

# Essex & Suffolk Hunt

## Members Briefing – Health and Safety

The hunt will do all reasonably can to eliminate risk, but some risks will always remain, so members should take reasonable steps to prevent risk or injury to themselves and others. The Hunt membership includes all those following on horses, ponies, in cars, bicycles, quad bike's and on foot.

This members briefing aims to make sure that all members of the hunt following on a days hunting are aware of their responsibilities towards their own and to others' health and safety when participating in hunting activities. The hunt expects the highest standards of behaviour, conduct and animal care and husbandry. All hunt followers must confirm that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the hunt's code of conduct (Do's and Don't's). Hunting activities, such as riding horses or crossing country on foot or on a quad bike, carry a certain level of risk. All members should be aware of the risks associated with hunting activities and at all times take all reasonable and practicable steps to mitigate the risks towards themselves and to others.

1. Mounted followers participating in hunting activities accept that there is a certain level of risk when riding horses. Followers are responsible for sourcing their own horses as well as providing their own equipment, tack and PPE (Riding hat, boots, appropriate clothing) and making sure it is of a sufficient standard and condition.
2. Each follower confirms that they are sufficiently competent at riding to partake in hunting activities and have the appropriate level of experience to ride the type, character and age of horse they are mounted on.
3. Mounted followers also confirm that the horse they are riding is of a suitable character and capability is to suit the riders ability.
4. Each rider is responsible for the control of their horse, and for how they cross the country (including what obstacles they do or do not decide to negotiate). The hunt requires mounted followers to follow the fieldmaster, however riders are not required or expected to negotiate any obstacle that they do not wish to, or that they are not comfortable doing or that they or their horse is not competent to do.

All members accept that if a hunt official feels any follower or their horse (or any method of conveyance) is not appropriate or at a sufficient level of experience or capability for the activity, they may be asked to cease participation in such activity, and they should respect and abide by such a request. If any members have any concerns or queries about the Health and Safety policies for hunting activities or do not fully understand their responsibilities when participating in hunting activities, please contact the hunt secretary Jo Cole [secretary@essexandsuffolkhunt.co.uk](mailto:secretary@essexandsuffolkhunt.co.uk)

### Younger Members and Followers

Although we appreciate that there is varying degrees of capability amongst our young hunt followers, we have the following policy in place regarding those participating in mounted hunting activities:

- Children aged 3 years and under should not participate in mounted hunting activities.

- Children aged between 4 and 6 years should be accompanied by a responsible dismounted adult when participating in mounted hunting activities.
- Children aged between 7 and 16 years should be accompanied by a responsible adult when participating in mounted hunting activities. Adults should be responsible for no more than 2 children at a time when participating in hunting activities.

Please notify the Secretary of any children under the age of 16 years wishing to participate in a day's hunting activities and who their responsible adult will be on that particular day.

All mounted followers under the age of 18 years, should wear a kite marked hat (British Standard Institute kite mark: BSEN1384 or PAS015; or American ASTM F1163) when participating in any hunting activities on a horse / pony.

#### Advice for Responsible Adults

- The hunt cannot provide direct supervision of every child. Therefore, please ensure that you are aware of where your child is and what they are doing at all times.
- Your knowledge of your child's capabilities, and those of their pony, will be greater than ours. Please ensure that they do not attempt activities that are well beyond their capabilities.
- Please look out for horses with tape in their tails and ensure that your child does not approach them unsupervised.
- Please ensure that your child maintains a safe distance between their pony and other followers at all times, and especially in gateways and when there is a risk of branches or undergrowth 'whipping back'.
- We recommend that you download the What Three Words App and carry a mobile phone with you in the field. The number for the Masters and Huntsman should also be stored on your phone.