

# **Mill Creek IEA 2025-2026**

I would like to welcome you to the Mill Creek IEA Team (IEA Zone 4, Region 4)! The information in this packet can help you finalize your decision for participation on our team and can also be used as a reference for our policies. Please make sure you read all the rules and regulations governing IEA at [www.rideiea.org](http://www.rideiea.org).

## **Why Should I (or My Child) Join the MC IEA Team?**

IEA provides a more affordable way for your child to experience showing without the expense of ownership or horse leasing. Joining the team is the next step in continuing your child's riding career past the recreational level of weekly lessons. The team is a big commitment both timewise and financially. A rider is ready to join the team when they can correctly demonstrate control at all gaits on a variety of our horses and have the desire to be more involved in this sport.

For riders who own/lease and show their own horse, IEA is a valuable addition to your equestrian resume if you would like to ride for an IHSA team in college and a great way to develop teamwork and lasting barn friendships.

## **Team Rider Guidelines**

The decision to join Mill Creek IEA is a big one and reflects a commitment to the team for the entire IEA season (August through Regionals/Zones/Nationals).

- Each equestrian is required to attend all scheduled team events. If you are unable to attend, you must communicate with Coach Jordan well in advance. Riders that continually miss events may be required to perform extra tasks to make up for absences.
- Be on time to all practices, team rides, and horse shows.
- Proper attire is a must!
- Work hard and try your best.
- All horses must be cared for before and after rides and tack must be cleaned. Please plan accordingly with your time.
- Be a helper. If your teammates and/or Coach are working/moving, you probably should be as well!
- Maintain a positive attitude and respect everyone.
- No team member may use alcohol, drugs, or smoke

## **Parent Guidelines**

- Make sure your rider attends all scheduled team events. If your child must miss, please email / call / text well in advance and offer make-up times or activities.
- Aid in preparations for horse shows. Including but not limited to:
  - Driving riders
  - Booking hotel rooms
  - Purchasing snacks and/or meals while competing

- Bring set up items
- Attending practices and horse shows to support your child and the team
- Support the entire Team by helping with fundraising and PTO (Parent Team Organizing)
- Please leave the coaching to the Coach!
- Keep your balance paid and all IEA dues up to date.
- Any comments, questions, or concerns about the team in general or a specific issue should be addressed directly and solely to Coach Jordan in an email and **NOT** on a horse show day unless it is a matter of health and/or safety for your rider.
- **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU SPEAK TO A CHILD OTHER THAN YOUR OWN ABOUT ANY ISSUES, CONCERNS, ETC UNLESS YOU HAVE FOLLOWED THESE STEPS:**
  - 1) You have notified Coach Jordan of the issue, the riders and/or parents involved, and she is willing to intervene
  - 2) You AND Coach Jordan together will approach the other rider's PARENT and inform them of the circumstances. A respectful discussion will follow.
  - 3) IF AND ONLY IF COACH JORDAN DEEMS IT NECESSARY, she and the rider's parent will discuss with the rider the situation, circumstances, and will come up with a resolution.

\*\*ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS WILL RESULT IN THE VIOLATING PARENT BEING IMMEDIATELY EXCUSED FROM ANY EVENT OR ACTIVITY WHERE THE VIOLATION TOOK PLACE. ON THE SECOND VIOLATION, THE VIOLATING PARENT WILL BE BANNED FROM ALL FUTURE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, UP TO AND INCLUDING BANNING FROM TU FOX FARM AND COMPETITIONS ATTENDED BY MILL CREEK IEA, FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT IEA SEASON\*\*

### **Riding Commitment**

Coach Jordan will choose a division for each rider based on the members riding level and eligibility. All riders are required to take a minimum of 1 weekly lesson at Tu Fox Farm (2 lessons per week for those wanting to jump). During the season, there may also be 1 monthly scheduled IEA-specific lesson. It is highly encouraged that all riders attend all IEA lessons offered as well as any IEA camps offered during school breaks.

During the off-season, riders are encouraged to take a minimum of weekly lessons. Yearly placements for riders will be dependent on your level of commitment during the off-season.

It should be understood that in our sport, once weekly riding is not considered an adequate amount of riding for the timely advancement of a rider. In our region/zone, most riders are lessoning a minimum of 2 times a week but the vast majority ride 3-5 days a week plus horse show on a regular basis. There is no requirement to ride in lessons, hack, or horse show more than as described above; however, results at the horse shows will be indicative of the level of commitment to riding which includes the number of times per week each student is actively riding. The best thing you/your student can do to increase the likelihood of success in the IEA show ring is to increase their saddle time.

#### **Uniforms for Team Practice**

Shirt with sleeves or a collar (tucked in,) riding pants with a belt, boots and half chaps or tall boots. Each member of team must also supply their own riding helmet.

