

Basic Riding Ring Rules

For the Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds

- You must have a **current CVRD Riding Ring Pass** to use the facilities and have it visibly displayed on your horse or person while using the facilities. Having it in your car or trailer is not acceptable.
- You must have a **Horse Council #** to use the riding ring facilities.
- **When approaching** another rider head on, pass left shoulder to left shoulder. When in a situation you are unsure of, please call “rail” or “inside”, etc. so there is no misunderstanding.
- **When passing** another rider from behind, please pass on the inside. Please let the rider know you are passing vocalize "passing on the inside."
- **Slower traffic** should ride on the inside. Faster on the outside. The riders in the faster paces have right of way on the track. A circle must give way to the outside track.
- **Ride to the level** of your least experienced or most timid rider.
- **Do not get too close** to another horse as some may kick. Rule is one horse length away. Horses that kick should have a red ribbon in their tail. Horses that bite should have a red ribbon in their mane.
- **Clean up the manure** in the ring immediately after you are finished riding your horse.
- **When you are walking your horse** in hand, please give the outside track to the people riding. Walk your horse closer to the middle of the ring so that riders can stay on the rail. Do not walk along the rail.
- **When stopping** to make any kind of equipment or clothing adjustments, please move out of traffic and do so in the center of the ring out of the way.
- **Mount Out of the Way:** mount and dismount in designated area or in the center of the ring, not on the track or in front of the entrance gate.
- Please look where you are going and where other people are riding. **Ride defensively!** If you are unsure vocalize what you are doing.
- **Always Ride Safe:** wear proper attire such as proper riding boots and ride in control. Your riding should not make others feel uncomfortable.
- **Helmets are mandatory** when riding in the ring. Ensure it fits properly. CVRD strongly recommends that your helmet is BSI, SEI or ASTM approved and is specifically designed for equestrian activities. Only exception is if you are participating in an equestrian event that has special insurance allowing for this exemption.
- **Ipods, wireless headsets, headphones** or equivalent are NOT permitted during open riding.
- **Cell phone use**, while not encouraged, can be answered if you go to the nearest corner out of the way.
- You must always **have contact** with your horse when it is in the ring.
- **Before entering the ring**, the entrance must be clear and say GATE loud enough the other riders can hear.
- **Do not ride side by side.**
- **Cooling down** stay on the inside track and do not block other riders.
- **All horses must be under rider or lead.**
- **In an emergency dismount:** if a rider falls off, and/or a horse gets loose, all riders must dismount.
- **Only one horse can be lunged in the ring at a time.** Lunging time is limited to 20 minutes and is only permitted if it does not interfere with other riders.
- Children **under age 18 must be supervised by an adult.**
- **Barrels, Poles, Jumps**, and any other props can only be set up in the ring if there are 5 people or less. All riders and any new riders must agree to the props. One prop at a time. There will be no runs. More than 5 riders the props come down. All props must be removed at the end of your session. For safety reasons no jumping allowed if a person is alone on the grounds.
- **Prop Users must yield to all riders.**
- **Do not feed, groom, tie or tack horses in the ring.**

- **No dogs or other animals in the ring.**
- **No more than 15 riders** in the ring at one time in open riding.
- **Report any concerns immediately to the CVRD.**

Code of Conduct

The Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds offer a safe and inclusive environment for all members of our community. It is expected that all person using this facility act in a respectful and polite manner. Violence, abuse and threatening behaviors against staff, volunteers, participants, animals, other users and members of the community will not be tolerated and may result in offenders being asked to leave. Horse welfare and rider and public user safety are our priorities.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour:

Failure to comply with all the rules and the Code of Conduct could result in these consequences:

- Reprimand/warning
- Documentation in your file
- Letter with consequences
- Removal from the riding ring, stable area or the property
- Suspension from the property
- Loss of privileges
- Cancellation of Riding Ring Pass (will not be reimbursed)
- Restitution for property damage
- Involvement of the RCMP
- Behavioural contract

Discipline Policy:

First Level:

- Rudeness without abuse
- Minor rules broken
- Treating others with disrespect
- Inappropriate behavior (i.e. swearing, gestures, fighting etc.)

Second Level:

- Confrontation with staff
- Abuse of staff
- Putting people in danger
- Ignoring the posted rules (i.e. no dogs in ring)

Third Level:

- Dangerous acts
- Violence
- RCMP called
- Mistreatment of animals
- Drinking, smoking or vaping on the grounds
- Accumulation of many first and second level

Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds Riding Ring Pass Agreement

The undersigned has read and agreed to the above rules and Code of Conduct. They agree that infractions of the above rules and Code of Conduct will have consequences.

Date: _____ Horse Council #: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Cell Number: _____ Alternative: _____

IF USER 18 & UNDER – PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Name: _____

Signature: _____