

ADVANTAGE RANCH LLC

Center for Equine Interactive Concepts

SAFETY RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT RIDERS

Upon arriving at the Facility, check in with your instructor's office immediately for horse assignments and daily instructions. Bring your good attitude and a SMILE with you to every lesson! HAVE FUN!!!

General information:

The Blacksburg Division is home to a number of privately owned horses. It is important that student riders and guests respect the rights of private horse owners. Do not pet any horse other than the one assigned for your lesson. Refrain from entering any tackroom, feedroom, or office area not used in your lesson program. Follow the traffic pattern as directed; stay out of the main aisle when advised by facility staff.

Please do not bring your dog to the barn. Register all guests and family members who wish to observe your lesson with your instructor. Minor age children visiting the Facility must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Be advised that there is no tolerance for smoking at this facility. Please park in the front parking lot; do not block the front barn doors, the south side of the barn, or the walkway to the outdoor arena.

Student Riders Rules:

1. **Proper Attire:** Wear close fitting jeans or riding pants; riding boots or equivalent with a closed toe, ankle support, and a minimum 1/2" heel; gloves; weather appropriate jackets. We suggest you dress in layers; always tuck in your shirt. Close fitting clothes give your instructor the best view of your position (and keep you safe, so your clothes don't get hung up on anything).

Safety Helmets, ASTM certified, are required for all student riders. Your instructor will check for proper fit. Adjust your chin strap snugly.

Never wear rain gear in a horse's stall (plastics tend to make scary sounds!!)

2. **Grooming Procedure:** Open your horse's stall and wait for it to face you. Put on the halter, lead the horse to the tie chain and hook it up. If your horse does not come to you for haltering, ask your instructor for assistance. Some of you may be assigned to a horse that is already haltered and tied in the cross tie area.

Thoroughly groom your horse with the curry comb and body brush to remove all dirt and debris. Clean feet with a hoof pick. Do not brush or comb the mane or tail of your assigned horse. If you have any questions, or require assistance ask your instructor.

3. **Tacking Up:** Never place tack on the ground. Carry each piece of tack from the tackroom to your assigned horse. First place the pads upon the horse's back, then the saddle. Tighten the girth to snug, do not over tighten. Bridle the horse and lead it to the designated riding arena.

Always lead the horse so that his head is on your right, keep the horse's head in front of yours. Use two hands on the lead rope, position right hand six inches from halter for maximum control. Wait for your instructor to check your tack and tighten your girth before mounting.

4. **Arena Manners:** Always keep your horse at least 20 feet from any other horse, whether you are on the ground or mounted (this keeps you and your horse out of kicking range). When

entering the arena take your horse to the center line, and stand facing the north wall. Always hold reins securely when standing with your horse.

When mounted, follow your instructor's directions to maintain safe riding distances in the arena. Always yield the right of way to any rider with less experience than you have (and appreciate the fact that more experienced riders will afford you this same courtesy).

5. Mounting Procedure: Your instructor will assist you to learn our balanced mounting method. Instructor will check your girth and tighten as needed before you mount. A mounting block is used for all mounting.

6. Lesson: We believe that riding is the ongoing communication process between rider and horse. In this process you may find it difficult to listen to both your instructor and your horse at the same time.

Therefore, we implement a three part coaching cycle: (1) Instructor will provide needed information, and discuss the experiential component, while you are sitting still upon your horse. (2) You will have an opportunity to experience the lesson with your horse (during which time your instructor will be physically present, but will provide only as much verbal instruction as needed to keep you safe and successful). (3) You will review your horse experience with your instructor so that you can best understand it, at which time you will be sitting still on your horse.

You can expect that when you begin your riding lessons there will be a lot of instructor input; and as you progress the instructor will provide increasing opportunities for you to be in relationship with your horse. Our goal is to help you progress to independent riding.

7. Lesson Wrap Up: Following your mounted lesson return to the arena center line facing the south wall. Remember to keep at least 20 feet spacing from other horses. Dismount when instructor directs. If riding hunt seat, run up your stirrup leathers. Loosen your girth one or two holes.

Lead your horse to exit area when instructed to do so. Stop in designated area outside of arena to clean the horse's hooves. Request assistance from instructor if needed. Use proper leading procedure to return horse to his stall. Remove bridle, put on halter, hook the horse on the chain. Untack and return all tack to the tack room. Groom horse using curry comb and body brush. After grooming, unhook the chain and lead your horse to the door of his stall. Remove his halter and turn him loose. Securely latch the door as you exit.

8. Closing: Report to your instructor's office to complete the daily ride evaluation. Confirm your next lesson time. Check out any registered guests.

9. Miscellaneous information: We never feed our horses treats from our hand. You may ask permission to leave an appropriate treat (carrot, apple, or commercial horse treat... nothing else please they have delicate stomachs) in your horse's feed box .

We are glad to assist in photo ops or video taping, just consult with your instructor before your lesson (this way we can assign a horse that is not camera shy!).

Please direct any questions to your instructor.