

**A NATIONAL ORGANISATION
FOR PROFESSIONAL RIDING
SCHOOL PROPRIETORS**

ABRS Standards



**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH
RIDING SCHOOLS**

What is the ABRS?



The ABRS is a National Governing Body representing some of the best riding schools in the country. Founded in 1954, it runs Britain's longest established Riding School Approval Scheme and is the only organisation solely representing professional riding school proprietors.

If you belong to the ABRS your clients can be satisfied that you offer the highest standards of teaching, that their health and safety are a priority and that your horses and ponies are given the best possible care.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

- The ABRS is an association run for Riding School Proprietors by Riding School Proprietors or directors who have a passion for Riding Schools who understand issues faced by fellow Riding School Proprietors.
- As an ABRS member you will be listed on our website as one of our approved centres and thus recognised for the quality of your service and promoted to potential customers
- You will be eligible to run the Association's popular riding and horse care tests. ABRS tests are suitable for staff and clients, helping to motivate both to achieve a recognised standard. (ABRS tests may only be taken at ABRS member schools.)
- The Test system will allow your clients to work through the series of Horse Care and Riding tests. It is an excellent way to keep the clients' interest and a good source of income for your school. Tests include A to E for the young, Tests 1 to 10, a Lunge Unit, Riding and Road Safety and an Initial Teaching Test for your staff taking the first step towards becoming a qualified coach.
- You can take advantage of our communications network within the equestrian industry: the ABRS is a member of the British Equestrian Federation, the National Equine Welfare Council and the Sports and Recreation Alliance in addition to having close ties with other key national equestrian bodies. We are able to communicate your needs and concerns to local and national government.
- You may be able to make considerable savings with the Association's recommended insurance broker, and using the members benefit scheme discounts.
- ABRS membership is a hallmark of quality. You will be able to use it to attract new riders, by using our logo on your website and promotional material.
- Membership of the Equestrian Employers Association is part of the ABRS Membership which gives you access to all the requirements of employing staff, contract templates, conditions of maternity leave etc and access to a legal helpline.
- The ABRS is a trustworthy source of information and advice for proprietors with office staff happy to assist and who are genuinely interested in your business.
- The website has a dedicated, private area for proprietors which holds information on legal requirements, licensing guidance, safeguarding policies, H & S templates and much more.
- You will be invited to regional events and have the opportunity to share issues and ideas with other likeminded persons. You will have access to topical speakers and be able to pick their brains informally.
- You will have the opportunity to host workshops run alongside the BEF, designed to increase participation, improve the customers experience and help retain your customers.

- You can liaise with other BEF members such as the Horseball Association, who will assist you to utilize the sport within your school, for the benefit of your customers and staff.
- You will be able to take advantage of the CPD events and training on offer for proprietors and staff – in order to be compliant with the Local Authority license.

WHAT WILL MY CLIENTS GAIN?

- The knowledge that the school they have chosen is on a list of approved centres.
- Good standards of training and tuition from appropriately qualified staff.
- Well-schooled horses and ponies suitable for various levels of riding.
- Confidence that the school they have chosen will be subject to scrutiny on an annual basis and subject to severe sanctions if it fails to adhere to the requirements of good welfare and safety and code of conduct
- The opportunity to take a variety of practical based ABRS graded tests in horse care and riding.
- The assurance that the staff in an ABRS approved school have received first aid and safeguarding training and take the care of children and vulnerable adults seriously.
- Excellent customer care.

What we expect from you

- All schools must be current holders of a Local Authority License and be compliant with the requirements at all times
- Hold valid Insurance
- Abide by the ABRS Code of conduct for coaches
- All schools must appoint a Human Welfare Officer who must have a current First Aid certificate, have an Enhanced DBS certificate and have attended a Safeguarding course in sport during the last 3 years.
- It is the responsibility of the Human Welfare Officer to ensure all other staff have the appropriate Safeguarding certification according to their role.
- All schools should maintain high welfare standards for their horses at all times.

TUITION

All schools have different facilities and methods of teaching, but we require all to adhere to these principles.

- All lessons should be conducted with safety in mind as well as being fun and knowledgeable.
- Lessons should show an improvement from pupils.
- All riders must complete a rider registration form, and this should be updated every year *see license*
- All forms containing rider's personal data must be kept in a locked cupboard to comply with GDPR.
- All riders must be assessed at their first ride, before joining a group.
- In the case of Trekking stables riders must still be assessed in a school before leaving the yard to ensure they are mounted appropriately and there will be sufficient staff to escort for the level of rider.
- Horses suitable in age, experience, height, quality, training and temperament should be provided.
- Each horse should have an individual record, containing a risk assessment of their behavior ridden and to handle. It should also show the types of work the horse is suitable for and any rider weight restrictions.
- Instructors must be experienced in teaching the standard of lesson or in the case of a trainee, be supervised throughout the lesson.
- Instructors should have lesson plans, and trainees should receive assistance with the planning.
- When hacking the ratio of staff to clients is recommended as being two staff for up to four clients, but obviously this depends on the experience of the riders. A first aider must always be with any hack.
- A first aider must always be on the yard whenever or wherever clients are riding.

What you can expect from us

- Recognition on our website and all social media of your high standards.
- Support during the “difficult times”.
- Support during any planning applications.
- The ability to earn back your subscription by using our rosette awards and test system. Ask the office for advice on how this can be achieved. We have a number of schools who regularly do this.
- Regular “Special offers” to support your business and help you become more profitable.
- Frequent newsletters full of current news and information.
- ABRS plaque to display demonstrating your membership.
- Support of a local representative who will be your point of contact and who will keep in touch and organise meetings in your area allowing you to meet other proprietors, exchange ideas and issues.
- Opportunities to attend talks and discussions that will count as CPD
- Training will be available for your staff that will count as CPD
- A helpful person at the end of the phone who will do their best to assist you, and if the ABRS cannot help, we can point you in the right direction.
- Opportunities to liaise with organisations such as Horseball who will assist you to set up and use activities that will help you retain customers and encourage new ones



We look forward to
welcoming you to the ABRS
family.