

**THE RULES AND CONSTITUTION OF EAST DORSET RIDING CLUB**

1. **TITLE**

The Club shall be known as EAST DORSET RIDING CLUB Riding Club

1. **OBJECTS**

The objects of the Club shall be:

1. To encourage all people to ride and to learn and enjoy all kinds of disciplines and activities

Associated with horse riding in East Dorset and surrounding areas.

1. To encourage riding as a sport and recreation, to promote good fellowship amongst riders and to maintain the standard of riding and horsemanship.
2. To organise instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities to further the objectives.
3. To be affiliated to The British Horse Society and to support and co-operate with recognised organisations interested in the breeding and use of all breeds and types or horses and ponies.
4. **MEMBERSHIP**

This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of eighteen years for Adult Membership (and persons aged seventeen years and under for Junior Membership and, having been accepted by the Committee, have paid their due subscription for the current period. Honorary membership may be conferred by the Committee upon any person deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the Club. No junior member may be a voting member of any Riding Club. However, Clubs with a Junior membership may appoint a Junior Committee to discuss matters relevant to the junior membership. This Committee, through the Chairman of said Committee, may make recommendations to the Adult Committee for their consideration.

1. A member shall complete the application form as prescribed by the Committee. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other benefits. The Committee may refuse membership only for a good cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal may be made to the members. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.
2. Annual membership subscriptions become due on the 1st January each year. Anyone wanting to join after 31st August will pay reduced membership for part year of £15. Any member whose subscription has not been paid will be ineligible for any Club activities. In the event of a membership cancellation no refunds can be given.
3. The Committee may expel from membership of the Club any member who breaches any of the rules of the Club, or who has in the opinion of the Committee have been guilty of any conduct derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interest of the Club, provided that before expelling him or her the Committee shall allow the member the proper opportunity of answering the allegations against him/her.
4. **ADMINISTRATION**

The Committee

1. All powers of management shall be vested in the Adult Committee consisting of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and 8 other members of the Committee members. 6 shall form a quorum.
2. At the AGM each year, one third of the members of the Committee shall retire, the members to retire being those who have been longest in office. Those who have been in office for the same length of time shall determine retiring members by lot. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
3. The Chairman, Hon Sec, Hon Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Committee from amongst their number.
4. The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.
5. The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules and for anything relating to the club not provided therein and their decision shall be final and binding on the members.
6. The Committee may formulate bye-laws for the detailed running of the Club and elect sub-committees for any special activities of the Club which the Committee may authorise.
7. The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising amongst members of the Committee, but any person so co-opted shall retain office only until the next following AGM and then shall be eligible for re-election.
8. The financial year of the club shall commence on the 1st January each year.
9. The annual, subscription shall be £25 Adult Membership, £10 Junior Membership & £10 Non-Riding Membership or such sum as shall from time to time be determined by the Committee. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.
10. The Committee may appoint annually a President and Vice Presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the Committee.
11. The AGM shall be held in September/October of each year to transact the following business:
12. To receive and if approved to adopt a Statement of the Club’s Accounts to the end of the

preceding year.

(b) To fill vacancies on the Committee.

(c) To appoint an auditor.

(d) To deal with any special matter which the Committee may desire to bring to the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee. Notice convening the General Meeting shall be sent to the members no less than 14 days before the meeting and shall specify the matter to be dealt with.

1. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee, or by request signed by not less than five members specifying the business to be discussed. The Secretary shall give all members ten days’ notice of the date of such a meeting and shall specify in such notice the matters to be dealt with at the meeting.
2. The accounts of the Club shall be audited each year by the person appointed at the previous AGM. The person should be experienced in accounting matters and not a member of the Club.
3. Notice may be given to any member by sending it by post to him at his address in the United Kingdom registered in the records of the Club. If any member has no address in the United Kingdom such member shall not be entitled to receive any notice. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting or to the non-receipt of a notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of the meeting.
4. These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual or Special General meeting, provided that no such resolution, shall be deemed to have been passed, unless carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon and provided that prior notice has been sent to all members stating the proposed amendment.
5. Should personal attendance at any General Meeting not be possible then a proxy may be appointed to attend and may submit that member’s voting paper (providing it is lodged with the Secretary by the start of the vote or vote by any other means suiting the circumstances. The votes for those under the age of seventeen are automatically transferred to the parent as proxy to vote on their behalf.

**Miscellaneous**

1. Members shall be correctly turned out at all mounted club events. Hard hats must be worn to at least the minimum standard with a harness properly adjusted and fastened. Skullcap hats must be worn with a silk. Back protectors are compulsory for Cross Country schooling and events. We recommend that back protectors are also worn for jumping.
2. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.
3. The Club and its Committee or persons acting on their behalf shall not be held responsible for any accident or injury to any person, horse/pony or property howsoever caused.
4. In the event that the dissolution of the Club should occur, the assets shall be used first to discharge all liabilities of the Club and the remaining assets shall be given to Dorset & Hampshire Air Ambulance.