



## Irish Pony Club Codes of Conduct

The Irish Pony Club is committed to providing the best possible environment for all young people involved in sport. The Irish Pony Club also has a duty to care for volunteers working with its Members on behalf of the organisation. The Irish Pony Club expects appropriate behaviour from all Members, parents and others participating in any Irish Pony Club activity. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the following behaviours are considered breaches:

- Minor:** Breaches relating to welfare of the Horse.  
Inappropriate behaviour towards another person.  
Failure to comply with the rules and regulations.
- Serious:** Failure to maintain a safe environment.  
Slanderous behaviour of any kind towards another person.  
Discrimination against another person.  
Victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through the codes of conduct.
- Criminal:** Sexual Harassment or intimidation of another person.  
Theft.  
Embezzlement.  
Violent or abusive behaviour toward another.

Any conduct or action not befitting or in breach of the Irish Pony Club ethos by a Member, Parent or Guardian, Instructor, Official or Committee Member can be considered by the Panel of Investigation.

The Irish Pony Club has developed Codes of Conduct for the following:

1. Code of Conduct for Members
2. Code of Conduct for Parents of Guardians
3. Code of Conduct for Irish Pony Club Instructors, Officials and Volunteers

The guidelines in this document are based on national documents as outlined in the Code of Ethics adopted by the Irish Pony Club which can be found at:

<https://irishponyclub.ie/images/pdf/2018/safeguarding/ipc-codeofethics-updated10.12.2018.pdf>



## Code of Conduct for Members

The Irish Pony Club aims to promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty to create strength of character and self-discipline.

### At Irish Pony Club activities Members should:

- Show respect for their ponies / horses, coaches, officials, competition organisers and stewards and their fellow Members.
- When competing they should abide by the rules of the competition and accept the decisions of the event stewards and organisers.
- They may query a decision they do not understand politely and listen to the explanation.
- They should support the other Members of their team and the other Members of their Branch.

### At Irish Pony Club activities Members should not:

- Criticise officials, instructors, volunteers or Members including on social networking sites or by the use of text messaging.
- Use foul language.
- Tolerate or be involved in discrimination of any kind
- Leave an organised event unless accompanied by their parent or guardian or by a Branch official.
- Smoke.
- Possess or consume alcohol or illegal and performance enhancing drugs.
- Engage in sexual activity.
- NB: It is unacceptable to photograph or video an injured person.

Code of conduct to be signed by Members aged 12 years or over on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. Parents of Members under 12 years must read and explain the Code of Conduct to their child and agree that the child understands the code of conduct by signing on their behalf:

***I confirm that I have read the Irish Pony Club Members Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it.***

<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Print Name:</b>	
<b>Branch</b>	
<b>Membership Number:</b>	
<b>Parent or Guardian Signature (if U18):</b>	
<b>Print Name:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	



## Code of Conduct for Parents or Guardians

The Irish 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 Irish Pony Club operates.
- Agree to discuss disputes / appeals at a suitable, agreed time with the correct officials, within the appropriate level of the Irish Pony Club organisation, without resorting to hostility or violence.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.

### 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.

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- 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 to photograph or video an injured person or rider.

***I / we confirm that as a parent (s) or guardian of (print name (s)):***


***I / we have read the Irish Pony Club Parents or Guardians Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the Code.***

<b>Signature (s):</b>	<b>1.</b>
	<b>2.</b>
<b>Date:</b>	



## Code of Conduct for Irish Pony Club Instructors, Officials and Volunteers

Pony Club officials and volunteers have a great opportunity to be a positive role model and to help build a member's confidence

### **Officials and Volunteers are expected to:**

- Ensure the safety of all Members by providing effective supervision, proper pre-planning of Irish Pony Club activities using safe methods at all times.
- Consider the wellbeing and safety of Members before the development of his/her performance.
- Encourage and guide the member to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Treat all young people fairly and ensure that they feel valued. Have no favourites.
- Encourage all Members to refrain from discrimination no matter on what grounds, particularly on the grounds of religious belief, race, gender, sexuality, social class or lack of ability.
- Intervene and not to allow any rough or dangerous play, bullying, the use of bad language or any other inappropriate behaviour.
- Appreciate the efforts of all young people and not over train the Members. Never exert undue influence over Members to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Do not allow allegations of abuse of any kind, or of poor practice go unchallenged or unrecorded. Incidents and accidents must be recorded in line with the Irish Pony Club's procedures and the parents/guardians must be informed if appropriate and if informing them is not likely to put the child in danger of significant harm.
- Never use sanctions that humiliate or harm a member, or put him/her in danger.
- Report accidents or allegations of abuse or poor practice to the District Commissioner or the Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible, and certainly within the same day.
- Administer minor first aid in the presence of others and, where required, refer more serious incidents to the first aider on site.
- Ensure you have access to a telephone for immediate contact to emergency services if required.
- Foster team work to ensure the safety of Members within your care.
- Establish and address the additional needs of disabled Members or other adults at risk.
- Do not abuse Members sexually, physically or emotionally. This includes verbal abuse or abuse via social media.
- It is unacceptable to photograph/video an injured person.
- Do not engage in a sexual relationship with a member under the age of 18 even if he/she is over 16 years of age.
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information.
- Respect and listen to the views and opinions of Members.

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- Be a role model displaying a consistently high standard of behaviour and appropriate appearance (disciplined, committed, time keeping, polite etc.) to aid the Members to learn by example.
- Refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol or taking any other inappropriate substance during Irish Pony Club activities.
- Do not spend excessive amounts of time alone with any child other than your own unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Do hold appropriate and valid qualifications and insurance cover as required and necessary.
- Do help the Members to have fun!

## **Officials and volunteers have the right to:**

- Access on-going training and information on all aspects of leading or managing activities for Members, particularly with regard to Safeguarding children and adults at risk.
- Support in reporting suspected abuse or poor practice.
- Access to professional support services if necessary and appropriate.
- Fair and equitable treatment by the Irish Pony Club.
- Be protected from abuse by Members, parents/guardians or other adults.
- Not be left in vulnerable circumstances when working for the Irish Pony Club.

***I confirm that I have read the Instructors, Officials and Volunteers Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the guidelines above.***

<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Print Name:</b>	
<b>Role:</b>	
<b>Contact Number:</b>	
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	