



Accident and Safety Protocol

Adapted from United States Equestrian Federation
May 2011

Purpose

In an effort to be proactive for the members and their Pintos during shows, these protocols establish suggested guidelines for Judges, Announcers, Ring Steward(s), Gate Keepers, show and arena staff, volunteers and competitors should an unsafe situation arise during a show.

Pre-Competition Safety Meeting

Prior to the competition, Organizers and Officials should have a Safety Meeting with announcers, ringmasters, gate keepers, paid staff, volunteers, trainers and competitors to discuss and review this Protocol. The meeting should primarily focus on driving events, but will also cover the protocol for events under saddle and in-hand.

It should be noted that caution should be used in scheduling riding and driving horses/ classes whenever possible. The meeting should:

- Identify all personnel involved in event management and discuss their roles in the Protocol.
- Organize a team, directed by a designated official and/or management (with driving experience) with the responsibility for directing the conduct of all participants in the competition area (show rings, warm-up ring etc.)
- Grant responsibility to Ring Stewards, gate/paddock personnel and organizers for directing the conduct of all people and animals outside the primary event areas, including warm-up areas, stabling areas, parking areas, etc.
- Designate the announcer(s), who has the best over view of the event area, to deliver information with a calm, yet authoritative demeanor.
- Assure safety equipment including a suitable halter and lead is present at the primary event area in a location known by all event personnel.

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Loose or Runaway Horse Emergency Protocol

All individuals need to understand that every incident is unique and has a life of its own.

- Announcer shall ask for everyone's attention.
- All Perimeter gates should be closed.
- In an enclosed arena, entries should walk carefully off the rail to the center of ring.
- In an open area, notify other drivers/riders of the direction of the loose animal(s) and direct that they calmly move away from the accident area.
- ALL Drivers should remain in their vehicles.
- Experienced horseman should enter the arena to serve as headers.
- Ring Stewards, Judges and other capable horsemen/women will assist in keeping loose horse directed to the rail – doing nothing that will unnecessarily scare the horse. Many situations are made worse when allowed to cut through the center of the ring between other horses.
- Unless directed by an official, do NOT open gates or let horses out.
- Designate someone to provide immediate attention and protection to any person down on the ground or obviously injured.
- Designate someone to alert medical assistance if needed.
- Once the horse(s) tire, they will slow their pace and may attempt to join the herd in center ring. They may often come down to a walk or halt and can safely be caught.
- When the animal is caught, the person at the head of the animal(s) is in command of the animal(s) and all the persons assisting. DO NOT rely on the driver/rider to make such decisions as they may be in shock/fear from the accident.
- If an ambulance is needed, clear ALL animals quietly from the immediate area.
Advise driver to turn off lights and sirens when entering the show grounds.
- Designate someone to meet the ambulance and direct them to the location of the injured person.

