



Riding Clubs and the BEF Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy

Why?

The protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults while participating in any sport is of the highest importance as they should be able to take part in a fun, safe environment and be protected from harm.

The BEF, as the umbrella body for the equestrian industry has implemented a generic equity and Child Protection policy. This implementation will also begin to encourage the production of good practice codes across the industry and will also enable the BEF to gain Sport England funding.

A steering group, including a representative from all member bodies has been established in order to implement these policies and produce a cross industry support network.

As a member body of the BEF, it is important that the movement introduces both Equity and Child Protection policies in order to adopt good practice.

Riding Clubs are a key part of this implementation as the junior sections of clubs are the grass roots to many of the sporting disciplines, are far-reaching and structurally well organised.

The Child Protection policy is available on the BHS website via the Approved Centres page.

What does this mean for my Riding Club?

- ✓ Riding Clubs will need to read, understand and implement the policy
- ✓ Recruit a Club Welfare Officer (CWO), they will need to:
 - Complete the BEF Safeguarding and Protection Children workshop or Sports Coach UK workshop
 - Have a clear job description (available from BHS Lead Officer)
 - Complete a Criminal Record Check (highly recommended)
- ✓ Welfare plans for events should also be produced (available from BHS Lead Officer).

Timescale

- ✓ Child Protection Club welfare officers to be appointed and trained during 2009.
- ✓ Policies and reporting procedures should be in place by the end of 2009.
- ✓ Contact details for all CWO's to be forwarded to the BHS Lead Officer and Riding Clubs office during 2009.

Good Practice

Clubs should be:

- ✓ Issuing Code of conduct for officials, volunteers, participants, parents and coaches (available from BHS Lead Officer)
- ✓ Adhere to BEF policy on photography/video equipment (available from BHS Lead Officer)
- ✓ Be aware of poor practice and how to avoid this
- ✓ Have a recruitment policy with regard to volunteers and officials
 - Self disclosure/Criminal Record Checks
 - Referencing
- ✓ Adopt BEF reporting procedure, make appropriate records and monitor confidentiality

Club welfare officer information pack

The BEF are working towards providing an information pack for all Club welfare officers, this will include templates for codes of conduct, forms, a sample welfare plan and all the necessary policies.

Contact Details

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