



Welcome On Board

An Introduction to Being a Trustee at RDA



Welcome and Thank You

For over 50 years, Riding for the Disabled Association has been providing opportunities for therapy, achievement and fun to people with disabilities.

Today, around the UK, RDA has almost 500 centres, over 25,600 riders and carriage drivers, which are supported by people like you making up our dedicated team of 18,000 volunteers.

RDA UK is the national support network for the organisation and is comprised of 400 national, regional and county volunteers and 25 staff who provide support and services to RDA's member groups. Delivering on a measureable impact in life enhancing areas such as physical ability, communication, relationship and confidence building.

“We all do it for the challenges; for the rewards of helping people achieve their goals and because we believe in what RDA does.”

Our Values

Our values outline the way in which we work together behave, make decisions and the things we believe are important when delivering our services and volunteering.

-  RDA is a community of people who believe that it's what you can do that counts and who enable participants and volunteers to achieve their goals
-  RDA values the input of all people who are involved – participants, volunteers and paid staff
-  RDA ensures that development and achievement is recognised and celebrated across the organisation
-  RDA aims to deliver an excellent service and experience for all participants and volunteers
-  RDA recognises the central part that horses and ponies play in everything we do

Our Approach

We are positive

We are positive about RDA UK and our role as a representative of the national organisation. We highlight the impact RDA UK makes nationally and the success of projects and programmes.

We are reliable

We keep our promises and do the things we say we will do when we are supporting groups. If we can't do something we let others know in good time.

We are led by the needs of RDA Participants

We actively seek out the views of RDA participants and seek to offer an experience tailored to meet their needs.

We listen

We take the time to listen to the views of everyone involved in RDA, to empathise with their challenges and champion their ideas for innovation.

We celebrate achievement

We take the time to celebrate the achievements of RDA participants and volunteers ensuring everyone involved feels recognised and part of the RDA community.

We focus on solutions

If we identify a problem we agree the solution and work together to achieve this. We offer support through signposting to resources, useful information and best practice.

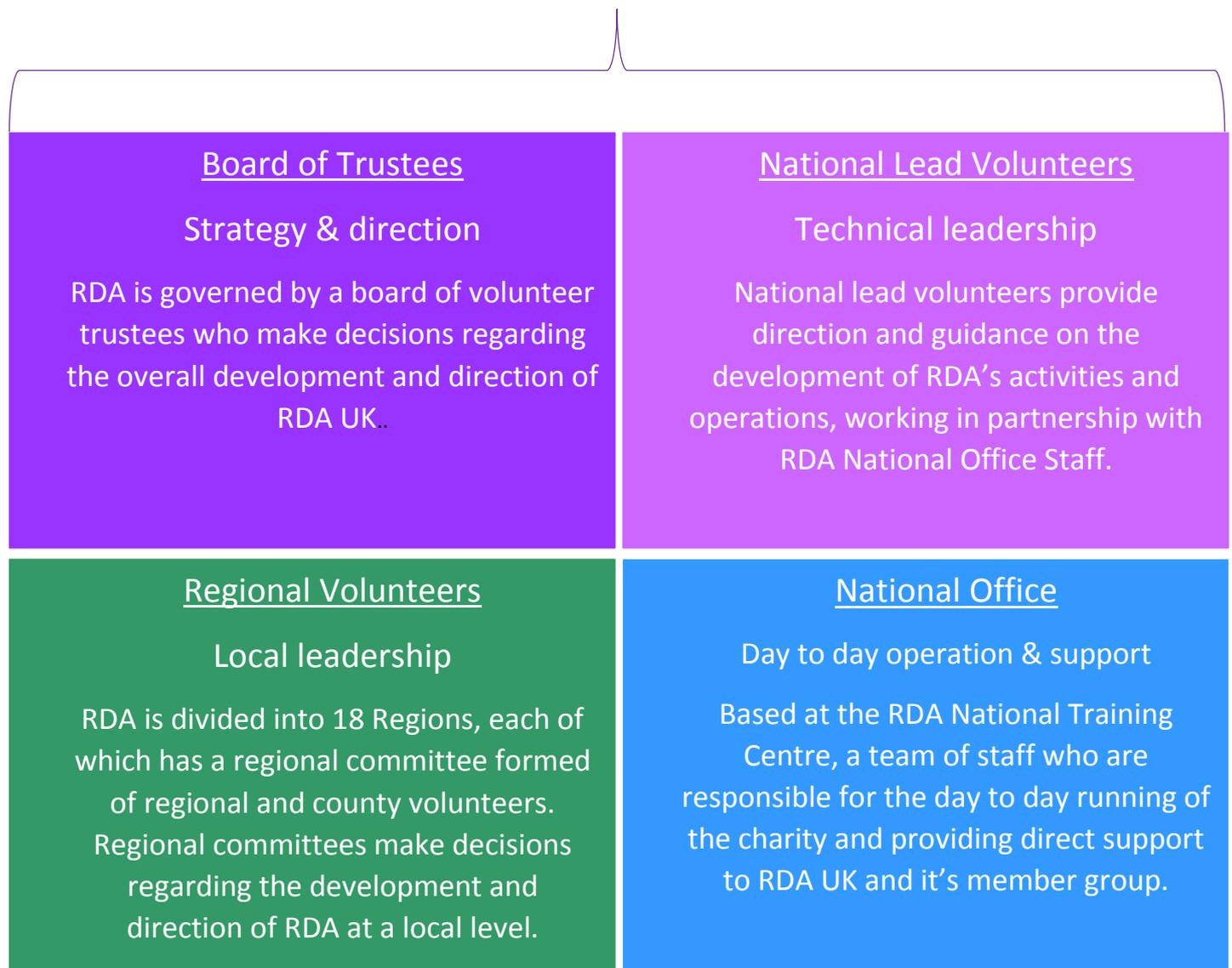


The Bigger Picture

RDA is operational at a Group, County, Regional and National level, a dedicated team of volunteers as well as a team of 30 staff at National Office run these.

