



RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION – IRELAND

____ INCORPORATING CARRIAGE DRIVING ____

POLICY DOCUMENT.

RDA Ireland is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members – i.e. Riders, Drivers, Helpers, Carers, Instructors and Organisers.

Every individual connected with RDA Ireland should show respect and understanding for members rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves as reflects the principles of RDA Ireland and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Sport.

RDA IRELAND CODE of CONDUCT.

In keeping with the aims and objects of the Constitution of RDA Ireland, Members* are entitled to:

1. Be treated with dignity and respect.
2. Be safe and feel safe.
3. To be protected from bullies.
4. To say “no”.
5. To be listened to.
6. To be believed.
7. To be happy, have fun and enjoy riding/driving.
8. To experience competition at a suitable level.

Members should never:

1. Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage over or isolate other members or officials.
2. Make false allegations against other members or adults.
3. Use drugs, alcohol or tobacco at RDAI riding/driving activities.
4. Touch riders/drivers inappropriately.

(*Members: riders, drivers, helpers, instructors and organisers.)

1. INTEGRITY IN RELATIONS

Adults, coaches and helpers interacting with riders/drivers should do so with integrity and respect for the rider/driver. Verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse of any kind is unacceptable within sport.

2. EQUALITY

All riders/drivers should be treated in an equitable and fair manner, regardless of age, disability, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

3. FAIR PLAY

All classes should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play, fun, friendship and learning. Any complaints or grievances should be recorded.

TRAINING OF INSTRUCTORS, HELPERS AND GROUP ORGANISERS.

The following guidelines are already in place:

Registration system for membership, i.e. application form including medical details, special needs and consent by parent or guardian for the person to ride/drive. The riding school should be safe. All equipment should be checked regularly and updated. The group should not ride if there are any concerns regarding safety. Any horses that appear unsafe should be replaced.

A First Aid Box should be at every ride/drive. Medical emergency numbers should be available. Procedure to be followed by every group in case of an accident: Instructor takes charge. All riders/drivers moved away from accident and dismounted. Horses to be moved to a safe distance. The whole incident should be recorded, signed and witnessed.

Mount the riders with “dignity”. Before mounting ensure the rider understands how he/she is going to be aided. It is important to realise that the physical help essential in mounting severely physically disabled people could be misinterpreted by the participant or by onlookers.

Helpers should tell riders if they are going to help them into a better position, stabilise them at the trot etc. Be alert if the rider/driver appears uncomfortable with assistance given.

Encourage riders/drivers to communicate their likes and dislikes to their helpers.

Be generous with praise – never ridicule or shout at riders, drivers or helpers for making mistakes.

For riders tacking and untacking their horses and ponies:

Each rider should be helped or supervised at all times.

When in stable work the horse should be tied up and the stable door “left open”.

Instructors or group organisers should record attendance, horse ridden, progress or otherwise, or in the event of a fall all details including action taken.

If there are behavioural problems they should be noted and discussed with either parent, teacher or carer in charge.

At the end of a session find something positive to say to each rider/driver.

Do not criticize other officials or instructors.

Keep note of problems/actions/outcomes.

All accidents or incidents, however insignificant, should be recorded in the “Log Book”. Accidents must also be reported in writing, to the RDAI Secretary – see website www.rdai.org.

Travel: No rider or driver should travel alone in a car with a volunteer.

Photographs: Photographs of children or adults with learning disabilities should not be reproduced in any form without the express permission of the parent or guardian.

All helpers must be 16 years or over.

All volunteers should agree to abide by the “Code of Ethics and Good Practice” and participate in training.

Guidelines if there is suspected abuse or inappropriate behaviour by any person:

Contact National Welfare Officer – see website www.rdai.org.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, you can contact Tusla at 01-6352854 or info@tusla.ie.

Or contact the Gardaí at any Garda Station.

From September 2014.

HELPERS VOLUNTEERING TO WORK WITH RDA IRELAND



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According to a directive from the Sports Council to all sporting organisations, the following must be read and completed by all potential new volunteers.

Policy Statement.

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Group	Role
Name	
Address	
Contact Details to include telephone / email:	
Previous experience or involvement in sport or voluntary organisations – give details	
Have you ever been asked to leave a sporting or voluntary organisation in the past Yes _____ No _____ (if you have answered yes, we will contact you in confidence)	
Do you agree to abide by the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good practice in Sport Yes _____ No _____	
Please give the names and addresses of two responsible people whom we can contact and who from personal knowledge are willing to endorse your application. If you have had previous involvement in sport, one of these names should be that of an administrator/leader of your last	

<i>club/place of involvement.</i>	
Name	Address
Name	Address

RDAI have the right to accept or deny any application at their discretion.

By signing this form I consent to Riding for the Disabled Association, Ireland contacting both of the people named immediately above to discuss this application.

SIGNED _____ **DATE** _____