

Hunting Safety Code

VLH

Vale of Lune Harriers

Conditions apply to all those who hunt with the VLH and Three Counties Hounds

General

Draghunting and trail hunting are high risk sports. From time to time it is inevitable that accidents will happen, whether or not it is the fault of the rider or any of those otherwise concerned.

For this reason we make it a condition that anyone coming out with us must have read carefully and must observe the safety requirements which follow.

Insurance Requirements.

It is strongly recommended that:

1. You insure yourself whilst Draghunting or trail hunting against all risks including any claims which may be made against you arising out of your participation in the day's hunting, from injury, loss or damage caused to any rider or third party sustained in the course of or as a result of hunting however or by whomsoever.

We draw to your attention that:

If you become a member of the Countryside Alliance (The Old Town Hall, 367 Kennington Road, LONDON, SE11 4PT. 020 7840 9200) you can through such membership readily obtain suitable insurance cover. If you do not already have the cover as recommended you should be in touch with The Countryside Alliance immediately in order to put this into effect.

It is strongly recommended :

2. You insure your horse against all risks including injury, loss or damage sustained in the course of or as a result of hunting however or by whomsoever caused, including ourselves and whether or not anyone is to blame.

Safety Requirements

The requirements that follow are intended to minimise the risk of those involved and are given in the best interests of the rider.

1. It is important that you note that our hunt days differ in complexity and type. Please be aware that VLH hunt cannot be held responsible for those bringing out inexperienced or unfit horses or riders. Accordingly

VLH

- you should check the severity of the day with one of our Masters to assess if the day is suitable for you and/or your horse.
2. **Headgear**
FOR BOTH THOSE HUNTING WITH THE VLH AND ANY MOUNTED ASSISTANTS WHENEVER RIDING IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES WITH HOUNDS. The headgear recommended be worn is a hunting cap of the established crash helmet variety with fitted safety harness BS EN 1384 1997 PAS 015 1998.
 3. **Jumping**
Whenever possible give your fellow fieldmembers room at a fence and never ride immediately behind the horse in front. Always ride straight at a fence. Horses ridden at an angle may cross the path of others and put them at risk.
If your horse attempts to refuse or refuses, do your best to keep him going in a straight line, do not run down the fence. Turn away and join the back of the group. We do ask that no more than 3 attempts are made at any one fence thus causing minimum damage to the land.
When a horse in front of you has fallen, stop and make sure the horse and rider are well clear before attempting to jump.
 4. **Visitors/Guests**
The onus is on the Member to ensure his visitor/guest is suitable to come out and is aware of all the conditions, before they become a visitor/guest
 5. **Loose Horses**
These must be caught at the earliest possible moment.
 6. **Gates**
All gates that were shut must be shut. If you go through a gate, either shut it or ensure that somebody behind you will do so by raising your hand and waiting for a response from the people behind you. A "thank you" to the gate opener is always appreciated.
 7. **Damage**
If you cause serious damage to any fence or break a rail, you must inform a Hunt Officer as soon as possible.
 8. **Horseboxes**
Drivers of horseboxes and trailers are requested to ensure that the highway is kept clear at all times and no gateways blocked, even if appear unused.
 9. **Minors (under 18yrs)**
It is strongly recommended that all children wear, when out hunting, protective hats and back protectors, as required by the Pony Club. No minor is to come out unless his/her guardian has read the Safety Code to the minor and signed it on the minor's behalf. The minor is advised to be a Member of The Countryside Alliance to comply with the above.

Declaration – General

In consideration for being permitted to hunt with VLH I confirm on my own behalf that:

I recognise that Draghunting and trail hunting is a high risk sport and that the VLH through its officials, servants or agents take all reasonable steps to reduce the risks for those draghunting. The value of horses differs significantly and cannot be expected to be known by the Masters and Officers of the VLH. Accordingly, in the event of injury or death to my horse or any horse ridden by me, whether due in part or full to any error, neglect or default on the part of the VLH, its officials, servants or agents, I will not hold the VLH, or its officials or employees responsible for such injury or death or any consequential expenses and I further agree that it is my sole responsibility to arrange effective insurance cover in respect thereof and (where I do not myself own the horse which I am riding) to indemnify and save harmless the VLH, its officials, servants or agents against any claim or claims made by any person howsoever arising.

By coming out with the VLH, I agree to be bound by the above terms.

I HAVE READ THESE CONDITIONS AND FULLY UNDERSTAND AND WILL COMPLY WITH THEM. (3 Pages including this page.)

Are you a member of The Countryside Alliance? YES NO

If no, I have made another insurance arrangement, to cover Third party and Public Liability (Please tick)

SIGNED:.....

Name in Capitals:.....

Minor's name if signed on their behalf:.....

Address:.....

Email address:.....

By providing your email address you agree to the VLH adding your details to our social mailing list.

Date:.....

Vehicle Reg No. Horse Box or Towing Vehicle:.....

To be completed and presented with Cap at the meet.