



# **Code of Conduct** *and Regulations*



# Code of Conduct and Regulations

## *EquusTerra* Therapeutic Riding Centre and Grounds

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### 1.1 Objects

This Code of Conduct promotes the primary interests of horse welfare and public safety at EquusTerra, as based on the Code of Horse Welfare of the Federation Equestrienne Internationale (FEI).

### 1.2 General

- a) This Code of Conduct may be altered or added to from time to time at the discretion of EquusTerra, and any such alterations will be advised to Participants.
- b) All Participants must adhere to this Code of Conduct as well as to the *Code of Conduct for Horse Activities*.
- c) It is a condition of use that all Participants agree to be bound by this Code of Conduct.

## Entry to EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre

### 2.1 Entry, Vehicles and Parking

- a) Access to the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre is shared by all Participants.
- b) Pedestrians and horses have right of way at the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre.
- c) A Participant must park a vehicle (including horsefloats) within the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre with the discretion of the Centre Director/Manager. The Centre does not assume any responsibilities for damages or theft of a vehicle or horse float.
- d) A Participant must not park or leave a vehicle parked within the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre after closing time except with the written permission of the Centre Manager.

### 2.2 Domestic pets

- a) The Participant will not allow any dog, cat or any domestic or exotic animal which is not a horse or pony to be brought onto or kept on the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre or the ground without permission of the Director/Manager.
- b) The Participant will not tether a dog to the fence of the Equestrian Grounds.
- c) Any dogs brought to the premises must be kept on the leash and the waste removed promptly.

### 2.3 Smoking

The Participant acknowledges that EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre is a smoke-free workplace under the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* and that it is an offence for the Participant to smoke in or around EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre other than in Designated Smoking Areas.

## 2.4 Noise

The Participant must not engage in any disruptive behaviour or make any excessive noise in the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre or in the vicinity of horses.

## Rider Safety and Conduct

### 3.1 Dangerous Recreational Activity Warning

EquusTerra advises and the Participant acknowledges that horse riding is a dangerous recreational activity which involves a significant risk of harm, including injury and death.

The Participant acknowledges that the Participant rides at the Participant's own risk.

### 3.2 Rider Safety and Conduct

- a) All Participants must conduct themselves in consideration and respect for fellow Participants.
- b) A professional level of conduct in keeping with industry standards is to be maintained at all times.
- c) All ridden horses must be bridled.
- d) A Participant shall not ride a horse unless appropriate riding boots are worn.
- e) All ridden horses must wear a saddle of an approved type which does not include jockey or training pads or short stirrups.
- f) A Participant shall not ride a horse unless the Participant is wearing a properly fitted helmet that provides an adequate level of protection against physical trauma to the head.
  - 1) Helmets that comply with AS/NZS 3838, EN 1384 or ASTM F1163 and are less than five years old from the date of manufacture are deemed to provide an adequate level of protection to the wearer in all circumstances.
  - 2) Helmets that have had significant impacts (i.e. where the strength and integrity of the shell is likely to have been compromised) or have been otherwise structurally damaged must not be used.
  - 3) The chinstrap must be attached and used.

# Horse Care

## 4.1 Daily checks

All Participants of the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre shall:

- a) Check each horse under the Participant's care and control at least once a day to ensure that the horse:
  - (i) appears normal and healthy; and
  - (ii) eats, drinks, defecates, urinates, behaves and moves normally; and
- b) If any sign of disease and/or injury is observed, ensure appropriate treatment is promptly provided to protect the health of the individual horse and/or to prevent the spread of disease.

## 4.2 Veterinary treatment

- a) The Participant will, in respect of each horse under the Participant's care and control, ensure that veterinary treatment is sought from the veterinarian nominated by the Centre Manager if any of the following signs of illness or injury are observed:
  - (i) nasal discharge;
  - (ii) runny or inflamed eyes;
  - (iii) coughing;
  - (iv) laboured breathing;
  - (v) lameness;
  - (vi) fits or staggering;
  - (vii) severe diarrhoea;
  - (viii) bleeding, swelling or ulcerated body parts;
  - (ix) unexplained weight loss;
  - (x) apparent pain;
  - (xi) inability to urinate or defecate;
  - (xii) repeated or continuous rolling, pawing, kicking at abdomen or sweating;
  - (xiii) poor appetite;
  - (xiv) dropping food or chewing with difficulty;
  - (xv) excessive distress during work; or
  - (xvi) excessive scratching or hair loss.
- b) The Participant will, in respect of each horse under the Participant's care and control, ensure that those horses:
  - (i) are vaccinated against tetanus at least every five years and strangles every 12 months. Written evidence of such vaccinations must be submitted to the Centre Manager;
  - (ii) have their teeth checked and filed if necessary every twelve months.

