



CODE OF CONDUCT

This code is designed to provide all IASF qualified saddle fitters with guidelines for professional conduct. The code should be adhered to at all times to ensure the quality of work and credibility of the qualification and awarding bodies are upheld. Failure to conform to the set code may result in a full investigation and potential revocation of the awarded certification and/or disassociation from the awarding body and their affiliates.

1. Saddle fitters should strive to ensure that the laws of saddle fit are adhered to at all times. The laws of saddle fit state:
 - a. The saddle should distribute the weight of the rider evenly while the horse is in motion, over muscle and avoiding bones and ligaments.
 - i. *Caveat – it may not be possible to balance the saddle in all gaits and gymnastic movements, however the saddle should remain balanced for the majority (80%) of the horses working shape.*
 - ii. *When fitting semi-flex or treeless saddles it may not be possible to achieve full or consistent pressure distribution while in motion, however bones and ligaments must still be avoided and every care should be taken to optimise pressure distribution. All implications must be disclosed to the client and documented, signed acceptance of the implications must be obtained.*
 - b. The riders' weight should be distributed over the largest available surface, not extending beyond T18 while the horse is in motion yet be an appropriate seat size for the rider.
 - i. *Caveat – in the event that the horse can take a longer saddle than is required by the rider, the riders' seat size requirements should take priority.*
 - ii. *In the event that the rider requires a larger seat than the horse can take a full consultation will be required with the equines' professional management team (Physiotherapist and/or Vet, and trainer). Implications must be disclosed and discussed with documented evidence which has been signed by the client.*

- c. The saddle should allow correct limb function, without restricting the shoulder or applying pressure to the lumbar region of the horse.
 - d. The saddle should provide a balanced, secure yet pliable seat for the rider, allowing them to remain central while the horse is in motion.
- 2. Where the laws of saddle fit cannot be fully adhered to due to client limitations, all implications must be discussed, documented and signed by the client.
- 3. Saddle fitters must always prioritise the welfare of the horse and must make appropriate referrals if there are concerns over the horses' condition, gait, pain response or general care.
- 4. Saddle fitters must not prioritise financial gain over the wellbeing of the horse.
- 5. All recommendations should be un-biased and objective.
- 6. Saddle fitters who find themselves in a consultation which is beyond their skill or knowledge level should refer the client to a more senior or appropriate professional and/or seek assistance from a more senior saddle fitter.
- 7. Saddle fitters must hold appropriate insurance for all work and services undertaken.
- 8. Saddle fitters should not work outside of the scope of their professional abilities and qualifications.
- 9. Saddle fitters must never give a diagnosis or provide medical treatment to the horse.
- 10. Saddle fitters who are asked to provide a second opinion on the fit of the saddle should do so without bias and in a professional manner.
 - a. *Saddle fitters MUST NOT state that a saddle 'has never' or 'could never have' fitted a horse. You must only report on the fit 'on the day' and make clear to the client that horses change shape and that you cannot comment on the original fit.*
 - b. *All reports which are carried out as a second opinion, or which cause the client concern over the original fit, must be communicated to the original fitter in a professional manner.*
- 11. Saddle fitters must not give personal opinions on the clients chosen equine management team and should remain factual and professional in making referrals and recommendations.
 - a. *In the event that a saddle fitter is concerned about the clients chosen professional team, recommendations can be made for additional and or complimentary professionals.*
- 12. Saddle fitters must not make slanderous or defamatory statements about any other equine professional.

13. All documentation must be read and signed by the client at the time of the consultation.

14. All records must be kept securely and in accordance with GDPR.

Confirmation of receipt of Code of Conduct (IASF CoC V2 2022)

I

Confirm that I have received, read and agree to the set code of conduct (IASF CoC V2 2022)

Signed

I confirm my understanding that failure to adhere to the set code of conduct may result in a formal investigation and disassociation from the awarding body.

Signed