

OEA – Code of Conduct

The Ontario Eventing Association (OEA) provides services to its membership to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for the continued development of Equestrian Canada (EC)-sanctioned Eventing in Ontario. The OEA aims to create a healthy, sustainable and safe sport environment, both on and off the field of play, and to provide participants with a reasonable expectation that Eventing in Ontario will be accessible, inclusive and free from all forms of harm and that participation in our sport promises to be a rewarding, enjoyable and positive experience.

This Code of Conduct seeks to promote that vision and presents principles, values and expectations to guide the behaviour of OEA Officers and Directors, OEA members writ large (including coaches, officials, owners and organizers) and the broader Eventing community (including parents/spectators and volunteers) who attend the events and activities that the OEA is involved in organizing and delivering.

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in ejection from the competition and/or removal from the property and specific infractions could be referred to EC for consideration.

General Responsibilities

- Promoting professionalism at all times, including treating all individuals with respect, integrity and fairness in all dealings.
- Promoting the sport of Eventing in the most constructive way possible, including demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership and high standards of ethical conduct.
- Respecting the rights, dignity and value of all individuals and refusing to tolerate, condone or exhibit acts of aggression, any form of harassment or physical and/or verbal abuse.
- Recognizing that coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights.
- Abiding by EC's *Statement of Principles with respect to Horse Welfare* [[hyperlink](#)].
- Respecting the venue and all property of the host/Organizer including abiding by any rules posted or circulated and doing nothing to willfully cause property damage.
- Adhering to Equestrian Canada's Rules of the sport of Eventing (Section D) [[hyperlink](#)] and General Regulations (Section A). [[hyperlink](#)]
- Respecting the decisions and the judgements of officials as final, once any and all appeal processes have been explored.
- Engaging in the spirit of volunteerism, without which, the sport of Eventing would not be viable.

In addition to the above General Responsibilities, OEA's Directors and Officers are guided by, and committed to, responsibilities contained in the following documents:

- **“Core Values and Guiding Principles”** in the OEA’s *STRATEGIC/OPERATIONAL PLAN (2021-2025)*.[\[hyperlink\]](#) These include: collaborating with stakeholders, promoting inclusivity and access, maintaining flexibility and responsiveness, delivering value to members, and operating with accountability and transparency.
- **OEA – Privacy Policy** [\[hyperlink\]](#). Respecting all requirements of confidentiality.
- **The Ontario Eventing Association By-Law 1-2020**. [\[hyperlink\]](#)
- **OEA – Directors and Officers: Board Meetings & Communications Guidelines** [\[hyperlink\]](#)

Approved
February 13, 2024