



# North Eastern Horse and Pony Club

## Member Code of Conduct

The North Eastern Horse and Pony Club (NEHPC) is a youth-focused club that exists to develop horsemanship, teamwork, and personal growth in riders up to 21 years of age.

Our Club promotes learning in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where respect, responsibility, and horse welfare are central to everything we do.

This Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all riders, parents, guardians, coaches, and volunteers.

### 1. Junior Riders (up to 21 years)

As the heart of NEHPC, junior riders are expected to:

- Treat others (instructors, parents, volunteers, fellow riders) with respect and kindness.
- Show good sportsmanship at all times, whether winning, learning, or helping others.
- Take responsibility for their own behaviour, actions, and equipment.
- Follow the instructions of instructors and officials for safety and learning.
- Put their horse's welfare first, ensuring proper care, preparation, and rest.
- Handle all horses with patience, gentleness, and awareness.
- Wear approved safety gear, including helmets and boots, at all times when riding or handling horses.
- Look after Club property and grounds, and help keep areas clean and safe.
- Participate fully in rallies, activities, and events by showing commitment and enthusiasm.

Riders are encouraged to ask questions, learn from mistakes, and support each other. NEHPC is a place to grow, not to compete for perfection.

### 2. Adult Members, Parents, and Guardians

Adult members and parents play a vital supporting role in the success and safety of the Club. While riders are the focus, adult involvement keeps the Club running smoothly.

Adults are expected to:

- Act as positive role models, showing respect, patience, and encouragement.
- Support instructors, coaches, and committee members in maintaining an orderly and inclusive environment.
- Refrain from sideline coaching, arguing with officials, or undermining instructors.
- Prioritise safety, learning, and enjoyment over competition results.
- Be actively involved in Club activities, volunteering for tasks such as rally setup, canteen, grounds maintenance, fundraising, or committee work.
- Contribute to a team atmosphere where every role (big or small) is valued.
- Communicate respectfully with Club officials and other members, raising concerns through appropriate channels.
- Demonstrate respect and composure at all Club and inter-club events.



Supporting members are reminded that NEHPC operates through the shared effort of members. Helping at rallies and events ensures a safe, positive experience for all young riders.

### **3. Instructors, Coaches, and Officials**

Instructors and officials are entrusted with guiding and educating riders. They are expected to:

- Provide instruction that is safe, fair, and developmentally appropriate for young riders.
- Prioritise horse welfare and rider safety at all times.
- Foster confidence, independence, and respect among riders.
- Communicate calmly, clearly, and positively.
- Lead by example in following Club values and safety standards.
- Report unsafe behaviour, damaged equipment, or welfare concerns promptly to the Committee.

### **General Conduct**

All members of NEHPC are expected to:

- Conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the Club at all times.
- Treat others with courtesy, fairness, and respect, regardless of age, ability, or experience.
- Follow the lawful and reasonable directions of instructors, coaches, judges, and event officials.
- Uphold the rules, regulations, and values of Pony Club Victoria and the North Eastern Horse and Pony Club.
- Act in good faith, avoiding behaviour that may bring the Club, its members, or Pony Club Victoria into disrepute.

### **Appropriate Member Behaviour**

All members are expected to display behaviour that promotes safety, cooperation, and respect both within and outside Club activities.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Maintaining a positive attitude and supporting fellow riders.
- Refraining from bullying, harassment, discrimination, or exclusion of others.
- Communicating respectfully with coaches, volunteers, and peers.
- Taking responsibility for personal actions and decisions.
- Using appropriate language — offensive, aggressive, or disrespectful speech will not be tolerated.
- Refraining from the use of alcohol, drugs, or any substance that may impair performance or judgement during Club activities.
- Representing the Club with integrity when participating in external competitions, events, or online forums.

### **Horse Welfare**

The welfare of the horse must always take precedence over competitive or personal goals. All members must:



- Treat all horses with kindness, patience, and respect.
- Ensure horses are properly cared for, fed, hydrated, and rested.
- Use well-fitting, safe, and properly maintained tack and equipment.
- Avoid excessive training, harsh treatment, or practices that cause pain or distress.
- Follow veterinary advice and prioritise horse health and safety at all times.
- Seek guidance from experienced members or instructors when unsure.

## **Safety and Responsibility**

All members must:

- Adhere to all Club safety rules and Pony Club Victoria regulations.
- Wear approved helmets, riding boots, and appropriate clothing during all mounted and unmounted activities.
- Ensure all gear is checked and maintained in safe working order.
- Report any accidents, hazards, or unsafe conditions promptly to Club officials.
- Take reasonable care for their own safety and the safety of others.
- Handle horses calmly and carefully, respecting the space and safety of others.
- Keep club grounds tidy and equipment in good order.

## **Respect for Property and the Environment**

All members are expected to:

- Respect Club facilities, grounds, and equipment.
- Keep stables, arenas, and common areas clean and tidy.
- Dispose of rubbish and manure responsibly.
- Respect the property and facilities of other clubs or event hosts.
- Care for the natural environment and ensure minimal environmental impact during Club activities.

## **Communication and Social Media**

Members and supporters must:

- Communicate respectfully and constructively at all times.
- Use social media responsibly, ensuring posts and comments reflect the values and reputation of the Club.
- Refrain from publishing or sharing material that could damage the reputation of individuals, the Club, or Pony Club Victoria.
- Respect the privacy and confidentiality of others in all communications.

## **Breaches of Conduct**

Any breach of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by the NEHPC Committee. Depending on the severity of the breach, actions may include:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Suspension from Club activities or events
- Termination of membership



All matters will be handled fairly, respectfully, and confidentially in accordance with Pony Club Victoria guidelines.

## **Our Commitment**

At NEHPC, we ride with respect, act with integrity, and care deeply for our horses and each other. By joining the Club, every rider, parent, and supporter agrees to uphold these values and contribute to a positive, safe, and respectful community.