



## **A Safe Return to Equestrian Events and Competitions**

**Addendum to  
NSEF Return to Equestrian Activity Guidelines**

**June 25, 2020**

**Updated on September 4, 2020 to reflect Atlantic Bubble Restrictions**

**NS Public Health Guidelines and Safe Sport Principles must be followed  
at all times and take precedence over anything found in this document**

## Introduction

As the equestrian community moves into its next phase of return to sport, we have developed the following addendum to the NSEF Return to Equestrian Activity document, published on May 30, 2020. In an effort to support event/competition organizers and participants, the NSEF's Return to Equestrian Events/Competition Plan Goals are:

1. To help reconnect our members and promote the well-being of our community through a safe and compliant return to our sport and participatory activities;
2. To provide guidance and tools to members and the equestrian community as a whole, for a safe return to equestrian events/competitions while adhering to NS Health Authority orders;
3. To protect our equestrian community;
4. To do our collective best to halt the spread of COVID-19.

## Risk Mitigation

**NS Public Health Guidelines and Safe Sport Principles must be followed at all times and take precedence over anything found in this document.**

In Nova Scotia, every event/competition committee/organizer must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place prior to restarting activities.. This plan **must be in compliance with [orders and guidance from the Nova Scotia Health Authority](#)**.

Additionally, NSEF suggests you check with your insurance provider to understand your coverage and any unique risks associated with the pandemic; consider seeking legal counsel to ensure your waivers are current and address current circumstances (sample safety plans, waivers and other helpful resources can be found at the end of this addendum or on the [NSEF Covid-19 Resource page](#)).

The health and safety of everyone coming to the facility or attending the activity is paramount. Every decision should be based around that premise. Some facilities may choose not to reopen or not resume certain activities based on their own setup, risk tolerance and the health of themselves, their family members, staff or clients. This is their right and should be respected.

It will be important that we all continue to take our cues from the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the provincial government. The sport specific guidelines are meant to supplement the requirements and recommendations from this authority. The ongoing implementation of the Return to Sport Guidelines will be monitored and updated when circumstances or provincial guidance change. NSEF's Return to Equestrian Activity and its Return to Events/Competitions Addendum is meant as a guide to help you develop your plan.

All organizers hosting activities sanctioned by the NSEF will be required to agree to, and include the following disclaimer in their prize list recognizing the scope of NSEF's sanctioning:

*"It is the responsibility of the show/event committee or organizers and the facility owners and managers to ensure that all NS Health Authority and NS WorkSafe directives are followed and enforced. NSEF is not a regulatory body and it is understood and agreed that sanctioning and approval of either an NSEF Provincial event or Equestrian Canada Bronze or Silver competition relates to the use of the rule book and approved officials only".*

1. [COVID-19 Reopening Nova Scotia Workplace Safety](#)
2. [Sample Insurance Waivers/Assessment Forms](#)
3. [NS Return to Sport Guidelines](#)
4. [NSEF Return to Equestrian Activity](#)

For more information, please see :

## NSEF Resource Guidelines for Return to Competitions/Events During Covid-19

<b>Preparing for your Event/Competition</b>	
<b>Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post signage at entrances and throughout the competition venue. Ensure these signs display up-to-date best practices and guidelines surrounding COVID-19.</li> <li>• Signs should clearly indicate that anyone who has a fever, exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, has tested positive for COVID-19, or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, cannot enter the competition venue. Printable posters are available on the NSEF website.</li> </ul>
<b>Entries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to limit exposure, all entries should be accepted through an online portal or over the phone. Entries, divisions and classes must be limited to meet the current Government of Nova Scotia guidelines and restrictions. All fees should be prepaid in advance of arrival.</li> <li>• Develop waivers, daily attestations, and checklists (specific to COVID-19) and require that they be submitted with all entries. Samples are included in this document. These samples should be reviewed with your insurance provider and/or your legal counsel. It is recommended that waivers and attestations be retained for minimally 2 years.</li> <li>• Monitoring who enters your venue is important if contact tracing is required. If competitors are planning on bringing support personnel (coach, groom, parent or guardian), have them provide names and contact information for each individual.</li> <li>• Consider arranging competitor ride times with a “show and go” framework</li> <li>• Have a policy in place to provide competitors with a refund or credit to allow anyone with COVID-19 exposure or symptoms the chance to withdraw last minute.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms should not enter the competition venue</li> <li>• Limit access to the venue to only the following               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Competition Organizer and the staff /volunteers needed to run the competition</li> <li>○ Competitors and necessary support personnel</li> <li>○ Medical Personnel (both human and equine)</li> <li>○ One parent or responsible adult for competitors who are under the age of majority</li> <li>○ Officials (COVID-19 Compliance Officer, Judges, Stewards, Ring Crew, Announcer, Score keeper etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cross reference everyone arriving against the “Venue Access List”</li> <li>• Restrict stables and spectator areas</li> <li>• Overnight accommodations (i.e. camping) on the grounds may not be permitted under provincial/regional government and health authorities, check with your local authorities</li> </ul>
<b>Authority, Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Identify the following as part of your plan:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) who has ultimate authority over access/removal of participants from the venue</li> <li>b) define the roles and responsibilities of all staff on site</li> <li>c) based on the above info create a decision tree outlining scenario plans and lines of communication</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Well before your event, Post on-line and/or circulate via email (to all participants) ALL COVID-19 guidelines and plans</b></li> <li>• Post on-line/circulate via email class times (including ride times), course maps &amp; results</li> <li>• Use radio, phone, and on-line communication methods as much as possible and communicate important information frequently throughout the competition venue</li> <li>• Conduct meetings via phone or webinar prior to competition for staff, volunteers, and officials to review the COVID-19 plans and address questions</li> <li>• Design a detailed layout of the venue including all competition and warm up arenas/rings and arrival/departure procedures and share with all</li> <li>• Broadcast the Government Health warnings as related to COVID-19 over the venue’s PA system throughout the competition, as required</li> </ul>

