Life Member of New Zealand Polocrosse and a member of the Te Mata Polocrosse Club, where her husband Peter played for many years.

President: The New Zealand Polocrosse Board would like to advise that they have appointed Neil Smith to the role of President and Chairperson.

Board members: With only two nominations received, both Neil Smith and Andrew Fowler were elected on to the New Zealand Polocrosse Board. The Board has co-opted Lionel Gundry back on to the Board.

Draft AGM and Conference minutes will be sent to all Clubs shortly, along with copies of the updated By-Laws reflecting these changes / additions.

REMITS from the 2017 AGM:

The following remits were passed at the AGM –

Rule Change Remit 1: Rule 15. 13e (This is a change to the Constitution)

For an Association to have voting rights at an AGM, or SGM, they must have at least one delegate of the Association in attendance at the AGM or SGM. Proxy votes and postal votes are permitted for the remaining Association vote. Proxy votes are to be received by the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting and shall be recorded in the minutes. A postal vote must be received by the Board Secretary 7 days prior to the AGM, or SGM date, and a form for this must be requested from the Board Secretary.

The following remits were changes / additions / alterations to the By-Laws –

❖ Remit A: Addition to By-Law 13: Junior Scholarship criteria

k) Australian Visiting Junior Scholarship Players - Host families, or their Club, will be responsible for paying all / any Carnival entry fees for the Junior Scholarship player that they are hosting, unless the Carnival Host Club decides not to charge for these players.

There is no entry fee required for the Junior Scholarship players in the Juniors & Intermediates competition.

❖ **Remit B: Addition to By-Law 2.1 Organising of National Fixtures**

1.1.13 Draw Committee (numbering may change)

Any Club or Association that is hosting a National Fixture must provide one suitably able person to be on the Draw Committee and to assist in the Secretary's Office for the duration of the event.



❖ **Remit C: Change to By-Law 2.1.2 Sashes – removal of wording**

❖ **Remit D: Amendment to By-Law 2.1.22 Dogs**

It is recommended that dogs are not permitted at National Fixtures, with the host Club or Association having jurisdiction on this ruling. If a Club or Association does not ban dogs from the National Fixture then the dogs must be restrained at all times, for safety reasons, and the Club or Association has the right to enforce this.

❖ **Remit E: Removal of By-Law 2.2.2 Budget of Income & Expenditure**

❖ **Remit F: Removal of By-Law 2.4.2 a) and d) Reserves and Reserve Horses (and then re number)**

Remove -

- a) Before the commencement of a National Fixture each team shall name their reserve player on the score sheet (as 2.4.1 above). All reserve players must be ready to go on to the field at any time.
- d) Once a team is eliminated from Championship play they may use their reserve player.

❖ **Remit G: Addition to By-Law 4.10 Doubling Up After Start of Play**

- i) If a player doubles up, that same player must remain as the one doubling up in that team for the rest of the competition.
- j) Only one doubling up of players allowed per team

Note: There is no ruling on the player doubling up being of a “higher level” than the one he/ she is replacing, as they have come from the same team. Please note that this is different than a “Substitute Player” (IPC Rule 10g and Rule 12) - where the substitute player must not come from a higher division than that which the player is playing in.

❖ **Remit H: Addition to By-Law 4.6 Head Injuries & Concussion**

Any player that sustains a head injury, or a suspected concussion, must have a doctor's clearance before being permitted back on the Polocrosse field. A suspected head injury or concussion should be noted on the score sheet (if during a game) and the Umpires Panel and/ or Board Secretary are to be advised. A doctor's clearance, stating that there is no concussion and that the player is fit to return to play, is to be sighted by a member of the Umpires Panel before the player returns to the field and a copy of the certificate is to be forwarded to the Board Secretary.

If any player is diagnosed with a concussion then that player is not allowed to return to playing polocrosse without a doctor's clearance which must be forwarded to the Board Secretary.

After a head injury, blow to the helmet, or fall from a horse, where the helmet is compromised, the Umpires Panel may require that the helmet be replaced.

