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AIKEN HORSE PARK FOUNDATION
FOR ALL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES HELD AT BRUCE'S FIELD
(UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Aiken Horse Park Foundation (AHPF) is committed to running a safe and controlled competition and has developed the following guidelines and best practices for operation at Bruce's Field. The national governing body of equestrian sport, the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), has established a comprehensive set of guidelines which we have used as a basis for our protocols. These protocols are also in line with state, local, and federal regulations as well as guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety During the Covid-19 Pandemic.

These competitions, per the USEF are open only to trainers, Riders, Grooms, Owners, Competition Staff, Essential Workers (Farriers, Vets, Braiders, Therapists, etc.) and Parents attending as a minor's guardian. Spectators, extended family, and friends are prohibited from attending. Please review the AHPF specific guidelines before arriving at the competition.

Trainers will be held responsible for the conduct of their staff & clients as well as their adherence to the rules and guidelines set forth during the competition. Trainers and or barns may be asked to leave the grounds if the guidelines are not followed.

The full USEF protocols are updated on Tuesday of each week and may be reviewed here:
<https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/XhKGVYiivTA/usef-covid-19-action-plan-for-operating>

We ask that everyone please do their part in following all of the outlined protocols and guidelines to ensure a safe environment for all. Attendees should be respectful of community and local guidelines while visiting.

AHPF has designated a Health and Safety Manager to coordinate the health preparedness and response planning and to oversee that the guidelines and protocols are being executed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara Bostwick at tara@aikenhorsepark.org.

General COVID-19 Protocols

- **Screening and monitoring** – Everyone entering the venue will have their temperatures taken daily when entering the facility. Masks **MUST** be worn for the temperature check. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or above may not enter the facility.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – A face mask or face covering is required for everyone on the venue at all times while on competition grounds except when mounted on a horse. This is a requirement of the USEF Action Plan as of July 28, 2020.
- **Social Contract** – By attending and participating, riders, trainers and grooms agree to follow the horse show protocol or will be asked to leave; they also agree to follow/respect community and local rules while visiting the area. Trainers will be responsible for distributing necessary protective gear as required by state and local regulations to all employees and riders. We will

We will have additional PPE on site if necessary. If someone onsite starts to show symptoms, they will be asked to leave the venue.



Wash your hands frequently.



Wear your mask (off the horse).



Clean your stuff.

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- **Social Distancing** - All individuals must practice social distancing (or physical distancing) at all times while on the competition grounds by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from any person who is not a member of their immediate household. Members of the same household are still required to wear masks or face coverings at all times while on competition grounds.
- **Social Distancing and Mask Enforcement** – AHPF staff and additional safety coordinators will monitor and have the authority to warn and remind anyone on Bruce's Field property of the necessity of social distancing. During a competition, Stewards will report non-compliance to competition management, and individuals who continue to demonstrate non-compliance with social distancing or mask/face covering requirements will be promptly removed from the competition grounds by competition management. Stewards will document and include in their report to the USEF all incidents of non-compliance, so that USEF can address any deficiencies.
- **Signage** – There will be posted signage throughout the facility displaying applicable CDC, state, federal and local governmental safety advisories.
- **Communication** – We will clearly inform all participants, officials and competition personnel of protocols and safeguards implemented for their protection against spreading COVID-19 by providing them with a list of such measures. Updates and competition information will be included in the prize lists, schedules and will be readily available through the website and app.

Venue Access

- Everyone entering the venue will be required to have their temperature taken at the front gate to enter the competition grounds. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C)or above may not enter the facility.
- You also may not enter the facility if any of the following apply:

Anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms,
Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last ten days,
Anyone who has tested positive outside of the past 10 days, but is still symptomatic, or anyone who has been in close contact* with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days (exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties are exempted from this restriction.

* Close Contact –Close Contact – For purposes of this document, close contact as defined by the CDC is someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* beginning two (2) days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two (2) days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. It is important to note that close contact has occurred regardless of whether one, or both individuals is wearing a mask. (Refer to CDC FAQ).

*Individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).

Anyone who has been in contact with an individual who is confirmed or suspected to be COVID-19- positive should quarantine in accordance with [CDC Guidelines](#).



