

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

