

C: Codes of Conduct

As with any organisation the BRC is required to operate in a professional manner and as such has produced its own Codes of Conduct covering the following:

- Welfare of the Pony/Horse
- Conduct of BRC Members
- Conduct of Judges

C1: WELFARE OF THE PONY/HORSE

It is vitally important for the future of equine sport that the welfare of the pony/horse is the primary consideration at all times. The aim of BRC is to promote the improvement of riding, training of ponies/ horses and horsemanship in the UK.

C1.1 Code of Conduct

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

- British Riding Clubs expects all those involved in this sport 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 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
- Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition area's, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event
- Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement
- 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
- All National Championships warm-up areas must be supervised by an officially appointed Steward. At Area Qualifiers there should be a Steward appointed to maintain standards in accordance with BRC Rules
- The onus is on any spectator, rider, coach, judge or BRC member to inform the Official Steward at an area qualifier, Championship Director 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.

C1.2: Examples of Abuse

Here are some examples of what could be considered abuse and should be used in addition to those mentioned in rule G23.3 and G24:

Lameness: Riding any unsound pony/horse

Tack: Incorrectly fitted tack

Over-working: riding or competing on an obviously 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.

C2: CONDUCT OF BRC MEMBERS

No BRC Member shall:

- Conduct themselves at any competition in a manner which is offensive to the public
- At any competition, 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 the BRC
- Make, either orally or in writing, to an officer of the BRC or Club, or a third party, a statement on a matter covered by the rules which they know to be untrue
- Smoke when mounted

If any member is found in breach of any of the above they may find themselves in front of the Disciplinary Committee who will take appropriate action.

C3: CONDUCT OF JUDGES

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.