## NSEF Resource Guidelines for Return to Competitions/Events During Covid-19

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign equipment to officials and volunteers for the duration of the competition (where possible)</li> </ul>
<b>Sanitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete an extensive disinfection of the entire venue; this includes disinfecting all stables, offices, washrooms, venue equipment (including ring equipment, judge's booths, fence materials etc.)</li> <li>Provide hand sanitizing/washing stations throughout the venue including at each competition and warm up arena/ring/stabling/washroom facilities etc.</li> <li>Place garbage bins throughout the venue for hygienic disposal of items. Remove garbage from the venue frequently (For additional precaution Organizers may consider the option of having participants bring their own garbage bags and take their garbage home with them)</li> <li>Assign a washroom attendant to ensure frequent cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms</li> <li>All equipment should be sanitized and disinfected, before and after each use, this includes radios, clocks, stop watches, whistles, computers, laptops etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a COVID-19 Compliance Officer responsible for ensuring that guidelines put in place throughout the competition are being followed</li> <li>Install clear plastic, Plexiglas, or other type of protective shield in front of office staff/applicable officials' area, if physical distancing cannot be maintained</li> <li>Recommend having enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including face masks, hand sanitizer and gloves for all staff, volunteers, and officials</li> <li>Identify an isolation area to hold any symptomatic person found at the venue while awaiting patient transport to a medical facility or for their departure from the venue</li> <li>Liaise with local medical personnel and hospitals (human and equine), to ensure all current guidelines are being addressed</li> <li>Liaise with local hotels to ensure COVID-19 policies and practices are being implemented to ensure safety of participants requiring accommodations</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the competition timetable/class schedule allows for physical distancing requirements. ( i.e. limit classes, access to warm-up and washing areas, scheduling of course walking) and comply with <b>bubble of 10 or less and maximum of 50 people</b></li> <li>Install markers for 2m spacing between individuals in high traffic areas (competition office, food services, washrooms etc.). Providing visual markers on the floor or ground will help with distancing.</li> <li>As a general guideline, horses with handlers should be kept 5 meters apart while moving around the competition venue</li> </ul>
<b>COVID_19 Compliance Officer</b>	<p>Identify an individual who will be your COVID-19 Compliance Officer. This person will be responsible for ensuring the guidelines you have put in place, are being followed. This individual should be clearly marked and present for each day of your competition.</p> <p>Key roles of the COVID-19 Compliance Officer may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a log of regular monitoring of COVID-19 controls on site</li> <li>Ensure there is sufficient up-to-date signage throughout the venue</li> <li>Ensure that regular cleaning of washroom facilities, handrails, door handles, etc. is performed and all hand wash liquid/soap and hand sanitizers are replenished as required</li> <li>Report any areas of non-compliance (violations of physical distancing, sanitation, personal hygiene, and symptom acknowledgment etc.) to Competition Organizer</li> <li>Informing Competition Organizer if there is a confirmed case or if they have been made aware of an individual with COVID-19 symptoms and ensure this individual vacates the venue</li> </ul>

