

Northwest Civil War Council

Code
Of
Conduct

NCWC
Code of Conduct

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May 14, 2007

Preamble

The nature and scope of activities of the NCWC provide for the possibility of wonderful relationships among reenactors. They also have a potential for serious interpersonal conflicts unless each participant conforms to standards of conduct that avoid offense and possible injury to one another. To assure the former possibility and avoid the latter potential this code of conduct has been adopted by the NCWC. All participants in NCWC activities are expected to be in compliance at all times when on the premises of NCWC sanctioned events. Registration as an event participant constitutes agreement to abide by this code.

I. Authority: Event Management

A. The board of directors

The board of directors has delegated authority at events to event coordinators. Event coordinators are also designated as the conduit for directives of the park management. Thus event coordinators will be accorded the courtesy and respect due to representatives of the board, and all reenactors will comply with the directives of the event coordinator in all matters not strictly within a battalion or smaller unit.

B. Participation in NCWC events

Participation in NCWC events is a privilege granted on the condition that the reenactor agrees to comply with the directives of those officers appointed over him. Failure to comply, or any act of demonstrated insubordination, may be grounds for sanctions up to and including expulsion from the event.

II. Camp Sites

A. Battalion camp areas

Battalion camp areas are assigned by the event coordinator whose decision is final.

B. Unit camp areas

Unit camp areas are assigned by the battalion commanders whose decisions are final.

C. Individual campsites

Individual campsites are assigned by unit commanders whose decisions are final.

D. Appeals

Anyone dissatisfied with camp area or campsite assignments may respectfully communicate that fact to the appropriate officer. The officer may choose to change the assignment at his sole discretion. Should the officer's decision remain unsatisfactory the alternative for the dissatisfied reenactor is to leave the event.

III. Camp Safety

A. Fire

The danger of fire to the venues where we reenact is substantial. Therefore all reenactors will be acquainted and comply with the practices and procedures established by the park/site staff and the NCWC executive committee and event coordinator for each event.

B. Trip hazards

Our camps contain many potential causes for trips and falls. It is the responsibility of each reenactor to see that this risk is minimized. Adequate passageways will be established through camps, miscellaneous items will be kept out of such passageways, and provision will be made to discourage the use of unintended passageways between tents and other obstacles.

C. Weapons

While essential to any effective reenactment, personal weapons also constitute an attractive nuisance for those untrained in their proper use. For this reason no personal weapon will be left unsupervised.

D. Horses

Horses also present an attractive nuisance. Since they cannot be secured from access, all horses must be supervised during all public hours. Non-equestrians, as well as those not customarily acquainted with the particular horse, are allowed access to the horse (i.e. to pet the horse or offer it a treat) only under the direct supervision of a reenactor acquainted with the horse. In addition, during non-public hours there must be a responsible person capable or responding to common difficulties within easy access to the horses at all times.

IV. Camp Etiquette

A. Trespassing

At field events tents are the equivalent of houses and are to be treated as such. A closed tent is the equivalent of a locked door and should be entered only with the permission of the occupant. The area under an attached fly, as well as the space immediately adjacent to the tent perimeter, is equivalent to the yard of the house and is to be given appropriate respect. Further, the areas encompassed by a unit camp are the premises of the unit and should not be entered inappropriately.

B. Noise

During daylight hours NCWC events are expectedly fairly noisy affairs. However, the firing of weapons in or near camps is an exception to ordinary noise. It should always be preceded by a loud warning of "Fire in the Hole" to avoid distress to those in the vicinity. After dusk, and especially after 10:00 p.m., particularly raucous noise levels are not permitted. After 11:00 p.m. noise levels will be kept to a level that permits anyone desiring to do so to sleep.

C. Public Hours

During public hours all reenactors in period camps are expected to participate in the living history presentation offered to the public by wearing period attire and conducting themselves in ways appropriate to the period.

V. Camp Security

A. Public Hours

During public hours members of the public are invited to visit and view our camps. The large numbers of people represent a significant security risk. Camps are not to be left unattended during public hours. Each unit will arrange for appropriate oversight of its camp during public hours.

B. After Hours

After public hours have concluded each day all who are not NCWC members are expected to leave the camps unless accompanied by a member host. Such guests are the responsibility of their respective hosts, and such hosts will maintain oversight of their guests at all times.

C. Identification

Persons walking through camps between Taps and Reveille shall carry their event cards. They must supply their event card upon request to camp guards or event security.

