



# Crown and Empire

## Cavalry Manual and Accreditation Requirements

These rules are in addition to those stated in the Crown and Empire Rules and guidelines.

This manual includes minimum safety requirements for the safe use of cavalry on the ground. It does not include detailed drill movements for specific unit types or periods. Officers instructing their troops in their specific drill must ensure that their drill does not contravene any of these general rules.

If an officer believes that their drill cannot comply with these rules, they must discuss this with the Crown and Empire Safety Officer in order to reach a satisfactory compromise.

### General rules

It is the responsibility of the contractors and the owner riders to ensure that the horses brought to an event are suitable for that event, that they are trained to a standard for the work to be done and are in a fit condition. Members contracting for hire of horses must ensure that the contractor is fully aware of these requirements.

Contractors and owner riders are advised to bring equine first aid kits with them.

No Horse shall be transported to/attend an event unless it has a valid passport (which must, if called for, be available for inspection) and is up to date with their vaccinations.

Horses must be transported in accordance with UK and EU welfare legislation.

Further information on this can be found at:

[http://www.drivinghorseboxes.co.uk/travelling\\_welfare.htm](http://www.drivinghorseboxes.co.uk/travelling_welfare.htm) and

<http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/pdf/transportguide.pdf>

Horses which have been in recent contact with infected animals must not be brought to events; where doubt exists veterinary advice should be obtained.

Unless horses are known to be paddock partners at home, horses should be turned out separately. Ideally horses should not be able to reach each other from their paddocks.

Horse lines and paddocks must be cleared of dung regularly. Minimum of twice daily. Dung must be disposed of considerately.

All horse lines should have an identifiable fire point. All members must make sure they know the location of this fire point.

Horse lines in period camps should be of such a size to allow the public to visit without danger from restive horses that may kick or bite.

Horse welfare is of paramount importance

- Horses must never be mistreated, kicked, punched or hit.
- A sword must never be used as a riding crop.
- If a horse is found to be lame or otherwise unwell, it must be dismounted and taken from the field.

In the event of any finding being made of neglect, abuse or other ill treatment of a horse by a member (or someone associated with a member) the strongest disciplinary action will be taken, which may include expulsion from C&E.

Members must train regularly. Unit training records should be kept by the officer or responsible person of all training undertaken. Individuals training with a number of groups are encouraged to keep a record of all training received. Crown and Empire accreditation does not replace the need for these records.

Whist in the charge of the rider, that rider is responsible for the security and welfare of the horse. This is especially important during rest breaks and when horses are tethered in unit lines.

Where possible, the public should not be allowed near to the horse paddocks. Where electric fencing is used suitable signs should be mounted to warn of the electrified fence.

Horses must be given appropriate rest breaks and never over-used. Horses should only be used in so far as their fitness level allows. No single session of use should be more than 1 hour. At least 1 hour must be allowed to rest between sessions. No horses should be used for more than a total of 4 hours in a day

Crown and Empire strongly encourage the use of period tack, however where the welfare of the horse and/ or rider may be compromised, for example over or under biting and badly fitting saddles that could cause sores, the horse's usual tack should be used.

All tack must be checked for safety before mounting, suspect tack must not be used.

Riders are encouraged to ride horses on which they have previously trained.

Riders must have good horsemanship skills and be realistic about their abilities. If a rider feels unable to ride the horse allotted, they must inform the unit commander immediately.

Horses must never be ridden at a fast pace towards the crowd.

If a horse becomes uncontrollable then the rider must ensure that his weapons are in a position so that they cannot cause injury to himself, the horse, another re-enactor or the public.

If it becomes necessary to drop a weapon, it should be dropped flat to avoid bouncing. A weapon must never be thrown.

During hand to hand melee swords must be held high enough to avoid contact with the horse.

Horses should be kept under control at all times, if this becomes difficult it should be taken as far away from the public and brought under control as quickly as possible. Crown and Empire suggest riding in circles as an effective method. Cavalry unit commanders must sympathetic and allow this action to be taken if necessary.

Before any display, the cavalry unit commander or a nominated deputy must inspect the display field and identify any bad areas due to holes or other hazards. Such bad areas must be drawn to the attention of cavalry members. Riders must avoid these areas during the display.

## **Accreditation requirements**

**In order to be accredited, the member must demonstrate the following:**

Membership of Crown and Empire.

Uniform and kit must be up to the standard for the unit and the society.

Have knowledge and understanding the safety procedures for the camp site, battlefield and interaction with the public.

Riders must be able to ride at walk, sitting trot, canter and gallop, both uphill and downhill.

Riders must be able to ride safely with a sword and secondary weapon (if using).

Riders must be aware of safety rules regarding the use of these weapons.

Riders must have a good knowledge of tack, including checking for damage, fitting and adjusting for a reasonable fit to the horse.

Riders must have a basic knowledge of horse welfare and be able to wash down, rug, feed, water and tether to secure their horse.

Riders must be able to ride in formation/understand commands appropriate to the period.

Riders should be able to demonstrate the following skills: Battlefield riding, melee, musical ride, all elements of skill at arms. Any skills that cannot be demonstrated will be subject of a restriction to the accreditation.