Concussion means a type of mild traumatic brain injury, which can cause temporary loss of brain function caused by the impact of force (blow) to a part of the body, not necessarily the head directly. It may or may not cause loss of consciousness and is not only caused through a fall from a horse.

The following remits were lost –

❖ **Remit I: To replace Bylaw 10.7 Multi Horse Carnivals**

The hosting of a Multi Horse Carnival is at the discretion of the hosting club with the hosting club choosing one of the two following categories:

1. **Multi Horse with Chukka Interchange.** This allows for changing horses between chukkas in a game.
2. **Multi Horse without Chukka Interchange.** This allows for change of horses between games only.

The type of **Multi Horse Carnival** must be clearly stated in all advertising for the carnival by the host club and published on the NZPA events Calendar.

❖ **Remit J: Addition to By-Law 10.4 Ambulance & Paramedic:**

All clubs as part of their carnivals should provide the services of a fully qualified paramedic and where possible (given location and availability) have on site an ambulance for the duration of the playing period of the carnival.

CLUB & ASSOCIATION CONTACT DETAILS:



As we head into the new playing seasons could all Clubs and Associations please update their contact details (form attached) so that information is getting to the right people in your Club. Please include a Chief Umpire for your Club and Association so that the Umpires Panel has a contact within your Club. Also, please include a Horse Welfare Officer, so officials know who to speak with if the need arises.

CARNIVAL DATES & ENTRY FEES:



Attached to this notice is a list of dates for the 2017 – 2018 playing season. As per the remit passed at the 2016 AGM, the New Zealand Polocrosse Board has been required to set a maximum player fee for all tournaments – this will remain at \$40.00 per player. This fee does not include meals, which Clubs can add at their discretion. If a Club has extraordinary costs associated with running their carnival, and feels that they are being disadvantaged by this fee, then they can apply to the Board for dispensation but the request must be accompanied by a budget and proof of expenses.

AFFILIATIONS & CLUB LEVIES:



Affiliations and Club levies are due by the 30th November 2017, forms will be sent to all Clubs and these will also available on the website. As agreed upon at the AGM the affiliations for the 2017 – 2018 season are as follows -

Senior/Intermediate Member	100.00 per player
Junior Member Under 16 years.....	\$50.00 per player
Sub Junior	\$ 5.00 per player
Social Member	\$10.00 per member
New Player	1st Carnival free 2nd Carnival full affiliation required
Casual Player	\$60.00 per Carnival (Refer details below)
Social Member - Casual Player.....	No charge – one time only at own Club carnival – see below
Life Member	NO CHARGE
Club Levies to be paid by end of November	\$100.00 per club
Carnival Levies	\$10.00 per player (Payable 7 days after Club Carnival. List of players names to accompany payment.)
Transfer Fees....	\$250.00 per player (with required paperwork)

Social Member – Casual Player:

This allows a paid up Social Member to play one carnival, per season, at their home Clubs local carnival without having to pay the Casual Player levy; if they play again in the season they then must pay the full fee to upgrade to a playing member. The carnival levy of \$10.00 still applies. This is seen as a positive way to increase participation, which could possibly result in these players coming back in to polocrosse.

EXPRESSION



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR NEW ZEALAND JUNIORS & INTERMEDIATES MANAGERS:

Expressions of interest are being sought for a Manager for the New Zealand Junior team and a Manager for the New Zealand Intermediates team.

It is expected that both teams will be travelling to Australia this season.

Managers do not have to have a player in the team (as teams will not be named till later in the season), and it is the aim of the Board to have managers appointed as soon as possible to work with the Coaches in the lead up to the selection of the final teams.

Expressions of interest are due in to the Board Secretary by **5.00pm Friday 3rd November 2017** by email to saunders-loder@actrix.co.nz and should include a brief CV or outline of the attributes and qualities that you could offer this position.

NEW ZEALAND TEAM COACHES:

The Board would like to confirm the re-appointment of Rick Murray as the New Zealand Junior Coach and Patrick (Paddy) Cornelius as the New Zealand Intermediate Coach. Shane Hill remains as the New Zealand Coach (World Cup).

