

GRF OPERATING RULES
Equestrian Center



A. General

1. All residents and guests must sign in upon arrival at the facility.
2. Business hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., except holidays.
 - a. Outside of business hours, access is restricted to staff, boarders and their guests, and authorized volunteers. No one may be on Equestrian Center property from 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. unless there is an emergency involving a horse. In this instance, the Security Services Department and the Equestrian Center supervisor must be notified.
3. Visitors may stop by the office from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to request to view the GRF courtyard and arenas. For a more detailed view of the facility, visitors will be asked to return for a scheduled tour time.
4. No unsupervised visits are allowed at the Equestrian Center for safety reasons. No petting or feeding of horses is allowed by visitors at any time unless staff or the owner of a horse permits.
5. Everyone who rides/handles horses at the Equestrian Center is required to have an equestrian waiver on file.
 - a. Minors 8 years of age and older must have a waiver and a medical release signed by a parent or guardian and are required to wear boots and helmets while riding. Minors must always be under adult supervision while on the property.
6. Smoking anywhere on the property is prohibited.
7. Gasoline storage is prohibited.
8. Touching or feeding horses is strictly prohibited unless the owner gives explicit permission.
9. Bare feet, flip flops, sandals and other inappropriate clothing are prohibited.
10. Only boarders may bring leashed dogs onto the property. Dogs deemed a nuisance (excessive barking, aggressive behavior, etc.) by staff must be removed from the property. Registered service dogs trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability are permitted.
11. Label all tack, equipment and supplies that will be stored on the property. The Golden Rain Foundation (GRF) is not responsible for theft, loss or disappearance of or damage to any tack or equipment or other property stored at the facility. Owners store all items at their own risk.
12. Immediately report all incidents to the Equestrian Center supervisor and/or the Equestrian Center assistant. If the Equestrian Center supervisor or assistant are unavailable, notify the Security Services Department immediately.

13. In case of an emergency that involves evacuation of the Equestrian Center, all horses will be moved to the OC Fair & Event Center per Orange County Fire Authority, or any other location as designated by Orange County Fire Authority. The Equestrian Center serves as an evacuation center for horses in danger due to fire (i.e., Trabuco, Silverado and Modjeska canyons); Equestrian Center supervisor approval required.

B. Guests

1. Guests under 8 years of age are not permitted to take lessons but may visit and attend events at the Equestrian Center. Residents sponsoring guests must always be on property but are not required to ride with their guests. In addition, the Equestrian Center supervisor must provide each guest with authorization to use the facility.
2. All facility guests are encouraged to attend staff- and volunteer-guided tours Wednesday through Sunday. Visit the Equestrian Center webpage for current tour times.

C. Safety

1. All lesson clients are required to wear a helmet, boots, long pants, riding boots or other staff-approved footwear. Shorts and open-toed shoes are prohibited.
2. Only staff and staff-trained volunteers can handle and feed GRF horses.
3. The Equestrian Center supervisor or Recreation and Special Events Department staff are authorized to determine when a situation is unsafe.

D. Boarding Program Rules

1. All boarders must sign a horse boarding agreement, providing information about their horse, their choice of veterinarian and professional farrier, the desired feed for their horse, a list of contacts authorized to handle their horse and proof of liability insurance, with GRF and Village Management Services (VMS) listed as additional insured. All paperwork must be complete and on file in the Equestrian Center office. Insurance paperwork must be renewed annually or any time the owner exchanges their horse. Any horse exchange must be approved by the Equestrian Center supervisor.
 - a. Boarders are responsible for arranging veterinary and professional farrier services as needed and agree to be directly billed for all services. All veterinary and farrier work must be done in designated areas or in stalls.
2. Nonresident boarders may not invite guests to the facility without the presence of their sponsoring resident.
3. Residents with a valid Laguna Woods Village ID card may lease a 12-by-12-foot box stall for their owned/leased horse and must be actively involved in the care of their horse.
 - a. Laguna Woods Village residents may sponsor a nonresident boarder to lease a 12-by-12-foot box stall for their owned/leased horse. Nonresident boarders must be actively involved in the care of their horse.
 - b. Residents are responsible for their sponsored nonresident boarders' billing, unpaid feed and/or any damage caused by the sponsored nonresident boarder or the boarder's horse, or violations of this policy.

