

BHS Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

This document is the British Horse Society's policy for safeguarding children and young people. It includes BHS Qualifications known as BHSQ.

More advice is available www.bhs.org.uk/safeguardingchildren

The British Horse Society (BHS) fully accepts its legal and moral obligation under The Children Acts (1989) and (2004), to provide a duty of care to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation and socio-economic background.

A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (the Children Act 1989).

The BHS fully adopts the BEF Safeguarding Policy (Children and Young People), the full policy can be downloaded from the BEF website www.bef.co.uk

Aims

The aims of The BHS Safeguarding Policy are:

- To ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation to provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection, allowing them to participate in a fun, safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play.
- To take all reasonable, practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- To ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- To ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern. All concerns or allegations of poor practice or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- To ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- To maintain high standards of behaviours and good practice through compliance with BHS codes of conduct produced for instructors, coaches, parents/guardians, junior members and volunteers.

The policy and procedures are mandatory for everyone involved with The BHS (and BHSQ). Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from The BHS.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance.
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and the BEF.
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

BHS Safeguarding C and YP Policy

Lead Safeguarding Officer

The BHS will appoint a Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO)

The role of the LSO is:

- To represent the BHS on the BEF Safeguarding Action Team (SAT)
- To ensure that the clubs, centres and members within the BHS are aware of BEF and BHS policies, procedures and guidelines and adopt and adapt them as appropriate
- To implement and manage appropriate Safeguarding procedures in relation to child protection and safeguarding ensuring that the BEF is informed
- To respond to any allegations or complaints made from within the BHS. Operationally, to deal with the complaint/allegation to conclusion in line with agreed protocols
- To ensure there is clear communication within each BEF Member body with regard to Child Protection and Safeguarding
- To ensure that parents/children are aware of the policy and procedures and how to access them
- To ensure the effective protection and safeguarding of children and young people by encouraging and supporting each club/riding school events holder or competition to appoint a nominated safeguarding officer
- To encourage and support each club/riding school, event holders or competition to adopt and promote BHS policies and procedures
- To provide and promote education and training in safeguarding in partnership with the BEF to support staff, officials members and volunteers
- To manage and monitor the implementation of the policy and procedures and feed back to the BEF on an annual basis
- To ensure that BEF and BHS procedures for recruitment of staff and volunteers are followed and all appropriate existing staff or volunteers have up to date criminal record checks
- To ensure that codes of conduct are in place for club/centre staff, volunteers, coaches, young people and parents
- To ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a "need to know" basis

Communication

The BHS will make available its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to all staff, volunteers, junior members and their parents/guardians and it will appear in full on the BHS website.

The BHS will circulate to all members the name and number of the BHS Lead Safeguarding Officer.

Training

The BHS recommends that all Instructors/coaches and staff and volunteers working with children should undertake the BEF approved safeguarding training (or recognised equivalent) course within the last 3 years. Refresher training should be completed every three years via either the BEF approved online training portal or a further face to face course.

Accredited Professional Coaches are required to attend regular Safeguarding Training (every 3 years) and must evidence their attendance at a recognised training course.

BHS Safeguarding C and YP Policy

Position of Trust and Abuse of trust in the Equestrian Industry

Position of Trust

An adult is in a position of trust over a child if they regularly teach, train, supervise or have sole charge of the child in certain settings (e.g. hospitals, residential care, schools) or when in certain roles (e.g. teacher, care worker) Sexual Offences Act 2003. For the purpose of working within the Equestrian Industry those who regularly teach, train, supervise or have sole charge of the child are in a position of trust.

Abuse of Trust

Sexual activity between an adult in a position of trust and a child is deemed to be an abuse of trust and is unlawful, even if the child is over the age of consent (i.e. Is 16 or 17). The BEF along with other sport governing bodies treats coaches and other officials as being in a position of trust. Coaches and other officials should ensure they maintain healthy, positive and professional relationships with all participants. Coaches and others in positions of authority and trust in relation to athletes aged under 18 must not engage in sexual relationships with them while that unequal power relationship exists.

Criminal Record checks

The BHS recommends that all instructors/coaches, staff and volunteers working with children (if they meet the legal criteria) hold a current certificate through the Disclosure and Barring Service, Disclosure Scotland or Access NI as appropriate.

Where required certificates must be renewed every three years.

Raising Awareness

The BHS will endeavour to raise awareness through training, resources and roadshows current and significant subjects such as:

- Position of trust and abuse of position of trust
- Safety online
- Lone working
- Physical contact
- Employing young people
- Bullying
- Parents in sport
- Photography and filming
- Working with individuals with convictions

Further information and links

BHS Safeguarding Team

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Childline 0800 1111

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Documents

Please see BHS website for useful templates and documents

BHS Safeguarding C and YP Policy

www.bhs.org.uk/safeguardingchildren

Criminal record check information

England and Wales

www.bhs.org.uk/record-checks

Scotland

<http://www.bhs.org.uk/our-charity/corporate-information/working-with-the-law/criminal-record-checks/scotland>

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