

# Horse Show Warm Up Ring Etiquette



***In order to extend courtesy to other riders and to prevent accidents, it is customary and common sense to practice the following:***

1. If the entrance is blocked by another horse, politely announce that you intend to enter the warm up area to avoid an accident.
2. It is traditional to pass left hand to left hand when meeting another rider coming in the opposite direction, however, not everyone follows this rule so please use caution. It is most safe to call out to approaching competitors "outside!" or "inside!" depending on where you wish to ride according to other competitor's proximity.
3. Try to allow at least a two horse distance between you and other horses at all times. Do not tail gate!
4. If you are in the walk, always give way to horses trotting or cantering. If you are in the walk ride on the inside track.
5. It is not recommended to practice your entire test in the warm up arena as this can obstruct others ability to warm their horses up properly.
6. Always make tack adjustments and/or extended conversation outside of the arena. If you must be in the warm up area to make very brief adjustments, stay near the middle of the arena without obstructing the diagonal or center lines.
7. Ensure your whip is not so long that it could upset a passing horse.
8. Do not halt or walk in the outside track and always leave room for other riders to pass.
9. Do not lunge in the warm-up/practice arenas without the permission of the organizer. There are usually separated designated lunging areas on the grounds.
10. Trainers or other pedestrians should not stand inside the collecting rings or practice areas/arenas.
11. Riders with impaired vision may wear a white armband whilst warming up as an indication to other riders. Horses that will kick out at other horses may have a red ribbon tied to their tail as a warning.
12. Remember to be polite and extent courtesy, and model good sportsmanship to the people you encounter. Everyone at the show enjoys a positive experience, so have fun and smile!