

Castle Leslie Equestrian Centre – Riding Terms & Conditions

Safety & Riding Equipment

- The safety of our guests and horses is our priority. All guests must comply with Castle Leslie Equestrian Centre's safety requirements when riding.
- Complimentary riding equipment is available for guests, including:
 - Approved riding hats/skull caps
 - Jodhpur boots
 - Long rubber riding boots
 - Riding crops
 - BETA Level 3 back protectors
- A BETA Level 3 back protector is mandatory for all jumping activities.
- An approved skull cap is mandatory for all cross-country activities.
- Guests bringing their own riding hat must ensure that it complies with one of the recognised safety standards listed below.
- For cross-country activities, only a jockey-style skull cap with no peak or peak-type extension is permitted. A removable hat cover with a light, flexible peak is acceptable.
- Head cameras are not recommended for any approved centre activity, as their effect on the performance of a riding hat in an impact has not been established.

Approved Riding Hat Standards

Riding hats must meet one of the following recognised standards and, where specified, carry the appropriate certification mark:

UK & European Standards

- PAS 015:2011 – with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark
- VG1 01.040 2014-12 – with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark
- BSEN 1384:2023 – with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark

American Standards

- ASTM F1163:2015 or 2023 – must carry the SEI mark
- Snell 2016 or 2021 onwards – must carry the official Snell label and number

Australian/New Zealand Standard

- AS/NZS 3838:2006 and subsequent updates – must carry the SAI Global Mark

Riding Boots

For safety reasons, appropriate riding footwear must be worn at all times. Riding boots must:

- Have a heel of at least ½ inch to prevent the foot slipping through the stirrup.
- Have a smooth, firm sole and a solid shank between the heel and ball of the foot.
- Provide adequate ankle support.
- Allow approximately ½ inch clearance between the stirrup and the widest part of the foot.

We accept paddock boots or full leather riding boots.

Yard boots are not permitted, as their soles may be too thick or unsuitable, and laces or ties may present an entanglement hazard.

A selection of suitable riding boots is available to borrow from the Equestrian Centre, subject to availability.

Rider Assessment

For health and safety reasons, all guests, regardless of experience or ability, are required to complete a brief practical assessment before riding.

This allows our team to assess the rider's ability and ensure that the appropriate horse and activity are selected.

Weight Limit

For the welfare of our horses, Castle Leslie Equestrian Centre operates a maximum rider weight of:

16 stone / 101 kg / 224 lbs

Guests exceeding this limit will unfortunately not be permitted to ride.

Minimum Age

The minimum age for riding at Castle Leslie Equestrian Centre is 7 years.

Medical Conditions & Pregnancy

Guests must inform the Equestrian Centre in advance of any medical conditions, injuries, disabilities or other relevant health information that our team should be aware of before riding.

Guests who are pregnant are not permitted to ride.

Weather Conditions

Riding takes place throughout the year and in a variety of weather conditions. Guests are advised to bring appropriate outdoor clothing, including a **waterproof rain jacket**.

Activities may be altered, postponed or cancelled where weather or ground conditions are considered unsuitable or unsafe.

Air Jackets

Air jackets may be worn in conjunction with a suitable body protector. An air jacket must not be considered a substitute for a BETA Level 3 body protector, particularly for jumping activities.

Air jackets currently do not provide a recognised safety standard in themselves, and manufacturers generally recommend that they are worn over an appropriate body protector.

Important Safety Notice

Castle Leslie Equestrian Centre reserves the right to refuse or discontinue riding activities where a guest does not meet the required safety standards, is not appropriately equipped, or where our team considers riding to be unsuitable or unsafe.

By booking a riding activity at Castle Leslie Equestrian Centre, guests acknowledge and agree to comply with these safety requirements.