

Policy Document: Riding Helmet Requirement Effective Date: [07/07/2023]

1. Introduction The Irish Quarter Horse Association (IQHA) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its members, participants, and representatives during all IQHA activities and events, both domestically and internationally. As such, this policy mandates the use of riding helmets to minimize the risk of head injuries and promote a culture of safety within the IQHA.

2. Scope This policy applies to all IQHA members, participants, and representatives, including but not limited to riders, trainers, coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff, during IQHA activities and events held within Ireland or abroad. Subject to Adult members ONLY signing the IQHA Waiver being accepted to event management following an assessment of member and horse attending event.

3. Helmet Standards All riders participating in IQHA activities and events must wear a riding helmet that meets or exceeds the following safety standards:

a. ASTM/SEI Certification: Helmets must bear the certification mark of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) or any equivalent international standard recognized by the IQHA.

b. Current Certification: Helmets must be in current certification, indicating that they meet the most recent safety standards established by the relevant certification bodies.

4. Helmet Use 4.1 Mandatory Helmet Use a. While Mounted: All riders must wear an approved riding helmet whenever mounted on a horse during IQHA activities and events, including but not limited to shows, clinics, demonstrations, parades, trail rides, and competitions.

b. While Handling Horses: Riders must wear a riding helmet when handling horses on the ground if there is a reasonable risk of injury, such as grooming, tacking up, lunging, or leading horses.

4.2 Helmet Fit and Condition a. Proper Fit: Riders must ensure that their helmets fit securely and snugly on their heads. Helmets should not be too loose, tilted, or obstructed by any accessories that compromise their effectiveness.

b. Condition: Helmets should be regularly inspected for signs of damage, such as cracks, loose padding, or worn straps. Damaged helmets must be replaced promptly.

5. Enforcement 5.1 Compliance Responsibility a. IQHA Members: All IQHA members are responsible for complying with this helmet policy and ensuring that their helmets meet the required safety standards.

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b. Event Organizers: IQHA-affiliated event organizers are responsible for enforcing this policy and ensuring that all participants adhere to the mandatory helmet use requirement.

5.2 Consequences of Non-Compliance a. Inability to Participate: Participants who fail to comply with this helmet policy will be prohibited from participating in IQHA activities and events until they meet the necessary requirements.

b. IQHA Sanctions: Repeated non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, as per the IQHA's disciplinary procedures, which could include suspension or expulsion from the organization.

6. Education and Awareness The IQHA is committed to promoting education and awareness regarding the importance of wearing riding helmets. The association will undertake the following initiatives:

a. Distribution of Information: Providing educational materials, guidelines, and resources related to helmet safety through the IQHA website, newsletters, and social media channels.

b. Training and Seminars: Conducting training sessions and seminars to educate members, participants, and representatives about the benefits and proper use of riding helmets.

c. Leading by Example: IQHA officials, trainers, coaches, and other representatives shall actively wear riding helmets during IQHA activities and events, setting a positive example for others to follow.

7. Review and Amendments This policy will be periodically reviewed by the IQHA board to ensure its ongoing relevance and effectiveness. Amendments may be made at any time to address emerging safety concerns or changes in industry standards.

8. Conclusion By implementing this riding helmet policy, the IQHA aims to prioritize the safety and well-being of its members, participants, and representatives. Compliance with this policy is essential for creating a safe environment during all IQHA activities and events, both at home and abroad.

Note: This policy document serves as a general policy and will be subject to review at the discretion of the Board of Directors .