NEW ZEALAND TEAM MANAGER:

The Board is pleased to advise of the appointment of Tania Jones as the New Zealand Team Manager through to the 2019 World Cup. Tania has already started with planning and is keen to get things underway!

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE 2019 WORLD CUP PLAYERS:

The Board is calling for expressions of interest from players wishing to be considered for the 2019 World Cup in Australia. It is to be understood that players may come and go, and although a player not put forward an initial EOI they could still be considered. Likewise, players that put forward their names do not have to be available for all tours in the lead up to the World Cup, but the sooner the selectors are aware of your interest, and the more times you make yourself available, or able to play in front of selectors, probably the better for you.

Expressions of Interest, including name, age, e-mail address, contact phone number and Club currently playing for – to be forwarded to the Board Secretary by **5.00pm Friday 3rd November 2017** by email to saunders-loder@actrix.co.nz

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR 2019 NEW ZEALAND WORLD CUP UMPIRE:

Umpires who would like to be considered to be the New Zealand Umpire at the 2019 World Cup should forward their name and details to the New Zealand Polocrosse Board Secretary saunders-loder@actrix.co.nz . There is no cutoff date for these expressions as yet, the Board and Umpires Panel are just wanting to be aware of possible candidates for this position.

POLICE VET CHECKING:

Please Note: Any player, coach, manager, umpire or other managerial / travelling position within a New Zealand team could / or may be Police Vet Checked.

PROPOSED TOURS (yet to be confirmed)

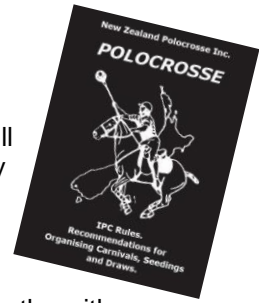
Inwards	Queensland Ladies vs NZ Ladies	Sponsors Carnival 10/11 th March 2018
Outwards	NZ Mens to Queensland	Barastoc Competition 4/6th May 2018
Outwards	NZ Mixed team to USA	Oct / Nov 2018
World Cup Team named early 2019 and will play together for most of the 2019 season.		
World Cup	Warwick, Queensland, Australia	22 nd – 29 th April 2019
Outwards	Juniors to Queensland (not Albury)	Date tbc
Outwards	Intermediates to New South Wales	Date tbc
Inwards	3 x Australian Junior Scholarships to NZ	January 2018
Outwards	3 x NZ Junior Scholarships to Australia	June 2018

UMPIRES PANEL NOTICES:

RULES:

Please remember the rules: If anyone needs a new rule book please contact either Gill Matheson (Umpires Panel Administrator) e-mail: gillandscott@gmail.com or the Board Secretary saunders-loder@actrix.co.nz.

- ❖ 2 girth points
- ❖ Taped reins – Reins must be joined or taped
- ❖ Length of reins – Reins should not fall below the horses elbow when placed on the wither.



CONCUSSION:

See note earlier re the new By-Law regarding Head Injuries & Concussion.

ACCIDENT REPORTS:

All accident reports from carnivals are to be sent to NZ Polocrosse Board Secretary and copied to Gill Matheson, the Umpires Panel Administrator.

SCORE SHEETS:

All completed score sheets from carnivals need to be forwarded to the **Umpire Panel Administrator** Gill Matheson, 269c Hurford Road, RD4, New Plymouth, 4374 at the conclusion of your carnival.

Umpires and Time Keepers /Scorers **need to record any incidents, penalties and the like, on the score sheets;** the score sheets also need to be signed. Please write clearly.

There is also a place to record the name of any player that is injured – this helps in meeting the obligations of recording injuries & accidents, as is now required under the new Health & Safety at Work Act, so please ensure you fill this part in. You can record further information on the back of the sheet if need be.

UMPIRE MONITORING:

Each Umpires panel member will be observing and monitoring umpiring this coming season, specifically within the B and C grades to start with.



