

INFORMATION for JEL, NCSSEL, & NCEL EQUITATION TEAMS

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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 **2 lessons per week** (beginning no later than the week of September 8th) **until the end of the team season** (after Finale weekend). *At least one lesson must be a group lesson.*
- Your 2 weekly lessons must be booked as **Seasons in Hopoti** no later than August 17th.

Tryouts & Team Placements: Tryouts registration link: <https://forms.gle/5diYd2pWwWwNR8YPA>

- 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 Sunday, August 11th. **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.
- **Saturday, August 10th, 2024**
 - \$25 Tryouts fee due.
 - 2pm: Tryouts begin. *The exact time, length of session, and number of riders in each group will depend on the number of riders registered.*
 - We will contact you with your assigned ride time.
 - Coach, Parent*, & Rider Meeting after Tryouts in the Chateau (*at least 1 parent must attend). *Exact time will be posted once Tryouts end time is determined.*

FMF EQUITATION TEAM COMMITMENTS:

Parent Commitments:

1. **At least one parent per family 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!
2. **At least one parent per family 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 per family 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 per family 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. **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 team season.**
 - a. Riders are required to ride in 2 lessons per week (beginning no later than the week of September 8th) until the end of the team season (after Finale weekend). *At least one lesson must be a group lesson.*
 - b. The 2 weekly lessons must be booked as **Seasons in Hopoti** no later than August 17th.
 - c. Riders are expected to schedule a makeup for any missed lessons.
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 other Home Shows for our other FMF teams.**
 - a. Riders must do two 3-hour shifts at 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, 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:

	Due date	Cost
Tryout Fee	August 10th	\$25
League Fee	August 10th	\$50
Team Dues	August 10th *Early Bird rate expires after July 31st	\$400* *\$375 Early Bird rate if paid on/before July 31st
Show Fees (4 shows per season)	Will be collected prior to each show	Likely \$45 per show (may vary by league/year)
Team Jacket	Order will be placed by September 1st	Approx. \$135 (plus shipping, if applicable)
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 email ridewthfmf2@gmail.com to notify us that you will not participate in Teams **PRIOR** to 12pm on August 11th, we can **credit** the \$50 to your account (no refunds).
 - b) League Fees will NOT be waived/credited/refunded (for any reason!) after the deadline.

- 3) Team Dues: Covers your coaching costs (at the 4 regular-season shows) and the 4 team practices.
 - a) If you email ridewthfmf2@gmail.com to notify us that you will not participate in Teams **PRIOR** to 12pm on August 11th, we can **credit** the \$375/400 to your account (no refunds).
 - b) Team Dues will NOT be waived/credited/refunded (for any reason!) after the deadline.

- 4) Show Fees: Covers the costs we pay to each host-barn.
 - a) These payments will be due before each show. Riders unable to participate in a show do not need to pay that show's fee.
 - b) Riders will give their payments to Team parents, who will then write one check to FMF to cover the whole team.

- 5) **Finale Costs:** Covers the costs of the JEL, NCSSEL, & NCEL Finale weekend.
- Date and Location TBD (Likely a Fri-Sun during the first half of March)
 - 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!
 - Costs for Finale include:
 - Entry Fee (\$TBD by the League)
 - Horse-Use Fee (\$35; waived if your own horse is used at Finale)
 - Coaching Fee (\$35)
 - Trailering Fee (per horse, split equally amongst the riders)
 - Coaches' expenses
- 6) **Banquet Costs:** Covers your share of the costs for Banquet (Awards Ceremony), including a fraction of the coaches' Banquet costs.
- Date and Location TBD (likely a Sunday in mid-to-late April)
- 7) **Team Jacket:** All riders must have a blue FMF team jacket to wear to all team shows.
- Sign-up and payment instructions will be posted/announced in mid-August, if not sooner.
 - Pricing is determined by the embroidery company, but usually runs around \$135.
 - Family members are also encouraged to buy their own jackets!
 - Sometimes, team riders will sell their used jackets to new riders. If you'd like a used jacket, please email ridewithfmf2@gmail.com or reach out to a former team member to see what's available.

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 **OR** (2) print this page and bring it to Tryouts (on 8/2 or 8/10) or the Coach, Parent, & Rider Meeting (on 8/10), **OR** drop it off in one of the Payment Boxes at the farm (no later than 8/10).

Rider Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date