

It's
SHOWTIME!



NFF STABLES

Horse Shows

2020



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We are so excited to offer horse showing to our lesson students! Anyone can show, both children and adults, beginner through advanced riders. Our season runs from now all the way through December, with several shows scheduled each month throughout the season.

Horse showing is an individual sport, but at the shows we work together to not only help each other, but to cheer for each other as well.

For all the information you need to know about horse showing, read on....and of course, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask! It's Showtime!

Your Horse Show Staff,
Amy and Sandy

NFF STABLES *Horse Shows* 2020

Frequently Asked Questions...

Where are the shows?

We travel to shows all over the area, and also participate in various series. Our shows are fairly close - some are around Poolesville and just over the river in the Leesburg area. We also show at Columbia Horse Center, and the PG Equestrian Center - both right off the beltway.

What if I'm not a great rider?

That's the beauty of horse shows...they have classes for every level of rider, for beginners just starting to trot, for riders who are just starting to jump, and for the more advanced rider. Waiting to show until you think you are "good enough" means that even if you improve your riding skills, you'll have no experience in the show ring.

If you don't own your own horse, how are horses assigned?

Usually the horse you ride in lessons will be the horse you show. Occasionally, two or more riders ride the same lesson horse in their different lessons. Since not every rider attends the same shows, it's usually not a problem. Sometimes two riders will share the same horse at a horse show, and ride in different classes. Sometimes that doesn't work, and then we take some factors into consideration: how long the rider has been riding, which rider makes a more suitable combination with that particular horse, which rider makes an effort to attend their lessons every single week. Usually it all works out! But please note, sometimes our lesson horses aren't available to attend shows, due to their lesson horse commitments.

And from parents...How much is this going to cost?

We've outlined the expenses in this handbook, so read on to learn more. Initially you'll need to get some supplies, as well as show clothes. Then you'll just pay for each show that your child attends. Many other activities that children participate in can be expensive (dance recital fees and costumes, traveling soccer teams to name a few), but for those who truly love horses, there's just something about riding and showing them that makes it all worthwhile for the expense.

As you read through this handbook, you'll probably have questions. Feel free to ask us any and all questions. It's all a little overwhelming, but once you have one show under your belt, it will all start making sense!

REQUIREMENTS

- Riders must remain enrolled in lessons with NFF, and must be current on all lesson payments.
 - Lessons may be group or private.
 - Riders must attend their regular lesson within one week before date of any show attending, or schedule a make-up lesson for that week.
- Sportsmanship:
 - All NFF riders must exhibit excellent sportsmanship at all times. At a show, any rider not behaving, acting rude or disrespectful to their parents, crying, whining, etc. may be asked to leave the show.
 - The well-being of our horses is most important at the show. Take care of them before you take care of yourselves (don't go to the snack bar if your horse hasn't received water and hay).
 - No NFF riders may get mad at their horses. If we see you take your anger out on a horse, you will not be allowed to show with us anymore. Horse show stewards do keep an eye out for abuse of horses.
- Winning is great, but that's not why we show. If the only reason you're showing is to get a ribbon, please find another barn. Parents, don't put pressure on your child to win, and don't compare them to other riders. Don't compare their mount with other mounts – each rider rides horses differently. Horse showing with NFF is for fun and education, not for snots! We are a barn, we work together and help each other as a barn, and any rider's ribbon is a ribbon for NFF!

EXPENSES

- You will pay \$100 to NFF for each show. That fee includes coaching at the show, which not only covers working with you in the schooling ring and observing your classes, but determining what classes to enter you in, registering you for the show, and helping you at the trailers. It also includes the use of one of our horses and of course the horse's tack, and trailering the horse to and from the show.
- You will also be paying for class entry fees (which range from \$10 to \$40 a class, with \$15 being the average – at most shows you will show in at least 3-6 classes). Some shows charge an office or membership fee as well. We'll let you know approximate costs before each show.

We want to make hore showing as affordable for you as possible. Most barns charge all types of fees in order for you to show, like....

