



## **MHCGB Code of Conduct 2020**

The Miniature Horse Club of Great Britain would like to remind members and competitors of the following:-

1. Participants should conduct themselves at all times in an appropriate fashion and should display good manners and respect towards other participants, show officials and to the judge(s).
2. An exhibitor always loses with grace, always considers fair play, honesty, and shows all other exhibitors courtesy.
3. An exhibitor will never use personal behaviour for receiving advantages from a judge.
4. No person is permitted to enter the ring and challenge a judge's decision.
5. MHCGB reserve the right to refuse Entries without explanation.
6. Please be aware those who are stabling over at our events all stables will be checked by our Welfare Officer at close of show – any horses found to be without water will be reported and water will be offered.

MHCGB work on the 5 Freedoms:

- Freedom from Hunger and Thirst.
- Freedom from Discomfort.
- Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease.
- Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour.
- Freedom from Fear and Distress.

The welfare of all Miniature Horses competing is of paramount importance any person found to be ill-treating their Horses will be removed from the venue and membership suspended until an enquiry has taken place.

### **THINK BEFORE YOU POST!**

Use of Social Media

- Be Aware of Liability,
- Be Accurate,
- Respect Others,
- Respect Your Audience

Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites are popular with both members and non-members for communicating and sharing information and pictures. MHCGB encourages the use of such platforms in a positive, inclusive and respectful manner. Inappropriate and offensive comments, whether named or implied, of any nature will not be tolerated under any circumstances - this includes inappropriate or disrespectful remarks about MHCGB, Directors, Judges, and MHCGB members this will include comments about placings or horses. Any person associated with MHCGB, judge, competitor or otherwise, found to be making any such remarks in a MHCGB owned or associated group will be removed from the group without warning and any member found to be making such remarks will be subject to the MHCGB disciplinary procedure which could result in membership or association being revoked. The MHCGB is a family orientated organisation and as such, full respect should be shown at all times.

Please remember.....Do not use personal insults, obscenity, also show proper consideration for others' privacy and for topics that may be considered sensitive. Users are free to discuss topics and disagree with one another, but be respectful of others' opinions.

No-one should be subject to intimidation or made to feel alarmed or distressed or put in fear of reprisal. Harassment is a criminal offence. To that end the MHCGB adopts a zero tolerance towards all type of harassment activity. Harassment may be defined as causing alarm, distress and anxiety and fear of physical violence or other threat, offensive statements, verbal abuse and threats. Conduct may include speech, obstruction and so on. As such conduct may involve a criminal offence the police may be involved and it may be that the MHCGB will defer any action pending the outcome of such investigation and/or prosecution.

It goes without saying that the Club expects courtesy and co-operation to be shown towards all staff and organisers at any MHCGB event. Whilst the pressures and tensions which arise at competitive level are understood, any aggression or abuse towards those who are simply undertaking their jobs for the benefit and interest of the exhibitor/competitor and the audience cannot be tolerated.

Anyone who is reported to a MHCGB Director or show official, and is found to have shown any form of harassment; aggression, verbal abuse, threats, at an MHCGB event, will be required to leave the venue, forfeit any prizes won, and entry fees standing, and be issued with a written warning about such conduct. All breaches of the MHCGB code of conduct will be referred to the Directors for disciplinary action.

### **MHCGB Grievance Procedure**

Malicious complaints made solely with the intent to discredit another will not be tolerated. If made and discovered, the complainant will then be subject to disciplinary investigation themselves and may face expulsion – if a member then no refund of membership will be paid.

1. If the incident occurs at an MHCGB event an official complaint should be made in person to an MHCGB Director, and he or she will endeavour to resolve the matter immediately. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, or the grievance does not occur at an event then he or she must put the complaint in writing to the MHCGB Head Office within seven days, supplying all necessary evidence.
2. The complainant should make it clear in writing that the MHCGB grievance procedure is being invoked and must ensure that the necessary payment of £50.00 is made at the same time (payable by cheque or card payment to MHCGB Head Office).
3. On receipt of the complaint the Directors will engage in a meeting and discuss the complaint. The MHCGB Directors will then deal with and resolve with the complaint within 28 days (or as soon as reasonably possible given the circumstances).
4. The complainant will then be informed of the decision within 28 days of the meeting.
5. If the complaint is upheld, the payment of £50.00 submitted will be returned to the complainant.
6. The Directors decision will be final and binding.

Any person not in good standing with The AMHA will be refused membership to MHCGB.

### **Trading Wares At The National Spring Show and Grand Championship Shows**

Please be aware the selling / trading of goods unless via an authorised trade stand is **NOT PERMITTED**. Anyone found to be selling / trading from their horsebox or car will be asked to leave the venue. Such unauthorised trading is unfair on the legitimate Trade Stands who have paid for their space. A 30% commission charge will be added to any items found to have changed hands. This will be charged to the purchaser