



AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Member Code of Conduct

The mission of the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association, Inc. (the “Association”) is to promote and protect the American Saddlebred Horse with the highest standards of integrity and guarantee the purity of the breed through the recording of pedigrees and the transfer of ownership of the American Saddlebred Horse. Through this Member Code of Conduct (the “Code of Conduct”), the Association seeks to promote the humane treatment of American Saddlebred horses, and encourage safe practices, ethical dealings, and fair treatment in connection with horse and rider exhibitions, business matters, and other activities for the horses, members, and other participants. The Association first adopted a member code of conduct in July 2019, prior to the merger with the American Saddlebred Registry, Inc. The Board of Directors has adopted this revised Code of Conduct to update its standards and to conform to the fully integrated organization following the merger with the American Saddlebred Registry.

This Code of Conduct shall be in effect upon adoption by the Board of Directors and publication to the membership on the Association’s website www.saddlebred.com. All members are expected at all times to conduct themselves and their activities in accordance with the Code of Conduct, including the obligations to report suspected violations and comply with any enforcement actions. Upon the request of the Association, members shall acknowledge in writing that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct.

Ethical Considerations

1. *Animal Welfare.* The welfare of American Saddlebred horses is the foremost consideration of the Association and its members. We believe that every American Saddlebred horse should be treated humanely, free from abuse and neglect.
2. *Legal and Regulatory Compliance.* Members are expected to comply with all applicable Federal and state laws, statutes, rules and regulations, the rules and regulations of the Association, the rules and regulations of all affiliate governing bodies (i.e., the United States Equestrian Federation), and the rules and regulations of all competitions and exhibitions and are also expected to use good faith efforts to cause others within their control (e.g., employees, agents, representatives, immediate family members) to comply.
3. *Equal Opportunity.* The Association is an equal opportunity employer and membership is open to all individuals on a non-discriminatory basis. Members are encouraged to adopt similar policies in their employment and business dealings.
4. *SafeSport.* The Association and its members seek to protect the safety, dignity, and autonomy of all participants, especially those most vulnerable to abuse or undue influence.
5. *Breed Promotion.* The Association and its members seek to protect the integrity of the breed and promote its development and expansion as the breed of choice of show, sport, and pleasure horse owners.
6. *Sportsmanship.* Members strive to always exhibit sportsmanlike behavior.
7. *Fair Business Dealings.* Members seek to ensure that business dealings involving American Saddlebred horses are conducted in an honest and transparent manner. Members fully disclose any conflicts of interest and all relevant facts in their business dealings.
8. *Judging Standards and Impartiality.* Members recognize that the evaluation and judging of American Saddlebred horses is subjective, however, it is in the best interests of the breed that judging be understandable and as impartial as possible. Accordingly, judges of USEF-recognized and Association-affiliated competitions strive to adhere to recognized judging standards for American

Saddlebred horses and to avoid conflicts of interest in accepting assignments and performing their duties as judges.

9. *Other Considerations.* This list of ethical considerations is not exclusive and is not meant to condone other behaviors that would be considered unethical by the standards of society and the horse industry. In addition, efforts to circumvent the stated ethical considerations are themselves in violation of the Code of Conduct and subject to investigation and discipline.
10. *Reporting and Non-retaliation.* Members are expected to report concerns of violations of the Code of Conduct or other concerns of unethical behavior, without fear of retaliation. The [Confidential Complaint Form](#) attached to the Complaint Review and Disciplinary Procedures as [Exhibit A](#) may be used to report concerns of violations.
11. *Investigation of Complaints and Fair Resolution Process.* The Association takes complaints of violations of the Code of Conduct very seriously and will investigate all alleged violations. Except in reciprocal instances requiring automatic suspension, members will be afforded a fair and timely process to defend any allegations prior to the imposition of sanctions.
12. *Disciplinary Sanctions.* Members found to have violated the Code of Conduct will be subject to discipline. [Complaint Review and Disciplinary Procedures](#).

Investigation of Complaints and Fair Resolution Process.

Rules and Procedures for Review

1. *Application of the Code of Conduct.*

(a) All members of the Association agree to and shall be bound by this Code of Conduct during their membership in the Association.

(b) Alleged infractions of the Association's Code of Conduct, as adopted or amended, may be brought by members to the attention of the Board of Directors by submitting the complaint and supporting documentation to the Association's Executive Director. For purposes of this Code of Conduct, a horse show registered with the Association as a Star Show (or other designation as may be in effect) may submit a complaint of an alleged infraction.

(c) Properly filed complaints of alleged infractions of the Code of Conduct will be investigated by the Association's staff and brought before the Association's Rules and

Conduct Committee. The Rules and Conduct Committee's procedures for submitting and reviewing complaints, hearings (if applicable), and disciplinary actions and penalties are set forth in the Complaint Review and Disciplinary Procedures.

Disciplinary Sanctions.

Violations of the Code of Conduct are subject to the disciplinary actions set forth in the Complaint Review and Disciplinary Procedures.

Governing Law.

The construction and application of the provisions of this Code of Conduct are governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Amendment History

Approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association on July 12, 2019.

Amendments approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association on December 16, 2024.