### Uniforms for shows

All riders need hunt seat show clothes which consist of the following:

- White show shirt
- Show jacket in black or dark navy
- Tan or beige knee-patch breeches with no piping or textural patterns
- Paddock boots and garters (12 & under) or tall boots (13 & over)
- Show helmet
- Belt
- Black gloves
- Crop – plain black with wrist strap removed
- Bows (12 & under) or hairnet (13 & over)

### **Monthly IEA Lessons**

Each month there may be one IEA-focused lesson. It is meant to better prepare riders for the IEA horse shows by allowing for the changing of horses, riding new horses, and working on the most common tests seen at the horse shows. The lesson will also include a horsemanship section that will be required for all riders who attend the riding portion of the lesson.

The monthly lesson is not mandatory if you are taking weekly lessons at Tu Fox Farm. However, if you/your rider choose not to participate in the monthly lessons, their regular lessons with Coach Jordan may be adapted as necessary to better prepare them for the IEA shows. This could include switching horses during a lesson, having extra flatwork lessons to include testing, riding unfamiliar horses, having a groundwork/horsemanship lesson in exchange for riding, etc.

The normal cost for the lesson will be \$75 per rider. If there is a guest clinician, the cost may be higher, but lunch will be provided.

### **Tentative 2025 IEA Lesson Dates**

August 30  
September 27  
October 13  
November 8  
December 6  
January 10

### **Rider Placement and Eligibility**

All initial placements for riders must be within the same class eligibility level. Competing in two different levels is permitted only when a rider points-out in the flat.

Once a rider has competed in a division, the rider may not move to a lower level division unless directed to do so by the IEA National Steward. No rider who has competed successfully in at least 2 IEA sanctioned shows in a specific division will be permitted to ride in a lower level division, unless he/she provides proof of diminished riding ability. Please keep this in mind as your child is placed into their

competition classes as they will not be allowed to move down a division if they are unsuccessful in a higher division.

If a rider accumulates 28 points in a class in regular show season competitions in any single competition year, that rider points out and must, during the next competition year, move up at least one division in order to be eligible to ride in any IEA show. Riders can only compete in a division for 3 years before being required to move on to the next division.

Please review the class list below so that you better understand the requirements of the riders for placement in each division. The Hunt Seat tests referenced in the class descriptions are located just below the descriptions themselves. Understand that the level your child rides/jumps at home on our school horses should be higher than what they are looking to compete in an IEA setting.

### Classes

Below are the class descriptions for IEA classes. These descriptions are directly from the IEA Rulebook.

#### CLASS 1. Varsity Open Equitation o/f 2'6"

Open to riders in grades 9-12. Riders should be capable of jumping 3'-3'6" on their usual mounts at home. Coaches should be confident these riders could safely perform over a 2'6" equitation course on an unfamiliar horse. Riders participating in Open Over Fences are expected to compete throughout the season in Open Flat. To be eligible for post-season competitions in individual classes, riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) Open Flat classes. To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes, riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Open over Fences and (2) Open Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 2. Varsity Open Equitation on the flat

Open to riders in grades 9-12. These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 – 16. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Open Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 3. Varsity Intermediate Equitation o/f 2'

Open to riders in grades 9-12. Riders should be capable of jumping 2'6"-3' on their usual mounts at home. Intermediate riders are not allowed to have shown over fences higher than 3' (0.90 meters) in any Section 1 or Section 2 competition (Rule 3101) in any discipline. Riders who have won 10 or more blue ribbons at 3' (0.90 meters) at any Section 1 or Section 2 competition (Rule 3101) in any discipline are not eligible for Intermediate classes. Coaches should be confident these riders would be able to safely perform over a 2' equitation course on an unfamiliar horse. Riders participating in Intermediate Over Fences are expected to compete throughout the season in Intermediate Flat or Open Flat. To be eligible for post season competitions in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) Intermediate or Open Flat classes. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Intermediate Over Fences and two (2) Intermediate or Open Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 4. Varsity Intermediate Equitation on the flat

Open to riders in grades 9-12. These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 – 13. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Intermediate Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 5. Junior Varsity Novice Equitation o/f x-rails

Open to riders in grades 9-12. Riders should be capable of jumping 2'-2'6" on their usual mounts at home. Novice riders are not allowed to have shown over fences higher than 2'6" (0.75 meters) in any Section 1 or Section 2 competition (Rule 3101) in any discipline. Riders who have won 10 or more blue ribbons at 2'6" (0.75 meters) are not eligible for Novice classes. Riders should have a minimum of one-year of professional instruction over fences. Coaches should be confident these riders would be able to safely perform over a x-rails equitation course on an unfamiliar horse. Riders participating in Novice Over Fences are expected to compete throughout the season in Novice Flat or Intermediate Flat. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) Novice or Intermediate Flat classes. To be eligible for post season competitions in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Novice Over Fences and two (2) Novice or Intermediate Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 6. Junior Varsity Novice Equitation on the flat

Open to riders in grades 9-12. These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 – 10. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Novice Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 7. Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the flat Walk/Trot/Canter

