

# RIVERDALE STABLES

## INTERSCHOLASTIC EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION

### RIDING TEAM

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**Interested in potentially becoming a rider or a parent of a rider on an IEA Team? The following information has been compiled to give everyone a better understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities available to IEA Team Members!**

#### HOW IT WORKS

The IEA was founded on the principle that any middle school or high school student should be able to participate in horse shows, regardless of their financial status or riding level.

The IEA attempts to help eliminate some expense associated with horse showing and allows more students to compete. Students ride horses that are furnished by the host barn and chosen by drawing lots, thus also helping to level the playing field.

The use of personal tack is not allowed and limited schooling is permitted. The theory behind this structure is to equalize variables of the competition and test the horsemanship of the contestants. This format is modeled after the format of IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Show Association).

Classes range from walk/trot/canter for first year students to the Open Division for the more experienced riders. This allows riders of many levels to compete, and makes all members an important part of the team.

All team members are expected to be familiar with the IEA rules which are available on the IEA website at [www.rideIEA.com](http://www.rideIEA.com). The IEA website is a highly valuable information source for riders and parents looking for more information. The rules will be reviewed and learned during practices as well.

At the beginning of the school year, each team starts with a goal of accumulating enough team points to make their regional finals. Winning teams and riders at Regions then move on to the Zone Finals. Winning teams and riders at Zones get to move on to the National Final.

Teams consist of riders in four different high school levels and three different middle school levels. These range from Beginner (walk, trot, canter) to the Open division for the most advanced.

Teams take turns hosting horse shows throughout the season. The show season starts September 15 and ends in April at the National Finals. Horse shows are one day shows that generally involve day travel only with some exceptions (including potentially Regional, Zone and National Finals).

Each horse show also offers individual classes so that students may compete as a team member and individually. A rider may make it all the way to the National Finals as an individual even if their team does not.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT A HORSE SHOW

Our day starts bright and early usually with a 6:30 or 7:00 AM horse warm up. The horse warm up gives us a chance to watch all of the horses who are competing on the flat and fences and get a “feel” for how they go. This is our major opportunity to watch and learn how these horses like to be ridden, and how to get them to go their very best. As we know from our own very special horses, all horses can be quirky and may need to be ridden differently. A horse description list is also provided by the horse owners. This will include items like, Crop or No Crop, Spurs, Whether or not the horse has flying changes or needs to do simple changes. Due to this, all riders are expected to watch warm up.

Following the horse warm up, we have our course walk. In the course walk riders who are showing over fences have an opportunity to walk the course and come up with a “plan of attack”. After watching the warm up, riders should be able to decide where and how they will tackle their course. Each division has a different course, and riders should walk together by division to be able to discuss the plan.

After the course walk, the horse draw is usually posted. Sometimes the draw is done as a true draw, and riders will have to line up by class and literally draw their horse’s name out of a hat! Most days a random draw is done by the horse show steward, and will be posted. Only the coach should be at the draw board if it posted. It becomes a very crowded place when everyone swarms around to see who they got. Amanda will check the draw and let everyone know who their horse for the day is.

In our standard horse show day, we will begin competition between 8:00-9:00, and many days we will finish up around 6:00 PM. Our days in the past have run earlier and have run later, so be prepared for a long, but fun day! Our schedule often varies, as each hosting team has a few different options as to how the day will run. Usually the high school classes go before the middle school classes, and the jumping classes run first.

It is very important that we keep accurate records of our points. Usually we have a dedicated parent record the results of every class. Results will be posted online at the [www.rideiea.org](http://www.rideiea.org) website, and we use our own results to verify that all of our riders receive the proper points.

The day moves quickly even though it is a long day, and therefore riders need to be properly dressed well ahead of time. A good way to stay dressed but warm is to be completely dressed in your show attire, and to put your team jacket and a pair of sweatpants over your show clothes.

A very important rule to remember is that RIDERS are not allowed to adjust any equipment other than their stirrups. If you have a problem or an issue, say that the girth isn’t tight enough, or that the saddle has slipped back, you must ask the horse handler to address it. If you tighten the girth, or adjust any equipment other than your stirrups, you may be eliminated! Please remember though, that for safety, you should always CHECK your girth before mounting. Just because you can’t adjust it doesn’t mean you can’t check it!

Don’t forget that our season runs with the school year, and that often times the bulk of our competitions are in the very cold winter. Please dress appropriately. It can be VERY cold. Keeping a box of toe warmers or hand warmers in your competition bag is often times a good idea. Staying warm in the cold weather is important to riding!

## RIDER REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

### **Team Practices/Riding Lessons**

All team members are **required** to participate in **one team practice per week**. Team Practices will run in a format similar to what can be expected at a Show, and therefore is not to take the place of a regularly scheduled lesson. All team members are **required** to take **at least one regular riding lesson per week**.

