

Buchan Riding Club

Health and Safety Policy

Buchan Riding Club Health & Safety Policy Statement:

Buchan Riding Club (BRC) is strongly committed to encouraging our members to take part, but the health, wellbeing and safety of each individual is always our paramount concern.

BRC will safeguard, so far as reasonably practicable the health, safety and welfare of all persons who might be subject to risks from its activities. This will be achieved by co-operating, communication and co-ordinating with all relevant agencies, organisations, volunteers, etc necessary to manage the health and safety during the activities of BRC.

This policy requires total co-operation of all involved with BRC ie committees, stewards, helpers, participants, members of the public etc. We require everyone to:

- Take reasonable precautions in safeguarding the health and safety of themselves and others.
- Observe all health and safety rules and procedures as laid down by the BRC organising committee Health & Safety Policy.

To support our Health & Safety policy statement we are committed to the following duties:

- Undertake regular, recorded risk assessment of all activities undertaken by the club.
- Create a safe environment by putting health & safety measures in place as identified by the assessment.
- Ensure that all members are aware of, understand and follow the club's Health & Safety Policy.
- Ensure that normal operating procedures and emergency operating procedures are in place and are known by all members.
- Provide access to adequate first aid facilities, telephone and a qualified first aider when required.
- Report any injuries or accidents sustained during any club activity.
- Ensure that the implementation of the policy is reviewed regularly and monitored for effectiveness.

AS A CLUB MEMBER YOU HAVE A DUTY TO:

- Take reasonable care for your own health & safety and that of others who may be affected by what you do or not do.
- Co-operate with the Club on health & safety issues.
- Correctly use all equipment provided by the Club.
- Not interfere with or misuse anything provided for your health, safety or welfare.

BRC Committee have a responsibility to ensure that BRC events are organised, as far as is reasonably practical, in accordance with appropriate Health and Safety legislation.

Officials:

Prior to events, Stewards, Judges and Officials are briefed to ensure they maintain control of their areas and ensure that,

- Access and exit at the event is safe and kept clear.
- Everything reasonable is done to ensure the health, safety and welfare of those attending the event.
- They conduct themselves so that they do not put themselves or anyone else at risk.
- The organisers will carry out risk assessments and impose controls as a result, which will form part of the briefing.

Spectators:

All reasonable and practical steps will be taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of those attending club events. Spectators, so far as is reasonably practical are,

- Required to keep within the designated pedestrian areas and to observe the instructions of the Stewards, Judges and members of the Organising Committee.
- Requested to take extra care when moving around in areas shared with horses.

Competitors:

Competitors are required to retain control of their horses so that they do not put themselves or anyone else at risk. Competitors moving between parking and competition areas must do so at a walk. Horses may only be exercised in designated warm-up and practice areas.

In The Event of an Emergency:

A designated emergency access route will be established at all events, and kept clear at all times so that emergency vehicles can, if necessary, access all parts of the event site. If a requirement, a qualified First Aider will be present at events. They will be contactable by mobile telephone throughout the event via any Steward, Judge or Official who will have their number and other relevant emergency numbers readily available in case they are required.

Horses and Dogs:

Horses can be easily frightened and can also be dangerous. All persons attending an event are requested to avoid behaviour that could alarm horses. Dogs must be kept on a lead and under control at all times.

Vehicles:

When entering an event area, vehicles should proceed in a manner so as not to put others at risk by their acts or omissions. They must only use designated areas and must comply with any instructions given by the organising committee or their representatives.

HORSE RIDING IS A RISK SPORT AND COMPETITORS PARTICIPATE ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN RISK. IT IS RECOMMENDED BY THE ORGANISERS THAT ALL COMPETITORS HAVE ADEQUATE INSURANCE COVER. CLUB RULES REQUIRE HARD HATS OF BRC APPROVED STANDARD TO BE WORN WHEN MOUNTED. BODY PROTECTORS OF BRC APPROVED STANDARD ARE RECOMMENDED FOR SHOW JUMPING COMPETITIONS AND ARE COMPULSORY FOR CROSS COUNTRY.

Horse Welfare & Riders Code of Conduct:

This applies to all horse riders/owners at BRC events. The welfare of the pony/horse in all equestrian sports must be considered paramount. The highest standards of nutrition, health, sanitation and safety shall be encouraged and maintained at all times. Adequate provision must be made for ventilation, feeding, watering and maintaining a healthy environment during the transportation of pony/horses.

All riding and training methods must take into account that the pony/horse is a living entity and must not endorse any technique considered by the LCRC Committee to be abusive.

BRC should establish adequate controls in order that all persons under their jurisdiction respect the welfare of the pony/horse.

BRC rules regarding the health and welfare of the pony/horse must be adhered to at all levels.

Every rider, owner and club official must accept responsibility to uphold the high level of pony/horse welfare expected.

Should any spectator, rider, judge, BRC member be concerned about or feel that they have witnessed rough or unfair riding or training they should report it immediately to a Committee member of the BRC. The BRC Committee will then investigate and decide on the appropriate action to be taken.

Examples of abuse:

Bit: the bit must never be used as a punishment.

Spurs: excessive or inappropriate use of spurs is not acceptable.

Whip: excessive or inappropriate use of a whip is not acceptable.

Lameness: riding any unsound pony/horse is not acceptable.

Tack: tack should be correctly fitted to avoid any suffering.

Over-working: to ride or compete on an obviously exhausted, lame or injured pony/horse is not acceptable.

Distress: the obvious distress of a pony/horse whether caused by the rider or other external factors is not acceptable.

Blood: any sign of blood on an animal is a cause for concern.

Conduct of BRC Members:

No BRC member shall:

Conduct themselves at any event in a manner which is offensive to the public, argue at any event with a judge, official or other competitor or use abusive or threatening language or behave with incivility or contempt towards a judge, official or another rider.

Ill-treat in any way a pony or horse whether inside or outside the showground at an event in any circumstance.

Misuse or excessively use a whip or spurs.

Deliberately use the action of the bit as a means of punishment and/or misuse any item of saddlery in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to a pony or horse.

Conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of the BRC.

Emergency Contacts:

Police, fire and ambulance in the case of emergency dial 999