



USA WORKING EQUITATION

Paddock Steward Duties



A **Paddock Steward** is required for championship shows and recommended for licensed competitions, especially at any show facility where the warmup paddock is not close to the entry gate.

The **Paddock Steward** is required to:

- Control entry to the warm-up paddock to prevent overcrowding. Depending on the arena size, riders allowed in the warmup may need to be limited to a pre-determined number. Only the riders scheduled to compete should be allowed.
- Monitor horses, riders, and trainers in the paddock to ensure a safe environment.
- Ensure no coercive methods or abusive acts are used on the horses.
- Ensure competitors leaving the arena respect those competitors who have not yet entered. Any kind of exuberance or horseplay that may prejudice competitors is prohibited.
- Ensure that a minimum of three obstacles is available and appropriately configured in the paddock prior to EOH and Speed trials.
- Notify the Gate Steward or the TD of any irregularity or failure to comply with the rules.

Paddock Safety Guidelines

The warmup paddock, where horses are prepared for the competition arena, can be a very dangerous place. Riders are preoccupied with their horses and horses can be nervous. Common sense and courtesy can help avoid accidents. It is helpful to have paddock rules posted.

Only competitors, trainers/coaches, or handlers of horses being prepared are allowed in the paddock. No other pedestrians are allowed.

Horses going around the perimeter of the arena should ideally be moving in the same direction. Slower horses move to the inside. If horses are traveling in opposite directions, the passing rule is left shoulder to left shoulder.

If a horse must be lunged and there is no separate area for this, then a section of the arena should be marked off with cones and designated for lunging. Use of a lunge whip should be limited as cracking the whip can cause dangerous behavior in horses not used to the noise.

Ponying is not allowed.

Unruly horses should be removed from the warmup arena.

No disruptive behavior from horses or humans can be allowed.