

HORSE WELFARE AND RIDERS' CODES OF CONDUCT

(taken from BRC rulebook and applicable to all horse riders/owners at ODRC events including training and competitions)

5.1 Welfare of pony/horse

- * In all equestrian sports the welfare of the pony/horse must be considered paramount
- * The wellbeing of the pony/horse shall be above the demands of riders, owners, coaches, clubs and officials
- * The highest standard of nutrition, health, sanitation and safety shall be encouraged and maintained at all times
- * Adequate provision must be made for ventilation, feeding, watering and maintaining a healthy environment during transportation
- * Emphasis should be placed on increasing education in training and education practices and promoting specific studies in equine health
- * All riding and training methods must take into account that the pony/horse is a living entity and must not endorse any technique considered by the BRC Training Committee or the ODRC to be abusive
- * BRC and ODRC should establish adequate controls in order that all persons under their jurisdiction respect the welfare of the pony/horse
- * BRC rules regarding the health and welfare of the pony/horse must be adhered to not only at National Championships and Area Competitions but also at Club level including training rallies
- * Every rider, coach and club official must accept responsibility to uphold the high level of pony/horse welfare
- * Should any spectator, rider, coach, judge, BRC or ODRC member be concerned about or feel that they have witnessed rough or unfair riding or training they should report it immediately to the organiser of an ODRC event. The ODRC Welfare Officer will then investigate and decide on the appropriate action to be taken.

5.1.2 Examples of Abuse

- * Bit: the bit must never be used as a punishment
- * Spurs: to use spurs excessively or persistently so as to injure the pony/horse. If a judge or official sees a spurt that is likely to cause injury they can ask the rider to remove them before continuing their riding
- * Whip: excessive or inappropriate use of a whip is not acceptable
- * Lameness: riding any unsound pony/horse
- * Tack: tack should be correctly fitted to avoid any suffering
- * Over-working: to ride or compete on an obviously exhausted, lame or injured pony/horse
- * Distress: the obvious distress of a pony/horse whether caused by the rider or other external factors
- * Blood: any sign of blood on an animal is a cause for concern

5.2 Conduct of BRC and ODRC Members

No BRC or ODRC member shall:

- * conduct themselves at any competition or rally in a manner which is offensive to the public
- * argue at any competition or rally with a judge, official or other competitor or use abusive or threatening language or behave with incivility or contempt towards a judge, official or another rider
- * ill-treat in any way a pony or horse whether inside or outside the arena at a competition or rally in any circumstance
- * misuse or excessively use a whip or spur
- * deliberately use the action of the bit as a means of punishment and/or misuse any item of saddlery in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to a pony or horse
- * conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of the BRC or ODRC
- * make, either orally or in writing, to an officer of the BRC or ODRC or a third party a statement on a matter covered by the rules which they know to be untrue
- * compete as an owner or rider in a competition for which the pony, horse or rider are not fully eligible.
- * Junior members must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult at all ODRC events.