

Mackinac Horsemen's Association & 4-H Horse Club HANDBOOK



INTRODUCTION

The Mackinac Horsemen's Association and Mackinac 4-H Horse Club are proud to be able to provide an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the fellowship of horses. We want everyone to enjoy our programs safely and in a family-friendly atmosphere. The code of conduct and rules outlined in this handbook are to allow us all to have a safe experience. We will do our best to uphold these guidelines and set an example for all to follow. We are both non-profit organizations and need your support through volunteerism and financial assistance. Please feel free to contact our Director and/or stop by the stable for a visit!

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CODE OF CONDUCT

- * To accept the responsibility to represent the M.H.A. and 4-H Horse Club Programs with dignity and pride by being a positive role model
- * To act in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, and be a positive role model
- * To respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules established by M.H.A. and the 4-H Horse Club
- * To abstain from and not tolerate foul language or abusive behavior towards others or horses
- * To accept the responsibility to promote and support the M.H.A. and 4-H Horse club Mission Statements, Goals, and Programs

STABLE RULES

- * Stable hours: 8 AM to 10:30 PM
- * If you are the last one in the stable, please be sure the horses are all settled, the lights are off and the doors are secured
- * All dogs must be leashed on stable premises
- * Do not turn your horse out in the paddock unless it is on the schedule
- * Do not feed your horse, except for treats
- * Please dress appropriately to be at the stable
- * Do not use other's grooming tools, as this can spread skin conditions
- * If you borrow something, put it back, if you break some thing, let the director know
- * If you or your horse make a mess, clean it up, now, not later
- * Safety first: think sharp, be alert and keep your eyes open!
- * Please be polite and courteous to fellow boarders and visitors
- * Please keep the stable yard and stable clean and neat
- * See the director first, with any problems concerning the horses, boarders or stable management

GENERAL RULES

- * Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied by an adult while at the stable
- * Riders under the age of 9 may not ride, unless accompanied by an adult
- * Riders between the ages of 9 and 12 must ride in pairs and have prior adult/parental permission. They must log out and log in
- * If you ride with your dog, use extreme caution for your dog's and your safety. We do not recommend this practice and you do so at your own risk
- * Always warm up and cool down your horse properly
- * Do not feed or water an overly hot, sweaty horse
- * Do not tie your horse by the reins of the bridle, always use a halter and leadline

HORSE HANDLING

- * Always treat your horse with respect and kindness
- * Always make sure your horse is aware of your presence before entering his stall or approaching him
- * Always lead your horse with a leadline, not just by the halter
- * When leading your horse, stay to his right side and do not wrap the leadline around your hand
- * Always tie your horse with a slip knot and do not leave your horse unattended
- * Never tie your horse up by the reins of the bridle
- * Keep as much space as possible between your horse and others to avoid kicks in or around the stable
- * Carefully check all the tack while saddling up for any breaks, cracks, tears or worn leather or metal
- * Always be sure your horse is properly cooled out before putting him back in his stall
- * Do not leave horse treats lying about
- * Be alert for any unusual horse behavior or activity and let the director or barn manager know

LESSON RULES

- * Be on time for your lesson
- * Wear proper attire (long pants and shoes or boots with heels)
- * Riding helmets are required for all lessons
- * Always check your tack before mounting
- * Always warm up and cool down your horse properly
- * Be considerate to your fellow riders, your instructors, and your horses
- * Allow plenty of space between your and the next rider, at least one horses length
- * If riding in opposite directions in the ring pass left hand to left hand
- * Excused from a lesson will result in one point
- * Three points earned will result in dismissal from the program