

# Ringside Equestrian Center

## Horse Show Guide

### Different Type of Shows

Many horse shows offer many different levels that we can classes and divisions. Choosing which show to go to will be based on the level that the rider I currently at. The C and schooling shows offer the lower level divisions such as Walk/Trot, Walk/trot/Canter, pole piles, cross rails and beginner division. These shows are mainly for people that have not shown before or for practice getting off the property. They are usually only Saturday and Sunday shows. The shows we will focus on mainly through the summer are the A and AA shows. These shows have a higher level of competition and better judges. They are more expensive but the show grounds are usually well kept and well organized. These shows are normally Wednesday-Sunday. Wednesday and Thursday are mainly “professional days” where the profession riders take the horses into specific divisions professionals can ride in. There are limit classes that are strictly for the amateur and junior riders. The classes for amateurs and juniors mainly ride from Friday-Sunday. However, each show is different so check with Lauren and the schedule to make sure you are planning on showing on the correct days.

### Getting Ready to Start Showing

For riders that have not shown before, it can be hard to determine when you are ready to start showing. Of course, talk to Lauren if you are interested in starting to show. Picking the show to attend will depend on the level of the rider. The C and schooling shows will for the riders that are just beginning their show career. If you have been riding for a long time and decide to start showing, you may be ready for the A shows. See Lauren if you are unsure what way to go. You must a least ½ lease a horse from Ringside to show. With the lesson program, it is hard to take the horse off the property unless it is already being leased out. We can do short term (3 month) leases for the summer if you are interested in showing.

### Signing Up

Horse Show signup sheets are in the binder on the counter by the indoor arena. When signing up, please date, write name of rider, name of horse, signature and leave a \$100 deposit. The deposit will be taken off your show bill from REC after the show. This deposit is non-refundable. If you drop out after the signup deadline, you will lose your deposit. If you drop out before the sign-up date, your deposit can be applied to a different show. When signing up, please make sure you can commit to being at the show for the whole day. Even though you will not need to be there for the whole, it is important you are available to spend the whole day on the grounds since it is uncertain how the show will run. If you are unable to spend the whole day at the show for a least 2 of the show days, please consider not signing up for that show.

### Entry Forms

Lauren will be taking care of online entry forms. If the show we are doing does not offer online entries, I will be filling out my information and making copies and will have people fill them out at the farm. Then I will fax/mail them all in together.

## Show Prep for Horses

Each horse will need to be properly prepped and groomed for the shows. They will need their ears, legs, bridle paths and whiskers clipped. They will also need a mane pull. Some horses may need a full body clip if they are too hairy. Ringside staff is willing to do this and it will be on your horse show bill. If you are planning on doing it yourself, it must be done by the Sunday before the show or staff will do it for you and you will be charged. If your horse needs to be drugged, they will be done the week before the show. Again, if it is not done by the Monday before, it will be done for you and you will be charged. The day before leaving, your horse should be completely bathed.

## Show Prep for Rider

The rider should make sure all tack and equipment is clean before packing it for the show. This includes bridle, martingale, girth, saddle, halter, horse's boots, rider's boots, wraps, saddle pads, helmet and any other equipment. Before leaving for the show, try on all show clothes to make sure it fits. There are tack shops at the show but they will be a little more expensive. Tack trunks should be packed the day before we plan on leaving if Ringside is transporting it. If not, leave the bridle, martingale and girth with Lauren. I ride each horse before riders arrive and will need this equipment. Please leave a signed blank check made up to the horse show with Lauren before we leave for the horse show. Without a check, I will be unable to pick up the numbers and show the horses.

## Full care vs. Partial Care

Partial care is where staff will feed horses, give water and clean stalls. They will also lunge horses if needed in the morning. They are there to help riders with getting ready and getting on. They will also clean up horses and riders before walking in the ring. This does not mean they tack up your horse and take it for you when you are done. You are responsible for most of the grooming your horse needs. Full care is where the groom will do everything for you and your horse. They will groom, tack up, untack, give baths, remove braids, etc. To determine which you should do, please ask Lauren. Most people do partial care since Ringside riders do all their own grooming anyway.

