



**U18 ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM**

2025 Rider, Parent and Coach Guide

The Alberta Horse Trials High Performance Team is pleased to announce the addition of a third tier to the program. This will be an Under 18 (U18) program.

The U18 Program is designed to support riders in the age group of 12-18 years who are competing at the EV 90 (Pretraining) level and above. It is our hope that these educational opportunities can lead to a greater competence in developing the skills required to compete safely at the level and help the rider to understand how to develop and care for their equine partner.

This program is designed to assist a wide range of riders. Whether they have ambitions to move up the levels and compete internationally or to stay in Alberta and compete at the local level. The U18 Program does not replace full time coaching. Rather, it supplements the program that a rider may already be involved in. It can also act as a stepping stone in developing riders to move on to the High Performance Development Team.

The Qualification Requirements for the U18 program are:

- Rider is in the 12-18 year old age group. Age is determined from the beginning of the calendar year in which a rider turns 12 until the end of the calendar year that they reach the age of 18.
- Horse and Rider (as a combination) have achieved at least 1 qualifying score at the EV 90 (Pre-Training) level or above. Scores must have been obtained during the 2024 competition season.
- Rider must be a member in good standing with Alberta Equestrian Federation and Alberta Horse Trials Assoc. Current memberships must be in place by the time the first mounted clinic is held.

Clinics will consist of mounted and unmounted sessions and will be held on the same date, at the same location as the High Performance Clinics. However, the U18 riders will have their own clinician (if numbers and funding allows). The U18 Clinicians will be hired from out of province to allow riders to gain valuable experience from a variety of national or international instructors.

Riders wishing to be considered to represent Alberta/Canada at the USEF Eventing Youth Championships should be an active member of the U18 or High Performance team. The placement of a rider on a team is not automatic. The Athlete Development Chairperson (Kathleen Ziegler) is responsible to sign off that a rider is considered safe and competent at the level which they wish to compete at. The Selection Committee is responsible for assisting in choosing the riders who will be named to represent Alberta. It is very difficult for them to do that if they have not seen the rider attend the clinics and watched them prepare for the technicalities of the competition.

U18 team riders are expected to set a great example of horsemanship and sportsmanship. They should be committed to the program by showing up, ready to work hard and by responding to the HP Chairperson's emails. Riders should be prepared at the clinics with clean tack, groomed horse and wearing neat/tidy clothing.

We understand that scheduling conflicts may arise but it is the rider's responsibility to communicate if they are unable to attend a clinic.

The personal conduct/behaviour of a rider throughout the program reflects on all participants, AHTA and the High Performance Teams. Poor behaviour at clinics and competitions can affect your acceptance onto future teams. Riders agree to adhere to and comply with the Equestrian Canada Code of Conduct and Ethics and the Horse Welfare Code of Conduct (attached to this guide).

The Program Registration fee is \$125. This will be used to cover program expenses such as offsetting clinic fees.

Once it is determined that an applicant has met the qualification requirements of the program, an email will be sent to both the rider and parent/guardian notifying them of such and advising how to make the registration payment.

Fundraising will be discussed, once the riders have been accepted into the program. The aim of this is to help offset the clinic registration fees and make the educational opportunities more affordable.

Registration applications (fully completed) will be due by December 31, 2024.

Please send via email to Kathleen Ziegler at ahtahighperformance@gmail.com

2024 Clinic Schedule

March 23/24 - Clinician Leahona Rowland. Location TBA

April 13/14 - Clinician Leahona Rowland. Location Kaspian Equestrian, Olds, AB

May 11/12 – Clinician Leahona Rowland XC Clinic at Cochrane.

June 28/29 OR June 30/July 1 - Clinicians Rebecca Howard and Peter Gray. Clinic location is Alhambra Stables

Fall Clinic TBD, depending on rider interest

High Performance is in the progress of scheduling some unmounted educational sessions to be delivered via Zoom. This info will be shared with the U18 riders, once all of the details are finalized.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Canadian Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) aka Qualifying Scores per EC 2023 Regulations and Qualification Requirements for Athletes and Horses.

