



Showing: What to Expect

We've created this handy guide to answer some of our most frequently asked questions about showing! We understand that your first show can be overwhelming and at times intimidating, This guide will provide some insight and information to help ease your mind as you enter the world of eventing with us! This guide is long and makes the requirements seem very daunting but we wanted to provide you with the most comprehensive information possible to help you feel prepared. Once you've been through your first show experience you'll see that it's not as complicated as it seems!

*****Note: Not all items are required for all shows. Your instructor can help you figure out what is required and what is optional for each show.***

Fees

This is the first question we usually receive so we put it right at the top! In addition to your entry fee there is a coaching fee and trailering fee to attend a show. Show days can be long and your coach will be there with you throughout the day to help you warm up your horse, learn and navigate your courses, and provide instruction where needed.

- **Entry fee: Varies by show**
- **Coaching fee: \$35**
- **Trailering fee: \$25**
- **Stall fee (if applicable): Varies by show**

What we expect from our students

Showing is fun but it's also a lot of work! In order to get the full show experience we expect all of our students to participate in show preparation and clean up. This gives students a full educational experience of proper care of horses, tack and other elements of horsemanship. We want showing to be as fun and as stress free as possible for everyone involved so we take a team approach to tackling the to-do list. We like to divide and conquer whenever possible! Times and assignments will be communicated to you a minimum of a week in advance.

The day before students are expected to come assist with pre-show preparation to clean tack, bathe their horse and assist in packing the trailer with all necessary



equipment. This helps make show mornings run smoothly as we are able to just load the horses and head out! **Expect a minimum of 3 hours of show prep the day before.**

The morning of be prepared to get up early! There is still lots of preparation on show morning and timely arrival helps everything run smoothly. Depending on the show we are attending the schedule of show morning may vary. Your coach may ask that you arrive at the barn to assist with preparing the horses for transport or they may ask that you arrive early at the showgrounds to wait to help unload and prepare the horses for warm-up. **Expect to arrive at the showgrounds no later than 6:00am unless otherwise instructed.**

After the show is where the team approach is really important! We've had a blast but there are still things to be done before we can go home and celebrate. Our horses are kind to us and we need to be kind to them in return. We expect our students to accompany us back to the barn to help unload the horses and equipment, clean the trailer and feed, water and take care of the horses.

Attire

Most of the events we attend will require "informal" attire, this does not mean sloppily turned out! Event producers and judges work hard and often volunteer their time to put on events and it is considered disrespectful to show up improperly turned out. Even in informal attire, horse and rider should be clean and put together. The attire described below is informal attire. As always, helmets are always required when mounted!

Loose fitting clothing like sweatpants (or tearaway pants!) and a light jacket or smock are highly suggested to keep show clothes clean while grooming and tacking prior to your ride. You will not regret bringing a change of clothes for after your ride either!

- **Basic informal attire for all three phases**
 - Breeches (beige or white)
 - Belt (black or brown)
 - White show shirt (Short or long-sleeved; preferably a riding shirt but a polo is acceptable)
 - Coat (black or dark blue; **optional**)



- Black or brown tall boots (full grain leather half chaps are acceptable at lower levels, suede half chaps are not permitted)
 - Junior riders (Under 18) may wear paddock (short) boots and garter straps in place of tall boots
- Gloves (black, tan, beige or white)
- Helmet (black or dark blue; a helmet cover is acceptable)
 - Hair should be neatly pulled back and in a hair net
 - Braids are acceptable for junior riders
- Safety vest/Chest Protector (any color; **REQUIRED**)
- Medical armband (**REQUIRED**)

Detailed information on informal attire for each of the three phases can be found at the end of this document.

Where Can I Purchase Riding Attire?

You don't need the most expensive items! We are BIG fans of buying used. **Kentucky Tack Exchange** in Crestwood has a great selection of high quality items at great prices. They are also extremely helpful and take time to answer questions and help you find exactly what you need. Below are some locally owned stores and online retailers where you can find show attire.

