



Currypool Equestrian Centre Policy: Jump Height Limit for School Horses

Purpose

This policy aims to ensure the welfare and longevity of our school horses by implementing a maximum jump height of 60cm during lessons. Due to the significant workload our horses undertake compared to privately owned horses, it is essential to prioritise their physical and mental well-being while still providing riders with opportunities to develop their skills.

Policy Statement

- The welfare of our school horses is paramount. They are not machines, and their well-being takes precedence over any performance goals.
- To safeguard their welfare, all jumping activities for school horses will be limited to a maximum height of 60cm.
- Riders will be educated on the importance of this limit, emphasising that proper technique, not height, is the foundation of successful jumping.

Rationale

a. Workload:

School horses often perform multiple lessons a day with riders of varying abilities. This workload places additional physical demands on them compared to a privately owned horse. Limiting jump height helps reduce strain on their joints and overall body, contributing to their longevity.

b. Education Focus:

Our lessons are designed to develop riders' skills and techniques. Rather than focusing solely on jump height, we incorporate technical exercises, grids, and varied jump formats to challenge riders while ensuring our horses' well-being.

c. Welfare Standards:

Adhering to this policy aligns with the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and best practices recommended by the British Horse Society (BHS). By setting this limit, we demonstrate our commitment to high standards of care.

For Riders Capable of Jumping Higher

Riders who demonstrate the ability to jump higher than 60cm will have lessons tailored to focus on:

- Technical challenges: Advanced grid work, combination fences, and related distances.
- Skill refinement: Improving approach, rhythm, and position over fences.
- Jump variety: Exploring different course designs and formats.

This approach ensures capable riders continue to progress without compromising the welfare of our horses.

Implementation

- Coaches will monitor and enforce the 60cm jump height limit in all lessons involving school horses.
- Riders will be informed of this policy during their induction and reminded as necessary.
- Feedback from riders will be encouraged to ensure lessons remain engaging and educational.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to assess its effectiveness and to ensure it continues to meet the needs of both our horses and riders.

Conclusion

By implementing this policy, we aim to create a balanced environment where our school horses can thrive, and riders can develop their skills responsibly. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in supporting the welfare of our horses.