



LESSON AND ARENA ETIQUETTE

Safety of horses, riders and spectators is of paramount importance: with this in mind:

- Always approach, enter and leave the arena at a walk.
- Arrive on time or early to give your horse a chance to settle into the working environment and the other horses.
- Before your lesson, if you are riding, handling or lunging a horse that is out of control or disturbing others in their lesson, please move away from the group, or leave the arena. You can possibly return to a warm up area once your horse settles down. Try to keep lunging calm and controlled.
- If you arrive late to a lesson, enter the arena without interrupting any other riders already working. Apologise to the instructor and ask their permission to join the group (this may not be possible if it is a jumping lesson and your horse is not warmed up).
- Always introduce yourself to a new instructor and advise them of both you and your horse's experience, level and any safety concerns you have.
- If there is equipment to be set up for your lesson; offer assistance before mounting. Equally, if there is equipment to be packed away; make yourself available to help after the lesson, as this job often falls on the same few people left at the end of the day.
- Be mindful that there are usually other classes being held in adjacent arenas, including the bottom show-jumping arena. The club will endeavour to separate these designated work spaces by the use of ground-poles or witch's hats.
- Regarding fair use of our available work-space; group lessons booked via our rally coordinators will always take priority over privately booked lessons and private schooling (this means that while ARC Rally or PC Rally is in progress – you MAY NOT ride on the grounds during this this time – please ride either before or after the Rally lessons and ensure that you follow the instructions of the Rally Co-Ordinators and Instructors).
- Private lessons take priority of private schooling. If you are private schooling near a paid for and previously set up private lesson, respect that space by avoiding any activities that may disrupt the horse in the lesson.
- While working in a group be aware of where everyone else is on the arena, so you can avoid cutting them off or running into other horses. Acquaint yourself with horses that need you to keep your distance (e.g. mares / young horses) and do your best to do so.
- If your horse is tense about others coming close, please advise the instructor and other riders, so they equally can keep their distance from you.

- As a guide, you should leave a distance of at least two horse lengths between yourself and the horse in front.
- When passing another horse front-on, wherever possible, pass left shoulder to left shoulder.
- Do not allow your horse to run up the rear of the horse in front. Always turn in off the track to a small circle or move to another part of the arena where there is more space.
- In a lesson, when you need to stop or take a break, always make your way to the middle of your group, to a place well clear of other riders.
- Always excuse yourself from a lesson should you wish to leave early.
- If using a full length dressage whip in a lesson, ensure that when passing other horses, you don't inadvertently touch or flick them with your whip.
- Should you find yourself sharing a lesson or warm-up area at a competition with more advanced riders who are doing two-track work, or in a faster pace, they have right-of-way at all times. i.e. If you are walking, stay on an inside track of those trotting or cantering.
- Feel free to ask questions and clarify instructions with your instructor throughout a lesson if you are unsure of what is being asked of you, or if you haven't heard the instruction.
- Thank your instructor for their time and do not hesitate to query them about what you have worked on in the lesson, and what would be useful to continue with in your own training. Most instructors like questions.
- Please leave the arena at a walk once your lesson is finished, and when returning to the float/yards area or generally moving around the grounds, do so at a walk so as not to spook other horses.
- Ensure all manure is removed from the arena if your horse has made a deposit. And while you are there cleaning up, consider picking up any other droppings left behind too.

A small gesture of goodwill goes a long way to creating an atmosphere of care for not only club property, but your fellow riders as well.

Thank you