

# INFORMATION for JEL, NCSSEL, & NCEL EQUITATION TEAMS

[ncelus.com](http://ncelus.com)

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

**About the Leagues:** *These three partner leagues consist of riding schools throughout Maryland and Virginia. The goal is to allow riders to stay competitive during the fall/winter season (October through March), and to make competition more accessible to those that do not lease/own their own horse.*

## NATIONAL CAPITOL EQUITATION LEAGUE (NCEL):

- 6-9 riders on a team, split into 3 divisions:
  - Novice (2'), Limit (2'3"), and Open (2'6")
- All riders must WTC and jump (2'+)

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

- 6-9 riders on a team
- All riders must WTC and jump 18" (flat-only may also be possible)

## JUNIOR EQUITATION LEAGUE (JEL):

- 7-10 riders on a team, split into 5 divisions (up to 2 riders per division):
  - Divisions range from WT & poles to WTC & a course of 18" fences

## Eligibility:

- Must be a rider enrolled in lessons at Full Moon Farm.
- Each team/division has its own requirements in terms of abilities, but a good rule of thumb is that riders should be able to walk, trot, & go over poles on unfamiliar horses (without being led).
- If you have not been on a team before, ask your instructor about it!
- If your instructor has encouraged you to do teams, it's a good idea to listen to them!

## Lesson Requirements:

- All team riders are required to ride in **two lessons per week** (beginning no later than the week of August 27th) **until the end of the season** (after Finale weekend).
- Your two weekly lesson days/times must be determined no later than August 19th.

## Tryouts & Placements:

- **Wednesday, August 9th, 2023**
  - \$25 Tryout fee due no later than **July 31st**.
  - 3pm-5:30pm: Tryouts in groups of 3-7 in 30-minute intervals.
  - 5:45pm: Coach, Parent\*, & Rider Meeting in the Chateau (\*at least 1 parent must attend).
  - We will contact you with your assigned ride time.
- Generally, all riders that attend tryouts are placed on a team.
- 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 for the duration of the season**, including:
  - 2 lessons per week through Finale, team dues, league fees, Tryout fees, and Finale fees.

## FMF EQUITATION TEAM COMMITMENTS:

### Parent Commitments:

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: You will 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 & Fullmoonian volunteers!
    - i. Expect to prep the barn/ring the night before the show, too (usually after Team Practice).
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 the food. *Other FMF team parents 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!
    - i. You are welcome to volunteer at more than one Food Booth!
3. At least one parent must attend the team Work Day.
  - a. *What is Work Day?* The team's riders and parents spend a few hours at the barn the day before their home show to prepare the horses, tack, arena, and barn. (This is usually right after Practice the day before the home show.)
4. At least one parent must attend the Paint Party for a minimum of 2 hours.
  - a. The paint party is generally held on a Saturday in September/October. Any parent unable to attend must contact Ms. Christine to set up an alternative time to come help.
5. Extra hours spent volunteering
  - a. As with all FMF events, the parents'/family's time spent volunteering at shows can be logged as Volunteer Hours, with the following exceptions:
    - i. No volunteer hours may be earned by a parent while working at **their rider's** home shows.
      1. 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).
      2. No volunteer hours may be earned by a parent while doing **their one required 2-hour** Paint Party shift. (*Additional hours may be logged as Volunteer Hours!*)

