

FMF EQUITATION TEAMS INFORMATION:

COSTS & TRYOUTS

NCEL, NCSSEL, and JEL

Ncelus.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. Rosters will be posted no earlier than 12pm the day after tryouts; once rosters are posted, you are locked into whichever team you are assigned to & you owe whatever fees are associated with that team. No exceptions.**

All team riders are required to ride in **two lessons per week** (beginning no later than the week of August 28th) **until the end of the season** (after Finale weekend). Your two weekly lesson days/times must be scheduled by August 19th.

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. 1st, 2022 – \$25 Tryout fee due **before** tryouts!

11am-6pm: Tryouts in groups of 3-7 in 30-minute intervals.

7:30pm: Coach, Parent*, & Rider Meeting in the Chateau (*at least 1 parent must attend).

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:

- Must be committed to improving your skills as a rider & you must be a team player!
- 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
- 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!

NATIONAL CAPITOL EQUITATION LEAGUE (NCEL):

- Three divisions; all riders must WTC: Novice (2'), Limit (2'3"), and Open (2'6").

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

- Up to 6 primary riders & 3 alternates.
 - Primary/Alternate riders may rotate, depending on coaches' and riders' preferences.
- All must WTC and jump 18" (flat-only may also be possible).

JUNIOR EQUITATION LEAGUE (JEL):

- Five divisions (ranging from WT & poles to WTC & a course of 18" fences).
- Up to 2 riders per division.

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!

FMF TEAM COSTS:

	Due date	Cost
Tryout Fee	July 31st	\$25
League Fee	July 31st	\$50
Team Dues	July 31st	\$400* *\$375 Early Bird rate if paid <i>before</i> July 1st
Show Fees	Will be collected prior to each show	Likely \$45 per show (may vary by league/year)
Team Jacket	Orders will be taken in late August or early September	Approx. \$135 plus shipping (<i>unless someone offers to pick up the order!</i>), paid directly to First Impressions Embroidery
Finale Fees	Approx. 2 weeks before Finale	TBD (was \$190 in 2022; will depend on fundraising)
Banquet Costs	TBD in late winter	TBD

Rosters will be posted no earlier than 12pm the day after tryouts; once rosters are posted, you are locked into whichever team you are assigned to & you owe whatever fees are associated with that team. No exceptions. No refunds/credits.

Cost Descriptions:

- 1) Tryout Fee (\$25): Covers the cost of Tryouts (i.e., the time the coaches spend evaluating each rider)
 - a) **Tryout fees will *only* be credited if you back out prior to receiving your time for Tryouts.**
 - b) If you cannot attend the Tryout date: Call the farm line to inquire about setting up an alternate time to try out.

- 2) League Fee (\$50): Covers the team's League Dues, which pays for part of the admin time it takes to run teams and participate in the leagues.
 - a) **League Fees will not be waived/credited/refunded (for any reason!) after 12pm the day after Tryouts.** Even if you decide not to ride, you will still owe the League Fee & the Team Dues.

- 3) Team Dues (\$400; or \$375 with Early Bird discount): Covers your coaching costs (at the 4 regular-season shows) and the 4 team practices.
 - a) **Team Dues will not be waived/credited/refunded (for any reason!) after 12pm the day after Tryouts.** Even if you decide not to ride, you will still owe the Team Dues & the League Fee.

- 4) Show Fees (likely \$45 per show, excluding Finale): Covers the costs we pay to each host-barn.
 - a) These payments will be due before each show, via checks payable to FMF. Team parents will collect these payments prior to the show date.

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- 5) Finale Costs (\$ **TBD**; was \$190 in 2022): Covers the costs of Finale weekend.
- a) JEL, NCSSEL, & NCEL share a Finale weekend.
 - i) 2023 Date/Location: **TBD**
 - b) We trailer some of our own horses off-site for Finale. Proceeds from your team's Home Show Food Booth & Fundraisers can be used towards these costs– it's up to your team to decide!
 - c) Costs for Finale include:
 - i) Entry Fee (\$ **TBD** by the League)
 - ii) Horse-Use Fee (\$35)
 - iii) Coaching Fee (\$35)
 - iv) Trailering Fee (\$125 per horse, split equally amongst the riders)
- 6) Banquet Costs (\$ **TBD**): Covers your share of the costs for Banquet, including a fraction of the coaches' Banquet costs.
- a) 2023 Date/Location: **TBD**
- 7) Team Jacket (approx. \$135): All riders must have a blue FMF team jacket, embroidered with their name & the FMF team logo, to be worn at all team shows.
- a) Sign-up sheet with payment instructions will be posted/announced.
 - b) Pricing is determined by First Impressions Embroidery of Laurel, MD (<https://firstimpressionembroidery.com>), but usually runs around \$135.
 - c) Family members are also encouraged to buy their own jackets!
 - d) Sometimes, former team riders will sell their used jackets to new riders. If you are concerned about pricing, we may be able to help. No guarantees.

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.

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Parent Commitment:

1. At least one parent must attend all 4 shows plus Finale
 - a. Away Shows: Travel to/from shows, help your rider & their teammates as needed!
 - b. Home Shows: Work during the whole show (you **will** be able to watch your own rider!). The host team runs the show, with help from our other teams! (Expect to prep the barn/ring the night before the show, too!)
2. At least one parent must help run the Food Booths
 - a. *Money earned from the Food Booth may be spent for your team.*
 - b. Home Shows for Your Team: Plan your Food Booth & provide food. *Other FMF teams will work at your Food Booth so you can help with your team's show & help/watch your rider!*
 - c. Home Shows for Other FMF Teams: You will volunteer for one 2-hour shift at one other FMF team's show, just as they do for you!
3. At least one parent must attend the team Work Day (*i.e., spend a few hours at the barn the day before their rider's home show to prepare the horses, tack, and barn.*)
4. Extra hours spent volunteering
 - a. As with all FMF events, parents'/family's time spent volunteering at shows can be used towards lesson costs (at a rate of 10 hours = \$36), with a few exceptions:
 - i. No volunteer hours may be earned by a parent while working at **their rider's** home shows.
 - ii. No volunteer hours may be earned by a parent while working **their one required 2-hour** Food Booth shift (for another FMF team's home show).
 - iii. No volunteer hours may be earned by a parent while doing **their one required 2-hour** Painting Party shift. (*Additional hours may be logged as volunteer hours!*)
 - b. All other hours parents spend volunteering at shows can be logged as volunteer hours!

Rider Commitment:

1. Riders must maintain a positive attitude and exhibit good sportsmanship at **all** times.
2. Riders must be scheduled for 2 lessons per week throughout the season.
 - 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, or miss more than the allotted number of allowed makeups per set, **you are still required to make up those lessons** (at extra cost!).
3. Riders must spend a few 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. Riders must help for 2 hours at our Painting Party (**date TBD**). *This is a fun time to be together before our hosting season begins; it's your chance to make all of our jumps look fresh and fantastic!*
5. Riders must volunteer at Home Shows for our other FMF teams.
 - a. Two 3-hour shifts at any other FMF team shows (this can be JEL, NCSSEL, NCEL, NCAEL, or IEA).
 - i. Sign-ups 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!
6. **Remember:** Time spent volunteering means helping, not standing around/eating/chatting/watching! If you stay longer than your shift, that's great, but you're fair game and will be expected to keep helping!

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!