

# Sharkey Farm

## Showing with IEA

Sharkey Farm is home to an Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) team. This program is available to 4th-12th grade students in the Seattle area.

Competitions occur between 4-6 weekends a year during the school season. Generally, our meets will have a show on Saturday and another show on Sunday. Our shows are hosted from as far south as Portland to as far north as Bellingham. We will typically host one weekend of shows a year at Bridle Trails State Park as well.

The goals of IEA are to set standards for competition, provide information concerning the creation and development of school associated equestrian sport programs, promote the common interests of safe riding instruction and competition and education on matters related to equestrian sport at the middle and secondary school levels (primarily ages 11 through 19). Through the IEA, students have the opportunity to earn scholarships towards their college education through awards in competition and through sportsmanship activities.

### **IEA Competition Format**

The unique aspect of IEA competitions, both at the local and national level, is that none of the riders will supply their own horses or tack. Instead, the horses, saddle and other tack are provided to the students at the show. The host team arranges for the horses and equipment. Some of the equipment may be borrowed from various training barns and facilities. Though the rider and horse have a short opportunity at orientation in the over fences classes, essentially, the horse is new to the rider, and the scores are based upon horsemanship and equitation, not the horse. The competitions involve six classes jumping over fences no greater than three feet and numerous flat equitation classes. Western riders show in horsemanship and reining, and saddle seat riders show in both rail and individual workout classes. All disciplines offer a variety of ability levels from beginner through advanced.

The IEA is an affiliate of the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) and the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

The objectives of IEA are:

- To promote the equestrian as an athlete
- To provide students with organized competitive opportunities
- To introduce new riders to equine sports
- To promote the IEA among middle and secondary schools
- To provide students with opportunities for further education equine sports and other equine-related matters

- To encourage liaison with other equestrian groups
- To provide information concerning the creation and development of school associated mounted and unmounted equestrian programs
- To establish and enforce IEA rules, standards and policies
- To evolve with the continuing progress of equestrian sports
- To generally promote the common interests of safe riding instruction and competition and education on matters related to the horse industry and all segments thereof.

### **What to Expect the Day of the Show**

Locations and maps will be emailed to participants prior to the show. It is expected that riders will attend the full horse show even if they are only riding in one class. Cheering on teammates is important!. It is encouraged that Sharkey Farm riders support their fellow teammates and cheer them on from the sidelines. The support is appreciated by all.

When first arriving at the horse show, check in with your trainer and let them know you are here. Then riders should head to the arena to look at the course maps. Riders are responsible for learning their courses which will be posted at the in-gate at the rider's ring.

When it is time for the rider to prepare himself it is important for the rider to be left virtually alone. It will be asked that parents find a comfortable place away from the students to sit and watch on the sidelines. Parental coaching will not be tolerated on any level. Riders should be able to dress themselves and utilize the help of older students when needed. This time before competition is important for the rider to start to calm their nerves and focus and concentrate on the task at hand. As little distraction as possible is a must.

At IEA competitions, riders may not warm up their horses. They will be allowed to mount only when instructed by the steward and be given a maximum of two warm up fences prior to starting their jumping course. For flat classes, riders will be led into the ring and then be allowed to gather their reins. .

Ultimately horse showing with IEA is an excellent way to gage the progression of your riding skills and knowledge. By riding many different horses riders will learn how to bring out the best in any horse they ride. We are here to help your rider set goals and learn how to achieve them. Whether it is trying to attain year end championship or simply mastering a course of fences, we at Sharkey Farm enjoy nothing more than seeing your rider be successful. But most of all, we want everyone to enjoy this fantastic sport and foster a love and respect for these magnificent animals which have drawn us all together!

## Horse Show Attire

Horse showing is based on foxhunting, and is extremely traditional. Dressing correctly for a horse show is extremely important and is trickier than dressing appropriately for lessons and hacks. I have a large bin of hand me down equipment and we encourage riders to share and hand-down whenever appropriate! All riders must have the following:

- ASTM approved helmet, preferably all black. Helmet fit is paramount, however there are several brands and styles that are more popular and appropriate for showing.
- Hair nets for riders over the age of 12, braids and bows 12 and under.
- Black gloves.
- Show coat: navy, black, or a conservative dark color.
- Show shirt, white or light pastel, long sleeve preferred.
- Breeches in tan or khaki for riders 12 and up, jodhpurs and garters for riders 12 and under.
- Well fitted leather field boots for riders 12 and up. Paddock boots that match the garters for riders 12 and under.
- Black boots and half chaps over khaki breeches are acceptable for all ages if this is your first show season.
- Matching belt.
- Black Jumping bat.

Outside of when you are showing, Sharkey Farm dress code applies. This includes safe, closed toed shoes, shorts/pants that are conservative and appropriate, and no visible bra straps. Midriffs or see-through clothing are not acceptable.

## IEA Membership

IEA requires all participants to be members of their organization.

Please go to <https://www.rideiea.org/data/riderapply/form>, fill out the form, pay the membership fee (\$60), print, sign, scan and email to IEA! Please CC me on the email: [kjsharkey1@gmail.com](mailto:kjsharkey1@gmail.com)

Team name: Sharkey Farm

In addition, before riding in a team practice, all members will need to sign a release for Sharkey Farm and the facilities that we are riding at.

## **Fees and Expenses Associated With IEA**

- Yearly Association membership \$60
- Show fees
  - Class fees (These are paid in a lump sum to me at the beginning of the season): \$450
  - Show coaching: \$45 per day
  - Trainer hotel, travel split between all team members at a show
- Lesson fees
  - \$40 if allowing your horse to be used in practice
  - \$50 for all others

## **Sharkey Farm Home Show**

- Parents will have a volunteer role at this show - from office to supervisory
- If you own or have access to suitable horses to use for this show, it is requested that you bring them to share - we need to source 30-40 horses to host a show
- Please share any special talents or connections you have with Kate - we need prizes, ribbons, decorations, etc. to make this fun and YOU can help with that!