

# RIDING

## RELEVANT REGULATIONS AND RESOURCES

Horse Riding Safety Act <[www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)> Required for commercial riding establishments  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs <[www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)> and Ministry of the  
Environment <[www.ene.gov.on.ca](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca)> both have links to "nutrient management"  
Ontario Equestrian Federation <[www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca)>  
*The Smart Equestrian*, ThinkFirst Canada [www.thinkfirst.ca](http://www.thinkfirst.ca), an injury prevention program  
American Society for Testing and Materials/Safety Equipment Institute (ASTM/SEI) for helmets

## GENERAL NOTES

The riding director or senior instructor has day-to-day responsibility for supervising all riding activities and must be at least 18 years of age. As there are significant responsibilities and pressures inherent in supervising staff, campers and horses, this person must have appropriate riding and supervision experience, including knowledge of stable management and horse care.

An atmosphere conducive to the horses' health and well being must be maintained at all times. It is imperative that the care and well being of all horses used for riding be under the supervision of a knowledgeable horse person.

A precamp training period should include instruction for all riding staff to ensure that they are familiar with all aspects of the riding program, horse care and stable management.

"Horse" includes pony.

## QUESTIONS

### RIDING PROGRAM

**RD1 Is the camp or head riding instructor a member of the Ontario Equestrian Federation?**

**RD2 Is the riding director or senior instructor at least 18 years of age?**

**RD3 Is there at least one person with first aid qualifications at the barn, when campers are present?**

The stable and riding area shall always be supervised by riding staff. First aid training equivalent to Standard First Aid and CPR- Level C is essential. A stocked first aid kit must be located in the barn and emergency equipment must be easily accessible.

**RD4 Is there at least one person with first aid qualifications on all trail rides?**

**RD5 Are barn rules posted and explained to all participants?**

**RD6 Are properly sized ASTM/SEI approved helmets worn by all riders?**

**RD7 Do all riders wear hard soled, unadorned footwear with a heel no less than 1.5 cm?**

RD8 Is it forbidden for all riders to ride alone outside the ring?  
A second staff member should be close by and available when schooling alone in the ring.

**RD9 Does the camp have a written emergency plan for the riding program?**

The emergency plan is a component of the overall camp plan. It should be posted at the barn.

**RD10 Is the written emergency plan explained to all riders?**

RD11 Do the riding staff supervise campers in the stable and riding area?

**RD12 At the start of each season, are horses evaluated for their suitability to the program?**

Horses should be well schooled prior to the start of each season. Experienced instructors should establish the temperament and degree of training required for each horse, and then work with the horse until it is deemed suitable for children.

RD13 Are riders assessed and placed in classes according to their ability?

RD14 Is the ratio at least one staff to six riders?

RD15 Is there a minimum of two staff on trail and group rides?

**HORSE CARE**

RD16 Are daily health checks carried out on all horses?

Daily health checks include checking for sores, loss of appetite, hoof or eye problems or any sign of illness.

**RD17 Do all horses have up to date rabies and tetanus vaccinations?**

Your veterinarian may recommend other vaccinations such as West Nile and flu under certain conditions.

**RD18 Are horses fed and watered to maintain optimal health and well-being?**

Horses must be provided with fresh, clean water at all times and good quality hay with no mould or dust. Salt should be freely available. Grain and other hard feeds should be provided depending on the temperament and workload of the horse.

RD19 Are the horses given adequate breaks, access to water and rest during the workday?

The comfort of the horse should always be considered. This includes regular grooming, bits cleaned after each ride, girths and saddle pads cleaned regularly and well fitting saddles and bridles. It is recommended that each horse have individual tack or at least bridle and bit. It is ideal if horses have paddocks or pasture where they may roam during their free time.

Horses should be worked no more than four hours per day and no more than one hour without a break including loosened girth and access to water. Weather and environmental conditions may reduce the number of hours that the horses can be worked.

RD20 Is protection from the elements provided?

RD21 Are horses given a twenty-four hour break from riding each week?  
The camp must have enough horses to allow a sick horse adequate time off.

RD22 Does the stable have access to a farrier and veterinarian?

RD23 Are the horses' hind feet unshod unless recommended by a farrier?

#### STABLE MANAGEMENT

RD24 Is the stable area and fencing kept clean and in good repair?

RD25 Is manure removed daily for proper disposal?

RD26 Is the tack well maintained, cleaned regularly and stored properly?  
Tack should be checked prior to every lesson and kept clean and well maintained. Saddle pads should be washed regularly.

RD27 Is barn equipment such as pitchforks and shovels stored in a safe manner?

**RD28 Is a properly maintained fire extinguisher located at one or more exits?**

The stable is a smoke-free area. Flammable materials should not be stored in the stable vicinity.