## NSEF Resource Guidelines for Return to Events/Competitions During Covid-19

<b><i>Operations during your Event/Competition</i></b>	
<b><i>Arrivals (Parking, Check-in, etc)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue entrance and exit should be clearly marked. If possible, provide a one-way system with a separate entrance and exit. If this is not possible then a stop/go system should be introduced</li> <li>• Entrance attendant(s) in place for the entire competition.</li> <li>• Entrance attendants should ask everyone on arrival if they are feeling ill or have any COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone exhibiting symptoms or feeling ill should not be allowed in the venue. Having signage located at the entrance indicating common symptoms, will help attendants manage check-in.</li> <li>• Cross reference names of participants arriving at the venue with the information provided by office</li> <li>• Entrance attendant(s) must report to the show office those participants who have been refused access.</li> <li>• Parking slots should be marked out in accordance with physical distancing regulations</li> <li>• Horse arrivals/departures should be scheduled via appointment/pre-arranged schedule</li> </ul>
<b><i>Competition Office</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to limit the number of individuals in the competition office by discouraging walk-ins and instead, scheduling appointments. You may also limit the number of people allowed in the office at one time.</li> <li>• Where possible, provide a separate entrance and exit door.</li> <li>• Have hand sanitizer available, any needed PPE for staff, protective screens and consider touch points (door handles, railings, etc.) that will require constant cleaning.</li> <li>• All equipment should be sanitized and disinfected, before and after each use; this includes radios, clocks, stop watches, whistles, computers, laptops etc.</li> <li>• Use radio, phone and online communication methods as much as possible and communicate important information frequently throughout the competition venue</li> </ul>
<b><i>Washrooms</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign dedicated cleaning staff to disinfect washrooms on a set schedule throughout the day</li> <li>• Hygiene stations prepared with spray bottles of disinfectant, paper rolls, gloves etc.</li> <li>• Use disposable paper towels. Do not use hand driers or reusable towels</li> <li>• Provide markers to delineate 2 meters spacing between people in the washroom que (e.g. markers on floor/ground for people in line)</li> <li>• Garbage bins set up outside the washrooms</li> </ul>
<b><i>Stable Area</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stables should be restricted to only competitors and essential support personnel</li> <li>• Set up a stable schedule and close stables at night. Having a stable attendant or security is an option to help enforce this</li> <li>• Provide hand sanitizing stations in and around the stabling area</li> <li>• Stalls and hay/shavings should be prepaid in advance of arrival and should be delivered to stalls before competitors arrive onsite</li> <li>• To ensure physical distancing, make sure stall assignments allow distance between each individual horse and/or stable group. Aisles should be kept clear (no tack trunks, chairs, or curtains) to allow for easy passage while maintain distance. No grooming stalls or horses in the aisles on crossties. Tack stalls should be made available for storage of equipment etc.</li> <li>• Compartmentalize stabling to ensure physical distancing between each horse or each stable assignment (in cases of multiple entries from the same stable)</li> <li>• Competitors shipping in for only a day may use their trailer, following the same physical distancing principles</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Competition Arena/Ring and Warm-up Ring</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A farrier station may be set up in a convenient location close to stable area</li> <li>• Utilize posted starting lists / orders of go</li> <li>• Arrange judge's areas to comply with physical distancing requirements</li> <li>• Develop a plan for the flow of participants. Where possible, have separate entry and exit points to the competition zone and into warm up rings. For the competition arena/ring make sure the previous competitor(s) has exited the area before the next competitor enters the arena/ring</li> <li>• Restrict the number of horses in the warm-up ring, establish timetable to ensure that there is a minimum of 5 meters between horses at all times Examples: staggered starts, assign opposite ends of arena/ring for warm-up, competitor stations, markers visible to competitors for start and stop points, (e.g., visible spacing marks etc.)</li> <li>• Restrict the number of people accompanying a horse to the competition arena/ring (e.g. competitor, coach/trainer and groom) and comply with physical distancing requirements</li> <li>• In classes where competitors compete collectively (equitation and hack classes), determine and communicate the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time (these numbers will be based on the size of the competition area and the physical distancing requirements)</li> <li>• Warm up rings should be closely monitored for physical distancing. Coaches should maintain physical distancing requirements and use a headset to communicate with the athlete during the warmup</li> <li>• Competitors should go straight back to their stable, or trailer after their ride</li> <li>• Provide sanitizing stations at each competition ring and schooling/warm-up area so as to disinfect shared equipment in these areas after each use</li> <li>• Post signage indicating not leaving equipment or attire unattended</li> <li>• Post scores online and circulate through email to avoid gatherings around a score board.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tack Check</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official should always use PPE (gloves must be changed after each tack check, used gloves must be properly discarded after each use)</li> <li>• Groom/or support personnel must use PPE when presenting the horse for the tack check</li> <li>• Official should always maintain a 2-meter distance from the athlete (athlete should stay mounted unless asked to dismount)</li> <li>• If the Steward, TD or Judge discovers something of concern during a ride, they may inspect the horse or rider visually while maintain physical distancing. If required the Vet, Medical Personnel, TD or Competition Organizer can be called for closer inspection of the horse or rider outside the arena.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Awards and Prizes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any formal award ceremonies should be discouraged.</li> <li>• Mail out awards after the competition or create a method for virtual ribbons and awards (consider gift certificates and vouchers).</li> </ul>

