

## **Dressage arena etiquette**

### **Entering the arena**

If the arena is in use, call 'Gate Free'. When the senior rider answers 'Yes' or 'Gate Free', enter quickly through the gate when the way is clear.

When entering the arena on foot, riders must lead horses into the centre and mount / dismount in the centre of the arena.

### **Riding with others**

Riders must pass left shoulder to left shoulder.

If you are riding at a walk, use the inside track.

An adequate safety distance of at least three steps (about 2.5m) must be kept in front and to the side of each horse.

Riders on a circle must give way to riders on the outside track, the outside track has priority over the circle.

Riders doing lateral work have priority – others must give way.

No lungeing in the arena.

If there are more than two riders, halts, rein-back, etc, should be practised on the inside track.

Unless you are instructing, keep spoken commands to a minimum and speak quietly.

If you are permitted to use the arena while a lesson is in progress, do not interfere in any way with the lesson.

Riders of horses not under control must leave the arena at the request of other riders.

When four or more riders are working in an arena be co-operative. Riders should work on the same lead (direction). The senior rider (in terms of experience not age) is usually responsible for changes in direction.

### **Leaving the arena**

When leaving the arena on foot, dismount in the centre. Call and ask 'Gate Free' and wait until the way is clear to leave.