

SAFETY: MAKING A GREAT SPORT BETTER

In the interest of safety for all humans and horses, and the betterment of all equestrian sports, GDCTA has implemented some new and simple rules to help guide participants and show organizers. Most of these guidelines, except for the very low levels, exist already in our parent organizations, but there are a few new ones that will hopefully make your attendance at schooling shows easier and safer.

I would like to thank Joy Hirsh, and Pam Kimble for their ongoing efforts in writing rules and guidelines for schooling shows. Joy is a Morven Park Graduate, Instructor and involved as a trainer and competitor in eventing since the 1970's, and owner of Cotton Hill Farm. Pam Kimble, USDF L graduate, previously USDF Regional Director, past GDCTA board member and VP of dressage, competed through I, trained through GP, and owner and trainer at Morning Glory Farm. Joy and Pam have created a simple version of what's to be expected of the rider, and show organizer at a schooling show. One of our goals is to standardize the physical requirements at even the lowest levels. We have organized a safety committee, and are working on standardization of the sport so that riders can attend shows in a larger geographical area, and be more secure that their abilities are adequate. Safety with horses is an evolving issue, therefore it is your responsibility to educate yourself and those around you by learning the rules of the sport and remaining aware of new rules. There will be articles and other information concerning safety and rules in this newsletter and on the website, GDCTA.org. Look for them in the future and feel free to make your own contributions in the form of articles or phone calls.

We hope you find this information helpful as you move forward in your relationship with your horse. Remember, progress, not perfection is the way to fully enjoy your horse and the equestrian part of your life.

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