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It is strongly recommended that if people are going to travel together in the same vehicle to a competition, they should take their temperature prior to getting into the vehicle to ensure no one travels to the competition with an elevated temperature.

If an individual requires modification to this face mask/face covering requirement, please submit written request, accompanied by documentation substantiating the need for modification, to sgilbert@usef.org. It should be noted that they are experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries at this time, and they will respond as quickly as possible. Requests for modifications will be reviewed on a confidential basis with a medical consultant.

If you have tested positive for Covid-19 or if you are denied access to the venue due to your exhibiting a temperature or Covid-19 symptoms, you must present a negative test for Covid-19 before you will be permitted to enter the venue or, if it has been ten days since the day you were denied access (the onset of symptoms), you must show a 72-hour period of no fever while off any meds that lower fevers (NSAIDs or Tylenol). If you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks, you must self-isolate for 14 days.

- **Public access and spectators are prohibited at this time as well as exhibitors' extended family or friends.**
- Those entering the facility will need to show proof of admittance and have an access/parking pass to enter.

Staff, Officials and Service Providers

- AHPF will brief all competition staff and officials regarding all procedures and requirements associated with the plan and their role in enforcement.
- Staff and officials will be supplied with necessary PPE and hand sanitizer as required by the US Equestrian Federation.
- Service providers will be scheduled to come during off hours of operation as possible to reduce risk.
- Judges' and other officials' areas will be arranged to comply with social distancing requirements.
- All staff radios, computers, clip boards, judges' cards, etc., will be delivered to their location before the show and picked up after completion and sanitized each day.
- Staff and officials who feel sick must request to stay home.

Competition and Practice Areas

- Priority rings will be established on daily numbers and time constraints and will be communicated to riders/trainers. Ingate communications will be thorough and frequent.
- Routine PA announcements announcing protocol requirements via facility system to ensure riders are aware of ongoing procedures and any new protocol.
- Fencing will be added to the ingate booth to distance and protect staff from riders. Awards and
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- ribbons will be available on the office porch following events using a method that reduces or eliminates hand-to-hand contact and maintains social distancing. Award presentations for special classes will be communicated to riders and will follow proper social distancing protocols.
- AHPF staff will wipe down jump equipment throughout the day.
- If necessary, exercise areas and schooling times (including morning schooling in show rings) will be restricted to limit number of riders on horses to practice social distancing guidelines.

In classes where riders compete collectively, we will determine and communicate to participants the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time based on the size of the competition areas and social distancing requirements.

- Face masks must be worn during course walks. Stewards and staff will monitor course walks to ensure they comply with social distancing requirements and that there is adequate space between barn groups. Management will schedule smaller groups in separate sections or make other adjustments as needed.
- Schooling areas will be monitored and controlled by stewards, schooling supervisors and/or ingate personnel. A maximum of two people will be allowed per schooling jump and on opposite sides. Jumps will be spaced to accommodate people on both sides with social distancing.
- Mounting blocks will be available in schooling areas to avoid one-on-one contact between riders and grooms/assistants.
- Golf Carts: All individuals **MUST** wear face masks and cart capacity may not exceed the number of seats on the cart. Congregating on or around a parked or stationary golf cart or vehicle is prohibited.
- If you are eating or drinking outside of a dedicated Food and Drink area including in golf carts, you must move at least 6' away from others to eat or drink. Your mask must be immediately replaced when finished.

Stabling Area

- Stabling locations will be posted at each gate or by The office
- Groups congregating is discouraged; people must practice safe social distancing protocols. Routine PA announcements announcing protocol requirements via facility system.

Show Office

- The show office will be configured to allow proper social distancing and will be restricted to essential personnel only. Clear plexiglass protective shields have been installed in front of office staff and there will be separate entrance and exit doors to prevent bottlenecks and cross-traffic.
- Please process entries and necessary paperwork online at www.horseshowsonline.com. All necessary paperwork can be done online including entering a competition, add/scratches and billing and invoicing. Billing will be prepared in advance as possible. Horse Show Office phone number: (803.830.7077).



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- The amount of people in the show office will be limited to one person per show secretary at a time. If necessary, lines will form outside the office and will follow social distancing guidelines with markers delineating 6' spacing. Only one representative per barn may come to the show office at a time.

