

INFORMATION for IEA MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL EQUITATION TEAMS

The early bird fee for joining a Full Moon IEA team will be \$70, paid to FMF, if you join by July 6th. If you join after July 6th the fee will be \$100. If you sign up for another equitation team at Full Moon Farm, the non-IEA team fee will be waived. Individual memberships (paid directly to IEA) are \$85 if you sign up before October 1st and \$95 if you sign up on or after October 1st. You join and pay IEA online after tryouts at the end of July.

Show fees: Each hosting team will charge \$65 per class. FMF will charge \$35 per class for coaching. Most riders will be in 2 classes per show. Class fees at regional and zone finals will be \$80, and national finals will be \$100. Be prepared to pay travel costs in addition to the usual show fees at zones and nationals.

Team Info Meeting and Tryouts/Team Placements:

July 6th at 7pm: Teams Info Meeting will be held at the Chateau. If you are new to teams, please plan to have at least one parent attend with your rider. If you cannot make the meeting, just let us know! We will try to do a Zoom meeting and can also set up a time to chat individually.

July 20th & 27th: Tryouts/Team Placements

1. Please book one of the Team Tryouts via Hopoti (cost is \$27). *If you cannot attend either date, please let us know. You can still be on a team, and still need to pay the tryout/placement fee.*
2. Tryouts are for **any spot on any FMF equitation 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.
 - a. **It is likely that not all riders trying out for IEA will make the team.** Riders trying out for IEA should be prepared to be placed on the JEL or NCSSEL team if they are not placed on IEA. (Due to higher financial commitments, riders trying out only for JEL/NCSSEL will not be placed on an IEA team.)
3. **Once determined, team placements are non-negotiable.** Rosters will be posted no later than 7pm Wednesday, July 29th. **If you do not back out** (must be done via email to ridewithfmf2@gmail.com) **by 10am on Tuesday, July 28th: You will be on the roster and will owe all fees associated with that team for the duration of the teams season**, including: 2 lessons per week through Finals, Tryout fee, and FMF Team Fee

Summary of fees –

FMF team fee - \$70/\$100 (to FMF)

IEA membership fee - \$85/\$95 (to IEA)

Each show - \$65 per class (to show host)

Coaching at a show - \$35 per class (to FMF)

Each rider will show in a maximum of 5 regular shows. (Does NOT include finals)

Key dates:

Sign-up deadline (to receive the discount) – July 6th

Tentative home show dates – October 11 and November 22

Regional finals – January 31, weather date February 7

Zone Finals – March 12 – 14 at Virginia Horse Center

National Finals – April 29 – May 2 – Tryon, NC

Other shows:

Ms. Mirrel will reach out requesting your availability on dates that other barns are hosting. She has to figure out how to have a full team at each show, get every rider to five shows, and deal with limitations set by each host. It's not easy, so we need your honest availability in order to make this possible. As soon as the dates are selected, she will let everyone know who is riding at each show. This will be fluid throughout the season!

Rider Commitments:

Riders must be scheduled in at least 2 lessons per week beginning no later than the week of Sept. 6th until the end of the team season.

1. At least one lesson must be a group lesson, but we highly recommend doing two group lessons– this gives riders the chance to practice sharing the arena with other horses and riders and provides the chance to learn through observation. Plus, riding with friends is a lot of fun!
2. Riders' twice-weekly lessons from Sept. 6th–Feb. 6th must be booked **no later than Aug. 29th**, to give us ample time to ensure everyone is enrolled in their required lessons.
 - a. **Starting with the Oct. 4th lesson Season:** Your 2 weekly lessons **must** be booked with the 18-week Season option through Feb. 6th.
 - b. **Starting with the Feb. 7th, 2027 lesson Season:** Your 2 weekly lessons **may** be booked with the 18-week Season option **OR** as individual lessons through Finale (typically early March), but must be booked **no later than Jan. 2nd**, so we can ensure everyone is enrolled in their required lessons.
3. Riders are expected to schedule a makeup for any missed lessons or team practices.

