

## ABUSE OF THE HORSE or PONY Policy

PCASA has a duty of care, not only to Riders, Spectators, Officials and Volunteers, but to the Horses and Ponies in our Organisation.

### **ANY ABUSE OF THE HORSE OR PONY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**

#### **1. ABUSE**

Abuse can be defined as intentionally acting in a way that may cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse or pony.

An act of abuse can be any of the following:

- to whip or beat a horse/pony excessively
- to use spurs, or to jab the horse/pony in the mouth with the bit, excessively or persistently
- to compete/ride using an obviously exhausted, lame or injured horse/pony
- to abnormally sensitise any part of a horse/pony
- to leave a horse/pony without adequate food, drink and exercise
- to subject a horse/pony to any kind of electric shock device
- to 'rap' a horse/pony anywhere in or outside the grounds or the event

#### **2. WHIP - ABUSE**

The use of a whip must be

- For a good reason
- At an appropriate time
- In the right place
- With appropriate severity
- The whip must only be used either as an aid to encourage the horse forward or as a reprimand

##### **As an aid to go forward**

- The appropriate time is when the horse/pony is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of seat and legs
- The whip should be used behind the rider's leg
- It must never be used 'over-arm', eg whip in the right hand being used to the left flank
- **The use of a whip on a horse's head or neck is always excessive use**
- **The whip must never be used to vent a rider's temper – any use for**

**such a reason is automatically excessive** and therefore entails elimination/disqualification.

**As a reprimand**

- The only appropriate time is immediately after a horse has been disobedient, eg napping, refusing (but not after elimination, when it will always be excessive)
- The whip should not be used after a horse has jumped the last fence on a course
- As a reprimand only, a horse may be hit hard
- **It should never be hit more than three times for any one incident and**
- **If the horse is marked by the whip, eg the skin is broken or there is a weal – the use of the whip is excessive**

**3. SPUR - ABUSE**

- **Spurs must not be used to reprimand a horse – such use is always excessive**
- **Any use of Spurs that results in a horse being marked by a Spur – is always excessive**

**4. BIT - ABUSE**

- **The bit must never be used to reprimand a horse, i.e. jabbing the horse/pony in the mouth with the bit, excessively or persistently**
- Any such use is excessive.

Policy to be reviewed annually.....President.....Date