### Rider Commitments:

1. Riders must maintain a positive attitude and exhibit good sportsmanship at **all** times.
  - a. Absolutely no trash-talking/blaming other riders, horses, barns, coaches, parents, etc.
2. Riders must be scheduled in at least 2 lessons per week throughout the season.
  - a. Riders having to miss any lessons must schedule a makeup for those missed rides.
    - i. Even if you "no-show" a lesson or cancel late, **you are still required to make up those lessons** (yes, at extra cost!). *All riders must put in equal work towards becoming better riders!*
3. Riders must work their team's Work Day for their home show(s).
4. Riders must attend the Paint Party for a minimum of 2 hours.
  - a. Any rider unable to attend must contact Ms. Christine to set up an alternative time to come help.
  - b. This is a fun time to be together and meet other riders before our season officially begins. It's your chance to make all of our jumps & cavalettis look fresh and fantastic!
5. Riders must volunteer at at least 2 other Home Shows for our other FMF teams.
  - a. Two 3-hour shifts at any other FMF home shows (iJEL, NCSSEL, NCEL, NCAEL, or IEA).
    - i. Sign-ups for volunteering will be posted in advance.
  - b. After the mandatory 6 hours of volunteer time is met, the rider's time spent volunteering at shows can be logged as Volunteer Hours.
  - c. **Remember:** Time spent volunteering means helping, not standing around, eating, chatting, & watching! If you stay longer than your required shift, that's great, but you're fair game and will be expected to keep helping!

## FMF EQUITATION TEAM COST COMMITMENTS:

	<b>Due date</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Tryout Fee	July 31st	\$25
League Fee	July 31st	\$50
Team Dues	July 31st* *Early Bird rate expires after June 30th	\$400* *\$375 Early Bird rate if paid <b>on/before</b> June 30th
Show Fees (4 shows per season)	Will be collected prior to each show	Likely \$45 per show (may vary by league/year)
Team Jacket	Orders must be placed no later than September 8th	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 \$131 in 2023; will depend on fundraising)
Banquet Costs	Late February-Early March	TBD (was \$60/ticket in 2023)

### Cost Descriptions:

- 1) Tryout Fee: Covers the cost of Tryouts/rider evaluations.
  - a) Nonrefundable.
  - b) For equity purposes and to cover the time the coaches spend evaluating every rider: Even if you cannot attend Tryouts, you still owe the Tryout fee if you wish to join a team.
  
- 2) League Fee: 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) If you decide not to participate in Teams **PRIOR** to 12pm the day after Tryouts, we can **credit** the \$50 to your account.
  - b) League Fees will NOT be waived/credited/refunded (for any reason!) after 12pm the day after Tryouts.
  
- 3) Team Dues: Covers your coaching costs (at the 4 regular-season shows) and the 4 team practices.
  - a) If you decide not to participate in Teams **PRIOR** to 12pm the day after Tryouts, we can **credit** the \$375/400 to your account.
  - b) Team Dues will NOT be waived/credited/refunded (for any reason!) after 12pm the day after Tryouts.
  
- 4) Show Fees: Covers the costs we pay to each host-barn.
  - a) These payments will be due before each show.
  - b) Team parents will collect these payments from all riders, and then they will write one check to FMF to cover the whole team.

- 5) **Finale Costs:** Covers the costs of the JEL, NCSSEL, & NCEL Finale weekend.
- a) **2023-2024 Season Finale:** Fri.-Sun., March 1st-3rd, 2024 at Prince George's Equestrian Center
  - b) We trailer some of our own horses off-site for Finale.
  - c) Proceeds from your team's Home Show Food Booth & Fundraisers can be used towards these costs– it's up to your team to decide!
  - d) Costs for Finale include:
    - i) Entry Fee (\$TBD by the League)
    - ii) Horse-Use Fee (\$35; waived if your own horse is used at Finale)
    - iii) Coaching Fee (\$35)
    - iv) Trailering Fee (per horse, split equally amongst the riders)
    - v) Coaches' expenses
- 6) **Banquet Costs:** Covers your share of the costs for Banquet (Awards Ceremony), including a fraction of the coaches' Banquet costs.
- a) **2023-2024 Season Banquet:** Sun., April 7, 2024 at Laurel Park
- 7) **Team Jacket:** 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.

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**All riders and at least one parent must sign below to acknowledge and agree to all financial and physical commitments** as listed on pages 1-4 of this document, and either (1) email this page to [ridewithfmf2@gmail.com](mailto:ridewithfmf2@gmail.com) OR (2) print this page and bring it to Tryouts (on 8/2 or 8/9) or the Coach, Parent, & Rider Meeting (on 8/9), OR drop it off in one of the Payment Boxes at the farm (no later than 8/9).

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Rider Signature

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Date