An MER is achieved by completing a competition within minimum parameters of allround performance as follows:

- Dressage Test: Not more than 45 penalty points (55%)
- Cross Country: Clear round at obstacles.
- Show Jumping: Not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.



CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

Definitions

1. Refer to the [Universal Code of Conduct to Address and Prevent Maltreatment in Sports](#) for Maltreatment related definitions.
2. Additional Definitions
 - a) “OSIC” – Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner, an independent division of the SDRCC which comprises the functions of the Sport Integrity Commissioner.
 - b) “OSIC Participant” – Anyone who holds or has held an EC Licence who has been designated by EC as subject to the OSIC.
 - c) “Participants” - Anyone who holds or has held an EC Licence or anyone who has consented to be subject to this Policy.
 - d) “Person in Authority” – an Individual who holds a position of authority within Equestrian Canada (EC) including, but not limited to, coaches, managers, trainers, support personnel, chaperones, and Directors.
 - e) “Workplace” – any place where business or work-related activities are conducted. Workplaces include but are not limited to EC’s office, work-related social functions, work assignments outside EC’s offices, work-related travel, and work-related conferences or training sessions.
 - f) “Workplace Harassment” – vexatious comment or conduct against a worker in a Workplace that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome. Workplace Harassment should not be confused with legitimate, reasonable management actions that are part of the normal work/training function, including measures to correct performance deficiencies such as placing someone on a performance improvement plan or imposing discipline for workplace infractions. Types of behaviour that constitute Workplace Harassment include, but are not limited to:
 - i. bullying;
 - ii. workplace pranks, vandalism, bullying, or hazing;
 - iii. repeated offensive or intimidating phone calls or emails;
 - iv. inappropriate sexual touching, advances, suggestions, or requests;
 - v. displaying or circulating offensive pictures, photographs, or materials in printed or electronic form;
 - vi. psychological abuse;
 - vii. excluding or ignoring someone, including persistent exclusion of a particular person from work-related social gatherings;
 - viii. deliberately withholding information that would enable a person to do his or her job, perform, or train;
 - ix. sabotaging someone else’s work or performance;
 - x. gossiping or spreading malicious rumours;
 - xi. intimidating words or conduct (offensive jokes or innuendos); and,
 - xii. words or actions that are known or should reasonably be known to be offensive, embarrassing, humiliating, or demeaning.
 - g) “Workplace Violence” – the use or threat of physical force by a person against a worker in a Workplace that causes or could cause physical injury to the worker; an attempt to exercise physical force against a worker in a Workplace that could cause physical injury to the worker; or a statement



or behaviour that is reasonable for a worker to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the worker in a Workplace that could cause physical injury to the worker. Types of behaviour that constitute Workplace Violence include, but are not limited to:

- i. verbal or written threats to attack;
- ii. sending or leaving threatening notes or emails;
- iii. physically threatening behaviour such as shaking a fist at someone, finger pointing, destroying property, or throwing objects;
- iv. wielding a weapon in a Workplace;
- v. hitting, pinching, or unwanted touching that is not accidental;
- vi. dangerous or threatening horseplay;
- vii. physical restraint or confinement;
- viii. blatant or intentional disregard for the safety or wellbeing of others;
- ix. blocking normal movement or physical interference, with or without the use of equipment;
- x. sexual violence; and,
- xi. any attempt to engage in the type of conduct outlined above.

Purpose

3. The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment (within EC's programs, activities, and events) by making Participants aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour consistent with EC's core values. EC is committed to a respectful sport culture that delivers quality, inclusive, accessible, welcoming and safe sport experiences.
4. EC believes that:
 - a) equestrian sport is based on a partnership between the horse and human athlete;
 - b) it is the right and responsibility of EC to set standards in matters of ethics, sportsmanship and the welfare of the horse, and in all matters under its jurisdiction;
 - c) it is desirable to define ethical practices, delineate unethical practices, and encourage good sportsmanship, fair play, and safety;
 - d) all Participants should observe the spirit as well as the letter of this Code; and,
 - e) conduct contrary to this Code may result in disciplinary sanction and/or removal from participation in EC's activities and programs.

