

Texas Riding Academy

Interscholastic Equestrian Association Team Handbook

Dear IEA Parents and Riders,

Welcome to the Texas Riding Academy Interscholastic Equestrian Association Team. Riding for and competing with IEA provides our riders with the opportunity to be a part of a supportive team environment, while making good friends and having fun! Through this experience we make every effort to:

- Support the goals of the Interscholastic Equestrian Association.
- Build confident and skilled riders through quality training, team support and exposure to competition.
- Introduce new riders to the equestrian sport.
- Receive Potential Scholarships for our riders. College scholarships are currently available from the Interscholastic Equestrian Association and others.
- Enhance College Attractiveness. Even if the rider decides not to participate on an equestrian team in college, participation at the High School level makes available leadership opportunities and responsibilities, which can be tremendously beneficial on college applications.

Our success depends on a strong commitment from our riders and parents. We rely on parent volunteers and the support of each rider. We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of parents and riders to work with in addition to a great facility.

Texas Riding Academy looks forward to a fun and successful IEA season!

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TEAM Contacts

TEAM ADMINISTRATOR

- Mistie Sobral
- instructor@texasridingacademy.com
- 602-291-1778

TEAM COACH

- Thiago Sobral
- instructor@texasridingacademy.com
- 602-616-0400

FUNDRAISING CHAIR

- Still Needed

TEAM FACEBOOK PAGE

- Texas Riding Academy IEA FB group
- We will invite all new members at the beginning of each new season

OTHER Contacts

- IEA Website: <https://www.rideiea.org/>
- Texas Riding Academy Website: www.texasridingacademy.com

Interscholastic Equestrian Association Mission and Objectives

The mission of IEA is to introduce students in private and public middle and secondary schools (ages 9 through 19) to equestrian sports, to provide information concerning the creation and development of school associated equestrian programs, to develop understanding and appreciation of equestrian sports through organized student competitions, to provide students with organized competitive events and to provide additional equine educational opportunities. Through the IEA, students may have the opportunity to earn scholarships towards their college education.

IEA Objectives

- To promote the equestrian as an athlete.
- To provide students with organized competitive opportunities.
- To introduce new riders to equine sports.
- To promote the IEA among middle, and secondary schools.
- To provide students with opportunities for further education equine sports and other equine-related matters.
- To encourage liaison with USA Equestrian, Inc., IHSA and other interested bodies.
- To provide information concerning the creation and development of school associated mounted and non-mounted equestrian programs.
- To establish and enforce IEA rules, standards and policies.
- To evolve with the continuing progress of equestrian sports.
- To generally promote the common interests of safe riding instruction and competition and education on matters related to the horse industry and all segments thereof.

IEA Competitions

The unique aspect of these competitions, both at the local and national level, is that none of the riders will supply their own horses or tack. Instead, the horses, saddle and other tack are all provided to the students at the show. The host team arranges for the horses and equipment. Essentially, the horse is new to the rider, and the scores are based upon horsemanship, not the horse. The competitions involve Reining, Horsemanship and Ranch Riding.

The IEA is an affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation, the National Reining Horse Association, and the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association.

For more information on IEA please go to: <https://www.rideiea.org/>

How IEA Works

Time Commitment

- Shows: Team Administrator schedules riders in up to six (6) shows over the season. A typical show day runs from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- We request that all IEA riders take a minimum of four (4) individual lessons per month.
- Group Lessons: We will have mandatory team group lessons before each show. These provide an opportunity to practice as a team and bond.

Regular Show Season

- Each rider can compete in a maximum of six (6) shows during the regular season, September through January. A commitment to show in a minimum of three (3) shows is required from each member.
- Team may attend more than six (6) shows to allow everyone the opportunity to compete in six shows if needed.
- There are four (4) levels of ability for Middle and High School Team riders ranging from beginning to varsity riding for Horsemanship and three (3) levels of ability for Reining.
- Team coach place riders in the appropriate classes based on the rider's skill level and the needs of the team.
- Individual points are earned as follows:
 - ❖ 1st place: 7 points
 - ❖ 2nd place: 5 points
 - ❖ 3rd place: 4 points
 - ❖ 4th place: 3 points
 - ❖ 5th place: 2 points
 - ❖ 6th place: 1 point
- Team coach also chooses one (1) rider per class as the "Point Rider" for each show. The riders are not given the identity of the point rider. Any points earned by this rider during that show will also count toward the team's overall score. At the end of the show, the point riders' points are added up for each team, and team points are earned as follows:
 - ❖ 1st place Champion: 7 points
 - ❖ 2nd place Reserve Champion: 5 points
 - ❖ 3rd place: 4 points
 - ❖ 4th place: 3 points
 - ❖ 5th place: 2 points
 - ❖ 6th place: 1 point

Region Finals “Regionals”

- If a rider accumulates fifteen (15) or more points in a season they qualify to compete in Regionals.
- If a team accumulates twenty (20) or more points in a season, the team qualifies to compete in Regionals.
- The Coach will decide the riders who will compete in each class for the team at Regionals based on point accumulation, team spirit and participation, as well as overall skill level. Coach has final say. Typically, the team placements remain unchanged once chosen for Regionals. However, the coach may substitute team members for Zones and Nationals.
- A rider may qualify individually and be chosen as a team representative. This means they will compete twice, in both the individual and team rounds.

