

**Civil War Mounted Cavalry**  
**Safety Rules and Regulations**  
**Huntington Beach Civil War Days**

**Section One**  
**General Rules and Regulations**

1. CHIEF OF MOUNTS: The designated Mounted Safety Officer will be known as the "Chief of Mounts" or his designee.
2. ANNUAL RIDER CERTIFICATION: Each mounted rider and his horse will be considered a team. Both, together, must take and pass a mounted safety course before taking part in any event. The rider must be certified by the Chief of Mounts or his designee. Rider and Horse must pass this certification at least once each reenacting calendar year and whenever the rider intends to ride a new horse.
  - a. Determination of a qualified rider will be made by the Chief of Mounts.
  - b. Mounted reenactors who own more than one horse may loan their extra horse(s) to another mounted reenactor, however, both the horse and rider must pass the mounted safety course together.
3. SAFETY INSPECTION: Each company commander, along with the Chief of Mounts, will perform an equipment safety check/inspection on each mounted member of his unit before the start of each event.
  - a. This inspection will ensure that each horse is properly saddled, that all tack is in serviceable condition and properly adjusted, and that both horse and rider are ready and capable of safely participating in the planned activity.
  - b. Unserviceable or questionable equipment will be repaired or replaced before the rider is allowed to take the field.
  - c. The Chief of Mounts will confer with the unit commander(s) concerning any problems and will conduct inspections and spot checks as he feels appropriate.
  - d. Differences of opinion regarding the serviceability of horse equipment will be settled by the Chief of Mounts.
4. SAFETY
  - a. DISTANCE: Mounted troops will maintain a minimum safety distance of thirty (30) feet from the spectators/safety ropes.
  - b. Any serious safety infraction (riding in front of loaded artillery within the safety zone) will result in immediate removal from the field, and possibly from the event.
  - c. A serious mounted safety infraction may be noted by anyone, mounted or on foot, and a "Cease Fire" is called if necessary.
  - d. No mounted rider is to perform any maneuver he cannot perform in a manner safe to his horse himself and others. If the horseman feels that he or his horse cannot safely perform a task, he should withdraw from the formation and go to a safe location off the battlefield. The safety of the horse, rider, and others is the primary concern.
  - e. Unsafe riders will be dismissed from the field.
  - f. In addition to passing the mounted riding certification, Recruits and casual participants (participating mounted at two or fewer events) must take the written Recruit Test before taking the field with a horse.

5. AGE: No person under the age of 16 will mount a horse as a combatant or serve in a mounted capacity except qualified riders serving as functional musicians (14 or older). A birth certificate or school ID verifying age will be accepted.
6. PERIOD CIVILIANS: wishing to portray a mounted impression will apply to the Chief of Mounts, and Reenactor Coordinator, who will then determine the qualifications of the horse/rider team and determine when and where they may ride.
7. ABUSE: Abuse or neglect of horses will not be tolerated.
8. MOUNTED SOLDIERS
  - a. Will only be allowed on the field as mounted officers, staff, scouts, or unit couriers, or as part of an organized mounted unit.
  - b. All mounted horsemen must be subordinate to a specific unit commander. No independent riders are allowed on the field.
  - c. Unit commanders shall ensure that cavalry under their commander follow specific scripted activity for the event.
  - d. The only time cavalry will be allowed to override infantry lines is if the infantry makes an opening through their lines. This will be accomplished in organized columns and at a safe speed.
  - e. ONLY walk or trot in areas where there are "casualties." Better yet, stay well away from "casualties."
  - f. All close-contact fighting between cavalry and infantry or artillery will be coordinated and scripted between the Chief of Mounts, Division Commander, and unit commanders before the battle.
  - g. Any altercation or dispute between individuals, on or off the field, will be brought to the Provost and Chief of Mounts.
9. FEMALE RIDERS: Women must pass as a male at ten (10) feet to be able to take the field as a trooper.
10. REMOVAL FROM THE FIELD: Grounds for the expulsion of mounted riders will include:
  - a. Safety.
  - b. Abuse or neglect of horses.
  - c. Conduct unbecoming to a gentleman.
  - d. Willful disobedience to regulations or orders.
  - e. Carelessness and negligence.
  - f. Fighting.
  - g. The decision to suspend or expel a mounted rider will be made by a majority vote of a panel consisting of the offending person's commander, the Division Commander, the Provost, the Chief of Mounts., and the Reenactor Coordinator.

