

2022 - 2023
SOUTHEAST MOUNTED DRILL TEAM ASSOCIATION
National High Point Series

We at Southeast Mounted Drill Team Association are dedicated to the growth of both the rider and team as a whole by providing a fair and competitive environment.



Show Season runs September 1 through August 31

2022 - 2023 SEMDTA High Point Series Show Dates

September 23-25, 2022 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena
2 day show: Saturday & Sunday

November 18-20, 2022 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena
2 day show: Saturday & Sunday

February 17-19, 2023 - Unadilla, GA Southeastern Arena
2 day show: Saturday & Sunday

April 21-23, 2023 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena (**State Championship**)
2 day show: Saturday & Sunday

June 9 -11 , 2023 - Statesboro, GA - Bulloch Co. Agricultural Complex (**National Championship**)
2 day show: Saturday & Sunday

Updated June 2022

SOUTHEAST MOUNTED DRILL TEAM ASSOCIATION OPEN AND 4-H MOUNTED DRILL TEAM RULES

CLASSES

No rider is allowed to ride on more than one team per class.

QUADS: Four (4) minutes minimum and six (6) maximum. Music of choice. It will be Judges discretion as to the emphasis of the drill, music, theme and any costumes used. Each group of four must have a separate name and separate riders. Must submit a separate entry form and release form for each team.

PATRIOT: Any number of riders allowed. A minimum of four (4) minutes and a maximum of six (6) minutes are allowed. Team must utilize patriotic content/music. Flags are not mandatory; however, if flags are not utilized, this will affect the team's degree of difficulty and patriotic content scores.

THEME: Any number of riders allowed. A minimum of four (4) minutes and a maximum of six (6) minutes is allowed. Music of choice. Props are allowed. Props must be set up during your courtesy lap. Points may be scored on how appropriate the music was to the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set to the music used and the appropriateness of the music to the theme of the drill. Safe props to enhance your Theme may be used in the arena. This is not Theatrical Theme and riders are not allowed to exit and re-enter the arena.
(Green Division only: no flags or props may be carried by riders!)

FREESTYLE: Any number of riders allowed. A minimum of four (4) minutes and a maximum of six (6) minutes are allowed. Music of choice. Points may be scored on how appropriate the music was to the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set to the music used. Primary emphasis shall be placed on the drill, uniforms, tack, equitation and music.

DIVISIONS

New means first competition you have ever competed in

Green Division: *Walk Trot Only.* No restriction on ages of riders. No limit on years of riding until 8 years of age. If 8 years or older, may only ride in Green two (2) years. Must have only (1) experienced rider in the Green Classes. No flags or props. ***There will be a 15 point deduction for carrying flags or props per Judge.*** If a Green team rider rides in any other Division, they are no longer eligible to ride in the Green Division, including classes within the same show season.

Novice Division: *No gait restrictions.* A new rider that has not competed in drill before (excluding Green Division). Rider is considered Novice for one competition season. Novice team must consist of at least 60% or more new riders. If a Novice team rider rides in any other Division, they are no longer eligible to ride in the Novice Division, including classes within the same show. *This does not pertain to the 40% that are not true Novice.* Adult and Youth will all be judged together.

Here is the breakdown for number of riders at 60% (20 = 12, 19 = 11, 18 = 11, 17 = 10, 16 = 10, 15 = 9, 14 = 8, 13 = 8, 12 = 7, 11 = 7, 10 = 6, 9 = 6, 8 = 5, 7 = 4, 6 = 4, 5 = 3, 4 = 3).

Youth/4-H Division: All riders in this division will be under the age of nineteen (19) years old at the beginning of the show season. One rider may be over the age of 18.

Open Division: No restriction on ages of riders.

RULES AND INFORMATION

Show Manager has Final Decision Over all Rules

- 1. Check-In:** You will need to come to the office to pick up your RV parking permits, and if you have not done so, sign your entry form and provide your team's signed release forms. If you have anything to declare, (medical issues with horse or rider) let the SEMDTA Director know at check-in. If something happens overnight that you need to declare, please contact the SEMDTA Director immediately that morning. **Coaches Meeting will be held only as needed.**
- 2. Order of Go:** Once all entries are received, the Order of Go will be emailed to the Coach. You will have **48 hours** to respond with any changes (number of riders, team name or your position in the Order of Go). After that time, no changes will be made. ***Out of respect for everyone DO NOT ASK! This will be strictly enforced.***
- 3. Arena Practice Time:** A Google Practice Sheet is utilized for Coaches to schedule practice. You must have a Google (GMail.com) email for us to grant you access to the sheet. If you do not already have a Google account, go to Google drive and follow the steps to create one. The account will also be used for the Judges audio critiques. Once you have set up the account, please send your new GMail to SEMDTADirector@gmail.com. for us to grant you access. Practice is limited to 30 minutes per Head Coach. Please be courteous and respectful of your fellow Coaches by exiting at the end of your arena time if someone is waiting. **Show Management will not be playing music during arena time and the announcer booth will not be open.**

To Sign Up For Practice:

