



FOREWORD

Policy Statement

British Carriagedriving endorses the principle of sports equality and will strive to ensure that everyone who wishes to be involved in horse driving trials, whether as athlete, groom, spectator, judge, steward, coach, official or any other participants within British Carriagedriving:

- has a genuine and equal opportunity to participate to the full extent of their own ambitions and abilities, without regard to their age, sex, gender identity, disability, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality or sexual orientation (Referred to as 'Protected Characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010); and
- can be assured of an environment in which their rights, dignity and individual worth are respected, and in particular that they are able to enjoy their sport without the threat of intimidation, victimisation, harassment or abuse.

Legal obligations

British Carriagedriving is committed to avoid and eliminate unfair discrimination of any kind in horse driving trials and will under no circumstances condone unlawful discriminatory practices. The organisation takes a zero-tolerance approach to harassment. Examples of the relevant legislation and the behaviours in question are given in the Appendix.

Positive action

The principle of Sports Equality goes further than simply complying with legislation. It entails taking positive steps to counteract the effects of physical or cultural barriers – whether real or perceived – that restrict the opportunity for all sections of the community to participate equally and fully.

British Carriagedriving will therefore seek to institute, support or contribute to appropriate measures or initiatives that enable access to horse driving trials and participation in associated activities by people from any group that is under-represented in the sport or has difficulty accessing it.

Implementation

The following steps will be taken to publicise this policy and promote sports equality in horse driving trials:-

- A copy of this document will be published on the British Carriagedriving website.
- The Chair of British Carriagedriving will take overall responsibility for ensuring that the policy is observed.
- The Council of British Carriagedriving will appoint a director with specific responsibility for equality and diversity issues who will report to council at each meeting of council.
- The Council of British Carriagedriving will take full account of the policy in arriving at all decisions in relation to activities of the British Carriagedriving.

- British Carriagedriving will collaborate fully with any surveys or other initiatives designed to assess the level of participation of different sections of the community in horse driving trials and will take account of the findings in developing measures to promote and enhance sports equality in horse driving trials.
- British Carriagedriving will provide access to training for all of its Council Members to raise awareness of both collective and individual responsibilities. All coaches and trainers approved by or used by British Carriagedriving will be equality and diversity trained.
- It will be a condition of affiliation to British Carriagedriving that affiliated clubs:
 - formally adopt this policy, or produce their own equality and diversity policy in terms that are consistent with it; and
 - take steps to ensure that their Boards, members and volunteers behave in accordance with the policy, including where appropriate taking disciplinary action under the Club's constitution; and
 - ensure that access to membership is open and inclusive
 - support such measures and initiatives that British Carriagedriving may institute or take part in to advance the aims of this policy.
- It will be a condition of membership of British Carriagedriving that all members
 - commit to act in accordance with this policy; and
 - support such measures and initiatives that British Carriagedriving may institute or take part in to advance the aims of this policy.

Responsibility, Monitoring and Evaluation

Council will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy.

Council will review all British Carriagedriving activities and initiatives against the aims of the policy on an ongoing basis, and the council member with responsibility for equality and diversity issues will report formally on this issue at each meeting of council.

Council, or the director with responsibility for equality and diversity, will review any measures or initiatives that British Carriagedriving may institute or take part in to promote and enhance sports equality in our sport, and will report its findings formally to the AGM.

Council will review the policy itself at intervals of no more than three years (or when necessary due to changes in legislation) and will report with recommendations to the AGM.

Complaints and compliance

British Carriagedriving regards all of the forms of discriminatory behaviour, including (but not limited to) behaviour described in the Appendix as unacceptable, and is concerned to ensure that individuals feel able to raise any bona fide grievance or complaint related to such behaviour without fear of being penalised for doing so.

Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee, member or volunteer who violates the British Carriagedriving Equality Policy.

Any person who believes that he or she has been treated in a way that they consider to be in breach of this policy by an affiliated club or member of British Carriagedriving, should first complain to that person or organisation. If this does not resolve the matter, or in the case of allegations of discriminatory behaviour against British Carriagedriving itself, the person may raise the matter by writing directly to the Chair. Contact details are available through the website.

