Independent Participants (IP)

By independent participant (IP) we mean a rider/driver who owns or loans (but not from an RDA group) their horse and does not ride/drive in an RDA group session. The relationship between an IP and their group does vary. Some groups do not see their IP at all, whereas others see their IP regularly. Therefore, RDA UK has put together some guidance to help groups and IPs.

Any group may allow a participant who does not regularly ride/drive with them to compete 'under their banner'. This allows a participant with a disability who, for whatever reason, cannot take part regularly with a group, have access to RDA competitions. Please note that all the appropriate participant rider/driver application forms must be completed as if they were to be taking part at a group session. The horse must also be deemed suitable by their relevant Regional Discipline Coach.

Advantages

- Increase profile of group on the competition circuit.
- Bring more participants/volunteers & support to the group.
- Increase attendance at meetings, AGMs & social events.
- Boost group morale.
- Increase support network to the group.

Group trustees must be under no pressure to accept or refuse a participant. Each group is entirely free to decide whether or not to allow a participant to compete under their name; some may insist that only participants who regularly attend RDA sessions may represent them. The horse that the participant intends to compete on must be deemed suitable as stated above. Once deemed suitable the horse is covered by RDA insurance for public liability at RDA events only, all other insuring of the horse is the responsibility of the participant or their representative. The participant, or their representative, will be responsible for all aspects of the competition; financial, provision of animal, transport to and from competition & training etc. unless the group wishes to provide assistance. We strongly suggest that the relationship expectations be clearly laid out in writing by both parties.