

2023-2024
SOUTHEAST MOUNTED DRILL TEAM ASSOCIATION
National Buckle Series
OPEN MOUNTED DRILL TEAM RULES

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

2023 - 2024 SEMDTA Buckle Series Competition Dates

All Shows are 2 days: Saturday and Sunday

November 17-19, 2023 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena

February 23-25, 2024 - Statesboro, GA - Bulloch Ag Center Complex

April 19-21, 2024 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena (State Championship)

June 21-23, 2024 - Gainesville, GA - Chicopee Ag Center (National Championship)

September 20-22, 2024 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena

November 15-17, 2024 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena

Updated September 2023

CLASSES

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.

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, the pace the horses set to the music used and the appropriateness of the music and costume 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!)

QUADS: Team of four (4) riders. All Quad team riders must be a part of and ride on your full team.

DIVISIONS

GREEN: Walk Trot Only. No restrictions 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 Divisions. No flags or props. There will be 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: No gait restrictions. A new rider that has not competed in drill before (excluding Green Division). Rider is considered Novice for two competition seasons. A Coach may decide if they want to move their Novice team up after one year of competition. 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.

YOUTH/4-H (Quad and Full Teams): All riders in this Division will be 18 years of age and under at the beginning of the show season. Cannot ride same drill routine in the Open Division, at the same show. If entering Open Division classes in the same show, **MUST** submit a Drill Maneuver Form for each Open Class entered by the show's deadline date. Quad and full teams may ride the same drill within the same Division. Please see rule #21.

OPEN (Quad and Full Teams): No restriction on ages of riders. Cannot ride same drill in Youth/4-H Division, at the same show. If entering Youth/4-H Division classes in the same show, **MUST** submit a Drill Maneuver Form for each Youth/4-H Class entered by the show's deadline date. Quad and full teams may ride the same drill within the same Division. Please see rule #21.

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 team's signed release forms. Teams will not be allowed to participate if we do not have the signed release forms.
- 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. We will have a practice sheet for Friday and Saturday. 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 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 AND Coaches 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. **Warm-Up Arena:** This arena is for warm-up **ONLY!!!!**
 - a. No standing horses in warm-up arena
 - b. No practicing of routine in warm-up arena
 - c. No socializing on horses (standing at rail) in warm-up arena
 - d. No photos taken in warm-up arena
 - e. Once you have warmed up your horses, exit the arena!!

5. **State Placings:** The team with the highest accumulation of ranking points in Quad and Full Team Classes in the Open Division **for that day (stand alone show)** will be announced as our SEMDTA State Champion. All Quad team riders must be a part of and ride on your full team.

6. **National Placings:** The team with the highest accumulation of ranking points in Quad and Full Team Classes in each Division; (Green, Novice, Youth/4-H, Open) **for all five (5) shows** will be announced as our SEMDTA National Champion and will receive buckles for each rider for their team. All Quad team riders must be a part of and ride on your full team. There must be at least 3 teams in each Division to receive the buckle.

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

RANKING POINTS								
Example: there are 3 teams in a class								
	Judge 1 Score	Judge 1 Placing	Ranking Points	Judge 2 Score	Judge 2 Placing	Ranking Points	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 by Overall Total points and then if still tied will be 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.**

8. **Coach of the Season:** 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.

9. **Ribbons:** Ribbons will be given out for first through sixth placings only. Other placings will be announced but will not receive a ribbon.
10. **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.
11. **Whistle:** Use of the whistle for maneuver changes during competition is at the discretion of each Head Coach.
12. **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.).
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. **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. You should give a thumbs up to the Announcer Booth when you are ready to begin your routine, **please remember we cannot start the routine until the Judges say they are ready.**
16. **Gate:** Each team must have your own person to work the gates. For safety reasons gates must be closed during all classes.
17. **Pets: ABSOLUTELY NO 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!**
18. **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.
19. **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. ABSOLUTELY 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)!**

- 20. Entry Forms:** Each team with a different name **must** have separate entry and release forms. Do not combine multiple teams onto one form. Example: Sumter County JV and Sumter 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. Signatures on our release forms are good for one calendar year. When you get a new rider, it is your responsibility as the Coach to have the new rider sign a release form and submit it. All forms and full payment must be received by the entry deadline. **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 the National Championship.

- 21. Maneuver Form:** Maneuver forms are required ONLY from teams that enter BOTH Youth/4-H Division and Open Division classes in the same show. May use the same maneuvers for Quad and Full Teams for the current season. PDF fillable Maneuver forms are available on the Resources page of the SEMDTA website. Maneuver forms must be in auto fill format, or you will be asked to resubmit. Maneuvers must be listed and performed in the order designated on the form. It is solely the Coaches responsibility (not Judges or Show Manager) to ensure the accuracy of each form submitted. Judges will make sure all maneuvers are performed in the order (none left out or added) as listed on the form for the class being judged. Teams that do not perform maneuvers in the order designated for the class will be disqualified and receive no score or ranking points for the class. Does not include Green or Novice Divisions.

- 22. Coggins and Health Certificates:** 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. The Coach needs to have a copy of ALL documentation in their possession.

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

- 24. Time:** Will be announced after each team's drill. Official Time Keeper's announced ride time is final!

25. At no time is anyone allowed in the office except the Head Coach!

26. **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 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 routine. Failure to do so will be cause for disqualification.
- D. **A rider** may not leave the arena and return during a routine. 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. This means before, during and after a competition. The person or persons can be removed and not allowed to attend future competitions.
- G. **Maneuver Form:** Automatic Disqualification if you do not run your maneuvers in the order submitted **AND** if Youth/4-H and Open class routines are not different.

RULES FOR PROTESTS

A Grievance Committee will be designated by the SEMDTA Director. 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 AND INTRODUCTION RULES

1. Late music/introductions will receive a 25 point deduction per class entered.
2. Time does not permit for us to check all of your music to see what has changed from one show to the next. **PLEASE ONLY SEND CHANGES!!!!**
3. Due to rider turnover during the season, it is **STRONGLY** suggested that you omit riders names in your introductions. Come up with interesting and exciting write ups for your introductions.
4. Coaches must submit team introductions and music files through the SEMDTA website.
 - a. Visit semdta.org
 - b. Click on **SHOWS**
 - c. Click on current show date
 - d. Click on Class Introductions & Music Uploads
 - e. Fill in your name, phone number, and email
 - f. Select your team, the class, and division
 - g. Attach the class introduction file (pdf or doc)
 - h. Attach the class music (mp3): these can be found on the internet as MP3 music
 - i. Click Submit
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO SYMBOLS OR NUMBER SIGNS (#) CAN BE IN ANY FILE NAME.**
6. 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 Theme Youth/4-H
Madison Co 4-H Cowboys & Angels Varsity
7. The files you upload via Class Introductions & Music Uploads should be saved with the Class Name first followed by your Team Name, i.e., **Quad Freestyle Open - Madison Varsity** (Hint: Check the show's Entry Form or Order of Go to get correct Class names). If you have a lengthy team name, please abbreviate.
8. No changes will be made in music or introduction files after we have received them and/or current show's deadline.
9. 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. **Please do not send all of your music or introduction files if there are no changes. Only send the music or introduction you are changing!!**