

# USAWE Yellow Warning Card System

## Explanation

The purpose of this system is to give a tool to Judges, TDs, and Show Managers when dealing with a problematic individual and/or situation at a competition when a disqualification does not apply and/or the problematic individual's behavior is habitual.

## Formal Warning

A formal warning in the form of a **Yellow Warning Card** may be issued by the Judge, the Technical Delegate, or the Show Manager to the competitor who is the Person Allegedly Responsible (PAR).

### Yellow Warning Card

A Yellow Warning Card (YWC) can be given for incorrect behavior (please see definitions below) by the PAR and/or incorrect behavior by a member of their entourage. For the purpose of this policy, the term "entourage" shall mean the PAR's parent, spouse or partner, family member, coach, trainer, groom, crew, or other person(s) directly connected with the PAR and includes the owner(s) of the PAR's Horse.

In the absence of photographic/video evidence or first hand accounts, a detailed description, including location, time, situation, person(s) involved and any other supporting documentation, including a description of the event, should be submitted with the Yellow Warning Card. Ideally, the Judge, TD, or Show Manager is available to investigate a welfare issue when it is reported.

The YWC may be delivered by hand. If the PAR has left the show grounds or for other reasons cannot be notified during the competition after reasonable efforts, the PAR must be notified in writing either by email or post by certified mail within fourteen (14) days of the Event.

## Procedure to Issue a Yellow Warning Card

1. To issue a YWC, a Judge, Technical Delegate, or Show Manager must complete and sign the YWC.
2. The YWC must be provided to the PAR at the competition, either in person or by any other suitable means and a signature obtained if possible.
  - a. The YWC should not be given to the PAR while they are riding, warming up, coaching or about to enter the competition arena. Make every effort to conduct this exchange in a professional and discreet manner.
  - b. If the YWC is in response to a horse welfare issue, every effort must be made to issue the YWC as soon as show management and/or show officials are notified of the issue.
3. A copy of the YWC must then be sent to the USAWE Competitions Committee (competitionscommitteechair@usawe.org) within **48** hours of issuance of the YWC to the PAR. Please include photo(s) or video(s) if available.
4. Upon receipt of the YWC, the Competitions Committee will send an acknowledgment of its receipt of the YWC to the PAR advising them of the provisions of this policy.
5. The PAR may submit an appeal of the YWC by writing to the Competitions Committee Chair via email within 14 days of the issuance of the YWC.

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## **Progressive Discipline**

If the same PAR receives an additional YWC(s) at the same or any other USAWE licensed competition within one year of the delivery of the first Yellow Warning Card, the PAR shall be automatically suspended from membership in USA Working Equitation, including the right to enter USA Working Equitation licensed events, for a period of four (4) months after official notification. The PAR has the right to submit an appeal (see section above).

A permanent ban from USAWE will be considered by the Ethics Committee following receipt of a third YWC given to any competitor, spectator or participant within a sixteen month period.

## **Incorrect Behavior Defined**

Incorrect Behavior at a horse show refers to actions or conduct that goes against the accepted norms, rules, and etiquette of the event. It can include anything that disrupts the event, disrespects Licensed Officials, Show Management, Staff, Volunteers and other participants, compromises the welfare of the horses, or creates an unsafe environment. Here are some examples of such behavior:

***Bullying or Harassment:*** Any form of bullying, harassment, or intimidation, directed towards Licensed Officials, show management, staff, volunteers or fellow participants, whether riders, trainers, or support staff, is inappropriate and unacceptable.

***Neglecting Horse Welfare:*** Failure to provide essential care for horses, including but not limited to inadequate feeding or watering. If the horse is showing signs of distress it may also be considered abuse which could result in health issues and compromised performance.

***Unsportsmanlike Conduct:*** Engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as cheating, sabotaging competitors, or attempting to manipulate results, in a manner that undermines the integrity of the competition.

***Violating Safety Rules:*** Ignoring safety protocols, such as lunging or riding recklessly in a warm up arena, refusing to leave a warm-up area when directed by show staff or Licensed Official, or failing to reasonably control horses in the area outside of the competition arena or stabling area, that can put riders, horses, and others at risk.

***Inhumane Training Methods:*** Using abusive or inhumane training techniques that cause physical or emotional harm to the horses in a manner that is generally accepted as unethical and inappropriate.

***Ignoring Show Officials:*** Disregarding the instructions of show officials or their decisions in a manner that can disrupt the smooth running of the event.

***Public Intoxication or Drug Use:*** Intoxication or drug use, legal or illegal, that endangers or disrupts the participant, horses, or fellow participants in the events. Also any drug or alcohol use, legal or illegal, that violates the requirements and rules of the facility where the event is being held.

***Disruptive Spectator Behavior:*** Shouting, using offensive language, or engaging in aggressive or intimidating behavior towards show management, participants, show officials or volunteers.

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## USAWE YELLOW WARNING CARD

|            |  |                       |  |
|------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Date       |  | Reporting<br>Official |  |
| Event Name |  |                       |  |
| Show LIC # |  | Location              |  |

|                                       |  |                               |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Person Allegedly<br>Responsible (PAR) |  |                               |  |
| USAWE Member<br>Number                |  | Horse's<br>Recorded<br>Number |  |
| Horse's Name                          |  |                               |  |

Issued to: ☐ Competitor ☐ Member of Competitor's Entourage

**OFFENSE- Please check all that apply.**

|                                                        |                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neglecting Horse Welfare      | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsportsmanlike Conduct         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violating Safety Rules        | <input type="checkbox"/> Inhumane Training Methods       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ignoring Show Officials       | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Intoxication or Drug Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive Spectator Behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying or Harassment          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                         |                                                          |

## USAFE Yellow Warning Card System

Please detail offense(s):

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|  |

Signature of Issuer of YWC \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of PAR \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

*If the PAR is under 18 years of age, the PAR's legal guardian must sign on their behalf.*

Date of Issuance \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Issuance \_\_\_\_\_

☐

**Check here** if the Official was unable to obtain the signature of the PAR. A copy of the Yellow Warning Card will be sent to the PAR via Certified Mail or email.