

## **Unto the event site Autocrat, do the Equestrians of the West send greeting.**

We thank you for being interested in including the Equestrian arts in your event. In order to make our participation a safe and sane experience for both Equine and the populace, there are a few basic necessities, which must be met.

This document is designed as an attempt to educate the layperson as to the basic requirements of the Equestrian College. We would love to come to as many events as we can, and share with the populace the grace and nobility of our steeds.

Depending on the type of Equestrian presence you wish for your event, we have different requirements. If the site has an arena, there is usually sufficient space.

Jousting -- minimum length of 160 ft, with two lanes, each 6-12 ft wide.

Mounted Crest Combat— No set space, but 70 ft diameter of clear area advisable

IKEqC – minimum of 200 ft length, 40 ft wide (but ideally 300-400 ft by 100-150 ft).

Mounted Archery – Lane width of 6-12 ft and enough area for safe target shooting

Cavalry Maneuvers – at minimum, the space of a large Eric.

When thinking horses, more room is always preferable. These are large animals. Once they get moving...especially the drafts...they need some time to come to a full stop.

If there is an arena, what is its condition? Is it groomed regularly (meaning they go through and keep up the surface by dragging and watering), and is there a charge for having the arena groomed? Some sites have arenas, that are either packed so hard that they are similar to cement, or they go through and plow up the surface, leaving fist sized dirt clods. Horses require about the same thing that fighters do. They need solid footing, which is not littered with holes and rocks, or other possibly injurious items. If a Heavy would think twice about fighting over the ground, you can bet the Equestrians will not be inclined to run their well-trained war mounts over it. If a fighter could sprain an ankle, a horse would sprain or break a leg, which takes many months, at best, to recover from, and at worst is deadly.

If this is to be an overnight event, are there existing areas for the horses to stay? If the site has stalls or pens, they should be for horses (12 x 12' minimum) strong, and free of sharp objects, including the fencing and any overhangs or roofs. Is bedding allowed? If there is no pre-existing stable, there will need to be a clear space to set up portable pens (30' x 30' is the standard size)...and remember, this is per horse. Figure on having about 10 to 20 horses for a centrally located Kingdom event, and around 5 to 10 horses for a principality event. Shade is also much appreciated, though depending on the season, can be optional. A close source of water is welcome, since horses drink a lot, and hauling water can be time consuming. Riders welcome a place to camp close to their mounts. If none of the above is available, are there stables nearby that allow horses to stay over night? Is there sufficient parking for large trucks and trailers...preferably near the horses, since we normally store our tack (saddles, bridles, etc) in the trailers, since the equipment is sensitive to sunlight and moisture. It is nice to have the equipment close to the horse, and since some people have sleepers in their trailer they MUST park the trailer by the horses.

Are horses allowed on the Eric? Some events do, and we can put on a pretty impressive demonstration, if there isn't an issue of horses on the grass.

On the following page are some examples of conditions a site could have and how we would rank them. We understand that not all events are ideal for an equestrian presence.

**Ideal:** one arena to hold EQ events, another, possibly smaller, arena to use as warm up (both of them groomed), access to trails, no restrictions to being on the Eric/grass, large box stalls/ pens with shade, easy access to water, close trailer parking and a spot to set up Horse Camp, the area that the equestrian events are held, being close to where the rest of the event is, so that everyone can see and experience the horses, and the Riders can still enjoy other aspects of the event.

**Good:** arena (groomed), trails or area around arena to work/warm up horses, existing pens or area to set up portable pens with some shade, no restrictions to having horses on the Eric/grass, area to camp within short walking distance/visible to horses, easy access to water, equestrian area close enough to the event to be able to get back and forth without too much trouble. Parking for trailers.

**Fair:** Area with good footing (no major holes, rocks, or other things that fighters would have issues with) of sufficient space to be able to work the horses and run the games minimum of 200 ft length, 40 ft width (this would mean that one set of IKEQC is run at a time) ideally 300-400 ft length by 90-100 ft width, and additional area to warm up horses is always a plus. Trails, area to set up pens, equestrian area close to the event, water on site, camping on site, trailer parking.

**OK:** footing which after a crew goes over it can be made to be horse safe (i.e. picking up rocks/debris, or filling in large gopher holes), a level, unrutted, ungroomed arena or flat field, warm up area, place to set up pens, camping within hiking distance of horses, water on site, event within hiking distance of the equestrian area.

**Adequate:** Area with rock hard footing/holey surface/ruts/gravel/ungroomed plowed field or arena, horses stabled off site, no water, mounted events separated from the regular event by a great distance.

**Poor:** Area with rock hard footing to the extent that shod horses slip on it, area that is extremely holey (i.e. completely covered in gopher holes to the extent that for safety reasons most horse owners would not go above a trot – and some horses would not even be ridden above a walk), deep ruts throughout an area (like would be left by cars driven in extremely wet conditions, then allowed to dry), an area that is extremely gravelly area (such as a gravel parking lot), ungroomed plowed field or arena where the above are concerns, as well as metal debris, glass and other sharp objects, horses stabled off site, no water, mounted events separated from the regular event by a great distance.

Remember, when viewing a site, would a fighter have a problem with these conditions? If so, it is best to check with the EQ Autocrat for your event to see if there is some way to make the area more “horse friendly”. If you are unsure, contact the EQ Autocrat or the KEO well in advance and see if they think the site is horse friendly, and if the EQ insurance should be activated. Also, get everything in writing, and remember that all contracts are negotiable, no matter what the site says; there is no such thing as a standard contract, everyone wants something different, or to use a different part of the site for a different purpose.

**Our prime concern is the safety and well being of our horses.**

## Equestrian Site Check List

Items available on site	Price for said item
<input type="checkbox"/> Arena	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming fee for 1 grooming prior to event	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dressage arena	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Round pen	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Track	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming fee	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Warm-up arena	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Infield	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Trails	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandstand	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Announcer's booth	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lights	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Water truck	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sprinklers	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Stalls	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bedding (type)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pens	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Portable pen set up area	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Turn out area	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wash rack	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Water spigots (potable)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tie rails/ posts	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Restrooms	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Parking lot	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tent camping	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> RV hookup	\$ _____

The site agrees to make all effort to provide the above listed items, if for some reason these items can not be available, the site agrees to deduct the pre-approved price for provision of that item, from the amount paid by the West Kingdom Branch.

The West Kingdom Branch agrees to the following stipulations set by the site:

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