4. Boarding fees include the stall, one stall cleaning daily, two feedings daily, use of day turnouts on a rotation schedule, five bags of shavings (or equivalent cubic feet of 37.5) per week, per stall. Stalls are chosen based on seniority and horse safety determined by the Equestrian Center supervisor.
 - a. Care services are available only as staff time allows; there may be a waitlist for additional care services.
5. Each resident boarder is entitled to two stalls; boarding privileges of horses may be denied, limited or revoked at the discretion of the Equestrian Center supervisor and/or the GRF board for safety, conduct or operational concerns. If one stall is vacated for any reason (death, sale of horse, etc.) and there is a waitlist, the stall becomes available to the next person waitlisted. If there is no waitlist, the boarder may pay a dry-stall fee for up to 90 days, at which time the stall must be filled or relinquished.
 - a. When there is a waitlist, resident boarders take priority over nonresident sponsored boarders.
 - b. Nonresident boarders will be entitled to one stall only and will not be asked to vacate if there is a waitlist.
 - c. If there is a waitlist and a stall becomes available, the first individual on the list will be contacted. If that individual accepts the stall but does not have a horse, a nonrefundable dry-stall fee will be charged, at which time the stall must be filled or relinquished. If a resident is not ready when contacted, they will be placed at the end of the waitlist.
6. Only boarders may rent trailer space at the Equestrian Center.
 - a. Trailering may be scheduled with the Equestrian Center office for local transport during business hours when available. Nonemergency transport must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.
 - b. Emergency transport to the veterinarian will be provided when qualified staff are available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Equestrian Center supervisor will determine whether a horse is safe for staff to transport.
 - c. Owners will load their own horses for transport or may ask for staff assistance only if owners are physically incapable of doing so. Horses showing dangerous behaviors will not be transported by Equestrian Center or VMS staff and will be referred to a local professional hauling company. Staff has a right to refuse hauling for any horse they believe will be dangerous to haul. Staff will provide a current list of local haulers and horse ambulances when they are not able to transport a horse. Horse owners or those leasing a horse being transported by the Equestrian Center will be responsible for any damage to the trailer caused by their horse.
7. In the event of a medical emergency involving a boarded horse where staff has made all reasonable attempts to contact the boarder, the owner/lessee agrees that the Equestrian Center supervisor will use their best professional judgment as to the veterinarian services required; owner/lessee agrees to be billed directly by the veterinarian for services rendered.
 - a. After-hours communications with staff must be for emergency, critical care or training information only.

8. No carts for driving horses are allowed onsite.
 9. Only the Equestrian Center supervisor may provide facility keys to boarders and their agents.
 10. The Equestrian Center supervisor must be present when a new horse arrives and has the authority to refuse any horse for boarding that may be dangerous to the facility and other participants. Stallions are never allowed and young horses of less than three years must be assessed ahead of time by the Equestrian Center supervisor.
 - a. All new horses are subject to a quarantine up to seven days. Horses without vaccines or from out of state may be subject to quarantine up to two weeks. Yearly vaccines are mandatory for all boarded horses. Horses must be dewormed twice yearly unless a veterinarian recommends otherwise.
 - b. Local horses with up-to-date vaccines will be in quarantine for three days.
 - c. California horses or local horses without current vaccines will be in quarantine for five days.
 - d. Horses from out of state with current Coggins and health certificates with current vaccine records provided will be quarantined for seven days.
 - e. Horses from out of state without current vaccines from areas with reported communicable disease or from rescue/auction situations will be quarantined for two weeks.
 11. Nonresident boarders are not entitled to remain if their sponsor is no longer a resident of Laguna Woods Village. Nonresident boarders must vacate the facility by the move date of their sponsor. If a new sponsor is to be added, they must apply to the supervisor for permission to continue tenancy. The supervisor will review on a case-by-case basis. Continued permission to remain on the facility is not guaranteed.
 12. A washer and dryer are available for cleaning blankets, pads and towels. Boarders must provide their own HE-approved soap and remain on the property until washing and drying cycles are complete. Remove items immediately so others may use the washer and dryer.
 13. During hot weather, boarders may use battery-operated fans for their horse enclosures. Fans cannot be permanently secured and must be used according to manufacturer directions, per Orange County Fire Authority.
 14. Boarders are welcome to participate in staff-guided lessons and training with their horse.
- E. Stable Yard Rules
1. Horses must be tied at designated areas where they cannot injure another horse or damage someone's property. Horses must never be left unattended while tied or in arenas.
 2. All horses must be kept to a walk in the stable yard and pathways unless under direction of staff. The only exception is the lunging area of the GRF courtyard where horses must always be under control.
 3. Loose horses are never allowed anywhere in the stable area. Horses must be hand walked with halter or bridle and reins or lead attached.