Open to riders in grades 9-12 who are not eligible for Novice level jumping classes, but must be experienced enough to canter on an unfamiliar animal in a group. These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 through 7. Beginner riders are not allowed to have shown over fences higher than 2' (0.60 meters) in any Section 1 or Section 2 competition (Rule 3101) in any discipline. To be eligible for Class 7, a rider must have had at least one year continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at the trot and canter, and be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses. Riders may not cross-enter into class Class 8 Walk/Trot. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 8. Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the flat Walk/Trot

Open to riders in grades 9-12 who meet criteria for Class 7 but are not yet ready to compete on an unfamiliar horse at a canter. To be eligible for Class 8, riders must have at least six months continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at a trot, and must be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses. These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat

Tests 1 – 5. Individual points will be tracked in Class 8 Walk/Trot for post season qualification. No team points will be awarded in Class 8 Walk/Trot during regular or post season shows. Reference rule 3205.2 for advancement criteria. Riders may not cross-enter Class 7 Walk/Trot/Canter. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

#### CLASS 7x/8x. Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the flat Walk/Trot Warm-up

Warm up class for classes 7 & 8. Open to riders competing in Class 7 and Class 8. No individual or team points will be awarded.

#### CLASS 9. Future Intermediate Equitation o/f 2'

Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the criteria for Hunt Seat Class 1 or 3. Riders participating in Future Intermediate Over Fences are expected to compete throughout the season in Future Intermediate Flat. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) Intermediate Flat classes. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Intermediate Over Fences and two (2) Intermediate Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 10. Future Intermediate Equitation on the flat

Open to riders in grades 4-8 who are capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 – 13. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Intermediate Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 11. Future Novice o/f x-rails

Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the criteria for Hunt Seat Class 5. Riders participating in Future Novice Over Fences are expected to compete throughout the season in Future Novice or Future Intermediate Flat. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) Novice or Intermediate Flat classes. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Novice Over Fences and two (2) Novice or Intermediate Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 12. Future Novice Equitation on the flat

Open to riders in grades 4-8 who are capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 – 10. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Novice Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 13. Future Beginner Equitation on the flat Walk/Trot/Canter

Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the eligibility requirements of Hunt Seat Class 7. These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 – 7. Riders may not cross-enter Class 14 Walk/Trot. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have

accumulated the required points. To be eligible for post season competition in Team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter Flat classes during the regular season.

#### CLASS 14. Future Beginner Equitation on the flat Walk/Trot

Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the criteria for Hunt Seat Beginner Class 8. To be eligible for Class 14, riders must have at least six months continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at a trot, and must be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses. Individual points will be tracked in Class 14 Walk/Trot for post season qualification. No team points will be awarded in Class 14 Walk/Trot during regular or post season shows. These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 – 5. Riders may not cross-enter Class 13 Walk/Trot/Canter. To be eligible for post season competition in Individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points

#### CLASS 13x/14x. Future Beginner Equitation on the flat Walk/Trot Warm-up

Warm up class for classes 13 & 14. Open to riders competing in Class 13 and Class 14. No individual or team points will be awarded.

### **Hunt Seat Tests**

A rider must be prepared to perform the test appropriate for the class in which the rider is participating. Riders may be requested to perform the following tests collectively or individually during a show or competition. A Hunt Seat judge may choose from the following tests using tests:

1-5 for Beginner Walk/Trot riders

1-7 for Beginner W/T/C riders

1-10 for Novice riders

1-13 for Intermediate riders

1-16 for Open riders

1. Asked an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level
2. Halt
3. Sitting trot
4. Two-point position at the walk and/or trot
5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals
6. Figure eight at canter on correct lead, demonstrating simple change of lead
7. Change horses
8. Ride without stirrups at the trot
9. Jump a shortened course
10. Trot a jump
11. Ride without stirrups at the canter
12. Change leads down center of ring, demonstrating simple change of lead
13. Half-turn on forehand and/or half-turn on haunches

14. Canter on the counter lead.

15. Hand gallop

16. Jump without stirrups

\*\* Jumping tests are only used in over fences classes

## **Quick Reference**

Below is an at-a-glance reference for the IEA and Mill Creek descriptions and expectations of riders competing at each level.

### **Beginner Walk/Trot**

| <u>IEA Description</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>IEA Tests</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>Mill Creek Expectations</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rider must have at least 6 months of continuous professional instruction</li> <li>• Rider must demonstrate a proficiency at a trot</li> <li>• Rider must be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Asked an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level</li> <li>2. Halt</li> <li>3. Sitting trot</li> <li>4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot</li> <li>5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating a change of diagonals</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rides confidently on Group S1 W/T, including sitting trot; Rides comfortably on Group H1, including sitting trot</li> <li>• Able to identify and change diagonals independently of trainer</li> <li>• 5 minutes of 2-point at the Walk</li> <li>• 5 laps of 2-point at the Trot</li> </ul> |

