



## Somerset County Park Commission LORD STIRLING STABLE Park Rules and Guidelines Acknowledgement

### GENERAL PARK RULES

- Any person who fails to comply with either a site-specific rule or temporary restriction may be directed to leave the park system and may be subject to further penalties as determined by the Park Commission or local or state statute or regulation.
- Visitors and customers shall be courteous and respectful to our staff at all times. You are expected to immediately follow any directives given by them without discussion.
- Visitors and customers shall be courteous and respectful to other guests while here at the Stable. Because we are a family oriented facility, inappropriate language or comments will not be tolerated. Staff may ask you to leave if you cannot refrain from using inappropriate language or making improper comments.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any time in any area of Lord Stirling Park.
- Fires, picnics, and camping are not permitted in any area of Lord Stirling Park unless part of a special Lord Stirling Stable event.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere within Lord Stirling Park Stable.
- Dogs must be leashed and under control at all times. Handlers are responsible for cleaning up after their pet. If the dog is disruptive, staff may ask the handler to remove the dog from the property. We do not condone leaving dogs, other pets, or children locked in vehicles.
- The trails are for equestrian use only. They are not open to walking or vehicles of any type. Visitors are welcome to walk around the facility but are prohibited from entering buildings other than the Stable office or the indoor arena lobby and meeting rooms. Do not go into any pasture or paddock or walk beyond the posted areas.
- Please pull into a space in the visitor parking lot to discharge passengers. For safety, do not stop in the driveway or in front of the office to let passengers out of the vehicle.
- When exiting the facility, please leave using the drive marked "Exit". DO NOT exit through the entrance drive. This is a one-way drive only.
- Vehicles in the designated handicapped parking spaces must display the proper placards to park in these reserved spaces.

### LESSON PROGRAM AND HACKING

- Riders must be a minimum of 6 years of age to take lessons.
- Riders must complete and sign a Health Form & Waiver and a Stable Rules Acknowledgement prior to their first ride in a calendar year.
- Riders will be weighed in the Stable Office prior to their first lesson of the calendar year. This is so that the proper horses are selected for the rider's safety and the welfare of the horse. Riders must weigh less than 225 pounds for flat classes and less than 200 pounds for jumping classes. Lord Stirling Stable may not be able to accommodate all riders registered for a class if suitable weight-carrying horses are not available. In this situation, riders will be accepted in order of registration. A reasonable effort will be made to accommodate a rider in a different class when possible. When another class agreeable to both parties is not available, the rider will be given a refund.
- To receive in-county rates, customers must present proof of Somerset County residency. Valid forms of proof include driver's license, motor vehicle registration, utility bills, or local tax bills. A Non-Resident County ID card is available for purchase which entitles out-of-county students a discounted rate on group lessons only.
- Junior students (ages 9 thru 17) are required to wear riding jodhpurs or breeches. Chaps or half-chaps may be worn over the proper riding pants. Riding gloves are permitted.
- Floppy, loose fitting clothing and jewelry (dangling earrings, bracelets, rings, and necklaces) should not be worn. Tank or tube tops are not appropriate riding attire. Sleeveless polo shirts or sleeveless shirts with a collar are acceptable in warm weather.
- Cell phone use while mounted on a horse is prohibited for safety reasons.
- A properly fitting ASTM/SEI-approved equestrian helmet must be worn, with the chin strap buckled, by all riders/drivers. Bicycle helmets do not adhere to the ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet specifications and are not adequate.
- Boots or shoes must have a smooth, hard sole and a definite heel of moderate height. Sneaker-type riding shoes are acceptable.
- **Riders need to be at the Stable at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of their lesson.** Students arriving after the start time of a class **will not be given a horse.** Late riders are still welcome to participate by standing in the arena with the Instructor so they can hear and view the skills that are being taught during that lesson.
- Riders must take the horse given to them by barn staff. Staff is not allowed to make substitutions or changes. At their discretion, the Instructor may switch horses between riders if a suitable horse is already assigned to their class. This switch will take place in the ring prior to the start of the lesson. Please do not ask barn staff to make changes.

