

Code of Conduct for Parents & Guardians



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.
- 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.

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, 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.
- 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.
- 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, 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 sites or using text messages / emails.
- Be aware that it is not acceptable to photograph or video an injured person.

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.