UMPIRES AT CARNIVALS:

The allocation of umpires to games at carnivals will now be the responsibility of the Clubs Chief Umpire for that carnival.

UMPIRES PANEL:

Members of the Umpires Panel and New Zealand Chief Umpires will be confirmed in the next Notices to Clubs.

CONTINUATION OF NZ POLOCROSSE RULES:

The Umpires Panel has advised that they would like to see the following two rules continued to be “trialed” in New Zealand Polocrosse. It is understood that the “Riding through the Goal Posts” is being discussed by the IPC Umpires and may be introduced internationally. The “2 Minute Stand Down” is to help ensure umpires turn up on time; this stand down will carry over to the next time the umpire is playing if the umpire has no more games at the carnival where it is imposed. The stand down is not applied if there is a legitimate reason for the umpire being late – eg. Their previous game was running late / needed to attend to their horse / umpire changes have been made etc.

Please note: There are copies of this on the last page of this newsletter that can be printed out and distributed to Club members to glue in to the back of the Rule Books.

Riding Through The Goal Posts:

No player shall be permitted to ride through the goal posts in any direction. A player shall be deemed to have ridden through the goal when all feet of the players horse have crossed the goal line.

There will be a free goal awarded against the offending player/s. If a player scores a goal and then rides through the goal posts the goal stands, in addition a free goal is awarded to the other team. Play commences with a centre field line up.

Two Minute Stand Down for Late Umpires:

Any umpire late for umpire duties, unless umpire changes have been made, shall have a two minute stand down at their next game.

MOVING LINE OUTS:

The Umpires Panel would like to see some use of "Moving Line Outs" this season. Although the IPC Rules indicate that the line out should be a standing line out, a moving line out is used in Australia and our players are disadvantaged if they play in Australia and have never used the moving line out. Further information will come from the Umpires Panel regarding this.

We wish you to umpire as you wish to be umpired by others.

COACHING:

COACHING PANEL:

The Board will confirm the Coaching Panel members, Administrator and Board Representative in the next Notices to Clubs.

RECORD OF COACHING:

Clubs are asked to advise the Coaching Panel of all coaching that takes place within their Club, so that this can be officially recorded. This enables a clear record of coaching to be kept for reporting to Sport New Zealand and to assist in a uniformed coaching programme.

COACHING SYLLABUS:

If any members would like to start their Coaching qualifications (Level 1) or move up to Level 2, then please contact the Board Secretary - by e-mail at saunders-loder@actrix.co.nz



NATIONAL FIXTURES:

JUNIORS & INTERMEDIATES -	20th / 21st January 2018	Hosted by Te Mata Polocrosse Club
ROKE & ROCKWOOD -	24th / 25th February 2018	Hosted by Counties Polocrosse Club
SPONSORS CARNIVAL -	10th / 11th March 2018	Hosted by Counties Polocrosse Club
INTER ASSOICATION CHAMPIONSHIPS –	23rd / 24th March 2018	Hosted by King Country Association

JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

HOST FAMILIES REQUIRED FOR AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

New Zealand Polocrosse will again be hosting three Australian Junior players for our Scholarship programme that we have going with New South Wales Polocrosse Association (2 recipients) and Queensland Polocrosse Association (1 recipient). These young players will require host families for their time in New Zealand.

The Board is calling for families that are willing to host, and horse, these young players. It is expected that the host families will make sure that the recipients get to experience some of New Zealand's culture whilst here, attend polocrosse carnivals and most likely take part in the Juniors & Intermediates competition – treat them as you would like your child treated if they were in Australia.

As per the By-Laws, any Club that has had a player participate in the exchange last year must be willing for their Club to host a recipient Junior Scholarship, or to find a suitable host, so please contact the Board Secretary – saunders-loder@actrix.co.nz . If anyone else is interested in hosting a Junior Scholarship still contact the Board.

It is also noted, that as per the By-law passed at the AGM, the host Club / family is responsible for paying carnival entry fees for the Junior Scholarship player, unless the Club hosting the carnival decides to not charge for these players. There is no entry fee required for Junior Scholarship players in the Juniors & Intermediates competition.



NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO AUSTRALIA:

New Zealand Junior Scholarship Applications – The Board is calling for applications for the three Junior Scholarship positions available to Australia – one to Queensland and two to New South Wales. Applications should be in to the Board Secretary by the **Friday 12th January 2018** – E-mail: saunders-loder@actrix.co.nz or post to PO Box 228, Wanganui 4540. Juniors need to be nominated by their Association and also have signed approval for nomination from their parent or guardian. The player's present playing ability is to be taken into account, along with their ability to mix with people. Their application should contain references from their school and a summary of their involvement in polocrosse and their future polocrosse aims – as per the By Law below –

Junior Scholarship Criteria

- a) Juniors are to be nominated by their Association along with signed approval for nomination from their parent or guardian. Proof of age may be requested.
- b) The nomination is to be approved by the Coaching Panel.
- c) In the event of more than one nomination being received the Coaching Panel should make a recommendation to the Board.
- d) Present playing ability is to be taken into account.
- e) A reference as to character and endeavour is to be requested from the school that is being attended at present, or past.
- f) The ability to mix with people is to be taken into account.
- g) The length of time that the nominated person has been involved, along with their aims towards polocrosse in the future is to be considered.
- h) The Board will provide 50% of airfares to Australia (internal flights at recipient's expense) and cost of a windcheater type jacket with appropriate monogram.
- i) All Junior Scholarship recipients must have comprehensive travel, medical and sports insurance prior to travel. The Board will reimburse 50% of the insurance cost.
- j) All Clubs that put forward a recipient for the Junior Scholarships must be willing for their Club to host a recipient Junior Scholarship, or to find a suitable host, if their Club's Junior player should be selected. The host family must be of a suitable caliber
- k) Host families, or their Club, will be responsible for all / any Carnival entry fees for the Junior Scholarship player that they are hosting, unless the Carnival Host Club decides not to charge for these players. There is no entry fee required for the Junior Scholarship players in the Juniors & Intermediates competition.

HELATH & SAFETY:

Health and Safety information as sent out last year, will be sent out again this year to Club Secretary's. Association Secretary's will have received 2 x pocket cards relating to recognising signs of concussion. More of these cards, and other resources, are available from the ACC website <https://accsportsmart.co.nz/home/resources/>

Concussion was discussed in depth at the AGM and Conference. Only a medical doctor can assess and diagnose a concussion. In a game where a head injury occurs or concussion is suspected (which does not necessarily have to result from a knock to the head) it would usually be the Umpires that would make the first call, and / or the first aider in attendance but this is based on the Concussion Recognition Tool, produced by the 2013 Concussion in Sport Group, standardised "test" for recognising signs and symptoms of concussion (as outlined on the ACC pocket cards and other resources).

HELMET TAGS:

Helmets need to be rechecked each year, and re tagged, to ensure they meet the approved standards. This year the tags are RED and Club Chief Umpires should have these tags and be tagging the helmets prior to players taking to the field.

Two standards have been removed EN1384 and BSEN 1384.

A list of the approved standards is included with this notice.

The checking of the helmet is only to see that the helmet complies with the approved standard; it is not checking for the safety or condition of the helmet, although recommendations could be made to the player to replace their helmet if it is thought to be unsafe or too old. The reason for this being a helmet could be perfectly fine when it is tagged, then it could be damaged and it would no longer be safe, yet it would still have the red tag on it.



GEAR CHECKING:

As there is no specific requirement for “Gear Checks” to be carried out prior to games, practices or training events it is the responsibility of the rider, or parent / guardian of the rider, to ensure that all playing gear is correct and of a safe, recommended, or approved standard. Gear inspections can be carried out by Umpires prior to the start of a game, or may also be carried out by other people within the Club or team (eg. Coach / Manager) – these checks in no way reduce the onus on the rider to ensure that they have SAFE gear – these are to check that there is no obvious fault in the gear or equipment being used and that these meet with current regulations - i.e. IPC Playing Rules for gear, NZPX helmet standards etc. Checking that whips have flappers, that there are no sharp or protruding points on buckles, illegal bits, spurs etc. It has also been noted that some players are playing with “metal” knee protection – which is actually causing injury to the opposing player



All players should regularly check the fit of their gear – especially if riding different horses; check for weak or faulty girths or surcingles; and check all stitching on bridles, saddles, girths, stirrups etc.

