



Anti-Bullying Policy

Rother Valley Riding Club will recognise its' duty of care and responsibility to safeguard all participants from harm, and promote and implement this anti-bullying policy effectively. The Club will seek to ensure that bullying behaviour is not accepted or condoned at any event organised or attended by Rother Valley members. Rother Valley Riding Club will take prompt action to investigate and respond to any alleged incidents of bullying. The Club will encourage and facilitate children and young people being able to play an active part in developing and adopting a code of conduct to address bullying.

Each participant, coach, volunteer or official will respect every child's need and rights to an environment where safety, security, praise, recognition and opportunity for taking responsibility are available, and respect the feelings and views of others. Rother Valley Riding Club recognise that everyone is important and that our differences make each of us special and unique, and therefore should be valued by acknowledging individual qualities, contributions and progress. The Club is committed to the early identification of bullying, and prompt and collective action to deal with it. To ensure safety, rules and practices are carefully explained and displayed for all to see. Members are actively encouraged to report incidents of bullying they see – by doing nothing you are condoning bullying.

Bullying

All forms of bullying will be addressed and everybody in the club has a responsibility to work together to stop bullying. Bullying includes online conduct as well as offline behaviour. Examples of such behaviour include, but are not limited to, physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation or the continual ignoring of individuals - posting of derogatory or abusive comments, videos or images on social network sites - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures,

sectarianism - sexual comments, suggestions or behaviour - unwanted physical contact.

Supporting the Child, Young Person or Adult at Risk

Rother Valley Riding Club will support the child, young person or adult at risk and will give assistance to uphold their right to enjoy their sport and thrive in a safe environment which allows for healthy development and progression. Any potential barriers (including those associated with a person's disability or impairment) which may inhibit the person's accessibility to report bullying need to be identified and addressed at the onset. Anyone who reports an incident of bullying will be listened to carefully and supported, and any reported incident of bullying will be investigated promptly and objectively.

The riding club will actively promote pathways to integrating people back into the club environment and will not implement sanctions that could diminish character, such as making individuals look foolish in front of others.

Support to the parents/guardians

Parents/guardians should be advised on the club's bullying policy and practice. If the individual involved in any incident of bullying is considered to be at risk or is under 18 years of age, then matters will be discussed with the individual's parent(s) or guardian. They will be consulted on actions to be taken for both parties in terms of dealing with the matter and steps that will be taken to prevent it reoccurring.