- **Kentucky Tack Exchange** (Consignment) 6432 KY-146, Crestwood, KY 40014
- **Tack Trader** (Secondhand) www.tacktrader.com
- **The Hitching Post** (Retail) 11403 Main St., Middletown, KY 40243
- **Dover Saddlery** www.doversaddlery.com
- **SmartPak Equine** www.smartpakequine.com
- **State Line Tack** (Good for discounts!) www.statelinetack.com
- **Horze Equestrian** (Good for discounts!) www.horze.com
- **Various Facebook Groups** (Secondhand)
 - English Tack Trader
 - English Tack for Sale
 - English Riding Apparel
 - English Tack Exchange

*****DISCLAIMER: Red Fern Riding Center highly advises AGAINST purchasing safety equipment (ex: helmet, safety vest/chest protector) secondhand. It is not possible to determine if items are in safe, usable condition via physical inspection. Even items listed as "New with Tags" could have been worn and encountered a fall.***



Ride Times

Each horse and rider is assigned a time of day to ride each phase. Ride times may be tight, with little time to change tack, or ride times could be spread out. This all depends on the size of the division that the rider is competing in. Ride times cannot be assigned until after the close date, when all entries have been received. Since there can be many entries and requests to accommodate, event producers have a complicated job of scheduling ride times. Sometimes ride times are not posted until a few days before the show and they can sometimes change the day before. This means that we need to be prepared to be flexible when it comes to arrival times.

What should I bring?

Show days can be long and there can be a lot of “hurry up and wait” at times.

Suggestions for items to bring are:

- Folding camping chairs (Showgrounds are large and there can be lots of walking, a place to sit is not always guaranteed when you get where you're going.)
- Water
- Snacks (Some shows have food available for purchase onsite but it's nice to have quick snacks to grab between rides.)
- Sunscreen/Hat
- “Emergency kit” with extra hair ties, safety pins and a towel

Spectating

Spectating etiquette at a horse show is very different than other sports. We all want to be there to support our riders but cheering and loud clapping is generally discouraged. In order for horse and rider to perform their best and concentrate, spectators need to remain quiet during the rides. Horse shows are high energy and horses can easily become distracted by cheering and yelling, making the job of the rider much harder. After your rider completes their dressage test or jump round quiet clapping is appropriate, *once they have exited the ring.*

Horse Show Lingo

- **Mini Trial:** An event in which all three phases take place in one day
- **Combined Test:** Horse and rider complete a dressage test and a Show Jumping round
- **Dressage test:** A sequence of movements ridden and scored by a judge
- **Round:** A show jumping course



- **Turn out:** The presentation (cleanliness) of horse and rider
- **Opening date:** The Tuesday six weeks before the event, this is the earliest you can send in your entry.
- **Closing date/Close date:** The Tuesday four weeks after the opening date (two weeks before the event), this is the final day to enter.
- **Ride time:** The time that you are assigned to ride each phase

Breakdown of Informal Attire by Phase

- **Dressage**
 - Breeches (beige or white)
 - Belt (black or brown)
 - White collared shirt (Short or long-sleeved; preferably a riding shirt but a polo or any white shirt with a collar is acceptable)
 - Coat (black or dark blue; **optional**)
 - Stock tie (**optional**)
 - Black or brown tall boots (full grain leather half chaps are acceptable at lower levels, suede half chaps are not permitted)
 - Junior riders (Under 18) may wear paddock (short) boots and garter straps in place of tall boots
 - Gloves (black, tan, beige or white)
 - Helmet (black or dark blue; a helmet cover is acceptable)
 - Hair should be neatly pulled back and in a hair net
 - Braids with bows are acceptable for junior riders
- **Cross Country** *This is where we can have some fun with our attire!*
 - Breeches (any color!)
 - Belt (any color!)
 - Long-sleeved shirt (any color!)
 - Black or brown tall boots (full grain leather half chaps are acceptable at lower levels, suede half chaps are not permitted)
 - Junior riders (Under 18) may wear paddock (short) boots and garter straps in place of tall boots
 - Gloves (any color!)
 - Helmet (any color!)
 - Hair should be neatly pulled back
 - Braids with bows are acceptable for junior riders
 - Safety vest/Chest Protector (any color; **REQUIRED**)
 - Medical armband (**REQUIRED**)



- **Show Jumping**

- Breeches (beige or white)
- Belt (black or brown)
- White collared shirt (Short or long-sleeved; preferably a riding shirt but a polo or any white shirt with a collar is acceptable)
- Coat (black or dark blue; **optional**)
- Stock tie (**optional**)
- Black or brown tall boots (full grain leather half chaps are acceptable at lower levels, suede half chaps are not permitted)
 - Junior riders (Under 18) may wear paddock (short) boots and garter straps in place of tall boots
- Gloves (black, tan, beige or white)
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More Information on Eventing

- <http://www.discovereventing.com>
- <https://useventing.com>
- <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/eventing>
- <https://www.fei.org/eventing>