

2000-2016

NFF Stables
Show
Team



This is the 16th season of the NFF Show Team! Each year we get bigger and better, and Show Team 2016 promises to be great. Our theme for the year is “Sweet Sixteen”, and something tells us we’re going to have a sweet and successful year!

Our show team is comprised of current lesson students at NFF, both children and adults, beginner through advanced riders. This means that anyone can join the team. Our season runs from January through December, with several shows scheduled each month throughout the season. All team members are required to show in at least three shows for the season – but you may show in more, if you’d like!

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

Being a member of the NFF Show Team has several benefits: discounted use of horse if you don’t own your own horse, free use of equipment like saddles and bridles, discounts on shipping and coaching at the shows, clinics, a banquet at the end of the season, and a year full of lots of fun!

Following are the rules and requirements to be on the NFF show team, as well as an application for membership. If you have any questions, please talk to Amy, Jen, or Sandy. We’d like everyone to return their membership application and team fee by February 1, 2016. Once you’ve returned your application, we will meet with you to discuss what shows you might want to attend for 2016, and set some goals for you to work towards. In the Spring we’ll be having our annual show team clinic, especially for new members but returning members are highly encouraged to attend, because we’ll need your expertise!

For all the information you need to know about our show team, rock on...I mean, read on....and of course, if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask!

Your Show Team Staff,
Amy, Jen and Sandy





Frequently Asked Questions by New Members...

Where are the shows?

We travel to shows all over the area, and also participate in various series. There are basically two types of shows: Rated and Schooling. Most new members will be attending schooling shows. These are also referred to as “local shows”. Our local shows are fairly close - around Poolesville, Adamstown, down in Chevy Chase, and just over the river in the Leesburg area.

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, to riders who are just starting to jump, to the more advanced rider. Waiting to join the team 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?

Once we put together the 2016 roster, we'll have a good idea of which riders make a good team with which horses. 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 on team, 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 all the 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

- Each team member must attend at least three shows during the season, which runs from January through December. Team members who do not participate in at least three shows will be ineligible to join the team the following season, and will not be invited to attend the banquet.
- Each team member must remain enrolled in lessons through NFF throughout the season, and must be current on all lesson payments.
 - Lessons may be group or private.
 - Team members must attend their regular lesson within one week before date of any show attending, or schedule a make-up lesson for that week.
 - So that all riders can receive quality coaching, team members need to take either a group or a private lesson with Jen at least two weeks before the show, even if Jen is not their regular instructor
- Sportsmanship:
 - All NFF show team members must exhibit excellent sportsmanship at all times. At a show, any team member not behaving, acting rude or disrespectful to their parents, crying, whining, etc. may be asked to leave not only the show, but the team as well.
 - 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 show team members may get mad at their horses. If we see you take your anger out on a horse, you will be taken off show team. Horse show stewards do keep an eye out for abuse of horses.
- Team members need to stay all day at the show. This is so we can work together as a team, helping each other and cheering each other on. Showing is a learning experience – not only while you're in the ring showing, but while watching other riders in other classes. Special permission may be given to leave the show early depending on the circumstances, but you will either need to get a fellow team member to take care of your horse for you, or else there will be a charge to you.
- 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. The NFF show team is for fun and education, not for snots! We are a team, we work together and help each other as a team, and any team member's ribbon is a ribbon for the whole team!

Expenses

- Each team member must pay a \$175 membership fee per person per season. This fee ensures you receive the show team discounts for coaching, horse use and trailering. Show team fees also help NFF to defray costs on showing supplies and banquet awards. And you'll also receive a team 2016 polo shirt!
- Aside from the membership fee, you will be paying for class entry fees (which range from \$6 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.
- You will also be paying for 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. The coaching fee is \$70 per rider per show.
- Shipping rates vary depending on the show location. We will let you know how much shipping will cost when we send emails for the shows. Shipping charge is to be shared between two or more riders on the same horse. Shipping is usually a minimum of \$75, but may rise if fuel prices increase. Shipping prices will also vary depending how many horses are being shipped (so if only one or two horses are attending, shipping rates will increase).
- If you do not own your own horse, or if you are not leasing or half-leasing an NFF horse, you will be charged a horse use fee for each show of \$25, per rider. If your horse needs a stall because it is field boarded (regardless of whether it is your own horse or lesson horse), you will be charged a \$10 stall fee.
- Braiding is not required at schooling shows. It is required for some rated shows, and manes and tails run around \$85.00, but depending on the show we may not do tails.
- Clipping and mane pulling: all horses must have their manes pulled to no longer than four inches, and they need to be clipped (muzzle, bridlepath, ears and legs) before each show. NFF staff will keep all NFF horses show-ready - the cost for keeping all NFF-owned horses show-ready is included in your horse-use fee. Team members who own their own horse may pay to have their horse show-ready, or of course can do it themselves - but if it's not done by the day before the show, we will do it for you (and you will be charged accordingly).

