



Rider Policies and Procedures

Mane Stream

Our goal is to provide the safest program possible that is also challenging and enjoyable for all participants. Thank you for your understanding of the following policies and procedures.

Programs

Mane Stream offers a variety of innovative equine activities programs:

Adaptive Riding - weekly private and semi-private riding lessons

Therapy Services-

Physical Therapy

Occupational Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy

Mental Health

Equine Facilitated Learning

Inclusive Summer Camp

Horses for Healing

Guidelines for Participation

Eligibility for participation is based solely upon the individual's ability to participate meaningfully and safely, provided that there is an instructor, horse, volunteers, and an available opening in the schedule which meets the individual's needs. Once all forms have been completed and returned to the office potential participants are assessed by staff for eligibility. Individuals applying for program participation must meet eligibility criteria.

Rider Eligibility Guidelines

Although Mane Stream makes every effort to accommodate every person who applies to ride with our program, it is not always possible due to the limitations of our horses and the facility. We would like you to be aware of the following:

Weight Limit

Please be advised that the **weight limit is 200 pounds**. Be aware that there are several factors used in determining the appropriateness of an individual to be able to participate in Mane Stream's programs. Therefore, the **weight limit is applied at the discretion of Mane Stream staff**.

Safety and comfort of both the rider and the horse, as well as the ability of both, must be considered. In determining the appropriateness of an individual to ride at Mane Stream, there are several factors in relation to the weight limit that need to be taken into account, including, but not limited to:

- ◆ Actual weight of the rider
- ◆ Balance of the rider
- ◆ Strength of the rider
- ◆ Safety issues for mounting and dismounting for both the rider and the volunteers
- ◆ Amount of assistance needed by the rider
- ◆ Degree of independence of the rider
- ◆ Physical ability and availability of a suitable horse to carry the rider

Age

Riders in the adaptive riding program must be at least four years of age.

Precautions and Contraindications

Be aware that there are existing precautions and contraindications to equine assisted activities. All medical histories will be reviewed prior to any rider beginning at Mane Stream.

Behavior

Disruptive, inappropriate or unsafe behaviors, or any condition where the rider is dangerous to him/herself or to others, may be considered a contraindication to horseback riding.

Re-assessment

Under certain circumstances, a rider's condition may change leading to an unacceptable level of risk. In this case, the rider is asked to withdraw from lessons until the condition is stabilized. Riding may be resumed when written verification from the attending physician states that it is safe to do so. In certain situations, it may not be advisable for the rider to return to riding.

Mandatory Paperwork/Forms

Annual Medical Forms are required for each rider and are due in January. The form must be signed by the rider's physician and updated every year.

Accident Waiver, Medical Release and Participant Update forms *do not* require a physician's signature and are due in January.

Riders will not be allowed to ride without the required/updated forms in the office.

All of the required forms are expected back in the office *before the expiration of you/your riders current paperwork*. If the updated paperwork is not in the office by the expiration date, Mane Stream reserves the right to suspend riding privileges.

Adaptive Riding Lessons

Lessons are offered weekly throughout the year on a weather-dependent basis. Cancellations due to weather will be made no less than two hours before you/your rider's scheduled lesson. Mane Stream reserves the right to conduct one lesson during each session as a barn lesson if the instructor feels it is appropriate for the rider(s) and weather conditions will not allow for a mounted lesson. Mane Stream does not offer make up lessons.

Riding opportunities will be available to eligible riders throughout the year. It is not mandatory to ride in every session throughout the year. All registration will be done electronically. A current credit card must be kept on file in order to register for lessons. Riders will be notified of their assigned day and time approximately one week before the start of the session.

Mane Stream utilizes a "use it or lose it" policy for lessons. Excessive absences per session without a doctor's note (3 or more) or no shows (more than 1) will disqualify the participant from the remainder of the session. The participant will then be put on a waiting list for the next session. If a rider needs to discontinue riding due to a medical reason they must provide a doctor's note clearing them to return to riding. They will not be placed on a waiting list and will be included in registration.

Credit Cards on file will be charged at the end of each month for lessons.

