

HORSE ACTIVITIES COME WITH THESE WARNINGS

Spring Valley Equestrian Center

Name Of Stable Or Party Providing These Warnings

56 Paulinskill Lake Rd. Newton NJ 07860

Address Of Warnings Provider

SECTION I. DEFINITIONS

The term "HORSE" herein shall refer to all equine species. The term "RIDER" shall herein refer to a person who rides a horse mounted or otherwise handles or comes near a horse from the ground. The terms "I", "ME", "MY" shall herein refer to the recipient listed on page 2 of this form and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor.

THE RECIPIENT(S) OF THIS FORM IS / ARE HEREBY WARNED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION II. PROTECTIVE ATTIRE

- A. **Protective Head Gear** Each horse handler should consider purchasing and wearing properly fitted and secured protective headgear (equestrian riding helmet), which meets or exceeds the quality standards of the SEI CERTIFIED ASTM STANDARD F 1163. Wearing of such headgear while driving, mounting, riding, dismounting and being near horses, may reduce severity of some of the wearer's head injuries and possibly prevent death from happening as the result of a fall and/or other occurrences.
- B. **Foot Protection** Horse handlers, riders and drivers should wear hard, smooth, full-soled boots or shoes that cover the ankle and have at least 1 inch heels. Such boots or shoes provide protection for the feet in the event a horse steps on a foot, and also to assist in preventing the foot from slipping all the way through the stirrup and becoming caught while riding, mounting, dismounting, and/or other occurrences. Wearing soft socks provide additional protection against chafing and allows for easier removal of the foot from the boot.
- C. **Clothing** Horse handlers, riders and drivers should wear ankle length, flexible or moderately loose fitting pants to protect legs, and riders should also consider wearing equestrian pants, breeches or jodhpurs which have leather inner knee/calf patches, or chaps, or other leggings that provide inner leg grip and added stability in the saddle.

SECTION III. INHERENT RISKS

Nature Of The Horse Horseback riding and horse driving is classified as RUGGED ADVENTURE RECREATIONAL SPORT ACTIVITY, and there are numerous obvious and non-obvious inherent risks always present in such activity despite all safety precautions. No horse is a completely safe horse. Horses are 5 to 15 times larger, 20 to 40 times more powerful, and 3 to 4 times faster than a human. If a rider falls from horse to ground it will generally be at a distance of from 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet, and the impact may result in injury to the rider. Horseback riding/horse driving is the only sport where one much smaller, weaker predator animal, the human, tries to control and become one unit of movement with another much larger, stronger prey animal, the horse, with each having a limited understanding of the other. If a horse is frightened or provoked it may divert from its training and act according to its natural survival instincts which may include, but are not limited to: stopping short; changing direction or speed at will; shifting its weight from side to side, bucking, rearing, falling, biting, kicking or running from what it perceives as danger.

SECTION IV. WHEN CAN A CHILD RIDE A HORSE?

- A. The child should have the following:
- ★ A strong desire to ride;
 - ★ Muscle strength to hold proper position in the saddle;
 - ★ The balance to remain on the horse;
 - ★ The ability to understand instructions and follow directions;
 - ★ Sufficient attention span for instruction; and
 - ★ Neck muscles strong enough to support fitted, approved, protective headgear.

- B. The horse should be:
 - ★ Trained and suitable for children, displaying a quiet, calm nature; and
 - ★ Of appropriate size to allow the riders's legs to be under the riders body; in other words, the riders feet should reach at least halfway down the sides of the horse's body.
- C. The equipment should include:
 - ★ A saddle that fits the child; and
 - ★ A saddle that fits the horse;
- D. And Further:
 - ★ No child should ride a horse without the appropriate skills and level of development for riding.
 - ★ No adult or child should ride double with an infant or child.

SECTION V. DOUBLE RIDING

No riders should ride double on a horse, that is two people riding on one horse.

SECTION VI. SUPERVISION

- A. Due to the inherent risks involved with being around large livestock such as horses, the following individuals should be under constant supervision of parent, legal guardian, or other supervisor specifically appointed by the parent or guardian:
 - ★ Children under 12 years of age;
 - ★ Children under legal age lacking seasoned experience with horses; and
 - ★ Children with behavior problems or persons who are mentally or physically disabled.
- B. Before an adult, alone or with a child, approaches a strange horse, he or she should seek the owner's or handler's permission and supervision.

SIGNER STATEMENT OF AWARENESS

"I/WE HAVE READ AND DO UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING WARNINGS CONCERNING HORSE ACTIVITIES."

_____ DATE _____
SIGNATURE OF RECIPIENT (Spouses must sign for themselves.)

_____ for _____ DATE _____
SIGNATURE OF PARENT, GUARDIAN AND/OR SPOUSE # 1 NAME (Please Print)

_____ for _____ DATE _____
SIGNATURE OF PARENT, GUARDIAN AND/OR SPOUSE # 2 NAME (Please Print)

Address in full: _____ Home Phone #: _____

_____ Bus. Phone #: _____