

Risk Management Policy

The South Australian Dressage Association Inc (SADA) Committee is committed to ensuring a safe sporting and working environment for every person involved in SADA competitions and activities. To enable this commitment to be met, this Risk Management policy has been adopted and will be reviewed as required.

This policy is intended to provide for a reasonably safe environment for all competitors, spectators, volunteers and any other persons attending events, and their horses. It must be recognised however, that the handling and riding of horses is a dangerous activity and can result in serious injury and loss. Neither SADA nor the members of the SADA Committee accept responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by any person. Anyone who handles or rides a horse or attends events held by SADA do so entirely at their own risk.

The SADA Insurance Policy covers Flatwork/Dressage/Formation Riding. Please note that SADA members are insured for Public and Product Liability only and are not covered for Personal Accident or Injury. SADA strongly recommends that members have their own personal insurance and ambulance cover.

Refer to the Equestrian Australia Code of Conduct at www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Equestrian_Australia_Code_of_Conduct.pdf which covers requirements for officials, participants, parents and guardians, and spectators.

General

The SADA Risk Management policy shall be utilised when preparing for an event, and all aspects of this policy will be addressed, and any hazards identified.

The SADA Committee will appoint an official to be responsible for first aid and safety at all SADA events (hereafter known as the Safety Officer).

At SADA competitions and other activities, the Safety Officer or a Committee member in attendance on the day shall each have the authority of the Committee to make any decision necessary in relation to any matter concerning safety.

All event personnel should know and understand general safety procedures and be conversant with the SADA Risk Management Policy.

Volunteers and other event personnel should have the required experience and knowledge to perform their duties or be appropriately trained and supervised before commencing duties.

All accidents or incidents must be recorded online using Form 8 within 24 hours (located at www.equestrian.org.au/content/risk-management) and discussed at the next committee meeting.

A list of emergency services contact details is available in the SADA office.

A First Aid kit and basic veterinary kit is available in the SADA office.

Where food is provided at a SADA event or activity, the requirements of the 'Safe Food Australia' guide will be adhered to. All persons consume food at their own risk.

SADA may cancel an event in the case of extreme weather conditions – this includes excessive heat, fire danger or excessively wet weather/ground conditions. Please refer to the separate Hot or Extreme Weather Policy.

No dogs are allowed on the grounds at any time.

SADA has a non-smoking policy.

Responsibility of Participants

All members are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by SADA Rules and Policies. Members are also expected to keep informed and up to date by reading newsletters, club communications (e.g., emails) and policy changes.

All riders on the grounds must be members of SADA and/or ESA and must report to the office before riding.

All participants entering a SADA event must sign the appropriate waiver/release forms where applicable.

Approved helmets are to be worn at all times whilst mounted, or in accordance with EA regulations with respect to competition attire.

It will be the responsibility of the rider of each horse to ensure that all riding equipment is well maintained and correctly fitted. Where applicable, a gear check will be conducted prior to riding.

For competition days, all riders need to supply their own numbers, worn on the headcollar or bridle and visible from both sides of the horse. It is your responsibility to make sure your horse is wearing the correct number, especially if you have more than one horse on the grounds.

Pick up any dung, hay, baling twine and fill any holes your horse may have dug before leaving.

Act in accordance with the information provided and with common sense at all times, considering the safety and welfare of people, horses and property, yours and others.

It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure that the level of fitness and training of their horse is suitable for the competition entered or the activity to be undertaken.

Horses and ponies must be three years of age or over to compete. Please contact the Committee if your horse is younger.

Juniors under the age of 18 years must always be supervised by a parent or nominated adult.

Child Safety Policy

SADA is committed to providing a child safe environment at all times by adopting the EA Child Safety Commitment Statement as it applies to the Club's activities – refer to www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/EA_Child_Safety_Commitment_Statement_01072018.pdf

All Committee members are required to have completed a Working with Children Safety Check. This registration is valid for five years and will be renewed by the member as required.

