



JUST STARTING OUT: MOVING INTO THE COMPETITION WORLD

Think of learning to ride horses like learning to drive a car. First your child will learn in a parking lot with no other cars around – just like we teach them first in the hallway where they get comfortable guiding and steering and the basics of trotting. Then they are ready to move to the arena in a small group lesson, where they are still one on one with their instructor. This is like driving on a two-lane road, where you may encounter other cars, but there's not a lot of traffic to worry about. It's not until your child has mastered the two-lane road that they are ready to get on the "highway" – this is when they are riding in a mediumsized group, and your instructor may be teaching one or two other children at the same time.

After you our your child has been riding in lessons and has mastered the basics of walking and trotting, as well as proper form; they are ready to begin competitions. Sometimes this can take a mere matter of months, while for other children this can take a year, or more. Of course, competitions are not required and not every child wishes to compete; however, we encourage all riders to give it a shot, as it helps us set goals in our riding lessons, and helps us see new things to work on. It also keeps our students motivated – and like everything else in life, the harder they work, the more they see the results!

The first step into competitions is our "fun show". These fun shows are for any level rider – even a beginner just starting out – and is a barn show with just our own riders, and sometimes one other barn that we invite. The atmosphere is fun and laid-back and a perfect opportunity to get your feet wet and see what competitions are all about!

TOURNAMENTS:

Depending on the time of the year that the student is ready for competitions, they will likely start out with "tournaments". Tournaments are local competitions for riders of all levels and abilities. Zubrod Stables belongs to the local Winter Tournament Association, which holds informal competitions from November to March each year (the off-season from our regular shows). Tournaments are available for all riders to participate in - show or academy - and give our students a chance to practice what they have been working on over the winter. Tournaments are a great way for inexperienced riders to compete for the first time. They offer a wide variety of classes, and all riders new to competitions, compete in the "beginner" level their first year, therefore it is on an even playing field. Each rider will compete in two classes – a class that focuses on equitation (proper form) and pleasure (horsemanship). See below for more detailed information. Riders compete in black Kentucky Jodhpurs and a Zubrod Stables pullover (which are purchased from us each fall).

TOURNAMENT RIDER CHECKLIST:

- Boots
- Helmet
- Black jodhpur pants with tie downs (extra-long so they cover the heel 2" + with the riders knee bent into riding position). **WE PROMISE NO PANTS ARE 'TOO LONG!' – THEY SHOULD BE LONG. REPEAT – LONG!!!!**
- Solid colored turtleneck or 'under-armour' type fitted shirt. Black, white or grey.
- Zubrod Stables team pullover (purchased through Zubrod Stables).
- Hair neatly pulled back in a french braid or pigtail braids, long hair in two braids over shoulders so that it does not interfere with the back number.
- Safety Pin or Magnets to attach back number (please keep back number for ENTIRE season).
- Gloves – black (leather preferred for competitions)

ACADEMY:

Once your rider has successfully completed at least one tournament season, they may be asked by their instructor to move up to the academy team. The Zubrod Stables academy program is the best way to introduce a rider to the show ring. It allows a rider to become familiar with many different environments and teaches our students many life lessons, about being a good sport and working hard to achieve their goals. The academy level is more competitive than the beginner tournament level, and therefore we will not ask them to move up to this division unless we feel they can successfully compete at this level. This does not mean we think they will go in there and win a blue ribbon every time, rather that we feel that they have shown us that they have mastered the basics, and have learned good ringmanship, have improved throughout the tournament season, and also that they have a good attitude in regards to competition. Academy shows will average \$400 each (two classes). It's also customary to tip our caretakers at the academy shows – as they work extremely hard to be sure your horse is well-groomed and ready to hit the ring. Any amount is appreciated; \$20-\$30 is average. Please give the money directly to Sarah or Deveau to allocate to the workers. We thank you for the generosity.

We attend approximately five academy shows each year from May to September. Academy classes are traditionally divided into equitation and pleasure (sometimes called horsemanship or showmanship). The equitation classes are judged on correct rider position, rider's ability to control their horse as well as ringmanship. The pleasure classes are judged on the rider's ability to achieve maximum performance of their mount, with not as much attention placed on the rider's form. Correct diagonals and leads are very important in both classes, and coming up on the correct diagonal is a "plus".