VI. Children

A. Supervision

Parents, guardians, or sponsors remain responsible for the conduct of their children at all times. Parents, guardians, or sponsors will see that their children are adequately supervised to assure they are safe and that they do not constitute a nuisance or hazard to others.

B. Curfew

All minor children will be in their own camps from Tattoo to Reveille unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or adult sponsor.

VII. Animals

A. Pets

1. Conduct

Although bringing of pets to events is generally discouraged, it is permitted so long as the pet is not allowed to become a nuisance to others. Pets who become a nuisance by virtue of noise, waste, aggression, or any other means may be required to be removed.

2. Locations

Exercise of pets will be accomplished in areas well away from those frequented by reenactors. In particular, no pet will be exercised on the battlefield. Anyone allowing a pet to relieve himself on the battlefield may be asked to immediately leave the event with the said pet. All expectations for care and control of pets elsewhere will also apply to modern camp.

3. Maintenance

It is the responsibility of each person bringing a pet to an event to assure that all necessary and appropriate standards of care are observed (food, water, shelter, supervision, and restraint). Neglect or abuse of a pet may be cause for expulsion from the event. Dog waste must be picked up immediately from all public areas (walking paths, camps, spectator areas, and battlefields).

B. Horses (and Mules)

1. Use off the battlefield

a. Public Hours

During public hours all horses are considered reenactors and are to be employed only in ways consistent with the period portrayed. Thus anyone caring for, riding, or driving a horse is expected to be in appropriate period attire, and all tack and equipment is to represent the period.

b. After Hours

Non-period interaction with horses after hours is permitted, but in the interest of preserving the period experience of other reenactors, the use of non-period tack, equipment, and attire is to be kept way from period camps.

c. Users

The use of horses at any time at NCWC events is strictly limited to registered reenactors who have signed the NCWC equine activity release.

2. Locations

a. Camps

Horses in immediate proximity to such items as tents, furniture, and fire pits constitute a significant risk. Horses in the vicinity of small children are both a danger and an attractive nuisance. Horses will therefore be limited to the perimeter of camp areas. Exceptions will be made for access to such necessities as water or horse trailers, but horses will be led by horsemen on foot or ridden or driven at a walk whenever they are in or near camp areas.

b. Other Areas

Horses may be exercised at other locations adjacent to camp areas (including the battlefield when no battle is in progress) at any gait safely conformable to the terrain and the capability of the rider so long as constant attention is given to the safety of any other person who may happen to be present.

3. Maintenance

a. Picket Lines

All areas where horses are picketed will be cleaned in accordance with the event coordinator's instructions before leaving the event.

b. Battlefields

Horsemen will avoid to the extent possible having their horses litter the battlefield when a battle is not in progress. They may be required to remove manure from particular areas if it affects the usefulness of the battlefield.

c. Other Areas

With the exception of established bridle paths where manure is an accepted occurrence, horsemen are expected to remove manure deposited by their horses in all common areas.

C. Humane Standards

1. Cruelty

a. Prohibited

Cruelty to, abuse of, and neglect of animals is forbidden at NCWC sanctioned events and renders the offender subject to penalty. The standard outlined below, by which conduct or treatment is measured, is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted methods of animal training and husbandry, would determine to be cruel, abusive, or inhumane.

b. Defined

The following are considered acts of cruelty, abuse, or neglect and apply to horses and all other animals brought to NCWC events:

- 1) Any actions defined as "animal abuse" or "animal neglect" under Oregon law.

- 2) Applying any foreign object in a manner that would be perceived as "beating" an animal.
- 3) The use of unreasonable force in disciplining an animal, especially when it is accompanied by a display of overly emotional behavior on the part of the person.
- 4) Any discipline or correction which results in drawing an animal's blood.
- 5) Withholding food or water for prolonged periods based on the requirements of the particular animal, as evidenced by signs of physical stress.
- 6) Providing inadequate shelter based on the weather conditions and the requirements of the particular animal, as evidenced by signs of physical stress.
- 7) "Earing" or biting a horse on the ears or muzzle.

c. Egregious acts

The following are considered egregious acts of cruelty or abuse to horses or other equines, and are forbidden at NCWC sanctioned events:

