



Riding Hat Policy

Smugglers Equestrian Centre

At **Smugglers Equestrian Centre**, rider safety is extremely important to us. All riders taking part in ridden activities must wear appropriate protective equipment that is **correctly fitted, securely fastened, in good condition and compliant with current recognised safety standards**.

As a BHS Approved Centre, our requirements are reviewed in line with current **British Horse Society guidance and recognised equestrian safety standards**.

It remains the responsibility of the rider, or their parent/guardian where applicable, to ensure personally owned safety equipment is suitable, correctly fitted and safe for use.



Riding Hat Regulations

A correctly fitted and securely fastened riding hat must be worn **at all times when mounted** at Smugglers Equestrian Centre.

Your hat must meet a currently accepted safety standard.

Current Accepted Hat Standards – 2026

Hats must meet **all the requirements of at least one** of the following:

Standard	Required Quality Assurance Mark
PAS 015:2011	BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark
VG1 01.040:2014-12	BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark
ASTM F1163:2015 or 2023	SEI Mark
SNELL E2016 or 2021 onwards	Official SNELL label and number
AS/NZS 3838:2006 onwards	SAI Global Mark
BS EN 1384:2023	BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark

These are the standards currently recognised within BHS 2026 guidance.



Cross-Country

For **cross-country activities**, riders must wear an approved **jockey skull cap with no fixed peak or peak-type extension**.

A removable hat silk with a light, flexible peak may be worn.

The jockey skull must still meet one of the required current safety standards.



Correct Hat Fit

Meeting the correct safety standard is only part of keeping your head protected — your riding hat also needs to **fit correctly**.

We strongly recommend that personally owned hats are professionally fitted by an appropriately trained hat fitter.

A hat should:

- Fit securely without excessive movement
- Sit correctly on the rider's head
- Have a correctly adjusted harness
- Be securely fastened whenever required
- Be in good condition
- Not have suffered an impact that may have compromised its protection

The BHS recommends replacing a riding hat following a fall, particularly where the hat has made contact with the ground. It also advises against purchasing second-hand riding hats because their previous history and any internal damage may not be visible.



Damaged or Unsuitable Hats

Smugglers Equestrian Centre reserves the right to **refuse the use of any riding hat** that we believe is:

- Damaged
- Poorly fitted

- Incorrectly fastened
- Excessively worn
- Of uncertain safety standard
- No longer compliant with current requirements
- Otherwise unsuitable for the planned activity

Where we have concerns regarding a rider's hat, the rider may not be permitted to mount until suitable protective headwear is available.