4. When staff is mounting riders in the courtyard, other riders must wait out of the way or use mounting blocks in other areas.
 - a. Riders may ride around the courtyards and must never walk under barn eaves or through breezeways.
 5. There is a 20-minute limit on the hot walker and in the round pen when others are waiting.
 6. Riding double is always prohibited.
 7. There is no feeding in the turnouts unless for medical reasons and approved by staff.
 8. Horses must be washed in the wash rack. There is a 15-minute limit when others are waiting.
 9. Everyone must clean up after their horse in the wash rack, at the rail, in the grooming stall, in the hot walker, in the arenas, pathways and in the turnouts. Bridles, buckets or other items must be cleaned in the utility sink—not the bathroom sinks.
 10. Riders/handlers must keep hold of led horses in hand at all times.
 - a. Boarded horses may not be walked two at a time by one person.
 11. Professional farriers must use one of three designated areas on the property or in horse stalls and must clean up all clippings and nails.
 12. Exterior gates must be always secured.
- F. Arena Rules
1. Use is prioritized as follows:
 - a. Lessons
 - b. Riding
 - c. Lunging
 - d. Loose horses/turnout
 2. When both arenas are busy, the small arena must be shared by rotation every 20 minutes. Never leave horses unattended in either arena.
 3. Lessons take priority in both arenas. Owners must ask for permission to enter/exit lesson area when lessons are taking place.
 4. Loose horses may be turned out for up to 20 minutes if no one is using the arena. They must immediately be removed if someone wishes to ride or lunge their horse. Owners are responsible for any damage done by their loose horse in the arena. This includes the dressage court and other riding tools.
 5. Only two horses can be turned out at a time together.
 6. Gates must always be secured when horses are loose/turned out.
 7. Rider guidelines:
 - a. Pass on the inside when travelling in the same direction.
 - b. Pass left shoulder to left shoulder when travelling opposite.
 8. Riders must follow staff instructions when a lesson is in progress.
 9. If problems occur, stop all horses immediately.
 10. If riders are present and you wish to lunge a horse, ask for permission and stay in your own space and avoid loudly cracking whips near other horses.
 11. No lunging is allowed in the dressage arena.
 12. If lesson equipment is moved, it must be put back in place.

13. Appropriate gaits are walk, trot and canter.

G. Trail Rules

1. Boarders and their guests may ride on the GRF trails at their own risk. Riders should pay attention to their horse and the surrounding area. Maintain appropriate spacing between horses.
2. All horses should be kept to a walk when going up and down hills or through tunnels and when other horses are in the area. Horses may trot or canter only when the area is clear.
3. The bridle trail gate must be locked upon entry and exit. Riders must stay on the path and not on the grass. After 3 p.m. and when the Equestrian Center is closed, riders are responsible for picking up their horse droppings. Riders are always required to pick up droppings on the creek side.

