

STANDARD RULES AND CONSTITUTION OF STRATHENDRICK RIDING CLUB

1. TITLE

The Club shall be known as the Strathendrick Riding Club.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) To promote participation in and provide facilities for the amateur sport of riding in the Strathendrick and surrounding areas.
- (b) To encourage riding as a sport and recreation, to promote good fellowship amongst riders and to improve and maintain the standard of riding and horsemanship.
- (c) To organise instructional meetings, lectures, competitive events and other activities to further the objects.
- (d) To be affiliated to The British Horse Society (BHS) and to support and co-operate with recognised organisations interested in the use of all breeds and types of horses and ponies.
- (e) To ensure that **the welfare of horses is the overriding priority** in all activities, decisions, and events. This aligns with BHS policy, which states that *everything they do is to improve the lives of horses and protect them from neglect and abuse*, and with the statutory requirement that all responsible persons ensure that equines are kept free from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

3. DUTY OF CARE

All members, volunteers, coaches and Committee members have a **legal duty of care** to ensure that any horse under their care, temporary or permanent, has:

- A suitable environment
- A healthy diet
- The ability to express normal behaviour
- Appropriate companionship
- Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease

These principles are mandated under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 as detailed in the Government's Code of Practice.

All Club events shall be run in accordance with:

- The BHS Guidelines for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Events
- Any additional welfare rules of governing bodies (e.g., dressage, eventing)

Any member suspecting a welfare breach must report it immediately to:

- The Welfare Officer (designated Committee member)
- A senior event official
- External authorities if appropriate

Breaches of these welfare rules may result in:

- Warnings
- Suspension from Club activities
- Termination of membership
- Referral to external welfare authorities where required

4. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of eighteen years (and persons aged fourteen years and over for junior members) and, having paid the due subscription for the current period. Honorary

membership may be conferred by the Committee upon any person deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the Club. No junior member may be a voting member of the Club. However, Clubs with a junior membership may appoint a Junior Committee to discuss matters relevant to the junior membership. This Junior Committee, through the Chairperson of said Junior Committee, may make recommendations to the Committee for their consideration.

A member shall apply for membership via the Sport80 portal as prescribed by British Riding Clubs (BRC). Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or other benefits. The Committee may refuse membership only for good cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal may be made to the members. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

The annual subscription is a rolling 12 months and is payable via the Sport 80 portal. Any member whose subscription is not renewed via the portal is no longer classed as a member of the Club.

The Committee may expel from membership of the Club any member who has breached any of the rules of the Club, or who has in the opinion of the Committee been guilty of any conduct derogatory to the character or prejudice [against the] interest of the Club or the Committee themselves, provided that before their expulsion the Committee shall allow the member to appeal the decision to the Committee and provide an explanation of his/her conduct and allow a proper opportunity to answer the allegations against him/her.

5. ADMINISTRATION

The Committee

- a) All powers of management shall be vested in the Committee consisting of the Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and a maximum of 9 other Committee members. Four shall form a quorum.
- b) The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Vice-Chairperson who shall have the same powers as the Chairperson when the Chairperson is absent.
- c) Where the Committee members are equally divided on any matter requiring a vote, the Chairperson shall have the right to cast an additional vote.
- d) The Chairperson, Vice- Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected by the Committee and shall hold office for a minimum term of 3 years after which they may stand for re-elections. At the end of a second term of 3 years Office Bearers must stand down from the Committee for a minimum period of 1 year.
- e) Committee members shall be proposed and seconded by Club members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM): on being duly elected on to the Committee members shall stand for 3 years, after which they may stand for re-election. At the end of the second 3-year term, Committee members must stand down for a minimum period of 1 year.
- f) The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General meeting.
- g) The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules and for anything related to the Club not provided therein and their decision shall be final and binding on the members.
- h) The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policies, codes of practice and rules for the detailed running of the Club which the Committee may authorise.
- i) The Committee may formulate byelaws for the detailed running of the Club and elect sub committees for any special activities of the Club which the Committee may authorise.
- j) The Committee shall have the power to fill by co-option any casual vacancy arising amongst members of the Committee but any person so co-opted shall return office only until the next following AGM and then shall be eligible for re-election.

Finances and Subscriptions

The financial year of the Club shall commence on the 1st of January in each year.

The Accounts of the Club shall be audited each year by the person appointed at the previous AGM. The person should be experienced in accounting matters and not a member of the Club.

All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets are to be distributed to members or third parties.

In the event that dissolution of the Club shall occur, the assets of the Club shall be used first to discharge all liabilities of the Club and the remaining assets shall be given or transferred to a registered charity or the sport's governing body (i.e. the BHS) for use by them in related community sports. The Club must agree the recipient(s) at a Special General Meeting which must be called by the Committee with a minimum of 10 days notice.

The annual subscription shall be £35.00 or such other sum as shall from time to time be determined by the Committee. The Club will endeavour to keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

General Administration and AGM

The Committee may appoint a President and Vice-Presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the Committee.

The AGM shall be held between January and March of each year to transact the following business:

- (a) To receive and if approved to adopt a Statement of the Club's Accounts to the end of the preceding year.
- (b) To fill vacancies on the Committee.
- (c) To appoint an Auditor.
- (d) To deal with any special matter which the Committee may desire to bring to the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee. Notice convening the AGM shall be sent to members not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee, or by request signed by not less than five members specifying the business to be discussed. The Honorary Secretary shall give all members ten days notice of the date of such a meeting and shall specify in such notice the matters to be dealt with at the meeting. Notice may be given to any member by sending it to the email registered in the records of the Club. If any member has no email in the United Kingdom such member shall not be entitled to receive any notice. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to or the non-receipt of a notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of the meeting.

These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any AGM or Special General Meeting, provided no such resolution, shall be deemed to have been passed, unless carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon and provided that prior notice has been sent to all members stating the proposed amendment.

6. SUITABLE ATTIRE

Members shall be correctly turned out at all mounted Club events. Hard hats must be worn to at least the minimum standard with the harness properly adjusted and fastened. Hats must be compliant with the standards as stipulated in the current BRC handbook. Skullcap hats must be worn with a silk.