

British Team Chasing (BTC) Code of Conduct

Purpose

The BTC Code of Conduct sets forth the expectations and standards for behaviour, sportsmanship, and integrity for all participants, including competitors, organisers, officials, and spectators involved in BTC events. It aims to promote fair play, respect, and a positive environment within the team chasing community.

General Principles

1. **Sportsmanship:** All participants shall conduct themselves with the highest level of sportsmanship, respecting competitors, organisers, officials, and spectators.
2. **Fair Play:** Participants shall adhere to the rules and regulations of BTC, promoting fair competition and ethical behaviour.
3. **Integrity:** Honesty and integrity are fundamental. Participants shall not engage in any form of cheating, deception, or dishonesty.
4. **Promoting Team Chasing:** Participants must endeavour to ensure the sport is not brought into disrepute.

Competitors

1. **Respect for Others:** Competitors shall treat fellow competitors, organisers, officials, and volunteers with respect, courtesy, and consideration.
2. **Animal Welfare:** Competitors shall prioritise the welfare of their horses, ensuring proper care, training, and humane treatment at all times.
3. **Abuse and Harassment:** Harassment, bullying, or any form of abusive behaviour towards others will not be tolerated.
4. **Drug-Free Sport:** Competitors shall adhere to anti-doping policies and guidelines, promoting a drug-free sporting environment.

Organisers

1. **Fair Competition:** Organisers shall ensure fair and transparent competition, applying rules consistently and impartially.
2. **Safety First:** The safety of participants, horses, and spectators is of utmost importance. Organisers shall implement and enforce safety protocols and standards.

3. **Communication:** Organisers shall maintain open and transparent communication with participants, addressing concerns and providing timely and accurate information.

Officials

1. **Impartiality:** Officials shall perform their duties with impartiality and fairness, avoiding any conflicts of interest.
2. **Professionalism:** Officials shall conduct themselves professionally, demonstrating competence, courtesy, and respect towards participants.
3. **Continuous Improvement:** Officials shall strive for continuous improvement, staying informed about rule changes and best practices in team chasing officiating.

Spectators

1. **Respectful Behaviour:** Spectators shall observe team chasing events in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner, refraining from disruptive behaviour.
2. **Safety Awareness:** Spectators shall prioritize their safety and the safety of others, following event guidelines and staying in designated areas.
3. **Environmental Responsibility:** Spectators shall respect the environment, following guidelines for waste disposal and minimizing their impact on the event venue.

Disciplinary Procedures

1. **Violations:** Violations of the BTC Rules during an event may result in disciplinary actions including but not limited to disqualification, elimination or a time penalty as determined by the Event Organiser. Violations of the Code of Conduct or BTC Rules may also result in disciplinary actions, including eliminations, warnings, fines, suspension, or expulsion from BTC events, as determined by the Board of Directors' Disciplinary Committee.
2. **Appeals:** Participants have the right to appeal disciplinary decisions. Appeals shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors within 14 days of the disciplinary action. The Board of Directors will review and respond accordingly.

Acknowledgment

By participating in BTC events, all individuals agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary actions.

This Code of Conduct is subject to periodic review and updates by the Board of Directors to ensure its continued effectiveness and relevance.