



Development Show Handbook



Development Shows are designed to be a fun and educational introduction to horse shows for riders and young horses. They are competitions, but the emphasis is on developing skills and confidence through participation and practice.



Show Dates:

May 4 (Sat) • May 25 (Sat) • June 23 (Sun) • July 28 (Sun) • Aug 17 (Sat) • Sept 28 (Sat)

What you need before your Register

- Read the **prize list**. It's like a catalogue of information that describes the show, the rules and the classes. You'll find it here: <https://westarfarms.ca/competitions/#development-shows>
- Apply for an **Ontario Equestrian (OE) membership** (<https://ontarioequestrian.ca/membership/>) for the rider and owner of the horse (if other than the rider). An OE membership provides you with liability insurance and access to various programs and discounts. It's also necessary if you want to compete at higher levels of competition. It is renewable on an annual basis.
- Create an **Equestrian Show Management (ESM) Account** for the person making the entry (**Exhibitor**), the rider (**Person Account**) and the owner (**Person Account**) of the horse, plus one for the horse (**Horse Account**). The steps are listed below and you can find some very useful information, tutorials and FAQ on the ESM website: <https://eqshowmanager.com/tutorials/exhibitor>
https://eqshowmanager.com/user_faq

Equipment & Attire

Generally, you don't need any extra equipment or special attire. On show day, wear a tidy plain coloured shirt or sweater, riding gloves, beige riding pants and tall boots, or short boots with half chaps. Some riders wear a riding jacket and show blouse. That is optional and you will not be penalized if you



don't wear a jacket. Long hair should be tied back in a pony tail and in a hairnet. Look for second hand show attire as young rider grow out of their clothes so quickly!

The horse should be bathed or well groomed.

Braiding is optional for Hunter Equitation or Hunter. You will not be scored any differently with or without braids. Most Hunter horses have a fitted white saddle pads while Jumper horses might have a square saddle pad.



Reduce stress by doing as much ahead of time as possible – apply for memberships, upload vax certificate, enter and pay, use a packing list and have equipment clean and ready to go.

Registration

Register online at: eqshowmanager.com

If you haven't used ESM before you'll need to follow some steps to set up an account. You can find this info at: https://eqshowmanager.com/registrants/new_exhibitor

Here are the steps in brief:

1) Create an **Exhibitor Account** if you are an adult who will be making entries for yourself or for a minor. If your coach or someone else will be making entries, they can do so from their Exhibitor account.

2) Create a **Person Account** for the individual for whom you'll be making the entries. If it's for yourself, you don't need a separate Person Account. Be sure to include all relevant memberships. For Development Shows, you only need an **Ontario Equestrian (OE) membership**. The **owner** of the horse, if other than the Exhibitor or rider, must also have a Person Account and an OE membership.

3) Create a **Horse Account** for the horse(s) you'll be entering in the show. Remember to upload the horse's **vaccination certificate** to provide proof of EHV/flu vaccine. You can request this from your veterinarian. Be sure vaccines have been given at least 8 days before the show you want to enter. If it's a series of vaccines, the last in the series must be given at least 8 days before the show. You'll be asked to enter the expiry date. That is 6 months plus 21 days after the vaccine was given. This will be checked and validated by the show secretary.

4) You should now be ready to make an entry by going to the **Entries** tab in your account. Click on **Create a new horse entry**. Find the **Show** you are hoping to enter from the dropdown list and the **Horse** you will enter and follow the steps to end, adding the **Rider**, **Selecting the classes**, listing the **Person Responsible** (paying for entry). You can add a **Stall** and pre-order **Hay** and/or **Shavings**.

You'll be asked how you intend to pay for the entry. We prefer an e transfer to: b.westar@gmail.com.

Finally, click **Enter in Show** and **Finish**.

You can view your entry and fees and cancel your entry without penalty up to the closing date.

Please pay for your entry by the closing date by e transfer to: b.westar@gmail.com. This makes it quicker and easier for you on show morning. Simply come to the show office knowing the name of the rider and show name of the horse and we'll provide you with a competition number and a string to tie it around the rider's waist.

