CODE OF ETHICS

Horse owners and trainers associated with the Mauritius Turf Club

A. PREAMBLE

A.1 Ethics

(i) Ethics emanates from the concern to respect others.

(ii) Synonymous with conscience and morality, it implies a constant search for harmony and balance in human relations.

(iii) Concerned that horse owners, trainers and jockeys should conduct themselves honestly and with respect for human dignity and the horse, the Mauritius Turf Club ('MTC') and the Association of Owners ('AEPS') have established this code of conduct in the tradition of the principles of responsibility towards the members of the MTC and the stables, officials (stewards, veterinarians, judges etc.) and employees (grooms, track hands etc.) as well as towards the authorities and the public in general.

A.2 Reasons for a Code of Ethics

(i) Because with such a code, horse owners associated with the MTC have a clear vision of the fundamental principles to be respected in the pursuit of their interest in horse racing.

(ii) Because the adoption of a code of conduct projects the image of a responsible owner and trainer concerned with preserving sound morality and fundamental values for the good of equestrian sport, the horse and for the common good.

(iii) Because ethics brings together these values and thus reduces the possibility of conflict situations, increases the confidence of the public and the authorities.

(iv) Because the adoption of such a code amounts to a collective commitment to adhere to fundamental principles.

(v) And finally because WE ARE JUDGED BY OUR ACTIONS.

A.3 Our Credo

At MTC we believe:

• May our commitment to equestrian sport be based on strong and fundamental values.

- That INTEGRITY is the very foundation of these values and represents a solid guarantee of healthy sportsmanship for all those interested in horse racing.

- That RESPECT for OTHERS is an essential element in human relations.

- That L'EQUITE is a guarantee of social justice.

- May these values strengthen us in our convictions and in our conduct towards other owners and trainers, officials and towards the horse.

A.4 Supplement to the Code of Conduct

(i) The MTC and the AEPS, seek the commitment of each owner in order to improve the brand image of horse racing in Mauritius.

(ii) The MTC and the AEPS draw the attention of horse owners to the Rules of Racing and all other directives, but also to the following points which constitute the elements of a code of ethics to be applied, in order to project an even more dignified image of horse racing.

B. RULES OF THE CODE OF ETHICS

B.1 Contractual Nature

(i) Any person applying to the MTC to register as a horse owner or to obtain a trainer's license must solemnly declare that they have read the rules of the code of ethics set out below and undertake contractually with the MTC to respect them, failing which they will be subject to administrative sanctions, or even removal from the register of horse owners and withdrawal of the trainer's license.

(ii) The declaration of commitment referred to in the preceding paragraph must be duly completed and signed as provided for in the document entitled ‘Annex to the Code of Ethics’ on page 8 of this Code of Ethics.

B.2 Dress Code

(i) Respectable street attire is required on race day in the paddock and in the following boxes:

the Members' Lounge
the Jockey Club lodge
the Commissioners' and Secretary's lodges
the lodge of the Former Commissioners/Presidents
the Governor's lodge

(hereinafter referred to as ‘Lodges’)

(ii) Business attire for men requires the wearing of a properly tied tie and a suit jacket. Leather and denim jackets are strictly prohibited.

B.3 Owner's Card et Badge

It is imperative to always visibly wear the Owner's Card, badge or appropriate card when entering the Lodges and paddock entrances.

B.4 Restraint and Moderation

In the paddock, in the Lodges, around the Lodges, on the balconies leading to the lodges and to the areas reserved for MTC members and the stables, shouting, gestures of exuberance or anger, foul language or vulgar remarks are not permitted. Moderation and restraint are required. Good behavior and dignified conduct serve as an example to the watching public and must therefore always be respected.

B.5 Prudence

Vigilance and caution are recommended in the paddock and on the track. Staying too close to a horse, especially its hindquarters, or walking behind a horse is dangerous and therefore prohibited.

B.6 Mobile Phone

The use of a mobile phone in the paddock, on the track, in the official enclosures, around the Boxes and on the balconies giving access to the Boxes is prohibited.

B.7 On the Track

(i) Only the owner(s) whose name(s) appear in the Official Programme may be in the paddock ring at the time the jockey receives instructions and orders.

(ii) Attendance at the track to greet a winning horse is limited to five people only.

(iii) The husband or wife of an owner may enter the paddock ring or accompany the winning horse only if the total number of persons in both cases (excluding the Stable Manager and the Trainer) does not exceed five. Exceptionally, an owner may, after obtaining prior permission from one of the Clerks of the Course, invite a third person to go onto the track with him or her provided that the number of persons on the track does not exceed the limit stated above.

(iv) The Owner and the Trainer must act with moderation and restraint, namely:

(a) Avoid making unnecessary gestures of triumph.

(b) Avoid shaking hands with your jockey or hugging your jockey before your weigh-in.

(c) Refrain from appearing on the track to bring back the winning horse in unkempt attire and not in accordance with paragraph B.2 plus skin.

(d) Hold the leading-in tape properly, i.e. close enough to the horse at head/neck height, and preferably to the left of it.

(e)Refrain from releasing or returning the leading-in tape to the horse or jockey.

(f) Pass the leading-in tape back to the jockey in an elegant manner.

(g) In the event of a close finish or photo finish, refrain from going onto the track, and above all never without the Trainer or the Stable. Manager.