******PLEASE NOTE******

The IEA does not require that a rider competes in a class they do not want to compete in, but it will limit their ability during postseason. For example, in the class descriptions on page 25 of the current rulebook, if a Varsity Open Reining rider wants to be a team rider during the postseason, then they must compete in at least two Varsity Open Horsemanship classes during the regular season.

Zone Finals “Zones” and National Finals “Nationals”

- Generally, the top 3 riders in each individual class and the top 2-3 teams at Regionals advance to Zones. (This number may vary according to total number of registered riders in the Zone).
- Advancing to Nationals is done similarly.
- Riders are responsible for their own travel costs to shows
- The Coach’s travel costs to shows are split between all Riders.

Horse Assignments

- IEA does not require participants to own a horse. Horses are provided by the show hosts.
- The horses are pooled based on what classes they are appropriate for and randomly assigned to riders through a blind draw.
- Riders are judged on their own ability and are not supposed to be penalized for horse error.

Judges

- All IEA competitions are judged by IEA registered judges.

Registration, FSE Member Fees and Expenses

IEA Registration Fee (Register and Pay Online)

\$60 paid on IEA website via credit card or PayPal (Must be completed and paid online before Nov 1st to join for the current season) – see IEA Membership Guidelines & Information sheet.

How To Register For IEA

- Go online to rideiea.org and click on "Membership" tab
- Complete the "Rider" application" & print it out (Team Name is Texas Riding Academy)
 - ❖ Western Division
- Make sure to also print your proof of payment before you exit registration or get copy in your email inbox
- Rider and parent/guardian BOTH need to sign the form in the lower righthand corner
- Turn in your registration form with your proof of payment to us
 - ❖ It takes up to 15 days to add a rider, so please do this as soon as possible
 - ❖ Please email team administrator a scanned version of the signed rider application & proof of payment so that I can complete the registration process

FSE IEA Team Costs and Fees

- Monthly Fees: \$300 - this includes four lessons per month
- Class Fees: \$45 / class at regular season shows, \$60/class at finals (regional, zone, etc.)
- Trainer Expenses & Fees at shows (depends on number of participants & location of show, all will be split among competitors. Examples include hotel, flight expense etc)
 - ❖ A coaching fee is charged for each day of a show plus travel days per rider – this amount does not include trainer expenses: \$100/day
- When our team is co-hosting or hosting a show, team members will split any costs associated with hosting that show (i.e. stall fees, haul in fees, judge's fees, etc.)
- Team jacket and polo or any other items needed (i.e. matching chairs, blankets, etc.)

Drop Out Fee (All Ages): if any member drops off the team before the end of the regular season, a \$150 fee will be charged. Since we are working as a team to qualify for Nationals, we need a commitment for the entire regular season. Members are NOT required to move on to the Region, Zone or National Finals.

Other Expenses

- Team Jacket: \$TBD
- Team Polo: \$TBD
- Team Chair: \$TBD
- Team Blanket: \$TBD
- Show Attire: Rider must come to shows in complete show attire

Show Attire, Gear & Equipment (required for each rider)

Reining

- Show Western Hat (or IEA approved helmet)
- Long sleeve western shirt. We will pick colors of shirts as a team.
- Black Chaps
- Blue jeans
- Western Belt with belt buckle
- Black western boots

Horsemanship

- Hair must be up in a low bun. You will need rubber band, Bobby pins, hair net and hair spray
- Long sleeve Horsemanship shirt (please talk to Mistie for appropriate horsemanship shirt options)
- Belt with belt buckle to match shirt and chaps color.
- Long pants. Color must match shirt base color.
- Chaps must match pant color.
- Black or Brown Western boot- color will depend on the outfit color.

Team Gear

- Team Jacket (required)
- Team Polo Shirt (required)

A Note From IEA:

Western Attire - It is mandatory for all riders to use appropriate Western tack and Western attire while showing; this would include a long sleeve shirt, Western hat or safety helmet, boots, Western saddle, and Western bridle. Team identifying logos and names are not allowed on Western show clothing. Failure to use appropriate attire will result in a score of zero.

