



EQUESTRIAN POLICY

Version 1.0

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Issued by the Equestrian Committee of
Regia Anglorum

Riding is a high risk sport – all riders do so at their own risk - Regia Anglorum, its Officers, its riding teams and any related supplier accept no liability for injury incurred.

Introduction

Riding in Regia is intended to further the Society's goal of recreating the life and times of the people in our period as stated in the CoL

We have set ourselves the highest standards of authenticity, riding and safety. Basically we want to be sure that those who may ride at a show are competent in everything they are wearing, using and riding. There are limited opportunities to ride at a display.

All riders are expected to train regularly and sufficiently and they must do this at their own expense. At certain events some of the riders will be bringing their own horses, again at their own expense, while others will be bearing the costs of hiring their mounts.

As far as joining us is concerned, we are always happy to hear from anybody who is interested in participating. This must be under the conditions and standards with which we operate. We can and do actively approach members who we feel may be good candidates and hope that such approaches are taken in the spirit in which they are intended.

There is an expectation that all riders will assist as support as ground crew, escort stewards or general helping with the horses, including manure clearance.

Riding in Regia is governed by the Equestrian Committee, as established under the CoL.

Whilst this document has been prepared with due regard to NARes' guidelines, this document is the Society's policy and has been constructed to fit our specific requirements.

GENERAL POINTS

The rider must be a Member of Regia Anglorum. Subcontractors will be covered by their own arrangements.

All relevant Society Officers must be consulted before a display

The display must be authentic to Regia's timeframe.

Kit must be of suitable standard for the status of the rider's character.

The rider must be confident and comfortable with all their kit and equipment.

Owner riders must have adequate insurance.

Becoming involved

Riders wishing to participate in the Society's displays must first approach one of the Equestrian Committee (EqC). For those considering riding at a show there is a short assessment that must be passed. The member must be able to demonstrate that they can ride to a standard that will help to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

While considering approaching an EqC member, here are some sample questions to answer about riding in a Regia show. Don't worry if the answers to some of the questions are 'no' – that's what training is for.

- are you used to riding in full kit - especially riding without a hard hat and riding in turn shoes?
- have you ever received reenactment style riding training? If so, when and where?
- how long have you been riding?
- can you canter and stop in control?
- are you confident riding outside an enclosed arena, such as an indoor or outdoor?
- what standard do you ride at?
- how often do you currently ride?
- how often do you plan to ride between now and the intended display?
- are you coming to the next training sessions?
- what is your weight?
- is your kit up to display standard for the activity/character you intend to represent?

The Councillor for Training records attendance at events and training days.

The Basic Competency Assessment

This assessment must take place in a field environment, not an arena.

The rider must take the assessment in full kit including turn shoes.

The rider must be able to demonstrate the ability to control the horse at all times in walk, trot, and canter on both reins.

The ability to stop the horse from canter must be shown.

The ability to ride without stirrups at trot and canter.

Two Assessors to be present

Therefore

Walk and trot round the field, change the rein and repeat.

Transition into canter, where convenient canter a circle of at least 20 meters diameter, transition to trot and change the rein

Transition to canter and then stop as quickly as possible.

Quit and cross stirrups – walk on and make a transition to trot . Ride a three or four loop serpentine along the length of the field.

At the short end of the school make a transition to canter and canter a circle of at least 20 metres diameter.

Transition to trot and then to walk

Walk to assessors – Finish

Specific Display Competency

After completing the basic competency assessment riders must demonstrate that they are competent in all actions, using any equipment that they may be required to as part of a specific display before the event (e.g. skill at arms, jumping, battlefield riding, etc)

All displays are described in detail in the display manual.

At an Event

The Rider

The rider must be dressed appropriately for the display as advised by the EqC. Wargear shall be inspected by the MaA as usual. A pre-display muster shall be held for all participants in a given equestrian display to ensure familiarity with the display.

The Horse

The horse must be familiar with the public and Regia's activities. It is not even reasonable to expect a stunt horse to be up to standard. A privately owned horse or one that is not normally used for this form of display must be familiarised to the public and Regia. Members of the EqC shall assess a horse's suitability away from its home environment if need be before participation in an event

Tack must be safe and suitable for the task, of good fit and condition. Modern tack should be disguised as far as practically possible. Any authentic style tack may only be used with the owners/representatives express consent. If the owner deems the tack unsuitable for any reason it must not be used.

It is advised that suitable equine first aid should be available to the owner's skill.

Contact details for a local equine vet should be sought before travelling.

If a horse is injured:

A horse should be returned immediately and quietly to the hirer or owner for assessment. Hirers and owners are entirely responsible for the well-being of their horses. If a rider is given an instruction regarding the welfare of a horse by its owner or owner's agent, that instruction must be complied with whatever the rider's opinion.

Current legislation should obviously be adhered to, for example passports and transport. Certificates of public liability and third party insurance should be available. Immunisation against equine influenza, tetanus etc. is recommended, as is a regular programme of worming, as horses may come into contact with horses from different yards.

Fitness

All activities involving the horse are considered to be part of its workload, including tack fitting and exercise. All horses should be fit for purpose – if a rider feels that a horse is getting tired they must consult about withdrawing the horse from the display that day. The owner's decision is final.

Stabling / Corrals

It is the responsibility of owners to make sure their horses are comfortable and safely controlled. The owner is also responsible for dealing with fencing, weeds and droppings. Stabling should be as far from the public as possible. Electric fencing must be used at all times with suitable notices to keep the public away when a horse is unsupervised. A single non-electrified rope barrier is only sufficient if a horse is controlled by direct supervision/handling or otherwise secured (e.g by tethering or tying up)

Moving Horses

Horse movements around the display site should be stewarded when necessary.

Business Needs

The Eolder shall ascertain whether the use of horses is permissible by the Client and whether the proposed display fits in to the Regia show.

Reduction of Risk

A risk assessment shall be carried out and recorded in advance of any display involving horses.

On-the-day risk assessment shall be carried out according to the principles below

Considerations involving the reduction of risk

A system of dynamic risk assessment operates here, which basically means that risk is assessed all the time with decisions being made to control various factors. These factors are divided into four main types.

The Rider

Decisions here involve the standard of the rider, the training he/she has done to demonstrate his ability to perform in a given situation, but also involve the rider evaluating how he feels, does he feel tired or unwell and how confident he/she feels. A ride may be paired with an experienced “buddy” to help through the initial experience.

It's important to know your limitations – if you're expecting to ride at a show and find that you're not comfortable with the horse, the environment or your own well-being, then you must discuss this with the other riders rather than ride anyway and maybe compromise safety.

The Horse

Different horses are more suited to different people and different tasks. Risk is reduced here by trying to match person to animal and then animal to task.

The Environment

This involves the fencing of an arena, the gradient and state of the ground, weather conditions etc.

The Display/Activity

Factors here involve the people in the arena, the type of display and whether the horse / rider are confident with/suitable for the activity

Dynamic risk assessment is a matter of assessing whether each of the above factors is of high medium or low risk. Some risks cannot be avoided and the purpose of risk assessment is to reduce and manage the risk as much as possible. It may be possible to accept that one factor has high risk by ensuring that other factors are low risk, however too many factors at high risk and it may be necessary to consider changing, curtailing or cancelling the display.

Regia has risk assessment and incident report forms available.