UDJC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

At the United Dressage and Jumping Club (UDJC), the welfare of the horse is our top priority. Every rider, trainer, and official must ensure that the treatment of the horse reflects the respect, care, and ethical standards that are central to the sport. The following principles outline our commitment to the well-being of all horses involved in UDJC events:

1. Respect for the Horse
Horses must be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect at all times. Riders, trainers, and handlers are expected to act in the best interest of the horse, prioritizing their physical and mental well-being.

2. Appropriate Training and Handling
Training methods should be humane, fair, and consistent with the horse's level of education and physical abilities. Excessive force, abusive training practices, or the use of equipment that causes discomfort or injury to the horse is strictly prohibited.

3. Adequate Rest and Recovery
Horses should not be overworked or pushed beyond their physical or mental limits. Adequate periods of rest, recovery, and downtime must be provided to ensure the horse's health is maintained throughout training and competition.

4. Safe and Appropriate Tack
All tack and equipment used on a horse must be well-fitted, safe, and designed with
the horse's comfort in mind. Equipment that is overly restrictive, painful, or damaging
to the horse's body is not permitted in any UDJC events.

5. Health and Veterinary Care
The health of the horse must be monitored and maintained through regular veterinary care. Horses should not be forced to compete or train if they are lame, injured, or suffering from any illness. Veterinary advice must be sought when necessary, and treatment should be provided without delay.

6. Soundness and Fitness for Competition
Horses participating in UDJC events must be sound, fit, and capable of performing the tasks required of them. The welfare of the horse takes precedence over competitive ambitions, and a horse's soundness must never be compromised for the sake of competition.

7. Humane Transportation
Horses must be transported in a manner that minimizes stress and risk of injury. Transport vehicles should be safe, well-ventilated, and suitable for the size and needs of the horse.

8. Fair Competition
Riders are expected to compete in a manner that demonstrates sportsmanship and integrity, avoiding tactics that place undue strain or pressure on the horse. The welfare of the horse must always come before the desire to win.

9. No Abuse or Mistreatment
Any form of abuse or mistreatment of horses, whether in training, competition, or otherwise, will not be tolerated. Physical punishment, harsh corrections, or any form of violence toward a horse will result in disciplinary action.

10. Professional and Ethical Conduct by Officials
UDJC officials, including judges, course designers and stewards, are responsible for ensuring that all competitions uphold the highest standards of horse welfare. Officials have the authority to intervene if they witness practices or conditions that endanger the welfare of a horse.

11. Horses as Partners, Not Tools
At UDJC, we view horses as partners in the sport, not tools to achieve personal success. Their well-being is central to our philosophy, and we are committed to fostering an environment that supports the health, safety, and happiness of all horses.

12. Reporting of Welfare Concerns
Any concerns regarding the welfare of a horse must be reported immediately to UDJC officials. Concerns will be taken seriously, and appropriate actions will be taken to address any issues.

By participating in UDJC events, all riders, trainers, and officials agree to uphold this Code of Conduct and are accountable for their treatment of the horse. We expect everyone involved in UDJC to contribute to a culture of respect, care, and compassion for the horses that allow us to enjoy this sport.

United Dressage and Jumping Club, LLC (UDJC)
Respect the Horse. Protect the Sport.