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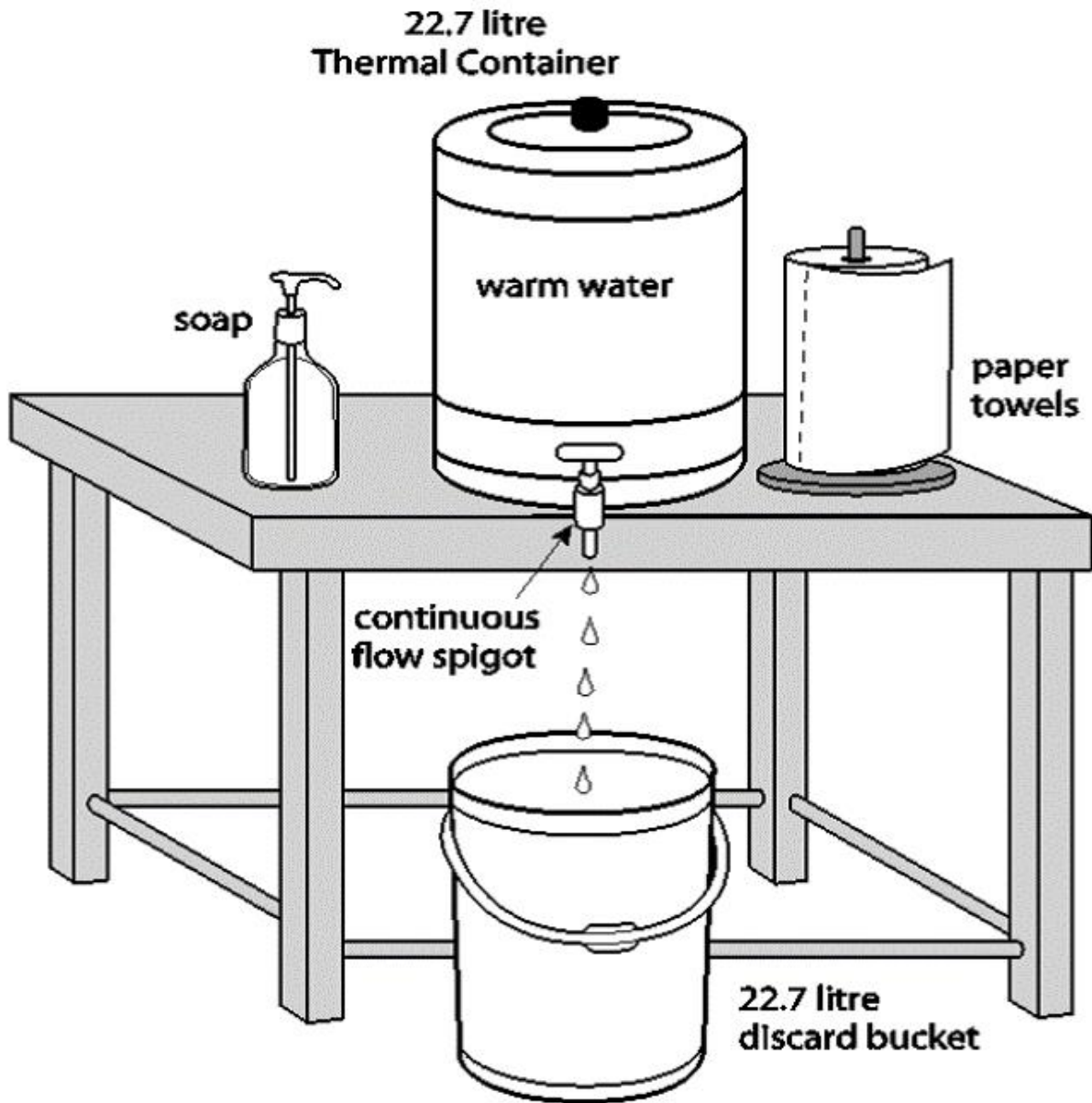
<b>Staff, Medical Personnel &amp; Service Providers</b>	
<b>Competition Organizers, Staff, Volunteers, and Officials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and have all parties agree to all COVID-19 guidelines prior to competition by completing the required waivers, checklists and daily attestations</li> <li>• It is suggested that for communication purposes that you use radio or cell phones</li> <li>• Stagger work hours, break times and discourage socializing to help maintain physical distancing</li> <li>• Provide PPE to all staff, volunteers and personnel.</li> <li>• Sanitize all equipment before and after each use</li> <li>• Special consideration should be given to anyone over the age of 70 or anyone with an increased risk of contracting COVID-19</li> <li>• Judges should provide their own scribe or ring master from within their household whenever possible. Otherwise, they should practise physical distancing with an assigned scribe or ring master.</li> <li>• Judges and scribes are to provide their own pens, notebooks etc. – no sharing of equipment</li> <li>• Scoring should be completed electronically. If this is not available, test/score sheets should be put in a folder or large plastic bag and placed in the competition office in a “no-touch” way.</li> <li>• Test/score sheets will not be distributed at the competition. They may be sent via email, upon request.</li> <li>• Avoid using a “runner” if possible. Should one be required, attempt to use the same person. The runner should wear appropriate PPE and use a plastic sleeve or bag to transport paperwork that can be disinfected between uses.</li> <li>• Only the announcer should use the microphone, which will be disinfected before, during and after the competition.</li> <li>• Equipment (poles, standards, cones, barrels, trail equipment, etc.) should only be adjusted by a dedicated ring crew who maintain social distancing and sanitization protocols. If possible, the crew should be from the same household or group.</li> <li>• Timing equipment should be managed and sanitized by one person. The timer or judge should be the only one allowed to use the timing equipment once sanitized.</li> </ul>
<b>Service Providers and Vendors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any provided services must follow provincial guidelines</li> <li>• It is strongly recommended to avoid food service whenever possible or use a grab and go pre-packaged food option</li> <li>• For food vendors:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limit the number of people who can enter the food areas at one time</li> <li>○ Provide hand sanitizer stations or assign an individual to provide sanitizer upon entry into the food court/zone</li> <li>○ If food is in a building provide an ‘in’ door and an ‘out’ door (where possible)</li> <li>○ Provide markers to delineate 2 meters spacing between people in the food court/zone (e.g. markers on floor/ground for people in line)</li> <li>○ Protective screens placed protect catering staff</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants are participating at their own risk; they are liable and must take personal responsibility for the safety of others and themselves.</li> <li>• Any competitor who chooses to wear PPE while on site and in the show ring, will not be penalized.</li> <li>• Comply with all best practices and guidelines in effect at the competition; complete required competition waivers, checklists and daily attestations</li> <li>• Responsible to supply PPE to personal support staff</li> <li>• Regularly sanitize equipment and touch points such as: stable doors, bucket handles, light switches, tack, grooming items, stall cleaning items, etc.</li> </ul>

## NSEF Resource Guidelines for Return to Events/Competitions During Covid-19

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No sharing of supplies, horse clothing, towels, equipment, or tack</li> <li>• Adhere to physical distancing guidelines</li> <li>• Frequent handwashing and or sanitization</li> <li>• Participants who begin to cough/sneeze for any reason, should move away from others until coughing/sneezing dissipates</li> <li>• All participants should be advised to leave the venue as soon as possible after their classes have concluded</li> <li>• Participants if they do become sick within two weeks following a show should contact the show organizer and indict the events and dates that they were on site</li> <li>• Freestyle Dressage and Reining participants must submit their freestyle music electronically or make specific arrangements with organizer prior to event day</li> <li>• Para-athletes will provide their own carer, ideally from within their household or circle to limit community transfer. Carers must always use PPE.</li> <li>• Drivers must supply own navigators</li> <li>• For lead-line or In-hand Classes, all handlers and officials should wear PPE. They must maintain physical distancing where possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Vulnerable Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each person planning to engage in equestrian activities in public is expected to evaluate their health and state of mind prior to departing. In this time of uncertainty, distractions can contribute to accidents.</li> <li>• Only ride if you are healthy</li> <li>• If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache, or shortness of breath), you should NOT participate in sport. If these symptoms begin during an organized equestrian activity, you must leave immediately and contact your local public health office for recommendations. You must also inform your club, host facility and/or personal coach.</li> <li>• In addition, the following individuals should not participate in organized sport activities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any person who receives a diagnosis of COVID-19 that is not resolved. Individuals must comply with the current mandated self-isolation policy as per the <a href="#">NS Government</a>.</li> <li>○ Any person who has been told to self-isolate.</li> <li>○ Any person who lives in a home with or has been in close contact with someone with symptoms of COVID-19.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any person who has arrived in Nova Scotia from outside of Atlantic Canada within the last 14 days are mandated to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for 14 days upon their arrival.</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Competition Organizer has the authority to remove the participant from the facility. The circumstances of such removal should be documented in post-competition report             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the event of repeated or flagrant non-compliance of a participant with regard to best practices and guidelines implemented by the competition organizer, thereby endangering themselves and others, competition management has the authority to bar the participant from the competition venue. The circumstances should be documented in post-competition report</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



