SAULT STE. MARIE HORSE & PONY CLUB

STRATHCLAIR FARM

2026-2027 MEMBER

CODE OF CONDUCT

For members, boarders, volunteers, arena rentals, board members, committee members, parents/guardians and guests

Our goal is to provide a safe, respectful, inclusive and welcoming environment where members can enjoy horses, support one another, and participate in club activities with confidence. Everyone using Sault Ste. Marie Horse & Pony Club facilities or participating in club activities is expected to follow this Code of Conduct.

1. Respectful Behaviour

- Treat members, volunteers, instructors, staff, board members, parents, visitors and community partners with courtesy and respect.
- Use appropriate language and behaviour. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, threats, yelling or aggressive conduct will not be accepted.
- Respect different backgrounds, experience levels and opinions. Encourage others and contribute positively to the club environment.
- Follow the reasonable directions of authorized club representatives, particularly when instructions relate to safety, horse welfare or club operations.
- Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects positively on Sault Ste. Marie Horse & Pony Club while on club property, at club events or when representing the club

2. Safety at the Farm

- Follow all posted safety rules and club policies.
- Wear appropriate footwear whenever handling horses and an approved riding helmet whenever mounted.
- Walk in designated barn and riding areas. Do not run, shout, make sudden movements or behave in a way that may frighten horses.
- Do not enter stalls, paddocks, arenas, equipment areas or restricted spaces without permission.
- Children and guests must remain supervised. Siblings and visitors may not wander through the barn or interact with horses without approval.
- Report hazards, injuries, damaged equipment or concerns to an instructor or staff member immediately.

3. Horse Welfare and Horsemanship

- Treat every horse with patience, kindness and respect.
- Never abuse, neglect or intentionally place a horse at unnecessary risk.
- **Excessive force, abusive handling, neglect or dangerous training practices will not be tolerated.**
- Do not feed, handle or use another person's horse without permission.
- Use safe, humane handling and training practices at all times.
- Report concerns regarding horse welfare to the appropriate club representative.

4. Respect for Club Facilities

- Respect the farm, barns, arenas, paddocks, fencing, trails, equipment and neighbouring property.
- Clean up after yourself and your horse.
- Return equipment neatly after use.
- Respect the personal property of other members.
- Do not use another person's horse, tack, equipment or feed without permission.
- Report damaged facilities or equipment promptly.

5. Communication and Club Community

- Communicate concerns respectfully with the appropriate club representative or the Board of Directors.
- Members are encouraged to resolve concerns respectfully whenever appropriate.
- Do not confront individuals while they are riding, handling or caring for horses, as doing so may create an unsafe situation.
- Support the volunteer nature of the club by treating volunteers, instructors, staff and Board members with courtesy and appreciation.
- Follow the appropriate chain of communication when raising questions or concerns regarding club operations, horse welfare or personnel matters.

6. Privacy and Social Media

- Respect the privacy and personal information of fellow members.
- Photos or videos must not be shared in a manner that disregards an individual's consent or the club's photo/video practices.
- Social media posts or messages connected to the club must not harass, shame or publicly criticize members, volunteers, instructors, staff or the club.
- Concerns regarding club operations should be addressed through the appropriate channels rather than through public discussion on social media.

7. Property and Farm Rules

- Park only in designated areas and keep driveways, gates and emergency access routes clear.
- Smoking, vaping, alcohol, cannabis and illegal substances are not permitted in barn or riding areas.
- Follow all posted barn rules, arena rules and facility procedures.
- Respect scheduled lessons, camps, clinics, events and other organized activities.
- Members are responsible for ensuring their guests comply with club rules and safety requirements while on club property.
- Members must not participate in club activities while impaired by alcohol, cannabis or other drugs.

8. Addressing Concerns and Breaches

The club will address concerns fairly and in a manner appropriate to the circumstances. Depending on the seriousness or frequency of the behaviour, actions may include:

- A verbal reminder or redirection;
- A private discussion with the rider and/or parent/guardian;
- A written warning or behaviour expectations plan;
- Suspension of club privileges or participation;
- Termination of membership or boarding privileges where conduct creates a safety risk, seriously affects others or continues after previous warnings.

Immediate action may be taken when behaviour presents a risk to a person, horse or property.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By becoming a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Horse & Pony Club Inc., I acknowledge that I have read and understand this Member Code of Conduct. I agree to follow these expectations while participating in club activities or using club facilities and understand that failure to do so may affect my membership or participation.

Questions or concerns: info@ssmhpc.com | 647 Garden River Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON