

2026-2027
SOUTHEAST MOUNTED DRILL TEAM ASSOCIATION
OPEN AND 4-H 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

2026 - 2027 SEMDTA Competition Dates

All Shows are 2 days: Saturday and Sunday

Patriot, Green, Intermediate and Fun Drill (Saturday)

Patriot, Novice, Advanced and Fun Drill (Sunday)

September 18-20, 2026 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena

November 20-22, 2026 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena

February 19-21, 2027 - Statesboro, GA - Bulloch Co Ag Center

April 16-18, 2027 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena

June 4-6, 2027 - Tiger, GA - Rabun Arena (SE Regional Championship)

Updated August 2026

CLASSES

- ***Must have a minimum of 2 teams in a Class with the exception of Green and Novice.***
- ***A minimum of four (4) minutes and a maximum of six (6) minutes is allowed for all classes.***
- ***All classes listed below will earn points for the season***

FREESTYLE: Music of choice. Points will be scored on how well the music fits the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set. Primary emphasis shall be placed on the drill, uniforms, tack, equitation and music.

THEME: Music of choice. Patriotic costumes are only allowed in the Patriot Class. Points will be scored on how well the music fits the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set as well as the appropriateness of the music and costume to the theme of the drill. Safe props are allowed to enhance your Theme. Props must be set up immediately after the previous team exits the arena.
(Green and Novice Division only: no flags or props may be carried by riders!)

PATRIOT: ***All Divisions are allowed to enter.*** Team must utilize patriotic costumes, content and music. Points will be scored on how well the music fits the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set as well as the appropriateness of the music and costume. Flags are not mandatory.

QUADS: Quad teams do not need to be part of your full team. Should your team win in their Division at the end of the season, if you would like to purchase the additional buckles for your Quad team (not part of your full team) you can do that at your expense.

FUN DRILL: Music of choice (no introduction, just music on the elfsight). A list of required maneuvers will be drawn on Friday morning for Green and Intermediate. Each group performs a drill in a Freestyle format with a time limit of 4 - 6 minutes. Absolutely no practice on horseback is allowed, foot practice only (see page 8)! A list of required maneuvers will be drawn on Saturday morning for Novice and Advanced. ***All team members must participate.***

DIVISIONS

There must be 3 teams in a Division at every show for buckles to be awarded

Show Management reserves the right to move a team into a different Division during the show season based on the team's performance. Show placings will not change for the previous shows.

B **ONUS POINTS:** Large teams competing with more than 8 riders receive one (1) point for each rider over 8.

- ***Small teams consist of 7 riders and less.***
- ***Large teams consist of 8 riders and more.***

GREEN: *Walk Trot Only.* Must have a minimum of four (4) riders. No restrictions on ages of riders. Rider is considered Green for up to two (2) years. A Coach may decide if they want to move their Green team up after one year of competition. May have only (1) experienced rider in the Green Division. 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: *Must demonstrate walk, trot and canter (the whole team has to demonstrate the gate at the same time).* Must have a minimum of four (4) riders. No restrictions on ages of riders. No flags or props. ***There will be a 15 point deduction for carrying flags or props per Judge.*** Rider is considered Novice for two (2) years. 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.

INTERMEDIATE: *No Gait Restrictions.* Must have a minimum of four (4) riders. No restrictions on ages of riders. Riders are allowed to carry flags or props. There will be required maneuvers (see page 11). ***Must ride in Intermediate for one year before moving up to Advanced.***
An Intermediate team rider cannot ride in the Advanced Division (Quad and Full Teams).

ADVANCED: *No Gait Restrictions .* Must have a minimum of four (4) riders. No restrictions on ages of riders. Riders are allowed to carry flags or props. There will be required maneuvers (see pages 12 and 13) for your Theme and Freestyle drills.
An Advanced team rider cannot ride in the Intermediate Division (Quad and Full Teams).

RULES AND INFORMATION

Show Manager Has Final Decision Over all Rules

1. **Google Account:** You must have a Google (Gmail.com) email for us to grant you access to the practice sheet and Judges audio critiques. If you do not already have a Google account, go to Google drive and follow the steps to create one. Once you have set up the account, please send your new Gmail to SEMDTADirector@gmail.com for us to grant you access.
2. **Order of Go:** Once all entries are received Coaches will be notified via email that the Order of Go, RV Assignments, Stall Assignments and Tack Stall Assignments have been posted on our website.
3. **Entry Forms:** Each team with a different name **must** have separate entry and release forms. Do not combine multiple teams onto one form. 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).
Release Forms: Each team with a different name **must** have a separate release form. Do not combine multiple teams onto one form. You will need to submit a Release Form for each competition. Any team without all of the proper signatures will not be allowed to compete, and no refunds will be given. **NAMES MUST BE TYPED IN OR THE FORM WILL BE RETURNED FOR CORRECTION.**
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 Regional Championship.*
4. **Arena Practice Time:** A Google Practice Sheet is utilized for Coaches to schedule practice. We will have a practice sheet for Friday and Saturday. Practice is limited to 30 minutes per Head Coach (for your full and quad teams). Practice is one time slot per team. A Quad is not a team name so please do not add Quads as one of your practices, as it will be removed. If no team has signed up following your practice time, you may remain in the arena until the next team arrives for their scheduled slot. 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.

5. **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!!
6. **Ribbons, Awards and Buckles:** Ribbons will be given out for first through sixth placings only. Other placings will be announced but will not receive a ribbon. If you have 10 riders on your team and bring in an additional 4 different riders for your Quad Classes, you will not receive 14 ribbons, awards or buckles, you will only receive 10. If you would like to purchase the additional buckles for your Quad team that is not part of your full team, you can do that at your expense.
7. **SE Regional Division Champion:** The team with the highest accumulation of points in each Division; Green, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced (Freestyle, Theme, Patriot, Fun Drill and Quad Classes) **for all five shows** will be announced as our Overall SEMDTA SE Regional Division Champion team. Buckles will be given out to each rider on their team in each Division. In order to receive buckles you must compete in 4 of the 5 SEMDTA competitions for the series. **Each Division at each show must have a minimum of 3 teams to win buckles.**
8. **General Scoring:** The point total from Judge 1 and Judge 2 will be added together to determine placings.

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.

9. **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, their leadership skills, integrity, timely submission of entry fees and forms, good sportsmanship, being a good role model, among other attributes.
10. **Flag Protocol:** Proper flag protocol and flag carriage must be maintained at all times during competition. All flags must have tops; must be balls or caps (no eagles, spikes, or spears due to safety concerns and insurance) during competition. ***Your team will be disqualified if they do not have a ball or cap top.***
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. No cones or boundary markers are allowed **in the arena.**
14. **Courtesy Lap:** Once the Judges let us know they are ready, each team will take their courtesy lap around the arena before your drill. Immediately following your courtesy lap, the team should line up at the gate and be ready for your performance music to start. Coaches no longer have to que the announcer.
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** 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. 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)!**
19. **FACILITY DAMAGE(S):** **Any damage incurred in the stalls, RV parking, water faucets, electrical boxes, etc. will be paid by the person causing the damage as determined by the Venue Manager.**
20. **SOCIALIZING:** We want everyone to have a good time and enjoy socializing, however, there will be no loud music, music with profanity or disorderly conduct anywhere on the grounds. **Quiet hour is after ten.** This does not mean you have to stop socializing, just please be considerate of your fellow competitors.
21. **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.

22. **Absolutely no smoking in barns, arenas, restrooms, etc.** Venue rules apply at all times. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
23. **RV and/or Tent Parking:** There will be an RV/Tent chart posted on our website that will be updated as payments are received (first come, first served). No RV/Tent spots will be reserved or held until payment is received. Horse trailers are allowed to reserve an RV/Tent spot as long as someone is staying in them and are using power. No unoccupied horse trailers are allowed in the RV/Tent spots. Absolutely no trucks or cars are to be parked beside an RV/Tent spot. If you do not park correctly, you will be asked to move and reposition.
24. **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. **This will be strictly enforced!** If anyone has an issue at any time during the competition weekend, you will need to come to the show office and report the issue to the Show Manger and they will handle the issue. Absolutely no one is to go and try to handle the issue on their own.
25. **Time:** Will be announced after each team's drill. Official Time Keeper's announced ride time is final!
26. **At no time is anyone allowed in the office except the Head Coach!**
27. **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. They will also be disqualified if they do not have a ball or cap top on their flags.
- F. **A TEAM** will be disqualified and no score given if they do not perform the maneuvers in order as listed on their required maneuver forms (Intermediate and Advanced).
- G. **Management** reserves the right to stop a routine for any unsafe situations inside or outside the arena, i.e. horse refuses to enter arena, rearing, bucking, kicking, putting other people in danger. Team will be disqualified.
- H. **Fun Drill:** if teams are observed or reported practicing their Fun Drill on horseback, the team will be disqualified.

