**July 4, 2022**

**PARADE RULES FOR EQUINE ENTRIES**

It is important to realize that parades can be very confusing for horses. The sights, sounds and obstacles on a parade route are often unfamiliar to horses and, to further complicate matters, horse and rider must navigate directly in the public eye, on pavement, and in a narrow area. Only well-seasoned horses that have been desensitized to crowds, flags, traffic, traffic, whistles and other parade noises should participate.

The following requirements will be enforced in order for horse and rider to enter the parade.

* All Parade Participants must sign a liability release waiver. If the rider is under 18 the legal parent or guardian must sign the waiver on their behalf.
* All riders must present proof of a current negative Coggins test for the participating horse in accordance with state laws.
* One rider per horse. No bareback riding permitted.
* Side walkers are recommended for equine entries. The Chamber of Commerce will provide 2 side walkers to keep viewers away from the horses and to help a rider should his/her horse become agitated.
* Helmets must be worn by entries under the age of 18.
* Proper riding footwear must be worn as well as appropriate equestrian attire.

There will be a representative of the organizer in charge of all equine entries.

Waiver and Release of Liability

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Houlton 4th of July Parade while riding or driving a horse, the undersigned agrees to:

1. Prior to participating the rider/owner of the horse will inspect all tack necessary for a safe ride. If tack to be used is damaged or does not fit properly, the rider/owner will not participate.
2. Each rider should acknowledge and fully understand that he/she will be engaging in an activity that involves the risk of serious injury, including permanent disability or even death and/or the loss of socioeconomic ability, through their own actions or negligence of others engaged in the same activity.
3. Each rider/driver will assume all risk and accept personal responsibility for any and all damages following such injury, permanent disability or even death.
4. The rider/driver agrees to release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue administrators, directors, agents, coaches and other employees or volunteers of the sponsoring organization, other participants, sponsoring agencies, and, if applicable, owners of the property used to conduct the event, from demands, losses or damages on account of injury, including death or damage to property, caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the rider/driver.

The undersigned or Guardian (if the participant is under the age of 18) have read the above waiver and release and understand that they have given up substantial rights by signing it and sign it voluntarily.

