



# The Victorian Arabian Horse Association Inc.

(A0005693G)

55 Tolley Road, Ripplebrook, 3818

[vaha.secretary2024@gmail.com](mailto:vaha.secretary2024@gmail.com)

[www.vahaaustralia.com](http://www.vahaaustralia.com)

ABN : 77 115 844 880



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## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE VICTORIAN ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION INC

This Code of Conduct document outlines the standards, principals and expectations required of all members, trainers, participants, judges, officials, volunteers and supporters of the Victorian Arabian Horse Association Inc. It is designed to foster respect, fair play, sportsmanship and a positive environment within our organization. By following this code, we will create a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable experience for everyone involved with the Arabian breed here in Australia.

### **1. Respect and Fairness**

- a) Treat all individuals with respect, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, or ability.
- b) Avoid any form of discrimination, harassment, or bullying, both in the show ring, general grounds where a VAHA Inc event, and/or meeting is being conducted.
- c) Show appreciation for fellow competitors, judges, officials, staff, volunteers, and spectators, irrespective of the outcome of competition or ruling.

### **2. Sportsmanship and Integrity**

- a) Compete with integrity, following the intent and rules and spirit of the event.
- b) Accept victory with humility and defeat with grace, avoiding unsportsmanlike conduct or harassment.
- c) Refrain from any behaviour that undermines the integrity of the sport including, but not restricted to, doping and animal welfare conduct.

### **3. Safety and Well-being**

- a) Prioritise the safety and well-being of all participants and livestock during training, competition, and events.
- b) Report any concerns regarding animal welfare and the safety or well-being of others to the appropriate authorities.
- c) Follow all guidelines and protocols provided by VAHA Inc to ensure a safe environment.
- d) Ensure interaction with persons under the age of 18 years is appropriate and that unaccompanied and unobserved activities are avoided wherever practical.



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## 4. Positive and Supportive Atmosphere

- a) Encourage a positive and supportive atmosphere for all members, competitors, and officials.
- b) Provide constructive feedback and avoid public criticism that could harm and individual's confidence, morale, or integrity of competition involving the Arabian Horse.
- c) Celebrate efforts and achievements, both big and small, to foster a culture of encouragement and motivation.

## 5. Compliance, Policies and Regulations

- a) Comply with all policies and regulations set out by VAHA Inc.
- b) Familiarise yourself with the rules within the different competitions involving the Arabian Horse in Victoria and ensure you act and compete within the defined boundaries of each sport.
- c) Abide by the guidelines regarding eligibility, registration, and qualification for competitions and events.
- d) Do not use your involvement with VAHA Inc to promote your own beliefs, behaviours and practices where there are inconsistencies with those of the association.

## 6. Spectators and Parents

- a) Accept and respect the policies and rules of VAHA Inc and any of its committees while attending an event. Do not abuse, threaten or intimidate, use crude language, or show unnecessary obvious dissent, displeasure, or disapproval towards and official, member or event volunteer.
- b) At all times comply with any condition of entry and follow the directions of committee representatives and/or other duty officials.

## 7. Alcohol, Drugs, and Substance Abuse

- a) Refrain from consuming alcohol or using illegal substances during training sessions, competitions, and official events.
- b) If consuming alcohol at a VAHA Inc event or approved VAHA Inc event, do so responsibly and in a respectable manner.
- c) Avoid any behaviour that may compromise your ability to perform safely and effectively.



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### 8. Social Media and Public Communication

- a) Exercise caution and responsibility when using social media, avoiding offensive, harmful or defamatory content.
- b) Do not use the name VAHA Inc for any reason personally or on social sites etcetera without written consent from VAHA Inc.

### 9. Reporting Violations

- a) Report any breaches of this Code of Conduct to the designated authorities within VAHA Inc.
- b) Cooperate with any investigations related to alleged violations.
- c) It is encouraged to report breaches to the VAHA Inc Code of Conduct in a written format by either email or written letter, stating persons involved and events that occurred. Complaints can be addressed to VAHA Inc committee, whereby an Investigating Officer may be appointed and in the case of Affiliated events to an office bearer of that Affiliate.

### Consequences of Violation

Violation of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which can include warnings, fines, suspensions, or in severe cases, expulsion from VAHA Inc. The severity of the sanction will depend on the nature and frequency of the violation.

### Acknowledgement

By participating in any capacity with VAHA Inc, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agreed to abide by this Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action.

**The Victorian Arabian Horse Association Inc is affiliated with Equestrian Victoria and is insured with Equestrian Australia. For further information contact the VAHA secretary.**