## Setup fee

Setting up for the show is a lot of work. Most people are not on the show grounds when we arrive. We charge a setup fee for those who are not around to help. If you do help, you will not be charged.

## Approved Attire for the Show-Schooling Day

Riders should be in conservative colored breeches with their shirts tucked in. If breeches have belt loops, please wear a belt. Breeches should be tan, black, gray, variations of blue, or green. Riders should be wearing an approved Ringside Equestrian Polo, Sweater, ¾ Zip, Vest, or variations of them combined. Polos should be tucked into the breeches. If your clothes are inappropriate for the show grounds, you will be asked to go to the tack shop and purchase a different shirt/breeches. Riders hair should be in a hair net and tucked into their helmet, or in a single braid down their back. Riders should be wearing properly fitting black paddock boots and chaps, or tallboots. If riders wear gloves, they may wear black, brown, or navy gloves. Crops/Bats should be black, with no adornments. Riders may wear watches, bracelets, necklaces, etc as long as they do not impose on the rider's ability to ride. Sunglasses are not appropriate in the arena. Riders may use sunvisors. Horses should be well groomed before going

into the schooling arena. If its cold riders may use a quarter sheet, in conservative colors ie: black, gray, navy, hunter green. All bridles should be fitted properly and cleaned, as well as martingales. If riders have any charms on their bridles they should be removed, unless the horse is a jumper. Jumper bonnets may be used for the jumpers, in black, brown, gray, or navy. Saddle pads should be the approved Ringside Equestrian pad, with the horses show name on it. Open front and splint boots are allowed and encouraged. They should be black, or leather. Polo wraps are also allowed in gray, black, white, and navy. While walking around please remember that you all are representing Ringside, family members included. Riders should be in jeans or breeches, with their tall boots, paddock boots, or some sort of tennis shoe on. No flip flops or sandals. Riders should wear ringside apparel shirts. Sweatpants, sweatshirts, and tank tops will not be tolerated. Family members should be put together, with closed toed shoes.

### Grooming and Attire at the Show

Before going into the show ring, horses should be well groomed with hoof oil on their hooves and dirt from schooling should be brushed off their belly and or legs. Bridles should be cleaned before mounting, and wiped off before the horse enters the arena and should be fancy stitched and fitted appropriately and approved by Lauren or Emily. Martingales should also be fitted properly and cleaned. Bits should be cleaned before the show, and wiped down before the horse enters the arena. Horses should wear leather girths (unless approved otherwise by Lauren) and should be cleaned before showing. Braids (if the horse is wearing them) should be checked in the morning so that proper adjustments can be made if need be. If the horse is going to be standing by the arena for a while, please bring your Ringside cooler with you in the winter, or your scrim with you in the summer. Boots are NOT permitted in hunter classes. Open front boots or polos (black and white only) may be worn in Equitation classes and Jumper classes. Please do not use boots with fleece (unless approved otherwise by Lauren). Martingales need to be removed for all flat classes, so riders and parents please keep that in mind and be prompt about removing or putting them on depending on the schedule. Please dismount before adjusting martingales. Flashes are not allowed in hunter or equitation classes. Fitted saddle pads must be used, half pads will not be tolerated, unless horse is a jumper. If horse is a jumper, black or white jumper pads, with the number safety pinned onto the right side of the saddle pad is appropriate. Riders should be wearing cleaned and shined tall boots. Riders 11 and under get to wear paddock boots, garter straps and their hair can be in 2 braids with bows on the bottom. Riders 12 and older have to wear tall boots and their hair up in the helmet. Boots should be cleaned and wiped down before entering the arena. Spurs must have no adornments and the straps should be black leather. Breeches MUST be tan (unless it is a jumper classic, then breeches must be white) and a black or brown belt must be worn. Show coats must be black, navy, hunter green, or gray. Show coats should have no "bling" or fancy piping or coloring (unless a jumper). Show shirts should be white, or pastel. Collars must be done up (unless a jumper in a non classic class). Hairnets with the rider's hair up is a must, unless under the age of 12. Crops/Bats must be black. Gloves must be black. A watch or simple bracelet is permitted, as well as a necklace and studded earrings. Makeup should be conservative. Jumpers may wear collared shirt (ie polo, with or without sweater) in Schooling or Training classes. In and Child/Junior, Adult/Ameratur

classes riders must wear a show coat and show shirt, but the collar may be undone. In a classic a jumpers collar must be done up. In hunter derby/classic classes riders may wear a shadbelly and stock tie. Pins on collars are not permitted.

