

Code of Conduct for Parents & Guardians

N.B. This code applies to all people attending Pony Club activities with a member.

The Pony Club is a voluntary youth organisation for young people within an equestrian environment. Fairness should take precedence over competitiveness. Teaching by example will foster caring and respect for all. The Pony Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members and the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty to create strength of character and self-discipline. It is important that all members, parents / guardians, officials, volunteers and coaches should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others.

Parents / Guardians have the right to:

- Be assured that your child is safeguarded during their participation with The Pony Club. In line with National Safeguarding Guidance, The Pony Club reserves the right to report any Safeguarding concerns to the appropriate agency if it believes that there are issues which could harm the welfare of a child.
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to your child.
- Be informed if your child is injured.
- Have your consent sought for events such as residential camps and photography.
- Have the opportunity to input into the decisions made with your Branch / Centre.
- Have any concerns about any aspect of your child's welfare listened to and responded to as appropriate.

As parents / guardians of Members of The Pony Club, you are expected to abide by the following Code of Conduct:

- Keep yourself safe and be aware of your safeguarding responsibilities.
- Report any concerns about safeguarding poor practice / conduct you have to the Safeguarding Officer at your Branch / Centre.
- Be a positive role model for your child and other members and show an interest in their chosen activity.
- Be friendly, supportive and show respect to all members, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff and other parents / guardians.
- Ensure your child understands the Code of Conduct for Members.
- Promote the physical and emotional well-being of your child and other members.
- Always show respect to your horses / ponies and care for them.
- Always conduct yourself in an appropriate manner, both face to face and when using social networking platforms or technology.
- Praise all members equally and discourage unfair competition. Do not engage in or condone unsportsmanlike behaviour.



- Encourage your child to recognise that taking part, learning and showing good sportsmanship is of the utmost importance and promote the ethos that participation in sport is for fun.
- Do not punish or belittle your child for failing to perform as well as you would like, place your child under pressure or push them into sports or equestrian activities they do not want to, or are not comfortable, doing. Instead, you should support your child's involvement.
- Refrain from being rude, using foul or abusive language, or being violent or aggressive.
- Respect the property and equipment used in any activities.
- Refrain from interfering or undermining the authority of coaches or officials. Instead, politely discuss disputes / appeals at a suitable time with the correct official(s) including the decisions made by coaches or officials.
- Do not criticise officials, coaches, volunteers, staff, members or parents / guardians on social networking platform or via text messages / emails.
- Be aware that it is not acceptable to photograph or video an injured person.
- Do not post pictures or other images of a child under 18 on any social network platform without the permission of the child involved and their parent / guardian.

Any breaches of this Code of Conduct will be dealt with immediately by the Branch / Centre. Persistent breaches will be dealt with and may result in formal action being taken in accordance with The Pony Club Rules.

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