## 4.3 Minimum standards

The Participant will ensure that the following minimum standards of horse care are observed in respect of each horse under the Participant's care and control:

- a) After exercising, horses must be cooled down and cleaned;
- b) Horses must be rugged according to weather conditions;

- c) Basic grooming standards must be maintained (feet cleaned and dressed regularly; coat, mane and tail groomed and washed regularly);
- d) Drinking water must be provided in stables at all times;
- e) Horses must be fed at least twice daily and in such quantities according to their size and workload. Intervals between feeds should be no greater than 12 hours when stabled.



The normal physiological ranges for a horse's vital statistics are:

- Temperature: 37.5°C to 38.5°C
- Resting heart rate: 20-40 beats per minute
- Resting respiration rate: 12-20 breaths per minute.

#### 4.4 Infectious illness

In the event of an occurrence of any exotic disease in a horse or other animal at the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre, as defined or declared under the *Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1981 (QLD)*, the Participant will:

- a) Notify the Director, Centre Manager and any veterinarian operating at the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre;
- b) Comply with any direction, order or requirement of the veterinarian or of any proper public authority including any biosecurity protocol;
- c) Comply with any direction, order or requirement of the Centre; and
- d) Act in the best interests of the horses.

#### 4.5 Exercising of Horses

All Participants of the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre shall, unless otherwise approved by the Centre Director/Manager ensure that horses are:

- a) Exercised daily;
- b) Exercised appropriately for their age, size, health and fitness;
- c) Not ridden unless properly saddled and bridled;
- d) Not left loose within the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre at any time with their tack on;
- e) Not left unattended in arenas, exercise yards, wash bays, and lunging yards;
- f) Led by a bit when walking as exercise.



## 4.6 No cruelty to horses

- a) No Participant will act cruelly to any horse. Acting cruelly includes, but is not limited to:
- (i) the excessive use of whips or spurs;
  - (ii) the use of whips around a horse's head;
  - (iii) making a demand of exercise beyond the capabilities or fitness of the horse;
  - (iv) the use of ill-fitting or broken tack or equipment which causes pain; or
  - (v) the riding of a lame horse.
- b) The Centre Director/Manager reserves the right to direct Participants not to act cruelly, in the Centre Manager's absolute discretion, or to report the cruelty to the RSPCA or any relevant Government Agency.

# Rules of Riding

## 5.1 Rules of Riding

These arena traffic rules are based on the EFA Dressage Arena Traffic Rules. If you do not understand them or any of the terms used in them you must ask the Centre Director/Manager to explain them to you before you start riding in the arenas/riding areas.

There are two overriding rules:

- watch where you are going
- avoid collisions

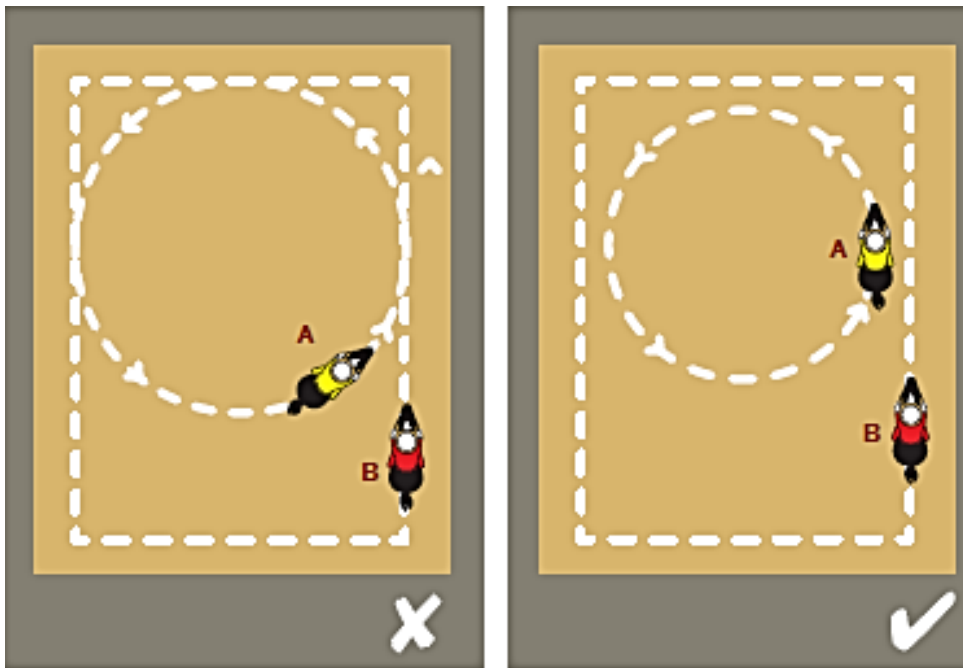
### General Rules

The following rules must be obeyed in all arenas within the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre and the grounds:

