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Incorporated Association No INC1301237

Uniting Modern Equestrians in Australia

Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to all Bitless Inc Members including Guests. Bitless Inc Members and Guests are expected to comply with the letter, spirit and intent of Bitless Inc Constitution, By Laws, Code of Conduct, Policies and relevant legislation.

The Bitless Inc Constitution, and General Safety Guidelines can provide further details on specific requirements and practices mentioned in this Code of Conduct. Members who are unsure of their obligations should contact a member of the Bitless Inc Committee for clarification. Breaches of this code may result in disciplinary action, up to and including, cancelling of membership.

Safety

Equestrian activities are inherently dangerous, ensure that your decisions and actions at all times are above reproach

- Ensure that the safety, health and welfare of our members, guests and equines are paramount
- Co-operate with other Bitless Inc Members, event hosts and instructors in their efforts to have safe and enjoyable activities and events for the enjoyment of everyone
- Take personal responsibility for your actions, conduct and the equines under your care
- Report any incidents or injuries and report any unsafe practices to other Bitless Inc Members, Event Hosts and/or the Bitless Inc Committee

Integrity

Always act with honesty, objectivity, openness and courage of conviction

- Act ethically and to avoid actions that bring Bitless Inc into disrepute
- Respect the privacy of members where it is appropriate to do so
- Do not participate in fraudulent, or corrupt conduct
- Do not engage in slander, bullying, prejudice or harassment in any form including the use of social Media
- Do not make decisions for personal or commercial gain at the expense of Bitless Inc or its members or participate in outside activities where there is a conflict of interest

Respect Diversity

Bitless Inc members come from all backgrounds, with differing training methods and opinions on competition

- Help contribute to an association that actively encourages and promotes co-operation, trust and support amongst its members free from prejudice, victimisation, harassment and bullying
- Respect the rich diversity available within the equestrian community and embrace the differing levels of ideology, focus and approach on offer
- Respect our members by treating them equally and fair, regardless of their gender, marital status, race, age, religion or sexual preference

Celebrate Success

Horses are supposed to be fun!

- Actively work with other members towards our shared goals and pursuits
- Celebrate the successes and achievements of Bitless Inc members
- Be a good sport
- Focus on the recreational enjoyment and fun we all gain from our horses, our chosen sports and pursuits

Equine Welfare

Equine welfare must always be paramount, and to a high standard

- Equine welfare must never be compromised by competitive, commercial or egotistical interests
- At all stages, during handling, preparation, training, riding, driving, competition and demonstration of equines, welfare must take precedence over all other demands
- All Bitless Inc Members and Guests will treat their equines with respect and dignity at all times, and be positive examples to the equestrian community
- Equines must be healthy, fit and emotionally sound to a sufficient standard to participate in the activities expected of them
- Equines must be properly prepared and educated to a sufficient standard, for the specific demands of the activities they are participating in
- All equipment and tools used on or around equines must maintain high horse welfare standards, be fitted and applied correctly, and prevent discomfort or pain to the horse
- Every effort must be made to ensure equines receive proper and humane treatment throughout their lives, beyond the limits of their working life

The Bitless Inc Committee is dedicated to this Code of Conduct, and undertakes to lead by example.