

Team Parents and Student Show Expectations:
HORSE SHOW EXPECTATIONS - PARENTS

Here are a list of expectations and guidelines to make sure that our shows run smoothly:

1. Please remember that horse shows, horses, and circumstances are unpredictable. Adaptability, grittiness, and perseverance are key in the horse show world. Some days, horses are great in the ring while some days they are not. Each arena is different and each crowd is different.
2. **Parents are expected to sit together and show comradery.**
3. **All parents and teammates are expected to be there to support each rider in Academy – from first rider to last rider.** This makes for a very long day. Be prepared to eat on campus (there are usually vendors on site) and please be prepared to sit in uncomfortable seating for some time (bring blankets, cushions, etc).
4. Attitude is everything. Please do not tear down other barns, other riders, the judge, our barn, or our riders. Voices carry and riders and trainers can hear the crowd from the ring and rail. We do not want other people to see us in a negative way.
5. **Parents are not allowed in the warm up ring or on the rail at horse shows. In the arena, please take your seat in the stands. If a child falls and needs parental assistance, we will call for you. If we do not call for you, please do not enter the ring.**
6. Please do not coach your child. Support them. They know what they need to do and will be reminded by us. When they're in the ring, it is hard to do all of the things they need to do when the pressure is on, especially in their first few seasons of showing. Please encourage them and let them know they've done well as long as they're trying their best.
7. Please support your rider on their best or worst ride.
8. Celebrate the little victories, which are genuinely more important than blue ribbon rides. "Wow, you did so great for your first time. I saw your heels down the whole ride!" "I know you did not place today, but you made a great pass going second direction!" "Wow, (insert horse name) was really fresh today and a little hard to ride, but you really learned something today about controlling your horse. Think about how good this experience was in learning how to control a big time show horse."
9. Please make sure your rider is on time to their practice rides and their show day. Running late creates anxiety which may hinder a good performance or stress the entire team. Please give yourself more time than you think you need. Being early is always better.
10. Show skills are learned through showing and experience in the ring. Some people catch on to this quickly. Others do not. Sometimes it takes one or two ring appearances for the jitters to go away and sometimes it takes many years. We do our best to put pressure on them at home but repeatedly getting in the show ring is what really builds show skills and confidence in the ring.
11. Kids and parents do not get to choose the horse their child shows. Your rider may not get to ride his/her favorite horse but there is a really good reason Justin and Kati have put them on that horse. Please encourage your rider to ride hard no matter who they're riding and to remember there are far more aspects to showing than anyone besides Kati or Justin understand in the program.

HORSE SHOW EXPECTATIONS – EXHIBITORS

Here are a list of expectations and guidelines to make sure that our shows run smoothly:

1. Please remember that horse shows, horses, and circumstances are unpredictable. Adaptability, grittiness, and perseverance are key in the horse show world. Some days, horses are great in the ring while some days they are not. Each arena is different and each crowd is different.
2. Be positive and ready. Having a positive attitude can mean the difference between a bad ride and a good ride.
3. Don't worry about the ribbon, push for a better ride each time.
4. All parents and teammates are expected to be there to support each rider in Academy – from first rider to last rider. This makes for a very long day. Be prepared to eat on campus (there are usually vendors on site) and please be prepared to sit in uncomfortable seating for some time (bring blankets, cushions, etc).
5. Attitude is everything. Please do not tear down other barns, other riders, our barn, or our riders. We do not want other people to see us in a negative way.
6. Support your teammates. Give them words of encouragement and let them know when you see something great.
7. Make sure you are on time and understand when your class is, what number you are, and when you're supposed to enter the ring.
8. Show skills are learned through showing and experience in the ring. Some people catch on to this quickly. Others do not. Sometimes it takes one or two ring appearances for the jitters to go away and sometimes it takes many years. We do our best to put pressure on exhibitors at home but repeatedly getting in the show ring is what really builds show skills and confidence in the ring. Understanding that is key to moving forward.
9. Celebrate the little victories, which are genuinely more important than blue ribbon rides. "I got my whip switched correctly at the trot in the ring!" "I finished all of my straight-aways during that ride!" "I got my diagonals correctly!"
10. Ride the horse you have that day and remember you do not get to choose who you ride. You may not get to ride your favorite horse but there is a really good reason Justin and Kati have put you on that horse.
11. Make sure your clothes, hair, and make up are presentable – check the mirror before you leave the stalls. Let us know if you need any help.
12. USE TONS OF HAIR SPRAY
13. Ask questions if you need to. Please don't hesitate to ask for a better understanding of how something works, how to do things, or when to do things.