So, why should you join show team? If you want to show, you don't have to join the team, but you also won't enjoy the discounts and camaraderie of our team. Prices for non-show team members are:

Horse Use Fee: \$50 per show (plus \$25 stall fee)

Clipping/Mane Pulling (for either NFF horse or own horse): \$30

Shipping: \$75 plus \$2 per loaded mile

Coaching: \$90 per rider

Rider's Attire

Before making any major purchases, check with the Show Team Staff for advice!

- All team members must have proper show attire.
- Depending on your age, height, and showing level you will need:
 - Paddock boots (brown) 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
 - Garter straps if using jodhpurs and paddock boots
 - Hunt coat (properly fitted, green, navy, black, dark grey)
 - Black Gloves
 - Belt
 - Show Shirt with stock collar (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 (unless you show with pigtails!)
 - Hair net if you show in tall boots
 - Hair net or small bows for pigtails if you show in paddock boots

All team members must have their own attire. No sharing.

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. The show team staff can advise you - in fact, please check with them 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.

Supplies

- **Each member MUST OWN the following equipment/supplies:**

- White hunt show pad that fits saddle, to be used only for showing; or half-back pad
- Shampoo, including Quick Silver for white areas
- Bathing supplies, including sponge and sweat scraper
- Flyspray
- Tack cleaning supplies - saddle soap and sponges
- Show Sheen
- Miracle Groom (one bottle should last the season)
- 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)

- **Tack/Supply Use:**

If you are using an NFF-owned horse, you may use your own tack, or borrow NFF's tack.

- Saddle must be hunt seat only, leather (Wintec not acceptable), no black.
- Leather girth (fleece or padded ok)
- Bridle
- Martingale and/or breastplate (if needed for horse).
- Crop and/or spurs if needed (a black short "bat")
- If you are riding an NFF-owned horse, we'll supply everything to wrap your horse's legs for shipping. If you own your own horse, you'll need to provide your own wraps.

If you are using NFF's tack, you are responsible for loading it into the trailer, unloading it from the trailer, and returning it to its proper place after the show. Tack must be cleaned before and after use.

- **Optional Supplies/Equipment:**

- Cooler (to use after baths)
- Slinky (to use when horse gets braided, or to keep him clean if he is light-colored on face and neck)
- Irish Knit cooler (to use after baths in warmer weather)
- Dress Cooler (to use at shows – can be ordered through NFF)
- Quarter sheet (to keep horse warm in fall/winter)
- NFF logo-embroidered saddlepad (for lessons and to use at show for schooling)
- NFF winter jacket and/or windsuit (which is great to wear over show clothes so they don't get dirty while at show)
- NFF flannel pajama pants (another great item to wear over breeches/jods so they don't get dirty)
- Garmet bag, boot bag, helmet cover, tote bag for supplies

Before The Show

- **Signing up for shows:**

- Each month, team members will receive an email with information about upcoming shows. Parents (unless you're an adult team member!) must sign up via email for the show they wish to attend no later than one week prior to the date of the show. This is so the show team staff has time to prepare 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 may take your own tack to the show, or you may load in the dressing room of the trailer. If you are using NFF's tack, you must load it in the trailer (at no time is NFF's tack to go to your car or house). If you are using an NFF girth, find one out of the show girth supply that fits.
- Put your halter and leadrope outside of your horse's stall before you leave
- Make sure your horse's legs get wrapped with standing wraps (you can do this yourself if you have been approved)
- 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. No rider will be allowed to school unless they are 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. If you are meeting us at the show, make sure a nice halter and leadrope are outside of horse's stall so that we may load him in the trailer. 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:**

- Most riders are required 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.
- 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 all day 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 team members.