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, scoring and eligibility. A grievance or protest must be made in writing and presented by the Coach only, accompanied by a \$100 cash fee within 24 hours following the competition. 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 after the 24 hours following the competition.***

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 short, interesting and exciting write ups for your introductions.
4. It is **STRONGLY** suggested that you change your music each show season to avoid repetition.
5. 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
6. **ABSOLUTELY NO SYMBOLS OR NUMBER SIGNS (#) CAN BE IN ANY FILE NAME.**
7. 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 Intermediate
Madison Co 4-H Cowboys & Angels Varsity
8. 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 Advanced - 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.
9. No changes will be made in music or introduction files after we have received them and/or current show's deadline.

10. 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!!**
11. Absolutely no profanity and no bleep out for profanity!

FREESTYLE INTERMEDIATE CLASS EXPLANATION

A freestyle drill with 10 required maneuvers. Required maneuvers (6) will be the same every year. Additional required maneuvers (4) for the 2026-2027 season. All required maneuvers must be completed. Each maneuver will be scored from 0 to 15. The maneuvers may be done in any order.

You must submit a new maneuver form for each show by the entry deadline date. You must list the required maneuvers WITH THE EXACT SAME NAME AS THEY ARE LISTED BELOW!

Forms will be returned if they are not listed with the exact same name!!!

Teams may use set up maneuvers to connect A and B (below). No penalty for extra maneuvers as long as the team does not go over the allotted time. Each team is required to submit a list of your maneuvers in the order that they appear in your drill along with your entry and release forms. *Maneuver forms can be found on the SEMDTA website (SEMDTA.org) under Resources.* Each Judge will be given a copy.

A TEAM will be disqualified and no score given if they do not perform the maneuvers in order as listed on your maneuver form. It is the Coaches responsibility to know if the maneuvers are being done in order, not Show Management.

A. Required Maneuvers:

1. Circle
2. Crack the Whip
3. Any Maneuver by Pairs
4. Any Maneuver by Fours
5. Single File Cross
6. Company Front

B. Additional Required Maneuvers:

1. Null and Void
2. Shoot the Moon
3. Basket Weave
4. Suicide Charge

FREESTYLE ADVANCED CLASS EXPLANATION

A freestyle drill with 10 required maneuvers. Required maneuvers (6) will be the same every year. Additional required maneuvers (4) for the 2026-2027 season. All required maneuvers must be completed. Each maneuver will be scored from 0 to 15. The maneuvers may be done in any order.

You must submit a new maneuver form for each show by the entry deadline date. You must list the required maneuvers WITH THE EXACT SAME NAME AS THEY ARE LISTED BELOW!

Forms will be returned if they are not listed with the exact same name!!!

Teams may use set up maneuvers to connect A and B (below). No penalty for extra maneuvers as long as the team does not go over the allotted time. Each team is required to submit a list of your maneuvers in the order that they appear in your drill along with your entry and release forms. *Maneuver forms can be found on the SEMDTA website (SEMDTA.org) under Resources.* Each Judge will be given a copy.

A TEAM will be disqualified and no score given if they do not perform the maneuvers in order as listed on your maneuver form. It is the Coaches responsibility to know if the maneuvers are being done in order, not Show Management.

A. Required Maneuvers:

1. Circle
2. Any Maneuver by Fours
3. Null and Void
4. Any Maneuver by Pairs
5. Pinwheel
6. Suicide Charge

B. Additional Required Maneuvers:

1. Arena Sweep
2. Four Leaf Clover
3. Herringbone
4. Interlocking Single Line Abreast

THEME ADVANCED CLASS EXPLANATION

A Theme drill with 10 required maneuvers. Required maneuvers (6) will be the same every year. Additional required maneuvers (4) for the 2026-2027 season. All required maneuvers must be completed. Each maneuver will be scored from 0 to 15. The maneuvers may be done in any order.

You must submit a new maneuver form for each show by the entry deadline date. You must list the required maneuvers WITH THE EXACT SAME NAME AS THEY ARE LISTED BELOW!

Forms will be returned if they are not listed with the exact same name!!!

Teams may use set up maneuvers to connect A and B (below). No penalty for extra maneuvers as long as the team does not go over the allotted time. Each team is required to submit a list of your maneuvers in the order that they appear in your drill along with your entry and release forms. *Maneuver forms can be found on the SEMDTA website (SEMDTA.org) under Resources.* Each Judge will be given a copy.

A TEAM will be disqualified and no score given if they do not perform the maneuvers in order as listed on your maneuver form. It is the Coaches responsibility to know if the maneuvers are being done in order, not Show Management.

A. Required Maneuvers:

1. Circle
2. Any Maneuver by Fours
3. Liberty Gate
4. Any Maneuver by Pairs
5. Pinwheel
6. Chevron

B. Additional Required Maneuvers:

1. Figure Eight
2. Diagonal Weave
3. 360 Degree Turn
4. Ninety Degree Turn on Center