

Martin Downs Equestrian Center Rules and Regulations

The goal of the Martin Downs Equestrian Center is to provide a healthy and professional environment for the horses and people that are here to enjoy it. The preceding guidelines are intended to keep both horse and horseowner/riders safe while enjoying the Equestrian Center. Any questions or comments regarding these rules all welcomed by the manager at any time.

Martin Downs Equestrian Center (MDEC) management and faculty reserves the right to forbid students or boarders who are mentally or physically unfit, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol to ride or handle horses.

In reference to an issue about your horse, changes, questions, complaints, etc. must be taken to the Manager, preferably in writing.

There is to be **NO SMOKING** in the barn area of the Equestrian Center except in outside designated areas. If there is a barn roof over your head, you are not welcome to smoke there at any time.

Prior permission from Management is required for any non-boarded horses to be present on the barn premises. Proper proof of valid Coggins, vaccination record, and liability waivers need to be in Management's hand before horse sets foot on property.

Shoes must be worn at all times while on barn premises. Close-toed shoes or boots are required if you are handling or riding a horse.

Dogs are to be kept on leashes, in crate, or in vehicle at all times and never in an arena, or turnout paddock.

A scheduled activity has priority in the use of facilities and horses and will be posted ahead of time.

Students/Boarders are not allowed to enter stalls (other than their own or lease horse) without permission.

Students/Boarders are not allowed to enter private tack lockers, feed loft, or private tackrooms without permission.

All Guests who will be riding must sign a Riding Liability Waiver prior to mounting.

Guests are not allowed on the premises without being accompanied by a Boarder as they are the responsibility of the Boarder to supervise.

No children under the age of sixteen are to be left unsupervised by parent or guardian at the Equestrian Center.

No running, yelling or boisterous play in the equestrian center, especially when horses are present.

StallGuards and chains must be properly hung on stalls at all times. Absolutely no exceptions.

No parking in front of barn entrances/exits. Keep vehicles at 5mph on farm.

Staff and fellow boarders are to be treated with respect and courtesy at all times. Any issues, disagreements, or complaints need to be dealt with in a respectful and productive manner. Rude, loud, or hateful behavior against staff or customer, regardless of circumstance, will result in immediate dismissal from Equestrian Center property.

Services additional to the full board offerings are always available and can be found on our menu. These must be scheduled with Management only. Offering pay or sidework to MDEC staff individually will not be tolerated and will result in immediate termination of employee or customer's dismissal from facility. Tipping is unnecessary as well.

Handling Horses

All horses should have their properly-fitted halter and lead rope hanging on their stalls for quick access in case of emergencies.

If you cannot control your horse during your visits or Management deems your horse unsafe for Staff to handle, you will be asked to put your horse under the care of a trainer (at your own expense) or to relocate your horse to another facility.

Horses are to be tacked up in their stalls, not in the aisle-ways. Washracks are for washing, not tacking or grooming.

Horses are not to be left unattended or untied in grooming areas or wash stalls.

When a horse is standing in cross ties, lead ropes must be unsnapped from their halters and hung up.

Horses are never to be tied in any way by the bridle. A halter may be slipped over the bridle if a horse must be tied with its bridle on.

Horses are never to be out of their stalls without proper restraints. They must be wearing a halter and lead shank/rope, or bridle except during approved turn-out. "Ground tying" is not acceptable.

Horses are not to be grazed loose except in paddocks. Handlers must remain standing when grazing a horse. Do not graze on ornamental grasses please.

All horses must be tied in stalls, wash racks or farrier area. Do not tie horses in aisle way, to stall doors, stall fronts, buildings, or to fences.

Barn Hours

Hours may vary according to special events and will be posted. The Equestrian Center opens at 7:00 AM and closes at 9:00 PM. The gate will usually be locked at 9pm, and unlocked at 7am. In the event a horse needs treatment or monitoring

after hours, please notify Management of your intent so that lights and access can be provided. Walk-through gate is always open as you can always access your horse, the main-gates are locked for security purposes to deter unauthorized trailers or trucks.

Riding

Gear your riding in consideration of weak riders, green horses, condition of your horse, and ground conditions. Maintain proper distance between horses (a minimum of 10' in all directions is recommended). Those jumping have the right of way and must call their fences. Pass left shoulders when moving in opposite directions. When moving in the same direction, let your intention to pass be clearly heard. Do not block the flow of traffic or stand horses in gate.

All boarders and student riders are advised to where an ASTM approved helmet with an attached fastened harness to jump ANY horse on Equestrian Center property. All riders under 18 are required by law to wear a helmet.

Appropriate riding pants and boots are required of riders while riding on the premises. Sneakers, flip-flops, bathing suits, shorts, and visible undergarments are not appropriate while riding.

No riding is permitted in the barn aisles or in stalls.

Riding Etiquette

When a lesson is in session in any area, you MUST ask the permission of the instructor before entering that area. Make every effort not to interrupt instructors once lessons have begun except in case of emergency.

Lunging

Lunging must be done so that it does not disturb other horses and/or riders. Lunging in the round pen is encouraged as it is designed for that purpose, especially if your horse is inclined to be especially rowdy or you intend to do stationary lunging. Avoid destroying the new footing by remaining mobile while lunging up and down the length of an arena if you must lunge in the arenas.

Trails

Please preserve this for others as well as yourself by obeying the rules and showing courtesy. For your safety, no one should go out alone. Close all gates that you open. School horses may NOT go out on trail on MDEC property without permission of the faculty. An instructor must accompany trail riders on school owned horses. Trails are closed from dusk to dawn.

Outside Lessons/Training

Please make inquiries with Management regarding bringing in outside instructors/trainers. Proof of insurance will be required and any methods deemed

cruel or inappropriate by the Management will not be tolerated.

No student or boarder may charge a fee for help rendered to other students and/or boarders. Proof of the proper insurance must be provided to Management for one to be permitted to instruct or train on these premises.

If a boarder requests that another person be authorized to ride their horse in the boarder's absence for either recreation or conditioning purposes, Management must both be notified of the arrangement as well as be provided with a signed release for the rider.