

Social Networking

Section 22 of the Health, Safety and Safeguarding Rulebook 2016



Many Members, volunteers and coaches already use sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, etc. It is essential that the adults keep him / herself and the young people safe online. As an adult, you have a key role to play in actively promoting safety measures. It is important to remember that young people under the age of 13 are not permitted to hold a Facebook account and so should not be contacted via this medium.

Coaches and instructors are encouraged not to have social media contact with any Member on a one-to-one basis. Where contact is conducted through social media this should be visible to all and where other adults (preferably including parents / guardians) can see dialogue.

Photography and video can be a useful tool to enhance coaching and capture positive memories of riding. However, it is important to ensure proper safeguards are in place to protect children and adults at risk from inappropriate use of photography and video. If the video is to be used in the future for comparison then it should be stored on the Member or the parent / guardian's technology. If the coach used his / her own equipment then the image must be deleted at the end of that session.

No rider should be photographed or videoed without the consent of the parent / guardian if the member is under 18 years.

NB: It is unacceptable, under possible assault, to photograph/ video an injured person.

No pictures or videos should be shared, used for marketing purposes or posted online without consent.

Texts and emails are a very useful way of contacting others as they are relatively inexpensive and provide immediate access (via mobile phones). However, Coaches, Officials, Centre Proprietors, competition providers, etc, who communicate this way with young people can put themselves at risk as messages can be misconstrued.

It is advised that where this form of communication is a necessity that all texts and emails are copied to young person's parent / guardian.

Messages should only sent at a reasonable time. It is inappropriate and unnecessary to contact Members late at night or very early in the morning unless it is an emergency.

Messages must be kept 'professional' not overly friendly.

Further guidance on the appropriate use of social media, photography and the Pony Club's e-safety procedure can be found on The Pony Club website.