

AUSTRALIAN HORSE RIDING CENTRES – QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Code of Practice

Members of this organisation are dedicated to professionalism in the horse industry and will uphold standards and conditions in their operation, and provide clients with:

1. Adequate supervision as laid down in AHRC regulations .
2. Appropriate safety equipment that is suitably maintained.
3. Supervisory staff of adequate qualifications and age for the duties carried out.
4. A holder of a current First Aid Certificate to be with riders at all times.
5. Ethical, truthful and honest advertising and marketing.
6. Emergency procedure for foreseeable events.
7. Horses of adequate stature and training, sound and in good health for the work envisaged.
8. An appropriate and safe riding environment that is suitably maintained.
9. A complaint procedure, in which clients can approach the establishment or the AHRC in writing.
10. Adherence to regulations of the AHRC, current Government Legislation, and the Industry Code of Practice as administered by Workplace, Health and Safety.

Regulations for the AHRC Queensland Branch

1. **Insurance.** Proof of insurance payment of Public Liability Insurance of minimum AUS\$10,000,000.00.

2. Qualifications.

The proprietor, manager or nominee should have at least one of the following qualifications:

1. AHRC NCAS Level I or higher, OR
2. EFA NCAS Level I or higher, OR
3. AHRC Level O recognised for one year only, pending Level I accreditation or equivalent international accreditation – recognised for one year only, pending Level I accreditation.

For Trail riding operations:

1. AHRC NCAS Level I or higher, OR
2. AHRC recognised Certificate III in Trail Ride Instructing

All accredited instructors must be the holders of a current senior first aid certificate.

3. Horses Welfare.

Proprietors must ensure maintenance and supervision of the horses complies with the following requirements:

Centre horses must be of suitable size, conformation and disposition for the purpose of which they are used. Horses must be maintained in good health and fitness.

Horses used by clients must be at least 4 years of age. Stallions must not be used as riding horses for clients. Mares in advanced stages of pregnancy (more than 8 month

gestation) or a lactating mare within three months of foaling, may not be used. The feet of the horses must be properly trimmed, cared for, and in sound condition. Horses must receive veterinary attention when necessary and their teeth should be kept in good order. Records must be kept detailing horse care, injuries and treatments. Correct management procedures should minimise the spread of infectious disease, especially parasitic diseases. Horses must be provided with adequate quality feed to meet the requirements of maintenance, growth and work. Uncontaminated water must be available at all times. Horses must have access to adequate shelter or be suitably rugged. If the premises provide stabling, the facilities should be of adequate size and nature and with proper drainage and fire control. Horses must not be overworked and must receive adequate rest, exercise and grooming as required. Records must be kept of horse workloads and rest periods. Provisions must be made for the storage of feed, bedding, stable equipment and saddlery.

4. Safety.

All saddlery, harness and other equipment used with horses must be in sound condition, be well fitting, correctly adjusted, regularly cleaned and a maintenance log recording such be available. Leather should be sound and supple, synthetic products must be kept clean. All saddles must have at least two girth points or a secondary means of attachment.

Proprietors or supervisors of horse riding centres must ensure that any person engaged in horse riding (CLIENT OR STAFF, PAYING OR NON- PAYING) wears a currently approved equestrian safety helmet (except for the equestrian sport of vaulting or where FEI rules apply). Helmets of the following standards: AS/NZS 3838: 1999, 2000 Current Australian Standard, EN 1384 Current European Standard or ASTN F1163 Current US Standard are required to be worn at all times when riders are mounted. Proprietors or supervisors must ensure that rider's footwear is adequate

for the purpose. Flat soled, enclosed footwear, with a defined heel must be worn or the use of clogs employed.

Initial mounting of horses must be done in an enclosed area and the use of a mounting block is recommended.

5. Supervision and instruction.

The proprietor or nominee shall be personally responsible for all horse related activities at the approved premises, but may appoint a qualified person over the age of eighteen (18) years of age to take charge of the operation at any time. An adequate number of supervisors who are experienced horse persons and riders must be employed. The number of employed must be sufficient to maintain regular supervision and will vary with the skill of the riders, the nature of the horses and the location of the ride.

All supervisors (proprietors or employees) must be registered instructors with AHRC or EFA (or International equivalents) or be registered as actively working towards accreditation under the supervision of an accredited instructor. They must also be qualified for the activity that they are supervising. Those in charge of an activity directly involving horses must be 18 (eighteen) years of age or older. There must be a ratio of staff to clients no less than 1:10 in any activity directly involving horses.

In Trail riding operations there must be one staff member on the ride with AHRC Trail Ride Supervisor or higher qualifications and the holder a current first aid certificate. Other staff may carry lesser qualification. A ratio of staff to clients of 1:10 whilst trail riding is a minimum. A ratio of staff to clients of 1:6 is recommended unless all riders in the group are competent.

6. Facilities.

Full and Associate members must have appropriate council approvals for their business. All facilities shall be constructed of suitable materials and in such a manner that the risk of injury to persons and horses is minimal. Adequate toilet facilities must be provided and suitably maintained. Suitable first aid equipment must be available for both humans and horses. Adequate fire fighting equipment must be available. Transport must be available for emergency evacuation. Riding should only take place in areas where access by emergency vehicles is possible. Emergency procedures must be established and placed in prominent locations.

Riding arenas must be fully enclosed with fences at least 1.2 metres high. Posts must not protrude into the riding area but be protected by rails. Pedestrian, horse and vehicle traffic must be separated and clearly marked.

7. Legal Compliance.

All AHRC Queensland members are expected to comply in full with government regulations. Of particular note are:

Industry Code of Practice for Horse Riding Establishments; Workplace, Health and Safety legislation; Working with Children regulations.