Zero Tolerance Statement

5. EC has zero tolerance for any type of Maltreatment of Participants. Participants should report instances of abuse or suspected abuse to EC. EC may take further action pursuant to the provisions of the Code and/or the Discipline, Complaints and Appeal Policy.

Application of this Code

6. EC has adopted the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport ("UCCMS"), as amended from time to time, (provided on EC's [website](#)). All Participants shall be bound by this Code and the UCCMS.
7. EC is a program signatory of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (the "OSIC"), as of April 1st, 2023 (the "Effective Date").



8. EC has designated specific Participants within the organization as OSIC Participants. It is important to note that the UCCMS applies to all Participants, **but not all Participants are OSIC Participants** and subject to the OSIC process.
9. This Code applies to Participants' conduct during EC's business, activities, and events including, but not limited to, competitions, practices, tryouts, lessons, training and caring of horses, training camps, travel associated with EC's activities, EC's office environment, and any meetings.
10. An Individual who violates this Code may be subject to sanctions pursuant to [EC's Discipline, Complaints, and Appeal Policy](#). In addition to facing possible sanction pursuant to EC's [Discipline, Complaints, and Appeal Policy](#), pursuant to the [Corrective Action during events procedure](#), an Individual who violates this Code during a competition may be ejected from the competition, an official may delay the competition until the Individual complies with the ejection, and the Individual may be subject to any additional discipline associated with the particular competition.
11. An employee of EC found to have engaged in acts of violence or harassment against any other employee, worker, contractor, member, customer, supplier, client, or other third-party during business hours, or at any EC event, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action subject to the terms of EC's policies for human resources, as well as the employee's Employment Agreement (if applicable).
12. This Code also applies to Participants' conduct outside of EC's business, activities, and events when such conduct adversely affects relationships within EC (and its work and sport environment) and is detrimental to the image and reputation of EC. Such applicability will be determined by EC at its sole discretion.

Statement of Principles – Horse Welfare

13. EC requires adherence to humane treatment of horses in all activities under its jurisdiction.
14. All participants shall be bound by the [Horse Welfare Code of Conduct](#).
15. EC is committed to:
 - a) upholding the welfare of the horse, regardless of monetary value, as a primary consideration in all activities;
 - b) requiring that horses be treated with kindness, respect, and the compassion that they deserve, and that they never be subjected to maltreatment;
 - c) ensuring that owners, trainers, and exhibitors and their agents exercise appropriate care and responsibility in the handling, treatment, and transportation of their horses, as well as horses placed in their care for any purpose;
 - d) providing for the continuous wellbeing of the horse by encouraging routine inspection and consultation with health care professionals and competition officials to achieve the highest possible standards of nutrition, health, comfort, and safety;
 - e) continuing to support scientific studies on equine health and welfare;
 - f) requiring owners, trainers, and exhibitors to know and follow their sanctioning organization's rules, and to work within industry regulations in all equestrian competitions; and,
 - g) reviewing, revising, and developing competition rules and regulations that protect the welfare of the horse.



Prohibited Behaviours

16. All Participants must refrain from any behaviour that constitutes a Prohibited Behaviour as defined by the UCCMS and this Code.

