

# Conduct & Discipline Matrix

Standard <sup>i</sup>	Failure to Meet Standard 1st Infraction <sup>ii</sup>	Failure to Meet Standard 2nd Infraction <sup>iii</sup>	Failure to Meet Standard 3rd Infraction <sup>iv</sup>	Notes
1. <i>Polite, productive communication when in public settings</i>	Warning and education on alternative actions by Steward; appropriate apology(ies) encouraged to be made	Disqualification <sup>v</sup> (DQ) from event; Steward may attempt further education on more productive alternative actions	6-month ban	
2. <i>Safe riding: e.g., following other equines at a distance (not tailgating), passing in a safe manner, following Ride Manager's specific safety or trail conservation instructions</i>	Warning and education by Steward; apology(ies) to party(ies) endangered; possible DQ depending on level of infraction	DQ from event; further education from Steward; potential 3-month ban	6-month to 1-year ban; potential permanent ban	Serious harm can be done to equines and humans; legal liability may attach.
3. <i>Safe conduct while at event venue, on the trail and in ride camp</i>	Warning and education by Steward; apology(ies) to party(ies) endangered; possible DQ depending on level of infraction	DQ from event; further education from Steward; potential 3-month ban	6-month to 1-year ban; potential permanent ban	Serious harm can be done to equines and humans; legal liability may attach.
4. <i>Positive sportsmanship such as yielding the trail to faster participants in a reasonable time, staying on marked trail, following EDRA and venue rules and instructions, positive, encouraging communications with other competitors, etc.</i>	Warning and education by Steward; apology(ies) to party(ies) affected; possible loss of placing; cutting trail intentionally is automatic DQ	DQ from event; further education from Steward	3-month to 1-year ban	

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<p><b>5. Physical altercation including contact (such as hitting, pushing, kicking) is not accepted</b></p>	<p>Local authorities will be contacted. Possible DQ of all involved parties, depending on circumstances and level of infraction</p>	<p>DQ from event; local authorities will be contacted; 1-year ban</p>	<p>Local authorities will be contacted; Lifetime ban</p>	<p>Serious injury to human participant is possible; legal liability may attach</p>
<p><b>6. Safe horse (equine) -- Equines shall be controlled appropriately, and warnings placed on those with issues. "Appropriately" means that the average equine would be safely obedient to the average handler</b></p>	<p>Warning and education by Steward; remove and possible DQ equine from event; follow-up education to handler by EDRA Mentor who is qualified to address such equine behavior</p>	<p>DQ from event with instructions to leave event grounds; must document receiving assistance in training equine before being allowed to participate in future events</p>	<p>3-month to 6-month ban for equine; must document receiving assistance in training equine  Permanent ban for equine in question if behavior continues</p>	<p>Serious injury to human or equine participants is possible; legal liability may attach</p>
<p><b>7. Full payment at time of registration to Ride Manager or EDRA (i.e., no bounced checks or stop payment instructions). Acceptance of EDRA late fee and refund policies.</b></p>	<p>DQ from event; make financial amends within 5 days or loss of documented mileage/points will be permanent. If full payment plus any actual incurred fees is not made within 5 days of notification, this is considered grounds for refusal on entry to future events, until such time as restitution is completed.</p>	<p>DQ from event; 6-month ban</p>	<p>1-year ban</p>	

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<p><b>8. Follow event mandates (e.g., clean camp, restrictions on fires/smoking, dogs on leash, weed-free hay, headstall and/or hoof protection, controlled starts, racing at finish, minimizing excessive and disruptive noise)</b></p>	<p>Possible DQ depending on level of infraction; if done intentionally, DQ with no documented points/miles; written apology to those impacted; EDRA Board may assign service work at another ride with ride ban until work is performed.</p>	<p>DQ from event; further service work may be assigned</p>	<p>3-month ban to 6-month ban; if behavior continues beyond 3<sup>rd</sup> infraction, 1-year ban</p>	<p>This behavior is a legal liability for Ride Managers and jeopardizes the Ride Manager's permit and could cause the future loss of the ride for everyone.</p>
<p><b>9. Follow EDRA rules such as wearing a helmet while mounted, verifiable equine age, concussion protocol rider option pull, etc.</b></p>	<p>Warning and education by EDRA Steward; not allowed to start if rider does not have a helmet and cannot locate one before riding or refuses to wear a helmet. If caught riding without a helmet, DQ from event. Falsifying equine age will result in DQ. Not accepting the decision from a positive concussion protocol decision will result in DQ. Education from Steward on specific issue.</p>	<p>DQ from event; 6-month ban</p>	<p>1-year ban</p>	
<p><b>10. Follow EDRA Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies</b></p>	<p>Minimum discipline to be leveraged will be DQ from event.</p>	<p>DQ from event; and minimum discipline to be leveraged will be 1-year ban</p>	<p>Permanent ban</p>	<p>See Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention, Appendix H for details on investigation and disciplinary processes</p>
<p><b>11. Failing an equine drug test</b></p>	<p>See Drug &amp; Medication Rule, Appendix C</p>	<p>See Drug &amp; Medication Rule, Appendix C</p>	<p>See Drug &amp; Medication Rule, Appendix C</p>	<p>See Drug &amp; Medication Rule, Appendix C</p>