Numbers can only be issued if full payment has been made.



Show Fees

There are various components of horse show entry fees. We try to keep it simple with the Development show fees, splitting them into Administrative Fees and Division Entry Fees

Admin Fees include:

- Use the online entry system
- Office staff and equipment
- Medic onsite throughout the show day
- The equipment and amenities of the show – jumps and equipment to run the show (tractors, water trucks etc), bathrooms etc

These fees are non-refundable after the closing date.

Division fees include:

- The entry fee for the classes in the division plus show ring warm-up time for hunter equitation classes or for the course walks and classes of the Jumper Equitation division
- The judge
- The ribbons and awards

Stalls:

We have 40 ringside stalls for those who like to have a place for their horse to rest and hang out before, between or after classes so the riders, parent or groom doesn't have to hold the horse. It also gives the horse space to relax, drink and eat. You'll need to bring your own water buckets, hay and bedding if you choose or you can also pre-purchase hay and bedding on your entry form. Simply check off how many bales of hay or bags of shavings you want and they'll be waiting at your assigned stall(s) when you arrive. Remember to bring stall hooks to hang your water buckets. Do not pierce the stall walls. You will be billed the cost of repair for any damage to the stalls. Stalls must be totally stripped of all bedding, manure and garbage at the end of your show day and the contents dumped in the manure pile (garbage bin for garbage) in order to avoid stall mucking fees (see the prize list) so bring a wheelbarrow and pitchfork to save some money.

Biosecurity:

We don't have our guard up in the same way we did during covid but these days we need to particularly mindful of keeping horses 'socially distanced'. Don't bring a sick horse to the show. If they have nasal discharge, a temperature or seem under the weather, keep them at home for their comfort and for the safety of all the horses on-site. Don't let your horse touch noses with others on the show grounds from a different barn, don't share water buckets and don't pet strange horses. Only people with stabled horses are permitted in the stabling area and don't touch horses in stalls that aren't yours for everyone's safety.

Tip from a rider: Have all your show gear clean, ready and packed the day before the show to make for a more stress-free show morning. A packing list helps to not forget anything.

Classes and Divisions

Classes are the individual events of the show. 3 classes in the same category are grouped to form a **division**.

There are three different types of divisions: **Hunter Equitation, Jumper Equitation** and **Hunter**.

Hunter Equitation Divisions

In equitation divisions, the performance of the Rider is evaluated based on their position and smooth communication with, and control of the horse. Because most riders in a Development Show are relatively new to competition and many are riding school horses, almost all our divisions are equitation divisions – it's not about the best horse, it's about the effectiveness of the rider.

Each division is made up of three classes. The first two classes are **Over Fences Classes (OF)** where riders will enter the ring individually and jump a prescribed pattern of jumps. Riders in classes are grouped in sets of 3 – 5. Before the judged events, competitors are permitted to go into the show ring as a group and have a practice round over the course (about 15 mins per group). Once the warm-up is complete each horse rider combination will jump the first pattern, and once each has had their turn, they then go back and jump the second pattern. After all the competitors in the class have completed their jumping courses, they need to be ready to come back in to ride the **Flat Class** or **Equitation on the Flat (FI)**. All horses in the class go around the ring, first to the left, where they'll be asked to perform at the walk and trot, and depending on the level of the class, the canter. If it's a big class, judge will usually split the competitors into two groups to canter. Listen carefully to the judge's instructions.

Jumper Equitation Divisions

This is a new division this year! It consists of a **Clear Round** (a practice round over a prescribed course) and then two Jumping Rounds. In a jumper class, because the pattern is a bit more complicated than the straight lines of a Hunter Equitation Class, riders and coaches have the opportunity for a **Course Walk** – a 10-minute period before the start of each class to walk the patterns they'll be riding in the upcoming class.