17. Participants are responsible for knowing what actions or behaviours are Prohibited Behaviours and/or Maltreatment.

18. Prohibited Behaviours under the UCCMS include, but are not limited to:

Physical Maltreatment

Psychological Maltreatment

Sexual Maltreatment

Neglect

Grooming

Aiding and Abetting

Boundary Transgressions

Retaliation

Discrimination

Interference with or Manipulation of Process

Failing to report

False Reports

19. In addition to the Prohibited Behaviours as defined by the UCCMS, the following behaviours are also considered Prohibited Behaviours under this Code:

Bullying

Workplace Harassment

Harassment

Workplace Violence

Responsibilities

20. Participants have a responsibility to:

- a) maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of EC members and other participants by:
 - i. treating each other with the highest standards of respect and integrity;
 - ii. focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees, or members;
 - iii. consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership, and ethical conduct;
 - iv. acting, when appropriate, to correct or prevent practices that are unjustly discriminatory;
 - v. consistently treating participants fairly and reasonably; and,
 - vi. ensuring adherence to the rules of the sport and the spirit of those rules.
- b) refrain from any behaviour that constitutes Maltreatment;
- c) abstain from the non-medical use of drugs or the use of performance-enhancing drugs or methods. More specifically, EC adopts and adheres to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. Any infraction under this Program shall be considered an infraction of this Code and may be subject to further disciplinary action, and possible sanction, pursuant to EC's *Discipline, Complaints, and Appeal Policy*. EC will respect any penalty enacted pursuant to a breach of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, whether imposed by EC or any other sport organization;
- d) refrain from associating with any person for the purpose of coaching, training, competition, instruction, administration, management, athletic development, or supervision of the sport who has incurred an anti-doping rule violation and is serving a sanction involving a period of



- ineligibility imposed pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program and/or the World Anti-Doping Code and recognized by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES);
- e) refrain from associating with any person for the purpose of coaching, training, competition, instruction, administration, management, athletic development, or supervision of the sport who has incurred a safe sport violation and is serving a sanction involving a period of ineligibility;
 - f) refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities;
 - g) refrain from consuming tobacco products or recreational drugs while participating in EC's programs, activities, competitions, or events;
 - h) in the case of minors, not consume alcohol, tobacco, or cannabis at any competition or event;
 - i) in the case of adults, not consume cannabis in the Workplace or in any situation associated with EC's events (subject to any requirements for accommodation), not consume alcohol during competitions and in situations where minors are present, and take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcohol in adult-oriented social situations associated with EC's events;
 - j) respect the property of others and not willfully cause property damage;
 - k) promote the sport in the most constructive and positive manner possible;
 - l) when driving a vehicle with a Participant, exercise all due cautions and respect all applicable laws.
 - m) adhere to all federal, provincial, municipal, and host country laws;
 - n) refrain from engaging in or assisting with any form of bribing, cheating, or manipulation of the outcome of a competition; and,
 - o) comply, at all times, with EC's bylaws, policies, procedures, and rules and regulations, as adopted and amended from time to time.

Directors, Committee Members, and Staff

21. In addition to the above section on general responsibilities for all Participants, EC's Directors, Committee Members, and Staff will have additional responsibilities to:
- a) function primarily as a Director or Committee Member of EC, not as a member of any other particular group or constituency;
 - b) act with honesty and integrity, and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the nature and responsibilities of EC's business;
 - c) ensure that EC's financial affairs are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities;
 - d) conduct themselves openly, professionally, lawfully, and in good faith in the best interests of EC;
 - e) be independent and impartial, and not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward, or fear of criticism;
 - f) behave with decorum appropriate to both circumstance and position;
 - g) keep informed about EC's activities, the sport community, and general trends in the sectors in which it operates;
 - h) exercise the degree of care, diligence, and skill required in the performance of their duties pursuant to the laws under which EC is incorporated;
 - i) respect all requirements for confidentiality;
 - j) respect the decisions of the majority and resign if unable to do so;
 - k) commit the time to attend meetings and be diligent in preparation for, and participation in, discussions at such meetings;
 - l) have a thorough knowledge and understanding of all EC governance documents; and,



- m) conform to the bylaws and policies approved by EC.