## **Section Two**

### **Equipment Safety Inspections**

1. EQUIPMENT SAFETY inspections will be looking for, but not limited to, the following.
  - 1.1. Dry rot, worn, cracked, or split leather.
  - 1.2. Old leather which has not been kept properly oiled.
  - 1.3. Surcingle – REQUIRED

- 1.4. Lead strap/rope attached to the halter and the free end tied around the horse's neck or to the left front saddle ring.
  - 1.5. Period Military bits are encouraged and must include a curb chain.
  - 1.6. Hackamores will be permitted only if approved by the Chief of Mounts.
2. HORSES
- 2.1. Each horse will be inspected for soundness or obvious sickness or injury. Horses with open cuts, bad feet (including overdue trimming or shoeing), saddle sores, or infections may be removed from the picket line and denied use in the event.
  - 2.2. Horses will be kept on company (or larger) picket line when not in use. The company(s) will provide picket line guard(s) during the hours of darkness or when necessary to keep the public from entering the picket line during the daytime.
  - 2.3. Depending on the event, horses may be secured to trailers if picket space is not available.
  - 2.4. Any horse that cannot stand with the rest of the horses will be removed from the picket line and its owner will be responsible for his security at an alternate site.
  - 2.5. Unruly and uncontrollable horses will be ordered from the field.
  - 2.6. Only geldings and mares will be used — No stallions will be permitted.
  - 2.7. Bays, blacks, chestnuts, sorrels, grays, buckskins, true roans, palominos, and gruellas will be accepted. No appaloosas, paints, or pintos unless approved by the Chief of Mounts, Division Commander; and Reenactor Coordinator.
  - 2.8. New horses shall be teamed with veteran horsemen using the "herd method" during drills and on the battlefield. The new horse is kept between two seasoned horsemen until the new horse accepts the battlefield's confusing environment.
  - 2.9. New horsemen shall not draw weapons on the field until their commander is confident the horse and rider can perform safely.
  - 2.10. No unattended horses may remain on the field. This includes but is not limited to, simulated hits or rapid dismounts (un-horsed).
3. SADDLES
- 3.1. The following saddles are acceptable.
    - 3.1.1. 1859 McClellan, 1859 quarter straps and girth.
    - 3.1.2. Grimsley
    - 3.1.3. Period Plantation Saddle
    - 3.1.4. Jennifer
    - 3.1.5. Texas "Jennifer"
    - 3.1.6. 1833 Dragoon Style
    - 3.1.7. Ringgold
    - 3.1.8. Hopes (correct reproduction or reworked)
    - 3.1.9. No modern Western saddles are acceptable. Contact the Chief of Mounts before the event if you have any questions regarding this.
4. HORSE FURNITURE
- 4.1. All horse furniture and equipment must be the correct military issue for the period.
    - 4.1.1. Period breast collar – REQUIRED.
    - 4.1.2. Period Lead Strap or Rope-REQUIRED
    - 4.1.3. Blanket-Period Schabraques or wool blanket sufficient size to cover non-period saddle pads.
    - 4.1.4. Period stirrups (No 1904 iron stirrups)

- 4.1.5. Valise, 1859 saddlebags, true copy CS saddlebags
- 4.1.6. Crupper
- 4.1.7. Gray, red, or dragoon saddle blankets, or any issue blanket of the period
- 4.1.8. modern Indian saddle blankets are NOT acceptable.
- 4.1.9. Pommel holsters of the period
- 4.1.10. Modern western bridles are NOT allowed.
- 4.1.11. Horses must have a leather halter.
- 4.1.12. Leather (period) or rope lead rope - REQUIRED.
- 4.1.13. Link straps are required for cavalry to fight dismounted.
- 4.1.14. No "makeshift" or "rag-tag" equipment will be allowed.

### **Section Three Cavalry Weapons**

The mounted troops are bound by the same rules and safety standards regarding weapon safety as all other participants in the Civil War events, as well as any other safety rules in effect when mounted.