The difference between Hunter Equitation and Jumper Equitation is simply the type of obstacles they are jumping and the layout of the obstacles in the ring. In hunter equitation or regular hunter classes, the jump poles are of natural colours – green, beige, grey etc and the courses or patterns are straight lines of about 8 jumps. In jumper classes, the jump poles are more brightly coloured and the patterns may have more turns and changes of direction compared to a hunter course.

Hunter Classes

The horse's performance is evaluated subjectively based on how accurately and smoothly it performs. In OF classes the horse jumps a pattern about 8 fences trying to keep a fluid, even rhythm. In US classes the horses perform in a group of at the walk, trot and canter (depending on level). The only Development Show division that is a Hunter Division is the Green Hunter division for horses that are new to competition. In this case it's usually a young or inexperienced horse or pony often ridden by a more experienced rider.

What are the different Classes and Divisions?

There are usually 10 or more divisions in each show and many of these are divided into Junior and Adult depending on the numbers in the classes.



The **Beginner Show Rider (BSR)** and **Poles to Xs (P/X)** are run a smaller ring and are for riders under 18 years of age who have experience walking and trotting in lessons. No cantering in the BSR and we prefer not much in the P/X either. It's about riding good corners and straight lines. In the BSR a coach or a leader can walk along beside the competitor for confidence.

Classes from **Xs to 2'6"** are run in either of the big rings – the **East Ring** (the one closest to the barn) or the **West Ring** (the one beside it, but further away from the barn). These divisions are usually split into **Junior** and **Adult** sections, though they may sometimes be combined if there are fewer than 4 riders entered in either section. If there are 14+ riders in a division, it will be divided into an **A & B** sections. These further splits of divisions are random, other than that we try to group them somewhat by trainer so that it makes it easier for coaching purposes.



Division Specs

BSR	Beginner Show Rider: Open to riders under 18, in their first year of showing (except in-stable shows). Simple course of 6 – 8 poles. No cantering permitted. Riders may be led or have someone walking beside them.	
P/X	Poles to Xs: Open to riders under 18. Simple course of pole into line, small X out of line. Riders encouraged to trot all or most of the course. Canter is not required.	
Xs (12")	all Xs	Competitors may trot or canter any part of the course. Trotting is not penalized. If cantering, riders should attempt to be on the correct lead.
X to 18"	X into line, 18" vertical out of line	
21" 2'3"	2'0" 2'6"	Skip or simple changes are not penalized.
Green	Open to horses in first year of showing. May be shown by a junior, amateur or pro rider. Jump at the height of your choice - Xs to 2'3". Skip or simple changes are not penalized.	
Intro to Jumper	.65 m (2'0" - 2'3") Open to riders in first year of jumper competition. One Clear Round and two Equitation rounds.	

Tip from a parent: On hot days, dampen and freeze a few wash cloths or small towels to wrap around the back of your rider's neck if they get hot. Keep the frozen cloths in a Ziploc bag in your cooler.

Ribbons and Awards

Once the flat class is complete in a division (2nd class for Intro to Jumper), the **ribbons** for all the classes are announced and handed out in the ring. Ribbons are awarded in every class to 6th place and each division or section (if a division is further divided) has a **Champion** and **Reserve Champion (Hi-Point/Reserve Hi-point** for Intro to Jumper) based on the points assigned to each ribbon placing as follows: 1st place: 7 pts • 2nd: 5 pts • 3rd: 4 pts • 4th: 3 pts • 5th: 2 pts • 6th: 1 pt. If there is a tie for Champ or Res, it is broken according to who got more points in the OF classes. If still a tie, the riders each gets an award. Along with a special ribbon for Champion and Reserve Champion, there is usually a small prize as well to add to the fun.



Finale Show & Awards

The last show of the season is open to all. At the end of the show day, we'll award high point ribbons to the top 6 competitors in each division. Competitors must have participated in at least 4 of the 6 shows. One show at a higher or lower level may be counted for attendance to meet the minimum number of shows required but only points for the division to be considered for awards, may be counted. Riders are eligible for awards in up to 2 divisions.



