

Code of conduct for parent/carers

Many organisations depend on parents and carers to help. Fairness should take precedence over competitiveness. Teaching by example will foster caring and respect for all.

Parents/carers should therefore:

- Be a positive role model by respecting coaches, officials, volunteers and leaders; their authority and decisions; the rules and regulations under which organisation operates
- Agree to discuss disputes/appeals at a suitable, agreed time with the correct officials, within the appropriate level of the organisation, without resorting to hostility or violence
- Never place a child/adult under pressure or push them into activities that they do not want to do
- Always remember that organisational activities are intended to be safe and fun to benefit the children/adults competing rather than parents/carers.
- Respect the horses and ponies and show humane care for them at all times.
- Respect the property and equipment used in any activities, considering safety uppermost in all situations
- Be knowledgeable about the rules of the discipline or competition the child/adult is taking part in and encourage them to know, be familiar with, and follow these rules.
- Promote the physical and emotional well-being of the child/adult and others and horses ahead of any personal desire to win or succeed in any activity.
- Teach children/adults that taking part, learning and showing sportsmanship in all competitions, testing situations, clinics etc. are more important than winning.
- Praise all children/adults equally for trying hard and competing fairly.
- Inform officials as soon as possible if they or a child/adult is unable to fulfil commitments or attendance at events.
- Help children/adults and others to understand the satisfaction of co-operation, group work and team spirit in achieving personal goals and growth, and good results.
- Volunteer your services and skills, whether equine-related or not, whenever possible.
- When using social networking sites always conduct yourself in an appropriate way as you would face to face. Be aware of what you say and how you say it - the use of sarcasm and innuendo are not appropriate.
- Help children/adults to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Set a good example by recognising fair competition and applauding good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child/adult for losing or making mistakes.
- Support a child/adults involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.

Parents/Guardians should not:

- Force children/adults to take part in activities with which they are not comfortable.
- Disrespect or undermine the authority/decisions of coaches / officials concerning the skills and abilities of a children/adult.
- Engage in or condone unsportsmanlike behaviours such as booing, taunting, using profane language, refusing to congratulate winners, etc.
- Criticise officials, coaches, volunteers or members on social networking sites or by the use of text messaging.

As a parent/carer you have the right to:

- Be assured that your child is safeguarded during their participation in sport
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to children/adults
- Be informed if a child/adult is injured
- Have your consent sought for issues such as trips and photography
- Have any safeguarding concerns listened to and actioned.

Any breaches of this code of conduct will be dealt with immediately by the organisation and persistent concerns/breaches may result in you being suspended from attending events.