

2005 Junior Division Equestrian Team Information

The purpose of the JD is to initiate children and parents to the equestrian team concept and prepare them for the high school experience. This should be a “get-your-feet-wet” experience. The goal should be to communicate safety, fun teamwork and basic education of the equestrian team process. The following are questions and answers that have been addressed:

Will high school coaches be responsible for starting JD teams?

No. This is an opportunity for other members of the community to become involved wherever possible. Some assistant coaches might be ready to leave HS and take on a JD team, some HS coaches might be ready to relinquish their positions for a less stressful JD team, or perhaps some local equestrians might be interested in coordinating a JD team. HS coaches should not feel compelled to take on another team for another season.

Will the high school be involved with the JD?

Ideally, some members of the high school team might be involved as mentors. In some cases the HS coach might need to assist (possibly from the sidelines) the first year to get the program off the ground, especially where there is an inexperienced JD coach. We are hopeful that there will be a good cooperative effort between the JD and HS.

Why have the JD in the Spring?

This avoids conflict with the HS practices and Meets in the fall.

When should JD coaches start organizing/recruiting?

Now is a good time to get started. Practice can begin when weather breaks; March/April.

Can a 5th grader participate in the JD?

No. It is limited to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade only, regardless of the middle school.

Will the JD have 3 Meets?

There is only one Meet. Remember, this is a get-your-feet-wet experience. If a junior participates in 6th, 7th and 8th grades, they will have 3 Meets under their belts and be better prepared for the HS team.

Will there be Walk-Trot classes?

Yes. This is geared towards beginners. But, a WT rider can only participate in WT classes.

What are the JD classes?

The list of classes is available at our www.miha.org website. Click on JD.

Does the JD have a separate board?

No. At this time we have two acting coordinators; Phil Tietsort and Sharon Greene.

How do I contact them?

Sharon Greene's phone number is 248.887.3970 -- email to sharonlgreene@comcast.net
Phil Tietsort's phone number is 517.623.6554 -- email to satietsort@yahoo.com

Are the JD Districts the same as the HS?

No. Because we are new and looking to create competition, there will be "Areas" until we are better established. Eventually, we see Districts as having enough teams. For now the JD coordinators will assist in making decisions regarding Meets.

What will the charges be for a JD Meet?

The fees will be determined by the Area Coordinators and JD Coaches. They will vary with the location, cost of the field, judges, stalls, porta-johns, etc. This is not a fundraiser. Try to keep costs to a minimum.

Will the JD coaches have a vote?

No. This could change in the future.

Will the JD fill out the same paperwork as the HS?

Yes. We're working on that right now, but basically the same forms are required. Check the www.miha.org website for JD Coach and JD Assistant Coach forms and a sample JD Slot Sheet.

Are the rules the same as the HS?

Yes, for the most part. There are some minor changes for Walk-Trot, for example.

What about financial statements?

Required. Use the same form as the HS.

Is there a list of judges for JD?

Check the 4H list for apprentices.

Is the JD covered by MIHA insurance?

Yes.

Is there a Championship for JD?

No. Only practices and a single Meet.

What about awards?

Medals are available through the same companies as the HS. Milford, for example, had "JD '04" engraved on the back of each medal. Some teams presented a medal and a certificate to junior team members for their participation at an informal awards picnic or pot-luck party. There is no individual recognition of "best" or "most valuable" at this age/division. Everyone should be recognized equally as this is based on team effort.

Where can I go for more information?

Stay in communication with the JD coordinators and be sure to check the website often.