H. Turnout Rules

1. Twenty turnouts are provided for the use of boarders. Boarders must follow the rotation schedule and turnout rules posted by staff.
2. There is no riding in the turnouts or in narrow aisles between turnouts unless the turnouts are empty.
3. Feeding is prohibited in turnouts except under special circumstances with staff approval.
4. Horses may share waterers in turnouts; boarders are responsible for cleaning all added water containers.

I. Feed Rules

1. Feed cost is not included in the boarding fee; prices may fluctuate per current market prices.
2. Staff sets feed and feeds two times daily, with an option for a paid third feeding, unless the owner is feeding something other than the feed provided. In this instance, the owner is responsible for setting the feed; staff will place it in the stall. Lunch is fed for an additional charge. All supplements are the responsibility of the owner unless they pay for this optional service.
3. A flake of hay is an approximation between 5 and 7 pounds. Staff will make their best attempt to be consistent and to accommodate requests for slightly more or less depending on the needs of their horse. Amounts may fluctuate slightly daily.
4. For horses with specific medical needs that require precise feedings, owners may be responsible for preparing the feed; all preparation should be done at the sink or tables outside the tack rooms.
5. Supplemental feed must be kept in designated areas and/or in rodentproof, approved containers to help mitigate rodent infestation.

J. Tack Rooms Rules

1. Boarders are allotted space in one of six common tack rooms and must contain their tack and supplies to their own space.
2. Boarders must keep the tack room and their area clean.
 - a. Area must be swept. Tack and supplies must be stored neatly, free of debris and excessive dirt. Feed and grain must be stored in rodent-safe containers.

3. Horses are not allowed in the tack rooms.
 4. Lock the tack room when you leave and after you have confirmed that other occupants are not in the immediate area. Do not leave keys in the tack room; secure the door in the open position when you are inside.
- K. Riding Program Rules
1. All residents and guests must always follow the directions of staff.
 2. The riding program is for boarders, residents and their guests who schedule lessons on a boarded or GRF horse. Reservations are required and can be scheduled by calling the Equestrian Center office.
 3. The schedule is determined by the Equestrian Center supervisor and is based on demand, staff availability, weather and protecting the welfare of the horses.
 - a. Lessons may be canceled due to inclement weather including heat over 83 degrees Fahrenheit, excessive wind, thunder, lightning, rain, fire danger and air quality.
 4. Riders must meet weight and age requirements: 200 pounds maximum weight and 8 years old minimum age.
 5. Riders must be free of injury or illness that might compromise their safety or the safety of staff assisting them.
 6. Riders must also be able to mount and dismount using the mounting block with only one staff person assisting. Referrals to therapy centers in the area for those with physical disabilities may be provided by the Equestrian Center supervisor.
 7. Staff will assess all riders to determine their ability to safely participate and may cancel or end a lesson/trail ride if the safety of the rider, horse or staff could be compromised.
 - a. All lesson clients must be able to reach the stirrups, control the horse and follow instructions.
 8. Lesson Cancellations
 - a. Cancellations received less than 24 hours' notice, including "no-shows," are not eligible for a lesson credit or refund.
 - b. If a lesson is canceled by the Equestrian Center due to inclement weather, horse health or trainer unavailability, a full credit or refund will be issued. The Equestrian Center supervisor reserves the right to waive the cancellation policy in the event of a documented rider emergency.
 - c. Refunds are credited to the requestor's credit card or issued via check upon request.
- L. Volunteer Program Rules
1. Volunteers must be at least 12 years of age.
 2. Volunteers who handle horses must have attended training, be able to demonstrate proficiency in several basic skills and handling confidence and may only handle the horses while remaining in the GRF area or arenas under staff supervision unless otherwise directed by staff.
 3. Once approved by the Equestrian Center supervisor or head instructor, new volunteers will be mentored by staff and other trained volunteers.

Note: The Recreation and Special Events Department reserves the right to review and adjust the operating rules to accommodate the needs of the community. All GRF policies and procedures apply to the use of the amenities. GRF is authorized to take disciplinary action against a member found in violation of the operating rules. Register a complaint by contacting the Security Services Department at 949-540-1400 or the Compliance Division at compliance@vmsinc.org or 949-268-CALL.