

MEMBER CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITIES

Southside Pony Club is committed to ensuring that everyone involved in Pony Club is treated with respect and dignity and is protected from abuse, bullying, harassment, sexual misconduct, unlawful discrimination, victimisation and vilification.

Southside Pony Club members are required to adhere to a high standard of conduct and behaviour when on Club grounds and representing Southside Pony Club in any capacity. Members must behave in accordance with Pony Club Australia's Code of Conduct, Member Protection Policy and act within the values of Pony Club.

At Southside Pony Club, we have a zero tolerance towards negative behaviour or bullying.

Good behaviour is not optional, it is compulsory.

Purpose

The Southside Pony Club (SSPC) Member Conduct and Responsibilities sets out and acts as an agreement for the acceptable conduct, behaviours and responsibilities of Members, Parents and Legal Guardians and Supervising Adults. SSPC Members must act and operate within the values, rules and spirit of Pony Club.

SSPC operates under Pony Club Australia's Code of Conduct, Pony Club Australia's National Integrity Framework and other policies including The National Integrity Framework, The Member Protection Policy, The Child Safeguarding Policy, The Competition Manipulation and Wagering Policy and The Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy.

All Members, Parents, Legal Guardians and Supervising Adults acknowledge they have read, understood and agree by the SSPC Member Conduct and Responsibilities and Pony Club of Australia's policies and guidelines.

Responsibilities of Members, Parents, Legal Guardians and Supervising Adults

Rider Safety

- All horses are privately owned or leased by Members. Unless in the case of emergency, it is not permitted to handle or ride another Member's horse without prior agreement from the Owner/Lessee, Parent, Legal Guardian and/or a member of the SSPC Management Committee.
- All Members, Parents, Legal Guardians and Supervising Adults acknowledge the risks posed in horse activities and handling and all activities are conducted at their own risk.
- All Members, Parents, Legal Guardians and Supervising Adults must ensure all horses are handled and ridden in an appropriate and safe manner and in accordance with Pony Club Australia and Pony Club Queensland guidelines. It is encouraged that all Riding Members complete Pony Club Australia's Proficiency Certificates.
- All Members, Parents, Legal Guardians and Supervising Adults acknowledge appropriate safety equipment if handling or riding horses is required when on SSPC's grounds in accordance with Pony Club Australia National Gear Rules (latest version). Whilst using SSPC grounds, the following must be worn:
 - Riding boots and helmet when riding, noting safety vests must be worn on cross-country courses at all times.

- Riding boots and/or safety footwear and helmet when lunging.
- Riding boots and/or appropriate safe footwear when handling horses.
- Helmets must comply with Pony Club Australia National Gear Rules (latest version) and must be structurally sound and chinstrap must be attached and used correctly.
- Riders must not use or hold electronic devices whilst on horseback.

Safety of Minors

- SSPC operates under Pony Club of Australia's commitment to Safeguarding children and young people- [Child Safeguarding | Pony Club Australia](#).
- All Members with Junior Riding Membership status must be supervised by a Parent or Legal Guardian who holds an active SSPC Membership whilst on SSPC grounds with the exception of Members who are fifteen years and older who are tending to the care of their horses in agistment areas.
- Supervision by a Parent or Legal Guardian of a Junior Riding Member includes direct and adequate supervision.
- The responsible Parent or Legal Guardian must ensure that the behaviour of the Junior Riding Member does not behave in a way that endangers the safety of any person, horse or equipment and that the Junior Riding Member adheres to the SSPC Member Conduct & Responsibilities and Pony Club Australia policies.
- A Junior Riding Member may be supervised by a Supervising Adult who is not a Parent or Legal Guardian. The Supervising Adult must be a Member over the age of 18 years and older (with prior approval from the Management Committee), a qualified Pony Club Queensland or Equestrian Australia Qualified Instructor. Supervising Adults may be required to produce a Working with Children Check.

Personal Conduct

- A Member must not:-
 - Use indecent, obscene, insulting, discriminatory or threatening language.
 - Behave in an offensive or indecent manner.
 - Obstruct a person in the performance of that person's duties or activities.
 - Interfere or disturb the quiet enjoyment of other Members or visitors.
 - Interfere or disturb neighbouring residences or businesses.
 - Encourage others to act in contravention of the Code of Conduct.
 - Fail to comply with a reasonable request or direction by Instructor of a member of the Management Committee.
 - Harass, bully, abuse, vilify or intimidate another Member, including via the use of Social Media.
 - Behave in any manner that may bring SSPC into disrepute, in any
 - Act in a way that may endanger another person or horse.

A Member found to have committed any of the above, may be asked to leave SSPC grounds and may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Horse Welfare

- SSPC operates under Pony Club of Australia's Horse Welfare Policy and is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all horses that are involved in our sport.
- Members must adhere to the standards in Pony Club of Australia's Horse Welfare Policy which is considered best practice.
- [PCA-Horse-Welfare-Policy-WEB-2024.pdf](#)
- Horse welfare terms and conditions for agisting Members are contained within the SSPC Agistment Agreement.
- Members must act in accordance with Pony Club Australia's Hot Weather Guidelines [PCA-Hot-weather-2019-2.pdf](#)

General Horse Safety when on SSPC Grounds

- Horses may not be left loose or unattended in common areas.
- Horses may not be tied to horse floats whilst not attached to vehicles, outside of arena or yards.

- A Member must not commit any act of animal cruelty to any horse. Cruelty includes, but is not limited to:
 - Excessive use of whips or spurs.
 - Use of whips around a horses head.
 - Making a demand of exercise beyond the capabilities or fitness of the horse.
 - Use of ill-fitting or broken tack or equipment which causes pain; or
 - The riding of a lame or injured horse.
- Members of the Management Committee reserve the right to instruct a Member to cease activities and report cruelty to the RSPCA or any Government Agency.

Incident Reporting

- A Member must report any incidents immediately , which include:
 - Accidents (physical injuries)
 - Incidents (near misses)
 - Incidents
 - Incidents involving property damage.
- Incident must be reported through PCA's Incident Reporting System.

Review

Review of this Policy is reviewed annually and when business changes occur, whichever is sooner.

Document Control

Revision Date	Owner
November 2025	SSPC Management Committee