

# The Pony Club Alcohol and Drugs Policy



The Pony Club is committed to ensuring so far as is reasonably practicable that Members are able to participate in all activities organised by The Pony Club in a safe and secure environment. The needs of the majority of Pony Club Members mean that the possession and / or use of illegal substances by an individual cannot be tolerated. Where practicable the rehabilitation of the individual will be supported provided this does not prejudice the safety and security of other Members.

## **a. Principles**

The use of recreational or other non-prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco is actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.

## **b. Alcohol**

The Pony Club states that organisers must do what is reasonably practicable to ensure the health, safety and welfare of Members and volunteers at Pony Club activities. All adults need to be physically and mentally fit to undertake their responsibilities in this area.

Pony Club coaches, officials and volunteers must not consume alcohol when they are directly responsible for young people, who are not their own children, at a Pony Club activity and must not permit young people (under 18 years of age) to consume alcohol at Pony Club activities.

The full Alcohol Policy can be found on The Pony Club website.

## **c. Performance Enhancing Drugs**

### **(i) Equine – Controlled Medication**

It is clearly essential for the welfare of a horse that appropriate veterinary treatment is given if and when required, including appropriate medication. However, medication may mask an underlying health problem. Therefore, horses should not compete or take part in training activities when taking medication, if the combination of the medication and the activity may have a detrimental effect on the horse's welfare. For more information, please refer to the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Pony Club Activities Policy, available on The Pony Club website.

### **(ii) Human**

Performance enhancing drugs are forbidden. The use of recreational or other non-prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco is actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.

### **(iii) Testing**

All competitors should be aware that random samples may be taken for testing from both themselves and / or their horse / pony. The protocol used will be that of the relevant adult discipline.

Competitors and their horses / ponies at national or international level may be subject to blood tests in line with the Sports Council Policy on illegal and prescribed substances. All young people competing at these levels should be made aware of this

#### **d. Reporting**

**(i)** Anyone who has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a Member is using or selling an illegal substance must report their concerns to the District Commissioner as soon as practicable. If there is an immediate risk to the health, safety or welfare of one or more Members then the Police must be informed as soon as possible. The person reporting their concerns must ensure that any material evidence is retained and should not influence any police investigation by hasty actions.

**(ii)** Upon receiving a report of suspected use or selling of an illegal substance, the District Commissioner should carry out an immediate investigation of the incident and the circumstances in which it occurred, and then decide upon the appropriate action to be taken. This will include:

- Informing the Members' parents / guardians;
- Informing the Pony Club Area Representative who in turn will inform The Pony Club Office;
- Informing the Police;
- Suspending the Member concerned while investigations are completed;
- Awaiting the completion of Police investigations and actions.

#### **e. Disciplinary Action**

The normal disciplinary procedure should be followed in cases relating to alcohol or drugs. The full Disciplinary Procedures can be found in Section 23: Discipline at Pony Club Activities and on The Pony Club website.