



BCH HUNTING RULES

All members and guests must be familiar with our hunting rules and etiquette.

Proper riding order must be followed:

- Field Master
- Members with colors
- Adult members without colors
- Visitors and guests with their sponsors
- Juniors
- Riders preferring to ride in the back

Field rules:

- Members with guests should ride to the rear with their guests.
- Horses inclined to kick must ride at the back of the field and wear a red ribbon in the tail. Serious kickers should not hunt at all. The Field Master may excuse any horse posing a danger to others in the field.
- No rider may pass the Field Master without permission.
- Staff always has the right of way. If staff needs to pass through the field, riders should back to the side of the trail, no matter how narrow, and turn your horse and face the trail while the Staff passes.
- Keep voices down while hunting so hounds are not distracted.
- Hazards include fence wire and fox holes. Riders spotting such danger should call out "Ware wire!" or "Ware hole on right!," and point out the hazard as a warning to those behind.
- Never give chase to a loose, running horse.
- If you are leaving the field you must inform your Field Master. If joining another flight, make your presence known to your Hilltop Master or Lead.
- Do not attempt to hack back to the Club alone without permission.
- The Hilltop Field is recommended for riders and/or horses who have never hunted before, young or green horses, inexperienced riders, etc. When comfortable with their horse's behavior, the rider may move to the main field after informing their Field Master at the check.

FOXHUNTING ETIQUETTE

Foxhunting

There are proper conventions and etiquette that participants are expected to follow. Any unsafe, rude or unsportsmanlike conduct will be addressed by the Master up to and including removal of a rider from the field. The Master is the final authority in the field. Any requests by the Master must be followed immediately and without discussion.

The Staff

- At the end of the day thank all Masters and the Staff, they worked hard bringing you a day's sport.
- When a Staff member passes, especially on narrow lanes, turn your horse's head toward the Staff member...never your horse's tail.
- A call of "Staff please" requires that you quickly leave room for said Staff member to pass safely
- If you bring a guest, have them sign a release & pay the capping fee before the hunt moves out

The Hounds

- Watch the hounds working - that is why we are here!
- Do not speak to one another when close to hounds.
- Never speak or yell at the hounds.
- Let the hounds proceed - do not ride or jump into hounds.

The Master(s)

- When you arrive at the BCH, go up and say "Good Morning" to the Master(s) and Staff, and at the end of the day, say "Thank you" to the Master(s) and Staff.
- If you must leave the field ask permission of the Field Master. If you are heading back to the kennels you should go with one other person for safety reasons.
- Do not pass the Master, Field Master or Staff without permission.

Proper Riding order and rank

The riding order is as follows:

- Field Master
- Members with colors
- Adult members without colors
- Visitors and Guests with their sponsors.
- Juniors
- Riders preferring to ride in the back

With respect for the overall visual picture, the less correctly turned out riders should remain in the rear of the field.

Members of other hunts may have their colors honored by the Master and would then ride accordingly in the field. Members of other hunts should always ask permission of a Master to wear their colors when hunting with a different hunt (excluding formal joint meets).

Riders should seek to stay in the above order to the best of their ability especially when roading to the meet and when moving from one location to another. If those of higher rank than choose to stay back and chat etc. you may pass them. During runs following the hounds, you may pass others if they can not, or choose not to keep up with the group. *Please give warning you are about to pass, and ask permission of a higher ranked rider.*

Riding Etiquette in the Hunt Field

- Stay in close to your "field", straying off or working your horse is termed 'larking' and is not acceptable
- Watch the horse in front of you and do not crowd other horses. Keeping sight of the hind feet of horse in front of you through your horses ears will give you proper spacing
- Watch the group in front of you for changes in speed, direction, etc.
- Watch out for holes, wire or any other hazard.
- Listen for instructions: Reverse field! / Hold hard! / Staff! / etc.
- Keep chatter to a minimum while the hunt is underway. Talking is allowable while roading to and from checks, and when the hounds are not being hunted. Keep an eye on the Master or Staff for a raised hand to signal quiet when we are stopped.
- Pass on warnings to the person behind you. Don't try to yell it to the end of the line. It is your responsibility to make sure the person behind you knows what to expect. If you are warning about a hole, etc., say "ware hole" and point at it as you pass.
- Do not pass other horses too closely or at a high rate of speed.
- Do not circle in front of other horses.

Turnout

- Your horse and tack must be clean and neat and in good repair.
- You should be clean and neat as well - there are opportunities to get dirty along the way!

Safety

- Listen for warnings - 'ware wire' / "ware hole" / "hole on the right" / "ware Staff" (or Huntsman, or Master) / "ware hounds" / "rider down" / etc.
- Don't slam into the horse in front of you. If you can't control your horse, excuse yourself from the hunt.

- Put a red ribbon in the tail of a horse who kicks (and keep to the rear) and a green ribbon in the tail of a green horse
- Rated safety helmets are mandatory and all helmet chin straps should be securely fastened

Coops and Jumps

- In the course of a Hunt, the field will encounter many jumps. Virtually all our jumps have go-arounds, unless it is a recently fallen tree.
- Ensure that both you and your horse are capable of safely jumping the obstacles that we encounter. If you are afraid of a jump or your horse is getting dangerous, go to the back of the Field or the Hilltop group.
- Jumps are to be approached in single file and leave *enough space* between you and the horse in front of you in case of a refusal.
- If your horse refuses a jump, go to the back of the line and try again. Do not continue to school your horse at the jump and do not prevent others from taking the jump and following the hunt. If you need a lead, ask another rider for assistance.

General

- Arrive early and give yourself time to be tacked up and mounted before the hunt goes out. If you are late - the hunt will leave without you.
- If you bring a guest, introduce your guest to all Master(s) and Staff and make sure they have signed a release before tacking up and don't forget required capping fees.
- If you bring a guest it is your responsibility to inform them of proper rules and etiquette, and ride with them at the back of the field if required.
- Never hesitate to ask a question about what is going on or what you should do, and always tell someone if you have a problem!

PROPER HUNT DRESS

Ladies wear a Melton coat with black buttons, a canary waistcoat (vest), a white shirt with a white stock tie and a horizontal gold pin, tan britches, brown or black leather gloves and black boots. Ladies with "colors" wear a black Melton coat, with navy BCH collar, BCH brass buttons and black boots with black tops.

Gentleman wear a black Melton coat with black buttons, a canary waistcoat, a white shirt with white stock tie and horizontal gold pin, tan britches, brown or black leather gloves and black boots. Gentlemen with "colors" wear a scarlet Melton coat with navy BCH collar, brass BCH buttons and black boots with brown tops.

Juniors wear a black or dark-colored Melton coat with plain black buttons, a canary waistcoat, a white shirt with white stock tie and horizontal gold pin, tan breeches and black boots and brown or black leather gloves. Juniors will wear an ASTM safety helmet with a harness and black cover.

Tack

- Brown or black English tack with white or black saddle pad.
 - If hunting with another hunt, use only a plain white saddle shaped pad.
 - A standing martingale and Pelham or gag bit is highly recommended.
- Maintaining control of your horse is mandatory.