Coaches and Instructors

22. In addition to the above section on general responsibilities for all Participants, coaches have many additional responsibilities. The coach-athlete relationship is a privileged one and plays a critical role in the personal, sport, and athletic development of the athlete. Coaches must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it, consciously or unconsciously. Coaches will:
- a) ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, stage of athletic development, experience, ability, and fitness level of the involved Participants and horses;
 - b) prepare athletes and their horses systematically and progressively, using appropriate time frames and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm athletes and / or their horses;
 - c) avoid compromising the present and future health of athletes and / or horses by communicating and cooperating with sport medicine professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of medical and psychological treatments for both athletes and horses;
 - d) support the coaching staff of a training camp, provincial team, or national team, should an athlete qualify for participation with one of these programs;
 - e) accept and promote athletes' personal goals and refer athletes to other coaches and sports specialists as appropriate;
 - f) provide athletes (and the parents/guardians of minor athletes) with the information necessary to be involved in the decisions that affect the athlete;
 - g) act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person;
 - h) comply with EC's *Screening Policy*;
 - i) report to EC any ongoing criminal investigation, conviction, or existing bail conditions they are under, including those for violence, child pornography, or possession, use, or sale of any illegal substance;
 - j) under no circumstances provide, promote, or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or performance-enhancing substances and, in the case of minors, alcohol and/or tobacco;
 - k) respect athletes training with other coaches and with other teams and refrain from discussing topics or actions which are deemed to be within the realm of coaching with such athletes, unless first receiving approval from the coaches who are responsible for the athletes;
 - l) never engage in a sexual relationship with an athlete under the age of 25;
 - m) disclose any sexual or intimate relationship with an athlete over the age of 25 to EC;
 - n) recognize the power inherent in the position of coach and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy), informed participation, and fair and reasonable treatment. Coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights; and,
 - o) use inoffensive language, taking into account the audience being addressed.



Persons in Authority

23. Participants in a position of Authority are responsible for knowing what constitutes Maltreatment. The categories of Maltreatment are not mutually exclusive, nor are the examples provided in each category of the UCCMS an exhaustive list.
24. It is a violation of this Code for sport administrators or other Persons in Authority to place Participants in situations that make them vulnerable to Maltreatment.
25. All Persons in Authority will adhere to [Coaching Association of Canada's Rule of Two](#):
- minor athletes shall never be alone with a Person of Authority. A second Coach or Person in Authority should be with them or within eyesight or earshot. With adult athletes, it is recommended to also apply the Rule of Two;
 - screened parents or other volunteers will be available in situations when two Persons in Authority cannot be present;
 - for groups of athletes consisting of just one gender identity, a Person in Authority of the same gender identity will be available to participate in or attend every interaction. For groups consisting of athletes of more than one gender identity, a Person of Authority of each gender identity will be available to participate or attend every interaction.
26. All Persons in Authority who communicate with athletes will have additional responsibilities to:
- use group messages, group emails, or team pages as the regular method of communication between Persons in Authority and athletes;
 - send personal texts, direct messages on social media, or emails to individual athletes when necessary and only for the purpose of communicating information related to group issues and activities (e.g. non-personal information);
 - be professional in tone and for the purpose of communicating information related to group issues or activities;
 - communicate with athletes between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and midnight unless extenuating circumstances exist;
 - not communicate about drugs or alcohol use (unless regarding its prohibition);
 - not use sexually explicit language or imagery, or hold sexually oriented conversation with athletes;
 - not ask athletes to keep a secret for them; and,
 - not become overly involved in an athlete's personal life.
27. All Persons in Authority who travel with athlete will have additional responsibilities to:
- not be alone in a car with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian;
 - not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian;
 - perform room or bed checks during overnight stays with two Persons in Authority; and,
 - ensure for overnight travel with athletes sharing a hotel room, that roommates will be age-appropriate (within two (2) years of age) and of the same gender identity.
28. EC understands that some physical contact between Persons in Authority and athletes may be necessary for various reasons including, but not limited to, teaching a skill, or tending to an injury. All Persons in Authority will have additional responsibilities to:



