

Equestrian Code of Conduct for Coaches

As a coach, it is your role to ensure that individuals in equestrianism have positive experiences and so are more likely to continue in their chosen equestrian activity and achieve their potential. This code is built on the principles of integrity, honesty, fair play and respect. These principles are integral, not optional, and apply to all levels of ability and commitment. Our sport is unique in that it involves an animal and these principles and duty of care not only apply to the human participant but also the horse*. In all our endeavours we must ensure the highest standards of animal welfare.

This document should be read in conjunction with UK Coaching's Code of Practice for Sports Coaches that sets out the rights, relationships and responsibilities that to which all sports coaches should adhere.

Rules

1. Adhere to the rules, regulations and spirit of the sport and disciplines during competition and training including the BEF Rule Book and Member Body policies and procedures on:
 - a. Safeguarding Children and Young People and Adults Policies
 - b. Equal Opportunities and Equality Policy
 - c. BEF Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules (BEFAR) and Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes
 - d. The Welfare of the Horse
2. Ensure you are appropriately qualified through a recognised qualification and you confine your delivery to areas where your training and competence are recognised by a BEF Member Body.
3. Only provide advice in the areas you are qualified to do so and know when to signpost others to equine and human medical professionals.
4. Keep your qualifications, skills and knowledge current by meeting your Member Body's requirements for Continuing Professional Development. You should also ensure you have up to date, current first aid and safeguarding training including the appropriate disclosure checks.
5. Adhere to the highest standards of health and safety and ensure you have adequate insurance cover. This includes riding instructor (professional) indemnity, public (third party) liability and care custody and control as well as employers' liability if you employ anyone.
6. Ensure you observe and respect the confidentiality of all those that you coach.
7. Recognise that participants under 18 cannot have alcohol whilst under your supervision or attending your event. Participants should not take medication or drugs whilst under your supervision other than those prescribed by a medical professional. In this case it is preferable if they are first discussed with the coach prior to the coaching session if it could impact on their welfare whilst training.
8. Meet the requirements of The General Data Protection Regulation in collecting, storing securely, using and if necessary, sharing any personal information.

*Horse refers to both horse and pony

Standards expected

1. Treat everyone involved with the sport with the same courtesy and respect as you would expect yourself including judges, staff, officials and volunteers, other riders and teams, other coaches, instructors, teachers and trainers, spectators and parents/carers. Encourage others to do the same in all situations including online and on social media.
2. Treat everyone equally regardless of age, gender, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion and belief and sexual orientation.

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3. Be aware that your behaviour in your role is subject to scrutiny by others at all times. Ensure that your words and behaviour are not subject to misinterpretation by participants, parents/carers or onlookers and that the line between a professional working relationship and undue informality is not crossed.
4. Encourage all participants to meet the highest standards of equine welfare. Give advice and support where you feel improvements could be made and refer participants to an equine professional should you suspect there could be a welfare issue. This should be done having first discussed your concerns with the rider/owner of the horse. In addition to reporting any equine welfare concerns witnessed at competitions as required by Member Bodies, challenge and report any welfare concerns witnessed during training or in the course of your work. Ensure all activities you organise are appropriate for the capabilities of the horse.
5. Risk assess for safety any areas or environments that you use prior to any session.
6. Ensure all tack is correctly fitted and maintained by an appropriate professional (such as a Member of the Society of Master Saddlers).
7. Encourage the improvement of riding prior to using corrective equipment/training aids on the horse. Equipment should be used correctly with the welfare and comfort of the horse in mind.
8. Ensure all activities you organise are appropriate for the participants' ability level, age and maturity, focusing your coaching on the individual and recognising the diversity of an individual's needs.
9. Ensure all participants (and parents/guardians if under 18) are aware of and comfortable with both the environment (e.g. temperature, weather) and risks presented in any coaches session.
10. Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of both human and equine participants above everything else, including winning.
11. Encourage each participant to accept responsibility for their own behaviours and performance.
12. Ensure appropriate supervision of all participants, especially participants who are younger or more vulnerable.
13. Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment in participant development providing positive verbal feedback in a constructive and encouraging manner at all times particularly pre, during and post training sessions and competitions.
14. Promote fair play and high standards of behaviour.
15. Be a role model in all that you do.
16. Challenge any behaviour you see that people may find offensive, whether this be discriminatory, insulting, demeaning or bullying in all situations including online and on social media.

17. Involve parents and carers throughout all stages of training. For under 18s and adults at risk and ensure you have consent for all activities from a parent/ guardian.

Additional social media and online standards

1. Only post photos or communicate information about other people with their explicit written permission
2. Only post information online/ social media that is appropriate for public viewing
3. Communication with clients should be via a professional account that is separate from your personal accounts, which should be kept private.
4. Ensure you are able to approve comments, posts or photos prior to submission on any of your professional accounts

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may affect your professional accreditation/ listing with your Member Body.