



## **Policies – Health, Safety, and Welfare** of the International Mounted Games Association

### **Health, Safety, and Welfare**

Mounted Games is an inherently dangerous sport, and it is impossible to eliminate all risk. It is, however, possible to identify and minimise risk and to take sensible precautions to handle situations which may arise.

These guidelines are not based on the current Health and Safety legislation in any particular country as they have to be applicable wherever Mounted Games competitions may take place. They are, however, based on “best practice” as found in other sports associations.

Mounted Games is a sport which requires close teamwork between riders and ponies. Therefore, the Health, Safety, and Welfare regulations set out in this document apply both to people and to ponies, and to the competitions where they all come together.

### **People**

Everyone who is actively involved in Mounted Games is expected to be :

- Physically fit
- Fully aware of the risks of the Mounted Games environment
- Not under the influence of alcohol
- Not under the influence of any drugs which may impair their judgement and/or artificially enhance their performance

Young children must be supervised at all times, but especially when in areas where there are ponies, and in particular when arena-side.

Access to the playing area is restricted to (see Rule Book GR 7.1) :

- Riders participating in the games session taking place
- Competition organisers
- Chief Referee and other Referees
- Assistant referees
- Judge and his/her assistants
- Commentators
- Those responsible for equipment
- Competitors
- Trainers (team competitions only)

Plus, under special circumstances, and as required :

- Medical personnel
- Vet and Farrier
- Others involved in prize-giving

Everyone is expected to take all reasonable care to ensure their own personal safety and that of others.



## **Policies – Health, Safety, and Welfare** of the International Mounted Games Association

When anyone observes something which is, or could be, unhealthy or unsafe, they are expected to take the appropriate action to deal with the problem. If this involves action beyond their capabilities or authority, then they must refer the problem to someone who does have the capability and authority to deal with it.

When in doubt, don't just walk away and forget about it, **TELL SOMEONE !**

### **Ponies**

At all stages during the preparation and training of ponies for competition, welfare of the ponies must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good pony management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transport, as well as during the competition itself.

The following requirements apply to all ponies, whether actively participating in the competition, or not :

- Must be fit for competition, and in good health
- Must be equipped with approved tack
- Must comply with any size/height/weight restrictions
- Must not exhibit any unsafe behaviour
- Must not be under the influence of any prohibited substances (see Rule Book GR 11.1 & 11.2)

Every effort must be taken to ensure that ponies receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are still treated humanely even after their competitive careers are over. This includes proper veterinary care, treatment of injuries, and retirement.

### **Competitions**

The people and ponies (see the sections above) come together at Mounted Games competitions.

The following regulations apply to the organisation of competitions.

- Games equipment must be safe and conform to the standard specifications.
- A vet and a farrier must be present or on emergency stand-by for fast response
- The following emergency services must be present or on emergency stand-by for fast response :
  - Medical first aid with ambulance support
  - Fire
  - Police
- Access for these emergency services must be kept open and free at all times



## **Policies – Health, Safety, and Welfare** of the International Mounted Games Association

- Emergency exits must be kept open and free at all times
- Precautions against fire and equipment to fight fires must be present in all stable areas
- Motor vehicles must be used on-site as little as possible and at all times be driven only at low speeds and be kept as far away as possible from ponies and spectators
- Toilets, showers, water, electricity, and other services must be permanently available within the practical limits imposed by the location
- All catering facilities must follow the basic requirements of food safety and hygiene

### **Responsibilities**

Health and safety is the general responsibility of **everyone concerned**, but the following have specific responsibilities :

Competition organiser :

- Safety of games equipment
- Provision of vet and farrier on stand-by
- Provision of emergency services on stand-by
- Free access to, and exits from, the competition area
- Fire precautions
- Enforcement of control on use of vehicles
- Provision of sanitary and other services
- Food safety and hygiene

Chief Referee and other Referees :

- Ensure the ability of all officials to correctly carry out their assigned tasks
- Ensure the fitness of all riders to compete
- Ensure the fitness of all ponies and the correct use of tack
- Verification of the safety of games equipment