



Girvan and District Riding Club

Safeguarding Policy

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Values and principles:

Girvan and District Riding Club (GDRC) consider the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults of the highest importance. They should be able to take part in a fun, safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play whilst being protected from harm.

The welfare of all the competitors is paramount.

GDRC abides by the legal obligation (The Children Act 2004) to promote equal rights to safety and the protection against harm to (all participants) children whatever their age, gender, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, sexual identity or disability.

A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 years (The Children's Act 2004).

Policy aims:

- To promote and ensure the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults who take part in GDRC activities/events.
- To promote high standards of behaviour and ensure participants, organisers, volunteers, contributors' have an understanding of safeguarding and are able to follow set procedures if concerns arise.
- To ensure everyone knows and accepts their responsibilities and works together: parents, riders, instructors, proprietors, volunteers, and professional staff.
- To take all reasonable practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- To ensure all concerns and allegations of poor practice or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. It is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not

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abuse has taken place, but is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns.

- To detail and record accurately any safeguarding concerns which are then stored and maintained confidentially.

Guidelines for photography/media:

Professional photographers:

- If professional photographers are being used at a centre, they must be given clear instructions on what they should do and should wear an ID card at all times.
- They should never have unsupervised access to participants under the age of 18 or one to one photo sessions.
- A reputable agency should be used and they should be affiliated to a well known or national organisation. If this is not possible they should be recommended and references should be taken.
- Parents and participants should be informed a photographer will be on site and they should give their consent to both taking and publication of films or photographs. The parents/carers of all new members under the age of 18 will receive a consent form.

Any other spectators (e.g. amateur photographers, parents) wishing to film or take photographs using any form of telephoto lens must:

- Register their name and address at the designated point or wear recognised identification i.e. Armband

Report any concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography to the club secretary or welfare officer immediately and as soon as possible to the relevant member body.

Responsibilities of parents and carers:

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- Provide written consent for their child young/persons attendance via application/entry/consent form. Include any relevant medical history, dietary requirements, photography consent and emergency contact details (Form 1).
- Read the participants' code of conduct and parent/carer code of conduct and discuss with their child before signing respective forms.
- Be aware that they may be asked to remove their child or asked to leave if each code of conduct is broken.
- Advise an appropriate member of staff if there are any non-sport related issues that may affect the child, e.g. bereavement in the family, a child who is being bullied.

If you have a concern:

The BHS encourages those who participate, volunteer and work in equestrianism to report any concerns they may have about a child or young person. Any concerns can be reported via your club/centre Welfare Officer or directly to the BHS. Contact details can be found below.

If a child or young person is in immediate danger or needs medical attention, 999 should be called. Serious concerns can be reported to Child Protection Units within local police forces, Children Social Care Services or Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

If any of the following occur you should report this immediately to another colleague and record the incident. You should also ensure the parents of the child are informed:

- If you accidentally hurt a child or young person.
- If he/she seems distressed in any manner.
- If a child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.

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If a complaint is made against a member or a volunteer which could be construed as abusive behaviour or an abuse of trust it should be put in writing to the show organiser and signed and dated to ensure that it is not misinterpreted. The written complaint should be given to the Welfare Officer (WO). The WO will decide whether to pass the complaint on to another agency, E.g. police or social care. If the case is passed on to an external agency the club secretary will be made aware that an allegation/complaint has been made which has been passed on to other agencies.

Useful contacts and links:

Joy Kendall (GDRC Welfare Officer) 07748 585460

BHS Lead Safeguarding Officer

02476 840746

safeguarding@bhs.org.uk

Confidential email: cpleadofficer@bhs.org.uk

The British Equestrian Federation Tel: 02476 698871

Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Tel: 0116 234 7278 and

www.thecpsu.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline - 24-hour free and confidential telephone helpline that provides counselling, information and advice to anyone concerned about a child at risk of ill treatment or abuse: 0808 800 5000

Textphone / Webcam (for deaf or hard-of-hearing) 18001 0808 800 5000 /

SignVideo ; email help@nspcc.org.uk or report concerns online through

nspcc.org.uk/report-concern www.nspcc.org.uk

Child Line - 24-hour free and confidential telephone helpline for children: 0800 1111

The Samaritans - nationwide, non-religious, non-political 24-hour confidential support line: 08457 90 90 90 and www.samaritans.org.uk

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Victim Support - Local Victim Support services provide emotional support, information and practical help for victims and witnesses: 0845 3030 900

Children First – Scotland: 0131 446 2300/ www.children1st.org.uk

Policy date: January 2016

Review date: January 2018 or sooner if changes occur to legislation, government guidance, as required by British Riding Club (BRC), or as a result of any other significant changes or events.