

## **Code of Conduct for Parents & Persons with Parental Responsibility**

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 / Persons with Parental responsibility, Officials, Volunteers, and Coaches should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others.

### **What do Parents/Persons with Parental responsibility have the right to expect from The Pony Club?**

As Parents/Persons with Parental responsibility you have the right to:

- Be assured that your child is safeguarded during their participation with The Pony Club.
- 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 for 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.

The Pony Club takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. If concerns are raised that any child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, then the Branch or Centre Safeguarding Officer has a duty of care to report these concerns to the relevant statutory agency (including the Police and Social Care) in line with local guidance and The Pony Club's policies and procedures.

### **Conduct expected of Parents/Persons with Parental Responsibility**

In return, as Parents / Persons with Parental Responsibility of Members of The Pony Club, you are expected to

- Keep yourself safe and be aware of your safeguarding responsibilities.
- Report any concerns about safeguarding or poor practice / conduct 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 / Persons with Parental responsibility, whether at your Branch/Centre or another.
- Ensure your child understands their Code of Conduct.
- Show respect to horses / ponies and show humane care for them at all times in line with the Equine Welfare Policy.

- Always conduct yourself in an appropriate manner, either face to face and when using social networking sites or technology.
- Promote the physical and emotional well-being of your child, other Members and horses / ponies.
- Praise all Members equally and discourage unfair competition. Do not engage in or condone unsportsmanlike behaviour.
- Encourage your child that taking part, learning and showing good sportsmanship is of the utmost importance and promote that participation in sport is for fun.
- Volunteer your services and skills, whether equine related or not, wherever possible.
- Do not punish or belittle your child for making mistakes, 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, violent or aggressive, using foul or abusive language, being discriminative, bullying or other inappropriate behaviour. Encourage Members to do the same. Address any inappropriate behaviour where necessary.
- Respect the property and equipment used in any activities.
- Refrain from interfering or undermining the authority of Coaches, Volunteers 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 / Persons with parental responsibility, on social networking sites or by the use of text messages / emails.
- Be aware that it is unacceptable, and may be considered a possible assault, to photograph or video an injured person.

Any breaches of this Code of Conduct will be dealt with immediately by the Club. Persistent concerns or breaches may result in you being asked not to attend Pony Club events, if your attendance is considered detrimental to the welfare of Pony Club Members, or termination of your child's Membership if this is felt appropriate.

Members Name ..... Membership Number .....  
 .....

Name of Parent's/Persons with Parental Responsibility  
 .....  
 ..

Signature of Parents/Persons with Parental Responsibility  
 .....