**Torfaen riding Club Alcohol and Drugs Policy**

Torfaen riding club is committed to ensuring so far as is reasonably practicable that Members are able to participate in all activities organised by Torfaen riding Club in a safe and secure environment. The needs of the majority of riding Club Members mean that the possession and / or use of illegal substances by an individual cannot be tolerated. Where practicable the rehabilitation of the individual will be supported provided this does not prejudice the safety and security of other members.

**a. Principles**

The use of recreational or other non-prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco is actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.

**b. Alcohol**

Torfaen riding club states that organisers must do what is reasonably practicable to ensure the health, safety and welfare of Members and volunteers at riding club Club activities. All adults need to be physically and mentally fit to undertake their responsibilities in this area.

Coaches, officials and volunteers must not consume alcohol when they are directly responsible for young people, who are not their own children, at a riding Club activity and must not permit young people (under 18 years of age) to consume alcohol at riding Club activities.

The full Alcohol Policy can be found on Torfaen riding club website.

**c. Performance Enhancing Drugs**

**Equine – Controlled Medication**

It is clearly essential for the welfare of a horse that appropriate veterinary treatment is given if and when required, including appropriate medication. However, medication may mask an underlying health problem. Therefore, horses should not compete or take part in training activities when taking medication, if the combination of the medication and the activity may have a detrimental effect on the horse’s welfare.

**Human**

Performance enhancing drugs are forbidden. The use of recreational or other non-prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco is actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.

**d. Reporting**

**(i)** Anyone who has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a Member is using or selling an illegal substance must report their concerns to a committee member as soon as possible. If there is an immediate risk to the health, safety or welfare of one or more Members then the Police must be informed as soon as possible. The person reporting their concerns must ensure that any material evidence is retained and should not influence any police investigation by hasty actions.

**(ii)** Upon receiving a report of suspected use or selling of an illegal substance, the chairperson should carry out an immediate investigation of the incident and the circumstances in which it occurred, and then decide upon the appropriate action to be taken.

This will include:

* Informing the Members’ parents / guardians;
* Informing the Police;
* Suspending the Member concerned while investigations are completed; Awaiting the completion of Police investigations and actions.

**e. Disciplinary Action**

The normal disciplinary procedure should be followed in cases relating to alcohol or drugs.