### **Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter**

| <u>IEA Description</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>IEA Tests</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <u>Mill Creek Expectations</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rider must have at least one year of continuous professional instruction</li> <li>• Rider must demonstrate a proficiency at the trot and canter</li> <li>• Rider must be capable of competing on unfamiliar horses</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Asked an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level</li> <li>2. Halt</li> <li>3. Sitting trot</li> <li>4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot</li> <li>5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating a change of diagonals</li> <li>6. Figure eight at a canter on correct lead, demonstrating a simple change of lead</li> <li>7. Change horses (additional warm-up jumps will be at the judge's discretion)</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rides confidently on group S2 W/T/C, including sitting trot; Rides comfortably on Group H2 W/T/C, including sitting trot</li> <li>• Able to identify, ask for, and change leads independently of trainer</li> </ul> |

### Novice Crossrails, Flat and Over Fences

| <u>IEA Description</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <u>IEA Tests</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <u>Mill Creek Expectations</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riders must have at least 1 year of professional instruction over fences</li> <li>• Riders should be capable of jumping 2'-2'6" on a familiar horse at home</li> <li>• Rider must not have shown over fences higher than 2'7" (0.80m)</li> <li>• Rider must not have won more than 10 or more blue ribbons at 2'6" (0.75m)</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Asked an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level</li> <li>2. Halt</li> <li>3. Sitting trot</li> <li>4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot</li> <li>5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating a change of diagonals</li> <li>6. Figure eight at a canter on correct lead, demonstrating a simple change of lead</li> <li>7. Change horses (additional warm-up jumps will be at the judge's discretion)</li> <li>8. Ride without stirrups at the trot</li> <li>9. Jump a shortened course</li> <li>10. Trot a jump</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat confidently on Group S3; Flat comfortably on Groups H3</li> <li>• 10 minutes of 2-point at the Walk</li> <li>• 10 laps of 2-point at the Trot</li> <li>• 5 laps of 2-point at the Canter</li> <li>• 5 laps of sitting trot without stirrups</li> <li>• 2 laps of posting trot without stirrups</li> <li>• Jump confidently on Group S4; Jump comfortably on Group H4</li> <li>• Able to count strides</li> <li>• Able to identify and change leads on course independently of trainer</li> <li>• Able to maintain pace / match striding on course</li> </ul> |

### Intermediate 2', Flat and Over Fences

| <u>IEA Description</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>IEA Tests</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <u>Mill Creek Expectations</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riders must have at least 1 year of professional instruction over fences</li> <li>• Rider should be capable of jumping 2'6"-3' on a familiar horse at home.</li> <li>• Rider must not have shown over fences higher than 3' (.90m)</li> <li>• Rider must not have won more than 10 blue ribbons at 3' (0.90m)</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Asked an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level</li> <li>2. Halt</li> <li>3. Sitting trot</li> <li>4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot</li> <li>5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating a change of diagonals</li> <li>6. Figure eight at a canter on correct lead, demonstrating a simple change of lead</li> <li>7. Change horses (additional warm-up jumps will be at the judge's discretion)</li> <li>8. Ride without stirrups at the trot</li> <li>9. Jump a shortened course</li> <li>10. Trot a jump</li> <li>11. Ride without stirrups at the canter</li> <li>12. Change leads on a straight line, demonstrating a simple change of lead</li> <li>13. Half-turn on the forehand and/or half-turn on the haunches</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat Confidently on Group S5; Flat comfortably on Group H5</li> <li>• 15 laps of 2-point at the trot</li> <li>• 10 laps of 2-point at the Canter</li> <li>• 10 laps of sitting trot without stirrups</li> <li>• 5 laps of posting trot without stirrups</li> <li>• 5 laps of full-seat canter without stirrups</li> <li>• 2 laps of half-seat canter without stirrups</li> <li>• Simple lead changes on a straight line thru trot</li> <li>• Jump confidently on Group S6; Jump comfortably on Group H6</li> <li>• Able to and comfort in riding the "horse" step</li> </ul> |

## **Open 2'6", Flat and Over Fences**

High School Only

| <u>IEA Description</u>                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>IEA Tests</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <u>Mill Creek Expectations</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rider must have at least 1 year of professional instruction over fences</li><li>• Rider should be capable of jumping 3'-3'6" on a familiar horse at home</li></ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Asked an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level</li><li>2. Halt</li><li>3. Sitting trot</li><li>4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot</li><li>5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating a change of diagonals</li><li>6. Figure eight at a canter on correct lead, demonstrating a simple change of lead</li><li>7. Change horses (additional warm-up jumps will be at the judge's discretion)</li><li>8. Ride without stirrups at the trot</li><li>9. Jump a shortened course</li><li>10. Trot a jump</li><li>11. Ride without stirrups at the canter</li><li>12. Change leads on a straight line, demonstrating a simple change of lead</li><li>13. Half-turn on the forehand and/or half-turn on the haunches</li><li>14. Canter on the counter lead</li><li>15. Hand gallop</li><li>16. Jump without stirrups</li></ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flat confidently on Group S7; Flat comfortably on Group H7</li><li>• 20 laps of 2-point at the trot</li><li>• 10 minutes of cantering in 2-point</li><li>• 15 laps of sitting trot without stirrups</li><li>• 10 laps of posting trot without stirrups</li><li>• 10 laps of full-seat canter without stirrups</li><li>• 5 laps of half-seat canter without stirrups</li><li>• Simple lead changes on straight line thru halt and walk</li><li>• Jump confidently on Group S8; Jump comfortably on Group H8</li></ul> |