#### **1. PISTOL**

- 1.1. ALL pistols and spare cylinders will be inspected by the designated Brigade Pistol Safety Officer. The pistol's serial number will be noted on a log, along with the owner's name and all spare cylinders. Pistols that are nonfunctioning (carried but not used) or prop pistols will also be inspected and logged. A pistol check card will be issued to the owner noting the owner's name, date, serial number, and spare cylinder count. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 1.2. Any pistol that has not been used at a reenactment since it was live-fired must undergo a rigorous inspection conducted by the firearm owner's unit commander at the Huntington Beach event. These firearms shall be identified and included in the unit's morning report and include the owner's name, firearm serial number, and approximate date and description of the live fire activity. The completion of the inspection shall be certified and signed by the unit commander conducting the inspection. The purpose of this additional inspection is to ensure no objects or obstructions are present in the barrel, certifying the firearm as safe for use on the battlefield.
- 1.3. The pistol will be drawn only upon command of the unit commander.
- 1.4. When fired to the front while mounted, the muzzle will be elevated above the horse's head so as not to cause harm to the horse or his hearing.
- 1.5. Pistols may be fired to the flanks and rear in a more realistic/aimed manner; so long as safe distances are maintained.
- 1.6. Once the pistol is drawn from the holster, it will be held in the raised/ready position, muzzle up and right hand at shoulder level, until just before firing.
- 1.7. The hammer will not be cocked until the pistol is brought to bear and fixed.
- 1.8. Pistols may not be re-loaded while mounted.
- 1.9. Revolvers will be loaded in a safe manner.
  - 1.9.1. No wax wadding or Wonder wads" allowed.
  - 1.9.2. No powder flasks will be allowed on the field.

## 2. CARBINE

- 2.1. Any long gun that has not been used at a reenactment since it was live-fired must undergo a rigorous inspection conducted by the firearm owner's unit commander at the Huntington Beach event. These firearms shall be identified and included in the unit's morning report and include the owner's name, firearm serial number, and approximate date and description of the live fire activity. The completion of the inspection shall be certified and signed by the unit commander conducting the inspection. The purpose of this additional inspection is to ensure no objects or obstructions are present in the barrel, certifying the firearm as safe for use on the battlefield.
- 2.2. The carbine will be kept on the saddle and not attached to the carbine sling while mounted during battles unless approved by the chief of mounts.
- 2.3. Mounted troops may use a device of their choosing to secure the carbine to the saddle, but all methods must be approved by the Chief of Mounts. Several suggestions are:
  - 2.3.1. The use of a carbine boot that supports the carbine completely.
  - 2.3.2. A metal snap link or hook that would connect the carbine slide ring with the saddle and be used in conjunction with the carbine thimble. NOTE: Tie-down affairs using leather thongs or cords will not be acceptable.
  - 2.3.3. These boots or link/hooks should be removed for living history displays and demonstrations. At these times, the carbine may be attached to the carbine sling.
  - 2.3.4. Once drawn from the thimble or boot, the carbine will be kept pointing muzzle up, with the butt resting on the right leg, until ready to fire. The same precautions exist as were noted with the pistol.
  - 2.3.5. When re-loading, the carbine will be held in the left hand at the forestock, the muzzle pointing slightly forward and downward.
  - 2.3.6. The hammer will be placed in the half-cock position during loading and until ready to fire.
  - 2.3.7. Should the carbine be returned to the boot/thimble while loaded, the primer will be removed before the carbine is returned.
  - 2.3.8. No repeating carbines (Spencers, Henrys, etc.) will be allowed on the field unless approved by the Chief of Mounts and Division Commander.

## 3. SABER

- 3.1. Saber clashes may only occur after careful scripting and approval from the Chief of Mounts.
- 3.2. Scabbards will be attached to the saber belt leather by directly attaching the leather to the ring on the scabbard, NOT by using spring clips.
- 3.3. Never Allow the point to drop below 45 degrees from vertical, or lower than the saber hand when the blade is carried horizontally (as when positioned over the head in preparation to make a cut) NOTE: There is one exception to this rule: in a charge – point extended toward, but in front, at commander's order only.
- 3.4. NEVER strike an opponent's horse with any part of the saber.
- 3.5. NEVER grab or hold any portion of your opponent's body, or hold uniform, accouterments, or horse equipment.

- 3.6. NEVER continue an attack after any participant in the immediate vicinity has been unhorsed.
- 3.7. No hacking or flailing without apparent concern for the proper execution of accepted moves.
- 3.8. Sabers can and will cause the same damage as they were intended to 140+ years ago.
- 3.9. Never draw a saber unless ordered to, and never engage in a dismounted scenario with a saber unless it is well scripted and approved before the engagement.
- 3.10. It should be clearly understood that handguns are to remain holstered throughout the charge and melee. There is simply no excuse to be wielding a firearm at close quarters.
- 3.11. If you are new to re-enacting and don't feel comfortable with engagement or an activity; don't be forced into it. Lay back and observe or enter into the fray and announce "new man" if anyone tries to engage you.