Home Shows

For both shows that we host, ALL team members and a parent are required to be there regardless of whether you're riding. We will also have a workday the day before each home show that all riders plus a parent must attend. There will be additional work for team members leading up to the show to make sure all of our horses are looking beautiful for the show (mane pulling, fetlock trimming, bathing, etc.).

Riders must attend the Paint Party for a minimum of 2 hours.

Any rider unable to attend must contact your coach to set up an alternative time to come help. 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!

Riders must volunteer at other Home Shows for our other FMF teams.

Riders must do two 3-hour shifts at other FMF home shows (JEL, NCSSEL, NCEL, NCAEL).

Sign-ups for volunteering will be posted in advance.

After the mandatory 6 hours of volunteer time is met, time spent volunteering at shows can be logged as Volunteer Hours.

Riders must maintain a positive attitude and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.

Absolutely no trash-talking/blaming other riders, horses, barns, coaches, parents, etc.

Feel free to email Mirrel with any questions – mirrelw@gmail.com

A brief description of IEA for newcomers

IEA is a national equitation league where the team travels to various farms or schools in their region or zone and compete on randomly drawn horses. On the high school team there are 4 levels and on the middle school team there are 3. To do well as a team, we need riders at every level. There are rules, based on the rider's experience, regarding who can compete at each level. Each level has an over-fences class and a flat class at each show, with the exception of the beginner levels which only have flat classes.

Just like at NCEL, or a Lehigh type show, points are awarded based on your placing in the class and are accumulated throughout the season. Before each show starts, the coach submits a point rider form indicating which rider's points will count for the team for each class. Regardless of who the point rider for the team is, all individuals receive points at each show. To qualify for regional finals, a team must accumulate 20 points and an individual must accumulate 18 points. Each year the number of teams and riders advancing to zones from regionals is determined based on the number of riders in each region and is assigned proportionately. Same with riders advancing to nationals from zones

A 1st place is 7 points, 2nd is 5, 3rd is 4, 4th is 3, 5th is 2 and 6th is 1. The team receiving the highest number of points from the point riders at a show will receive 7 points, the 2nd highest team will receive 5, etc. Each individual is allowed to participate in 5 shows, but there is no limit to the number of shows a team can participate in.

At the beginning of the season, we will receive a tentative schedule of shows. (It does change – shows get cancelled, added, limited, etc.) we will ask everyone to submit their availability for the shows – just a yes or no. You can't pick the five shows that you want to go to – we need to make sure there is a balanced team at each show because the team will do best if every class has a rider in it. We try to schedule the shows that each rider is going to a well in advance, but it can change. Everyone needs to be a bit flexible to help a teammate if something comes up, or if a show gets cancelled and we need to rearrange. And the nature of the scheduling is if one rider's plan changes it has a domino effect. We will make every effort to accommodate your schedule preferences. Sometimes shows are limited to a certain number of riders per class.

Show hosts want you to attend their shows – they know you have choices, so they try to make their shows as inviting as they can. The horses are usually nice and well-groomed, tack is clean and well cared for, and the rings and jumps are in good shape. At each show you will see different teams and different riders, so you won't be competing with the same people all the time. Everyone is always welcome and encouraged, but not required, to come out and cheer on the team if not riding. The shows are generally longer than an NCEL show.

There are 12 – 14 classes at each show if they are having both middle and high school classes, and most of the time a couple of sections in each class - meaning that if 18 kids sign up to compete in the novice flat class, they will divide it into 2 sections of 9 riders each. Hopefully our kids won't have to compete with each other because of split classes, but we can't count on that. It's sometimes a long day, but the kids enjoy hanging out together, and helping each other, and always have a good time. And since the age range is from middle through high school, they will have the opportunity to make lots of new friends!

Take a look at the national website rideiea.org for more information. We are in Zone 3. If you click on "Hunt Seat" and Zone 3 you will find more local information.