FMF EQUITATION TEAMS INFORMATION:

COSTS, SCHEDULE, & TRYOUTS

NCEL, NCSSEL, JEL, and NCAEL

ncelus.com / ncael.com

Parents AND riders must read this information sheet in its entirety before committing.

Tryouts are for a spot on any FMF NCEL/NCSSEL/JEL team. The coaches decide who rides on which team– *not* the riders. If you sign up for tryouts, you agree to abide by the coaches' decision for whichever team you are assigned. **Team placements are non-negotiable.**
Adult team: Will not have tryouts this year, but will have a meeting DATE TBD.

About the League: *NCEL consists of riding schools throughout Maryland and Virginia, giving riders an option to stay competitive during the winter season (October through March).*

Tryouts for NCEL/NCSSEL/JEL: Monday, Aug. 9th, 2021 – $25 Tryout fee due at/before tryouts!

4:00-6:00pm: We will schedule riders in groups of 3-7 in **30-minute** intervals (ride times will be emailed).

7:00pm *(after the last riders have untacked)*: **Coach, Parent*, & Rider Meeting** in the Chateau (*at least 1 parent must attend)

Riders in groups @ 4:00 and 5:00pm: Arrive 30 minutes before your assigned ride time to groom and tack.
Riders in groups @ 4:30, 5:30, and 6:00pm: Arrive 10 minutes before your assigned ride time We will contact you with your assigned ride time.

All riders must stay until everyone is dismissed after the meeting is complete.

This is only the beginning of our FMF Equitation Team togetherness! (Feel free to bring a dinner/snack!)

Eligibility:

- FMF riders who are committed to improving their skills as riders and are team players.
- If your instructor has encouraged you to do teams, it's a good idea to listen to them!
- If you have not been on a team before, ask your instructor about it!
- Each team/division has its own requirements in terms of abilities, but a good rule of thumb is that riders should be able to either:
  - Walk, trot, & go over poles
  - Walk, trot, canter, & jump at least 12"/crossrails

NATIONAL CAPITOL EQUITATION LEAGUE (NCEL):

- Three divisions: Novice (2'), Limit (2'3"), and Open (2'6"); all must W/T/C.

NATIONAL CAPITOL SHORT-STIRRUP EQUITATION LEAGUE (NCSSEL or "C"):

- Up to 6 primary riders and 3 alternates.
- All must W/T/C and jump 18" (flat-only is also possible.)
- Primary/Alternate riders may rotate, depending on coaches' and riders' preferences.

JUNIOR EQUITATION LEAGUE (JEL):

- Five divisions (ranging from W/T & poles to W/T/C & a course of 18" fences).
- Up to 2 riders per division.

NATIONAL CAPITOL ADULT EQUITATION LEAGUE (NCAEL):

- Five divisions, made up of adult riders aged 21+

IEA Discount: If your rider is also registered for our IEA team (Middle or High School), you will receive a coaching discount at your first IEA show.

If you sign up, you are committed to ride cheerfully where we place you for the entirety of the season. Please be aware of rider and parent commitments before you sign up– this includes time and money!

Parent Commitment:

Aside from normal wear & tear on parents during the course of parenting a rider, you should expect to:

1. Attend all shows for your rider
    a. Away Shows: Travel to/from, help your rider and their teammates as needed!
    b. Home Shows: Watch and help during the whole show. The team runs the show, with help from our other teams! (We prep the ring the night before a show, too!)
2. Volunteer with the Food Booth*
    a. **Due to COVID-19, we might not provide Food Booths during our shows. In normal years, money earned from the Food Booth may be spent for your team.*
    b. Home Shows for Your Team: Plan food booth, provide food. Other FMF teams will work at your Food Booth so you can help with your team's show & help your rider.
    c. Home Shows for Other FMF Teams: Plan to take a 2-hour shift at one other FMF team's show, just as they do for you!
3. Parent Volunteer Program
    a. As with all FMF events, parents'/family's time spent volunteering can be used towards lesson costs (at a rate of 10 hours = $36), with a few exceptions:
        i. No volunteer hours may be earned while working at your team's home shows.
        ii. No volunteer hours may be earned while working your one required 2-hour Food Booth shift (for another FMF team's home show).
        iii. No volunteer hours may be earned while participating at the annual Painting Party.
    b. All other time spent volunteering is eligible for the Volunteer Program discount!

Rider Commitment:

1. Maintain a positive attitude and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
2. Be scheduled for two lessons per week by September 30th (Adult team only: 1 lesson per week).
    a. Riders having to miss any lessons must schedule a makeup for those missed rides.
    b. Even if you "no-show" a lesson, call late (within 2 hours for group lessons or 24 hours for private lessons), or miss more than the allotted number of allowed makeups per set, **you are still required to make up those lessons** (at your own expense).
3. Spend 2-3 hours at the barn the day before their own home show to prepare the horses, tack, and barn. (This is the team's "Work Day.")
4. Attend Team Practices. There will be one practice before each show. If unable to attend a practice, riders must schedule a make-up (in a regular group lesson).
5. Help for 2 hours at our Painting Party (date TBD, likely in October). This is our time to hang out before our hosting season begins; we make sure all of our jumps look fresh and fantastic!
6. Volunteer at Home Shows for our other FMF teams.
    a. Two 3-hour shifts at any other FMF team shows (can be JEL, NCSSEL, NCEL, NCAEL, or IEA).
        i. Sign-up sheets for volunteering will be posted in advance. Be sure to sign up quickly for the shows/dates you want to volunteer for.
    b. After the mandatory 6 hours of volunteer time is met, all riders' hours may be used as Volunteer Program hours for discounts.
7. **Remember:** Time spent volunteering means helping, not standing around/eating/chatting! If you stay longer than your shift, that's great, but you're fair game and will be expected to keep helping!

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