

# IEA Quick Start Guide



## Fast Facts

- No need to own a horse to participate. Classes are offered in four ability levels: beginner, novice, intermediate and open. Any combination of ability levels on a team is permissible, but it is advantageous to have at least one rider in every class to be competitive as a team. Riders in grades 4-8 are eligible for Middle School Teams while riders in grade 9-12 compete at the High School level.
- Points are tracked for individual rider accomplishments AND for overall, team accomplishments. Individuals and teams earn points to qualify for regional, zone and national finals.
- Teams take turns hosting horse shows throughout the season. New teams are NOT required to host any shows. Second year teams are required to co-host at least one show. Teams in their third year or additional years must host one show or co-host two shows per year.
- The competition season starts August 1st and ends at National Finals, which are held in late spring/early summer each year.
- Students ride horses that are furnished by the host barn and chosen by random draw. The use of personal tack is not allowed and limited schooling is permitted, equalizing competition variables and testing the horsemanship of the contestants.

## Getting Started

- Many things must come together to get a new IEA team off the ground. Having a group of interested riders is the first step. You must have three (3) riders in an age group to start a team. Once you are ready to get going, you must have the following:
  1. **Host Barn:** Every team should have a facility to practice and access to enough horses to support team lessons and showing. While IEA teams do not need to be affiliated with a school, many enjoy the support of being on a school-recognized team.
  2. **Coach:** An IEA Coach must be 21 years old and have proof of liability insurance. Liability Insurance that covers IEA activities is also available through Equisure and is purchased through the Membership Office
  3. **Membership Applications:** Once you have the riders, coach and facility, you must submit an online application to the IEA through the AccessIEA database.

Membership applications may be submitted at any time during the season, however most coaches register their teams between July and September. Shows begin August 1, so the sooner your team is registered, the more shows are available.

## Benefits

Coaches and barns with IEA Teams enjoy the following benefits:

- **Increased teaching and coaching revenues** from additional lessons, team practices and show-day coaching fees.
- **An introduction to showing** for students without horses, lower level riders and those without the financial means to show at larger shows.
- **An incentive to bring new riders to your facility!** As your IEA team becomes successful and riders share their experiences with others, you have an additional service to offer new clients that other barns in your area may not be able to offer.

## Contact Us

IEA Membership Office ●

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