- 1) Striking the horse with any weapon, or with any tool other than a whip, crop, quirt, or bat as described in (2) below. Examples of prohibited weapons or tools include pistol or rifle butts; shovels, rakes, or pitchforks; farriery tools such as rasps; baseball bats; and so on.
- 2) Excessive use of a whip, crop, quirt, or bat to strike the horse. (Note: "Bat" refers here to a short whip with a flat leather "popper" at the end.) Except in emergency situations, striking a horse more than three times in immediate succession is considered to be excessive.
- 3) Striking the horse about the head or face (on the poll or forward of the poll).
- 4) Striking the legs of a horse at or below the knees or hocks.
- 5) Excessive or over-zealous use of spurs and/or bit. Any use of spurs forward of the girth shall be deemed excessive.
- 6) Riding or driving an obviously lame or exhausted horse, or a horse that does not meet the minimum Standard of Condition (see section C.2 below).
- 7) Use of equipment, training devices, or practices banned as cruel or inhumane by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). See 2006 USEF Conduct and Competition Standards, Section GR 302, "Cruelty To and Abuse of a Horse," at:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2006/2006Chapters/Chapter%203.pdf>

2. Condition of Horses and Other Equines Used at NCWC Events

a. Standard of Use

Horses failing to meet the minimum Standard of Condition (see section 2b for definition) shall not be ridden or driven at NCWC sanctioned events.

- 1) Horses not meeting the minimum standard of condition due to emaciation or suspected communicable disease shall be removed from the event immediately.
- 2) Horses not meeting the minimum standard for any other reason (including horses that sustain injuries while participating in NCWC sanctioned public events) shall not be ridden or driven, but they may remain at the event if adequate and appropriate care can be provided.

b. Standard of Condition

The minimum standard of condition is defined as follows:

- 1) The horse must be serviceably sound and fit for its intended use. (Horses with certain unsoundnesses may be certified for limited uses; see section 2c below).
- 2) The animal must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind. Stiffness or soreness (which the horse will warm up out of) is not considered to be lameness (which for the purposes of this rule, is considered to be damage or trauma). For example, an older arthritic horse may be used as long as pain can be controlled and the intended use will not cause injury. Limitations to allowed activities may apply (see section 2c below).
- 3) The animal must not be emaciated; should score not less than 4.0 (lean but fit) on the standardized scoring method for body condition used by the American Humane Association (where a score of 1 indicates extreme emaciation and a top score of 9 indicates extreme obesity).
- 4) The horse must be free of sores, lacerations, and wounds on the limbs and body, including the mouth, that would be aggravated by riding or driving. It must be recognized that lesions caused by tack and interference (for example a "girth gall") may range from mild to severe and need to be evaluated on their own merits. A horse may participate if the wound will not be aggravated by continued use, or tack can be adjusted to prevent further aggravation of the wound.
- 5) The animal must not show signs of having a communicable disease, unless the participant can produce a veterinarian's certification of health stating that the horse does not pose a health risk to other horses.

c. Conditional Pass for Limited Activities.

A horse that is unable to participate in strenuous activities due to unsoundness or age, but is otherwise healthy and in good flesh, may be allowed to participate in limited activities (for example, in static living history demonstrations, or ridden at the walk or trot only). A score of "Conditional Pass" and any restrictions in activities must be noted by the Evaluator on the rider's equine skills evaluation.

3. Hearings and Sanctions.

a. Violations not constituting cruelty

Violations of this code related to animals but not constituting cruelty or inhumane treatment of an animal may result in the required removal of the animal from the event or such other sanctions as a battalion commander may impose.

b. Humane Violations

1) Scope

Cruelty to and abuse of animals affects everyone in the NCWC by reflecting poorly upon our reputation. It also affects the ability of the NCWC to use animals in its reenactments. Therefore, cruelty and abuse to animals is automatically considered to be an inter-battalion, rather than a unit, issue.

2) Reporting

Any witness to acts that he believes are cruel or abusive may report what he observed. Reports should be made to the unit commander of the individual in question (if known), and the Battalion Commander or any member of the Executive Committee. It is recommended that a verbal report be made immediately and followed up as soon as practical with a written report.

3) Incident response

Battalion commanders have the authority to intervene immediately and send perpetrators off the field.

4) Review

The Executive Committee will conduct a hearing to investigate claims of cruelty and abuse of animals or as soon as practical after the alleged offense occurred (ideally, before the next scheduled battle of the event.)

5) Administrative suspension

Persons accused of acts of abuse or cruelty to animals shall be barred from further participation in the event (including use or care of the animal(s) in question) until a hearing of the Executive Committee can be held. The animal that has been subject to the alleged abuse shall be placed in the care of the individual's commander, or his designee, until the hearing is held.

c. Sanctions.

