

# **POLICY STATEMENTS**

## **ABUSE OF 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 sensitive 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", e.g. 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, e.g. 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, e.g. 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.

Signing off:

President...  ..... Print name...Ann Olsen

Date: 01/01/2026 Name of Club: Pony Club Association of S.A. Inc.

This policy or code is set for review every twelve months by Pony Club Association of S.A. Incorporated.

#### ALCOHOL POLICY

The Pony Club Association of South Australia Inc. is primarily a youth movement and is obligated not to encourage the consumption of alcohol. Coaches, officials and parents should be aware any time they consume alcohol of the example they set.

1. The consumption of alcohol by officials and riders is prohibited during events.
2. The consumption by others at an event should not be encouraged.
3. Underage drinking of alcohol is not to be permitted.

At other times, such as the completion of the day's activities alcohol may be consumed by legally entitled persons but with due regard to responsible behaviour and the safety and care of riders and teams.

PCASA chaperones and coaches should not consume alcohol during the period they are responsible for Pony Clubbers.

Signing off:

President...  ..... Print name...Ann Olsen

Date: 01/01/2026 Name of Club: Pony Club Association of S.A. Inc.

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