**RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

**RIVER GAIT FARM**

**504 Buck Seaford Rd. Mocksville, NC 27028**

This RELEASE OF LIABILITY is made and entered into on this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date) day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (month), 20\_\_\_\_\_ (year) by and between River Gait Farm, including but not limited to Jacqueline Leon, Sage Schweickert, Jade Schweickert, and Nicki Leon, and hereinafter designated as “Equine Activity Sponsor” and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (participant/rider) hereinafter designated as “Participant” and, if participant is a minor, participant’s parent or legal guardian, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent or legal guardian if participant is a minor).

In return for the use today, and on all future days, of property, facilities, and services of the Equine Activity Sponsor, the Participant, their heirs, assigns and legal representatives, hereby expressly agree to the following:

**For and in consideration of the above activities and services, receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged,**

Participant hereby does forever and finally release, remise, acquit, satisfy and forever discharge Equine Activity Sponsor of and from all manner of action and actions, causes and causes of action, suit, debts, dues, sums of money bonds, billings, contract, controversies, agreements, premises, damages, variances, judgements, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, in law or in equity, which may arise or might in the future arise herein for or against the Equine Activity Sponsor for the activities stated above.

**WARNING: Under North Carolina law, an Equine Activity Sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting exclusively from the inherent risks of equine activities.** Chapter 99E of the North Carolina General Statutes.

I have read the attached document entitled NATURE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HORSES and understand that interaction with horses is potentially dangerous. I have read the foregoing acknowledgement of risk and RELEASE OF LIABILITY. I understand that by signing this document, I may be waiving valuable legal rights.

Participant’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian if participant is a minor

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Accepted by River Gait Farm, Mocksville, NC

**RELEASE AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

The undersigned has read and understands the attached sheet entitled NATURE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HORSES and understands that there are risks associated with all horse related activities including, but not limited to, riding, showing, grooming, or otherwise handling or interacting with horses.

The undersigned assumes all risks inherent in all horse related activities including, but not limited to, bodily injury and physical harm to horse, rider, and spectator. In consideration, therefore, for the privilege of riding and/or working around horses at River Gait Farm, located at 504 Buck Seaford Rd. Mocksville, NC, and at all various show grounds at which competitions will be held, the undersigned does agree to hold harmless and indemnify River Gait Farm and its agents and/or employees and further release them from any liability or responsibility for accident, damage, injury, death, or illness to the undersigned or to any horse owned by the undersigned or to any family member or spectator accompanying the undersigned on the premises.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING ALL INFORMATION CURRENT.**

Participant’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant’s Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant’s Weight: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (must be under 175 lbs.)

**Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(circle: participant/mother/father/spouse/g-parent/legal guardian)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Home)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Work)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(circle: participant/mother/father/spouse/g-parent/legal guardian)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Home)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Work)

In Case of Emergency Notify:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you allergic to any medications? If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any other pertinent medical information? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NATURE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HORSES**

While domesticated, well trained horses are usually obedient, docile, and affectionate, it is important to understand their survival instincts, which have allowed the horse to survive from prehistoric times to the present day. Horses have minds of their own and may seem unpredictable at times. These characteristics deserve a human being’s upmost respect.

I AM ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Horses are strong and powerful physically. Horses are heavy, and most horses weigh in the range of 600 to 1500 pounds.
2. Horses are somewhat high strung or nervous by nature. When a horse is frightened, angry, under stress, or feels threatened it may instinctively jump forwards or sideways or even run away from the perceived danger.
3. If a horse feels frightened or threatened from behind, it may kick in any direction with either of its hind legs with tremendous force.
4. If a horse is frightened or feels threatened from above, it may hunch its’ back and buck in a way that could throw a rider to the ground at great force. A fall from a horse will usually be from a height of 3 to 6 feet.
5. If a horse is frightened or feels threatened from the front, it may react by rearing up, striking with its’ front legs, biting, or many other avoidance techniques.
6. A human must always approach a horse calmly, quietly, and cautiously from near its’ shoulder or neck, so as not to startle the horse.
7. Loud or sudden movements, dropping objects, moving vehicles, or physical pain can provoke a domesticated horse to react in unexpected ways according to its natural protective instincts.
8. The first signs of fear in a horse are the tensing of their muscles, laying its’ ears flat back against its’ head, quickly tossing its’ head, or suddenly snorting through its’ nostrils.
9. A horse can see independently with one eye and in another direction with the other eye, or it can focus both eyes on an object somewhere in front of it. Usually the direction the ears are pointing in will tell an observer where the eyes are looking and concentrating at the moment.
10. A horse has two blind areas: directly behind it and in front of its’ mouth. Always approach a horse towards its’ shoulder.
11. While a horse is a very sure-footed animal, it may accidentally step on an object such as a human foot. A horse ridden or worked on unstable ground or slippery footing could trip or fall down.

Our school horses are well-trained, docile animals, but accidents do happen. We must always be aware and take safety precautions to help minimize the risk from a sport with a large animal.

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_