



## Interscholastic Equestrian Association Benevolent Fund

The Interscholastic Equestrian Association Benevolent Fund was established through initial donations from the Equus Foundation. IEA members and supporters help to increase the fund through additional donations that are collected every season. The Fund has two purposes: 1) to assist students that have the promise, potential, and desire to go forward with the sport, but lack the financial support, and 2) to financially assist IEA coaches during times of unexpected misfortune or hardship.

### Financial Assistance Program Information and Application

*NOTE: Rider financial aid applications for the upcoming IEA competition season are only accepted until August 15th. An email confirmation will be sent to the sponsoring coach upon receipt of application materials.*

#### **REQUIREMENTS & TERMS:**

##### **A. IEA Sponsoring Coach**

**Students must be recommended for the program and sponsored by the student's IEA Coach.**

The Coach's sponsorship must include the following:

- Submission of initial application and recommendation.
- Coach will agree to charge a maximum of \$30.00/lesson to the student-rider applicant.
- Coaching fees at IEA events will be waived.
- Coach and/or team must be willing to donate or fundraise to help offset potential, additional costs of post-season competitions (regionals, zones, nationals) for the sponsored student-rider.
- Signature from sponsoring coach confirming sponsorship of the applicant and intent to abide by the structure of the IEA financial aid policy. (Additional email confirmation may also be requested if student-rider is approved for aid.)
- A Sponsoring Coach who fails to meet the Requirements & Terms for Financial Aid will not be considered an IEA Member in good standing.
- Coach will be responsible for the timely submitting of lesson, entry fees, and travel fees (if applicable) on the IEA Invoice for Coaches Reimbursement Form on behalf of the rider for funds to be distributed. All reimbursement requests must be submitted no later than June 30 of the applicable competition season.

##### **B. IEA Financial Coverage**

All financial awards will be approved for a period of one competition season.

The IEA Benevolent Fund will match the Coach's sponsorship as follows:

- IEA will reimburse the student-rider's individual membership fee for one discipline (\$70). The membership fee will need to be claimed/submitted on the standard invoice form.
- IEA will pay the student-rider's lesson fees to the IEA Sponsoring Coach (\$30/lesson-2x per month-up to \$540.00 max)
- IEA will pay all standard competition entry fees for up to five (5) regular season shows in one discipline (\$575 Maximum)
- = \$1185.00 maximum in regular season

In the event of post season competition, additional financial aid will be awarded as follows:

- IEA will pay the student's standard entry fees for qualified Individual classes at regional, zone and national finals (up to \$420 max)
- IEA will pay a \$150 travel stipend for zone finals (HS/D) or regional finals (W) and a \$300 travel stipend for nationals
- = \$870 max in post season additional funds

Maximum financial aid to be awarded to any applicant through the IEA Benevolent Fund: \$2055/student.

(Note that some students may receive a partial grant with lower funding restrictions.)

The sponsoring coach will be expected to cover all financial obligations until a reimbursement is received from the IEA. Requests for funds will be accepted on a monthly basis and will be paid within 30 days of the received request. Requests cannot be paid in advance of services rendered, shows completed, or for any potential billing accumulated prior to notification of approval. Please submit the information on the included form for all payment requests.

### **C. Approval Period**

Rider financial aid applications for the upcoming IEA competition season will be accepted until August 15th. All applications will be compiled and reviewed at the same time by the Benevolent Fund Committee. The Committee will consist of the IEA Executive Director, the National Steward, the Membership Secretary and one additional Member from the IEA Board of Directors. If a student has been recommended or is personally known by a Benevolent Fund Committee member, that member will be replaced for the review by an alternate member.

IEA Sponsoring Coaches will be notified of application decisions in early September, and an acceptance email from the coach additionally confirming their sponsorship of the applicant and intent to abide by the structure of the IEA financial aid policy may be requested at that time.

### **D. Restrictions**

A student-rider applicant can only be approved for financial aid to support participation in ONE IEA discipline (Hunt Seat, Western, or Dressage).