Food Vendor Area

- Masks are required and must be worn when in food and beverage areas. You may only take your mask off when seated at your table and eating or drinking a mask must be worn when you are not eating or drinking.
- If you are eating or drinking outside of a dedicated Food and Beverage area including in golf carts, you must move at least 6' away from others to eat or drink. Your mask must be immediately replaced when finished.
- Outdoor hand sanitizing dispenser stands will be placed around the facility in high touch point areas (to include by ingate, at entrance to schooling arena, stabling, show office, announcer stands, judges' boxes, and restrooms etc.)

Communication

- AHPF will use signage, radio, phone, e-mail and online communication methods as much as possible and clearly communicate important information frequently throughout the competition grounds. There are various speaker systems around the facility to communicate update and we will also use group text software to send venue-wide alerts.
- Multi-modal communication strategies will be utilized for ongoing updates (signage, social media, website updates, email, mass texting app, etc.) to establish clear lines of communication between event organizers, event staff, riders and their personnel.
- All participants, staff and officials will be notified if the organizers/medical personnel learn of a confirmed case of Covid-19 at the event.

Adverse Weather Protocol

- No crowding to shelter in tents or pavilions around the facility. Everyone is encouraged to shelter in their own vehicles.
- Event will go on hold ahead of any weather warnings allowing participants to properly shelter keeping social distancing with an announced restart time.

Vendors

- Vendors are responsible for distributing necessary protective gear as required by state and local regulations to all employees.
- Clearly inform customers of in-store practices and precaution in place to prevent infection. Limit the number of customers allowed in the store at one time to comply with social distancing rules and, if lines are required to regulate entry into the store, create markings 6' apart for line



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- Design spaces in the store and activities that encourage 6 feet of distance from one another and develop ways to reduce touchpoints, eliminate lines and streamline service.
- Install physical barriers at checkout or other service points
- Establish an enhanced cleaning schedule and train employees on appropriate cleaning procedures including for cashiers on cleaning between customers and how to manage symptomatic people
- Notify AHPF of any employees or visitors who test positive for Covid-19 as soon as possible

Positive Test Protocol

- All participants, competition staff, and support personnel must notify AHPF, Equus Events Inc., USEF, and local public health authorities if they test positive for Covid-19 within 14 days of the competition.
- AHPF will notify USEF and local public health authorities, if any individual who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition.
- Competition Organizers will direct the reporting individual to contact the local public health authorities (and provide the contact information) for the purposes of having the local public health authorities perform contact tracing.
- If there has been an infected person onsite, AHPF will temporarily close off appropriate areas of the venue to deep clean and disinfect.
- Competition Organizers must report confirmed cases including any relevant information on circumstances of transmission and contacts of the infected to assist contact tracing to local health officials within 24 hours.
- Any competition delays, suspensions or cancellations will be communicated promptly to participants and the local community.
- If staff or a participant tests positive for Covid-19, they may not re-enter the venue until they either present two negative tests for Covid-19 within a 72 hour period or if it has been seven days since the onset of symptoms, one must show a 48 hour period of no fever while off any meds that lower fevers (NSAIDs or Tylenol).
- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms. Staff and participants with symptoms (based on self-assessment, screening etc.) will be sent home.
- Review case details and show participant list to assist in contact tracing.

Responsibilities of Participants – Trainers, Owners, Riders, Support Personnel

- Trainers are responsible for the entire group including riders, grooms, support personnel, etc. We ask that you please make sure your entire group is aware of protocols and prepared to comply with all facility protocols.
- Trainers should provide thermometers, hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, and other PPE deemed necessary to your barn staff and other personnel and encourage them to use these items on a regular basis.
- Participants should self-monitor their temperature prior to arriving to the competition grounds to ensure they do not have symptoms.



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- Trainers should have a support plan in place for any member of their team that is denied access to the event due to medical concerns. Do not mix equipment (tack, grooming supplies, lead shanks, etc.) and sanitize between each use.
 - Regularly sanitize golf carts, bikes, cars/trucks and stable doors, buckets, light switches, equipment in your barn area including tack, grooming, feeding, stall cleaning materials, surfaces in common areas, etc.
- It is strongly recommended that if people are going to travel together in the same vehicle to a competition, they should take their temperature prior to getting into the vehicle to ensure no one travels to the competition with an elevated temperature.



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