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| **Risk Assessment** | | | | |
| **Risk Assessment for the activity of** | **Horseball** | | **Date** |  |
| **Club or Society** | **Southampton University Riding Club** | **Assessor** |  | |
| **President or Students’ Union staff member** | ***Grace Tabb/Isobel Grant*** | **Signed off** |  | |

| ***PART A*** | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **(1) Risk identification** | | | **(2) Risk assessment** | | | | **(3) Risk management** | | | |
| **Hazard** | **Potential Consequences** | **Who might be harmed**  **(user; those nearby; those in the vicinity; members of the public)** | **Inherent** | | |  | **Residual** | | | **Further controls (use the risk hierarchy)** |
| **Likelihood** | **Impact** | **Score** | **Control measures (use the risk hierarchy)** | **Likelihood** | **Impact** | **Score** |
| Person falls off a horse/ person falls off when doing a horseball pick-up | Depending on the speed, location and impact of the fall, a person may be left with minor bruising, but consequences could be as serious as a sprain or broken bone. When playing horseball, people tend to fall off more often because the sport involves picking the ball off of the floor, however, the falling off that occurs through this action do not tend to be as severe in comparison to general occurrences of falling off that are non-related to the actual practice of the sport of horseball. | The individual, those in the vicinity. | 3 | 4 | 12 | The person should be wearing a riding hat at all times which complies with the British riding safety standards. In the horseball sessions, our coach Alex will be in supervision of the lesson at all times, and will be on hand to help immediately should a person fall off.  When playing horseball, pick up straps are attached to either side of the stirrups, and fed through martingale strap at the girth. These straps actually help to reduce the risk of a person falling off, as they provide support for when a player hangs off the side of the saddle to pick up the ball from the floor, and allow them to return back to the saddle in an upright position. Usually if people do tend to fall off when picking up the ball, the rate at which they do is slowed down by the presence of the pick-up strap, therefore reducing the impact and the severity of injury.  Inexperienced students will be given practice of the skill of picking up with the supervision of another member of the official Southampton team, or the supervision of our horseball coach in a stationary position before they are allowed to do it in motion, which is a more advanced skill. This will involve a team member of alex standing next to the horse whilst the student who is on board the horse is able to bend down to reach the ball on the floor, meaning that immediate support is ready should a student feel like they are loosing their balance or slipping off of the saddle. | 2 | 3 | 6 | Inexperienced riders should not be placed on challenging/difficult horses beyond their capabilities to control and ride in a safe manner. If the rider has any concern about the horse they are riding, they should consult a member of staff regarding the horse they have been issued.  Students will be advised that they cannot get on the horse in an empty arena until our coach Alex is in the arena, as any falls which occur during this period will be due to their own ignorance. |
| Person falls off during a competition/match | With two teams of 4 horses each on a pitch (8 horses total), there is a chance that a player could get a trampled by other horses during a match. | The individual, those nearby, those in the vicinity | 2 | 3 | 6 | If a player falls off during a competition/match, the whistle is blown by the referee to stop the game and to allow the player to exit the pitch to remount their horse or in very rare occasions seek medical assistance. Once they are remounted the player can re-enter the pitch on their horse. | 2 | 2 | 4 |  |
| Person’s foot is trodden on by a horse | Depending on the weight or size of the horse/pony in the situation, a trodden foot can experience slight bruising and tenderness in the majority of cases, but there is a small possibility that a trodden foot could experience being fractured or broken. | The individual, those in the vicinity. | 3 | 3 | 9 | The person should be wearing appropriate footwear on the yard at all times, ideally thick boots with a steel toe cap to provide the foot with protection from such events. No footwear should be permitted where the foot is exposed completely. | 2 | 2 | 4 | If the person feels like their foot is in severe pain or cannot bear weight on their foot, they should seek medical attention immediately from one of the members of staff on the equestrian site. |
| Bitten by a horse | Some horses can have a potentially bad habit of wanting to bite, particularly when people are walking past their stable or when they are being tacked up. In the cases where a bite has occurred, minor injuries are caused where there are small cuts, bruising or grazing of the skin, which can be easily self-medicated and heal quickly. | The individual, those In the vicinity | 3 | 2 | 6 | If the horse is known for having the habit of biting, students should be made aware of a sign which indicates this behaviour outside of the horses stable, so that they know to approach the horse with caution. Ideally, those students which are not particularly confident around horses should not be allocated to ride/tack up to avoid being bitten, and ideally should only be given to students who may have had previous experience of their own with horses that bite/ are slightly more equipped to deal with the behaviour. | 2 | 1 | 2 | As an additional measure, students should avoid giving these individual horses treats to encourage biting behaviour directed towards themselves, and should not deliberately stand around outside the horses stable in a proximity where a horse can reach them to bite. |
| Kicked by a horse | Being kicked by a horse tends to occur with a high impact, and therefore there is a risk of a more severe injury occurring, where bones can be sprained or broken. | The individual, those in the vicinity | 2 | 4 | 8 | Students who have not had prior experience with horses should be briefed on safety measures in regards to handling horses, especially in regards to walking round the horse. Students should be advised to approach the hind quarters of the horse slowly, and when walking round giving a distance of at least two metres to avoid the reach of the hind legs if a horse did kick out. Students should be advised not to make any sudden movements or suddenly smack/hit the hindquarters with impact, otherwise this may startle the horse and cause them to kick out. When being ridden, they will be told of any horses that may be in participation in their session which have a tendency to kick, and will be told to avoid these horses where possible, giving them a wide birth of at least a horses’ length from their horse. | 1 | 3 | 3 | Any horses on the yard which have a habit of being kicked tend to have a red ribbon tied to their tail. Horses which have a tendency to kick out when being handled on the ground should not be given to novice/inexperienced students who are not used to seeing such behaviour, and ideally should only be given to more experienced students on rare occasions.  If a student is kicked, they should call for help and if laying on the floor, should not move their position in case of a broken bone or fracture. There will be a medically trained member of staff on site who will be able to see to the student, and if necessary an ambulance arranged. |
| Hit in the head body with a horseball ball | In horseball, the ball is thrown between each of the players, with the ultimate aim of scoring a goal in a net suspended in the air. Occasionally, the player can be hit with the ball in the head or another body part. The ball itself is made out of the material of a football, and so is quite soft with minimal impact. | The individual, those in the vicinity | 3 | 1 | 3 | When playing horseball and throwing the ball, students should make sure that the person they are directing the ball towards is looking and is aware of the fact that the ball may be thrown to them.  The horseball ball has leather straps attached to the ball, which actually make it easier for a person to catch the ball in a safer manner.  Students should be wearing a riding hat which complies with British riding safety standards at all times during the training session, and this will help to minimise the impact of the ball to the head. | 2 | 1 | 2 |  |
| Losing control of the horse when riding | On occasion, a horse can be very difficult to control/have a high energy, and can have the capability to run around the arena at speed, without the rider’s ability or control to stop. In some instances, the lack of balance and control can cause a person to fall off of the horse. | The individual, those nearby, those in the vicinity | 2 | 3 | 6 | Horses which are known for being difficult to control should not be given to any of the students to ride, especially those who are inexperienced.  In the case where a rider does lose control of their horse, our horseball coach Alex will be in the riding arena providing advice to help calm the horse down and help the rider to regain control. The techniques usually involved turning the horse on a circle, as this helps to reduce their speed and listen to the rein aids.  Horses will be ridden in an arena in all sessions, meaning that the chance to regain control is easier than if ridden out in a field or grass paddock. | 1 | 3 | 3 |  |
| Loosing control of the horse when being handled on the ground | Sometimes, a horse can spook at something which scares them (e.g. an object which blows in the wind, animals, loud noise) and causes them to rear up or pull away from the person handling them. In some cases, there is a risk that the person handling the horse may incur an injury if they are too close to the horse, such as being hit with the horses hoof when they rear up, or if they try to hold onto the horse when they bolt, they can incur hand burns. | The individual, those nearby, those in the vicinity. | **2** | **3** | **6** | If a horse tries to run away, the person should allow the horse to go, as holding onto the horse will in most cases not work to stop them, and it is much safer to do so. A member of staff on the yard should be altered immediately to try and help contain the horse in a safe space, such as a spare empty stable, an empty field paddock or an empty riding arena. When handling horses on the ground, gloves should be worn to prevent the risk of rope burn. |  |  |  |  |