There are volunteering opportunities available at each level, people who volunteer for these are called RDA UK volunteers and are invited to attend events for training as well as making decisions, which will impact RDA's running at a larger scale.

Who are RDA UK?



If you would like to find out more about volunteering for RDA UK, please contact National Office at

T: 01926 405966 extension number 110 **E:** volunteer@rda.org.uk

Being a Trustee

Becoming a Trustee

Trustees are voted in by the group's members through a resolution at a Group AGM or EGM

As these meetings occur on an infrequent basis trustees may join the committee prior to this as a co-opted member after being voted in by the existing trustees. Co-opting is simply a mechanism for bringing someone on to the committee at any time. As a Co-opted member you still have full voting rights.

Trustees' Meetings

Trustees carry out their role through attending and participating in trustee or committee meetings. It is at these meetings that the main strategic decisions for the group are made.

Meetings should be held a minimum of 4 times per year with the addition of the Annual General Meeting. If your group is incorporated you must have a minimum of 1 meeting every six months.

Governing Documents

RDA trustees should be aware of the framework under which they will be required to carry out their responsibilities.

The Mem & Arts (for incorporated groups), the Group Constitution (for unincorporated groups) and the CIO Constitution (for CIOs) set out the framework for the constitutional management of the group including Election of Trustees, Conduct of Meetings, Voting Members and Voting, Powers and Duties.

If you have been approached to become a trustee you should ask the group to see a copy of this document along with the most recent accounts so you have a clear idea of your responsibilities.

“I came to RDA for the horses, but it has taught me so much about people, about respect and about fairness.”

Insurance & Protection for Trustees

Many trustees are concerned about the extent of their liability in the event of a claim of negligence or mal-practice against the group. There is protection in place but like all insurance, it does depend on the trustees being able to show that they have acted in good faith and appropriately.

RDA Groups can take different legal forms which offer different levels of protection.

Unincorporated

In an unincorporated group the elected trustees are recognised as legal identities with personal liability for debts and other liabilities.

Incorporated

In an Incorporated Group the group becomes a limited company and so has its own legal personality distinct from its members which means the liability of the trustees is limited.

Incorporation gives the trustees security that insurance alone cannot provide and is essential to ensure the best protection for groups who own property, have a lease or large contract or employ staff.

Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation is a slightly simpler legal form, which carries the same protection as incorporation but only requires the charity to report to the Charity Commission or OSCR and not Companies House.

RDA Indemnity Insurance

As an elected Trustee, you are covered by the RDA Trustee Indemnity Insurance for up to £5 million as well as public liability insurance for £20 million.



Getting Started

Getting started as an RDA Trustee is a simple process, however there are some key steps to take before you begin volunteering.

Volunteer Application Form

If you are a new volunteer you will need to complete an application form which will include providing two referees. All information provided to the group is confidential and will be used for RDA purposes only.

Trustee Acceptance Form

You will need to sign a trustee acceptance form to demonstrate you understand the role and responsibilities of being an RDA Trustee.

Conflict of Interest Form

As a trustee you have a legal duty to act in the charity's best interest when making decisions. It may be that a decision needs to be made where you have a personal or other interest which may affect your ability to make a decision in the interest of the charity. This is a conflict of interest.

Having a conflict of interest does not mean you have done anything wrong however it is important to declare this conflict of interest and withdraw from discussions and voting on matters where this applies.

In order to help manage a conflict of interest an important first step is to complete a conflict of interest form upon becoming a trustee.

Disclosure Check

If your role means you are actively involved in delivering an RDA session you will be asked to complete an enhanced disclosure check. The Group Safeguarding Officer will be able to support you with this.



RDA National Office

RDA National Office staff provide support to RDA member groups and RDA UK volunteers. To find out who works in the office, head to Myrda.org.uk Meet the Team.

Operations

The operations team provide support and development for the key functions of RDA Groups including all of RDA's equestrian activities, support to RDA coaches, the planning and delivery of the national championships, supporting group growth and providing ongoing support and development opportunities to volunteers in the running of their group in areas such as governance and safeguarding

Fundraising

The fundraising team are focused on generating income for RDA UK as well as supporting RDA groups to fundraise ethically and effectively.

Communications and Publicity

The communications team focus on internal communications and external publicity, as well as supporting groups to share positive stories about RDA.

Support Services

The national office team also includes a wide range of roles which support the day to day operation of the charity including advice and support for finance, insurance and IT.



Further Information

National Office Contact

For all general enquiries

T: 01926 492915 E: info@rda.org.uk

For volunteering specific enquiries

T: 01926 405966 E: volunteer@rda.org.uk

Social Media

Facebook: RDANational

Instagram: RDAUK

Twitter: @RDANational

RDA Website

RDA has two websites that provide news, updates and information

www.rda.org.uk promotes RDA to those who are not currently involved and contains our group finder www.myrda.org.uk all policies, procedures you will need including our safeguarding and complaints procedures. It will also tell you who works at National Office under the Meet the Team heading.

