

## Equine Safety Rules & Guidance

(Ref: EOHS-03 Version 3 2008)

**Equines and competing with them is a dangerous sport and therefore you enter this Show at your own risk.**

1. Please note if you are affiliated to an equine society, these rules should be read in-conjunction with their own rules & regulations. The Edenbridge & Oxted Show Society does not accept responsibility from those equine societies that transfers their health & safety obligations to us.
2. As an overriding requirement as prescribed in the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, it is your responsibility to take reasonable care for the health & safety of yourself.
3. If you have recently been involved in an accident, please ensure your General Practitioner or other Medical Expert, has given you approval to compete
4. It is your responsibility to report any accidents to the Secretary's Office if possible immediately, or at the latest within 7 days of the incident, to enable the Society to complete the relevant Accident Form
5. Always walk the course to ensure that your equines would be safe and that obstacles [intended or not] shall not cause the equine to spook and cause harm to others.
6. Always wear a correctly-fitted riding hat when mounted, which has been manufactured to the current approved standard [e.g. PAS 015/BS EN 1384/ BSI Kitemark]. It shall be securely fastened at all times. Make sure it is in good condition and, if you fall on it, have it replaced immediately. The only exception is for Classes 107; 206; 207 and that you have signed the Hard Hat Waiver Form.
7. We advise you whenever possible, that safety riding hats should also be worn by all equine controllers such as grooms, when dismounted on the ground and competing in an "in hand" class
8. Never ride an equine without a saddle and bridle which has been securely fitted
9. Galloping and cantering is not permitted anywhere other than in the Show or Collecting Rings [when safe to do so] and any other designated practice area.
10. Please be aware of uneven ground [including holes] and wet weather, as they may cause your equine to slip and fall.
11. When mounted, always wear sensible footwear with a solid heel - never wear Wellingtons or trainers
12. Always check your tack before you set off to make sure that nothing is broken, and that stitching is in good order, especially on stirrup leathers and girths. Make sure the stirrup iron is large enough to fit your foot/boot
13. Always show courtesy to other showground users - a smile or nod of thanks is all that is required as this means you do not have to take your hands off the reins
14. Ensure you have comprehensive insurance to protect yourself and at the very least, make sure you have valid third-party public liability insurance cover to protect others, which can be obtained through a broker or specialist insurance provider such as the British Horse Society and the British Driving Society
15. Always carry the name and telephone number of someone who can be contacted in the event of an emergency, as well as details about yourself and contact details for your vet.
16. At equestrian & pedestrian crossings, please comply with the Stewards instructions on when it is safe to pass
17. Only designated equine routes [Horse Walks] can be used
18. Please be aware that some horses may be alarmed if in the close vicinity of Donkeys or Driven Horses. Irrespective of this, please show respect to their handlers at all times.
19. When mounted on equine or carriage, riders, drivers and/or grooms in control, shall wear the allocated Competitors Number to aid identification
20. Riding equines within any public area or vehicle park area, is prohibited, unless riding specifically to the Show Ring to compete
21. No person can lead more than one equine at a time.
22. Wherever possible, keep your distance from all equines as they can be unpredictable and cause harm by kicking, crushing, biting etc
23. Please remember you are responsible for all equines under your control and you have a duty of care to protect those persons within the vicinity of your activities
24. Be aware of loud and sudden noises as these may cause your equines to "bolt".
25. Competitors should ensure that their equines do not get loose at any time
26. Only bona fide riders and their grooms can enter the collecting ring
27. Use the correct "bit" appropriate to your equine to enhance control
28. Any equine controller mistreating an animal shall be asked to leave the showground immediately and no refunds shall be made. In severe cases, we reserve the right to notify the relevant authorities.

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29. Please ensure you are adequately trained to assure you are competent to handle equines
30. Consider adverse weather conditions such as high winds which can cause your equine to veer off course
31. If you observe any incidents that may cause an accident such as "horse play" please report it to a Steward.
32. Provide a good standard of general horse/pony handling for activities such as loading/unloading; handling in restricted areas, etc.
33. Extra care should be taken when operating near vulnerable persons e.g. elderly; children; non English Speakers; those who are disabled etc
34. All equines [Horses, Ponies, Donkeys etc] over six months of age must be fully vaccinated against equine influenza and tetanus.
35. When reversing trailers and horse boxes, do so with great care and preferably with the aid of a second party
36. No equine shall be left unattended [e.g. tethered to grass or horse box] other than those retained in a horse box.
37. Competitors shall not interfere with another competitor's horse or its performance which may cause an accident or incident.
38. Unruly horses may be ordered to withdraw for the safety of all persons and no refunds shall not be given
39. Substances should not be administered to your equines that may cause an adverse behavioural change
40. For those competing in driving classes, you shall ensure that their carriages etc are properly maintained and fit for purpose
41. For carriages that are moving within the public areas, they shall be escorted by a steward or other banksman to ensure the safety of others, who are wearing an appropriate high visibility vest
42. Carriages/carts have the capability of becoming unstable and potentially turning over. Drivers and grooms shall be aware of the potential injuries that may occur in the event of an incident [harm & death]
43. Safe procedures shall be adopted when harnessing and un-harnessing equines for driving classes; or tacking up etc in the case of all other classes
44. Please remember you or your agents may need a Vehicle Safety Certificate if transporting horses for hire or reward on journeys of over 65km or up to 8 hours; or transporting someone else's horses for economic payment; or transporting horses as part of their business
45. In the interest of safety, long hair shall be secured appropriately
46. Stirrup irons and leathers should hang freely from the bar and outside the flap
47. For your own safety, do not stand between a mare & foal, or indeed a stallion related or otherwise to those equines
48. When preparing and grooming your equine you may well be using sharp instruments such as scissors. Please be aware that these should be used with caution
49. Stallions are unpredictable and should only be handled by a trained adult
50. The Show Society shall provide adequate medical services during the shows public opening times
51. The Judges have the right to refuse entry into any class if they believe it is in the interest of safety and no refunds shall be given
52. It is also your responsibility to consider the health and welfare of your equines which includes sufficient water & shade [also remembering not to keep dogs in vehicles that may cause them distress]
53. The Show Society and its Officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents, illnesses or incidents that may occur to you or the equines.
54. The Show Society also does not accept responsibility for any damage to property caused by your equines or the associated equipment such as carts & farm equipment

**Please make yourself aware of the Show's Health & Safety Policy. This is available at the Secretary's Office**

If you have any suggestions on how we can improve health & safety at our show,

please email: [jackie@edenbridge-show.co.uk](mailto:jackie@edenbridge-show.co.uk)