Horse Use Fee: \$50 per show
Clipping/Mane Pulling: \$30 per show
Shipping: \$75 plus \$2 per loaded mile
Coaching: \$90 per rider per show

RIDER'S ATTIRE

Before making any major purchases, check with us for advice!

- Depending on your age, height, and showing level you will need:
 - BROWN Paddock boots or tall black leather dress boots
 - Jodhpurs or Breeches (neutral colored - tan/beige, no white)
 - Straps for jodhpurs for over boots to hold jods down
 - BROWN Garter straps if using jodhpurs and paddock boots
 - Hunt coat (properly fitted, green, navy, black, dark grey)
 - Black Gloves
 - Belt
 - Show Shirt (no pin, may be monogrammed). Long sleeve shirts required when and if they excuse jackets in the summer.
 - Black velvet ASTM/SEI hunt helmet (no schooling helmets or helmet covers). Make sure all your hair fits under your hat when making a purchase!
 - Hair net to match your hair color, or if you are wearing paddock boots you may wear two side pigtailed with bows

So, is there a magic age to switch from paddock boots to tall boots? No. It really depends on how tall the rider is, and what division they are showing in. We can advise you - in fact, please check with us before purchasing tall boots!

Keeping all your show stuff together is important - get a garment bag to hang your jacket, a tote bag for brushes and supplies, and even perhaps a hat bag to keep your helmet clean. Another must-have are "rubbers" that slip on over your tall boots to keep them clean until you mount up. And a pair of pj pants or sweat pants to wear over your breeches is great so you don't get dirty!

- **Optional Supplies (NFF will supply all of these but it is nice to have your own stuff!):**
 - Your own white hunt show pad that fits saddle, to be used only for showing
 - Bathing supplies, including sponge and sweat scraper; shampoo, including Quick Silver for white areas
 - Flyspray
 - Tack cleaning supplies - saddle soap and sponges
 - Show Sheen
 - Miracle Groom (it's like Spray and Wash for horses!)
 - Leather or break-away average horse-size halter and a cotton leadrope - make sure it's cotton!!!
 - Boot polish (and "rubbers" to wear over boots to keep them clean while not riding)

BEFORE THE SHOW

- **Signing up for shows:**

- Each month, we'll send an email with information about upcoming shows. You must sign up for the show you wish to attend no later than one week prior to the date of the show. This is so we have time to prepare the horse, prepare entry forms and pre-register if available, and organize coaching and shipping. All shows are subject to change - if too many or not enough riders sign up we may need to limit entries or cancel going to the show.

- **Preparing for show:**

- The day before the show, you will need to come to the barn to bathe your horse, clean your tack, prepare a stall if horse doesn't have one, organize all supplies needed for show. Plan on taking your time - for bigger shows we'll have a sign-up sheet for the wash-stall.
- You'll need to load your tack in the dressing room of the trailer.
- Put a break-away halter and cotton leadrope outside of your horse's stall BEFORE YOU LEAVE
- Check in with NFF Staff before leaving so we can make sure you have everything done.
- Gather all your show clothes and supplies at home, and have them all ready for the next day. Show jackets may have to be dry-cleaned - pay attention to when the dry cleaner closes so you can pick up your jacket!
- Get a good night's sleep!

- **Morning of the show:**

- Arrive at the show dressed to ride. If you need to school, you'll need to be dressed appropriately: boots, breeches, shirt tucked in with a belt, hair in hair net. You don't have to wear your show shirt or jacket to school - in most cases you'll have time to change,
- You may meet us at the barn to help load your horse in the trailer, or you may meet us directly at the show. Times for meeting at the barn or meeting at the show grounds will be posted prior to the show. We actually prefer for you to just meet us at the show!
- If you are meeting us at the barn, please do not load your horse into the trailer yourself. We will tell you when we are ready to load your horse - just have him ready to go. If you are following us to the show, please do not drive between the trailers if we have more than one trailer going. If you are directly behind a trailer, please stay back because braking time is slower with a large trailer.