Judging at the academy level is sometimes difficult as the quality of the horse should not be considered. However, a horse with a higher head carriage and smoother gait will enhance the overall appearance and show off a rider's skills. Judging can also be difficult, as the requirements for judges in the academy division are not as stringent as at the show level. At the show level all judges must be accredited through the USEF and must apply to be a judge. They must also log a certain amount of hours, as well as go through a rigorous training and education program, including passing a test. Since the academy level does not fall under USEF guidelines, the judging requirements are more lax, and oftentimes the judge may not be a "rated" or a USEF judge. This does not mean they are not qualified, however it does mean that each judge may have preferences and things they regard more highly than others.

Different areas of the country have various criteria for their academy division; there is not a nationally accepted set of rules and guidelines for judging specifications. So as we travel for shows, there may be slightly different rules and judging guidelines, depending on the part of the country we are in.

APPEARANCE:

Exhibitors and judges should bear in mind that at all times entries are being judged on ability. However, neatness is the first requisite regarding a rider's attire and the following requirements are based on tradition and general present-day customs. Judges must penalize and may eliminate those competitors who do not conform.

Conservative colors for informal riding habits include black, blue, grey, burgundy, green, beige, or brown and may contain herringbone, pin stripes, and other combinations of colors that appear solid. Colors not included in this list are not acceptable and must be penalized and may be cause for elimination.

THESE RULES APPLY TO BOTH SHOW RIDERS AND ACADEMY RIDERS; NEATNESS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AS WELL AS CONSERVATIVE, COORDINATING OUTFITS!

**List of things that USEF judges would deem non-conservative, and could potentially penalize your rider:
Whips with "bling" or jewels, ties with bling, oversized lapel pins, earrings or bows. Sparkly or glittery eyeshadow.
Colors and patterns of clothing that are not considered conservative.
Please have your academy outfit approved by one of your instructors!**

ACADEMY RIDER CHECKLIST:

Please make sure that all riders have the following items in order to participate in a show. Please pack a small 'caboodle' or carrying case with all of their makeup, hair necessities and extra items, so things are well organized and ready to go to the show.

CLOTHING:

- Shirt- nicely fitted, button-down front, collared shirt. Well starched, with holes for a collar pin/tie bar. The shirt should fit snug around the neck and sleeves should reach past wrists. Sleeves should be fairly fitted.
- Jodhpurs- should hang below the boot by at least one inch (with rider's knee bent in riding position!). Suede knee patches are not required but help the rider to grip the saddle. Please make sure all jod pants have tiedowns!
- Vest- form-fitting in a color complimentary of the shirt. Second from the bottom button should hit at belly button.
- Tie- that goes well with both the shirt and the vest.
- Gloves (leather gloves are preferred) • Boots- please make sure that they are clean.

HAIR:

- Pony tail holder
- Hairbrush
- Hairspray
- Bobby pins
- Hair pins (these are the 'open' type of bobby pins)
- Hair nets (thin Goody brand work the best/the thick ones you find at a tack shop do not work well for our buns)
- Large metal barrettes (Goody or Scunci brand/slightly curved and usually come in a 3-pack)

- Bows (to coordinate with clothing)
- Clean hair does not stay up very well, so please try to avoid washing hair the morning before a competition.

MAKEUP:

- Makeup should not look pageant makeup but should just add some color to their face. At the very least we ask that you use blush, eyeshadow, mascara and lip color.

OTHER NECESSITIES:

- Extra tie-downs
- Safety pins of all sizes
- Needle and thread
- Number pins or magnets (four)
- Extra tie bar
- Whip
- Belt
- Black electrical tape (to tape boots and gloves)
- Shoe polish or shoe shine

BASIC CLOTHING:

Clothing can be purchased at a variety of different stores in the area or online.

For basic riding necessities for beginners, we recommend purchasing boots and a helmet once they have advanced to riding around the arena by themselves.