- a. Sign into your Google Account.
 - b. Go to Drive (under the dots on the far right side).
 - c. Go to Shared (will show you any files or folders that SEMDTA has shared with you).
 - d. Double click on Practice Sheet.
 - e. Fill in your team name in the time slot you would like.
 - f. You do not have to save, just exit.
 - g. Times taken will show up on the SEMDTA website.
- 4. State Placings:** this is an accumulation of ranking points from the September, November, February and April shows. The team with the overall highest accumulated ranking points in each Division (Green, Novice, Youth/4-H and Open) and having missed only one show will be named the SEMDTA State Champion for that Division. The winner of the Open Division will be announced as our SEMDTA State Champion and will receive one free tack stall for the National Competition in June 2023. ***You do not have to be from Georgia to win the SEMDTA State Championship.***
TIP: the more classes you enter in your Division, the more ranking points you can earn.
 - 5. National Placings:** SEMDTA will use the ranking system to determine placings for all classes. The team with the highest accumulation of ranking points in each Division (Green, Novice, and Youth/4-H) will be named the SEMDTA National Champion for that Division. The team with the highest accumulation of ranking points in Freestyle Open ***and*** Theatrical Mayhem will be announced as our SEMDTA National Champion. **TIP:** the more classes you enter in your Division, the more ranking points you can earn.

Definition of Theatrical Mayhem: Any number of riders allowed. A minimum of four (4) minutes and a maximum of (6) six minutes. Drill will be ridden to a theme. Maneuvers and music will be given to each team at the February 2023 competition. Emphasis should be placed on costuming, props and people telling a story related to the theme. Coach must provide a written story for their drill routine due by the entry deadline of the National Competition.

6. General Scoring: SEMDTA uses the ranking system to determine placings for all classes.

RANKING POINTS								
For Example: there are 3 teams in a class								
	Judge 1 Score	Judge 1 Placing	Ranking Pts	Judge 2 Score	Judge 2 Placing	Ranking Pts	Overall Total Ranking Pts	Overall Placing
Theme								
Team A	585	1	3	530	2	2	5	1st
Team B	581	3	1	550	1	3	4	2nd
Team C	583	2	2	510	3	1	3	3rd

Ties will be broken based off the Judges scoring starting with Execution of Drill (spacing, timing and alignment), Degree of Difficulty and then Horsemanship. *Score sheets will be given out immediately following the competition.*

7. Overall High Point Placings: This is an accumulation of ranking points in each Division for all five shows (September, November, February, April and June). The Overall High Point team per Division will be announced as the SEMDTA Overall Division Champion. (Green, Novice, Youth/4-H, and Open). To be eligible for this title a team can only miss one show and must compete in Nationals. ***In order to receive points for the Overall Division High Point placings Coaches must enter the same team name consistently throughout the year.***

At the end of the 2022-2023 Season we will be having CASH PRIZES for the Overall High Ranking Division Champions. This means we will run a tally of ALL classes each team enters in their respective Divisions and at seasons-end, the team with the highest ranking points in their Division will be that Division's Overall Champion.

OVERALL DIVISION CHAMPIONS

(Minimum of three teams per show in a Division for CASH Pay-out)

Open Division	\$1,500
Youth/4-H Division	\$ 850
Novice Division	\$ 350
Green Division	\$ 300

Each season we will select one team's Coach to be the SEMDTA Coach of the Season. Throughout the show season, we will take note of how well Coaches interact and communicate with their teams, their leadership skills, integrity, timely submission of entry fees and forms, good sportsmanship, being a good role model, among other attributes

8. **Ribbons:** Ribbons will be given out for first through third placings only. Other placings will be announced but will not receive a ribbon.
9. **Flag Protocol:** proper flag protocol and flag carriage must be maintained at all times during competition. Flag tops must be balls or caps (no eagles, spikes, or spears due to safety concerns and insurance) during competition.
10. **Whistle:** Use of the whistle for maneuver changes during competition is at the discretion of each Head Coach. ALL team Coaches are required to wear a whistle to stop your team in an emergency situation (collision or fall).
11. **Re-ride:** will be requested by the Coach and will be at the discretion of the SEMDTA Director and Judges based upon uncontrollable circumstances (equipment failure related to the venue where competition is being held, severe storm, dog inadvertently running into arena, etc.).
12. **Arena:** you should look over the riding surface for dropped items before you enter for competition. Courtesy laps are a good time to inspect the arena floor. Any item in the arena at the end of your ride may receive the proper deductions.
13. **Reins:** ALL riders on each team are to ride one of three choices: all left handed, all right handed or all two handed. It will be scored by the Judges in a fair and impartial manner. If one rider or more is different, deductions may apply.
14. **Courtesy lap:** each team must take a courtesy lap around the arena before your drill. The Judges may use this time to inspect your team. Immediately following your courtesy lap, the team should line up at the gate and be ready to enter for their performance.
15. **Gate:** each team must have your own person to work the gates. For safety reasons gates must be closed during all classes.
16. **Pets:** **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** (except venue owned pets) will be allowed in the competition arena or stands at any time regardless if they are on a leash or just someone holding their pet. In all other areas, pets must be secured at all times. If pets are seen in the arena or stands, the show may be stopped until they are removed. If your pet displays disruptive behavior in other areas on the property such as continuous barking, etc., you will be asked to remove your pet from the area. **No Exceptions!**
17. **Children and Spectators: SAFETY!** Everyone must stay in or behind seating areas. Absolutely no one is allowed on or beside arena railing! The show will be stopped until safety is resumed.