## **Judging Requirements**

In all IEA classes, good horsemanship is paramount. Judges are to find the “Best Riders” and not necessarily the best mount. However, one must understand that the horse has a significant impact on the quality of the ride. Because of the random draw component, this cannot be controlled and must be accepted.

In equitation classes, only the rider is being judged; therefore, no penalty should be assessed because of the horse’s conformation, color, or way of going. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show the horse.

Any rider not having his/her mount under sufficient control shall be removed from the ring by the stewards and shall be disqualified or remounted at their discretion.

## **Hand and Seat**

Rider should have a competent appearance, seat, and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise.

To mount, take up the reins in the left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand, insert foot in stirrup, and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

Hands should be over and in front of horse’s withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse’s mouth to the rider’s elbow. Method of holding reins is optional but all reins must be picked up at the same time.

The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to the rider’s conformation, ankles flexed, heels down, calf of leg in contact with the horse and slightly behind the girth. Iron should be on ball of foot.

## **Hunt Seat Class Routine**

### **Over Fences**

The performance begins when the horse enters the ring or is given the signal to proceed after entering the ring.

Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the fault of the rider. Except in combinations, number of strides shall not be considered unless it is the fault of the rider. Although a flying lead change is preferable, a well-executed simple change must not be penalized.

Each contestant may include one courtesy circle, if desired, before approaching the first jump. He/She shall then proceed around the course, keeping an even pace throughout. 3 cumulative refusals will result in elimination.

### **On the Flat**

Contestants shall enter the ring and shall proceed at least once around the ring at each appropriate gait and on command, reverse and repeat.

Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Entries shall then line up on command, and any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests included in class requirements.

At the walk, sitting trot, and canter, body should be a couple of degrees in front of the vertical; posting trot, inclined forward; galloping and jumping same inclination as the posting trot.

### **2025-2026 (Tentative) Horse Show Schedule**

The following Regular Season shows will be at Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center in Gainesville, GA:

November 16 – Cornerstone Equestrian

December 13 – Anderwood Equestrian

December 14 – Break-Away Farm

January 17 – Mill Creek (Attendance Required!)

January 18 – Mill Creek (Attendance Required!)

\* Additional show dates will be communicated to the team when they are known

#### Post-Season Competitions:

February 15 – Region 4 Finals @ Georgia International Horse Park (Conyers, GA)

March 14-15 – Zone 4 Finals @ Tryon International Equestrian Center (Mill Spring, NC)

April 23-26 – National Finals @ St. Louis Equestrian Fair Grounds (St. Louis, MO)

### **Horse Show Weekend Schedule**

The following is an approximate show weekend schedule for when we are planning to haul into horse shows on Friday afternoons with the horses, show on Saturday, and leave with the horses Saturday evening after the conclusion of the show. There may be minor changes based on show venues, but those will be discussed around the individual shows.

#### Thursday Afternoon

Horses are prepared to go to the show. This includes getting them bathed and clipped. Tack will also be prepared for the show with a thorough cleaning. All necessary tack, equipment, feed, etc. will be loaded into the trailer for the show the next day.

#### Friday Afternoon

Horses are loaded onto the trailer and hauled to the show facility. Stalls are set up with hay, water buckets, fans (if needed,) and shavings.

#### Show Day (Saturday)

Every show's schedule runs differently, but the class schedule will be available in advance and discussed with the team members so that they know approximately when they will be showing. **All riders are expected to be present on the show grounds from the end of AM schooling until after the last classes when the team photo is taken except in cases of emergency.** There are two sections of the day – morning classes and afternoon classes.

The morning horses are generally schooled starting around 7AM. There is then a course walk and a trainers' meeting, during which time AM riders should be getting ready to compete and riders not

showing in the first few morning classes should be getting AM horses ready for the show. Riders who compete in the afternoon or riders who have already competed in the morning are expected to help prepare and hold Mill Creek horses outside of the arena during the AM classes and to get them rest and water as time allows. Generally, there is a second schooling of the day for horses that will be used in the afternoon that weren't used in the morning. Then the remainder of the classes will be held. Again, it is every rider's responsibility to help hold our horses.

At the end of the show day, all ribbons earned will be hung on the banner and we will get a team photo with all riders who competed that day. Afterwards, tack, equipment, and horses will be loaded back onto the trailer to be taken back to the farm. At the farm, horses, tack, and equipment will be unloaded and placed back into the barn or taken off for cleaning if necessary.

