

Rules/Safety Procedures for WMHA

(Last revised/amended February 2020)

By joining WMHA, you consent to accept and abide by the following:

General rules for all activities: WMHA is a family club and encourages everyone to set a good example. Respect for people and animals is expected. Foul language, obscene gestures or comments, alcohol abuse, illegal drug use, physical or emotional abuse of animals or people will NOT be tolerated.

1. Membership (see amendments):
 - a. A copy of these rules will be given with each membership.
 - b. WMHA has the right to refuse or terminate the membership of any individual or family group.
 - c. Members are accepted without regard for race, religion, creed, ability, gender, or age.
 - d. Members under the age of 18 must have written parental approval.
 - e. Prospective members who have restrictive legal actions against current members must state same when applying for membership (see amendments on page 2).
2. Riding Events (see amendments):
 - a. Event coordinator has authority over and responsibility for each event.
 - b. Rules specific to individual events may apply. Any specific rules will be announced before the event.
 - c. Safety takes precedence in all activities.
 - d. Proper footwear must be worn while riding in any WMHA event. Boots or riding shoes are acceptable. Tennis shoes, sandals, and similar footwear are not safe.
 - e. Attire must be safe, suitable, appropriate and proper for each event. Example: No shorts or bikini tops.
 - f. Tack and equipment must be safe and in good repair as well as humane and correct for each event.
 - g. Riders under the age of 18 must have responsible adult supervision during all events.
 - h. Horses that have a tendency to kick MUST have a red ribbon attached to their tail. Other riders are expected to heed the warning and avoid closing in on any horse carrying a red ribbon.
 - i. Horses must be manageable for the event and not interfere with other riders or horses. Unmanageable horses may be excused from the event and must leave immediately. Unmanageable horses shall be secured inside a stall or horse trailer or removed from the premises. (see amendments on pages 2-3)
 - j. No stallions unless a special event is scheduled and announced.
3. Social Events:
 - a. Event coordinator shall be responsible for and have authority over all social events.
 - b. Social events are designed for fun and fellowship.
 - c. Manners and common sense will apply at these activities.
4. Meetings:

- a. Open participation is encouraged during meetings. Please ask to be recognized by the chair and wait for that recognition before speaking.
 - b. Chair is responsible for allowing members with valid contributions reasonable time to speak.
 - c. Meetings generally include a business meeting and a speaker or educational discussion.
5. Complaints/Grievances/Disagreements (see amendments):
- a. Members with complaints/grievances/disagreement that affect the club/members and/or activities shall bring it to the attention of the board of directors or any member of the board, verbally or in writing.
 - b. Complaints/grievances/disagreements SHOULD NOT BE AIRED PUBLICLY but channeled through the board of directors.
 - c. Anyone may approach a member of the board or attend a board meeting and ask for a review.
 - d. The board of directors may convene a special meeting or wait until the next regularly scheduled board meeting to consider the situation.
 - e. All sides will be heard and given time to express their opinion within reasonable limits.
 - f. After hearing all sides of the board of directors will go into a closed session to form a consensus.
 - g. Their decision will be presented no more than 30 days after the board meeting.
 - h. The decision of the board of directors is final.
 - i. Each incidence will remain confidential unless the problem directly affects the club as a whole. If informing the club becomes necessary only the basic issue will be disclosed, not names and details.
 - j. Complaints/grievances/disagreements during events will be handled by the Sergeant at Arms.
6. Comments/Suggestion:
- a. Members are encouraged to submit ideas, comments, and suggestions.
 - b. Comments/suggestions may be offered at a regular meeting, board meeting or in a written form.

Amendments, added 3/26/2009, 1/12/2012, 5/26/2015:

On 8.28.2008, a topic was brought to the attention of the WMHA board of directors regarding clarification of rule 2, item J, No stallions. It was considered by the board and re-addressed at the general meeting held on 09/30/08 where a motion was made and approved to make the following change:

- k. No unaltered (not gelded) male horses over the age of six months permitted at WMHA functions unless a special event is scheduled and announced.

On 02/24/2009, a topic was brought to the attention of the WMHA board of directors regarding a safety issue of double riding. A motion was made and approved to add the following to Riding Events as follows:

- I. There will be no double riding allowed at WMHA functions unless a special event is permitting it for that particular event only and is scheduled and announced

On 1/12/12, a board of directors meeting was held and one of the topics covered was the consideration of the board to enforce a \$25 fee for any insufficient funds incurred by the club. This rule was voted on and approved by the membership at a meeting in 2009 but was never enforced. In conclusion:

Membership:

- f. The board of directors voted and approved that a \$25 bad check charge as well as the bank assessed fee will be implemented and enforced as of March 1, 2012. Furthermore, the board also voted and approved the Rule:
- g. Membership dues or entries into any WMHA function by an individual or family that has an outstanding debt to the club will be rejected until debt is paid in full.

On 5/26/15, a topic was brought to the attention of WMHA board of directors regarding a safety issue of unmanageable horses. A motion was made and approved to add the following to Riding Events;

- I. On timed events all riders must be in the arena and have started their timed ride within three (3) minutes. The three minutes will start when the announcer calls out timer is ready.) If rider is unable to start their timed ride within the three minutes, the rider will be asked to leave the arena and will get a NO TIME, NO REFUND.