

# Sporting Horse Australia

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Sporting Horse Australia's Code of Conduct aims to outline the standards and expectations for anyone involved in Sporting Horse Australia, as well as identifying types of behaviour that will not be tolerated within our organisation.

It applies to riders, parents, officials, stewards and spectators associated with Sporting Horse Australia when training, competing or taking part in club-sanctioned activities or whilst competing at any event conducted under SHA rules.

We expect all members to:

- Act within the rules and spirit of Sporting Horse Australia.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of Sporting Horse Australia.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with Sporting Horse Australia.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, sexuality or religion.
- Respect the decisions of judges and officials.
- Display appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Display responsible consumption of alcohol where permitted at any Sporting Horse Australia event.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe and harassment-free environment.
- Raise any breaches of the code of conduct to the President, Secretary or other committee members of Sporting Horse Australia.

### **Riders**

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Encourage and recognise any good behaviour and positive efforts made by all other riders.
- Play by the rules and show respect for other riders, officials and stewards.
- Always consider the welfare of your horse(s) at all times.
- Riding while impaired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be accepted.
- Adhere to all rules put in place by the event organisers.
- Never for any reason yell, swear or speak to a judge, official or fellow competitor in a manner to belittle, ridicule, humiliate or intimidate.
- Never openly dispute a Judge or stewards decision and/or attempt to influence a decision in a confronting manner.
- Riders may ask for an explanation of a decision by asking the judge privately in a controlled and dignified manner and upon receiving the feedback accept the decision.

- Never openly criticise the SHA, the committee and/or a committee decision when training, competing or taking part in club-sanctioned activities or whilst competing at any event conducted under SHA rules. This type of behaviour has the ability to destabilise the organisation and bring the SHA into disrepute.

### **Officials**

- Place the safety and welfare of the riders and their horses above all else.
- Ensure all riders are included and can participate, regardless of their race, gender, ability, sexuality or religion.
- Be consistent, impartial and objective when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for other riders and officials.
- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of Sporting Horse Australia as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct club responsibilities with due care, honesty, integrity, competence and diligence.

### **Associates of riders**

- Encourage the riders to participate, do their best and have fun.
- Encourage the riders to display good sportsmanship towards all other competitors.
- Focus on the rider's effort and performance, rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a rider for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Model appropriate behaviour, including respect for other riders and officials.
- Respect the effort and performances of riders and officials.
- Reject the use of harassment, bullying or violence in any form, whether by other spectators, parents, officials or riders.
- Never approach a judge or official for any reason during an event to dispute a decision or attempt to influence a decision.
- Adhere to all rules put in place by the event organisers.
- Never openly criticise the SHA, the committee or a committee decision openly at when training, competing or taking part in club-sanctioned activities or whilst competing at any Agricultural Show events or horse event that is a HOTY events or run under SHA rules. This type of behaviour has the ability to destabilize the organisation and brings the SHA into disrepute.

### **Social Media:**

SHA members and associates must not air their grievances or criticisms of the SHA or its members via any social media outlet. This type of behaviour has the ability to destabilise the organisation and bring the SHA into disrepute.

## **Horse Welfare:**

The SHA has a strong view that the welfare of our horses is paramount. If it is noticed that the welfare of a horse maybe in question the judge, available committee members and rider/owner will convene to discuss the matter. A decision on whether to scratch the horse from the competition will be made by the judge and committee based on the best interest of the horse.

In addition, any unacceptable treatment directed towards a horse by any person is strictly prohibited.

## **Grievance Procedure**

Sporting Horse Australia understands that members, parents and associates may have concerns relating to certain aspects of the SHA. The SHA requests that any concerns be put in writing and lodge with the committee for the issue(s) to be addressed.

Sporting Horse Australia is committed to providing a safe and fun environment for all participants and as such we will not tolerate abusive, aggressive, bullying, threatening or any other inappropriate behaviour by our members, their families and/or friends when training or taking part in club-sanctioned activities or whilst competing at any event conducted under SHA rules.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understood this policy and will abide by it as a member of SPORTING HORSE AUSTRALIA. I understand that if I (or any child under 18 years of age in my care) breaches this Code of Conduct that sanctions can and will be imposed upon the offending party as per the rules in the Sporting Horse Australia rule book 16<sup>th</sup> edition.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_