### **Horse Show Chores**

A Sign-Up Genius will be sent out prior to each horse show with different places for team members and parents to sign up to contribute to the horse show. Team members are expected to help with as much as possible during the show weekend, but are only required to sign up for one major group.

**Group 1 (Thursday Afternoon):** in charge of preparing horses for the horse show as well as their necessary equipment other than tack. This will include grooming/bathing/drying horses, pulling manes, clipping, etc. and then wrapping the horses in their stalls for the night. Group 1 will also be responsible for loading hay, feed, shavings, Mill Creek Banners, and all other equipment needed for the horse shows outside of tack. Also responsible for taking apart all tack, cleaning and conditioning tack, putting tack back together and making sure it is fitted appropriately to the horses, and then loading the tack including bridles, saddles, saddle pads, girths, etc. into the trailer. This group is best for riders NOT riding in Thursday lessons – Thursday riders in this group need to expect to be at the farm MUCH later than their normal lesson time.

**Group 2 (Friday Afternoon):** meets Coach Jordan at the farm to load the horses and any last minute supplies onto the trailer, then meets Coach Jordan at the show grounds to unload the trailer, set up the stalls for the horses, and set up the tack room.

**Group 3 (Saturday Morning):** This group is responsible for tacking horses for AM schooling as well as any longeing or other prep that horses may need prior to being schooled or shown, and for stall chores for the horses at the show in the morning. This includes cleaning stalls, filling waters, monitoring hay, noticing abnormal horse behavior and reporting it to Coach Jordan, etc.

**Group 4 (Saturday Evening):** responsible for meeting Coach Jordan at the farm to unload the horses, tack, and equipment that the team loaded onto the trailer after the show. This may include hosing off horses used in PM classes, feeding horses at the farm if not able to be fed at the show grounds, turning them back out into their fields, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE that active participation in the entire show day is expected from all riders. While they may have only one assigned group, a good teammate will help others to keep everything running smoothly and the horses happy. Failure to contribute will not be tolerated. ALL RIDERS are responsible for horse holding, stall chores during the day, monitoring the horses, helping their teammates adjust stirrups and check tack, etc.**

## **Costs for Horse Shows**

There will be two payment options available for this season.

- (1) Riders can pay \$1250 to cover their (5) regular season shows by SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.
- (2) Riders can pay \$275 per horse show for the (5) regular season shows, due the MONDAY before each horse show.

Any rider who decides to pay for their regular shows in one payment by September 1 **AND** who qualifies for Regionals in one or more classes before their 5<sup>th</sup> show will receive a credit **TOWARDS REGIONALS** of \$55/class that their rider did not compete in. ie: if a rider qualifies on the flat in 4 shows, they will receive a \$55 credit towards Regionals if they do not compete on the flat in the 5<sup>th</sup> show of the season.

## **Captains (Middle and High School)**

Middle School and High School will each have Captains assigned by Coach Jordan. Being chosen as Captain is not based on level of riding or age but rather commitment to the horses, the team, and one's teammates. All team members are eligible to be named Captains.

A Captain is expected to be the right hand of Coach Jordan throughout the horse show weekend and a true leader for their team. Captains will be overseeing the other Groups in addition to their own Group on the horse show days and are expected to help resolve any issues that arise from confusion about or failure to perform needed tasks. Captains should be willing to first try to resolve issues on their own through rallying their teammates before reporting incidents to the Coach. Captains should be knowledgeable about horses and the horse shows enough to be the go-to for questions from teammates and parents while the Coach is busy at the show ring. High School Captains should be willing and able to mentor Middle School Captains.

A Captain needs to have exceptional leadership abilities, a strong work ethic, patience with the horses and teammates, integrity, and passion for the sport.

## **Horsemanship Requirements**

The purpose of this organization is to support and encourage any student or Mill Creek High School to become active and educated in the field of the equine sport and includes but is not limited to:

- A. Education of team members in horse health care**
- B. Horseback riding
- C. Use and understanding the components of the horse tack**
- D. Understand and help with horse show management throughout the season**
- E. Understand and learn horse anatomy for overall care of the horses**
- F. Fundraising to help support the team.

In accordance with the Mill Creek Bylaws Article II, Section 2, an emphasis will be placed on horsemanship during the IEA season. Each month, students will be assigned sections of the USHJA Study Guide and supplemental readings in the USPC Manuals. A topic will be chosen from these readings and covered in the horsemanship section of the monthly IEA lesson. There will be open-book study guides

given out before each lesson that cover key parts of the readings. All students will also be required to take the horsemanship tests at the horse shows during the seasons. The cost of these tests is \$1 per show and riders can qualify all the way up to Nationals through their written and practical horsemanship tests.

### **Sponsorships and Fundraising**

Each rider is responsible for securing a minimum of \$200 in sponsorship money for the team prior to the first show.

We also have fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Please contact our President Kara Rice for more information about Fundraising.