### Approved Brands for Shows

These are some brands of bridles that are approved. All bridles should be fancy stitched and dark brown. If you do not see your brand on this list please ask Lauren if you need to purchase a new one. Bridles/Martingales that are approved are Edgewood (prefer), Ovation, Aramas, Americana, Antares, Harwich, Hermes, Voltaire, CWD, Wellfleet, Arc de Triomphe, Pessoa, Huntley, Jimmys 21 Century, and D'yon. These are some brands of boots approved for the show arena – CWD, Equifit, Veredus, Beval, Antares, and Devocoux. Some helmet brands are GPA, IRH, Samshield, and Antares. Show coats are Grande Prix, RJ Classic, and Pikeur. Breeches include Tailored Sportsmans, Grande Prix, Pikeur, Ovation, and Ariat. Please check with Lauren about any other brands.

### Arriving at the Show- Schooling Day

Upon arriving at the show, locate where Ringside is stabled. You can contact the me if you have a hard time finding where we are. Schooling day is the day before the show starts. Schooling can take place anytime in the rings on this day. However, some shows close the rings are 6. Please do not take your time to get on unless instructed. Once you get to the show, check in with Lauren or any other staff and then start getting on. Schooling on show days is allowed if the showing is done for the day. If it does not end until later, we will not be able to school in the rings and must school in the warm up rings.

### Arriving at the Show- Show Days

The day before show days, check the schedule on [Horseshowing.com](http://Horseshowing.com) and see when your class is scheduled to start. Plan on arriving no later than 1 ½ hours before you are scheduled to start. Once you get there, check to make sure your horse looks clean for the most part and take notes of what they need. Then, walk down to the show ring you are showing in and check to see where the ring is at. Ask the person at the gate what division they are in and how many trips to the next. Most of the time the show runs slow. However, sometimes they are ahead of schedule. You will also post with the person at the gate. If there are multiple people from Ringside in the same division, post them all together. Then find Lauren and let her know how your ring is running and where you posted. If I did not ride your horse before you that day, plan on getting on and hacking your horse to check their energy level. You should have your horse ready about 20 minutes before you will be going in the ring so plan accordingly. Each trip takes about 2 minutes so multiple the number of trips by 2 to get a total of minutes. You may need to check the ring multiple times. Your horse should be groomed so it is spotless every time it leaves its stall. This means using greenspot remover on white horses if you cannot bathe them. Their tails should have cowboy magic in them and brushed. They should have no shavings or poop marks on them at all.

### After Showing

Once you finish showing, walk your horse out until it's cool. Take it back to the stall and remove all tack. Then it is highly suggested you change out of all your show clothes. Immediately take care of your horse. Some horses will need a full bath and others will be able to get away with washing their legs only. Braids should be removed each day. Some will be able to stay in for 2 days but only if okayed by Lauren. Braids should be wetted down before removing or you will take out too much mane. After your horse is completely taken care for, you may watch other riders and hang out at the show. Your horses care always comes first at the shows. Before leaving, all horse will need to be wrapped each night. If

you do not know how, staff can help. If you need help, you must ask for assistance. Depending on the weather, we may need to blanket at night. This is something you should do before leaving the showgrounds unless it is still hot by time you leave. Again, ask staff to put it on before they leave for the day.

### [The Last day of the show](#)

Once completing the last class you are competing in and they announce the ribbons, please go to the office and check out of the show. They will have the check you gave me before the show. You will get the bill and go over it to make sure it is correct. Then they will have you fill out the check and checkout.

### [Take down fees](#)

At the end of the show, there is a lot to pack up. If you choose to leave the show early, you will be charged a takedown fee. However, if you stay and help, you will not be charged.

### [Memberships](#)

The rider will need a USEF and USHJA membership. These can both be purchased at USEF.org. The horse will need a membership as well. For A shows in Michigan, you will also need to purchase a HJAM membership from hjam.net. Horse memberships for HJAM are free. Please make sure you have these memberships before the show.