

# *Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC*

## **PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT**

### **Assumption of Risk, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnification Agreement**

**Assumption of Inherent Risks:** I understand and assume the inherent risks involved in equine activities, which risks include, but are not limited to, bodily injury, physical harm and even death to horses, riders, and spectators from using, riding or being in close proximity to horses may occur in normal use. I acknowledge that the behavior of any animal is contingent to some extent upon the ability of the handler or rider. Further, I understand that "inherent risks of equine activities" shall mean those dangers or conditions which are an integral part of equine activities, including, but not limited to:

- the propensity of any equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm, or death to persons on or around them and/or damage to property in their vicinity;
- the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movements and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals;
- certain hazards such as surface and subsurface objects;
- collisions with other equines, animals, people and objects (fixed or otherwise);
- limited availability of emergency medical care; and
- the potential of a participant or spectator to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the equine or to act within his/her ability.

**Waiver of Liability:** For the privilege of boarding, riding and/or working around equines at Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC, today and on all future dates, I, on behalf of myself, my family members, my heirs, personal representatives, or assigns, do hereby agree to release, waive, and discharge Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC (hereinafter "Stable"), its members, managers, employees, volunteers, and agents from any liability or responsibility for accident, damage, injury, or illness to myself or any horse owned by me or any horse not owned by me but used by me, or to any family member, guest, or spectator accompanying me while on the premises owned by Mike and Dawn Willey (hereinafter, "Property Owner") and leased and operated by Stable resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities or from the ordinary negligence (active or passive) of Property Owner, Stable, or Kayla Muller.

AND that except in the event of Property Owner, Kayla Muller, or Stable's gross and willful negligence, I agree not to bring any claims, demands, actions and causes of action, and/or litigation, against Property Owner, Stable or Kayla Muller for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, and/or property damage sustained by me in relation to the premises and operations of Stable, including while boarding, riding, handling, or otherwise being near horses owned by or in the care, custody and control of Stable or Kayla Muller.

**Indemnification:** I also agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify Property Owner, Stable and Kayla Muller (including, but not limited to, costs associated with defending a suit, judgment, courts costs, investigation costs, and reasonable attorney fees) from any and all claims of mine, my family members, my guests, or others arising from my injury or loss due to my participation as a boarder, rider, handler, or spectator.

I further agree to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify Property Owner, Stable and Kayla Muller against any and all claims of co-participants, rescuers, and others arising from my conduct in the course of my participation as a boarder, rider, handler, or spectator.

**Acknowledgements, Assertions, and Agreements:** I warrant that a full and fair disclosure of my equestrian handling and riding abilities have been made to Stable, its managers, employees, and agents. Further:

**Health Status** – I assert that I:

- Do not have any undisclosed chronic physical or mental conditions that would impair participation in equine activities.
- Possess sufficient physical fitness and skill to enable safe participation with, on, and around equines.

**Emergency Care** – I authorize or agree that Stable:

- May administer emergency first aid, CPR, and use an AED when deemed necessary by Stable or by qualified emergency personnel.
- May secure emergency medical care or transportation (i.e., EMS) when deemed necessary by Stable or by qualified emergency personnel.
- May share my medical history with emergency medical personnel.
- And, further, I shall assume all costs of emergency medical care and transportation provided on my behalf.

**Rules & Safety Equipment** – I agree:

- To abide by the rules and regulations established by Stable.
- To wear an ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet at all times while mounted on the horse and warrant I understand the risk and danger of riding without a helmet.
- To wear appropriate footwear at all times while on the premises of Stable.
- To inform Stable immediately if I become aware of rider conduct or of equipment condition that presents a danger to my own person or others.
- That Kayla Muller and Stable will conduct all activities in good faith and may find it necessary to terminate my participation if it is determined that I am uncooperative or incapable of safely meeting the rigors of the activity. I accept Stable's right to take such actions for the safety of myself, other riders, and/or the horses.

**Covenant not to Sue; Mediation; Venue; and Severability Clauses:** I covenant not to sue Property Owner, Kayla Muller, or Stable, or its members, managers, employees, and agents for any present or future claim arising directly or indirectly from my participation with equines at Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC. This includes claims resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities and the active or passive negligence of Property Owner, Stable, or Kayla Muller.

This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland. Any action brought under this Agreement shall be brought within one (1) year of the incident or dispute giving rise to said claim. I further agree that *prior to litigation*, such incident or dispute shall first be mediated by a trained Mediator knowledgeable in equines and equine activities from a list acceptable to Stable. Costs of mediation shall be shared equally by the parties. In the event of litigation, the prevailing party shall be entitled to costs and fees associated with the litigation, including reasonable attorney fees and reimbursement of mediation fees. All mediation and legal actions shall be conducted in Kent County, Maryland. I agree to waive any right to trial I may have.

I also expressly agree that this Participant Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Maryland and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full force and effect.

**Acknowledgement of Understanding:** I understand this is a legal document and that I am signing this agreement freely and voluntarily. I understand I have the choice *not to participate* as a boarder, rider, handler, participant, or spectator at the facilities of Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC located at 495 Pear Tree Point Road, Chestertown, Maryland and at off-site locations for show participation and, therefore, *not sign* this Agreement.

I have read this 2-page Participation Agreement and fully understand its terms. I understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue Property Owner, Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC, or Kayla Muller for injuries or death resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities or the active or passive negligence of Property Owner, Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC or Kayla Muller. I further acknowledge that I intend my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability, including that due to ordinary negligence by Property Owner, Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC, or Kayla Muller to the greatest extent allowed by the laws of Maryland.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (must be at least 18yrs of age to sign) \*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*If participant is a minor, print name of minor here*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Signatory

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth of Minor Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Emergency Contact Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone of Emergency Contact Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

**\* If participant is a minor (less than 18 years of age), the parental or guardian signature indicates full understanding of the above terms and, as may be permitted by law, is waiving both the rights of the minor participant and the rights of the parent/guardian pursuant to this Agreement.**

OFFICE USE:

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Selcouth Sport Horses, LLC

☐ Boarder ☐ Rider / Student ☐ Clinic Participant ☐ Spectator / Auditor ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_