

Gordon Dressage Group

Health & Safety Policy



Last Reviewed: February 2025

This document outlines the Health & Safety Policy for Gordon Dressage Group (GDG).

Health and Safety is everyone's responsibility and we encourage our members and spectators to read this document and acknowledge and prepare for the associated risks in our sport. The overall aim of the policy is to ensure that, in so far as reasonably practical, organisers, members, competitors, spectators, and the general public are kept safe and free from harm where possible.

Health & Safety Statement

Gordon Dressage Group (GDG) holds the wellbeing, health and safety of all members, competitors, spectators and the general public as an utmost concern. GDG have ensured that risk assessments have been undertaken for each venue, and that these assessments are reviewed on an annual basis. Risk assessments may be updated more frequently if a new venue is used, if there is a significant change in venue layout / organisation, or if a near miss or reportable accident occurs.

The Club's Responsibilities

- To undertake Risk Assessments in order to anticipate potential hazards at events and clinics organised by the club
- Ensure that mitigating measures identified within the Risk Assessments are acted upon
- To ensure Risk Assessments are monitored and reviewed
- To ensure the provision of suitably qualified First Aiders, with access to first aid equipment appropriate to the type of event and foreseeable risks
- To ensure that emergency services have the ability to locate and access the venue
- To keep a log of all incidents and accidents (in line with General Data Protection Regulations), and to use this information to form and shape any updates to our Health & Safety Policy
- To Report any Serious Injuries as required by law and RIDDOR legislation (The incident centre can be contacted on 0845 300 9923, or logged via the website at www.hse.gov.uk/riddor)
- To ensure that members have access to this document
- To ensure that this document is reviewed annually

Members & Competitors Responsibilities

- Members & Competitors must take reasonable precautions when attending events, training or other club activities to ensure their own safety and the safety of others.

- Members & Competitors must report any potential or actual Health & Safety hazards; or any actual accidents or incidents, without delay, to the on duty Club Official or Steward
- Members & Competitors have a duty of care to ensure that equipment that they use is in a safe state of repair (including tack, lorries / trailers / towing vehicles)
- Personal Protective Equipment should be considered at all times, and riding hats up to current standard must be worn (and fastened) at all times whilst mounted.
- Members and Competitors must observe reasonable rules of etiquette whilst on the ground and mounted – this includes but is not limited to:
 - Whilst Mounted -
 - Passing LEFT to LEFT
 - Giving way to those performing lateral movements
 - Walking in off the outside track
 - Not blocking gates / entrances or passageways
 - Allowing sufficient space between riders, and at least remaining out of kicking distance.
 - Being aware and accommodating of young or inexperienced horses and inexperienced horse / rider combinations
 - Being mindful of what different ribbons and armbands mean (e.g. red ribbon indicates a horse is liable to kick out, blue armband indicates the rider is hard of hearing)
 - Keep to walk only in all areas outside of the arenas in use, being mindful of pedestrians and those in the arenas at the time.
 - Other Considerations -
 - Park with consideration of others
 - Do not block access in parking areas
 - Do not leave horses unattended whilst tied outside of vehicles
 - Dogs must be kept under control and on a lead at all times
 - Grooms / helpers should only enter the warm up area when strictly needed; and should be mindful to keep to a sensible quiet area away from other horses / competitors

Responsibilities of the General Public and Spectators

- To remain within the designated pedestrian areas and observe any instructions of Club Officials, including Stewards and Judges
- To ensure extra care is taken when moving around areas shared with horses
- Children (under the age of 18) must be supervised by an appropriate adult / parent / guardian at all times

Any member, competitor or spectator not willing to accept direction from Club Officials regarding Health & Safety issues may be excluded from future events and activities.

HORSE RIDING AS A SPORT HAS KNOWN RISKS AND ANYONE ATTENDING CLINIS OR EVENTS PARTICIPATE AT ENTIRELY THEIR OWN RISK. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS HAVE ADEQUATE INSURANCE COVER IN PLACE.