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| ***PART B – Action Plan*** | | | | | | | |
| **Risk Assessment Action Plan** | | | | | | | |
| **Part no.** | **Action to be taken, incl. Cost** | **By whom** | **Target date** | | **Review date** | **Outcome at review date** | |
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| Responsible committee member signature: | | | | | Responsible committee member signature: | | |
| Print name: | | | | Date: | Print name: | | Date |

**Assessment Guidance**

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| 1. Eliminate | Remove the hazard wherever possible which negates the need for further controls | If this is not possible then explain why |  |
| 1. Substitute | Replace the hazard with one less hazardous | If not possible then explain why |
| 1. Physical controls | Examples: enclosure, fume cupboard, glove box | Likely to still require admin controls as well |
| 1. Admin controls | Examples: training, supervision, signage |  |
| 1. Personal protection | Examples: respirators, safety specs, gloves | Last resort as it only protects the individual |

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| **LIKELIHOOD** | 5 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |
| 4 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **IMPACT** | | | | |

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| Impact | | Health & Safety |
| 1 | Trivial - insignificant | Very minor injuries e.g. slight bruising |
| 2 | Minor | Injuries or illness e.g. small cut or abrasion which require basic first aid treatment even in self-administered. |
| 3 | Moderate | Injuries or illness e.g. strain or sprain requiring first aid or medical support. |
| 4 | Major | Injuries or illness e.g. broken bone requiring medical support >24 hours and time off work >4 weeks. |
| 5 | Severe – extremely significant | Fatality or multiple serious injuries or illness requiring hospital admission or significant time off work. |

Risk process

1. Identify the impact and likelihood using the tables above.
2. Identify the risk rating by multiplying the Impact by the likelihood using the coloured matrix.
3. If the risk is amber or red – identify control measures to reduce the risk to as low as is reasonably practicable.
4. If the residual risk is green, additional controls are not necessary.
5. If the residual risk is amber the activity can continue but you must identify and implement further controls to reduce the risk to as low as reasonably practicable.
6. If the residual risk is red do not continue with the activity until additional controls have been implemented and the risk is reduced.
7. Control measures should follow the risk hierarchy, where appropriate as per the pyramid above.
8. The cost of implementing control measures can be taken into account but should be proportional to the risk i.e. a control to reduce low risk may not need to be carried out if the cost is high but a control to manage high risk means that even at high cost the control would be necessary.

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| Likelihood | |
| 1 | Rare e.g. 1 in 100,000 chance or higher |
| 2 | Unlikely e.g. 1 in 10,000 chance or higher |
| 3 | Possible e.g. 1 in 1,000 chance or higher |
| 4 | Likely e.g. 1 in 100 chance or higher |
| 5 | Very Likely e.g. 1 in 10 chance or higher |