



CODE OF CONDUCT and GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR AREA VIII YOUNG RIDERS FOR SELECT TEAM QUALIFICATION AND PARTICIPATION

CODE OF CONDUCT

As an Area VIII Young Rider, I acknowledge my obligation to uphold and adhere to the highest standards of horsemanship, sportsmanship, and citizenship whenever I am representing both Area VIII and its Young Rider Program whether at my local horse trials, at horse trials anywhere in the United States or abroad, whether as a team member, individual competitor, or horse owner, and whether during actual competition or other related events such as selection trials, training sessions, clinics, camps, etc.

As a horseman, I will place my horse's welfare above all other considerations and faithfully observe both the USEF and the FEI Codes of Conduct, as well as this Area VIII Code of Conduct.

As a sportsman, I will know and comply with this Code of Conduct, as well as with the USEF as my National Governing Body and the FEI as the International Governing Body, and honor the principles of fair play inherent in them. I will place the interests of the team above my own, and respect the decisions of its duly appointed/elected officials, selectors, coaches, chef d'equipe, team veterinarians, and coordinators made in the Area VIII Young Rider Program's best interest.

Knowing that as an Area VIII Young Rider, I also serve as an Ambassador for my sport, USEF, and Area VIII and my country, I will endeavor at all times to reflect credit on them through my conduct, dress, and behavior.

I clearly acknowledge my responsibility to ensure that my family, friends, grooms, etc. who accompany me whenever I am participating, competing, and/or representing Area VIII also abide by this Code of Conduct.

I understand and accept that serious or repeated transgressions of this Code may be grounds for suspension from a Select Team or consideration to be on a Select Team. In addition, I agree to abide by selection procedures established by Area VIII wherever applicable.

Finally, I fully understand that I will not be considered for Select Team competition and my Letter of Intent will not be accepted until this Code of Conduct and Guidelines form is read, signed, and completed in full.

GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR SELECT TEAM QUALIFICATION AND PARTICIPATION

While qualification and participation in the Select Team and other Young Rider activities is an integral part of the Area VIII Young Rider Program, the development of a TEAM approach and participation for all is the ultimate goal. It is a privilege to be a part of the Young Rider program and in this program, safety is a primary concern and the health and welfare of the horse is of paramount concern.

As this is a **TEAM** program, all activities are promoted through a team approach; that team includes riders, grooms, veterinary staff, coaches, instructors, selectors, coordinators, and all Area staff; as well as sponsors, donors, and venue management. 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 its activities. Any conduct, speech or statement, presentation, or violation of rules and regulations established by authority which impacts the TEAM mission of the program, that creates a negative environment, that threatens, diminishes, or devalues the integrity of the team, the Young Rider Program, and any of its individual members will not be tolerated and may be subject to disciplinary action.

This conduct shall include:

- disrespectful language, attitude, or words to or about any other member of the team
- the use of social media to express any discontent or anger towards the program or any member of the team

- any physical act or disobedience that disrupts due process or which is prohibited by law, including but not limited to theft, acts of dishonesty, or the possession or consumption of age-restricted products by minors, or illegal substances by any part.
- use of any language and/or accompanying gesture that may be offensive to any other party
- the wearing of any attire or lack of attire deemed dangerous, offensive or inappropriate by Area staff or supervisor
- putting a public stain on the Area VIII program by sharing any internal problems or grievances, etc. with external organizations, individuals, USEA National office, etc.; only Area VIII staff and council can forward grievances and concerns to the National office.

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.

Disciplinary action will be determined by the Area Chairman, in consultation with Area Council, and may include restriction or expulsion from individual activities or the Program in its entirety.

OTHER GUIDELINES FOR SELECT TEAM PARTICIPATION

After possible Select Team candidates turn in their Letters of Intent to Area VIII YR Coordinators, they must keep Coaches, Coordinators, and Selectors apprised of their proposed competition schedule from Letter of Intent date until Hagyard Team Challenge H.T. competition (unless, of course, they withdraw their name from team consideration); updating that schedule as changes are made, discussing possible competition schedules with their personal trainer as well as Area coaching/selector staff.

As a Select Team candidate, young riders must put their personal safety and the welfare of their horse(s) first and foremost in planning their competition schedule and attempting their qualifications for Select Team participation.

As a Select Team candidate, young riders must understand the sponsorship process and take personal responsibility for acknowledging, showing appreciation, supporting, and promoting those companies, businesses, and individuals that donate products, time, and/or funds to the program.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CODE AND GUIDELINES

Area VIII Young Riders is a TEAM; along with riders, that includes coaches, selectors, grooms, vets, instructors, coordinators. We are all in this together. Any conduct that negatively impacts the team, the Young Rider program, or any individual member will not be tolerated.

- DO NOT use social media to complain, harass, or express any discontent with ANY member of or any decision by the team; DO NOT post any content that will reflect negatively on ANY member of the team or Young Rider program
- Show respect to all team members; strive to represent the team consistent with Young Rider values, exercising good judgment; conduct yourself with honesty and integrity
- Take personal responsibility for your own behavior as well as the behavior of family, friends, and other members of the team as it relates to the Young Rider program.
- Any conduct which impacts the team or Young Rider program mission will not be tolerated

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct and the Guidelines and Rules above. By providing my handwritten or electronic signature below, I acknowledge the aforementioned and agree to be bound by this Area VIII Young Rider Code of Conduct and the Guidelines and Rules for Area VIII Young Riders for Select Team Qualification and Participation and I fully understand and accept my responsibilities as a participant in the Area VIII Young Rider Program. I further understand and agree that an electronic signature is a legal and binding signature.

Rider Written/Electronic Signature

Print/Type Rider Name

As a parent or guardian of rider, I have also read and understand the Code of Conduct and Guidelines and Rules.

Parent/Guardian Signature