### Wash Station Graphic



# Equestrian Event/Competition Participant Checklist

## Before you Leave Home:

- Complete the Self-Screening Checklist
- Eat before you come, or pack your own food/snacks – no food will be available on premises.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and warm water for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Thoroughly wash water bottles with soap and warm water.
- Bring filled water bottle(s)/drinks.
- Bring thoroughly washed clothing and sanitize equipment. (tack, buckets, brushes etc....)
- Use the washroom at home/follow personal health safety requirements if using onsite washrooms.
- Consider bringing your own mask and personal hand sanitizer.
- Consider Activating Contact Tracing App on phone if available in your area.
- Review and understand the covid-19 mitigation plan circulated by the venue/organizing committee.

## Arrival

- Meet at designated location.
- Respect physical distancing guidelines.
- Register your attendance for contact tracing and provide confirmation of Daily Health

## Monitoring

- Wash hands at provided handwashing stations.
- DO NOT share water bottles/drinks.
- Follow traffic flow signs at your location.
- If accessing water or materials onsite, sanitize hands and wear PPE before touching and then sanitize following contact, this includes water taps, barn doors, gates, handles etc....)
- Adhere to posted covid19 mitigation requirements of the venue and abide by the information circulated by the venue/organizing committee.

## After activity is Complete

- No Loitering.
- Exit through established exits.
- Wash at provided handwashing stations.
- Follow traffic flow signs out of your location.
- Respect physical distancing guidelines.
- Ensure all garbage is discarded in provided receptacles or remove garbage with you and discard at home.
- Thoroughly wash clothing and sanitize equipment. (tack, buckets, brushes etc)
- Adhere to posted covid-19 mitigation requirements of the venue and abide by the information circulated by the venue/organizing committee.

# Equestrian Event/Competition

## STAFF/COACH/TRAINERS/VOLUNTEER CHECKLIST

### Before you Leave Home

- Complete the Screening Checklist (Appendix X)
- Eat before you arrive/bring own food if there for a longer period – food may no be available on premises.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and warm water for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Thoroughly wash water bottles with soap and warm water.
- Bring thoroughly washed / sanitized equipment
- Use the washroom at home/follow personal health safety if using onsite washrooms.
- Consider Activating Contact Tracing App on phone if available in your area.
- Review and understand the covid-19 mitigation plan circulated by the venue/organizing committee.

### Arrival

- Set- up established entrances & exits with traffic flow considerations.
- Set-up traffic flow signs to your location.
- Set-up physical distancing 'grids' for participants as required
- Respect physical distancing guidelines.
- Wash at provided handwashing stations.
- Take attendance for all staff/coaches/trainers/volunteers and participants (including parent or legal guardian for minors – maximum of 1 per minor) including confirmation of daily health monitoring.
- Adhere to posted covid-19 mitigation requirements of the venue and abide by the information circulated by the venue/organizing committee.
- DO NOT share water bottles/drinks for food.
- DO NOT share personal staff/coach/trainer/ items.
- If accessing water or materials onsite, sanitize hands and wear PPE before touching and then sanitize following contact, this includes water taps, barn doors, gates, handles etc....)
- Sanitize all shared equipment between sessions or competitors where contact would happen.
- Consider wearing PPE (masks, gloves) at all times.
- Must wear PPE if dealing with an injured participant.

### After activity is Complete

- Sanitize all shared equipment between individuals/group arrivals if applicable and at end of day.
- Take down established traffic flow signs, entrances & exits.
- Wash at provided handwashing stations, between group arrivals if applicable and at end of day.
- Respect physical distancing guidelines.
- Thoroughly wash water bottles with soap and warm water.
- Thoroughly wash clothing and sanitize equipment. (tack, buckets, brushes etc....)
- Adhere to posted covid19 mitigation requirements of the venue and abide by the information circulated by the venue/organizing committee.

# Equestrian Event/Competition Parent/Guardian Checklist

## **Before you Leave Home**

- Complete the Screening Checklist (Appendix 1)
- Check the expected weather conditions.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and warm water for a minimum of 20 seconds.
  - Thoroughly wash water bottles with soap and warm water.
- Use the washroom at home.
- Consider bringing a mask and personal hand sanitizer. Bring your own gloves.
- Consider Activating Contact Tracing App on phone.
- Review and understand the covid19 mitigation plan circulated by the venue/organizing committee.

## **Arrival**

- Drop participant at designated location.
- Respect physical distancing guidelines.
- Consider wearing PPE (masks) at all times. Bring disposable gloves or gloves which may be washed and sanitized often.
- Adhere to posted covid-19 mitigation requirements of the venue and abide by the information circulated by the venue/organizing committee.

