United States Eventing Association
525 Old Waterford Rd., NW, VA 20176 | Phone: 703.779-0440 | Fax: 703.779.0550 | http://www.useventing.com

USEA YOUNG RIDER PROGRAMS
MISSION AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Effective for the Competition Year
Beginning December 1, 2008

Article 1: Mission

It is the mission of the Young Rider Program to impact the lives of young people by providing encouragement, support, training opportunities, and educational programs that promote character development and life enhancing values through the sport of Eventing.

While qualification and participation in the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC) and other Young Rider activities throughout the competition year shall be an integral part of this Program, the development of a team approach and participation for all is the ultimate goal. Safety is a primary consideration, and the health and welfare of the horse is paramount.

All participants including riders, grooms, veterinary staff, parents and family members, guardians or responsible individuals, instructors, Area staff (Young Riders and others) and other persons shall support and encourage the spirit of the Young Rider Program as presented by the USEA, USEF, FEI, as well as sponsors, venue management, and other responsible parties.

Article: II: The Nature of Team Programs

All activities are promoted through a team approach. An element of camaraderie, cooperation, and respect for each member of the team shall be deemed essential to the success of the team and all activities. Any conduct that in any way threatens or diminishes the team or any of its individual members or activities shall be strictly prohibited.

We value the generosity and participation of those who contribute whether as organizers, volunteers, donors, or sponsors.

Rider and participant input is encouraged and solicited prior to any decision making processes. Once the decision(s) process is concluded, those decisions shall be followed without exception.

Article III: Application and Authority

The authority to apply Program guidelines and other requirements is given to the Area Chairman in consultation with the Area Council and Area staff appointed as supervisors for the respective activity, program, or function. Area staff may include, but is not limited to, Young Rider Coordinator, instructors, coaches, and Chef d'Equipe.

Authority for enforcement lies with the Area Chairman in consultation with the Area Council. Appointed supervisors shall not delegate authority or be permitted to enforce disciplinary action within a particular activity, function or program without the expressed permission of the Area Chairman and consultation with the Area Council.

Individual rules and/or guidelines established by activity hosts (Area, Event, Venue, and others) shall be considered an integral part of the Program. The distribution of resources and participation in all activities shall be applied equally among Young Riders.

Prior to the conclusion of mandated activities and completion of required documentation, no one is assured of inclusion in the NAJYRC Area Team or any other activity.

With respect to parents, guardian, or any other party, the presence and the extent of participation shall be permitted at the discretion of the Area Chairman, in consultation with the Area Council, and/or designated supervisor.

This document is applied in concert with USEF and FEI rules and respective Code(s) of Conduct.

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Article IV: Prohibited Conduct

Any conduct, speech or statement, presentation, or violation of rules and regulations established by authority which may impact the Mission of the Program, create a negative environment, or otherwise affect one or more participants, staff, or others will not be tolerated and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Prohibited conduct is described as any physical act or disobedience that disrupts due process or which is prohibited by law including, but not limited to, theft, act(s) of dishonesty, or the possession or consumption of age restricted products by minors or illegal substances by any party.

Prohibited speech or statement is described as any use of language and/or accompanying gesture that may be offensive to any other party.

Prohibited presentation is described as any attire or lack of attire (including safety equipment) deemed dangerous, offensive or inappropriate by Area staff or supervisor. Specifically, with regard to safety, any use, lack of use, or violation established rules is strictly prohibited.

Violation of USEA or Area rules and guidelines, including Area Financial Guidelines, USEF, FEI, and venue rules will not be tolerated. Lack of understanding or familiarity with rules is not considered an excuse for non-compliance.

No party may create or endorse any Young Rider fund raising or other activity that is not offered to and applied equally to all participants and other qualified parties.

Article V: Disciplinary Action

As determined by the Area Chairman, in consultation with the Area Council, Vice President Area Affairs and Area Chairs Committee, disciplinary action may include restriction or expulsion from individual activities or the Program in its entirely. Any disciplinary action shall be applied uniformly and without prejudice.

The Area Chairman may extend the assessment of local disciplinary action (that requiring immediate application at any activity or venue) to the supervisor of the activity, function, or program.

Where deemed necessary by the Area Chairman and/or Area Council, the Vice President of Area Affaires in concert with other members of the USEA Executive Committee shall be consulted for advice and counsel.

Signature(s) below indicate full understanding and acceptance of this Mission Statement and Code of Conduct. I agree to conduct myself in accordance with these requirements and be bound by enforcement actions that may be applied as a result of my actions.

_____ _____
Participant signature* Date

_____
Participant Name (please print)

_____ _____
Parent, Guardian, or Responsible Party Signature* (for minors) Date

_____
Parent, Guardian, or Responsible Party name (please print)

*Parents, Guardian, or Responsible Parties must also execute a separate form as Participants acknowledging their personal understanding, acceptance and compliance.