

Equestrian Competition Volunteer Roles

Leaders:

Leaders should be comfortable around horses and have knowledge in tacking up, grooming and leading.

- If couplings are not being used, the lead rope should be attached to the head collar, which is positioned under the bridle.

Leading an Independent Rider (Level A, BI and CI):

- Leaders must lead the horse to the mounting area.
- If the mounting area is separate from the warmup area, leaders must lead the rider safely to the warmup area and then release when their coach gives you the ok.
- If the competition arena is separate to warm up area, the horse must be put back on the lead rope before entering the competition arena.
- When riders move into the competition arena, the leader must position themselves in a corner of the arena, in the event of incident so you're close at hand.
- As soon as the rider is finished competition, ensure the horse is put back on the lead.

Leading a Support Rider (Level BS and CS).

- Leaders must lead the horse to the mounting area. If the mounting area is separate from the warmup area, they must then lead the rider safely to warm up area.
- The Leader must walk behind the horse's head, and not ahead as this is seen as the horse following the leader.
- Leaders should have a nice loop in the rope so that the rider has the full opportunity to ride. If you lead with the rope in your left hand, and your right hand is behind your back, you can then easily and quickly step in where necessary.

NB: Do not loop lead rope around your hand.

- Leaders should lead on the left-hand side of the horse.
- The Leader must not talk or communicate with the rider once in the competition arena. This can incur a penalty for the athlete.
- Leaders must not lead riders from their own club, as this creates an unfair advantage for the rider.

Side Walkers

Side Walkers should be comfortable around horses.

- Side Walkers must walk at the rider's knee.
- Side Walkers must not touch the rider or talk to them once in the competition arena as this can incur a penalty for the athlete. You are there only as a support to the rider.
- If there is only 1 Side Walker, walk on the opposite side of the leader (right hand side of the horse).
- Side Walkers must not sidewalk for riders from their own club, as this creates an unfair advantage for the rider.

Mounting/Dismounting

At least two (2) volunteers should be at each of these stations.

- In mounting, the Leader will control the horse, standing in front of it so that it cannot move forward.
- 1 person is positioned on the mounting block to assist the rider, and possibly a second depending on the support required by the athlete. This can be the athletes coach, and 1 volunteer on the other side of the horse to aid the rider and to stabilise the saddle by holding the stirrup.
- In dismounting, the Leader will stand in front of the horse and 2 volunteers and/or a coach will be on either side of the horse, 1 to help rider's leg over saddle as sometimes riders are stiff in lower limbs, and the other to ensure safe dismount to ground level.