AT THE SHOW

- **When you get to the show:**
 - Be courteous as to where to park at a show – some shows will not allow cars to park with trailers except to unload equipment. Many shows have a separate parking lot for cars. If you can park with the trailers, don't park too close to our trailers (or anyone else's), but try and park as close as possible to cars from our barn so we don't take up space needed for parking trailers.
 - Do not unload your horse from the trailer – just be ready to take your horse when we unload.
 - Unless you are told otherwise, begin tacking him right away so that we can begin schooling. If you're not schooling first thing, help other riders get ready.
 - At no time will you need to go to the show office. We take care of registering and picking up your back numbers, as well as handling any class adds or scratches.
- **Warm-Up/Schooling:**
 - Some riders will need to warm-up and/or school their horse prior to the show. Many shows only offer schooling before the show starts. Schooling is a chance to ride your horse in the ring where you will be showing him, and get him over the jumps you will be jumping. Some shows offer a schooling break in the middle of the day. We will let you know ahead of time if you must school first thing in the morning, or can wait until the mid-day schooling break. Some shows also offer "warm-up trips" - you'll get to jump the course without being judged.
 - No rider may school on their own. A trainer will be in the ring and will give you instruction. Sometimes the schooling ring is very crowded with riders and trainers from other barns, so use proper ring etiquette and listen to your trainer for instruction.
- **After Schooling/Before You Show:**
 - NFF staff will take care of registering you for all classes and will pick up your back number.
 - When your trainer tells you that you are finished in the schooling ring, return to the trailer to take care of your horse. If you are not showing until later, untack horse, blanket (if necessary), and we will tell you whether you may tie him to the trailer and give him hay, or if he should be loaded back into the trailer. If he needs to go back into the trailer, please check with NFF staff before loading (or unloading) him yourself.
 - The well-being of our horses is most important at the show. Take care of them by making sure they have hay and water. Offer water to your horse frequently, especially if it is hot. Some shows have a nearby water source; others do not and for those we will bring water jugs or the water tank. If using the jugs/tank, please do not waste the water – it is for horses to drink, only. Use flyspray frequently if it is hot outside.
 - If you have lots of time before you show, check back frequently on your horse; otherwise, stay at the rings to watch and assist your fellow riders.

AT THE SHOW

- **Getting Ready for Your Classes:**

- We will tell you when to start getting yourself and your horse ready to show. Do not get ready too early (you don't want your horse to stand around waiting), but don't put it off until the last minute.
- Your trainer will help you enter the ring, or get your order of go if you are in a jumping class. Your trainer will watch you throughout your class, but they cannot help you once you are in the ring. After each class, see your trainer for comments and suggestions. Your trainer will assist you in learning your course if you are jumping. Do not go in the ring without your trainer present (even if the gatekeeper, your parent, someone else's parent, or another rider tells you to!)
- Parents: although we know you just want to be helpful, please do not interfere with your trainer giving instructions to your child. Do not coach them either while they are in the ring or outside waiting to go in. That is what you are paying us for! Please give them and the other riders lots of cheers and encouragement, but leave the coaching to us.

- **Miscellaneous:**

- Do not put any of your belongings (saddle, blankets, etc.) on the sides of the trucks. The paint can get chipped and scratched and we will hold you responsible for damages.
- The only riding at the show will be during the schooling session, and during your classes. No riding around the show grounds for fun, no bareback riding, etc. It is stressful for horses to be at a show; give them a break!
- Do not leave trash inside the dressing rooms of the trailers, or around the outside of the trailers. If you brought your jacket in a drycleaning bag, make sure you take the hanger and plastic wrap with you!
- Some shows require participants to pick up manure left around the trailers. For these shows, we bring our manure bucket on wheels. Please pitch in throughout the day and pick up manure around our trailer areas.

Ribbons: for classes where ribbons aren't given directly to the rider (like over fence classes), parents should please allow the trainer/NFF staff to collect the ribbons, unless directed by the trainer/staff. Same goes for division champion/reserve ribbons and prizes - we will pick these up, unless they direct you to pick them up.

