

## Vale of Usk Code of Conduct

The Vale of Usk Riding Club (**VOU** or the **Club**) aims to promote and encourage riders of all abilities and interests to enjoy and progress within any given sphere.

VOU is a horse riding club for adults over the age of 18 years.

The Club is affiliated to the British Riding Club organisation (**BRC**), part of the British Horse Society, and is in Area 15 of the BRC.

The Club constitution can be found here <http://www.vouridingclub.co.uk/policies.html> .

All members are bound by the BRC code of conduct which can be found in your rule book or on the BRC website available to be downloaded at <http://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-handbook>.

The committee and their contact details can be found on the Club's website (<http://www.vouridingclub.co.uk/>) (the **Committee**).

All members are covered by the BRC insurance whilst attending events or training organised by the Club for a useful fact sheet on what is covered please see:- <http://www.bhs.org.uk/~media/bhs/files/pdf-documents/k2899-british-riding-clubs-key-facts-dl-v1-010116.ashx?la=en>. The Club strongly recommends that you also have your own personal insurance to cover you in all other circumstances.

### **Members**

- All members shall act in a manner to promote the Club and its values and to ensure the welfare of all other members and their horses.
- All members should help to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, race, culture or religion.
- The Club aims to cater for people of all abilities and to encourage and promote the sport for all to enjoy.
- No member shall behave in any way which would bring the Club into disrepute or cause any detriment to the Club's name.
- Membership fees shall be paid promptly each year. Membership is due on 1 January each year. The Club accepts new members all year round. Details of how to join or renew can be found here <http://www.vouridingclub.co.uk/how-to-join.html>.
- The Club is often required to provide helpers for other BRC events in order for us to be able to enter a team, we encourage all members, particularly those who compete for the Club, to volunteer for at least one event per year.
- It is each member's responsibility to ensure they comply with the current BRC Rules at all times when representing the Club.
- Payment
  - Members must pay all fees due for training sessions or competition entries promptly as requested.
  - For training sessions organised by the Club once times are published you are required to pay for the session even if you do not attend unless we are able to fill your place.

- For certain events payment may be requested in advance of the event and will only be refundable if we are able to fill you place.
- Payments can be made by BACS or cheque.

## **Riders**

- All riders while engaged in any mounted club activities must wear riding hats to the current standard (<http://www.bhs.org.uk/~media/bhs/files/pdf-documents/brc/2017-brc-hat-tagging-guide-for-competitors-040117.ashx?la=en>) and appropriate footwear (long riding boots or jodhpurs boots and chaps/gaiters). The Club also strongly recommends wearing a body protector whilst mounted particularly when jumping (<http://www.bhs.org.uk/~media/bhs/files/pdf-documents/brc/2017-brc-bp-standards-info-040117.ashx?la=en>).

**Failure to comply with these safety requirements may result in you being asked to dismount and leave the training session or competition without refund.**

- All riders have a duty of care to themselves and all other members/event participants.
- It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that their tack and equipment (including safety equipment) are in good repair and are appropriate for the type and level of training being undertaken.
- All riders shall treat any venues used for training or competition with respect and ensure that no litter or droppings are left at any venue.

## **The Horse**

- All horses are to be presented for training or competitions fit and healthy. Should any horse be deemed to be in poor condition, lame, or in any way not fit to be ridden the club reserves the right to refuse permission for the horse to attend and participate.
- All saddlery must be in good working order and correctly fitted at all times.
- If the instructor or organiser deems the presence of you or your horse to be endangering other horses, riders or spectators then the Club reserves the right to ask you to leave the arena.
- The abuse of any animal will not be tolerated.
- To compete for the Club the horse must have up to date vaccinations. If you have any queries on this please contact the Chef d'Equipe (Kelly Jones) for further details.
- Please do not leave your horse unattended at any training sessions or competitions unless they are safely secured within a trailer or lorry and appropriately supervised.
- All horses attending any events organised by the Club shall be at least 4 years old.
- The Club recommends when attending competitions or training that all members observe the basic biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of disease. If you are not familiar with these please contact one of the committee members who will be happy to help.

## **Social Media**

- The Club uses various social media resources to promote the Club, training and competitions.
- The Club are keen to promote /share photos that are taken at train sessions and competitions, so please be aware that you photo may be added to the website or facebook page.
- Please ensure that any posts on social media are in keeping with the Clubs code of conduct.

## **Health & Safety**

As a Club member you have a responsibility to care for your own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by what you do or do not do.

- You must co-operate with the Club on all health and safety issues and observe all instructions issued by Club officials.
- All members are responsible for conducting themselves and their horses in a way which will not endanger any other person or animal.
- You must correctly use all equipment provided during any training session or competition.
- Please report any potential or actual health and safety hazards, risks, accidents and incidents to a Committee member or the instructor taking the training as soon as you can.
- Please provide the supervising committee member with an emergency contact number in case of any emergency, particularly if you will be attending any events on your own.

**Any deliberate breaches of the Health & Safety policy should be reported to the Committee who will determine how to deal with the member in breach. There is a risk that a breach may result in membership being terminated without refund.**

## **General**

The Committee's decision is final.

The breaching of any part of this Code of Conduct may result in a warning or cancellation of membership of VOU.