Riders receiving funding through DDD must have an up to date Service Detail Report (SDR) along with a current credit card on file.

If DDD does not approve or provide payment for the lessons the card on file will be charged. If DDD then pays we will refund the card.

Cancellation Policy

Mane Stream does not offer make-up lessons. Participants will be charged for lessons cancelled less than 24 hours before their scheduled lesson unless a doctor's note is provided.

Procedures

All riders are asked to arrive fifteen minutes before the start of the lesson.

Riders arriving more than 10 minutes after a lesson has begun will not be able to ride.

Be courteous to other riders by arriving early, have your helmet, gloves, etc. on, and be at the outdoor arena ready to ride at your scheduled riding time.

Mane Stream asks that you do not leave the property while your child is riding.

Please do not “coach” the riders. While quiet cheering and words of encouragement are acceptable when appropriate, coaching of riders from the rail can be distracting and disruptive to your rider as well as other riders in the lesson.

The instructor will be happy to discuss any concerns with you regarding you/your rider's lesson at any time other than during lessons. Please call the office/email the instructor.

Siblings, friends and guests are welcome to accompany participants to lessons BUT:

- Siblings, friends or guests must remain in the company of an adult at all times.
- Talking and moving about at ringside is very distracting to the riders, so we ask that you remain quiet.
- At no time are siblings, friends or guests allowed to play and run outside or wander in the barn.
- Please do not play ball outside, in the lobby or around the horses.
- Siblings, friends or guests are NOT allowed to play on the mounting ramp.

Semi-Private and Private lessons are 30 minutes in length, including mounting and dismounting.

Barn lessons consisting of barn management and horsemanship skills may be offered for 30 minutes at the discretion of the Mane Stream instructor.

Please call the office as soon as possible if you know you are going to be absent. Riders will be charged for lessons cancelled less than 24 hours unless a doctor's note is provided.

Please do not email staff when you/your rider are going to be absent. Call the office and either speak to a staff member or leave a message in the absence mailbox.

Safety

NO DOGS are permitted on the property. Leashed assistance dogs are welcome with limitations. Call the office for details.

NO SMOKING allowed on the premises.

Please follow the speed limit of 5 mph on Mane Stream property. All vehicles must yield to horses on the driveway. It is best to stop your car and wait for the Mane Stream staff member to inform you that it is safe to continue.

Riding Attire

Riding clothes should be comfortable and appropriate for the day's weather.

Correct footwear is the most important part of the rider's outfit. It is recommended that riders wear boots that have a smooth sole and a low heel. Sneakers are acceptable when safety stirrups are used.

Workboots/shoes with large treads are not acceptable footwear for riding. Riders wearing sandals or clogs will not be allowed to ride.

ALL helmets must be ASTM-SEI approved and it is recommended that they are dated within five years. Bike helmets are not acceptable for horseback riding.

Helmets are worn to protect the head in the event of a fall from a horse. Only a properly fitted helmet will truly protect the head. The following are tips to help fit a helmet the correct way.

- ❖ The helmet should fit snugly- but not snug enough that it will leave marks.
- ❖ The helmet should sit level on the head.
- ❖ The helmet should sit approximately one finger above the eyebrows.
- ❖ The harness should be snug under the chin and snug under the back of the head.

Tests to check fit:

- ❖ Bend over and shake your head- if the helmet moves around or covers your eyes- it's too big!
- ❖ Move the front of the helmet up and down - if the skin above the eyes moves with the helmet it's a good fit.
- ❖ If you can flip the helmet back off your forehead- it's too big or the harness is not adjusted correctly. If the helmet tilts back tighten the front harness strap. If it covers the eyes tighten the back strap.

Remember- only a correctly fitted helmet can do a proper and safe job!

Riding will be delayed if helmet fit needs to be adjusted by Mane Stream staff before mounting, so please be sure to have helmets properly adjusted before it is time to ride.

Shorts, skirts or dresses are not appropriate for riding.

Gloves are optional. If worn, they should fit snugly. Loose and bulky gloves make it difficult to hold the reins. Gloves or mittens are recommended for winter riding.

These policies and procedures are subject to change.

Revised 11/2018