- a) unless it is not possible because of serious injury or other circumstance, always ask the athlete's permission to make physical contact, specifically indicating where and why any touch will occur. The Person in Authority must make clear that they are *requesting* to touch the athlete and not *requiring* the physical contact;
 - b) make amends when needed, such as an apology or explanation, to further help educate athletes on the difference between appropriate and inappropriate contact; and,
 - c) not initiate hugging, cuddling, physical horseplay, and physical contact. EC is aware that some younger athletes may initiate hugging or other physical contact with a Person in Authority for various reasons (e.g. crying after a poor performance) but this physical contact should always be limited.
29. All Persons in Authority will have additional responsibilities regarding changing area and meeting room to:
- a) not interact with an athlete in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as a meeting room, washroom, or changing area. A second Person in Authority should be present for any necessary interaction in any such room; and,
 - b) still be available outside the locker room or changing area and able to enter the room or area if required.

Athletes

30. In addition to the above section on general responsibilities for all Participants, athletes will have additional responsibilities to:
- a) report any medical problems in a timely fashion when such problems may limit their ability to travel, practice, or compete;
 - b) participate and appear on time and prepared to participate to their best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, tryouts, tournaments, and events;
 - c) properly represent themselves and not attempt to participate in a competition for which they are not eligible by reason of age, classification, or other reason;
 - d) adhere to EC's rules and requirements regarding clothing and equipment;
 - e) act in a sportsmanlike manner and not display appearances of violence, foul language, or gestures to other athletes, officials, coaches, or spectators; and,
 - f) act in accordance with EC's policies and procedures and, when applicable, additional rules as outlined by coaches or managers.

Officials

31. In addition to the above section on general responsibilities for all Participants, officials will have additional responsibilities to:
- a) maintain and update their knowledge of the rules and rule changes;
 - b) refrain from publicly criticizing other officials or any club or association;
 - c) work within the boundaries of their position's description while supporting the work of other officials;
 - d) act as an ambassador of EC by agreeing to enforce and abide by national and provincial rules, regulations and policies;
 - e) take ownership of actions and decisions made while officiating;
 - f) respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all Participants and horses;
 - g) act openly, impartially, professionally, lawfully, and in good faith;
 - h) be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others;



- i) respect the confidentiality required by issues of a sensitive nature, which may include ejections, defaults, forfeits, discipline processes, appeals, and specific information or data about Participants;
- j) honour all assignments unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency, and in these cases inform the assignor or association at the earliest possible time; and
- k) be accurate and fulsome when writing reports, taking care to record only true statements and facts.



**EQUESTRIAN
CANADA
ÉQUESTRE**

HORSE WELFARE CODE OF CONDUCT

2022-05-09



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Definitions

In this policy,

“Horse” – refers to an active equine under Equestrian Canada (EC) jurisdiction. That jurisdiction is limited to Horses participating in any EC sanctioned events, on any EC sanctioned teams, and or any Horse under the care and training of any Individual, whether at an EC sanctioned event or otherwise.

“Individual”- refers to a person that has a relationship with EC through employment, contract, volunteer position, official status, or the holding of a sport licence and/or coach status.

“Abuse” – refers to physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, hoarding, or other treatment of a Horse deemed cruel, harmful, distressful, or violent in nature.