At The Show

- **Getting Ready for Your Classes:**

- Show Team Staff 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 a fellow show team member 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!
- Horses owned by anyone other than the rider may not be shipped to the show by anyone other than NFF staff, unless prior permission is given.
- 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/show team staff to collect the ribbons, unless directed by the trainer/show team staff. Same goes for division champion/reserve ribbons and prizes - show team staff will pick these up, unless they direct you to pick them up. Please follow this rule!

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. Check on your horse frequently, but otherwise, stay at the rings to watch and assist your team members. You will be required to stay at the show until all team members are done showing for the day. Special permission may be given to leave the show early depending on the circumstances, but you will be charged, and team members are not to make a habit of leaving early. If you do leave, you MUST check in with a trainer.
- Re-roll your leg wraps, and wrap horse if you have been approved to do so.
- 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.
- When everyone is done showing, be on hand by the trailers to have your horse ready to load.

- **Back at the Barn:**

- You may choose not to come back to the barn after the show, but you will be charged a \$20 handling fee to cover unloading, feeding and turn out horse, and returning any NFF-owned tack. If the horse you are riding is a field boarded horse, you will also be charged \$20 for stall cleaning. If you used NFF-owned tack, it must be cleaned and stored neatly in the trailer.
- If you decide to come back to the barn after the show, you will need to feed your horse, and turn him out depending on the season. If the horse you showed is a field boarded horse, you will need to clean the stall he was in the night before, and empty his water bucket. If the horse you showed is full-care boarded, stall cleaning is not necessary. You will also need to unload all your equipment from the trailer, and if you used NFF-owned tack, it must be cleaned before putting it away.

- **And Last But Not Least:**

- Don't forget to leave a check, with the amount blank, made out to NFF Show Team. 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 must leave a check in the black box the day before the show, or after the show when you return to the barn (unless special arrangements are approved in advanced). Please don't hand it to us at the show - it will get stuffed in a pocket and end up in the wash!
- If you fail to leave a check, you will be charged a \$25 late-payment fee. We take care of paying all the show team's entry fees from the show, so we need to collect from you right away.
- Please don't try and figure out your total and write in the amount yourself - trust us, the amount you come up with and the actual total is never the same! You're not leaving a "blank check" - you're leaving a check made out to NFF Show Team - the only thing blank is the amount. We've been doing it this way for 16 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!

Vocabulary

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, 2014 determines your "show age" for the entire 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.



2016 Shows

Each month, you will receive an email with show information. Many shows have not yet set their 2016 dates, so as the year gets underway we will keep you posted. Here's some information about the shows we attend:

Loch Moy - located in Adamstown on Park Mills Road - only about 15 minutes from NFF. It's a beautiful facility with Sugarloaf Mountain in the background (making for some great show pictures!). (MHSA*)

PRITS - These shows are good shows with a very relaxed atmosphere. They are located in or around Poolesville, including at NFF. When shows are at NFF, you don't have to pay a shipping fee (yay!), and show team members get priority on horse use, and receive discounted entry fees.

WBTA (Washington Bridle Trails Association) - this three-show series is held at Meadowbrook Stables in Chevy Chase. Shows are in April, July and October. They have a nice banquet in January. (MHSA*)

BEST (Black-Eyed Susan Horse Show Series) - there are several of these shows, held at PG Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro. They have four rings going, so there are divisions for every level of rider (including jumpers). (MHSA*)

McDonogh - located in Owings Mills. Divisions for all levels of riders. (MHSA*)

*MHSA: This stands for Maryland Horse Show Association, and these shows all have MHSA Regional classes. If you'd like, you may become a MHSA member, and then your points will be kept. The top riders in each MHSA Regional division are invited to participate in the Finals, held in November. We'll fill you in more about this once you join the team!

As we receive your 2016 Show Team Applications, we will set up meetings with the rider and their parents so we can discuss and plan your 2016 show year.

2016 Application

Rider's Name _____

Address _____

Team Member's Phone Number _____

Team Member's e-mail address _____

Date of birth _____ Age as of December 1, 2015 _____ (this is your "show age" for the year)

Parents Names _____

Parent e-mail Address _____

Parent e-mail Address _____

Parent Cell Phone Number _____

Parent Cell Phone Number _____

Polo Shirt Size (indicate Youth or Adult) _____

**Please include the \$175 membership fee, check made payable to
NFF Show Team,
with this application by February 1, 2016.
Once we receive your application, we will set up a meeting with you to discuss your 2016 show plans!**