



## CODE OF ETHICS and CONDUCT

In addition to this document, the Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation (NSEF) adheres to the most current Equestrian Canada (EC) Code of Ethics.

### Purpose

1. The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment (within programs, activities, and events of the NSEF) by making Individuals aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour consistent with NSEF core values. The NSEF supports equal opportunity, prohibits discriminatory practices, and is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and fairness.

### Application and Structure of this Code

2. All members of the NSEF shall be bound by this Code of Ethics and Conduct.
3. All members of the NSEF must agree to be bound by the rules of EC while competing or exhibiting at EC-sanctioned competitions.
4. All members of other National and Provincial Federations must agree to be bound by the rules of the NSEF while competing or exhibiting at NSEF-sanctioned competitions and events.
5. The Code of Ethics consists of five parts: The Preamble, the Statement of Principle, Member Code of Conduct, Further Expectations of an NSEF Member and the Statement of Equine Principle. The Statements of Principle is to be considered an interpretive guide in applying the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is mandatory in character and is enforceable through the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

### Preamble

The NSEF believes:

6. That equestrian pursuits are based on a partnership between horse and human.
7. That it is the right and responsibility of the NSEF to set standards in matters of ethics, sportsmanship and the welfare of the horse and in all matters under its jurisdiction.
8. That it is desirable to define ethical practices, the delineate unethical practices, to encourage good sportsmanship, fair play, safety and high ethical behaviour and to warn, censure or bring to public attention and discipline those who commit acts detrimental to the best interests of stakeholders.
9. That NSEF members should observe the spirit as well as the letter of this Code of Ethics and Conduct.

10. That membership is a privilege, not a right, and that membership may be suspended, terminated or rejected following appropriate disciplinary procedures as per the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

### **Statement of Principles**

11. The NSEF is committed to providing a safe environment in which all Persons are treated with respect. Persons involved with the NSEF must acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinate to competitive or commercial influences.

### **Member Code of Conduct**

12. All members shall conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the values and ethics of the NSEF.

13. Any member who engages in or is party to conduct inappropriate to an NSEF member will be subject, after due process, to such sanctions as determined through the application of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

14. All NSEF members shall support the enforcement of the rules of the Federation by: Personal knowledge and compliance, agreeing to report any alleged infractions and occasions of alleged abuse at NSEF/EC-sanctioned events.

15. The organizers of NSEF/EC-sanctioned competitions shall operate within the rules of the Federation

16. A member shall be completely trustworthy, exhibit honesty, loyalty and discretion in all equestrian-related activities.

17. A member shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

18. A member will not publicize correspondence between themselves and the NSEF unless explicit permission has been obtained from the NSEF.

19. The NSEF member shall uphold issues of safety and fairness in all aspects of equestrian sport.

20. No member shall act to the detriment of others or equestrian activities in a situation where the responsibility of their position places them in a conflict of interest.

### **Further Expectations of an NSEF Member**

21. Members are encouraged to continuously educate themselves and to take an active role in the activities of the NSEF.

22. The NSEF member should strive to preserve and enhance the image of the sport so that society's respect will be maintained.

### **Statement of Equine Principles**

23. The NSEF supports adherence to humane treatment of horses in all competitions under its jurisdiction. NSEF is committed to:

24. Upholding the welfare of the horses, regardless of value, as a primary consideration in all activities.

25. Requiring that horses be treated with kindness, respect and the compassion that they deserve, and that they never be subjected to mistreatment.

26. Ensuring that owners, trainers and exhibitors or their agents use responsible care in the handling, treatment and transportation of their horses as well as horses placed in their care for any purpose.

27. Providing for the continuous well-being of horses by encouraging routine inspection and consultation with health care professionals and competition officials to achieve the highest possible standards of nutrition, health, comfort and safety as a matter of standard operating procedure.
28. Continuing to support scientific studies on equine health and welfare.
29. Requiring owners, trainers and exhibitors to know and follow their sanctioning organization's rules, and to work within industry regulations in all equestrian competition.
30. Reviewing, revising and developing competition rules and regulations that protect the welfare of the horses.

The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

### **Approval**

This Code was reviewed and affirmed by the Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation Board of Directors on the 24th day of September, 2019.