

Mounted Steward Responsibilities

The Mounted Stewards' principal responsibilities are to alert spectators, crossing guards and fence judges that a competitor is approaching an obstacle, clear the galloping lane, or deter spectators from crossing the lane before the competitor arrives. You must blow your whistle in plenty of time to enable spectators to walk, not run, out of the galloping lane.

As a steward, you must patrol alongside the galloping lane, watching for people who might attempt to cross under the ropes. In so doing, you may stop problems before they start. When a horse is safely on its way to the next obstacle will you have the chance to stop and watch. (What better perspective than atop a horse!)

Do I Need to Enter the Galloping Lane to Capture a Loose Horse?

The courses are roped and there are numerous officials on course to assist, only enter galloping lane if an official instructs you to do so. If requested, you may accompany an eliminated horse and rider back to the barns. Inform your chief stewards and area steward beforehand that you are leaving your post.

Blowing the Whistle

To alert volunteers and spectators that a horse is approaching, blow your whistle ONCE for a horse going "out" towards the Pete's Hollow jump. Blow your whistle TWICE for a horse coming back "home." Your Chief Stewards will tell you where you will be positioned on course and when to use your whistle.

Speak Firmly

Competitor's horses move quickly, spectators generally understand the need to leave the lane. In clearing the galloping lane, speak firmly and loudly, be polite, clear, and tactful. Give calm, specific, directions that are easy to follow.

Walk towards Spectators

NEVER chase down spectators to make them move. Walk only. IF expediency dictates that you move faster, trot only. Doing otherwise is unnecessary and may be grounds for legal action against you and/or The Event.

How Do I Instruct Spectators to Leave the Galloping Lane?

Once you have blown your whistle (in a timely manner), spectators should have enough time to walk out of the lane. If they seem "stuck," move towards them and calmly guide them out. Again, give simple directions: right, left, straight ahead, turn back, etc. Sometimes your best solution may be to ask volunteers on the ground to help you.

What if Spectators Become Verbally Abusive?

If spectators in the galloping lane become abusive towards you, tell them they may be injured by the competitor's horse if they don't leave the lane immediately. **DO NOT PHYSICALLY PUSH THE SPECTATORS WITH YOUR HORSE.** Maintain a distance. If abuse continues once they have left the lane, contact the Area Steward for assistance.

Competitors Walking the Course

Competitors must wear neon orange armband, with "Competitor" in text, when walking the course. If there are any issues, contact the Area Steward.

You Are One of the Sport's Best Ambassadors

Don't be shy about talking with spectators along the way. To them, you are as impressive as the competitors. Including them in your sphere adds immeasurably to their event experience. Allowing a child to pet your horse will put them on a high for days.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING AT THE DEFENDER KENTUCKY THREE-DAY EVENT!