
SHETLAND PONY GRAND NATIONAL

ENHANCED SOCIAL MEDIA RULES – 2026 SEASON

Enhanced Social Media Rules

These Enhanced Social Media Rules apply to **all riders, parents, guardians, owners, handlers, family members, and associates** involved with the Shetland Pony Grand National (SPGN).

They exist to protect children, ponies, volunteers, officials, and the reputation of SPGN.

These rules form a compulsory part of the **SPGN Code of Conduct** and the **2026 Rule Book**.

1. General Principles

1.1

All online activity connected to SPGN must be respectful, responsible, and in keeping with the values of the organisation.

1.2

These rules apply to all platforms, including but not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, WhatsApp, X (Twitter), YouTube, forums, group chats, and private messaging.

1.3

Screenshots, private messages, and deleted posts are still considered “published” if shared or reported.

2. Prohibited Online Behaviour

The following actions are strictly prohibited:

2.1 Negative or Harmful Content

- Posting or sharing negative, critical, or derogatory comments about:
 - Riders
 - Ponies
 - Parents or guardians
 - Handlers
 - SPGN officials or volunteers

- Other teams or shows
- Selection decisions
- Trials Day outcomes
- LHS or invitation show decisions

2.2 Bullying or Harassment

- Any form of online bullying, intimidation, or targeted comments.
- Encouraging others to exclude, criticise, or target individuals.

2.3 Spreading Rumours or Misinformation

- Posting unverified claims about ponies, riders, results, or decisions.
- Sharing private information about other families or children.

2.4 Aggressive or Inflammatory Behaviour

- Arguments, rants, or confrontational posts.
- “Calling out” individuals or groups publicly or privately.

2.5 Recording or Sharing Without Permission

- Posting videos or photos of other riders or ponies without consent.
- Sharing footage of falls, incidents, or disciplinary actions.

2.6 Undermining SPGN

- Criticising rules, officials, or management online.
- Suggesting bias, unfairness, or favouritism.
- Publicly questioning decisions instead of using official channels.

3. Expectations for Parents & Guardians

3.1

Parents must model positive online behaviour at all times.

3.2

Parents are responsible for monitoring their child’s online activity relating to SPGN.

3.3

Parents must ensure that family members, friends, and supporters also comply with these rules.

4. Expectations for Riders

4.1

Riders must not post negative or harmful content about other riders, ponies, or SPGN.

4.2

Riders must not engage in online arguments or respond to negative posts.

4.3

Riders must report any online issues to a parent or guardian immediately.

5. Group Chats & Private Messaging

5.1

WhatsApp groups, Messenger chats, and similar platforms fall under these rules.

5.2

Negative comments made in “private” groups are treated the same as public posts.

5.3

Parents are responsible for supervising group chats involving minors.

6. Use of SPGN Branding

6.1

SPGN logos, images, and branding may not be used without permission.

6.2

No one may create unofficial SPGN pages, groups, or accounts.

6.3

Event photos may not be edited, watermarked, or redistributed without approval.

7. Reporting Concerns

7.1

Concerns about online behaviour must be reported directly to SPGN Management.

7.2

Screenshots or evidence may be requested as part of an investigation.

7.3

All reports are handled confidentially.

8. Disciplinary Action

Breaches of these rules may result in:

- Formal warning
- Temporary suspension
- Removal from a show
- Removal from the season
- Loss of LIHS or invitation show eligibility
- Permanent exclusion from SPGN

SPGN Management reserves the right to take immediate action where necessary.

9. Zero-Tolerance Policy

SPGN operates a **zero-tolerance policy** for online behaviour that:

- Targets children
- Damages welfare
- Harms reputations
- Undermines safety
- Brings SPGN into disrepute

Any such behaviour will result in immediate suspension pending investigation.

10. Agreement

Participation in SPGN confirms that all riders, parents, guardians, owners, handlers, and associates:

- Have read these Enhanced Social Media Rules
- Understand them
- Agree to comply fully

Failure to comply may result in removal from SPGN activities.
