



STANDARD BRED PLEASURE & PERFORMANCE HORSE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

CODE OF CONDUCT

For Members, Owners, Riders, Organisers, Sponsors, Judges, Visitors and Officials

The Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association of Victoria's (SPPHAV) Code of Conduct outlines behaviours that are expected of every person involved within the Association, as well as identifying the types of behaviours that will not be tolerated.

In all equestrian sports the horse must be considered paramount. Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.

SPPHAV recognizes the principles covered in the Vic Sport Code of Conduct and works to ensure:

- the inclusion of every person regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, race, culture or religion;
- members and associates of members demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under the age of 18 years, as your words and actions are an example;
- members and associates of members avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under the age of 18 years, wherever possible;
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential;
- that respect is shown towards others, the Association and the broader community;
- a safe and inclusive environment for all;
- the elimination of violent and abusive behaviour;
- appropriate use of Social Media of any type, on any site or any page;
- members and associates of members refrain from any form of harassment of others.

This Code of Conduct, the Rules of the Association, the Risk Management Policy and the Showing Rules all apply at SPPHAV sanctioned events and activities and extends to cover unacceptable behaviour on the part of individual members and associates of the member which has the potential to be injurious to the reputation of the Association and negatively affect the safety and enjoyment of the sport by others.

BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The SPPHAV Committee may impose sanctions when they are satisfied that there is proof that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred. Breaches of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to the following:

- failure to comply with the Rules of the Association;
- failure to comply with the SPPHAV Risk Management Policy;
- failure to comply with the SPPHAV Showing Rules with particular regard to stallions;
- disrespecting the Rules of the Association or those of the Organising Committee of an event in such a manner that is considered offensive;
- disrespecting the decisions of Judges and / or Event Officials;
- failure to follow the request or orders of Event Officials;
- bribing or attempting to bribe Officials or Judges;
- defamation of the Association - including via the use of Social Media;

- conduct which may be injurious to the reputation of the Association - including via the use of Social Media;
- behaviour and / or use of language in a manner which may be considered offensive - including via the use of Social Media;
- wilfully misleading the Association or the Organising Committee as to the eligibility of a Horse / Rider or the misrepresentation of the Horse / Rider's identity;
- use of prohibited substances and / or failure or refusal of a rider, owner or SPPHAV member to allow their horse to be swabbed;
- harassment including offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening behaviour directed at a person or people in the form of verbal, non verbal or written communication - including via the use of Social Media;
- interfering with a horse that is not owned by yourself, a member of your family or a person in your company at a show / event;
- violent or abusive behaviour towards another person - including via the use of Social Media;
- discrimination against another person based on their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic - including via the use of Social Media;
- victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through the SPPHAV Code of Conduct,
- failure to maintain a safe environment;
- cruelty to a horse in the following manner:
 - to whip or beat a horse excessively;
 - to subject a horse to any kind of electric shock;
 - to use spurs, or to jab the horse in the mouth with the bit excessively or persistently;
 - to mount, attempt to mount or ride an obviously exhausted, lame or injured horse;
 - to 'rap' a horse anywhere in or outside the grounds of the Event;
 - to hyper-sensitise any part of a horse;
 - to leave a horse without adequate food, drink and exercise.
 - due to the use of banned Department of Primary Industry substances.

REPORTING A BREACH

If you genuinely believe that conduct in breach of this Code has occurred, the SPPHAV Committee want you to raise your concerns.

Members of both the public and the Association who are concerned about conduct should raise their concerns with a SPPHAV Committee Member.

BREACH PROCEDURES

- 1st issue Verbal Warning by at least 2 members of the SPPHAV Committee.
- 2nd issue Letter to the member advising of the reported incident with invitation to attend a meeting of the Committee on a scheduled committee meeting date after which a follow-up letter will be sent. This may be a "letter of warning".
- 3rd issue Written request that the member attend a meeting of the Committee to explain why their membership should not be disqualified. If not disqualified, the member will be advised that another incident will result in the immediate disqualification of their membership without discussion.

Committee Meeting dates will not be altered for any reason.

Disqualification period will be "the balance of the current financial year of membership plus one more year".

A second disqualification will be permanent.