### **Lettering Requirements**

In order to letter, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 or above for the season. Should the GPA drop below 2.5 or the team member breaks a Mill Creek High School rules, the MCHS sponsor has the right to decline a team member's membership and place on the team. All MCHS rules should be followed at the barn, at competitions, or anywhere riders are representing the MCHS IEA team.

#### **Competing Riders**

In order to earn a High School Varsity letter, or a Middle School medal, a rider must:

- Ride in a minimum of once weekly lessons with Coach Jordan or an approved trainer
- Compete in 5 regular season IEA shows. Prior to and during these shows the rider will assist with the horses and assist Coach Jordan where needed. This includes packing and unpacking the trailer, grooming, tacking, loading and unloading of horses before and after the shows as well as feed, water, and hold horses during the competition. Responsibilities will be divided up during the show season based on size and team participants at each show.
- Complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service. A portion of these hours will be at a team sponsored event, which could include a workday at the barn.
- Secure a minimum \$100 sponsorship due by the first show
- Participate in team scheduled barn cleanup day
- Acquirements of 12 IEA show points throughout the season

#### **Apprentice or Manager (non-competing rider)**

- Ride in a minimum of 2 lessons per month with Coach Jordan and/or assist riders at scheduled lesson times 4 times per month
- Must attend all shows, assist with the horses and assist trainer where needed
- Complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service. A portion of these hours will be at a team sponsored event, which could include a workday at the barn.
- Secure a minimum of \$100 sponsorship due by the first show

The following documents are to be filled out, signed, and returned to Coach Jordan or the Team President once a rider has decided to join the Mill Creek IEA Team



**2025-2026**

**MILL CREEK EQUESTRIAN TEAM**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2025-26 Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Birthdate: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student's Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Cell (up to 2 numbers): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email Address (up to 2 emails):

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact(s) :

\_\_\_\_\_

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Relationship</u> | <u>Phone Number</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|             |                     |                     |
|             |                     |                     |
|             |                     |                     |

# **MCHS Equestrian Team Requirements, Conditions, and Expectations**

## **LETTERING REQUIREMENTS**

### **I. Mandatory 2.5 GPA**

Maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above for the season. Should the GPA drop below 2.5 or the team member breaks a Mill Creek High School rule, the Mill Creek High School sponsor has the right to decline team members' membership and a place on the team. All Mill Creek High School rules should be followed at the barn, at competitions, or anywhere where you are representing the Mill Creek High School Equestrian Team.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

### **II. Competing Riders and Managers**

#### **A. Competing Rider Requirements to earn a high school varsity letter or a middle school medal**

- Ride in a minimum of 4 lessons per month at the farm.
- Participate in 5 regular season IEA shows. Prior to and during these shows the rider will assist with the horses and assist the trainer where needed. This includes packing and unpacking the trailer, grooming, tacking, loading and unloading of horses before and after the shows as well as feed, water and hold horses during the competition. Responsibilities will be divided up during the show season based on size and team participants at each show.
- Complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service. A portion of these hours will be at a team sponsored event (which could include the workday at the barn, or another team sponsored community service event)
- Secure a minimum \$200 sponsorship – due by the first show
- Participate in team scheduled barn cleanup day
- Acquirement of 12 IEA show points throughout the season

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

#### **B. Manager (non-competing rider)**

- Ride in a minimum of 2 lessons per month at the farm and/or assist riders at scheduled lesson time 4 times per month.
- Must attend all shows, assist with the horses and assist the trainer where needed.
- Complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service. A portion of these hours will be at a team sponsored event (which could include the workday at the barn, or another team sponsored community service event).
- Secure a minimum \$100 sponsorship due by the first show.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

## **FEES FOR IEA COMPETING RIDERS**

(these fees are based on the 2024-25 IEA fees and are subject to change based on the IEA rules and regulations)

- IEA Individual Membership—\$70 registration fee paid directly to IEA online prior to beginning of season
- Show Fees \$55 per class entered x5; all riders should plan to ride in (2) classes per show unless told otherwise by Coach Jordan.
- Coaches and Horse Lease Fee \$125/rider per show x 5 shows
- Stall and shavings – \$40/show x 5 shows
- Riders may opt to pay one payment of \$1250 to cover all 5 regular season shows, payment due Sept 1
- Other fees will be determined at the beginning of the season

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

## **LESSON EXPECTATIONS FOR COMPETING MEMBERS AND MANAGERS**

- Only Lessons taught by Jordan Schmidt or Ceci Risley at Tu Fox Farm count toward MC Equestrian Team requirements.
- **Time schedule:** Arrive 30 minutes prior to lesson to groom and ready your horse. Plan on departing 30 minutes after the lesson to clean tack and horse. (total: 2 hours: 1 hr. lesson-1-hour preparation)
- Riders must come to the lesson wearing appropriate riding gear, a certified Helmet and riding boots. A member will not be allowed to lesson if they are missing any of this required riding gear. This is for the safety of the members, the trainer and the horse.
- Fees for lessons for all competing riders and non-competing apprentice riders -\$75 per lesson. Competing riders will ride a minimum of 4 times per month. Required lessons will begin August 1 and wrap up when Regionals are scheduled for that show season. Regionals will be in February – date will be communicated once the season calendar is updated. Lessons are to be paid on the first of the month. If lessons are not paid on or before the 5th day of the month, the trainer reserves the right to remove the rider from the lesson schedule until full payment of past lessons and upcoming lessons for the month are paid in full.
- Lessons are scheduled directly through the coach. All scheduled lessons will be weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, a horsemanship lesson will be held to take its place. The parent or rider may call the coach's phone to determine whether lessons are canceled (i.e., severe weather circumstances). The coaches will text or contact riders prior to ride time the day of the scheduled lesson.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