1) Removal

If the Executive agrees that the offense occurred, the individual involved shall be asked to leave the event immediately. If this is not possible, the individual will be required to stand down and place his animal(s) in the custody of his commander, or his commander's designee, until such time as he can leave the event.

2) Penalties

In addition, the Executive Committee shall levy sanctions based upon the severity of the incident. Sanctions available include the following:

- a) Permanent expulsion from the NCWC. Fifteen days notice before the effective date of expulsion will be given and the offender will have the opportunity to appeal in accordance with established procedure.
- b) Permanently barring the individual from bringing animals to, or participating in equine activities at, NCWC events.
- c) Temporary suspension from the NCWC, with a requirement for remedial training for a specified period of time by a certified instructor with verifiable credentials, and proof that the required training has been completed before membership will be reinstated. (Temporary suspension may also be used if expulsion is being contemplated and additional hearings are required.)

- (i) Those returning from temporary suspension will be placed on probation for one year after the offense occurred; the penalty for a second offense shall be either expulsion from the NCWC, or a permanent ban on bringing animals to, or using animals at, NCWC events.

3) Referral

If the Executive Committee believes that the incident occurred but was not of sufficient severity to merit the sanctions listed above, they will refer the individual to the unit commander for such sanctions as he sees fit (see section 3.d).

d. Lesser Infractions

If there is reasonable doubt as to the severity of the infraction but the individual's Commander has reason to believe that animals under his authority have been treated in an inhumane fashion, or with reckless disregard for the animal's safety and welfare, the Commander may levy sanctions. Sanctions available include official warning, loss of rank or privileges, barring the participant from bringing an animal to one or more future events, or requiring remedial training for a specified period of time (with proof of such training) before the person will be allowed to bring an animal to events.

e. Criminal abuse

Persons convicted of, or under indictment for, animal abuse banned from NCWC and its events. Following a hearing by the Board of Directors, the NCWC shall deny or suspend the privilege to participate in or go upon the grounds of officially sanctioned events and/or deny, expel, or suspend the privileges of membership in the NCWC to any person, whom indictment has asserted, or whom any court has found, to have committed or participated in any act or cruelty or abuse to an animal, whether or not any such alleged or actual act, plan, or conspiracy occurred on the grounds of an NCWC sanctioned event.

VIII. General Conduct

A. Legal Conduct

Any conduct in violation of federal, state, or local statutes or regulations may be grounds for expulsion from the event.

B. Contractual Obligations

Any conduct in violation of the obligations of contracts or the stipulations of any special permits by which the NCWC is granted use of an event site may be grounds for expulsion from the event. Any financial penalty that results from such a violation will be the responsibility of the offender. The NCWC retains the right to pay such a penalty and subsequently deduct it from the unit reimbursement of the unit responsible for the behavior of the offender.

C. Expectations

Reenactors are expected at all times to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to the good order and discipline of the NCWC and the general enjoyment of the experience by all who participate. They are further expected to contribute to the educational experience of the attending public. Thus any behavior, whether or not specified in any particular rule, that significantly interferes with such experience of others, and particularly any behavior that puts at risk the safety of another person, is hereby prohibited and subject to such sanction as the NCWC may impose.

IX. Sanctions

A. Sanctioning Authorities

1. Board of Directors

The board of directors of the NCWC will have authority to rule on and impose sanctions for violation of rules involving more than one battalion or any violation of such a general nature that the interest of the organization are affected. For purposes of this rule persons involved include the complainant, the alleged offender, and any injured party.

2. Battalion Commanders

Battalion commanders (including the civilian advocate) will have authority to rule on and impose sanctions for violation of rules involving only their respective battalions.

3. Unit Commanders

Unit commanders will have authority to rule on and impose sanctions for violation of rules involving only their respective units.

B. Sanctions Permitted

1. Expulsion

The board of directors may, upon determination that the offense warrants it, expel a member from the NCWC. Such expulsion will include forfeiture of dues paid for the remainder of the year and prohibition from attendance at any NCWC events.

2. Suspension

The board of directors or any battalion commander may suspend the membership privileges of an offender for a period of time not to exceed one year. Such suspension will include forfeiture of dues paid for the remainder of the current year and prohibition from attendance at any NCWC events.

3. Restriction

The board of directors or any battalion commander may restrict the participation of an offender for a period of time not to exceed one year. Such restriction will specify the particular activities and limitations involved as well as the time period affected.