

DRESSAGE Ireland

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Members Code of Conduct

DI-GOV-MCC-V1.0

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Revision History

Name	Date	Reason For Changes	Version

Review Cycle

Review Cycle	Review Date	Reviewer	Status-Action Needed

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Members Code of Conduct	Written By:	Anne McFarland		
	Approved By:	Board of Directors		

Members Code of Conduct

The Hearing Committee of Dressage Ireland is appointed by the Board to consider complaints of misconduct or breaches of the Constitution or any rule, regulation, bylaw or Code of Conduct of Dressage Ireland by Members and if necessary to impose appropriate penalties. In this context misconduct is defined as failure in the observance of provisions of the Constitution of Dressage Ireland Clg, Code of Conduct, Regulation or bylaw made by the Board or any other competent authority.

Members remain subject to such provisions when participating in any event affiliated to a foreign national federation or to the FEI. The Hearing Committee or Judges' Panel will hear any complaint pursuant to these Rules.

No member of Dressage Ireland shall:

- a) Conduct themselves in a manner which is offensive to the public.
- b) Argue with a Judge or with an Official or use abusive or threatening language or behave with incivility or contempt towards a Judge or Official.
- c) Ill -treat in any way a horse or pony under any circumstance.
- d) Misuse or use excessively a whip or spur.
- e) Deliberately use the action of the bit as a means of punishment and/or misuse any item of saddlery in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to the horse or pony.
- f) Allow knowingly or otherwise a horse or pony for which he is responsible as owner, lessee, authorised agent or rider to compete in any dressage competition under the influence of a prohibited substance. Such member shall be in breach of this rule if the analysis of a sample taken from the said horse or pony shows the presence in its body fluids of any quantity of any substance, which is either a prohibited substance or one of its metabolites or a substance which cannot be traced to normal and ordinary feeding and which by its nature is likely to affect the performance of the horse or pony in competition. The sanctions applicable to breaches of the Equine Anti-Doping Rules and/or Equine Controlled Medication Rules are as set out in the Equine Anti-Doping Rules and/or Equine Controlled Medication Rules of the HSI.
- g) Unreasonably refuse to allow a horse or pony which has competed or is about to compete in a dressage competition to undergo any properly authorised test or examination if requested to do so by an officer of Dressage Ireland or the show organising committee. Refusal to allow a test for a

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forbidden substance constitutes a violation of the prohibition on forbidden substances and as such is of equal gravity to the finding of a forbidden substance.

h) Conduct themselves in a manner which is or may be in breach of the Constitution or any rule, regulation, bylaw or Code of Conduct of Dressage Ireland. A member shall be in breach of this rule in the event that any person who assists, represents, or acts on behalf of or in the employment of such member during the course of a show affiliated to Dressage Ireland, to the FEI or to any foreign national federation, conducts himself in such a manner that were they a member of Dressage Ireland they would them self be in breach of any of the provision of any rules.

i) Conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of Dressage Ireland.

j) Make, either orally or in writing, to an officer of Dressage Ireland or of an affiliated show or a third party, a statement on any matter covered by the Rules which he/she knows to be untrue.

k) Compete as owner or rider in a competition for which the horse or pony and the rider are not fully and properly eligible or substitute a qualified horse or rider in a competition.

l) Exercise any of the rights or privileges of membership while suspended there from, nor assist represent or act on behalf of any other member of Dressage Ireland at a show affiliated to Dressage Ireland, to the FEI or to any foreign national federation while suspended from all rights and privileges of membership.

m) Compete as a rider in any dressage competition with a Prohibited Substance or its metabolite or mark is in his/her system. A rider by becoming a Member of Dressage Ireland is deemed to have agreed:

(1) To be bound and to comply strictly with the Irish Anti Doping Rules for Human Athletes (without prejudice to any other anti-doping rules applicable to him/her);

(2) To submit to the authority of the Irish Sports Council and the HSI to apply, police and enforce those Rules;

(3) To provide all requested assistance to the Irish Sports Council and the HSI in the application, policing and enforcement of those Rules, including (without limitation) cooperating fully with any investigation, results, management exercise, and/or proceedings being conducted pursuant to those Rules in relation to any potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s).

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(4) To submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any first instance tribunal convened under those Rules to hear and determine charges and related issues arising under those Rules;

(5) To submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any appeal tribunal and/or Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Panel convened under those Rules and determine appeals made pursuant to those Rules; and

(6) Not to bring any proceedings in any court or other forum that are inconsistent with the foregoing submission to the jurisdiction of the first instance tribunal, the appeal tribunal and CAS.

A copy of the Irish Anti doping rules can be found on the Irish Sports Council website.

If a rider has a medical condition that requires them to take any Prohibited Substance, they may be able to obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption Certificate (TUE). Further information on TUEs can be obtained either direct from Irish Sports Council website or by contacting Dressage Ireland.

n) Unreasonably refuse to give a sample of his or her body fluids for the purpose of control of prohibited substances.

o) Allow a stallion for which he/she is responsible as owner, lessee, authorised agent, or rider to compete or be prepared to compete, in any dressage competition without taking adequate precautions to ensure other members of the public are not put at risk of injury.

p) Members shall not behave in a way which may be considered inappropriate to other members, volunteers, show organisers, officials and DI Staff. Inappropriate behaviour includes the use of foul language or acting in an intimidating or threatening way.

q) Members shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, religion or belief, disability, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, nationality, membership of the traveller community, ethnic or national origins.

r) Members shall not post inappropriate words or images on social media that can be deemed offensive, intimidating or threatening to other members, volunteers, show organisers, officials and DI Staff.

s) Members shall not unreasonably fail or refuse to assist the Hearings Committee, Judges Complaints Panel or the Board in their investigations of complaints or misconduct by Members of Dressage Ireland.