Western Hats/Helmets - Safety riding helmets are acceptable in Western divisions at every level. At all times while mounted, Western riders in grades 4 and 5, as well as middle and upper school riders competing in the Beginner divisions, (classes 7, 8, 13, 14) must wear a harnessed and fully fastened protective ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet for equestrian use. The IEA will follow the guidelines of USEF in the matter of what constitutes a safety helmet. In all classes in which safety riding helmets are required, a rider whose safety helmet becomes lost or unfastened while in the show ring will be disqualified and immediately excused from the ring. Helmets and chinstraps must be fitted properly according to manufacturer's instructions.

Western riders in grades 6-12 competing in the Novice, Intermediate, and Open divisions (classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12) have the option of competing in Western hats or safety helmets as long as they follow all local and state guidelines and laws pertaining to safety riding.

Competitions & What To Expect At Shows

IEA show days can be very long depending on the number of teams and individual riders participating. Some show hosts will limit the number of riders from one team in each class to keep competitions running smoothly and on time. It is important that when the Team Administrator sends in the entry for a show, that the number of riders per class from each team be identified. This may or may not keep some riders from participating, but it is best to know early so that riders can be told if they are going or not. When several riders from the same team, who compete in the same class, want to go to a show and space is restricted, coaches will make the decision on who goes based on several criteria (i.e. how many shows they've already done, how committed they are to the team, how many points they have accumulated during the season, etc).

Delays during the day may occur due to re-rides, weather issues, horse issues or rider issues. Expect the show days to run from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, although some shows will end earlier or later.

All TRA riders attending the show are expected to contribute equally and stay for the entire show, even if they finish early, to support their teammates who may be competing at the end of the day. Teammates are always expected to support each other, helping each other to get ready, cheering on teammates during classes and supporting teammates when they are discouraged after a class.

Parents can help with making sure that riders and coaches have food and water throughout the day. Parents will play a big role at co-hosted and hosted shows as well.

Please see "Expectations of Parents and Riders" section.

The TRA IEA Team will practice, compete, support each other and win or lose as a TEAM!

Parent & Rider Expectations

Parent Commitment

- Assist with team sponsored shows
- Assist with 100% of team fundraising activities
- Make sure riders are present at all lessons, shows, show preparations and team events
- Attend parent meetings and team meetings when applicable
- Fiscally responsible for IEA fees, lesson fees, show and trainer fees, and riding apparel
- Respect the coach and the show sponsor's decisions
- Come out to team practice meets to support team

Rider Commitment

- Compete in three (3) to six (6) regular shows per season
- Be respectful of trainers, parents, fellow riders, and other teams at ALL times
- Attend and participate in 100% of team fundraising events
- Be responsible for horse and equipment management/care at shows
- Be grateful for the horses you draw at shows - Ask handlers about the horse before you mount and thank them for the horse & their assistance when you are done with your class
- Be available to the trainers at all times during the show to assist
- Attend all team meetings
- Respect trainer, team captain and team administrator decisions
- Respect any trainer decisions that are made at shows or at practice meets
- Respect the horses and the facility at ALL times
- Show up for practice meets on time, ready to ride your best, as if you were showing
- Take good care of the horses after each ride and at the end of practice meets
- ALWAYS have a positive attitude
- Keep tack stations, tack rooms, tack and equipment well organized and clean at home and at shows
- Clean school tack and groom horses before and after shows and practice meets

Substance Use Policy

There is a zero-tolerance substance use policy among kids, teens and parents during competitions. We ask that parents refrain from bringing alcoholic beverages to IEA Shows and Practices. Any violation to this policy may lead to expulsion from the team.

Parent and Rider Acceptance Signatures

I have read the TRA IEA Handbook carefully and understand its contents and the expectations of the riders and parents set forth above.

Student/Rider Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Print Rider's Name: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

TRA IEA Team Application

Yes, I would like to join the Five Star Equestrian IEA Team!

Rider Information:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Previous Riding Experience: _____

Grade in School: _____

School Name: _____

Parent(s) Information:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

➤ Are you currently in a regular lesson program: YES NO (Please circle one)

❖ If YES, who is your current trainer: _____

➤ Have you ever shown in a rated show: YES NO (Please circle one)

❖ If YES, what is the most recent level and discipline in which you competed:

➤ Have you ever been on an IE Team in the past: YES NO (Please circle one)

❖ If YES, for which team did you ride: _____

❖ In what level/class did you compete for IEA: _____

Parents

Parent participation is essential to the success of our season. Opportunities will arise throughout the season. If you know now how you would like to contribute, for example with fundraising, apparel orders, advertising, snack coordination or other areas or organization, please indicate the area you would like to participate in:

Thank you. We will contact you soon!

The TRA IEA Team