



Interscholastic Equestrian Association Benevolent Fund

The **IEA BENEVOLENT FUND** was established to provide a Financial Assistance Program for young riders in grades 4-12 who need funding assistance to enable them to take lessons and compete in the IEA. Financial Aid provides support for membership fees, monthly riding lessons, 5 shows of entry fees, plus potential travel money and entries for post-season finals. The Benevolent Fund also provides emergency funding for our coaches, who are battling an unexpected event that impedes their ability to work such as illness, accidents, barn fires, natural disasters, and other tragedies that translate into a loss of personal business income through the Coaches Assistance Grant.

<https://www.rideiea.org/donate-benevolent-fund/>

Financial Assistance Program Information

NOTE: Rider financial aid applications for the upcoming IEA competition season are only accepted through 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 to be considered for financial aid.

The Coach's sponsorship must include the following:

- Coach submission of initial application and recommendation via the online form [To Be Completed by Sponsoring Coach](#). Parent/Guardian will submit required financial information via the online form [To Be Completed by Parent or Guardian](#). Both the Sponsoring Coach and Parent/Guardian Forms must be submitted for an application to be complete.
- The Sponsoring Coach will agree to waive or charge reduced lesson fees to the student-rider applicant, and/or to offer working opportunities for the student-rider applicant to offset lesson costs.
- Coaching fees at IEA events will be waived, or charged at a reduced rate, and/or the coach will offer working opportunities to help offset any additional team fees/travel costs/etc.
- Note that the Financial Aid program covers the rider's expenses for post season as an INDIVIDUAL, but that the Team/Coach would be expected to financially assist the rider through donations, fundraising, or work opportunities if the rider is needed as a point rider for the Team during the post season finals events.
- 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.
- The Sponsoring Coach will be responsible for the timely submitting of lesson stipends, entry fees, and travel fees (if applicable) on the IEA Invoice for Coach Reimbursement Form on behalf of the rider for funds to be distributed. All reimbursement requests must be submitted **no later than June 30th** of the applicable competition season. The form will be sent to the Sponsoring Coach upon applicant approval for aid.

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 waive or refund the student-rider's individual membership fee for one discipline. (\$85)
- IEA will pay a stipend toward the student-rider's lesson fees to the IEA Sponsoring Coach to help cover lesson costs and horse use. (\$50/lesson-2x per month-up to \$600 max)

- IEA will pay all standard competition entry fees for up to five (5) regular season shows in one discipline. (\$650 Maximum)
=\$1,335 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 \$520 max). IEA will pay a \$150 travel stipend for zone finals (HS/D) or regional finals (W) and a \$300 travel stipend for nationals.
=\$970 max in post-season additional funds

Maximum financial aid to be awarded to any applicant through the IEA Benevolent Fund: \$2,305/student.

The Sponsoring Coach will be expected to cover all financial obligations until reimbursement is received from the IEA. Requests for funds will be accepted monthly and will be paid within 30 days of the request received. 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 via fillable PDF IEA Invoice for Coach Reimbursement Form provided for all payment requests.

C. **Approval Period**

Rider financial aid applications for the upcoming IEA competition season will be accepted through 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 chosen from IEA Staff or 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, Regional/Zone 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.

To be eligible 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.)

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 Sponsoring Coach and Parent of the student-rider.

F. **Funding**

Initial funding for the Financial Assistance Program will come from the IEA Benevolent Fund. 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 IEA Benevolent Fund may be made at any time through the IEA website. <https://www.rideiea.org/donate-benevolent-fund/>

APPLICATION PROCESS:

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

1. The IEA Financial Assistance Application must be completed and submitted via the appropriate online forms:

To Be Completed by Sponsoring Coach

To Be Completed by Parent or Guardian

Both the Sponsoring Coach and Parent/Guardian Forms must be submitted for an application to be complete.

Please DO NOT Submit a Rider Financial Aid Application without first obtaining your IEA Sponsoring Coach's Approval! Applications without IEA Sponsoring Coach Approval will NOT be considered.

2. A written recommendation must come in the form of a typed letter from the IEA Sponsoring Coach. Letters should include the following: students' name, discipline, age, riding background and brief summary of the family's financial condition. Additionally, the Sponsoring 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 (2025) must accompany the application. If parents file taxes separately, the return that shows the rider's name as a dependent must be the return that is submitted.

Applications that are incomplete or received after the August 15th deadline will not be considered.

Questions regarding financial aid and the application process should be directed to finaid@rideiea.org.

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15th DEADLINE.



INTERSCHOLASTIC
EQUESTRIAN
ASSOCIATION

Inclusive. Equitable. Affordable.