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t) Having indicated his/her availability or selection for an official Irish national team, unreasonably fail or refuse to compete in such a team if selected.

u) Paragraphs a, c, d, e, h, i, j, m, n, p and q of this rule shall apply in any circumstance whether or not the offence or offences occur at a show or elsewhere.

Problems with Venues

If a member has any concerns about a venue, such as poor organisation, dangerous surfaces or health and safety, he /she should contact the Show Secretary or Regional Chair.

Horse welfare

If a member has any concerns about how a horse is being treated at a competition, the member should contact the Show Secretary, Regional Chair or the DI Hearings Committee. In such a case it is important that as much information as possible about the incident is collected including as to whether the horse has been marked in any way: the time, place, names, etc, as well as names of any other witnesses.

Judging

Judging scores are final if an issue is not brought to the attention of the Show Secretary within 30 minutes. If a Member is not happy with the way he/she have been judged, the Member should send a complaint in writing to the Judges Committee, preferably with the score sheet enclosed and a video of the test if this is available.

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Dressage Ireland Social Media

This Social Media Policy is part of the Members Code of Conduct and whenever using any form of social media (whether existing now or in the future) and participating in, submitting or responding to any internet postings, including blogs and wikis, however these are accessed, in each case using any device existing now or in the future, members shall comply with this Policy.

Any breach of this Policy by any member will be subject to the procedures relating to misconduct and complaints contained in the Members' Code of Conduct, Constitution or any rule, regulation, bylaw or Code of Conduct of Dressage Ireland and may result in disciplinary action. Civil and/or criminal proceedings could also be brought against members for breach of this Policy where applicable.

Scope of this policy

Dressage Ireland recognises that the internet provides everyone with the ability to participate in interactive discussions and to share information on a wide variety of social media. This Social Media Policy relates to the use of social media by Dressage Ireland members in so far as such use relates to or affects Dressage Ireland, its employees, members, officials and volunteers including judges. In this Policy DI people and DI person means officers, staff and members of Dressage Ireland, DI affiliated show organisers, selectors, judges, stewards, sponsors and all other volunteers acting on behalf of Dressage Ireland; and Members means members of Dressage Ireland in all membership categories; and Social media means all forms of social media that exist now or may exist in the future, including but not limited to Email, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Instagram, Vine, Tumblr, LinkedIn, Twitter, Wikipedia, Flickr, MySpace, Tumblr, Pinterest, Google+ and all other social networking websites, all other internet posting sites, all blogs and wikis, the Dressage Ireland forum and all other internet forums.

Responsible Use of Social Media

Every member must be respectful of Dressage Ireland and DI Members and they, and all other DI people, must;

- a) Be aware that publication of information and comment on social media carries the same obligations as any other kind of publication and should follow the same ethical and legal standards.
- b) Not post, share or otherwise submit on social media any statement, material, information or image which is malicious, misleading, threatening, derogatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, disparaging, racist, discriminatory, menacing, inflammatory, blasphemous, intimidating or defamatory.
- c) Not post, share or otherwise submit comments about sensitive business related topics, such as Dressage Ireland's performance, or do anything to jeopardise Dressage Ireland's trade secrets, confidential information and intellectual property.
- d) Not post, share or otherwise submit on social media statements, material, information or images concerning, or which could directly or indirectly damage the name, business interests or reputation of, Dressage Ireland or any DI person.

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- e) Not disclose on any social media, any personal information relating to any other DI person or any other information or image which has been provided to the poster by a DI person in confidence.
- f) Only post comments about a DI person that are respectful and which the poster would say directly to that person.
- g) Consider how other people reading a post might react before actually posting it on any social media.
- h) Not use DI logos, brand names, slogans or other trademarks, or post any of its confidential, proprietary or copyrighted information without DI's prior written permission.
- i) Make it clear if using, referring to or otherwise disclosing their DI membership status in any way on social media that they are speaking on their own behalf and that their views do not represent those of Dressage Ireland.
- j) Ensure that their profile and any content they post are consistent with the professional image they are required to present to clients and colleagues and all other DI people.
- k) Not use social media in a way that breaches the DI Constitution or any rule, regulation, bylaw or Code of Conduct of Dressage Ireland.
- l) Show proper respect for the laws governing copyright and fair use/dealing of copyrighted material. Dressage Ireland accepts no liability for legal breaches by DI people on social media. Content published by those associated with the Dressage Ireland are fully accountable for their own actions. Dressage Ireland reserves the right to monitor, intercept and review, without further notice, social media postings and activities that include references to it and/or its members, to ensure that its rules and this Policy are being complied with and for legitimate purposes. All members consent to such monitoring by their agreeing to abide by the Rules of Dressage Ireland. Dressage Ireland may remove posts, threads and any other form of submissions from its own forum which are in breach of this Policy and/or the forum rules without explanation and the DI person responsible could be liable for disciplinary action as outlined in the Members Code of Conduct. Dressage Ireland may require members to remove postings, comments or any other submissions made using social media that are deemed to be in breach of this Policy. Failure to comply with such a request may in itself result in disciplinary action. Dressage Ireland will comply with any law, or request by any governmental or other regulatory authority, or order by a court or other authority of competent jurisdiction, requiring DI to disclose the identity or location of any Member posting any material in breach of this Policy. DI may share a DI person's private information with the garda, PSNI or any other governmental authority if it is asked to do so in connection with the investigation of suspected illegal activities. If a Member as a user identifies potentially damaging content or content that is in breach of the Policy, he/she should contact the Regional Chair, DI PR representative or the Hearings Committee of Dressage Ireland. If a Member has a grievance with someone on social media regarding the sport of dressage, he/she should contact the Regional Chair, DI PR representative or the Hearings Committee of Dressage Ireland.

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