



Safeguarding Policy

Aim

The protection of children, young people and adults at risk while participating in any sport is of the highest importance. They should be able to take part in a fun, safe and secure environment and be protected from harm.

In pursuit of this, Rother Valley Riding Club fully accepts its legal and moral obligation under The Children Acts (1989) and (2004), to provide a duty of care to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religion or belief, creed, sexual orientation and gender reassignment. Rother Valley Riding Club is committed to ensuring that the welfare of children and young people implemented through robust policies, procedures and arrangements are met to protect children from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment - whilst respecting their rights, wishes and feelings. High standards of behaviour and practice are maintained through compliance with Codes of Conduct produced for all members, junior members, coaches, officials/volunteers, parents/guardians and spectators. Rother Valley Riding Club takes all concerns and allegations of child abuse or poor practice seriously and will respond swiftly and appropriately. All committee and volunteers are carefully selected, informed about their responsibilities and provided with guidance and training in good practice and safeguarding procedures.

A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (the Children Act 1989).

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

Changes in legislation and/or government guidance.

As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and the BEF.

As a result of any other significant change or event.

Members' responsibilities

It is important that all members know what their responsibilities are and have read and understood the riding club's Codes of Conducts and Policies and agree to abide by them along with any accompanying associates/spectators. Codes of Conduct and Policies are available to read on the website or with the Secretary at events.

Everyone should always set a good example when attending events and respect the rights and dignity of all participants, associates and spectators. All members participate within the event rules and accept the officials' and judges' judgements. Under no circumstances will the Club tolerate any form of abuse, bullying, voicing of any forms of extremism, or exploitation.

PLEASE READ CODES OF CONDUCT AND POLICIES

Position of Trust and Physical Contact

An adult is in a position of trust over a child if they regularly teach, train, supervise or have sole charge of the child. Coaches and other officials in a position of trust should ensure they maintain healthy, positive and professional relationships with all participants.

During the course of clinics and training sessions there may be times in which appropriate physical contact will happen between the instructor and their pupil(s) as part of teaching, improving and furthering their skills.

Photography and Images

No rider should be videoed or photographed without consent.

No pictures or videos should be shared, used for marketing purposes or posted on line without consent (parent or guardian consent if under 18).

The Riding Club will have approved Photographers at events and these will be publicised with the Secretary.

E-Safety

Many members, volunteers and instructors already use sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok to name just a few and you have a responsibility to ensure that you have permission from any persons in the images you want to share before they are published.

What to do if you are concerned about the Welfare of a Child, Young Adult or Adult at Risk

If you have any concern regarding inappropriate behaviour, safety or the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk, you must report it to your Safeguarding Officer – Mrs Rosemary Redford or Chairperson – Mrs Mary Gillam as soon as possible or to the event safeguarding officer who will be able to assist you with your concerns. The Lead Safeguarding Officer will investigate the concern.

Lead Safeguarding Officer Role

The Role of your Club's Safeguarding Officer is to have a good knowledge of their sport and be aware of any particular hazards/dangers. They will be available to support participants, taking time to listen to any concerns, issues or fears and respond appropriately and in accordance with Safeguarding procedures. They will be responsible for taking any concerns forward to the Police or Local Authorities if deemed necessary.

Members are made aware of policies, procedures and guidelines. To ensure officials, members and volunteers understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding, Event Safeguarding Officers are to be provided with appropriate training to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people. All appropriate committee or volunteers are to have up to date criminal record checks. The Safeguarding Officer will implement and manage appropriate Safeguarding procedures in relation to child protection and safeguarding. They will respond with appropriate action in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern. All concerns or allegations of poor practise or abuse are taken seriously and will be responded to swiftly and appropriately. Complete confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored. Information is only shared on a "need to know" basis. The Lead Safeguarding officer will also update codes of conduct and policies/procedures as necessary and are in place for members, volunteers, coaches, young people, parents and spectators.

Event Safeguarding Officer

The Event Safeguarding Officer will support and advise members at the events, and support the Club Safeguarding Officer when dealing with any issues around safeguarding. The Event Safeguarding Officer will ensure that the venues are safe and enjoyable environments for the participants and everyone involved.

Criminal Record checks

All instructors/coaches, committee and volunteers working with children (if they meet the legal criteria) will hold a current certificate through the Disclosure and Barring Service and will be renewed every three years.

Training

All committee and volunteers who are in a Position of Trust will undertake the approved safeguarding training course. Refresher training should be completed every three years and have a current DBS Certificate. First Aiders are qualified First Aid at Work first aiders. Training is undertaken every 2/3 years as required and are present at every event.

Instructors/Coaches

Accredited Professional Instructors/Coaches are required to attend regular Safeguarding and First Aid Training, and must provide evidence of their attendance at a recognised training course. They are also required to provide Rother Valley Riding Club with evidence of a current DBS Certificate and Insurance Certificate.

Supporting Policies and Procedures

Comprehensive policies and procedures have been created to support our Riding Club and all its members, ensuring that all members enjoy their sport equally and to protect children, young adults and vulnerable adults. Supporting individual policies and procedures are available to all members.