

## WEC Texting Policy

### *General*

The Waikato Combined Equestrian Group (WCEG) requires all members riding, or carrying out in-hand/ground work, on any and all of the Waikato Equestrian Centre (WEC) grounds (including the indoor arena) at 1340 Pukete Road, Hamilton, RD8, to text 027 499 5055 individually with your name, and the number of horses that you have with you on your arrival.

Each adult rider must text individually; no collective representation is permitted. An adult accompanying a minor must text on behalf of the minor.

If you are undertaking a private lesson on WEC grounds you must comply with the Texting Policy.

When you leave the grounds, you must text the same number and state “all safe” in the same manner. If you encounter any issues, such as finding a broken equipment, or if you break equipment, or if you had an accident, even if the accident did not result in a known injury at the time, you must report that accident or incident to the same number, with all the details.

All falls, accidents, incidents, or injuries must be reported by text to the Centre Manager as soon as is reasonably possible.

If a rider fails to text their safety on leaving, and fails to respond to reminder texts/calls, the Centre Manager, or other authorised person, will invoke the “Lost Person” Protocol and the police will be notified, depending on the circumstances.

### *Exceptions to the Texting Policy*

You are not required to comply with the Texting Policy if you are riding at an organised event, including a Ribbon Day; any competition; Club event; or taking part in any Riding school lessons or clinics.

### *Breach of the Texting Policy*

Members are reminded that they must comply with all policies and rules of WEC at all times, including conducting themselves in a manner that does not bring WEC, associated groups, or the equestrian community in to disrepute, and to avoid causing harm, or possible harm, to those groups, or associated property. Please refer to the Disciplinary Policy and the Constitution for further details.

The Texting Policy is designed to ensure the reasonable health and well-being of all the users of WEC, and WEC must comply with New Zealand’s relevant legislative requirements in that regard. Breaching the Texting Policy is considered “serious objective misconduct”, as per the definition stated in clause 12.1 of the Constitution, and will result in disciplinary action being taken by the WCEG Committee under the “3 Strike Protocol” detailed below:

### *3 Strike Protocol*

- 1<sup>st</sup> breach of the texting policy will result in a warning email from the WCEG Committee with notification of the breach;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> breach of the texting policy will be the final warning of a breach from the President of WCEG before disciplinary measures will be undertaken;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> breach of the texting policy will result in a 30 day notice of cancellation of membership. Within that 30 day period, the member may appeal that decision to the WCEG Committee, with supporting evidence. The decision of the Committee is final with no further rights to appeal, commensurate with the Disciplinary Policy.
- If the Centre Manager, or other authorised person, is required to invoke the “Lost Person” protocol, which will involve a search of the WEC grounds (amongst other actions), the member will be fined \$100.
- Each event of non-compliance is measured by each 24 hour period ie breach of policy on 01/01/2020 at 10:00 is 1<sup>st</sup> strike; breach of policy after 02/01/2020 10:01 is 2<sup>nd</sup> strike.
- If after a 3 month period has lapsed since the last strike, those strikes become null and void, and a new period commences ie 1<sup>st</sup> strike 01/01/2020 at 10:00; 2<sup>nd</sup> strike 02/01/2020 10:01; no further strike up to 02/04/2020 at 10:02 the new period commences.

The WCEG Committee reserves the right to review/change this Policy at any time.

June 2020.