Any student that is receiving aid through the IEA Benevolent Fund is not eligible to receive additional, financial assistance for IEA participation from regional or zone programs unless otherwise stated. However, these students ARE fully eligible for any scholarships, competitions, or additional competitive awards offered through the IEA such as the National Sportsmanship Award, Senior Scholarships, MZ Farms/Muzzy Travel Grant, Essay Competitions, etc. They may also be eligible to apply for additional supplemental grants that may be offered from time to time as detailed in the "Opportunities" section of the IEA website.

In order to apply for and receive Financial Aid, the rider must be active on a team roster and remain an IEA rider member in good standing throughout the entire competition season in which funding has been approved.

A rider's entry fees will only be reimbursed if they competed in the entered event claimed for reimbursement. (i.e.: Scratched entries cannot be claimed for reimbursement.)

Lessons and/or entry fees PRIOR to notification of approval for aid CANNOT be submitted for payment. Approval will be communicated in early September.

Financial Aid for the approved season will conclude either when the approved funds have been used up OR when the entered discipline has completed its full season (ie: National Finals conclusion date) - whichever happens first.

### **E. Anonymity**

Once a student applicant is approved for financial aid, the IEA Sponsoring Coach will be notified and can then notify the student and the student's parents. No other parties will be made aware of the financial support without consent from the coach and parent of the student-rider.

### **F. Funding**

Initial funding for the Financial Assistance Program will come from the IEA Benevolent Fund. In an effort to establish an ongoing endowment, the IEA will continue to fundraise and seek out grants and donors to support the longevity and growth of this program. Tax deductible donations to the Fund may be made at any time through the IEA website.

Application Process:

Rider financial aid applications for the upcoming IEA competition season will be accepted until August 15th.

1. The IEA Financial Assistance Application must be completed and submitted.
2. A written recommendation must come in the form of a typed letter from the IEA Sponsoring Coach. Letters should include the following: student's name, discipline, age, riding background and brief summary of the family's financial condition. Additionally, the Coach should give a personal recommendation on why that student should be approved for this program.
3. A copy of the rider's family IRS Tax Return for the previous year (2023) should accompany the application and may be submitted directly to the IEA Membership Secretary. If parents file taxes separately, the return that shows the rider's name as a dependent should be the return that is submitted.
4. Applications that are incomplete or received after the August 15<sup>th</sup> deadline will not be considered.

Submit BOTH pages of the application, coach recommendation letter and tax return by August 15th to the IEA Membership Secretary by e-mail or mail:

e-mail: [finaid@rideiea.org](mailto:finaid@rideiea.org)

or mail: IEA Membership Office  
Attn: Financial Assistance Program  
4 Railroad Avenue, Suite 305  
Wakefield, MA 01880

All application materials must be received by August 15th.

**COACHES will be notified of application decisions in early September.**



## IEA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT-RIDER APPLICANT:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ PARENT E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE IN SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ / DISCIPLINE (Hunt Seat, Western, Dressage) \_\_\_\_\_

INTENDED CLASS LEVEL: (Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, Open) \_\_\_\_\_

### IEA SPONSORING COACH:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE/REGION \_\_\_\_\_

### STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE OF IEA SPONSORING COACH

"As the IEA Sponsoring Coach of this student-rider applicant, I agree to the terms and pricing of the Financial Assistance Program."

Coach's Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Monthly Invoice for Coach's Reimbursement (2024-2025)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Coach's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name (as it appears in the IEA Database) \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Rider Name \_\_\_\_\_

Base-membership (\$70) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Lesson	Fee

Date of Lesson	Fee

Lesson fees requested for reimbursement (2/month @\$30/lesson) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Show	Name of Show/Host	Fees

Date of Show	Name of Show/Host	Fees

(Class fees of \$55/\$60 will be reimbursed. No coaching fees or additional fees per financial aid policy.)

Entry Fees (per listed shows) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Finals Travel (max \$150) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

National Finals Travel (max \$300) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make reimbursement check payable to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This form should be mailed to:  
**Roxane Durant**  
 IEA Executive Director  
 P.O. Box 809  
 Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Or emailed to:  
[roxane@rideiea.org](mailto:roxane@rideiea.org)



**IEA**  
 INTERSCHOLASTIC  
 EQUESTRIAN  
 ASSOCIATION