



# TREC EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

TREC Equestrian Association of BC abides the following HCBC codes and statements:

## **Application and Structure of the Code of Ethics**

1. All members of HCBC shall be bound by this Code of Ethics.
2. All members of other National and Provincial Federations must agree to be bound by the rules of HCBC while competing or exhibiting at HCBC sanctioned competitions.
3. The Code of Ethics consists of four parts: The Preamble, the Statement of Principle, the Code of Conduct and Further Expectations of an HCBC member. The Statement of Principle is to be considered an interpretive guide in applying the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is mandatory in character and is enforceable.

## **Statement of Principle**

The TREC Equestrian Association of BC, Horse Council of BC (HCBC) and Equine Canada (EC), the national equestrian federation of Canada, support adherence to humane treatment of horses in all competitions under its jurisdiction and are committed to:

- ⊕ Upholding the welfare of horses, regardless of value, as a primary consideration in all activities;
- ⊕ Requiring that horses be treated with kindness, respect, and the compassion that they deserve, and that they never be subjected to mistreatment;
- ⊕ Ensuring that owners, trainers and exhibitors or their agents use responsible care in the handling, treatment and transportation of their horses as well as horses placed in their care for any purpose;
- ⊕ Providing for the continuous well-being of horses by encouraging routine inspection and consultation with health care professionals and competition officials to achieve the highest possible standards of nutrition, health, comfort, sanitation and safety as a matter of standard operating procedure;
- ⊕ Respect for the landowners and their property, no littering along the trails, ensure no damage is done to landowners crops, livestock or fences assume full responsibility for the welfare and that of you horse while crossing land with landowner's permission;
- ⊕ Increasing education in training and horsemanship practices;

- ⊕ Requiring owners, trainers and exhibitors to know and follow their sanctioning organization's rules, and to work within industry regulations in all equestrian competition;
- ⊕ Reviewing, revising and developing competition rules and regulations that protect the welfare of horses. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine to be neither cruel, abusive nor inhumane.

## Code of Conduct

HCBC rules address the following general areas:

- ⊕ welfare of the horse
  - ⊕ safety of horse and human athlete
  - ⊕ administration of competitions
  - ⊕ code of conduct for officials and competitors
  - ⊕ drug and medication control individual breed and discipline rules
1. All HCBC members shall support the enforcement of the rules of the Federation by:
    - a) Personal knowledge and compliance
    - b) Agreeing to report any alleged infractions and occasions of alleged abuse
  2. The organizers of HCBC sanctioned competitions shall operate within the rules of the Association.
  3. A member should be completely trustworthy, exhibit honesty, loyalty and discretion in all equestrian related activities.
  4. A member should issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
  5. The HCBC member should uphold issues of safety and fairness in all aspects of equestrian sport.
  6. No member shall act to the detriment of others or equestrian sport in a situation where the responsibility of their position places them in a conflict of interest.
  7. All members shall conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the values and ethics of HCBC. Any member who engages in or is party to conduct inappropriate to an HCBC member will be subject, after due process, to such sanctions as the Association may impose.

## Further Expectations of an HCBC Member

1. Members are encouraged to continuously educate themselves and to take an active role in the activities of the Association.
2. The HCBC member should strive to preserve and enhance the image of the sport so that society's respect will be maintained.

## CRUELTY, ABUSE OR INHUMANE TREATMENT OF HORSES

**The abuse or inhumane treatment of a horse by an exhibitor, trainer or other person at a TREC event shall not be tolerated under any circumstance.**

Any act or series of actions that in the opinion of the Commissioner and/or eyewitness can be defined as abuse or cruelty to a horse must be reported to the organizing committee and PSO, and may be penalized in accordance with the rules. Guidelines for dealing with suspected acts of cruelty at competitions may be obtained from Equine Canada.

**Cruelty can be defined as causing pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse. As examples, an act of cruelty can be but is not limited to any of the following;**

- ⊕ Excessively whipping or beating a horse
- ⊕ Subjecting a horse to any kind of electric shock device
- ⊕ Excessively or persistently using spurs or jabbing a horse in the mouth with the bit
- ⊕ Riding/driving an obviously exhausted, lame or injured horse
- ⊕ Hyper – sensitizing any part of a horse
- ⊕ Leaving a horse without adequate food, drink and exercise
- ⊕ Using shackles or chains (not to be constructed as rubber or elastic exercising devices )
- ⊕ Exhibiting a horse with raw or bleeding sores
- ⊕ Using any explosive (i.e. fire cracker, fire extinguisher except in the case of fire) or using fire such as lighters, matches, etc.

## Equine Medication Control

The rules to control equine medications as set out herein are intended to guarantee fairness to all participants in events recognized by EC, to encourage horsemanship, to ensure the welfare of horses and to maintain and nurture public interest of equestrian events.

Veterinarians should consult the Schedule of Drugs available for the Canadian Pari – Mutual Agency (Agriculture and Agri – Food Canada) of guidance on the administration of medications

to horses. The testing procedures are those approved by Agriculture and Agri- Food Canada. In general, tests may be made of urine collected by a qualified technician and/or blood samples collected only by a licensed veterinarian. Analysis is carried out by federally approved laboratories.

In the case of dispute over interpretation of these rules, the decision of the National Chairman of the Equine Medications Committee shall be final. Random drug testing by Horse Council BC will be in effect and a \$3.00 per horse drug fee will be collected by the event organizer to be submitted to HCBC after the competition.