



WYE VALLEY RIDING CLUB SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Wye Valley Riding Club, WVRC, is a riding club for adults of 18 years and over. However children and young persons may attend WVRC Open shows and events and WVRC fully accepts its legal and moral obligation under The Children Act (1989),(2004), to provide a duty of care to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religion or belief, creed, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

- A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (Children Act 1989).
- Wye Valley Riding Club fully adopts the BEF Safeguarding Policy (Children and Young People), the full policy can be downloaded from the BEF website, www.bef.co.uk

1. AIMS

The aims of the Wye Valley Riding Club Safeguarding Policy are:

- To ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation to provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst at events and activities organised by Wye Valley Riding Club, allowing them to participate in a fun, safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play.
- To take all reasonable, practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- To ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- To ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern. All concerns or allegations of poor practise or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. It is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility to report it.
- To ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- To maintain high standards of behaviours and good practice through compliance with BRC Official Rules and WVRC policies and procedures. The BEF Codes of Conduct produced for instructors, coaches, parents/guardians, BRC Officials and volunteers will also be used where appropriate.
Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the Wye Valley Riding Club.

2. CLUB SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Wye Valley Riding Club will appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) and will ensure that they have been appropriately trained and have completed a criminal record check. The name of the CSO will be reported to the BRC as required.

It is not the role of the CSO to be a Child Protection expert or to determine whether or not a serious incident has taken place, rather to record the details and seek guidance if necessary.

The role of the CSO is to:

- work with others in the centre or club to ensure a positive child-centred environment
- ensure that their club or centre is aware of The British Horse Society's safeguarding policies, procedures and guidelines
- ensure all members are aware of the policy and procedures

- produce a Safeguarding plan for events in conjunction with the event manager.
- assist the club to ensure that codes of conduct are in place for club staff, volunteers, coaches, young people and parents as required
- receive queries and offer support regarding safeguarding concerns
- undertake training as necessary
- promote training to club and centre support staff, members and volunteers
- ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a “need to know” basis
- respond to any allegations or complaints made from within your club
- communicate with the WVRC Committee and the BHS Safeguarding team regarding concerns
- maintain contact details for local children’s social care and the police

3. COMMUNICATION

Wye Valley Riding Club will make available its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to all officials, volunteers, and members and it will appear in full on the Wye Valley Riding Club website.

Wye Valley Riding Club will ensure that the name and number of the Club Safeguarding Officer. Is made available to all members

All individuals involved with Wye Valley Riding Club, no matter what role they participate in, must adhere to the Safeguarding Code of Conduct. This is included in the WVRC Rules and on event schedules and/or booking forms. Acceptance of this is a condition of entry.

4. EVENTS

Wye Valley Riding Club is a riding club for adults of 18 years and over. However, the club may organise Open shows and other events which children and young persons may attend.

For each event:

- the CSO and the Event manager will carry out a safeguarding assessment following BRC Guidance and will produce an event plan
- All children under 18 years will be required to be supervised by their parent or guardian. This will be made clear on all schedules and entry forms
- A code of conduct for all people entering shows will be included in all schedules and entry forms. Acceptance of these rules is a condition of entry.
- All officials and volunteers will be required to have read the Club Rules or the event Code of Conduct if not Club members.
- The CSO will provide training to officials and volunteers as required.

5. TRAINING

The Club Safeguarding Officer will attend the BEF approved safeguarding training (or recognised equivalent) course. Ideally refresher training should be completed every three years via either the BEF approved online training portal or a further face to face course.

Other club officials and volunteers may also attend an approved Safeguarding Training Course if the need arises.

6. CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

Instructors/coaches, officials and volunteers working with children at Wye Valley Riding Club may be required to hold a current certificate through the Disclosure and Barring Service, Disclosure Scotland or Access NI as appropriate. Certificates must be renewed every three years.

Further guidance is given on the BHS website.

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/our-charity/about-us-and-our-work/corporate-information/working-with-the-law/criminal-record-checks>

7. POLICY REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, BHS, BRC and the BEF
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION AND LINKS

Wye Valley Riding Club Safeguarding Officer details:

Mrs Pam Davidson

Email pamdavidson31@outlook.com, Tel 07831 437473

BHS Safeguarding Team

Email safeguarding@bhs.org.uk, tel 02476 840746

Confidential email: cpleadofficer@bhs.org.uk

Childline 0800 1111

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Documents

Please see BHS website for useful templates and documents

<http://www.bhs.org.uk/our-charity/corporate-information/working-with-the-law/safeguarding-children>

Useful References

BRC Data Sheet DS22 Safeguarding - What Clubs Should Know (England, Wales, NI). July 2019

BRC Data Sheet DS65 Event Safeguarding Plan, March 2019

BRC Data Sheet DS66 Safeguarding Checklist for Events, March 2019

BRC Data Sheet DS67 Safeguarding Event Assessment, March 2019

BHS Safeguarding template. Code of conduct for Staff and Volunteers, February 2019