



AHA Athlete Protection Policy

The Arabian Horse Association (AHA) is committed to creating a safe and positive environment free from abuse, misconduct, and harassment. The safety and welfare of all AHA members is paramount to AHA. This policy establishes standards consistent with the U.S. Center for SafeSport and the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), where applicable.

This Policy applies to all exhibitors, trainers (and their assistants and workers), show staff, show management staff, volunteers, judges, stewards, spectators, and visitors. Additionally, those who are required to carry a USEF card, will also be required to complete and stay current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport training.

1. Authority and Jurisdiction - AHA adopts and incorporates the overarching principles from the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code. Where applicable, violations of this Policy will be referred to appropriate law enforcement authorities, the AHA Executive Team including the CEO, the AHA Ethical Practices Review Board and/or the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
2. Definitions
 - Minor: An individual under 18 years of age.
 - Participant: Any athlete, coach, trainer, volunteer, show staff, show management staff, spectator or member involved in AHA activities.
 - Applicable Adult: Any adult participant who has contact with minors at any AHA event, show, activity or event.
 - AHA Executive Team: The AHA Executive Committee including the President of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer.
3. Training
 - All AHA members 18 years of age and older, who carry a competition card and carry a USEF card, show staff, show management staff, Board members, volunteers, judges, show stewards and trainers are required to complete and keep current training under the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Training can be found at www.uscenterforsafesport.org
 - All others, including parents, spectators, non-AHA exhibitors and AHA members, must review and are bound by this Policy. By being on show grounds or attending any AHA event or program, each person agrees to be bound by the terms of this Policy.
4. Mandatory Reporting
 - All Applicable Adults must immediately report suspected physical abuse, child abuse, including sexual abuse, to law enforcement, AND
 - Comply with any other state law reporting requirements, AND



- Reports must also be made to AHA Executive Team and to the U.S. Center for SafeSport when applicable.
- No individual should attempt to investigate allegations independently.
- Nothing in this Policy is to be construed as requiring a victim of abuse to self-report. However, all victims are encouraged to seek assistance.

5. Prohibited Conduct In Violation of this Policy

- **Sexual Misconduct:** Includes sexual abuse, harassment, exploitation, and any sexual conduct involving a minor. This includes sending sexually explicit imagery or text as well as sexually suggestive physical touch.
- **Physical Misconduct:** Includes conduct that causes or threatens physical harm.
- **Emotional Misconduct:** Includes verbal abuse, intimidation, and denial of support.
- **Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing:** Repeated or coercive behaviors that cause harm or exclusion.
- **Grooming:** Conduct intended to establish emotional connection for abuse.
- **Aiding and Abetting / Failure to Report:** The election and the failure to report prohibited conduct is a violation of this Policy.
- Willful tolerance of any form of prohibited conduct constitutes a violation of this Policy.
- For examples of the above misconduct, please see www.uscenterforsafesport.org

6. Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies - Minors are deserving of special protection under this Policy and as such, all care must be taken to ensure that minors are not subject to any prohibited conduct. The following apply to all Applicable Adults:

- One-on-One Interactions between adults (other than a parent or guardian) and a minor must be observable and interruptible; no one-on-one interactions between adults other than a parent or guardian are permitted in private settings.
- Meetings and Trainings require parental or guardian consent for minors for such meetings or training to occur without a parent, guardian or other adult present. Any such meeting or training should be observable and interruptible.
- Electronic Communications with a minor must include parent or guardian and be professional. This includes any digital platform communication.
- Physical Contact must be appropriate, public, and non-sexual.
- No one-on-one non-parent adult/minor access in any changing room or private room and no recording devices are allowed in such rooms.
- No minor may stay with a non-parent adult in a hotel or lodging space or travel alone with a minor.
- NOTE: minor-to-minor sexual abuse can occur. The obligations under this Policy extend to any report of minor-to-minor abuse.



- Emergency situations do periodically occur. Nothing in this Policy is meant to halt an Applicable Adult from rendering emergency care to a minor. All emergencies should be documented and reported after the event.

7. Reporting Procedures

- Reports of sexual or physical abuse must be made to law enforcement immediately.
- If anyone appears to be in imminent danger or needs immediate protection, 911 should be called. For mandatory reporting laws in the state where the behavior is occurring, visit www.childwelfare.gov but no one should hesitate to contact 911 should the situation warrant.
- Non-criminal misconduct should be reported to report@arabianhorses.org, the President of the Board or AHA's CEO. If a USEF member, non-criminal misconduct should also be reported to the U.S. Center for Safe Sport.
- Reports should include names, description, dates, and safety concerns.
- Anonymous reporting is acceptable however it may limit AHA's ability to investigate and respond appropriately. All reports are encouraged to provide their name and contact information.

8. Confidentiality, Non-Retaliation and False Reporting

- AHA will maintain confidentiality to the extent possible and will handle any report discretely. AHA strives not to make public the names of the reporter, the potential victim or the accused except to report to the Ethical Practices Review Board and any law enforcement agencies.
- Retaliation against any individual who reports in good faith is prohibited.
- Any individual who knowingly makes a false allegation will be subject to disciplinary action. An allegation is considered false if the events did not occur and the reporting individual is aware of this fact.

9. Enforcement and Discipline

- Violations of this Policy may result in permanent or temporary suspension of AHA membership, termination of AHA membership, or ineligibility to participate in any AHA event, show and may result in being banned from show grounds or any location where AHA is holding an event.
- AHA may refer matters to the U.S. Center for SafeSport or law enforcement. Any suspension by United States Equestrian Federation will result in an automatic suspension by AHA for the same time period. Any member who is disciplined by the U.S. Center for SafeSport will be automatically subject to the same discipline by AHA.



- The AHA Executive Team reserves the exclusive right to issue a temporary suspension or other temporary measure in situations which they have determined are serious enough warrant such temporary discipline. These measures include but are not limited to prohibiting one-on-one interactions, suspension from some or all aspects of AHA activities, monitoring or other supervision of activities. Should this occur, the AHA Executive Team will request an expedited review by the Ethical Practices Review Board who will have the final decision on whether to uphold the suspension, lift the suspension and/or impose any other penalty it deems appropriate.
- The Executive Committee will review all the available information and make a recommendation to the Ethical Practices Review Board who will make a final determination of the appropriate penalty. The Ethical Practices Review Board process is found at Chapter 3 of the AHA rulebook.

10. Eligibility and Background Disqualifiers - Individuals with a documented history of abuse, misconduct, or related legal findings may be deemed ineligible to participate or be present at AHA events. AHA reserves the right to investigate or inquire into such a history and after consultation with legal counsel, refer the matter to the Executive Committee for an initial decision and then to the Ethical Practices Review Board for final determination.

11. Policy Review and Updates - This Policy will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate.