

WYE VALLEY RETRIEVER CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Introduction

The Wye Valley Retriever Club recognises the huge contribution made by its members, Officers and Committee Members.

The purpose of this Code is to help maintain high standards of conduct, and to protect the best interests of The Wye Valley Retriever Club. Conduct within the Club is driven by the Club's values and objectives as set out in the Constitution and Rules, which members agree to when signing their application to join the Club.

This code of conduct has been developed to set out The Wye Valley Retriever Club's expectations for all those taking part in, or attending events under its jurisdiction, along with general guidelines on the use of social media.

We are all under intense scrutiny in terms of the working dog world and shooting generally. The advice and guidance offered in this document are not meant to cause difficulty to members, but are there for all of our protection. Co-operation is therefore vital.

Wye Valley Retriever Club expects all competitors and other attendees to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and to ensure that their dogs are properly taken care of throughout the period of an event and do not become a nuisance (or worse) to other dogs or to other attendees.

Conduct

Participants have a duty both to their dogs and to others to make our events friendly, welcoming and safe, and are expected to be co-operative so that all can enjoy their time at our events.

Sportsmanship

Participants should conduct themselves in an appropriate fashion at all times and should display good manners and respect towards other participants, stewards, helpers and to the judges. Any verbal communication with a judge should occur after judging has taken place, and must be conducted in a polite and professional manner.

Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards anyone at the event – including the judge, other participants, helpers, stewards or other officials will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

A Zero Tolerance Approach

No-one should be subject to intimidation or made to feel alarmed or distressed or put in fear of reprisal. Harassment is a criminal offence. To that end, Wye Valley Retriever Club adopts a zero tolerance approach towards all type of harassment (causing alarm, distress and anxiety and fear of physical violence or other threat, offensive statements, verbal abuse and threats). Conduct may include speech, obstruction and so on.

Use of Social Media

Social media technologies are easy to use and hold a pervasiveness that make them attractive channels of communication. But they also hold the possibility of causing unintended harm.. To help identify and avoid potential issues there follows some examples of best practices.

- **Maintain privacy** - Do not post confidential or proprietary information. Do not discuss a

situation involving named or pictured individuals on a social media site without their permission. Respect our landowner's requests about privacy, no photography or filming at events.

- **Politeness and consideration of others** - If the content of your message would not be acceptable for face-to-face conversation, over the telephone, or in another medium, it will not be acceptable for a social networking site.
- **Think first** - There's no such thing as a "private" social media site. Search engines can turn up posts and pictures years after the publication date. Comments can be forwarded or copied and you can lose control of them.
- **Understand your personal responsibility** - You are personally responsible for the content you publish on blogs or any other form of user-generated content. Be mindful that what you publish will be public for a long time. Protect your privacy.
- **Be aware of liability** - You are responsible for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be copyright infringement, defamatory, proprietary, libellous, or obscene (as defined by the Courts).
- **Be accurate** - Make sure that you have all the facts before you post. It's better to verify information with a source first than to have to post a correction or retraction later. Do not tamper with photographs to present an inaccurate picture.
- **Correct mistakes** - If you make a mistake, admit it. Be upfront and be quick with your correction. If you're posting to a blog, you may choose to modify an earlier post—just make it clear that you have done so.
- **Respect others** - You are more likely to achieve your goals or sway others to your beliefs if you are constructive and respectful while discussing a bad experience or disagreeing with a concept or person.
- **Respect your audience** - Don't use personal insults or obscenity, also show proper consideration for others' privacy and for topics that may be considered sensitive. Users are free to discuss topics and disagree with one another, but be respectful of others' opinions.
- **Club events** - The Club adopts a zero tolerance approach towards criticism of judges, stewards, helpers, and landowners. If you have a problem at an event, talk to us!

Outside Activities

Club members should consider themselves ambassadors of the Club and should, therefore, ensure that none of their actions or activities has the effect of bringing the Club into disrepute.

Membership Subscriptions

Club members must keep their annual subscriptions due 1st February up to date and where possible, attend the Club's AGM.

Important notice

Club members should understand that if they do not follow these principles and fall short of the expectations and responsibilities in being a Club member, The Wye Valley Retriever Club may be obliged to implement and enforce Rule 9 within The Wye Valley Retriever Club's Rules and Regulations – which includes the possibility of removal as a member.

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