



With the 2026 competition season in full swing, this edition of the Leone Equestrian Law, LLC newsletter presents two informative articles: one offers guidance on whether a minor can legally drive a golf cart at a horse show, and the other provides a handy refresher on the responsibilities and liabilities when dogs interact with horses in undesirable or problematic ways.

## Q&A: Can a Minor Drive a Golf Cart at a Horse Show?

By Armand Leone

**Question:** We are planning to rent a golf cart during an upcoming horse show in Florida. What are some things we need to keep in mind? Can my 14-year-old daughter drive the cart even though she doesn't have a driver's license yet?



USEF rules cover golf cart use, but be sure to also check the state's rules before allowing a minor to take the wheel. **Photo by Jump Media**

**Answer:** There is a US Equestrian Federation rule about this very topic! Per rule GR1301.7 of the USEF Rule Book:

*"Minors who do not have a valid driver's license which allows them to operate a motorized vehicle in the state in which they reside will not be permitted to operate a motorized vehicle of any kind, including, but not limited to, golf carts, motorcycles, scooters, or farm utility vehicles, on the competition grounds of licensed competitions.*

*Minors who have a valid temporary license may operate the above described motorized vehicles as long as they are accompanied by an adult with a valid driver's license. The parent/legal guardian or individual who signs the entry blank as a parent or guardian of a minor operating a motorized vehicle in violation of this rule are solely responsible for any damages, claims, losses or actions resulting from that operation.*

*Violations of this rule will be cause for penalties against those responsible for the child committing the offense. Wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices for individuals with disabilities are exempt from this rule."*

So, the short answer is, no, your daughter may not operate a golf cart on the showgrounds unless she has a valid driver's license. However, she may still be able to drive the cart off-site.

The first thing to know is that each state has its own rules regarding the age requirements for driving a golf cart. As a result, what may be considered an acceptable age in one place could be illegal in another. This is why it is important to always check the rules and regulations if you are considering letting a minor drive a golf cart.

In most states (including Florida), a child must be at least 14 years old to drive a golf cart. In other places, such as Texas, the driver must be around 16 years old. Then there are states such as California and South Carolina that allow children to drive golf carts at the age of 13.

[Read the Full Article](#)

## Dogs and Horses: Who Is Liable?

By Armand Leone and Jessica E. Choper

Dogs and horses go hand in hand. Where there's a barn or a horse owner, there's often a dog tagging along. More often than not, horses, dogs, and their people can coexist peacefully and without issue.

That said, there's the occasional problem caused by a dog that may have legal ramifications. For example, your dog may be playing in the barn and spook a horse, which could injure someone.



Dogs and horses usually coexist well, but it's important to understand where the responsibility and liability falls when they do not. **Photo by Shutterstock**

There's also the scenario where a loose dog interrupts a horse and rider during competition, causing the rider to go off course or requiring the horse and rider to pull up so that all parties remain unharmed. Even if the horse and rider walk out of the ring or off the field unharmed, the dog's interruption may have cost a top placing and even prize money.

So, who's responsible in these scenarios, and what can be done upfront to ensure that dogs and horses can continue to coexist harmoniously? It starts with taking the necessary precautions, whether you're a property owner, a manager, or a dog owner.

[Read the Full Article in Sidelines](#)

For advice and counsel related to the equestrian industry, contact Leone Equestrian Law at [info@equestriancounsel.com](mailto:info@equestriancounsel.com).

Led by Armand Leone, Jr., MD, JD, MBA, Leone Equestrian Law LLC provides legal services and consultation for equestrian professionals ranging from riders and trainers to owners and show managers in the FEI disciplines on a wide variety of issues.

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