Preamble & Purpose

1. Equestrian Canada (EC) is committed to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all participants that is free from Abuse. The purpose of this Policy is to stress the importance of that commitment by educating Individuals and the public about Horse Abuse, outlining how EC will work to prevent Horse Abuse, and how such Abuse or suspected Abuse can be reported to and addressed by EC.
2. EC requires that all Individuals adhere to this Code of Conduct and acknowledge and accept that the welfare of the Horse must always be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences. EC is committed to:
 - a) upholding the welfare of the Horse, regardless of value and performance level, as the primary priority regardless of competitive commitments, expectations, or commercial influences;
 - b) requiring the Horse be treated with the highest level of care, compassion, respect, and empathy;
 - c) requiring that no Horse be subjected to Abuse (ref: Rules of Equestrian Canada, Section A General Regulations, Article A517) or maltreatment;
 - d) ensuring that all Individuals accept and implement, at a minimum, the requirements within the National Farm Animal Care Council Equine Code of Practice;
 - e) ongoing support for scientific studies of animal-based indicators of pain, distress, and/or compromised welfare;
 - f) increasing education and awareness for the evolution of best management and equine husbandry practices;
 - g) requiring Individuals to know and follow the EC Rules and implement industry regulations in all competitions; and
 - h) reviewing, revising, and developing competition rules and regulations that protect the welfare of the Horse.

Zero Tolerance Statement

3. EC has zero tolerance for Abuse of a Horse. All Individuals and members of the public are required to report instances of Horse Abuse or suspected Horse Abuse to EC which shall immediately address such reports as needed under the terms of the applicable policies.



Complaint Process

4. The complaint process for instances of Abuse of a Horse will be governed by EC's [Discipline, Complaints and Appeals policy](#).

General Welfare

5. All Horses must be cared for in accordance with the [Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines](#).

Examples of Abuse of Horses (source)

6. "Physical Abuse" – refers to the infliction of injuries or causing unnecessary pain and/or suffering. This Abuse may be caused by hitting, kicking, throwing, beating, whipping, spurring, shaking, poisoning, burning, scalding, suffocation, etc.

Examples of Physical Abuse include but are not limited to:

- a) nosebands used in such a way that they interfere with a Horse's breathing, or be tight enough to cause pain or discomfort;
 - b) excessively whipping or beating a Horse;
 - c) subjecting a Horse to any kind of electric shock device;
 - d) excessively or persistently using spurs or jabbing a Horse in the mouth with the bit;
 - e) riding/driving an obviously exhausted, lame or injured Horse;
 - f) rapping a Horse (poling or rapping is the practice of hitting a horse on the legs as it goes over a jump, to make it think it hit the fence).
 - g) hyper-sensitizing any part of a Horse;
 - h) using shackles or chains (not to be confused with rubber or elastic exercising devices);
 - i) competing with a Horse with raw or bleeding sores;
 - j) using an explosive (i.e. firecracker, fire extinguisher except in the case of fire) or using fire such as lighters, matches, etc.;
 - k) ignoring adverse medication reactions that compromise the Horse's welfare (including but not limited to staggering and falling down) ;
 - l) inappropriate or over-use of medications, drugs, and supplements in both on label and off label scenarios; or
 - m) excess of use in activity, lesson, training, or competition to which physical or emotional impacts are demonstrated.
7. "Emotional Abuse" – refers to persistent threatening behavior, failure to provide basic needs, bullying, excessive teasing, exploitation, or coercion that leads to a fragile emotional state.

Examples of Emotional Abuse include but are not limited to:

- a) on-going and deliberate isolation that results in emotional or psychological distress;
- b) training practices that are either mentally or physically inadequate for a Horse's capabilities;
- c) failing to intervene or diffuse a Horse displaying mental/emotional distress including excessive stereotypical behavior (such as crib biting, wood chewing, pawing/kicking, weaving, fence-pacing, stall-walking, or flank biting).



8. Neglect is defined as a lack of care, often resulting from ignorance, poverty, or extenuating circumstances. Neglect usually results in a failure to provide the basic necessities of life: adequate levels of food, water, shelter, veterinary care, grooming, or sanitation resulting in poor physical conditions.

Examples of neglect include but are not limited to:

- a) leaving a Horse without adequate food, drink, and exercise;
 - b) failing to safely and securely tie or contain a Horse while at the event location.
9. Hoarding: Animal neglect on a large scale involving multiple numbers of animals and frequently inadequate housing and husbandry conditions.
 10. Animal sexual abuse: Any abusive act involving the rectum, anus, or genitalia; or sexual contact with animals which may or may not result in physical injury to the animal.

