

Red Oak Ranch Horse Arena
Rules & Regulations
Issue 2, 2014

The following rules and regulations apply to all equestrian activities utilizing the Red Oak Ranch horse arena:

Residents are eligible to use the arena upon payment of an annual fee, per family. The fee applies to the annual period September 1 - August 31st and will normally be neither pro-rated nor transferred to new property owners.

The use of the arena is restricted to qualified Red Oak Ranch residents and their guests. All users of the arena, whether mounted or otherwise, **MUST** sign the “Red Oak Ranch Horse Arena Release of Liability” for each annual period.

The Red Oak Ranch horse arena is strictly to be used for equestrian activities only. No motorized or wheeled vehicles are permitted in the arena, other than for emergencies or maintenance of the arena.

Users of the arena are responsible for the maintenance and appearance of the arena. Please always leave the arena in an appropriate condition for any riding discipline, especially with regard to the following:

- Any equipment used during your ride (including but not limited to: jumps, ground poles, caveletti, barrels, cones etc.) should be removed from the arena at the end of your ride.
- Any major disturbances of the footing should be repaired using the rake provided, if possible, or reported so that maintenance can be carried out.
- Ensure that the arena gates and utilities are secured and locked.

Users of the arena are expected to observe the General Rules of Horse Arena Etiquette (see page 3) and to act in a safe and courteous manner.

All equestrian activities must be covered by the horse owners’ liability insurance.

All Users of the arena – whether residents or guests, mounted or unmounted (or a parent/guardian if the User is a minor) must sign the Red Oak Ranch Horse Arena Release of Liability before using the facility for each annual period.

Do not ride if you suspect that the condition of the arena is unsafe.

Any problems with the arena, or associated structures & equipment, should be reported immediately.

Do not hold any organized event in the arena without notifying the RORPOA at least 3 weeks prior to the event.

Automated Gate

WARNING: AUTOMATED GATES MAY MOVE UNEXPECTEDLY AND CAN CAUSE INJURY OR DEATH.

The automated gate on the East side of the horse arena can be opened by using the remote devices issued to current Users of the horse arena, upon request.

Remote Devices

Remote devices may be issued to current horse arena members upon request (by submitting a Red Oak Ranch Horse Arena - Application for Automated Gate Remote Device) and payment of a deposit of \$30. This deposit is intended to cover replacement (in the event that the device is lost or damaged) and will be returned when the device is returned to Red Oak Ranch Equestrians in an undamaged, working condition. All remote devices remain the property of Red Oak Ranch Equestrians and must be returned upon request. **Each numbered device will be issued to an authorized “Primary holder”, and may only be used by the Primary holder to whom it is issued plus any additional family members who have signed the application form.** The Primary Holder of the device is responsible for its use, maintenance and for replacing batteries as necessary. **Remote devices will not be issued to minors.**

Use of Remote Devices

The remote devices are intended to be used by riders mounted on their horses and **should be activated from no less than 50 feet** from the gate. The gate is programmed to only open OR close with each activation of the remote device and will not close automatically after opening.

No horse, whether inside or outside the arena, should be closer than 50 feet from the gate when the device is activated. Only one horse should pass through the automated gate at any one time.

If there other people, whether mounted or on foot, in or around the arena, clearly notify them that the gate is about to be activated before opening the gate, so that they can move to a safe distance from the gate before it opens.

The remote devices are very sensitive. Take precautions to ensure that the device cannot be unintentionally activated while you are in or near the arena. A solar panel is mounted to the left of the gate. Stay clear of the left side when entering the arena (the right side when exiting), to avoid damaging the solar panel.

It is the responsibility of riders to ensure that their animals are familiar with the operation of the automatic gate and Red Oak Ranch takes no responsibility for any horses’ reactions to the operation of the gate. Any use the remote devices and automatic gate is the responsibility of the Primary holders at their own risk and they assume liability for their actions.

The gate at the South end of the horse arena will be secured with a conventional lock (the code being available to current members), for those who do not wish to use the automatic gate.

The RORPOA point-of contact for all matters related to the horse arena is Elisabeth Crabtree: 936-321-8720, ecrabtree@consolidated.net). All relevant documents are available on the Red Oak Ranch website: www.redoakranch.org

General Rules of Horse Arena Etiquette

1. **Be Aware:** Be aware of everyone and everything around you, particularly other riders and horses. Be respectful and considerate if another rider is having problems with a horse, is riding a young horse or is an inexperienced or timid rider.
2. **Communicate:** Ask other riders about their riding plans for the session and what areas of the arena they will be using; similarly, tell them yours and agree on a safe strategy.
3. **Announce Your Intentions:** Tell the other riders what you plan to do: "passing on your left", "jumping fence 3", "leaving arena", "entering arena" etc.
4. **Experience:** More experienced riders/horses should give way to those less experienced.
5. **In-Hand:** Horses in-hand should give way to horses being ridden.
6. **Left shoulder to Left Shoulder:** Riders should try to ride in the same direction. If this is not possible then the "left shoulder to left shoulder" rule should apply.
7. **Slow on the Inside, Fast on the Outside:** Slower riders should ride on the inside track, including those doing schooling such as lateral work etc. Riders working at a faster pace such as a lope or canter should stay on the outside track.
8. **Mount Out of the Way:** Mount and dismount away from the working track.
9. **Work Together:** Ideally, users should be doing similar things (i.e. jumping, flat work) if at all possible. Even though the rule is "left shoulder to left shoulder", understand that this is not always possible. Be generous with right-of-way.
10. **Cue Quietly:** Voice commands, kissing or clicking to cue your horse should be done quietly and away from other horses. If you are using a whip, do not allow it to affect other horses. Accidentally cueing another person's horse as you ride alongside them could cause problems or accidents.
11. **Try Not to Interrupt Training Sessions:** Try to schedule your riding for times when the arena is not being used for specific training sessions. If you must ride during these times try to be unobtrusive.
12. **Keep Your Distance:** Do not crowd other riders and keep at least a horse's length between you and the horse in front of you. When there are riders working on both the inside and outside track, leave enough passing room that one horse is unable to bite or kick at the horse on the other track.
13. **All Horses Under Control:** There should be no loose horses in the arena while others are riding.
14. **Avoid Escapes:** Keep all gates securely closed while using the arena.
15. **Always Ride Safely:** Wear a helmet and other appropriate protective equipment.
16. **Spectate Safely:** Spectators should stand outside the arena, not along the side of the track. Spectators should act in such a way as not to distract or alarm horses and riders. Young children should be restrained from making loud noises or sudden movements.
17. **No Dogs:** No dogs should be in the arena with horses and riders. Spectators' dogs should be kept on a leash, quiet and under control.
18. **Clean Up:** Clean up the arena after use. Put away any equipment such as jumps, barrels, trotting poles or cones. **Leave it at least the way you found it - or better.**