NORTHERN COUNTIES PONY ASSOCIATION.

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION POLICY.

As an organisation, the Northern Counties Pony Association ( NCPA) do, at times, hold some events specifically for young children or vulnerable adults and recognize NCPA duty of care in the organisation and running of such events. NCPA also recognise that we have a duty of care to all children in relation to our organised shows and events which have competition categories for under-18-year-olds or to vulnerable adults who may wish to take part in appropriate categories.

( Ref NCPA Inclusion Policy)

We recognise that, as an Association, we have the following responsibilities to:

• Promote the health and welfare of children and vulnerable adults by providing

opportunities for them to take part in Northern Counties Pony Association

organised events safely.

• Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feeling of children and vulnerable

adults.

• Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of

children and vulnerable adults and protect them from abuse.

• Require all judges, stewards and officials at recognised shows and events, both

inside and outside rings, to adopt and abide by this Child and Vulnerable

Adult Protection Policy.

• Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children or vulnerable

adults in line with this Policy.

• Review and evaluate this Policy on a regular basis.

**We also recognise the following principles:**

The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is everyone’s responsibility, particularly

when it comes to protecting them from abuse. Children and vulnerable adults have a

lot to gain from their association with ponies and horses. Their natural sense of fun

and spontaneity can blossom in a positive environment created by pony associations.

It provides an excellent opportunity for them to learn new skills, become more

confident and maximise their own unique potential.

**This Policy is based on the following principles:**

• The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is the primary concern.

• All children and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability,

gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and or/

sexual identity has the right to protection from abuse.

• It is everyone’s responsibility to report any concerns about abuse and the

responsibility of the Social Services and Police to conduct, where appropriate,

a joint investigation.

• All incidents of alleged poor practice, misconduct and abuse will be taken

seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

• All personal data will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the

General Data Protection Regulations 2018. (NCPA Privacy Policy can be viewed on the website www.thencpa.co.uk)

**We wish to promote good practice with young people in the horse industry by**

**encouraging the following guidelines for the Northern Counties Pony Association and**

**approved judges, trainers and officials who work with young people and vulnerable adults.**

• Always encourage an open environment.

• Always ensure that you are never left alone with one child – avoid situations

where you and an individual child are completely unobserved.

• Treat young people equally and with respect.

• Always maintain appropriate relationships with young people, e.g. it is not

appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child.

• Make pony-related activities an enjoyable experience for children and young

people.

• Ensure that if any manual or physical support is required, it should be

provided openly and according to accepted good practice.

• Involve parents/carers wherever possible.

• Recognise the development needs and capacity of young people – avoiding

excessive training or competition and not forcing them against their will.

**Practice to be avoided includes:**

Except in emergency situations the following should not become widespread practice:

• Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.

• Taking children alone on car journeys.

• Taking children to your home where they will be alone with you.

In situations where these cases are unavoidable they should occur with the consent of a parent or carer.

**First aid should be administered by a qualified person with the minimum of**

**physical contact.**

**The following activities should never be sanctioned:**

• Rough physical or sexually provocative games.

• Engaging in any form of inappropriate touching.

• Allowing children to use any inappropriate language unchallenged.

• Doing things of a personal nature for a young child that they could do for

themselves.

• Making sexually suggestive comments to a young person even in fun.

• Inviting or allowing a young person to stay with you at your home

unsupervised.

Links: NCPA Privacy Policy, NCPA Inclusion Policy, available to view on the NCPA website www.thencpa.co.uk

As an organisation the Northern Counties Pony Association subscribes to the relevant

sections of the British Horse Society’s booklet “Duty of Care – Guidelines for the

Horse Industry” and to Sport Scotland’s “Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection –

Model Policy and Procedures”

Copies of these two publications are retained by the general secretary and are

available on request.

(This Policy was updated April 2024)