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<p><b>12. Safe equine containment such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tied to trailer,</li> <li>• Hi-Tie,</li> <li>• High line,</li> <li>• 1 equine per pen (2 may be allowed under preapproved circumstances),</li> <li>• Metal, aluminum, or PVC corrals,</li> <li>• Energized electric fencing, minimum 2-strands that can touch areas of equine skin even when blanketed (if no fire conditions exist)</li> </ul>	Warning and education by Steward; must correct containment	Must correct containment; DQ from event; 3-month ban	Must correct containment; DQ from event; 6-month ban	Putting other equines and humans at risk; potential property damage
<p><b>13. Welfare of Equine – appropriate handling techniques; appropriate riding (to the equine’s level of fitness). Following ride veterinarian advice – appropriate care of the equine in camp.</b></p>	Education by Steward and/or veterinarian; possible DQ	DQ and 3-month to 6-month ban	DQ and 1-year ban	Possible result in injury or death of equine (as a result of abuse or neglect of care)
<p><b>14. Equine body score between 3-8 is required to be eligible to enter an event. Ride veterinarian determines score.</b></p>	Not allowed to start. Education by veterinarian and/or Steward	Not allowed to start. 3-month ban	Not allowed to start. 6-month ban.	
<p><b>15. Responsible management of pets – dogs, cats, or other animals (e.g., goats, rabbits, ferrets) should be under the</b></p>	Warning and education by Steward; must correct containment	Must correct containment; DQ from event; 3-month ban	Must correct containment; DQ from event; 6-month	Putting equines, other animals, and humans at risk; potential

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<p><i>control of a handler or contained (pen, crate, tied, inside tent or camper or LQ, etc.). They must be on a leash when not confined. Some public land managers may allow off-leash walk areas, please inquire with ride management before allowing your animal to roam free.</i></p>			ban	property damage

<sup>i</sup> **This list of Standards is not exhaustive. These are the types of behaviors that will result in discipline, but the list may be expanded to those not envisioned but which ultimately occur.**

These standards provide a framework to guide EDRA in disciplinary actions yet allow flexibility to select the appropriate discipline in each particular case. The sanction imposed may depend on the presence of aggravating or mitigating factors.

Aggravating factors include:

- Prior disciplinary offenses (including those with other equestrian sport organizations)
- Dishonest or selfish motive
- Pattern of misconduct
- Multiple offenses
- Abuse or overindulgence of alcohol and/or other substance
- Bad faith obstruction of the disciplinary proceeding by intentionally failing to comply with rules or orders of EDRA
- Submission of false evidence, false statements, or other deceptive practices during disciplinary process
- Refusal to acknowledge behavior that did not follow the standard
- Vulnerability of victim
- Expected understanding of rules and accepted practices, given experience with equine distance riding sports
- Indifference to making restitution

Mitigating factors include:

- Absence of prior disciplinary record
- Absence of dishonest or selfish motive
- Personal or emotional problems
- Timely good faith effort to make restitution or to rectify consequences of misconduct
- Full and free disclosure to disciplinary board or cooperative attitude toward proceedings
- Inexperience with equine distance riding sports and/or other equine disciplines
- Character or reputation in the equine distance riding community
- Physical or mental disability or impairment
- Interim rehabilitation
- Imposition of other penalties or sanctions
- Remorse
- Remoteness of prior offenses

Ultimate disposition of discipline should be public in cases of ban or more severe sanctions. Only in cases of minor misconduct (without a ban) and when there is little or no injury to a rider, equine or riding community; or when required by a specific EDRA policy (e.g., accusations pertaining to minor athlete abuse), should disciplinary actions remain private.

The purposes of sanctions can best be served, and the consistency of those sanctions enhanced, if disciplinary organizations articulate the reasons for the sanctions imposed. Therefore, EDRA will strive to explain the imposition of each specific sanction for educational purposes and to provide structure and precedent for subsequent cases.

## **RIDE STEWARD EXPECTATIONS:**

EDRA will provide, or appoint, at least one Steward at each EDRA sanctioned ride. The Steward is responsible for having valid SafeSport trained certification in advance of the event. The Steward is responsible for identifying him/herself at the pre-ride meeting, wearing the Steward vest while at the event venue and explaining their role to participants. Stewards will be available to assist Ride Managers and riders on Rules-related matters. Additionally, they are responsible for investigating and addressing behaviors that may fail to meet EDRA and/or event Rules and instructions. This investigative process includes:

- Periodic walks around the venue to ensure Rules (such as equine and dog containment, wearing of helmets when mounted and other observable requirements) are being followed. When there are issues, the Steward addresses the matter in an educational and learning manner unless an individual continues to repeat the offense.
- If the event of a report of non-compliance by another participant, the Steward collects full and independent statements, preferably recorded, from each party involved as well as witnesses. The idea that statements taken, and evidence accumulated close in time to the occurrence is more valuable than what is recalled after the passage of time.
- Determines if any injury(ies) occurred and extent—to equine(s), rider(s), volunteer(s), observer(s), or others.
- Gathers any applicable photos, documentation, or non-documentary evidence.
- If, in consultation with the Ride Manager, a determination can be made for corrective action to be taken (e.g., education and/or resolution meeting the

needs of concerned parties), the Steward will do so while still at the ride event. Such action needs to be consistent with previous actions taken by EDRA in other similar situations.

- Consultation with EDRA Board members and/or other Stewards in attendance at the event is allowed in order to ensure consistency – in both the interpretation of Rules and discipline carried out, if required.
- Prepares a written report about the Ride and sends it to the Steward Coordinator within one week of the event, following the template format provided by the Steward Coordinator.

Ride Managers are encouraged to make a copy of EDRA Rules available in printed form at their event. EDRA provides a printed version of its Rules for Stewards, along with a log of previous disciplinary actions. Stewards are asked to have these materials with them at the ride event, to be used in Rules interpretation and consistency in the application of disciplinary action.

<sup>ii</sup> Recorded in Steward's report; names included

<sup>iii</sup> Recorded in Steward's report; names included, if the individual has an approved Unaccompanied Youth designation, discipline will also include the revocation of this privilege

<sup>iv</sup> Recorded in Steward's report; names included

<sup>v</sup> Disqualification results in loss of documented mileage and points from the entered event