- Before entering the arena, the gateway and immediate track must be clear.
- Walk on the inside track. (The inside track is approximately 2.5 metres from the boundary of the arena – enough for two horses to pass easily side by side outside the walking horse). No walking on the outside track including lateral movements.
- Slower pace gives way to (i.e. moves off the track) faster pace.
- Lesser movements must give way to more advanced movements anywhere on the arena.
- Diagonal line must give way to a circle.

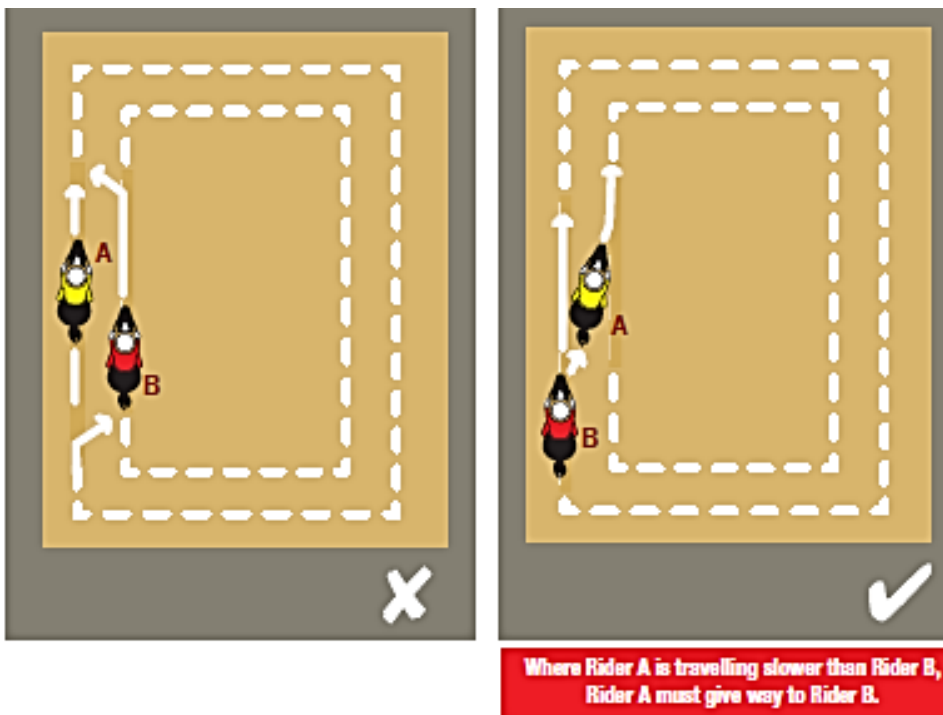


f) A circle must give way to the outside track.



Walk must give way to all other movements.  
 Trot must give way to all other movements except walk.  
 Canter must give way to lateral movements for example some lateral movements are shoulder-in, travers, half-pass and pirouettes.

