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**WRC Health and Safety Policy**

WRC is committed to the health and safety of its members and other participants in all WRC activities, whether that is a rally, a hacknix, a club run competition, representing the club at competitions run by others or other forms of WRC activity.

We all have a role to play in ensuring that this is achieved. All coaches, members, officials, volunteers, other participants and spectators are expected to take all practicable steps to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others.

**KEY WRC HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES:**

**Safety equipment**

1. When mounted a properly fitting, securely fastened, correctly maintained helmet meeting the latest safety standards must be worn at all times.
2. Riders will not be permitted to train or compete unless they wear an ESNZ approved helmet that is tagged accordingly.
3. The use of cameras affixed to helmets is prohibited.
4. Any rider who fails to wear an approved helmet at any rally or other WRC activity will be issued with a first warning. A second warning may result in that rider being asked to step down as a WRC member.
5. Wearing a body protector is compulsory when participating in WRC activities that include cross country jumping. The body protector standards accepted as of the 1st of August 2020 are BETA EN13158 2009 (or newer) or Level 3 ASTM F1937. Wearing a body protector for other forms of jumping is strongly recommended.
6. Appropriate footwear should be worn when mounted.
7. Riders must wear high-visibility clothing when a WRC activity involves riding on public roads or in low-light conditions.

**Exclusion in some circumstances**

1. At rallies, the Head Coach is responsible for ensuring that all combinations can safely be accommodated. At all other WRC activities, the most senior WRC officer will determine exclusion of any persons or animals for health and safety reasons. A horse or rider may be excluded if deemed unfit to continue due to injury, impairment, or other health condition. A rider may also be excluded if the necessary safety equipment is not being used.

**First Aid**

1. A qualified first aider or first responder(s) will attend all WRC activities. A first aid kit will be available on site for all WRC activities.

**Recording incidents and accidents**

1. All falls, accidents and near misses must be recorded in the WRC incident/accident record book. A written record will be kept, and any serious injuries will be properly investigated.

**Concussion**

1. If a recent concussion is suspected:
   1. A rider must not compete or participate in mounted WRC activities for a minimum of twenty-one (21) days following a concussion unless a doctor’s written clearance is provided to WRC.
   2. Should the rider compete without the required doctor’s clearance, they do so at their own risk and take full responsibility. WRC holds no liability for injury caused to a rider or horse/mount or related persons and property in these circumstances.

**Code of conduct**

1. Children under the age of 18 and all animals including dogs where permitted must be supervised at all times.
2. Any unruly persons or animals may be excluded from a WRC activity for health and safety reasons.
3. All WRC activities will adhere to ESNZ’s Rules, Article 152, Anti-Doping policy. <https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/esnz/about-clean-sport/>
4. WRC has a zero tolerance to under-age drinking, illicit drugs, bullying and any actions which give rise for animal welfare concerns.
5. Any person considered to be abusing their horse at any WRC activity will be asked to leave and their membership will be suspended pending investigation. Any formal complaint should be in writing to WRC stating date, time and a brief description of the incident. The complainant should list those present. The person or persons the complaint has been made against is a*lleged* to have committed a breach until it has been investigated and a conclusion made. AT NO POINT SHOULD ANY COMPLAINT BE DISCUSSED IN AN OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING. Best Outcome Complaints may be resolved by agreement between the people involved with no need for disciplinary action. A Judicial Sub-committee may be appointed to handle a dispute if necessary. Following notification of a decision either party has the right to appeal within 14 days of notification of the decision. Appeals must be in writing, listing the grounds for the appeal.

**Liability**

1. While WRC will take all practicable steps to ensure the health and safety of its members and other participants in all WRC activities, its organisers, agents, committee members, and volunteers will not be liable for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, riders, owners, drivers, spectators, volunteers, other participants, land or any other property whatsoever and howsoever that loss, injury or illness may be caused.

**Natural disaster**

1. In the event of a natural disaster during a WRC activity, all members and other participants present are expected to take all practicable steps to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others, with the goal of ensuring that all members, participants and horses get home safely or get to alternative safe locations.
2. If needed, the most senior WRC officer present will coordinate resources available and communications to ensure the safety of all present prior to leaving the site.

**Contact information**

1. For any health and safety concerns or questions, please contact the WRC’s Head Coach.