

American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) Code of Ethics

The American Sidesaddle Association expects that, as a member, you uphold yourself to professional standards.

Our Mission Statement

The American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) was formed to preserve, promote, and expand the elegance and historical art of riding sidesaddle. The ASA wishes to promote enthusiasm for sidesaddle riding among the equestrian public. Founded in 2008, the ASA is a network of regional sidesaddle clubs located throughout the nation. The Association supports all forms of riding and uses known strategies for rider safety. We honor the women who came before us but are also inclusive of all people throughout society.

Preserve: The ASA is dedicated to building on the knowledge that has been passed down through history and understanding the importance and respect of the sport.

Promote: The ASA is dedicated to creating and sharing in a like-minded equine community. We seek and support the addition of new members. We are dedicated to mentoring those members who need assistance.

Expand the Elegance: Creating a solid understanding and foundation of where we were and what we hope to achieve in the art and sport of aside riding is an essential part of membership. We believe in sharing those ideas and knowledge.

Historical Art: Understanding and respect for aside riding has its roots in the history of the nation and the evolution of women's rights. It is rich in tradition. The historical significance has evolved to create a safer modern environment. Members are encouraged to have grace and tolerance and to help persons evolve in the art and sport, including those who may be already investing as much resources as they have. Material wealth is not essential to the enjoyment of aside riding.

All Forms: English, Western, breed, historical, and costume/fun styles of riding are welcome and appreciated. ASA members believe that nearly all forms of riding can be done aside.

Special considerations may be needed for some gymkana events or for some roping type maneuvers.

Rider Safety: ASA promotes and maintains an understanding that equines are dangerous, behave unpredictably, and require special care to help minimize the level of danger. We ask that you apply some proven safety measures to minimize your risks. This includes but is not limited to: making sure horses are well trained and in good health for an event, maintaining self-awareness of hazards, and using tack that is in proper working order. We also ask that you use tack appropriate for the equine sport in which you are engaged; for example, tack not reinforced for jumping, should not be used in jumping.

Inclusive of all people: Being polite and courteous to all individuals and respecting and cherishing differences is essential.

Membership Code of Ethics

As a member of the American Sidesaddle Association, you must remember that you reflect the organization and all members of the sidesaddle world. You demonstrate our ethics when you ride sidesaddle at any event: demonstration, horse show, clinic, parade, etc., and even in your own barn. We ask you to hold yourself to a high safety and professional standard.

- I will treat people with respect both in person and on Facebook/social media- anti bullying and harassment free.
- I will only use the safest possible horses. I will NOT use sidesaddle riding-horses with a history of bucking, bolting, green horses or a rearing horse for sidesaddle, (whether the horse is trick-trained to rear or not).
- I will only use horses over the age of six and physically sound for sidesaddle riding.
- I will use the appropriate sidesaddle tack for the sport in which I'm engaged, i.e. I will not jump in western tack or non-reinforced tack.
- Horses owned or leased by ASA members will be well cared for to the best of the member's ability.
- No physical abuse to horses is permitted at any time.
- I agree to ride within my current skill set.

Any individual who does not abide by this code of ethics is subject to disciplinary action. This could include but is not limited to, removal or suspension from the site/venue or online groups, removal or suspension from the American Sidesaddle Association and club affiliates, loss of membership status and any offices or certifications held within the organization. Possible legal action can be involved.

Clinic Code of Ethics

If you are attending a Clinic presented by the American Sidesaddle Association, whether you are a member or not, we ask that you conduct yourself in a safe and engaged manner. Following this code will help provide a positive and safe learning environment, for both attendees and the clinician. For more information about the functioning of ASA-sanctioned clinics, refer to the policy on the web site.

- Leave the farm/stalls/venue as clean or cleaner than you found it.
- Respect and follow the host's barn or venue's rules and regulations.
- Conduct yourself in a positive and courteous manner (anti-bullying, harassment-free).
- Utilizing a horse (whether you own it or borrow it) that is physically sound, well-mannered, and that is safe to be in the company of horses and spectators in a group setting.
- No selfie photos during clinics. Designate someone else to take any media, such as videos and photos, or snap your selfie images outside of the designated learning areas.
- No physical abuse or neglect of horses is permitted at any time. Do not feed or give treats to horses that don't belong to you without owner's permission.
- Appropriate dress is required. Equine riding boots and ASTM/SEI helmets are recommended for everyone and required for minors. Pants, jeans, or breeches are required when riding. Skirts are allowed, and safety skirts are recommended. Gloves are recommended.
- Having a positive attitude at all times will lead to harmony in the clinic setting.
- I will follow ASA Membership Code of Ethics.

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Demonstrator Code of Ethics

This is for ASA members/individuals who help demonstrate sidesaddle in events, venues, shows, and parades. Demonstrators are there to demonstrate and promote the art and sport of sidesaddle, and must do so in a positive, welcoming, and professional manner. As a demonstrator you represent the American Sidesaddle Association and the Sidesaddle community, please remember your actions reflect on individuals both local and worldwide.

Please remember, a demonstration is not the place for schooling or training your horse. Demonstrations should be conducted in a manner that both promotes the topic at hand and the safety of all horses and individuals contributing to the demonstration.

- Leave the farm/stalls/venue as clean or cleaner than you found it.
- Follow host event rules and regulations.
- Conduct yourself in a positive and courteous manner (anti-bullying, harassment-free).
- Bring/borrow a horse that is physically sound, well groomed, and well mannered/schooled in riding (English or western) at the Walk/Trot/Canter, and is safe to be around other horses in a group setting.
- No selfie photos during clinics, please designate someone else to take videos and photos or take images out of the designated learning area.
- No physical abuse to your horse is permitted at any time.
- Appropriate dress to the performance is required including equine riding boots, rider-appropriate shirts, jeans or breeches, a safety apron, ASTM/SEI helmets (required for minors), and gloves.
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Officers and Judge/Instructor/Clinician (JIC) Code of Ethics

If you are a JIC, .. a presenter at an event, .. an officer of the American Sidesaddle Association Board, or hold an Officer position in any of the American Sidesaddle Associations Affiliate Clubs, please note that you hold a position of leadership and knowledge. This comes with the utmost importance of setting a standard for safety and professionalism. You help us set the standard of safety, you also have the authority and the duty to make sure to help and educate the other individuals in the sidesaddle group/event.

- Help to perform safety checks on everyone's tack at least 1-2 hours before clinic/demonstration start time.
- Help to perform safety checks on attire, such as boots, gloves, and aprons. Making sure they fit properly to the horse and individual and conform to the event requirements.
- No selfie photos during clinics, designate someone else to take media such as taking videos and photos.
- Help perform a safety talk before the event starts; specifically reminding your team if there is a horse that is struggling to put the horse's needs first. And making sure everyone understands where and when the team needs to be and what individuals may require extra time and help.
- If a rider falls during a clinic/demonstration, someone needs to be pre-designated to make sure the rider is safe and the horse is secure. The demo stops until both are safe.
- No Individual left behind means that if a rider or horse is having difficulty keeping up or understanding, make sure you slow the rest of the group down or break yourself off to help the individual.
- Follow ...host barn/venue rules and regulations.
- No physical abuse of any horse is permitted at any time.
- Appropriate dress for the performance is required: equine riding boots, pants, jeans, or breeches, safety apron, ASTM/SEI helmet, and gloves.

- Conduct yourself in a professional, positive, and courteous manner (anti-bullying and harassment-free). No excessive cursing.
- I will follow ASA Membership Code of Ethics.

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