

Civil War Mounted Cavalry  
Safety Rules and Regulations  
1<sup>st</sup> DIVISION, ANV

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

1. CHIEF OF MOUNTS: Is the designated Mounted Safety Officer, or his designee, who will be known as the "Chief of Mounts".
2. RIDER CERTIFICATION: Each mounted rider and his horse will be considered a team. Both, together, must take and pass a mounted safety course administered by a recognized umbrella California organization or event Reenactor Coordinator accepted alternative before taking part in an event. The rider must be certified by the Chief of Mounts or his designee. Rider and Horse must pass this certification whenever rider intends to ride a new horse.
  - a. Determination of a qualified rider and horse will be made by the Chief of Mounts.
  - b. The Rider Certification consists of:
    - i. Present horse and rider with all required equipment to Chief of Mounts for inspection.
    - ii. From the halt, step off at a walk, 20-30 feet; transition to a trot, 20-30 feet; transition to a lope/cantor, 60-100 feet; transition to a trot, 20-30 feet; halt. Reverse direction and repeat as rider returns to the Chief of Mounts.
    - iii. Same as above, however demonstrate safely firing a pistol to the right and left.
  - c. 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 still pass the mounted rider certification together.
3. SAFETY INSPECTION: Each company commander, along with the Chief of Mounts or his designee, will perform an equipment safety check/inspection on each mounted member of his unit prior to the start of each event.
  - a. This inspection will insure that each horse is properly saddled and that all tack is in serviceable condition properly adjusted, and that both horse and rider are ready and capable of safely participating in the planned activity.
  - b. Unserviceable or questionable equipment must 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 perform spot checks as he feels appropriate for the safety of the horse and rider, other reenactors and spectators.
  - d. Differences of opinion regarding serviceability of horse equipment will be settled by the Chief of Mounts.
  - e. Inspection includes the rider's equipment that may affect safety of rider and horse.
4. SAFETY
  - a. DISTANCE: Mounted troops will maintain a minimum safety distance of thirty (50) 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" called if necessary.
  - d. No mounted rider is to perform any maneuver he cannot perform in a manner safe to his horse and 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. 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 ten questions Recruit Test prior to taking the field with horse.
5. AGE: No person under the age of 16 will mount a horse as a combatant or serve in a mounted capacity with the exception of qualified riders serving as functional musicians (14 or older).
6. PERIOD CIVILIANS: wishing to portray a mounted impression will apply to the Chief of Mounts, who will then determine the qualifications of the horse/rider team and determine when and where they may ride.
7. ABUSE:
- a. Abuse or neglect of horses will not be tolerated.
  - b. Fitness and obvious health of horse. Visual health issues will result in horse denied participation.
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 Chief of Mounts, Division Commander, and unit commanders prior to the battle. 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, Provost and the Chief of Mounts.

## 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 and 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. Any horse that cannot stand with the rest of the horses will be removed from the picket line and his owner will be responsible for his security at an alternate site.
  - 2.4. Unruly and uncontrollable horses will be ordered from the field.
  - 2.5. Only geldings and mares will be used — No stallions will be permitted
  - 2.6. Bays, blacks, chestnuts, or sorrels, frays, buckskins, true roans, palominos, and gruellas will be accepted. No appaloosas, paints, or pintos unless approved by the Chief of Mounts and Division Commander.
  - 2.7. 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.
  - 2.8. New horsemen shall not draw weapons on the field until their commander is confident the horse and rider can perform in a safe manner.
  - 2.9. 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 prior to the event if you have any questions regarding this.
4. HORSE FURNITURE
  - 4.1. All horse furniture and equipment must be correct military issue for the period
    - 4.1.1. Period breast collars – 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, Cavalry model 1859
- 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 in regard to 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 and have a round adhesive dot affixed to the card listing serial number, make and caliber of each pistol and each cylinder prior to taking the field. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 1.2. The pistol will be drawn only upon command of the unit commander.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. Pistols may be fired to the flanks and rear in a more realistic/aimed manner; so long as safe distances are maintained.
- 1.5. 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.
- 1.6. The hammer will not be cocked until the pistol is brought to bear and fixed.
- 1.7. Pistols may not be re-loaded while mounted.
- 1.8. Revolvers will be loaded in a safe manner
  - 1.8.1. No wax wadding or Wonder wads” allowed.
  - 1.8.2. No powder flasks will be allowed on the field

#### **2. CARBINE**

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. When re-loading, the carbine will be held in the left hand at the fore stock, muzzle pointing slightly forward and downward.
- 2.3. The hammer will be placed in the half-cock position during loading and until ready to fire.

### 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 leather to ring on 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 commanders 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 holding uniform, accoutrements, 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 prior to 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.