This list and set of examples is not intended to be exhaustive.

Extreme Weather Conditions:

11. Competitors and competition organisers must observe the Equestrian Canada guidelines provided for extremely hot, cold, and poor air quality conditions during competition (attached links).

Duty to Report Abuse

12. Anyone that witnesses or has reasonable grounds to believe that a Horse is suffering or has suffered Abuse, is obligated to report it. Reasonable grounds refer to the information that an average person, using normal and honest judgment, would need to decide to report. A person should not rely on anyone else to report on their behalf nor delegate the reporting. Anyone providing information to others should be encouraged to report their concerns themselves as their duty to report.

In determining whether to report the Abuse to EC, local animal welfare enforcement, or law enforcement, the person should use as much information as they have available to them about the Horse or the person(s) involved. Reports of Abuse involving Individuals or Horses as defined in this policy should be reported to EC. Other reports should be directed to animal welfare or law enforcement. When in doubt, a person should make contact with their report and the receiving agency will direct them as appropriate.

Penalty Range is a Guideline Only

13. The penalty types and ranges below are simple guidelines and are not mandatory. These guidelines are intended to provide a basis upon which discretion can be exercised consistently in like circumstances but are not binding on the Hearing Committee Panels. Depending on the facts and circumstances of each case, a Hearing Committee Panel may determine that no purpose is served by imposing a penalty at all. Conversely, a Hearing Committee Panel may determine that the facts and circumstances of a specific case may call for the imposition of penalties above or outside of the stated range. Examples include, but not are limited to, prior rule violations, egregious misconduct, the need for increased deterrence, or certain policy considerations.



Categories of Rule Violations & Sanctions

Infraction	Policy	Fine	Suspension
15. Excessive use of whip or spurs or tongue straps and improper use of bits *	Horse Welfare Code of Conduct	First Offense: up to \$6,000.00 Second Offense: up to \$12,000.00 Third Offense: up to \$24,000.00	First Offense: up to 6 months Second Offense: up to 12 months Third Offense: up to 24 months
16. Use of illegal equipment*** with no intent to cause harm or pain to a Horse or which doesn't cause harm or pain to a Horse *	Horse Welfare Code of Conduct	Discretion of the Hearing Panel	
17. Intentional use of illegal equipment*** to cause harm or pain to a Horse *	Horse Welfare Code of Conduct	First Offense: up to \$12,000.00 Second Offense: up to \$18,000.00 Third Offense: up to \$36,000.00	First Offense: up to 12 months Second Offense: up to 18 months Third Offense **: up to 36 months
18. Cruelty/Abuse/Neglect – Includes excessive riding, lunging, training and showing, deprivation of water and feed, striking with an object, unintentional death, and violations of the 12-hour injection rule involving forbidden substances for purpose of competition. *	Horse Welfare Code of Conduct	First Offense: up to \$12,000.00 Second Offense: up to \$24,000.00 Third Offense: up to \$60,000.00	First Offense: up to 12 months Second Offense: up to 24 months Third Offense: up to 60 months **
19. Death and Maiming – Includes acts in which the death of a Horse occurred, but was not intended *	Horse Welfare Code of Conduct	First Offense: up to \$36,000.00 Second Offense: up to \$60,000.00 Third Offense: up to \$100,000.00	First Offense: up to 36 months ** Second Offense: up to 60 months ** Third Offense: Lifetime ban
20. Intentional death for financial or other means	Horse Welfare Code of Conduct	\$100,000.00	Lifetime ban
* If there are multiple horses involved, the penalty should apply to each Horse and run consecutively.			



Infraction	Policy	Fine	Suspension
<p>** Must appear before the Hearing Panel and provide proof of rehabilitation before being eligible to regain membership.</p> <p>*** Illegal equipment are modifications to tack/equipment to cause intentional pain or injury with the objective of punishment or to enhance performance as well as any equipment or accessories that admit or cause electric shock.</p>			



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