

Protective Headwear

Protective Headwear must be worn at all times when mounted at any RDA event whether competing or not. Harnesses must be correctly adjusted and fastened at all times. At RDA Championships and Regional Qualifiers hats must have been checked by an official to make sure that it is of one of the accepted standards and then tagged with an RDA hat tag.

Protective headwear constitutes a hat which meets one of the following standards:

- British PAS 015: 1998 or 2011 provided they are BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC marked
- European VG1 provided it is BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC marked
- EN1384-2017 provided it has another accepted standard from this list which is BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC marked
- American ASTM F1163: 2004a or 04a onwards provided they are SEI marked
- SNELL E2001 or SNELL E2016

Competitors are strongly advised to check their hats regularly and to replace them if damaged or following a fall. It is recommended that hats are replaced every 3 to 5 years depending on usage.

In some cases, where a standard hat is not suitable, alternative headwear can be worn provided RDA's alternative hat wear rules are followed as detailed below:

- Non-standard hats (including specially made, by a reputable manufacturer, riding hats, other kite marked helmets e.g. ski, cycle, skateboard), can be assessed by a Regional or County Coach, or someone who has been approved by the Regional Coach. Anyone assessing hat suitability MUST have been on a BETA hat fitting workshop.
- Consent signed on the "Alternative Hat Assessment Form" by the Participant/Parent/Guardian/Carer, confirming they understand that it is a non-standard hat.
- Participant and hat to be re-assessed annually.
- The hat must not be used by another participant without an assessment.
- There may be exceptional circumstances when a carriage driver has to drive without a hat. Before this can happen the "No Hat Form" must be completed and sent to RDA National Office, along with a written request stating why the driver needs to drive without a hat. This request will then go to the Carriage Driving Lead for approval, before any driver without a hat can drive.
- Children or adults of the Sikh religion are exempted from any hat ruling while they are wearing a turban. Religious head wear (hijabs, yamulkes etc) can be worn providing they will not come undone or are not fixed to the head by a hard object e.g. brooch, or could present a danger to the participant. There are various balaclavas/riding snoods on the market which are made specifically to use under hats instead of hijabs or some other headwear. These are available from www.kramer.co.uk In these cases, an alternative hat form must be completed.
- Hats for volunteers - Although it is not mandatory to wear hats, if an RDA Volunteer chooses to do so, the hat must fit into the current standards listed above and be tagged with an RDA hat tag. All coaches/volunteers must wear a hat when mounted