Attire for team practices is typical riding lesson attire, including a safety vest for any jumping riders. You may wear chaps, half chaps or tall boots although it is **recommended** that you wear britches and boots as you would wear in a horse show. It will be to your benefit to get used to riding in your tall boots! Your hair must be tied back or in a hair net under your helmet. It is **recommended** that you practice wearing your hair in a hair net to get used to the feeling.

These requirements are set in order to be adequately prepared and competitive at horse shows.

### **Payment and Fees**

Team practices will last one hour, and will cost \$55. Tickets may be used for lesson fees. They will be mostly jumping lessons, in an IEA format, with an occasional flat lesson when warranted for our jump riders, and will be flat only for our flat riders.

Membership in IEA costs \$45 per season.

Entry fees are set by host team, and can be expected to range from \$35-\$50 per class. (Over Fences and/or Flat)

The coaching fee is \$80 per rider per day. Our jumping riders compete in a fences and a flat, and our flat riders compete in a walk-trot class and a walk-trot-canter.

Payment for horse shows is due in advance of the horse show. Payment should include the entry fee and coaching fee.

**Riders are responsible for their transportation to and from horse shows. Travel can be expected to range from 30 minutes to 2 hours for regular season competitions. Carpooling is suggested, and Riders are expected to stay until all team members have completed showing. Last season Alex was able to offer busing to most of our horse shows. That can be arranged directly with him.**

### **Team Apparel**

All riders will be required to purchase an IEA Team Jacket upon making the team. We have our black slim fitting soft shell jackets as our team jackets with custom embroidery. The cost is \$120.00 per jacket.

We also plan on offering heavy winter parkas, for the cold weather. They are incredibly warm, slightly oversized winter parkas! Feel free to ask any of our returning riders to try on sizing, they run a little large, and are great for layering underneath. The cost of a Riverdale IEA Jacket is \$125.00, is payable to Riverdale Stables and should be purchased at time of IEA Membership, as we would love to have them all embroidered in time for our first regular season competition!

New this year we will be looking into getting team sweatpants. Our returning riders can all tell you about how cold many of our shows were, and it was a highly suggested idea to get team sweatpants to wear over our show apparel! These will not be a requirement, but will be available for purchase.

## HORSE SHOW APPAREL

All show riders need to wear/bring the following for showing:

- An ASTM SEI approved, well-fitting helmet. (Plastic helmets are allowed for schooling at home, and practices, but a velvet or synthetic velvet helmet should be used at shows. See Amanda if you have concerns regarding your helmet.)
  - (Although vests are required for any jumping at home, they are not required for competitions)
- Clean tan britches (or jodhpurs if wearing paddock boots)
- Clean and **polished** boots (field or paddock), garters, if wearing paddock boots
- Clean, non-wrinkled show shirt and collar (white preferable, but not required)
- Clean, non-wrinkled show jacket (navy preferable, but not required)
- Black riding gloves
- Show crop (must be black!)
- Hair nets (Heavy weight preferable but not required)
  - Riders should be comfortable wearing their hair up in a hair net, if you are unsure of how to do “Hairnet Hair” feel free to ask Amanda, or any of our returning riders. It is an acquired skill of getting hair into a helmet.

Not required but helpful:

- Boot polish, brush and cloth
- Towels (to use as a boot rag)
- Layers and layers of warm clothing during the cold weather!

If you have any questions if your apparel is “Horse Show Appropriate”, please feel free to ask Amanda, and as always, items can be ordered or picked up from Manhattan Saddlery. Manhattan Saddlery offers a 10% discount to all riders from Riverdale Stables. Please mention that you are a Riverdale Stables client to receive this discount!

## IEA COMPETITION

Team members compete individually and also as for the team according to the IEA rules. Riders are limited by the IEA to five (5) horse shows per season.

The IEA is organized into the following Hunt Seat Classes for competition:

### **Over Fences Classes**

Class 1. Varsity Open Equitation o/f 2'6" - Riders should be capable of jumping 3'-3'6" on their usual mounts at home. Riders may have shown in any horse show, recognized or unrecognized, at 3'3" or above. Coaches should be confident these riders could safely perform over a 2'6" hunter or equitation course on an unfamiliar horse.

Class 2. Varsity Intermediate Equitation o/f 2' - Riders should be capable of jumping 2'6"-3' on their usual mounts at home. Intermediate Riders may have shown in any horse show, recognized or unrecognized, at 3' or below. Riders who have won 10 or more blue ribbons at 3' must be placed in Varsity Open O/F. Coaches should be confident these riders would be able to safely perform over 2' hunter or equitation course on an unfamiliar horse.