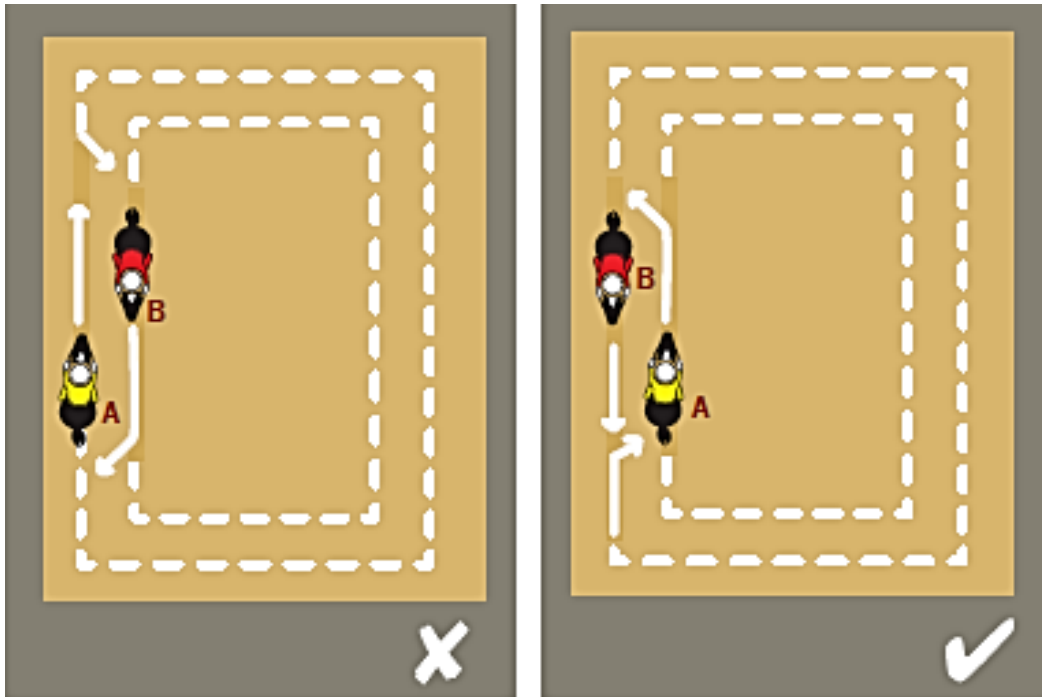
g) For horses on the outside track:  
 (i) if going in the same direction, faster to the outside and slower to the inside, and so no overtaking on the inside – especially on a circle.



Where Rider A is travelling slower than Rider B, Rider A must give way to Rider B.

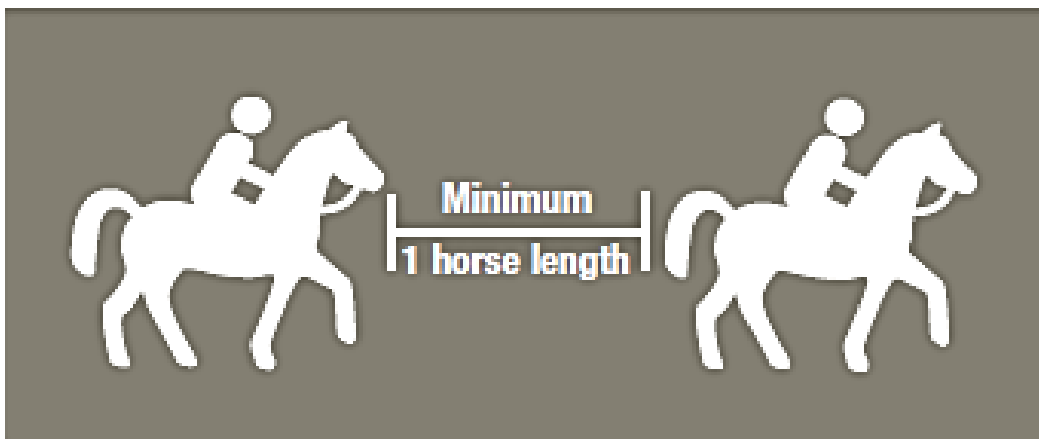


(ii) if going in the opposite direction in the same gait, pass left hand to left hand.



(iii) no halting, mounting, dismounting, or gear adjustment.

(h) Leave at least one horse distance from the horse in front.



## Duty to Report Incidents

### 6.1 Duty to report incidents

All:

- a) accidents (physical injuries);
- b) serious incidents (near misses) where there is no actual physical injury;
- c) incidents which may have the potential for psychological trauma (e.g. a horse bolting); and
- d) incidents involving property damage

are to be reported immediately (or as soon as is reasonably possible) to the Centre Director/Manager, the rider and/or instructor involved may be required to complete an Incident Report.

## Private Client Requirements

### 7.1 Fees & Insurances

- a) All fees as advised are payable within 7 days of private tuition session and are subject to annual review.
- b) The Centre provides Public Liability insurance with respect to Participants or horses through EBM Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd ( ABN 31 009 179 640) and is insured with Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's W.R. Berkley Insurance (Europe), Limited.

The risk of property damage or personal injury from the stables area or any part of the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre or Equestrian Grounds rests with the Participant.

- c) Participants not complying with this Code of Conduct will be subject to one verbal warning and one written warning before being directed to leave the lands on the basis that the EquusTerra Therapeutic Riding Centre Code of Conduct conditions have been breached and the riding opportunities are forfeited.