

Role of Parents / Guardians – Code of Conduct



The Pony Club is a voluntary youth organisation for young people within an equestrian environment.

The Pony Club's purpose is:

- To encourage young people to learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with ponies and riding
- To give instruction in riding and horsemanship and to educate Members to look after and take proper care of their animals
- To promote the highest levels of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty to create strength of character and self-discipline

The Pony Club is a volunteer organisation and depends on parents and guardians to help. Fairness should take precedence over competitiveness. Teaching by example will foster caring and respect for all.

Parents/ Guardians should therefore:

- Be a positive role model for his / her child and other Members by respecting coaches, officials, volunteers and leaders, their authority and decisions, and the rules and regulations under which The Pony Club operates
- Agree to discuss disputes / appeals at a suitable, agreed time with the correct officials, within the appropriate level of The Pony Club organisation, without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Always remember that Pony Club activities are intended to be educational, safe and fun to benefit the Members rather than parents / guardians.
- Respect the horses and ponies and show humane care for them at all times.
- Respect the property and equipment used in any activities, considering safety uppermost in all situations
- Be knowledgeable about the rules of the discipline or competition their child is taking part in and encourage their child to know, be familiar with, and follow these rules.
- Promote the physical and emotional well-being of their child, other Members and horses ahead of any personal desire to win or succeed in any activity.
- Teach their child that taking part, learning and showing sportsmanship in all competitions, testing situations, clinics, etc. are more important than winning.
- Praise all Members equally for trying hard and competing fairly.
- Inform officials as soon as possible if they or their child is unable to fulfil commitments or attendance at events.
- Help their child and others to understand the satisfaction of co-operation, group work and team spirit in achieving personal goals and growth, and good results.
- Volunteer their services and skills, whether equine-related or not, whenever possible.
- When using social networking sites always conduct yourself in an appropriate way as you would face to face. Be aware of what you say and how you say it - the use of sarcasm and innuendo are not appropriate.
- Encourage his / her child to learn the rules and ride within them.
- Discourage unfair competition and arguing with officials.
- Help his / her child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force his / her child to take part in equestrian events.

- Set a good example by recognising fair competition and applauding good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Publicly accept officials' judgements.
- Support his / her child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.

Parents / Guardians should not:

- Force their child or other Members to take part in activities with which they are not comfortable.
- Disrespect the decisions of coaches / officials concerning the skills and abilities of their child or other Members.
- Undermine the authority of coaches / officials by interfering with, or coaching any Members from the side-lines.
- Dispute the decisions of coaches / officials and volunteers during an event or in front of their child, other Members or parents / guardians.
- Engage in or condone unsportsmanlike behaviours such as booing, taunting, using profane language, refusing to congratulate winners, etc.
- Criticise officials, coaches, volunteers or members on social networking sites or by the use of text messaging.
- **NB:** It is unacceptable, under possible assault, to photograph or video an injured person / rider.