

General Riding Authorisation - SCA Lochac

From page 7 of the SCA Equestrian Handbook:

An individual may be authorised solely for riding. The Authorising Equestrian Marshal should consider the following:

- (a) The individual must demonstrate familiarity with the Society Equestrian Handbook, any Kingdom specific equestrian requirements, and the nature of equestrian activities within the Society.
- (b) The individual must demonstrate an awareness of the risks inherent to equestrian activities, including recognition of how their current skill level relates to the equine they intend to ride.
- (c) The individual must demonstrate the ability to safely control their equine while engaging in SCA equestrian activities.

If you are reading this because you want to authorise so you can ride at an event (please note general riding authorisation does not allow you to participate in mounted games, only general riding at an event), I would recommend talking to the Authorising Marshal that will be authorising you to discuss any specific requirements they may have. It helps to reduce the 'unknowns' for both of you.

Some things you should be able to do to authorise for general riding (but are not limited to):

- Have an understanding of the SCA Equestrian Handbook - the Authorising Marshal may ask you some general knowledge questions in relation to safety - you do not need to know the handbook by rote;
- Discuss the skill level of your equine and any potential risks relating to your ride;
- Discuss your skill level with the Authorising Marshal and how that will impact on your riding or attending an event. What is your risk management plan?
- Catch your horse calmly and quietly;
- Groom your horse;
- Tack your horse up (e.g. saddle and bridle);
- Safely mount your horse;
- Have your horse stand quietly whilst you are in the saddle;
- Have your horse walk around a designated area on both reins, keeping your mount safely under control;
- Have your horse trot around a designated area on both reins, keeping your mount safely under control;
- Have your horse canter around a designated area on both reins, keeping your mount safely under control. *Canter should only be requested if the skill level of the horse and rider allow.* Canter is not required to authorise but an acknowledgement of risks and requirements should be discussed and shown by the individual authorising;

- Safely dismount;
- Safely untack your horse and put them in their yard/paddock;
- An understanding of risk management for people that may attend events and not have any experience with equines - some examples might be how would you manage someone wanting to ride your horse at an event? How would you secure your horse at an event?

At the end of the day, be honest about your abilities - with yourself and the Authorising Marshal. I can't emphasize this enough. If someone asks you about your experience, tell them the truth. They're not asking you because they're looking for a reason to tell you no. They're asking you because they want to make sure that you and your horse are safe. It's important you are on a horse that you can handle, rather than a horse that will handle you.

We want more people to be able to participate in Equestrian Events in Lochac and we need to make sure that we do that safely for all involved.

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