## **SPIRIT WEAR AND EQUIPMENT FOR SHOWS**

- Competitive Riders must have all required show equipment for every show:
  - Certified show helmet
  - White equestrian show shirt with collar,
  - Competition breeches, navy or black show jacket
  - Black tall boots (or paddock boots and garters
  - Black leather gloves.
  - Hair net (or bows)
- Riders will wear appropriate Mill Creek spirit wear. Examples include - heavy weight Hawks Equestrian jacket or Mill Creek High School letter jacket, lightweight wind suit jacket, and pants to cover show pants. When not showing, the riders should wear team spirit wear at each show.

**Spirit Wear will be made available to order at the beginning of each season**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

## **ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBER EXPECTATIONS:**

- Give complete cooperation and respect to trainers, officers, and teammates. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary actions by the trainer, which could include not showing, being suspended from the lesson schedule or removal from the team.
- Accept instruction and constructive criticism with a positive attitude and willingness to improve. Respect the trainer and their ability to instruct.
- Members should always demonstrate respect for self, teammates, horses, trainers and facility.
- Accept responsibility for behavior and actions without making excuses.
- Understand that lettering requirements are not optional. All team members must fulfill **ALL** requirements as stated in these documents.
- Abide by the rules and guidelines presented in this document. Team members should understand the enthusiasm behind the rules and any situation not covered specifically will be handled in the best interest of the Mill Creek Equestrian Organization.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

**I have read and agreed to all Team Requirements, Conditions & Expectations:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Mill Creek High School

## Equestrian Sponsorship

**Thank you for your sponsorship of the MCHS Equestrian Team!**  
**We truly appreciate your support!**

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type & Amount of Payment: Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Mill Creek

Sponsored Rider: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored Monies Received By: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Gold Sponsor: \$500**

1. Beautiful engraved plaque with team picture
2. Company name/logo printed in competition program hosted by MCHS Equestrian Team
3. Company name/logo listed with sponsors on the MCHS Equestrian Banner at events
4. Display separate company banner at all MCHS Equestrian Events (must supply banner)
5. Company name/logo on main page of MCHS Equestrian Website
6. Company name/logo listed on sponsors page of MCHS Equestrian Website

### **Silver Sponsor: \$300**

1. Beautiful engraved plaque with team picture
2. Company name/logo printed in competition program hosted by MCHS Equestrian Team
3. Company name/logo listed with sponsors on the MCHS Equestrian Banner at events
4. Company name/logo listed on sponsors page of MCHS Equestrian Website

### **Cardinal Sponsor: \$200**

1. Beautiful engraved plaque with team picture
2. Company name/logo listed with sponsors on the MCHS Equestrian Banner at events
3. Company name/logo listed on sponsors page of MCHS Equestrian Website

### **Navy Sponsor: \$100**

1. Company name/logo listed with sponsors on the MCHS Equestrian Banner at events
2. Company name/logo listed on sponsors page of MCHS Equestrian Website

## **Photo/Video/Media Release Form**

To Whom It May Concern: I hereby consent to have my child \_\_\_\_\_ photographed, videotaped, or interviewed while at school or while participating in school functions. I consent to the use of my child's photograph or likeness in the school newsletter, local newspapers, the school Website, or other electronic/digital/print media. I also give the school my consent to use creative work/academic work generated or authored by my child on the Internet, and educational CDs, or any other electronic/digital media. I understand that various athletic teams and school clubs will post individual and/or team pictures of my student(s) on the organization's web site.

As the child's parent or legal guardian, I agree to release and hold harmless Mill Creek High School and Gwinnett County Public Schools. I also agree that no monies or other consideration will become due to me or my child because of my child's participation in these activities.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Transportation Release Form**

Mill Creek High School Athletic Department

Team/Club: MCHS Equestrian  
Activity: IEA Team Practice or Equestrian Shows  
Date: August 2024 thru May 2025  
Destination: Tu Fox Farm; Auburn, Ga and Show Locations

I understand that the Gwinnett County Board of Education is not providing transportation to and from the following activity: **Equestrian**. MCHS Equestrian is a student-sponsored club using Mill Creek's name and logos. MCHS/GCPS are not responsible/liable for transportation to and/or from practice/competitions. All transportation is to be facilitated by the student's guardians.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_