The Chair will investigate the complaint personally or appoint a disciplinary committee in accordance with the procedure set out in annex 13 of the British Carriagedriving rule book to do so. The investigation will be conducted impartially, confidentially, and without avoidable delay. Any person or organisation against whom a complaint has been made will be informed of what is alleged and given the opportunity to present their side of the matter.

The outcome of the investigation will be notified to the parties in writing and reported to the British Carriagedriving council.

Where the violation of the Equality Policy by way of harassment, victimisation or discrimination amount to a criminal offence, the appropriate authority will be informed.

In the event that an individual or organisation associated with British Carriagedriving is subject to allegations of unlawful discrimination in a court or tribunal, the council of British Carriagedriving will co-operate fully with any investigation carried out by the relevant lawful authorities and, subject to the outcome, may consider taking action as above in relation to the matter concerned.

Adopted by the Council of British Carriagedriving on 29th October 2019.

Signed: Equality Lead



Date: 13/12/19

Signed: Chair



Date: 13/12/19

APPENDIX – Relevant legislation and forms of unacceptable discrimination

Legal rights

Discrimination has been legally defined through a series of legislative acts, including the Race Relations Act, the Sex Discrimination Act, the Disability Discrimination Act and the Equality Act 2006.

In April 2010, the Equality Act 2010 received Royal Assent. The Equality Act 2010 is a new law which harmonises where possible, and in some cases extends, protection from discrimination. It applies throughout the UK and came into force in October 2010.

Discrimination refers to unfavourable treatment on the basis of particular characteristics, which are known as the 'protected characteristics'. Under the Equality Act 2010, the protected characteristics are defined as age (employment only until 2012), disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status (employment only), pregnancy and maternity, race (which includes ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality), religion or belief, sex (gender) and sexual orientation.

Under the Equality Act 2010, individuals are protected from discrimination 'on grounds of' a protected characteristic¹. This means that individuals will be protected if they have a characteristic, are assumed to have it, associate with someone who has it or with someone who is assumed to have it.

Forms of discrimination and discriminatory behaviour include the following:

Direct discrimination

Direct discrimination can be described as less favourable treatment on the grounds of one of the protected characteristics.

Indirect discrimination

Indirect discrimination occurs when a provision, criterion or practice is applied to an individual or group that would put persons of particular characteristics at a particular disadvantage compared with other persons.

Discrimination arising from disability

When a disabled person is treated unfavourably because of something connected with their disability and this unfavourable treatment cannot be justified, this is unlawful. This type of discrimination only relates to disability.

Harassment

Harassment is defined as unwanted conduct relating to a protected characteristic that has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity, or which creates an intimidating or hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person.

Victimisation

It is unlawful to treat a person less favourably because he or she has made allegations or brought proceedings under the anti-discrimination legislation, or because they have helped another person to do so. To do so would constitute victimisation.

Bullying

Bullying is defined as a form of personal harassment involving the misuse of power, influence or position to persistently criticise, humiliate or undermine an individual.

¹ The exception to this is pregnancy and maternity, which does not include protection by association or assumption – a woman is only protected from discrimination on grounds of her own pregnancy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EQUALITY CHAMPION

Background: The Council of British Carriagedriving has appointed a Director and member of Council to become the Equality Lead (Champion) for British Carriagedriving.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- 1). Advise council on policy and strategy with regards to all equality and diversity matters.
- 2). Advise council on opportunities to increase membership through the engagement of equality and diversity groups.
- 3). Inform council of any business risk relating to current equality and diversity policies and procedures.
- 4). Attend equality sub groups and be a link between the group and council.
- 5). Advise and promote the equality and diversity work of the organisation publically and internally.
- 6). Attend any disciplinary hearings which are the subject of an equality or diversity issue.
- 7). Ensure that the Equality and Diversity Policy is being resourced and implemented.
- 8). Monitor information regarding progress of the Equality and Diversity Policy and communicate to the Board.
- 9). Keep the Equality and Diversity Policy under review and advise Council as to amendments which may be required from time to time.

Signed: Equality Lead



Date: 13.12.19

Signed: Chair



Date: 13/12/19