- It is important that children are picked up on time from their lesson. Please be at the Stable at least 5 minutes prior to the end of the lesson. Junior riders (ages 16 and under) must be picked up by a parent or legal guardian. The parent must come to the barn entrance to sign the child out. If someone other than the parent/legal guardian will be picking up a child (even on a one-time occurrence) a "One-Time Rider Pick Up" form must be completed and submitted to the office prior to the lesson.
- Viewing of classes is limited and parents/guardians may not always have the opportunity to watch a lesson. Classes may not always be held in the same ring each week and location may vary based on weather conditions and other activities.

#### Outdoor Jump Ring, Big Ring, Dressage Ring, and Cross Country Course

1. When a class is held in one of these rings, a viewing area is not available adjacent to the ring.
2. We ask that you refrain from going out into the field to watch classes being held in these arenas.
3. There are benches located along the east side of the visitor parking lot which provide a limited view of the Dressage Ring.
4. A limited view of the Big Ring and the Outdoor Jump Ring is available by standing along the exterior pasture fence. If you have gone through a gate opening you are in a restricted area.
5. The cross-country course is only visible from Lord Stirling Road. Off road parking and viewing in this area is not available.

#### Indoor Arena

1. Viewing of classes held in the indoor arena is available on a limited basis from the interior meeting rooms. We do not guarantee that a room will be available for viewing at every lesson.
  2. There are times when the rooms are closed to the general public for Pony Parties, other meetings, and events or educational classes held by the Stable.
  3. We ask that you respect the guests who are renting the rooms and refrain from using them during their rental times.
  4. Viewing from the large open arena gates is not allowed.
- Spectators are welcome to take photographs. Please deactivate any flash device prior to taking photos so that you do not unintentionally spook the horses.
  - Children under the age of 12 who are not taking lessons must be accompanied by an adult at all times. For the safety of the riders, other guests, and horses, running, yelling, ball playing, and climbing of trees and fences is not permitted. There is a general use park located south of the Stable on South Maple Ave. for these activities.
  - Lesson Cancellation and Refunds:
    1. A rider may cancel from a class and receive a refund if the class is canceled a minimum of seven days prior to the scheduled start of the class. An administration fee will be deducted for the cancellation. NO REFUNDS will be processed if a class is cancelled less than 7 days prior to the class start date. Medical exceptions apply as noted below.
    2. A rider may receive a refund if an injury prevents them from horseback riding. A note from a doctor stipulating that they are prohibited from riding is required. A refund will be issued for classes held after the date of the note only.
    3. Lessons may be cancelled by the Stable for weather related incidents: extreme road conditions, temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, or during hot weather when the temperature and humidity combine to cause unsafe conditions. When the Stable cancels lessons, an announcement will be e-mailed to riders, posted on Facebook, and recorded on the Stable's Lesson Hotline. The hotline is available by calling 908-722-1200 x 7216.
    4. When lessons are cancelled by the Stable, the session for that day will be pushed back a week. We ask that you keep the two weeks after the end of the session open for possible make-up classes.
    5. Individual make-up classes are not available. A rider may miss up to three classes out of ten and still be considered for promotion to the next level if all of the skill goals have been achieved. If four or more classes are missed a rider is not eligible for promotion.
  - Instructors and other Stable staff have the right to ask any rider to dismount and leave class (or the arena) if the rider refuses to follow their directives or for unruly, disruptive, or abusive behavior to the horse, other riders, volunteers or Stable employees.
  - Only one rider at a time may ride or be mounted on a pony/horse.
  - Hand-feeding treats to the horses is not allowed for safety reasons. Please give treats to the Stable staff so that they may be placed in the horse's feed tub.