18. **Barn Aisles: SAFETY!** Aisles must be kept clean and clear. Each team must assign a responsible adult to maintain cleanliness and organization of their stall area at all times. Tables, food, and empty chairs must be in a tack stall. Aisles must be swept and free of trash, hay, and empty chairs. **Any items found making an area unsafe will be removed. NO RIDING IN THE BARN OR AISLES - this includes horses, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller blades, or any other transportation device. If a team rider(s) is caught riding in the barn, there will be a 25 point deduction per Judge per class (this will be strictly enforced)!**

19. **Entry Forms:** Each team with a different name **must** have separate entry and release form. Do not combine multiple teams onto one form. Example: Floyd County JV and Floyd County Varsity each must have their own entry form and their own release form. Any team without all of the proper signatures will not be allowed to compete, and no refunds will be given. **All forms and full payment must be received by the entry deadline. Absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS! Late penalties will be enforced. Any entries or payments received after the deadline will receive a 25 point deduction per Judge and per class entered (see score sheet).**

REMINDER: Please make sure you are consistent throughout the year with your team name(s), in the Classes and Divisions entered to allow for accumulation of points towards State, National and Overall Division Championships.

20. **Coggins and Health Certificate:** Negative Coggins is required for all horses. If you are coming from another State, you will need to have a Health Certificate plus your Negative Coggins for the competition. You will need to bring a copy of all Coggins and Health Certificates. The Coach needs to have a copy of ALL documentation in their possession.

21. **Absolutely no smoking in barns, arenas, restrooms, etc.)** Venue rules apply at all times. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

22. Time will be announced after each team's drill. Official Time Keeper's announced ride time is final.

23. **JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL!!!!**

DISQUALIFICATION

- A. **No** pyrotechnics are allowed at any competition anywhere on the property.
- B. **No person** on foot allowed in the arena at any time except for an Emergency. Only people allowed in arena for an Emergency is Coach, parents of rider and appointed medical personnel. The other exceptions are show officials when necessary. Anyone else entering the arena except for the above mentioned will be cause for the team to be disqualified.
- C. **Immediately** following your courtesy lap, the team should line up at the gate and be ready to enter for their performance. Failure to do so will be cause for disqualification.
- D. **A rider** may not leave the arena and return during a performance. Team will be disqualified.
- E. **Flag Protocol:** Teams will be disqualified using any flag top other than ball or cap during regular competition.
- F. **Unacceptable Behavior:** SEMDTA has standards of behavior for riders, parents, Coaches and spectators at all events. This includes professionalism, respect, sportsmanship and courtesy to everyone. If you have a concern, the SEMDTA Director has an open door policy and is willing to discuss anything.

RULES FOR PROTESTS

A Grievance Committee will be designated by the SEMDTA Director before the drill team competition begins. This committee will act upon protests arising out of matters pertaining to rules and eligibility. A grievance or protest must be made in writing and presented by the Coach only, accompanied by a \$100 cash fee during or immediately upon conclusion of the drill in question. Protests made by anyone other than a Coach will be considered invalid. The rider and/or riders and the reasons for the protest being filed must be designated (division, team name, riders). ***Protestor's name will not be made public.*** If the protest is upheld by the Grievance Committee, the deposit will be refunded to the Coach. If the protest is overruled, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Competition fund. The decision of the Committee is final. The Grievance Committee will not reverse the placing of the class if the protest is found to be invalid. If protest is found to be valid, placements will be adjusted accordingly. **No protests, questions, or discussions regarding decisions of the show will be accepted or held after the awards ceremony.**

MUSIC RULES

1. Coaches must submit music and team introductions by email; **one class at a time**, to semdtadirector@gmail.com **no later than the show's entry deadline date**. Each class must have a single music file and team introduction. You will send these as attachments in an email for **each class entered**.
2. **ABSOLUTELY NO SYMBOLS OR NUMBER SIGNS (#) CAN BE IN ANY FILE NAME.**
3. Music files must be in MP3 file format.
4. Introduction files must be in word or PDF format, typed, double-spaced, 12 point, Arial font. A header at the top should have the class name and team's full name. Do not put the Class number on the header!

EXAMPLE: Quad Youth
Madison Co. 4-H Cowboys & Angels Varsity
5. The subject line of your emails and attachment/file names must be class name - team name, i.e., Madison County 4-H Cowboys & Angels JV in the Theme Novice Class, would put Theme Novice Class - Madison JV. Class names should mirror what is on the Entry Form and team names shortened. When labeling, please keep it short.
6. No changes in music or introduction files after we have received them and/or current show's deadline.
7. Once music and introduction files are received, the announcer will use them all season long. When or if you want to make a change, new music and/or introduction files must be emailed by the deadline entry date of a future show.