It is the rider's responsibility (or the parent or guardian of the rider) to check that they have retightened their girth / surcingle if this has been loosened between chukkas!

Please read the Disclaimer in the front of the Rule Books and refer to the “Gear Checking Guidelines” for further information.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DISCLAIMER & WAIVER:

The New Zealand Polocrosse Board requires all affiliated members to sign the “General Membership Disclaimer & Waiver” form; this should be done at the start of the season, or at their first day of play / practice. A copy of this form needs to be sent to the Board Secretary with affiliations, and the Club must also retain a copy. This will need to be updated through the season as new players join etc. The form should also be used for any “casual” players at “Have a Go Days”, 1st Carnivals etc.

AED's (Defibrillators):

A reminder that the Board has two Automated External Defibrillators (AED's), purchased through Lion Foundation funding, and these should be available at all polocrosse events. One AED is located with Jenelle Coxall, the New Zealand Polocrosse Gear Custodian, and the second one moves around Clubs in the Northland Association – this should ensure that there is one AED available at each carnival. The host Club should contact the person closest to them that holds the AED to see if they are attending their carnival, and if not arrange another way of getting the AED to the carnival. The AED needs to be kept in a central location at the carnival – eg. Secretary's tent / office so that it is readily available if ever needed. The Club is responsible for the AED whilst it is at their carnival – these are worth a lot of money and need to be looked after!

Clubs may wish to apply for funding themselves for AED's / first aid kits / training etc or for first aid coverage at their carnivals, through their local funding venues.

CARNIVAL LEVIES:

Remember that Carnival levies are due in to the Board Secretary 7 days after the Carnival along with a list of all players. This form can be sent by e-mail, and is available on the NZ Polocrosse website.

Note: Sub juniors are not required to pay a carnival levy – as it is expected that Clubs do not charge an entry fee for these players.

Thanks
Raewyn Saunders-Loder
(Secretary)



RULE BOOK ADDITIONS:

Please cut out and distribute to your members so they can add them to their Rule Books –

NEW ZEALAND POLOCROSSE RULES BEING TRIALLED

Riding Through The Goal Posts:

No player shall be permitted to ride through the goal posts in any direction. A player shall be deemed to have ridden through the goal when all feet of the players horse have crossed the goal line.

There will be a free goal awarded against the offending player/s. If a player scores a goal and then rides through the goal posts the goal stands, in addition a free goal is awarded to the other team. Play commences with a center field line up.

Two Minute Stand Down For Late Umpires:

Any umpire late for umpire duties, unless umpire changes have been made, shall have a two minute stand down at their next game.

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RED TAG	
Compulsory from 1 August 2017	
HELMET STANDARD	SAFETY MARK
AS/NZS 3838 (1998, 2003 or 2006)	
VG1	
ASTM-F1163-04, F1163 - 11 or F1163-15	
PAS 015:1998 or 2011	
Snell E2001	

DISCLAIMER:

All players, spectators or public that enter polocrosse grounds (or grounds where polocrosse is being played), or take part in the sport of polocrosse, do so at their own risk.

Whilst all care and due diligence will be used to ensure the safety of those participating in the sport of polocrosse, New Zealand Polocrosse Incorporated, its affiliated Clubs or Associations, cannot be held liable for any damage, injury or the like caused to, or suffered by, any persons, animal or property.

Umpires, or others, that carry out gear checks or make recommendations on gear, use of gear, playing or riding recommendations cannot be held liable – it is the responsibility of the rider, or parent / guardian of the rider, to ensure that all playing gear is correct and of a safe, recommended or approved standard.

All riders must wear an approved helmet whilst mounted.