## **After activity is Complete**

- No Loitering.
- Respect physical distancing guidelines.
- Pick up participant at designated location.
- Leave location immediately.
- Thoroughly wash water bottles with soap and warm water.
- Thoroughly wash clothing and sanitize equipment. (tack, buckets, brushes etc)

# VENUE OWNERS/COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

## Covid-19 Contact Traceability Guidelines

Contact tracing is a process that is used to identify, educate and monitor individuals who have had close contact with someone who is infected with a virus. These individuals are at a higher risk of becoming infected and sharing the virus with others. Contact tracing can help individuals understand their risk and limit further spread of the virus.

The ability for an event/competition organizer to implement Covid-19 Contact Tracing protocols is a vital component to limiting the risk of Covid-19 community spread. These protocols should be supported by the appropriate waivers and agreements that ensure that all individuals understand and will comply to the Covid-19 mitigation plan. Sample waivers and attestation forms are included in the document. (These waivers are samples that can be used by organizers, but it is recommended that you review your waivers with your insurance provider and legal council.)

1. Organizer should establish their contact tracing to include (at minimum) name, email, phone, town/city, province and postal code.
2. In case of the need for notification, the organizer should establish the tracking method for contacts of on-site staff/volunteers/coaches/trainers/participants/veterinarians/farriers/parents/legal guardians
3. Organizers should establish **daily** tracking of all on-site individuals, and maintain those records for a minimum of three years.
4. Daily, all on-site staff/volunteers/coaches/trainers/participants/veterinarians/farriers/parents/legal guardians should complete an attestation/assumption of risk form which includes an agreement to abide by and follow the Covid mitigation plan.

### Disclaimer:

Each facility, business, club is unique and must consider their own circumstances and site layout when making their operational plan.

The Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation provides this document as a resource to help you create your plan. The NSEF is not an authority on Covid 19 and we do not offer these guidelines as a substitute for legal or insurance advice. It is recommended that you seek professional advice to help mitigate your exposure and understand your risks.

Anyone using these guidelines does so at their own risk, including without limitation, reliance on the completeness or accuracy of the information provided.

Please check the Government of Nova Scotia website to keep updated.

the “**Organization**”

**Daily Attestation**

**DAILY COVID-19 ATTESTATION AND AGREEMENT**

By signing below, the Participant (named below) or the Participant’s Guardian attests that the Participant:

1. Has not traveled outside Atlantic Canada during the last 14 days;
2. Has not visited a COVID-19 high risk area, region or location in Canada during the last 14 days;
3. Does not knowingly have COVID-19;
4. Is not experiencing known symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, and if experiences such symptoms during the Event will immediately depart from the Event;
5. Has not, in the past 14 days, knowingly come into contact with someone who has COVID-19, who has known symptoms of COVID-19, or is self-quarantining after returning to Atlantic Canada;
6. If traveled outside Atlantic Canada, has isolated for at least 14 days as required by government;
7. Follows government recommended guidelines in respect of COVID-19, including practicing physical distancing, and will do so to the best of the Participant’s ability during the Event.

Furthermore, by signing below, the Participant or the Participant’s Guardian agrees that while attending or participating in the Organization's events or attending at the Organization’s facilities, the Participant:

1. Will follow the laws, recommended guidelines, and protocols issued by the Government of Nova Scotia in respect of COVID-19, including practicing physical distancing, and will do so to the best of the Participant’s ability while participating in the Organization's events or attending at the Organization’s facilities;
2. Will follow the guidelines and protocols mandated by the Organization in respect of COVID-19;
3. Will, in the event that the Participant experiences any symptoms of illness such as a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or malaise, immediately:
  - a. inform a representative of the Organization; and
  - b. depart from the event or facility.

**FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19**

By signing below, the Participant (named below) or the Participant or the Participant’s Guardian attests that the Participant has been diagnosed with COVID-19, but been cleared as noncontagious by provincial or local public health authorities and has provided to the Organization, in conjunction with this COVID-19 ATTESTATION AND AGREEMENT, written confirmation from a medical doctor of the same.

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_  
the “**Participant**” (mm/dd/yyyy)

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
The “**Guardian**” (if Participant is a minor)

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant or Guardian for minor (mm/dd/yyyy)

the “**Organization**”

**Facility Use Waiver**

**WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR ALL CLAIMS AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.**

Completed waivers must be returned prior to entry and use of the Organization’s facilities. This waiver does not affect accident and out-of-country travel insurance provided by the Organization where applicable.

By signing below, the Participant (named below) and/or the Participant’s Guardian understands and acknowledges, the risks, dangers, and hazards which are inherent on entering all lands, properties, facilities, structures, installations, vehicles or equipment owned, leased, operated or otherwise controlled by the Organization (the “**Premises**”), which risks include, but are not limited to: the potential for bodily injury or illness (including contraction of COVID-19); contact or interaction with others who may have been exposed to COVID-19; close proximity to or contact with surfaces, equipment, fixtures, or other objects that, despite the Organization’s efforts, may be infected with COVID-19 or other communicable illnesses; permanent disability, paralysis, or loss of life; collision with natural or manmade objects; tripping hazards; imperfect venue or field of play conditions; equipment failure; participants of varying skill levels; the negligent use of the Premises by others; inadequate safety measures or unsafe Premises; other circumstances known, unknown or beyond the control of the Organizer, its partners, sponsors, agents, affiliates, directors, employees, officers, therapists, or volunteers (together, the “**Releasees**”); or negligence or omission of the Releasees (collectively, the “**Risks**”).

