**Shropshire South Riding Club**

 **Code of Conduct 2024**

**CODE OF CONDUCT** for Shropshire South Riding Club is in line with BRC’s code of Conduct and covers the following:

* Welfare of the pony/horse
* Conduct of BRC members & their representatives
* Use of Social media
* Conduct of Judges

As with any organisation SSRC is required to operate in a professional manner. The code of conduct should be interpreted in the spirit of integrity, transparency and common sense. Breaches of the codes of conduct may result in disqualification from competition and disciplinary action

**WELFARE OF THE PONY/HORSE**

The SSRC Code of Conduct for the welfare of the pony/horse is as follows:

 • SSRC expects all those involved in any event to adhere to the BRC’s code of conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

 • At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery, tack and transportation.

 • Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health and condition before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids. Horses should not be overworked, and thought should be given to the number of classes entered and the distance to be travelled when competing at all SSRC events. The official steward may stop a horse from competing if there is concern over the horse’s welfare.

 • Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition area, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling and site safety.

• Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed.

. • 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.

• Every rider, coach and club official must accept responsibility to uphold the highest level of pony/horse welfare.

 • It is not permitted to remove a horse’s whiskers

• The onus is on any spectator, rider, coach, judge or BRC member to inform the official steward or secretary, at a club event, if they are concerned about or feel that they have witnessed rough or unfair riding or training. The matter will then be investigated and a decision made on the appropriate action to be taken

Examples of Abuse

Here are some examples (but not an exhaustive list) of what could be considered abuse: Lameness: riding any unsound pony/horse; tack: incorrectly fitted tack- used outside of manufacturer’s guidelines; over-working: riding or competing on an exhausted, lame or injured pony/horse; distress: ignoring 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 cause for concern. If blood is seen anywhere on the horse when riding in or competing in any discipline, then the horse may be eliminated at the discretion of the Official Steward.

**Level of Activity Initial Report To Escalation**

Club Activity Organiser - Club Chair - Area Chair - BRC HQ Area -Area Chair BRC HQ National BRC HQ

**CONDUCT OF SSRC MEMBERS, OFFICIALS, VOLUNTEERS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

 SSRC Members and representatives or associates of a member shall not:

: • Conduct themselves, before, at or after any SSRC activity in a manner which is offensive to the public

 • Attend a SSRC competition without ensuring they are up-to-date on rules

 • At any competition/event, argue, behave with incivility or contempt, or use abusive or threatening language, towards a judge, official or other competitor

 • Conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of SSRC

 • Make, either orally or in writing, to an officer of SSRC or a third party, a statement on a matter covered by the rules which they know to be untrue

 • Smoke when mounted

 • Officials are required to take decisions in a fair and sporting manner and in accordance with the code of conduct and BRC rules

Any member of SSRC, their representative or any person participating/ spectating in any way at any SSRC activity who conducts themselves in an inappropriate manner which brings the name of the club or BRC into disrepute shall be guilty of a breach of BRC rules.

 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

Discrimination is forbidden on the grounds of race, colour, religion or belief, disability, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, nationality and ethnic or national origins. By joining SSRC a member is deemed to have agreed to be bound and comply strictly with rules on forbidden substances for both horse and rider. If any member is found in breach of any of the above they may be referred to the BRC Discipline Committee who will take appropriate action.

 **JUDGES’ CONDUCT**

The BD Code of Conduct for Judges will apply to all BRC dressage competitions. The BS Code of Conduct for Judges will apply to all BRC show jumping competitions.

**JUNIOR PARTICIPATION**

 It is the team manager’s responsibility to gain parental consent for juniors to participate in SSRC events.

Please refer to *Code of Conduct for parents and cares* and *Code of Conduct for Children and young people* on SSRC’S website.

**GOOD CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE** **ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Whilst SSRC acknowledges that social media can be an ideal way to communicate with its members and the wider equestrian community, any defamatory comments relating to members, officials, volunteers and staff of SSRC will not be tolerated. An online post is libellous if it is damaging to a person’s reputation. Re-posting or re-tweeting can be seen as an endorsement of the original comment. Publication of information and comments on social media carries the same obligations as any other kind of publication and should follow the same ethical and legal standards. Therefore, when using the internet and all social media SSRC members must not:

• Post any threatening, derogatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, disparaging, racist, discriminatory, menacing, inflammatory, blasphemous, or defamatory statements or material, including, but not limited to, statements or material concerning SSRC, its members or former members, its sponsors, affiliates and stakeholders.

 • Disclose on social media, any personal information relating to any other person.

• Make any statements that could directly or indirectly damage SSRC’s name

. • Use SSRC logos, brand names, slogans or other trademarks, or post any of its confidential or proprietary information without SSRC’s prior written permission. Failure to comply with the provisions of these rules may result in disciplinary action under these rules and/or civil proceedings. SSRC may also require posts to be removed, where comments or any other submissions may constitute a breach of these rules. SSRC accepts no liability for legal breaches by SSRC people/members on social media. SSRC people/members are fully accountable for the content they publish. SSRC members must make it clear that if using, referring to or otherwise disclosing their SSRC membership status in any way on social media that they are speaking on their own behalf and that their views do not represent those of SSRC. SSRC reserves the right to monitor, intercept and review social media postings and activities to ensure that its rules are being complied with, and for its legitimate business purposes.