



VOLUNTEER LEVY – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Volunteer Levy?

The Volunteer Levy (VL) was introduced in July 2013 to encourage parent helpers to assist with the man-power required to run DLPC events. Since its inception it has been a huge success.

Currently the VL is \$200 payable up-front when joining DLPC. Members existing pre-01.07.13 do not have to pay the VL as long as they put in their required hours each year. If these members do not put in the required hours they will be billed in advance for the following year.

The number of hours required is 20 PER FAMILY, per annum.

Why does DLPC have a Volunteer Levy?

The annual expenses incurred to run our normal rallies, far exceeds the income received via membership renewals. In order to keep membership fees as low as possible, we need to fund-raise, by way of several equestrian competitions throughout the year. Whether your child competes or not, these events are run to benefit each and every child within the DLPC family. These events help to pay for instructors, keep equipment in good working order, maintain and improve the cross country course and other facilities both inside and out, grounds leases and insurances and the list goes on.

As a parent you are still expected to help out in the day-to-day running of the club, whether that be assuming a role on the committee, helping out at rallies, baking cakes etc. This is no different to any other sporting club. We are ALL volunteers. Not one parent receives payment in any way.

If I join the Committee do those hours count?

NO – only hours relating to the running of our major events count. Events such as the Horse Trials (February), BEDS day (June), Showjumping Day and Show (December) all count.

My child doesn't compete so why should we have to help at events?

Your child uses all of the equipment and the cross-country course and has the chance to ride under some great instructors and be part of the DLPC family. Running events helps to pay for these things.

Helping out at rallies – do those hours count?

NO – only hours relating to the running of our major events count. If we were to include the hours undertaken to run a rally it would have to be up around 200 hours per family instead of 20!

Donating raffle prizes – can that count in lieu of the VL?

NO – only hours relating to the running of our major events count.

I was at the Show all day and was *available* to help – do those hours count?

NO – if you've been allocated a set job to steward for 2 hours out of your day then yes, these 2 hours will count. "Being there" doesn't count.

I can't often help on weekends – is there anything else I can do?

YES – every event has a lot of preparation in the build up to it. There is always setting up before hand and sometimes (for the Horse Trials) this will be a whole week beforehand. Each event may have its own subcommittee and there are many jobs available to help run each event. There are jobs such as counting and cleaning the cross-country jump numbers, washing and ironing the cross-country bibs after the event, photocopying, painting, roping, spraying and whipper-snipping. All of these jobs can be done at times that suit you, not necessarily on the day of an event.

My child was with me all day while I picked up poles in the SJ – does that count?

As a general rule, the children's hours don't count. The exception here is when they are allocated a set job such as pencilling or being a runner. Some of the older children are also capable of doing the work of an adult which is fine. It will be up to the Executive signing off on the hours to make that final call.

Mum and Dad and Grandma and my sister sat on a cross-country jump for 4 hours. How many hours do we get allocated?

4 hours. Only one person is required per jump. If the whole family chooses to watch and spend the afternoon together, that's great but only one lot of hours counts. If you split up and the four of you sit on two jumps, then you will be given 8 hours. If the four of you sit on four jumps then there is your 20 hours done in one day.

I paid my VL when I joined DLPC and have my 20 hours accounted for this year. Do I pay again next financial year?

NO – as long as you maintain your hours, the VL just rolls over from one year to the next. As long as you keep up with the required hours you will not have to pay it again.

I fulfilled my 20 hours at the first event for the year. Does this mean I don't have to help anymore?

You're obviously a fantastic worker and an asset to our club. We would hope that you would continue to help out for the good of the club and to see every event succeed but you will definitely not be sent a VL bill.

Recording of hours.

For the 2016/17 year onwards, there will be a book available at every event and working bee. It is your responsibility to fill in the hours that you undertake for that event, as they happen. These hours aren't guaranteed until the Volunteer Co-Ordinator has signed off on them. This book will be available for members to see throughout the year. This should make it easier and more transparent.

NOTE: Most committee members have done their 20 hours by the end of the first event.

IN A NUTSHELL:

Every new family pays the VL *on top of* their annual membership fee, when joining. It's paid in advance, for the year ahead. If you do your hours for that year, you won't have to pay it the following year. It rolls over a bit like a bond. At the end of your time with DLPC, if you have fulfilled the requirement for the year just finishing, you will be entitled to a refund of the full amount of your VL paid initially. If you have not undertaken your hours there will be no refund.

If our own parents aren't going to do it, who is?