Helmets: Although helmets are not required at most shows, there are shows that do require helmets for all riders under 18. We strongly recommend them for all riders, especially those under 18. We do have helmets available to borrow, however after the rider has made a commitment to the sport, they prefer to have their own helmet.

Boots: For the first few lessons, riders can wear tennis shoes, or another closed-toe shoe with a small heel. Cowboy boots are often not functional for saddle seat riding, as it does not allow the rider to get their heel down, or their foot in the proper position. Riding boots can be purchased for a reasonable fee at local stores or online.

Gloves: In the beginning it can be hard to learn how to properly hold the reins, and young children often complain that their hands will hurt after riding (usually it is because they are 'over-gripping' the reins and actually holding them too tightly). Gloves can be purchased inexpensively and will really help the rider grip the reins (think how baseball players wear gloves to bat). It is also a good practice to wear them every time they ride, as they are required for competitions.

Jodhpur Pants: Saddle seat riders wear Kentucky Jodhpurs. This is a style of pants that have a 'bell' at the bottom and a tie-down (elastic strap) that goes underneath the boot and helps hold the pants down so they don't ride up the leg (which is uncomfortable and rubs the leg). The basic style is a polyester jod in black which can be purchased locally. **The most important thing for jods is that they are extra-long, as they should hang below the boot when they are riding** – and when they are off the horse it is proper practice to turn the bell up at the bottom so they don't walk on them. Many lesson riders will ride in breeches for lessons; these are typically for hunt seat riding and are more fitted leggings with knee patches. Breeches are acceptable for practice, however will not be permitted for competitions.

Whips: We do not use 'bats' or hunt seat style riding crops, as they are too short and often the handle is too fat for little kids to easily handle. If your child moves up to competitions they may want to have their own whip. We recommend no longer than 30" English saddle seat style riding whip. Black shaft with a white handle. These are most easily purchased at either Shelby Horse Supply or The Winners Circle in Shelbyville and are under \$15. They do not sell this style at either store in Middletown.

PLACES TO PURCHASE BASIC RIDING GEAR AND ACADEMY/SHOW CLOTHING:

**The Show Shop
Sarah Tompkins
6421 W. Hwy 146
Crestwood, KY 40014
Phone: 502.681.3920 (Sarah)**

E-mail: theshowshopconsignment@gmail.com www.showshopconsignment.com

Open Tuesday and Thursday from 10-1 and Saturday 10-3 or by appointment

Shelby Horse Supply 7022 Shelbyville Road
Simpsonville, Kentucky 40067
phone: 502.722.5010 email:
info@shelbyhorse.com
www.shelbyhorse.com Mon -
Fri: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sat: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Commotion! Consignment Riding Apparel
Heather Marchiafava
195 Kentucky Avenue Lexington,
KY 40502
Phone: 859-552-5983
E-Mail: hmarchia@aol.com
M-F 10 AM to 6 PM, Sat. 10 AM to 4 PM, Closed
Sunday
www.shopcommotion.com

The Patchwork Pony
614 D Street, Suite A
Charleston, WV 25303
Phone: 304.552.7216
E-mail: thepatchworkpony@frontier.com
www.thepatchworkpony.com

The Winner's Circle Horse Supply
5904 Shelbyville Road Simpsonville, KY 40067
502-405-3300
Monday-Saturday: 9am-5pm

The Hitching Post Tack Shop
11403 Main St. Middletown, KY 40243
www.hitchingposttack.com
phone: 502-245-4672
Monday-Saturday: 9am-7pm
Sunday: 12-5pm

Becker Brothers Custom Equestrian Clothing
115 Walton Avenue
Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: 859.233.0700
Fax: 859.233.0715
E-mail: dale@beckerbrothersllc.com
www.beckerbrothersllc.com

Midwest Saddle Seat Consignment
20730 Holyoke Ave. Suite 168
Lakeville, MN 55044
Phone: 612.598.2427 (Jen) or 319.981.5406 (Kristen)
E-mail: mscapparel@aol.com
www.midwestsaddleseatconsignment.com