Class 3. Junior Varsity Novice Equitation o/f x-rails - Riders should be capable of jumping 2'-2'6" on their usual mounts at home. Junior Varsity Novice Riders may have shown in any horse show, recognized or unrecognized, at 2'6" or below. Riders should have a minimum of one-year of professional instruction over fences. Coaches should be confident these riders would be able to safely perform over an x-rails hunter course or equitation course on an unfamiliar horse.

Class 4. Future Intermediate Equitation o/f 2' - Restricted to middle school riders who meet the criteria for Hunt Seat Class 3.

Class 5. Future Novice o/f x-rails - Restricted to middle school riders who meet the criteria for Hunt Seat Class 4.

### **Flat Classes**

Class 6. Varsity Open Equitation on the flat - These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 through 13.

Class 7. Varsity Intermediate Equitation on the flat - These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 through 9.

Class 8. Junior Varsity Novice Equitation on the flat - These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 through 8.

Class 9. Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the flat WTC - Open to riders who have been riding less than 4 calendar years, who are not eligible for any jumping classes, but should be experienced enough to canter an unfamiliar animal in a group. These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 through 7, and may have shown at any unrecognized horse show. A Beginner rider may not have shown over fences larger than 2' in any horse show, recognized or unrecognized. A rider who is in their first year of showing over cross rails may still be considered eligible for this class. To be eligible for Class 9, a rider must have had at least one year continuous

professional instruction.

Class 10. Future Intermediate Equitation on the flat - Restricted to middle school riders who are capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 through 9.

Class 11. Future Novice Equitation on the flat - Restricted to middle school riders who are capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 through 8.

Class 12. Future Beginner Equitation on the flat WTC - Restricted to middle school riders who meet the eligibility requirements of Class 11.

Because riders are competing on horses that they are unfamiliar with, riders will be competing at a level lower than they regularly compete at or train at. We ask that each rider complete the IEA Class Placement Questionnaire so that we can place riders in the most appropriate class for their experience and ability. We prefer to place riders in the lowest possible division where they will be most confident and most competitive.

### **Hunt Seat Rider Tests**

A rider must be prepared to perform the test appropriate for the class in which the rider is participating. Riders may be requested to perform the following tests collectively or individually during a show or competition. No other tests may be used. The judge may choose only from the following list, and instructions for performance of the test must be publicly announced.

1. Asked an appropriate question.
2. Halt
3. Sitting trot.
4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot.
5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals.
6. Figure eight at canter on correct lead, demonstrating simple change of lead.
7. Change Horses
8. Ride without stirrups.
9. Change leads down center of ring, demonstrating simple change of lead.
10. Canter on the counter lead. No more than eight horses may counter canter at one time.
11. Half-turn on forehand and/or half-turn on haunches.
12. Jump a shortened course.
13. Trot a jump not to exceed 2'6".

## POINTS, SCORING AND LEVEL ADVANCEMENT

### **Individual Scoring**

To be eligible for Regional, Zones, or Nationals finals in the individual or team classes a rider must show in a minimum of two (2) IEA shows during the regular season. Riders need to accumulate 18 points individually to qualify for Zones competition. If a Hunt Seat rider accumulates twenty two (22) points in any single competition year, that rider must, during the next competition year, move up at least one class in order to be eligible to ride in any IEA show. Any Hunt Seat rider who has qualified or showed as an individual rider in a given class for the previous season's National Finals must advance to the next class level the following season.

### **Team Scoring**

An IEA Hunt Seat Team must accumulate a minimum of twenty (20) points during a competition year and appear in at least two (2) IEA recognized shows to qualify for the National Finals. Each Team designates one rider per class to compete for points toward the team championship. This rider is usually called the "point rider" and is chosen by the coaches. Teams are placed from first through sixth according to points by totaling the scores of the designated point riders from each team. The team with the most points is awarded the Championship Award and second most points will be awarded reserve champion. Point riders in Hunt Seat may be selected from any section of Classes 1 through 12. Only one rider may be selected from each class (A or B in divided classes). Point riders must be registered with the scorekeeper or secretary before the first draw.

Points are to be calculated as follows: 1st place - 7 points; 2nd place - 5 points; 3rd place - 4 points; 4th place - 3 points; 5th place - 2 points; and 6th place - 1 point.

### **Re-rides**

When through no fault of the rider, a horse performs so poorly that it is impossible to fairly judge the rider's ability, a re-ride may be granted. A re-ride must be requested before the lineup in a flat class or the last horse leaves the ring in an over fences class. Only the coach of the rider involved may request a re-ride. Although they may confer with show management and the judge, only the show steward may grant or deny a re-ride.

**As always, all questions regarding our IEA Team can be directed towards our Coach, Amanda in person or via e-mail at [Amanda@RiverdaleStables.com](mailto:Amanda@RiverdaleStables.com)**

**Hope to see you showing soon!**