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SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR TAKING PART IN BDS ACTIVITIES

1. All horses/ponies must be 4 years or over in any driven class.
2. Every turnout must have an able-bodied groom.
3. Young Driver Whips must be accompanied by a competent adult groom.
4. Whips are responsible for ensuring horse/pony is fit enough for the work it is expected to do.
5. Whips should ensure horse/pony is happy driving in company.
6. Whips are responsible for ensuring the vehicle/harness/spares are in good condition, - adjusted to fit horse/pony and suitable for terrain to be covered.
7. Basic first aid for humans and equines should be carried at all times.
8. Basic spares, including headcollar and rope should be carried at all times.
9. Show courtesy and consideration to motorists and acknowledge them.
10. Approach ridden horses with extreme care and pass pedestrians and other horses carefully, not too close, or fast.
11. Your whip is an aid and should be in your hand, not the whip socket.
12. Clear hand signals should be used by the whip and/or groom as necessary.
13. Look behind before moving off.
14. At least the length of one horse should be maintained between each turnout.
15. After descending a slope remember all turnouts must be clear of that slope before anyone increases pace.
16. Overtaking should not be necessary and only undertaken with the knowledge and agreement of the turnout in front. Exercise extreme caution.
17. Look well ahead and remember what you miss that your horse sees, could be the start of a problem.
18. Racing is not allowed at any time.
19. If any Whip is in difficulties or has an accident stop if asked to do so
20. The whip should never mount or alight from a vehicle without a groom at the horse's head.
21. The whip should be the first to mount the vehicle and the last to alight.
22. Horses must be removed from a vehicle before un-harnessing. NB never remove the bridle before the horse is free of the vehicle.
23. At no time may a horse/pony in full harness and attached to a vehicle be left unattended
24. No horses/ponies to be tied to any horse drawn vehicle at any time.
25. Members should contact the host or drive organizer during the week before the drive with their name, membership number and contact telephone number.
26. All participants should be harnessed and put to by the time for departure stated in the programme to avoid unnecessary frustration for the other whips and their horses.