



Horse Welfare Policy

Overarching Principle

The Welfare and Safety of the horse and rider takes PRESIDENCE and Shall be the First Priority in all decisions in the riding phase of the Modern Pentathlon.

Definitions

1. Terms in this Policy are defined as follows:
 - a) *"Member Association"* – Includes provincial/territorial associations that are members of Pentathlon Canada.
 - b) *"Participants"* – Refers to all categories of individual members and/or registrants defined in the By-laws of Pentathlon Canada as well as all people employed by, contracted by, or engaged in activities with, Pentathlon Canada including, but not limited to, employees, contractors, athletes, coaches, instructors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, parents or guardians, spectators, committee members, horse owners, and Directors and Officers.
 - c) *"Veterinarians"* – A doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM), a professional in animal health care, who has completed a degree at a veterinary college.

Purpose

2. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that Pentathlon Canada creates a safe training and competitive environment for horses that is free from horse abuse.

Application

3. This Policy applies to all Participants.
4. This Policy applies to matters that may arise during the business, activities, and events of Pentathlon Canada and its Member Associations including, but not limited to, competitions, practices and training, camps and clinics.
5. This Policy also applies to Participants' conduct outside of the business, activities, and events of Pentathlon Canada and its Member Associations when such conduct adversely affects Pentathlon Canada's and/or a Member Association's relationships (and the work and sport environment) or is detrimental to the image and reputation of Pentathlon Canada or a Member Association, or upon the acceptance of Pentathlon Canada or a Member Association. Accordingly, applicability of this Policy will be determined by Pentathlon Canada or a Member Association upon its sole discretion.

Horse Abuse

6. Abuse of horse means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse. Horse abuse includes but is not limited to:

- a) Hitting a horse more than three times in a row (i.e. three times per incident) without giving the horse time to respond.
 - b) Riding an exhausted horse
 - c) Excessive pressing of a tired horse
 - d) Riding an obviously lame horse
 - e) Excessive use of a whip, spurs or bit
 - f) Using an unauthorized whip, spurs or hat
 - g) Overriding (abuse of the horse that does not necessarily induce visible marks)
 - h) Serious cases of dangerous riding
 - i) Doping a horse
 - j) Show insufficient riding ability that may cause harm to a horse
7. Horse abuse does not include accidental or incidental harm or suffering caused to a horse by a Participant defending themselves from the horse.

Responsibilities

8. Participants have a responsibility to:
- a) Understand animal welfare
 - b) Not engage in horse abuse
 - c) Treat horses with care, fairly and without cruelty
 - d) Report signs of horse abuse (signs can include exhaustion, bleeding, and visible marks)
9. Veterinarians have a responsibility to:
- a) Determine if a horse has been subject to horse abuse
 - b) During a competition:
 - i. Present a written statement before the draw that all the horses are fit to participate
 - ii. Assist at the drawing procedure and certify the abilities of the horses
 - iii. Regularly assess horses and determine whether a horse can continue in a competition
 - iv. Be available during the competition in the warm-up area ready to check that no injured horses are entering the competition and that after the previous round, the horses are not lame and able to perform the next round
 - v. Immediately inform the competition organizers if a horse is lame

Discipline

10. In-competition, participants who engage in horse abuse may be disciplined or disqualified for instances of horse abuse.
11. In competition (including, warm-up, clinics, training, etc.), Participants may also be disciplined or disqualified if they display inability to control a horse, demonstrate dangerous riding, or show insufficient riding ability that may cause harm to a horse.
12. Participants may be subject to discipline outside of competition pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, or further discipline following any in-competition discipline or disqualification, if they engage in horse abuse or otherwise violate this Policy.

Approved by the Pentathlon Canada Board of Directors June 2022