Wharfedale Cross Country League – Code of Conduct

In order to ensure each of the races (including the relays held at Nell Bank for KS2 cross country runners) runs smoothly and is respectful to those individuals who organise the events we have produced the following Code of Conduct.

The organisers of the League and everyone staffing the events are volunteers. Please be respectful of the fact they have given up their time freely to make the League a success.

Pre-race guidance
There are a number of races with the Wharfedale Cross Country League. All races, with the exception of the Nell Bank relays which are only open to Key Stage 2 (years 3 – 6), are open to all children irrespective of age or gender who attend one of the twelve schools forming the League. These are namely, Addingham, All Saints', Askwith, Ashlands, Ben Rhydding, Burley & Woodhead, Burley Oaks, Ghyll Royd, Menston, Moorfield, Sacred Heart and Westville House.

Before each race the school hosting the event will invite the other 11 schools to take part in 'their' race.

Details of all races, including start times, **which can vary between races**, and course layouts can be found at http://www.ilkleyharriers.co.uk/jh/wpsxcl.html.

We remind you that all the events are very popular, therefore very busy. If you are arriving at the event please, where possible, consider car sharing or using alternative modes of transport. If you are driving please allow plenty of time to get to the event, park responsibly and adhere to the school car park marshals (if they are present at the race). Your child needs to be registered with their school and at the start line before their race starts. Races will start punctually. Please ensure you inform your school of your child's finishing position promptly at the end of their race, otherwise their result will not be recorded and included in the results tables.

All parents / guardians are responsible for their children whilst attending the event.

Reception to Year 2 races
* These races are organised for fun to show children the enjoyment that can be had from running, whether it be at an event or by themselves. Individual race results can be found on the website referenced below.

* We ask all parents / guardians / siblings etc to encourage all runners.

* These races do not form part of the formal League.

* We ask that parents do not enter the race route but do appreciate some parental support may be required for children who are at the rear of the race and need a helping hand to finish. We reward the achievement of all finishers and encourage all our runners to feel that taking part and enjoying their running is paramount.

Year 3 – 6 League races
The more formal League starts in year 3, the results of which can be found on the following website http://www.ilkleyharriers.co.uk/jh/wpsxcl.html - please click on the relevant school's race to find the results for the year you are interested in. Full race results are published on the website, usually within 48 hours of the race. If you have any queries regarding the results for a particular race please contact Debbie Nicholson at deborahnich1@gmail.com up to one week after the event has taken place. Amendments received after this will be published after the following race. One week post the All Saints' race i.e. 13th March 2021 is the last date for making any amendments to any runner's position in the overall League. Any changes to race positions after this date will not appear in the overall results for that years League presented at the Nell Bank Relays on 20th March 2021.

Please ensure the following applies at all events:
* Children may only race in their year group – this ensures the competition is fair for all.

* To ensure the races run smoothly we ask that parents do not enter the race route and run with their child. Some races will have a 'hare' at the start to show the children the route to take, all will have 'sweepers' at the back of the runners to help and encourage those children that may require a little extra motivation. These people have been chosen by the host school to carry out these roles and we ask that you respect the job they have been given.

*** Children should avoid any physical contact with other runners. We understand that competition can be fierce, we are however interested in promoting and running 'clean' races. We will therefore not tolerate pushing or pulling of other children racing.**

* Upon finishing a race, runners must remain in their finishing order, this ensures they are given the correct race number. The host school will ensure that they 'process' children through the finishing funnel as quickly as possible.

* Any queries on a child's position will be dealt with by the Race Director on the day; this is one of the Wharfedale League organising team rather than a member of the host school's team.

Parents / Guardians
To help your child / children get the most enjoyment out of their attendance on the day please adhere to the following:

* Encourage your child to take part within the spirit of the race.

* Discourage unfair behaviour and disputes with volunteers running the event, this includes the League Organisers.

* Help your child / children recognise good performance and not just results.

* Never force your child to take part in any sport.

* Set a good example by recognising fair racing and by applauding good performances of all.

* Never punish or belittle a child for taking part and / or their place in the race results.

* Publicly accept the judgement of the officials without argument or comment.

* Support your child's / children's involvement and help them enjoy the events and development within it.

* Use correct and proper language at all times.

* Do not forget that children are involved in organised sport for THEIR enjoyment rather than YOURS.

Lastly any child or parent / guardian not displaying good sportsmanship may be given sanctions. This may include a ban on attending future races.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Code of Conduct.

We look forward to seeing you at the Wharfedale Cross Country events.

Regards,
Felicity Tomblin, Rachel Websdale and Debbie Nicholson
Wharfedale Cross Country League organising team