



RULES

MERCER ISLAND EQUESTRIAN CLUB, INC. **(Mercer Island Saddle Club)**

Members best enjoy the privileges and pleasures of our club when each member helps contribute to MISC's harmonious, safe and rewarding operations. Your courtesy and cooperation with members and adherence to MISC's Bylaws, Rules and Guidelines help promote good horsemanship, maintain our beautiful facilities, and allow our unique co-op spirit to flourish.

1. Members are expected to display behavior becoming a MISC member at all times.
2. Riders must wear secured riding helmets when mounted, as well as heeled boots when riding with stirrups.
3. Anyone who rides at MISC, non-members and members alike, must have signed a MISC release form before riding at MISC.
4. Riding and longeing in arenas take precedence over turnout. Horses turned out must have a handler available on the grounds to move them if requested by a rider.
5. All riders must have an adult (18 years and older) spotter when jumping.
6. Always clean up after yourself and your horse.
7. Owners are responsible for their dogs' behavior.
8. Smoking, alcohol and illegal drug use are not allowed at MISC grounds. Exceptions to the alcohol policy may be granted by the Executive Board.

MISC GUIDELINES

ON THE PROPERTY

1. Guests: Non-members may participate in MISC shows and clinics, but must sign a release form. Members who wish to host an occasional guest rider at the club must accompany and be responsible for the guest, as well as see to it that the guest signs the MISC release form. **Release forms are in the barn aisle file cabinet and on the website. Completed release forms may be placed in the payment box in the tack room.**
2. Ride with care in our busy parking lot. Riding at the walk is best.

IN THE ARENAS

1. A rider entering an occupied arena must close the gate if asked.
2. Horses may not be tied to, or tied anywhere within, the arenas.
3. If you are the last person to leave the indoor arena, please turn out the lights.
4. Etiquette: Our arenas are busy. Please exhibit riding courtesy, including...
 - Passing left side to left side when possible. Call out to pass when passing in same direction.
 - Slower riders take an inside track, faster to the outside.
 - Riders yield to those actively jumping, as well as taking care around riders taking lessons. Jumpers, call out your jumps, lines.
 - When in doubt, call it out.
 - Longeing in an occupied arena may be done with the permission of riders/instructors in the arena. Be certain you can longe your horse in a businesslike fashion.
 - You may turn a horse out in the outdoor arena only with permission of riders in the indoor arena. (The indoor arena is not intended for turnout. A quick roll is fine if you stay with the horse and rake the roll spots even.)

5. **JUMPING:**

- A ground person (spotter, 18 years and older) must be present at all times for anyone who jumps.
- Those using the jumps are responsible for putting all equipment away, or coordinating with other members to do so later. This helps facilitate the dragging maintenance of the arenas.
- Jumps may not be taken off the property.
- Damage to jumps, posts, rails or other equipment should be reported to the Barn Manager.

IN THE BARN

1. Horses must be properly cross-tied with clips attached to the sides of the halter and the halter fully on the horse's head.
2. Do not leave cross-tied horses unattended.
3. When taking your horse past a horse in the cross ties, ask the other handler to move the horse before you attempt to pass. Never attempt to take your horse under a cross tie line.
4. Keep horses out of the barn aisle as much as possible during feeding and other busy times. Horses should not be in the cross ties, for example, during feeding.
5. Horses that kick or show threatening behavior may not be left in the cross ties.
6. Horses that bite must have stall doors closed and a warning sign posted on their door. Stall doors must be closed and locked when handlers are not present.
7. No riding in the barn. All riders must mount and dismount outside the barn.
8. Any theft or damage in the barn area should be reported immediately to the Barn Manager.
9. Except in case of emergency or the welfare of a horse, no one may enter a stall other than his or her own without the owner's permission. No one may remove a horse other than his or her own from its stall without owner permission.
10. Members must put away wheelbarrows and rakes, and pick up droppings, clippings, hoof pickings, tack, etc. left in the aisle. Sweep "your square" at least as often as you clean the stall.

Violation of MISC Rules, Bylaws or Guidelines should be reported to the Executive Board, which will consider action on a case-by-case basis, and include among its options referral to a dispute-settling committee. Rules, Bylaws and Guideline violation could result in suspension (someone else must care for your horse, you may not enter the grounds) or expulsion from the club.

(September 2007)