B.8 The Cups

Upon simple request from the MTC or after one year as stipulated in the racing conditions, the owner will return to the MTC as soon as possible any cup or trophy in his or her possession. The said cup or trophy must be returned in good condition and in good condition to the satisfaction of the MTC.

B.9 Gambling and Finance

(i) The Owner and the Trainer shall comply with all legal provisions relating to the game.

(ii) Any discussion between the owner and the Trainer or Stable Manager regarding a horse's chances in races and stakes will take place within four walls and not in front of other owners or in public.

(iii) The owner and trainer shall be concerned with morality and respectability. He or she shall regard horse racing essentially as a sport.

(iv) The owner must ensure that he has personal income that can thus ensure healthy participation in horse racing.

(v) The Owner and Trainer must ensure that they are still financially viable.

(vi) The Owner and the Trainer shall pay all their debts to the MTC and to each other within the prescribed time limits.

(vii) The Owner and Trainer shall never leave a slate in their respective capacities as Owner and Trainer.

B.10 Use of the Lodges

The same strictness of dress, language and behavior as referred to above in paragraph B.4 is mandatory in the Lodges. Winners and losers will be dignified and must respect each other with 'fair play'.

B.11 The Horse

Out of respect for the animal and in recognition of the pleasure it has given him, whether the horse has won a race or not, the owner must either entrust his steed at the end of his career to the MTC, which will be responsible for ensuring his well-being and a dignified end of life, or ensure that his horse has an appropriate retirement and that he enjoys good living conditions, hygiene, and medication in a healthy and appropriate environment.

B.12 Well-being and Comfort

(i) The welfare and comfort of the horse shall take precedence over all other considerations in the preparation, training and riding of the horse.

(ii) The accommodation, feeding and care of horses must comply with internationally accepted standards to ensure their well-being in the stable and their behaviour on the track.

(iii) No questionable practices in the stable, in training or in racing are permitted and will not be tolerated.

(iv) In conjunction with the AEPS, owners, trainers and veterinarians, the Mauritius Turf Club will conduct an annual audit of the horses' performances in order to make arrangements for their continued participation in races or their withdrawal from competition.

(v) Twelve years is generally considered the age limit for a horse to compete.

B.13 Training

(i) Any training method which, in the opinion of the MTC, may be harmful to the health of the horse will be considered a breach of the Code of Ethics and will be sanctioned by the MTC.

(ii) The Trainer will ensure that a training program must take into account the horse's physical abilities, its morphology, its temperament, its maturity for competition, its endurance.

B.14 Fers

The Trainer must ensure that the fitting of the shoes is comfortable for the horse and limits the risk of injury or accident.

B.15 Transport

The Trainer must ensure that vehicles transferring horses are secured ("padded"), disinfected, ventilated and regularly technically inspected. Otherwise, the Trainer must immediately inform the MTC.

B.16 Repos

(i) As soon as the horse is unloaded after transport, the Trainer must ensure that it rests and has access to drinking water.

(ii) The Trainer shall ensure that after transport, the horse shall be in such condition as to enable it to bend its head freely to the ground as this facilitates its breathing and allows it to relax.

B.17 Summer (October to December)

(i) Particular attention from the Trainer is required in summer to ensure the comfort of the horses.

(ii) Immediately after training and after racing in a hot and/or humid climate, arrangements must be made by the Trainer to allow the horse to cool down (showers, baths, ventilation etc.)

B.18 Medication

The Trainer must ensure that any medication or tonics administered to horses are for their good health and the safety of those who ride them, and not to force them for competition.

B.19 Equipment

The Trainer will ensure that any equipment used on the horse in the stable, paddock, arena, or during transport will be solely for the purpose of ensuring maximum safety and comfort for the horse.

B.20 Injuries, lameness, accidents

(i) The Trainer must ensure that any injured horse is immediately treated by the veterinarian and taken, if necessary, to a suitable place.

(ii) As soon as a horse is injured, the Trainer must, as soon as possible, inform the MTC of the nature and seriousness of the injury.

B.21 Statistical Surveys

(i) The Trainer will keep a statistical record of accidents, injuries or recourse to euthanasia of horses under his responsibility in order to enable the MTC to analyze the conditions in which the horses are trained, cared for and compete.

(ii) At the end of each season and at the request of the MTC, the Trainer must participate in an audit exercise to enable the MTC to analyze the conditions in which the horses are trained and cared for. For this purpose, the Trainer must provide the MTC with any necessary documents and/or information.

B.22 Annual report

Likewise, at the end of each season, the Trainer must submit to the MTC, at the latter's request, any information that the MTC deems useful in order to enable the MTC to analyze the record of the said Trainer with a view to the allocation of a Trainer license for the next season.

APPENDIX TO THE CODE OF ETHICS

DECLARATION D'ENGAGEMENT DECLARATION D'ENGAGEMENT

I certify that I have read the MTC Code of Ethics and I formally undertake to adhere unreservedly to the rules set out therein.

I also declare that I fully understand the contractual nature of the provisions set out in the said Code of Ethics, compliance with which is a sine qua non condition of my status as owner and/or Trainer.

Furthermore, it is agreed that any failure by me to comply with any provision of the Code of Ethics would result in my removal as owner and/or Trainer.

Done in good faith and in three copies this ……..…….

Name & Surname of Owner or Trainer:

……..….

Stable : ……

Signature ……..……

N.B. The owner signs three copies of this commitment. He keeps one, the other two are kept by the MTC and the AEPS.