

THE BSPA CHILD PROTECTION AND HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

Duty of Care: the BSPA seeks to ensure that all children young people and vulnerable adults attending BSPA organised shows and events are safe and protected from harm. We believe that all members have a right to expect that we will safeguard and promote their interests irrespective of age, gender, racial origin, religious belief, sexuality, or any disability they may have. We also believe that all children have a right to be protected from abuse or exploitation. Wherever possible the BSPA will ensure that the rights of children, young people, and vulnerable adults are protected at our events.

As such we fully endorse the BEF/BHS code of good practice and have implemented our own Child Protection Policy (to be reviewed annually) as follows:

The BSPA CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT:

The BSPA is committed to ensure that:-

- The welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- All children have a right to be protected from abuse or exploitation.
- All children/Young people and vulnerable adults who take part in any BSPA equestrian event should be able to participate in a safe secure and enjoyable environment, within fair and even handed approach to competition and fair play.

The BSPA expects all Competitors and all Judges, Stewards and BSPA Officers to take all reasonable steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights and wishes and feelings.

- Any complaint or suspicion of abusive or inappropriate behaviour or practice will be taken seriously by the BSPA. The Complaints Procedure will be evoked and any suspicious or Child Abuse incident will be referred to the appropriate Local Authority for Investigation under the Child Abuse and Protection Procedures.
- High Standards are expected of all Judges, Stewards, Officers and Sessional workers, who will be expected to reflect and endorse the requirements and valued of this Policy when officiating at BSPA shows and events.

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THE BSPA CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT FOR JUDGES

In order to act as a Judge, Show Official or Council Member with the British Skewbald and Piebald Association all personnel wishing to act as such must comply with the following requirement.

At the point of application to become a Judge, Show Official or Council Member the individual is required to disclose whether they have any conviction, caution or outstanding matter against them that would make them unsuitable to be in proximity to under 18 year olds and those adults and children deemed to be vulnerable. This would include any penalty that has been imposed in the past and currently deemed 'spent'.

In addition, if at any point during the time the individual occupies such a position with the British Skewbald and Piebald Association, they are required to disclose directly to the Chair the following circumstances:-

- a) any pending investigations by child protection agencies,
- b) any caution, final warning or reprimand received for offences against a minor or vulnerable adult,
- c) any conviction against a minor or vulnerable adult,
- d) any conviction that would prevent them working with children or vulnerable adults,
- e) any restriction on employment, including suspension or dismissal due to concerns regarding their safeness to work with children and vulnerable adults. (This would include inclusion on any register or list held to prevent individuals working when they present a risk.)

Whilst this is a voluntary arrangement designed to affect a safe environment for children to show and partake in equine events, should the British Skewbald and Piebald Association Council receive information that proves a Judge, Show Official or Council Member has been found to be unfit to work with children or vulnerable adults; their status with the association will be immediately terminated. The association will then ensure the individual is disassociated with the organisation in all appropriate ways.

THE BSPA HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

The BSPA Trustees strive to ensure that all of its activities are run from appropriate venues and are organised with Health, Safety and Welfare in mind.

- We will work with others to provide appropriate levels of safety and security within our Shows and Events.
- We will assess (under any specific duty or regulation as laid down), any risk issues associated with the Show or Event and carry out all actions required within the assessment Action Plan.
- We will seek to establish and promote a positive Health and Safety Culture within the Association
- We will require all Judges to conduct themselves within the policy as laid down.

BSPA POSITION STATEMENT ON ANIMAL WELFARE

The British Skewbald and Piebald Association is committed to the humane and proper treatment of all animals but equines in particular. We support and are committed to the improvements for Equine Welfare and in particular the introduction of a duty of care as laid down in the "Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys" 3rd edition 2009. Also the Showing Council & BHS Code of Practice at Show or Events.

- The welfare of the Horse/Pony is the prime concern in all activities
- Horses/Ponies will be treated with kindness, respect and compassion at all times
- All parties whether Owner, Rider, Handler, Groom, Exhibitor, Trainer, or any person involved in handling, riding or the transportation of equines will use responsible care and will ensure the health and well being of equines/animals in their care at all times
- The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally acceptable animal husbandry standard and equine care, training or showing procedure would determine to be neither cruel, abusive or inhumane or detrimental to the wellbeing, welfare and natural rights of any equine.
- Because The British Skewbald and Piebald Association is strongly opposed to any animal abuse, any Member or Judge convicted in a Court of Law of cruelty to animals may be suspended from the BSPA when certified evidence is presented to the Council. They may at the completion of their Court sentence re-apply for membership.
- The Association supports the development of procedures that assure equity, fairness, safety, health and welfare for all participants.
- All BSPA shows are held under the auspices of BHS Code of Practice for welfare of horses and ponies at events