



Westacres Equestrian Centre Rider Code of Conduct

Understanding of Risk

1. I understand that working with horses and riding at any standard has inherent risk and that all horses may react unpredictably on occasions.
2. I understand that I may fall off and could be injured. I accept that risk.
3. I understand that instructions are given to protect health, safety and welfare of clients, staff and the general public. I agree to follow instructions given to me by staff and instructors while on site and/or under their supervision.
4. I understand that the establishment will make decisions based on information I give them and agree to always be honest and volunteer information about:
 - a. my abilities and riding experience;
 - b. any previous riding accidents;
 - c. any medical condition(s) which may affect my ability to ride and ongoing changes to my condition(s) and medication (including possible side effects).
5. I understand that wearing an appropriate safety hat and footwear may reduce the severity of an injury should an accident happen. I agree to wear an appropriate, properly fitted riding hat and footwear while riding, leading and grooming horses at the establishment. I understand it is my choice whether or not I wear a body protector, but that if worn it must be properly fitted.
6. I understand that children are at particular risk around horses and agree that I will keep children that I am responsible for under close supervision when they are not under the supervision of an instructor.
7. I understand that Westacres may refuse my request to ride or participate in any activity for safety or operational reasons.
8. I understand that jumping and competing carry enhanced risk over and above general riding and agree that if I choose to participate in any competition or event, it is up to me to ensure that I have the experience and ability to ride the course including any jumps which form part of it.

Horse Welfare

9. I understand that horses and ponies are not machines, they are living animals with individual needs and personalities. Their wellbeing and safety always comes before lessons, schedules or rider preferences.
10. I understand that horses and ponies must always be treated with kindness, patience and respect, and that rough handling, shouting, hitting, excessive force or any form of cruelty towards horses and ponies will not be tolerated.
11. I understand that the riding school horses and ponies have their tack and equipment fitted in accordance with their needs. I will not make any changes to tack without the authority of my instructor.

12. I understand that Westacres has a general weight limit of 13 stone to protect the horses and ponies. I agree to be transparent with my instructor and understand that any discussions in respect of rider weight are intended to protect horse welfare, not discriminate against riders.
13. I understand that instructors will allocate horses and ponies based on rider requirements, safety, horse welfare and availability. I will respect my instructor's horse allocation at all times, even if I do not fully understand the reasons for it.

Social Media

14. I understand that I am not permitted to post photos or videos of Westacres horses and ponies on social media without express permission from management.
15. I understand that this social media policy is designed to protect the welfare of all associated with Westacres and that its violation will be treated very seriously.
16. I understand that all photos and videos taken of my riding sessions are for personal use only.

Respect and Kindness

17. I understand that Westacres is a place which is welcoming and safe for all. I will behave in a manner in keeping with that ethos.
18. I understand that bullying, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, aggressive behaviour or abusive language will not be tolerated.
19. I understand that all who attend Westacres (including parent, guardians and spectators) must behave respectfully to all other attendees (including staff, other riders and other visitors).
20. I understand that my responsibility to behave in keeping with the Westacres ethos extends beyond the gate and into all circumstances in which I could be perceived as representing Westacres, including on social media, in group chats and at social events.

Westacres management reserves the right to refuse participation, remove riders from activities or terminate provision of services where behaviour is not in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

Serious breaches may result in immediate removal from the premises without refund.