



SUSSEX PEGGERS RIDING CLUB at Ditchling Common Stud Riding School

Child Welfare Policy

Policy Aims

- To identify how Sussex Peggars Riding Club provides junior members with the opportunity to participate in mounted skill at arms in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To introduce good practice and raise awareness of welfare issues.
- To provide peace of mind for parents and guardians of junior club members.

Policy Principles

- All children and young people participating in Sussex Peggars Riding Club activities, regardless of age, gender, ability, disability, race, religious belief or sexual orientation, have the right to be protected.
- All children/young people have the right to be safe and treated with dignity and respect.
- As a British Horse Society British Riding Club, Sussex Peggars Riding Club will operate within the guidelines provided by the BHS with regards to child welfare issues.
- It is not the responsibility of club members to decide that child abuse, bullying or harassment is occurring, but it is their responsibility to act on any concerns through liaison with the Club Welfare Officer.
- Club members, volunteers and associated professionals, will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of children and young people.
- Checks and references will be taken up for adults who regularly supervise junior members as a part of club activities as appropriate.

Child Welfare Officer

- Sussex Peggars Riding Club will appoint a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) who will act as a first point of contact for any member, parent or guardian who has a concern about child welfare and protection.
- The CWO will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns.
- The CWO will liaise with the BHS/BRC and other relevant organisations (e.g. social services) with regards to child welfare issues as appropriate.
- The CWO will work with club members to promote good practice with regards to junior members.

Codes of Conduct

- Sussex Peggars Riding Club has developed codes of conduct for club officials, volunteers, junior members, parents, guardians and spectators that are available to all via www.sussexpeppers.com
- Codes of Conduct are aimed at identifying and encouraging positive participation and good practice.
- Codes of Conduct will be reviewed and developed as appropriate by the club committee, including input from junior members and the CWO.
- In line with the Code of conduct for parents and guardians, parents and guardians have the responsibility for ensuring that their child is either accompanied by them, or a responsible adult identified by them, to the Sussex Peggars Riding Club - at all club events.
- In line with the Code of conduct for parents and guardians, parents and guardians have the responsibility for arranging transport for their child to and from any competition, training event or other activity run by the club.

Disclosures

- Should any member, parent or guardian have cause for concern relating to child welfare issues they should discuss these with the club's CWO in the first instance.
- All suspicions and allegations will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately, initially by the CWO and then through liaison with outside agencies as appropriate (e.g. social services, police).
- Should outside agencies deem it appropriate, the CWO will hand all responsibility for dealing with an individual issue to them, while continuing to work with said agencies as appropriate.
- Nikki Simmons, the club welfare officer, can be contacted in confidence via 8niknak@googlemail.com or 07983 425008.

Use of images/video

- On joining the club, permission to use images will be sought in writing from riders and their parents/guardians.
- When using images of junior members, those individuals will not be identified by name in accompanying text.

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SUSSEX PEGGERS RIDING CLUB at Ditchling Common Stud Riding School

Codes of Conduct for Club Officials and Volunteers for Sussex Peggerys Riding Club

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The essence of good ethical conduct and practice is summarised below. All volunteers must:

- Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport through: fair play; safe conduct; taking responsibility for the good welfare of animals.
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the club.
- Hold appropriate valid qualifications and insurance cover.
- Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibited substances.
- Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.

Code of Practice for Junior Members of Sussex Peggerys Riding Club

Sussex Peggerys Riding Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, volunteers and parents associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the junior membership of the club with The Club Welfare Officer.

As a member of Sussex Peggerys Riding Club, you are expected to abide by the following junior code of practice:

- All members must ride within the rules and respect officials and their decisions.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- Members must wear suitable safety equipment and clothing – as detailed in the club rules – for training sessions, as agreed with the coach/team manager.
- Members must pay any fees for training or competitions promptly.
- Junior members are not allowed to smoke on club premises or whilst representing the club at competitions.
- Junior members are not allowed to consume alcohol or drugs of any kind on the club premises or whilst representing the club.

Code of Conduct for Parents or Carers of Sussex Peggerys Riding Club Junior Members

- Encourage your child to learn the rules and ride within them.
- Discourage unfair competition and arguing with officials.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- 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 your 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.
- Ensure that your child is either accompanied by you, or a responsible adult identified by to Sussex Peggerys Riding Club by you, at all club events.
- Arrange transport for your child to and from any competition, training event or other activity run by the club.

Code of Conduct for Spectators

All horse events welcome spectators – your enthusiasm and support encourages all participants. Your actions influence the mood of the riders and the competition. Therefore:

- Please do not abuse officials, however much you disagree with their decision.
- Encourage all riders and applaud their efforts.
- Do not ridicule opponents for their mistakes or criticize their horses.
- Do not applaud or encourage foul play.
- Do not use foul, racist or abusive language to riders, officials or other spectators.
- Do not ever use physical violence or threaten anyone.
- You must not enter the riding area or arena during a competition unless asked to do so by the Organiser or Chief Steward.
- Remember, when you are supporting your rider, or team you are representing your Riding Club.
- You are subject to the Rules of the sport. You can be cautioned, reported or sent away from the competition if this Code of Conduct is breached.