

Purpose of Mounted Stewards

The primary purpose of Mounted Stewards is to alert spectators that a horse is coming to an obstacle and ensure that they either clear the track of the course or do not try to cross the course so as not to impede the progress of the horse.

This purpose has been accomplished over the last 43 years at Kentucky by blowing a whistle and announcing "Horse Coming" in a loud (and calm) voice.

The alert must be sounded in plenty of time for spectators to be able to walk, not run, off the course.

The Crossover Gatekeepers will take care of the marked Crossover Points. You need to patrol up and down the galloping lane, anticipating and watching for people who will go under the ropes to cross. You can then, hopefully, stop a problem before it starts.

You should rarely be standing still; only when a horse is safely on its way to the obstacle will you have the opportunity to stop and watch (what better perspective than atop a horse).

Speak firmly

In general, spectators will never move out of the way fast enough to suit you. They simply have no idea how fast the horses are moving (and thus that they should walk briskly) nor do they understand that the rider is intent on the line he/she has chosen from the last obstacle taken to the next obstacle to be taken and so possibly won't see them. We try to educate our spectators through the written word in the program and on visitor guidelines posted through the Park, explaining that they could be run over or cause the horse to veer to miss them and cause the rider to tumble off, but so few people read.

As a responsible and knowledgeable steward you recognize the problem. Screaming at people tends to make them stop in their tracks, wasting precious seconds. It is not the best way to present ourselves.

Calmly give specific directions (i.e. continue to walk in the direction you are facing) that are easy to follow.

Walk towards spectators

You must **NEVER** chase down or gallop towards spectators to make them move. That is grounds for legal action against you and The Event and is unnecessary. You should rarely need to get out of a walk and if so, never faster than a trot.

So How Do I Get Them Off The Course?

Assuming you have blown the whistle and announced a horse is coming, there should be plenty of time for the spectators to get off the course at a normal walking pace.

If one or more people do seem stuck in the galloping lane, you may have to trot on a diagonal line to quickly get near them. Calmly direct them off the course. Again, give simple directions: right, left, straight ahead, turn back, over there, etc. Your best solution may be to ask a person(s) on the ground to assist.

What If Someone Becomes Abusive To Me?

If anyone becomes argumentative, and you cannot think of anything you have done to create that attitude, get them off the course by the best means you can. Then, keeping them in your sights if at all possible, move to the nearest fence and ask the Fence Judge to have the Obstacle Communicator request the Area Steward to come to meet you.

Explain the problem to the Area Steward who will take the necessary action to correct the situation. No one has the right to abuse you for doing your job, which is, essentially, to protect both competitors **and** spectators.





2022 Mounted Steward Duties

Riders Walking the Course

Riders have been instructed to wear their pinneys when walking the course so you can identify them (and members of their entourage). They don't have to be outside the ropes, but certainly should be against the ropes to give the competitor full and free access to the galloping lane.

If any rider is abusive to you, get their number, and contact the Area Steward. In this instance, the Area Steward will report the competitor's number to management, who will take steps to remediate the situation.

You Are One of the Sport's Best Ambassadors

Don't be shy about talking with folks along the way. They are as impressed by you as they are by the competitors. For you to take the time to include them in your sphere and to assist them in enjoying the competition adds immeasurably to their experience. For a child to be able to pet your horse will put them on a high for days.

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