In consideration for allowing the Participant to use the Premises, the Participant and/or the Participant’s Guardian: (a) release, discharge and forever hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liability for damages or loss arising as a result of the Risks arising from entry into or use of the Premises; (b) waive any right to sue the Releasees in respect of all causes of action (including for injuries or illness caused by their own negligence), claims, damages or losses of any kind that may arise as a result of the Risks or in connection with entry into or use of the Premises, including without limitation the right to make a third party claim or claim over against the Releasees arising from the same; and (c) freely assumes all risks associated with the Risks or anything incidental to the Risks, which may arise as a result of or in connection with use of the Premises. **YOU ARE GIVING UP LEGAL RIGHTS TO ANY AND ALL FUTURE CLAIMS AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION AND RELEASEES.**

I confirm that I have read and fully understand this waiver and release of liability. I sign this waiver and release of liability voluntarily without any inducement, assurance, or warranty being made to me.

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
the “**Participant**”

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
the “**Guardian**” (if Participant is a minor)

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant or Guardian for minor

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

## Event Participation Waiver

the “**Organizer**”

### **WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR ALL CLAIMS AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.** Completed waivers must be returned with registration or prior to attending the Organizer’s event: \_\_\_\_\_ (the “**Event**”). This waiver does not affect accident and out-of-country travel insurance provided by the Organization where applicable.

By signing below, the Participant (named below) and/or the Participant’s Guardian represents that the Participant:

1. Has not traveled outside Atlantic Canada during the last 14 days;
2. Has not visited a COVID-19 high risk area, region or location in Canada during the last 14 days;
3. Does not knowingly have COVID-19;
4. Is not experiencing known symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, and if experiences such symptoms during the Event will immediately depart from the Event;
5. Has not, in the past 14 days, knowingly come into contact with someone who has COVID-19, who has known symptoms of COVID-19, or is self-quarantining after returning to Atlantic Canada;
6. If traveled outside Atlantic Canada, has isolated for at least 14 days as required by government;
7. Follows government recommended guidelines in respect of COVID-19, including practicing physical distancing, and will do so to the best of the Participant’s ability during the Event.

In addition, by signing below the Participant and/or the Participant’s Guardian understands, acknowledges and assumes the inherent risks in participating in the Event, including, but not limited to: the potential for bodily injury or illness (including contraction of COVID-19); contact or interaction with others who may have been exposed to COVID-19; permanent disability, paralysis, or loss of life; collision with natural or manmade objects; dangers arising from adverse weather conditions; imperfect venue or field of play conditions; equipment failure; participants of varying skill levels; inadequate safety measures; circumstances known, unknown or beyond the control of the Organizer, its partners, sponsors, agents, affiliates, directors, employees, officer, therapists, or volunteers (together, the “**Organization**”); negligence or omission of the Organization (collectively, the “**Risks**”).

In consideration for allowing the Participant to participate in the Event, the Participant and/or the Participant’s Guardian: (a) release, discharge and forever hold harmless the Organization from any and all liability for damages or loss arising as a result of the Risks of participation in or in connection with the Event; (b) waive any right to sue the Organization in respect of all causes of action (including for injuries or illness caused by their own negligence), claims, demands, damages or losses of any kind that may arise as a result of the Risks of participation in or in connection with the Event, including without limitation the right to make a third party claim or claim over against the Organization arising from the same; and (c) freely assumes all risks associated with the Risks, anything incidental to the Risks, which may arise as a result of participation in or in connection with the Event. **YOU ARE GIVING UP LEGAL RIGHTS TO ANY AND ALL FUTURE CLAIMS AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION.**

I confirm that I have read and fully understand this waiver and release of liability. I sign this waiver and release of liability voluntarily without any inducement, assurance, or warranty being made to me.

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
the “**Participant**”

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
The “**Guardian**” (if Participant is a minor)

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant or Guardian for minor

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)



# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

(AR-0103)

For Participants Over the Age of Majority in the Province or Territory in which the Equine Activities are Provided by the Host

**WARNING: THIS AGREEMENT WILL AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. READ IT CAREFULLY!**

## Every Person Must Read and Understand this Waiver Before Participating in Equine Activities

The following waiver of all claims, release from all liability, assumption of all risks, agreement not to sue and other terms of this agreement are entered into by me (the Participant) with and for the benefit of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, business operators, agents and site property owners or lessees (collectively the "Host"). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, "Equine Activities" includes but is not limited to, competitions, tournaments organized and /or operated by the "Host", riding instruction, coaching and training provided by the "Host" to the Participant.

