



RDAI Policy Statement and Code of Conduct

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

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, coaches and organisers.)

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.

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.

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 Coaches, Helpers and Group Organisers:

The following guidelines are already in place:

- Registration system for athletes, 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.
- Always show respect for the horses and promote positive animal care.
- 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: Coach 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". Always ask permission before making any physical contact with a rider/driver. 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. Avoid any inappropriate touching while assisting them. Be alert if the rider/driver appears uncomfortable with assistance given.

- Physical contact should only occur when necessary and in an open and appropriate way, and always be intended to meet the needs of the young person. When touching/supporting a rider or driver, be certain that another adult is present and in full view, and that you have explained what you are doing, and why.
- 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”.
- Coaches or group organisers should record attendance, horse ridden, volunteers assisting each rider, progress or otherwise, or in the event of a fall or any incident, all details must be recorded, 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 criticise other officials or coaches.
- Keep note of problems/actions/outcomes.
- All accidents or incidents, however insignificant, should be recorded in the group’s logbook. Accidents must also be reported in writing, to the RDAI Secretary at rdaisecretary@gmail.com

Travel:

No rider or driver should travel alone in a car with a volunteer. Volunteers are not responsible for transportation of TY students.

Photographs:

Photographs of children or vulnerable adults should not be reproduced in any form, without the express permission of the parent or guardian.

Helpers and Volunteers

All helpers/volunteers must be 15 years or over.

All helpers/volunteers must agree to abide by the “Code of Ethics and Good Practice” and access on-going training and information on all aspects of their role with young people, particularly Safeguarding training.

Child Welfare Concerns:

E: rdaiwelfareofficer@gmail.com

T: 087 2251267.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the Gardaí by dialling 999 or 112 and ask to speak to the Child Protection Officer.

Or contact Tusla at www.tusla.ie for regional contact numbers, or email info@tusla.ie

Declaration

I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the guidelines within it

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return one copy to your Group Welfare Officer and retain one copy for your own information.