Norton & District Riding Club Code of Conduct 2019

**Introduction**

This code of conduct has been developed to set out the Norton and District Riding Club’s (NDRC) expectations for those taking part in or attending events under its jurisdiction along with the general guideline on the use of social media.

**What we expect from you**

As with all sports, the NDRC expects all exhibitors and competitors to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and to ensure that their horses are properly taken care of throughout the period of the event and do not become a nuisance to other horses or to other attendees.

**People**

* Conduct – participants have a duty to both their horses and to others to make NDRC events friendly and welcoming and are expected to be co-operative and create a safe environment for all to enjoy their time at NDRC events.
* Sportsmanship – participants should conduct themselves at all times in an appropriate fashion and should display good manners and respect towards other participants, show officials and to the judges.
* Any verbal communication with a judge should take place after the placing of the class, and must be conducted in a polite and professional manner.
* Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards anyone at the show – including the judge, other participants, show management or other officials – will not be tolerated under any circumstances (Read further for more information regarding harassment).

In the recent years, there has been a rapid growth in the use of social media as a form of communication. There is a need for those who use Facebook, blogs and other social networking sites to understand their responsibilities.

**THINK BEFORE YOU POST!**

**Use of Social Media**

Be Aware Of Liability, Be Accurate, Respect Others, Respect Your Audience!

You are responsible for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary and deemed to be copyright infringement, defamatory, proprietary, libelous, or absence (as defined by the courts). Be sure that what you post today will not come back to haunt you.

Do not post confidential or proprietary information. Do not discuss a situation involving named or pictured individuals on a social media site without their permission.

If the content of your message would not be acceptable for face-to-face conversation, over the telephone, or in another medium, it will not be acceptable for a social networking site.

Make sure you have all the facts before you post. Its better to verify information with a source first than to have to post a correction or retraction later. If you make a mistake, admit it.

Be upfront and be quick with your correction. If you’re posting to a blog, you may choose to modify an earlier post – Just make it clear you have done so.

Don’t use personal insults, obscenity and show proper consideration for others’ privacy and for topics that may be considered sensitive. Users are free to discus topics and disagree with one another, but be respectful of others opinions. You are more than likely to achieve your goals if you are constructive and respectful while discussing a bad experience or disagreeing with a concept or person. Remember that you are more likely to build a high-quality following if you discuss ideas and situations civilly. DON’T PICK FIGHTS ONLINE!

Whilst the NDRC believes that the overwhelming majority of people taking part in shows do so in a responsible and sportsmanlike manner, it is concerned at the increasing number of complaints which it has received about incidents of abuse, in particular through the negative use of social media.

**No-one** should be subject to intimidation or made to feel alarmed or distressed or put in fear of reprisal. Harassment is a criminal offence. To that end the NDRC adopts a **zero tolerance** towards all type of harassment activity. Harassment may be defined as causing alarm, distress and anxiety and fear of physical violence or other threat, offensive statements, verbal abuse and threats. Conduct may include speech, obstruction and so on. As such conduct may involve a criminal offence the police may be involved and it may be that NDRC will defer any action pending the outcome of such investigation and/or prosecution.

It goes without saying that the Club expects courtesy and co-operation to be shown towards all staff and organizers at and NDRC event. Whilst the pressures and tensions which arise at competitive level are understood, any aggression or abuse towards those who are simply undertaking their jobs for the benefit and interest of the exhibitor/competitor, the audience ultimately the horse itself, will **NOT** be tolerated.

**Anyone who is reported to a NDRC official, and is found to have shown any form of harassment; aggression, verbal abuse, threats, at an NDRC event, will be required to leave the venue, forfeit any prizes won and entry fees standing, and be issued with a written warning about such conduct. Further breaches of the NDRC code of conduct will be referred to the officials for further action.**

The NDRC would like to remind members and competitors the following;-

1. Participants should conduct themselves at all times in an appropriate fashion and should display good manners and respect towards other participants, show officials and to the judge(s).
2. An exhibitor always loses with grace, always considers fair play, honesty, and shows all other exhibitors courtesy.
3. An exhibitor will never use personal behaviour for receiving advantages from a judge.
4. Participants or spectators should not post confidential or proprietary information nor discuss a situation involving named or pictured individuals on a social media site without their permission.