AFTER THE SHOW

- **When You Are Done Showing:**

- Make sure horse is properly cooled down, and offer him water and hay. Make sure all your supplies and equipment are gathered up and loaded NEATLY back into the trailer. If you can stay and watch the other riders - great! You will learn so much. But we also realize horse showing is a long day, and you may leave when you are done showing.
- Return your back number to a trainer. Some shows require us to hang on to them to us for each show, and some shows request the numbers to be returned.
- Most shows have a food booth. Sometimes we also all bring some snacks to share and set up a little table by trailer.

- **And Last But Not Least:**

- Don't forget to leave a check, with the amount blank, made out to NFF Stables. An itemized statement of your show expenses, including the total of your check, will be emailed to you the next day (or as soon as possible). You're not leaving a "blank check" - you're leaving a check made out to NFF Stables - the only thing blank is the amount. We've been doing it this way for 19 years and we've never had a problem. Talk to riders from other barns and find out how many checks they have to write per show: one to the coach, one to the shipper, one to the show office - our way is done as a convenience to you!
- You may also pay via Zelle or Venmo.
- If you fail to pay us within one day of the show, you will be charged a \$25 late-payment fee. We take care of paying all the riders' entry fees from the show, so we need to collect from you right away.
- Please don't try and figure out your total yourself - trust us, the amount you come up with and the actual total is never the same! As much as we love you paying early, usually the amount isn't the correct amount! And you never know - you might want to add in a class, or if a horse (or rider!) is being bratty you might want to scratch a class!

VOCABULARY

Prize List: basically just a schedule and description of all the divisions at the show, along with the show's rules.

Classes/Divisions: Shows are divided up into divisions, based on rider's ability and/or horse's ability. Within the division, there are usually three or more classes. Riders generally show in all of the classes in their division. Some divisions are rider's age specific, or horse's size specific (horse divisions or pony divisions).

Hunters: judged on style and ability of the horse and rider.

Equitation: judged on the ability of the rider's form and skill.

Jumpers: judged on speed and accuracy of jumps.

Course: the prescribed order of the jumps in a specific class. Courses are posted in advance so riders can learn them before they go in. Your trainer will go over the course with you before you go in to jump.

Trip: each rider's course is considered a trip. You'll hear things like "five more trips until you go", which means five riders will jump before you.

Under Saddle: a class where everyone rides together; no jumping (see "Hack")

Hack: a class where everyone rides together; no jumping (see "Under Saddle")

Over Fences: a class where the rider jumps a course of fences.

Junior rider: a rider that is under 18 years old. Age is determined as of December 1 of the previous show year (so whatever age you were on December 1, 2019 determines your "show age" for the entire next season). Many divisions are restricted by, or to, various ages.

Order of Go: A list that tells you when you are supposed to go in and jump for your class. Gatekeepers keep an order of go on a chalkboard or wipe-off board, usually.

Off Course: a rider is considered off course if he or she deviates from the posted course diagram.

Pin: the awarding of the ribbons (first/blue, second/red, third/yellow, fourth/white, fifth/pink, sixth/green, seventh/purple, eighth/brown).

Champion and Reserve Champion: the rider with the highest number of points in a division that offers Champion or Reserve status is considered the Champion, the rider with the second highest points is Reserve.



2020 Shows

Each month, you will receive an email with show information. Many shows have not yet set their 2020 dates, so as the year gets underway we will keep you posted. Our goal is to attend at least one horse show a month.

Shows we will be attending include:

Red Gate Farm - Bluemont, Virginia
Columbia Horse Center - Laurel, Maryland
Lytle Shows - Dickerson, Maryland
Co-Exist - Mt. Airy, Maryland
Meadowbrook Stables - Chevy Chase, Maryland
Morven Park - Leesburg, Maryland
Pickwick Stables - Sykesville, Maryland
Country Hill - Westminster, Maryland

Winter Schedule:

January 12 - Co-Exist Hunter Show
February 16 - Co-Exist Hunter Show
March 8 - Country Hill Hunter Show
April 11 - Meadowbrook Stables Hunter Show

This schedule is tentative - we may add more shows, or choose a different one than posted above as more and more shows post their 2020 dates.