Venue and Grounds

The Safety Officer and, if possible, one other member of the SADA Committee, will inspect the grounds prior to the start of the competition or event. If necessary, they will discuss and mitigate any potential hazards that require attention before the event commences.

Inspections of higher-risk areas (e.g., spectator areas, warm up areas, catering and meal areas) should be repeated during the event as appropriate.

No horses are permitted in the spectator/pedestrian only areas.

Outside arenas will be defined clearly and use appropriate safe surrounds.

Parking and Traffic

For all traffic, a 10 km/h speed limit is applicable throughout the grounds.

Parking areas will be of sufficient size to allow safe movement of vehicles at all times and vehicles must be parked so as not to block the exit for others. Follow the directions of the steward if present.

All drivers must ensure that horse floats are parked a sufficient distance from other floats to prevent one horse from being able to kick another horse or to damage vehicles.

Floats/Trucks and spectators' vehicles will be assigned separate parking areas where possible.

Handling of Horses

Stallions must be kept under strict control at all times and not be left unattended. Any person handling a stallion must be over the age of 18 years and must be suitably experienced in stallion handling.

All horses must be tied in a safe and secure manner. Horses should be tied up with a halter and lead rope during breaks. Horses may not be tied up with reins at any time.

If horses which are tied up are known to have a tendency to kick or engage in any activity that might be a danger to itself, another horse or a passer-by, that horse must be attended to by a suitably experienced person at all times whilst tied up.

Portable yards should be of solid construction. The use of portable yards constructed from electrical tape, strings, ropes or chains will not be permitted.

Horses should be provided with access to water during breaks.

Any horse that is behaving in a manner considered to be dangerous to other people or horses on the grounds may be requested to leave the event. A horse that is required to leave will be automatically scratched from the competition or event for which it is entered on that day.

Abuse of a horse will not be tolerated, and the offending person/s may be requested to leave the event. Abuse includes excessive use of a whip or spurs.

Horse Warm-Up Area

The horse warm-up area must be adequate for the number of horses present and the maximum number of horses permitted in the area must be controlled to avoid potential accidents.

When passing another rider ahead of you who is unaware of your presence, call "passing" to make them aware. If you are passing another rider coming from the opposite direction, pass left shoulder to left shoulder.

At least two horse lengths should be left between horses. The performance of a ten-metre circle with return to the track can create distance.

If it is necessary to stop riding, riders should move to the centre of the area.

Slower horses should use the inside track.

Close attention should be paid to other riders to avoid collisions.

Novice riders or green horses that may be experiencing difficulty should be allowed more space.

If you are having difficulty, you may be asked to work away from the other horses, please consider other riders' and horse's safety at all times.

No riding is allowed in alternative arenas/paddocks without the prior consent from the SADA Committee.

Equine Safety & Welfare

SADA is committed to the well-being of all horses and has a ZERO tolerance towards abuse. This includes excessive use of the whip or rough handling or any other circumstance the committee may deem as abusive.

If anyone witnesses abusive behaviour, they should inform a SADA Committee member immediately.

Personal Safety

If a horse becomes loose whilst on club grounds, ensure you advise the owner and a SADA Committee member who will then decide on the best course of action. Please ensure the horse is calm and at a standstill before attempting to approach.

When offering or asking for assistance with your horse, remember that even the most experienced horse handler can get hurt when something goes wrong.

Members of the Public/Spectators

Spectators should keep voices down so that the competition is not disturbed, especially in the indoor arena.

There are no restrictions on members of the general public attending a SADA event. However, it should be assumed that members of the general public are not familiar with the behaviour of horses and do not know how to handle them or how to behave in their presence. Accordingly, persons riding or handling a horse must be especially alert for the presence of members of the general public (children in particular).

Members of the public/spectators attend the event at their own risk. A safe viewing area for spectators is provided at the far end of the indoor arena and in designated areas near the outside arena(s).

Members of the public/spectators will not, as a general rule, be permitted to enter competition and horse movement areas. If they do so, they enter at their own risk.