### Initial Each Item below after Reading and Understanding each item:

1. I am aware that there are inherent dangers, hazards and risks (collectively "Risks") associated with "Equine Activities" and injuries resulting from these "Risks" are a common occurrence. I am aware that the "Risks" of "Equine Activities" mean those dangerous conditions which are an integral part of "Equine Activities", including but not limited to:
  - (a) the propensity of any equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm or death to persons on or around them and to potentially collide with, bite or kick other animals, people or objects;
  - (b) the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movement, tremors, vibrations, unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals and hazards such as subsurface objects;
  - (c) the potential for other participants to behave in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to themselves or others, including failing to act within their abilities to maintain control over an equine.
  - (d) the potential of natural or man-made hazards being present that can cause me harm, including communicable disease.
2. I freely accept and fully assume all responsibility for all "Risks" and possibilities of any and all personal injury, sickness, disease, medical payments, death, property damage or loss resulting from my participation in "Equine Activities".
3. I agree that although the "Host" has taken steps to reduce the "Risks" and increase the safety of the "Equine Activities", it is not possible for the "Host" to make the "Equine Activities" completely safe. I accept these "Risks" and agree to the terms of this waiver even if the "Host" is found to be negligent or in breach of any duty of care or any obligation to me in my participation in "Equine Activities".
4. In addition to consideration given to the "Host" for my participation in "Equine Activities", I and my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns (collectively my "Legal Representatives") agree:
  - (a) to waive all claims that I have or may have in the future against the "Host";
  - (b) to release and forever discharge the "Host" from all liability for any personal injury, death, property damage, or loss resulting from my participation in the equine activity due to any cause, including but not limited to negligence (failure to use such care as a reasonably prudent and careful person would use under similar circumstances), breach of any duty imposed by law, breach of contract or mistake or error in judgment of the "Host"; and
  - (c) to be liable for and to hold harmless and indemnify the "Host" from all actions, proceedings, claims, damages, costs demands, including court costs and costs on a solicitor and own client basis, and liabilities of whatsoever nature or kind arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in "Equine Activities".
5. I agree that this waiver and all terms contained herein are governed exclusively and in all respects by the laws of the Province or Territory of Canada in which the "Equine Activities" are provided by the "Host". I hereby irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of that Province or Territory of Canada and I agree that no other court can exercise jurisdiction over the terms and claims referred to herein. Any litigation to enforce this waiver will be instituted in the Province or Territory of Canada in which the "Equine Activities" are provided by the "Host".
6. I confirm that I have had sufficient time to read and understand this waiver in its entirety. I understand that this agreement represents the entire agreement between myself and the "Host", and it is binding on myself and my "Legal Representatives".
7. I confirm that I have reached the age of majority in the province in which I am participating in "Equine Activities".

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Participant) Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name of "Host" Witness to Signing and Initialing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of "Host" Witness) Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

(AR-0103)

For Participants Under the Age of Majority in the Province or Territory in which the Equine Activities are Provided by the Host

**WARNING: THIS AGREEMENT WILL AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. READ IT CAREFULLY!**

## The Parent/Guardian Must Read and Understand this Waiver Prior to Infant Participating in Equine Activities

The following waiver of all claims, release from all liability, assumption of all risks, agreement not to sue and other terms of this agreement are entered into by me on behalf of the Infant Participant named below with and for the benefit of:

\_\_\_\_\_, its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, business operators, agents, and site property owners or lessees (the "Host"). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, "Equine Activities" includes but is not limited to competitions, tournaments organized and /or operated by the "Host", riding instruction, coaching and training provided by the "Host" to the Infant Participant.

### Initial Each Item below after Reading and Understanding each item:

1. I am the Parent/Guardian of the Infant Participant and am executing this waiver on behalf of the Infant Participant in my capacity as Parent/Guardian and with the intent that this waiver be binding on myself and the Infant Participant for all legal purposes.
2. I am aware that there are inherent dangers, hazards and risks ("Risks") associated with "Equine Activities" and injuries resulting from these "Risks" are a common occurrence. I am aware that the "Risks" of "Equine Activities" mean those dangerous conditions which are an integral part of "Equine Activities", including but not limited to:
  - (a) the propensity of any equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm or death to persons on or around them and to potentially collide with, bite or kick other animals, people or objects;
  - (b) the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movement, tremors, vibrations, unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals and hazards such as subsurface objects; and
  - (c) the potential for other participants to behave in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to themselves or others, including failing to act within their abilities to maintain control over an equine.
  - (d) the potential of natural or man-made hazards being present that can cause me harm, including communicable disease
3. I freely accept and fully assume all responsibility for all "Risks" and possibilities of any and all personal injury, sickness, disease, medical payments, death, property damage or loss resulting from the Infant Participant's participation in "Equine Activities".
4. I agree that although the "Host" has taken steps to reduce the "Risks" and increase the safety of the "Equine Activities", it is not possible for the "Host" to make the "Equine Activities" completely safe. I accept these "Risks" and agree to the terms of this waiver on behalf of the Infant Participant, even if the "Host" is found to be negligent or in breach of any duty of care or any obligation to myself or the Infant Participant in the Infant's participation in "Equine Activities".
5. In addition to consideration given to the "Host" for the Infant Participant's participation in "Equine Activities", I and my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns, as well as the Infant Participant and his/her heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns (collectively our "Legal Representatives") agree:
  - (a) to waive all claims that the Infant Participant has or may have in the future against the "Host";
  - (b) to release and forever discharge the "Host" from all liability for personal injury, death, property damage, or loss that I, the Infant Participant, or our "Legal Representatives" might suffer as a result of the Infant Participant's participation in "Equine Activities" due to any cause, including but not limited to negligence (failure to use such care as a reasonably prudent and careful person would use under similar circumstances), breach of any duty imposed by law, breach of contract or mistake or error in judgment of the "Host"; and
  - (c) to be liable for and to hold harmless and indemnify the "Host" from all actions, proceedings, claims, damages, costs demands, including court costs and costs on a solicitor and own client basis, and liabilities of whatsoever nature or kind arising out of or in any way connected with the Infant's participation in "Equine Activities".
6. I agree that this waiver and all terms contained herein are governed exclusively and in all respects by the laws of the Province or Territory of Canada in which the "Equine Activities" are provided by the "Host". I hereby irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of that Province or Territory of Canada and I agree that no other court can exercise jurisdiction over the terms and claims referred to herein. Any litigation to enforce this waiver will be instituted in the Province or Territory of Canada in which the "Equine Activities" are provided by the "Host".
7. I confirm that I have had sufficient time to read and understand this waiver in its entirety. I understand that this agreement represents the entire agreement between the "Host", myself as Parent/Guardian, and the Infant Participant, and it is binding on myself, the Infant Participant and our "Legal Representatives".

Infant Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent/Guardian of Infant Participant) Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name of "Host" Witness to Signing and Initialing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of "Host" Witness)