Important People, Places and Things

PEOPLE

Show Secretary: runs the show office and is the main go-to person to inquire about entries.

Whipper-In or Ring Manager: In charge of a show ring, the whip keeps the classes running smoothly, calling riders and groups of riders to the show rings and managing the entry and exit of competitors. The whip also gives the instructions for the flat classes, standing in front of the judge's booth and relaying the judge's commands.

Show Manager: oversees the smooth running of the entire show. He/she helps coordinate the rings and with the help of the whips, tries to resolve any timing conflicts to minimize delays.

Judge: evaluates the competitors. If you have a question about the judging, you must consult the show manager.

PLACES

Show Office: where all the office admin takes places. The building also houses the **Canteen** where you can get food and snacks from the start of the show to the end or about 5 pm. Upstairs in the show office is the **Announcer's Tower** where the announcer has an overall view of the show site.

East Ring: closest to the barn

West Ring: Kitty-corner between the East Ring and Warm-up Ring.

Warm-Up Ring: closest to the stabling shares space with the **BSR Ring** where BSR and P/X classes take place.

Stabling Area: 40 new ringside boxstalls. Only those with stabled horses are permitted in the stabling area.

Wash Stalls: 4 bays for washing down horses. Bring a bucket, sponge and sweat scraper with you. **Do not** hang your bucket on the tap. **Do not** tie you horse to the railing. Horse washing down is only permitted in the washstalls and not in the stalls or barn aisles.

Lunging Ring: To access the lunging ring, go past the show office, left at the main laneway, turn right after you pass the first two paddocks.

Porta-Potties: located between the stabling area and warm-up ring



THINGS

Course maps are posted outside the ring on a Course Board for riders and coaches to review. The course maps are also posted on the ESM site the evening before the show.

Garbage bins, recycling bins and compost bins: we are trying to do our part to reduce waste by using as much recyclable or compostable material as possible in the canteen. We will try to use mostly compostable or recyclable food containers. Please help out by using the correct container for your waste.

The Show Day

SCHEDULE: Everyone is excited about show day! In order that riders, families and coaches have an idea of the timing of the day, we send out a schedule with estimated times for every group of riders in every division with timing for when we expect you'll be doing your group warm-up, your jumping classes as a group of 3 – 5 riders, and your flat class. Sometimes we run a bit ahead and sometimes we run a bit behind.

It's IMPORTANT that we have a valid phone number and cell phone number in the system so that we can send messages related to the show before and on show day. We don't ever share your contact info or send advertising.

SHOW OFFICE: You or a representative must come to the show office to pick up your competition number. You must wear your competition number at all times when mounted.

Numbers will only be given out if payment has been made. Please pay your entry (by the closing date), have all membership numbers entered in ESM and horse vaccination certificate uploaded to make your time in the office quick and easy. ***You will not be allowed to compete without a valid OE membership or up-to-date vaccinations. Any horse without a current vaccination certificate is not permitted on the show site.**

WARM-UP RING: You are welcome to warm up on the flat in the designated warm-up ring. You will notice that there are no jumps in the warm-up ring. An in-ring warm-up is included with every division so you'll have an opportunity to jump the jumps in the show ring before your division. Be ready for your assigned warm-up. It may run a bit earlier or later than listed on the schedule so it's important to be standing by and listening for announcements.

IN-RING WARM-UP: Coaches can go into the ring with the student(s) and warm-up over the course with the other members of the group to which you've been assigned. This is usually a 15-minute time frame.

THE IN-GATE: This is where horses enter and exit the ring. It's important that it's not crowded with horses or people. Spectators must watch from the assigned seating or standing areas.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE SHOW RING: During jumping classes horses compete one at a time. In order that the in-gate is kept as clear, the **horse going into the ring must enter before the previous horse comes out.** Please do so when the previous horse is doing its finishing circle.

JUMPING CLASSES: Competitors take turns riding their first and then second course within the same group they were assigned for the warm-up. Your flat class may or may not immediately follow your jumping group. Check the scheduled time and listen for the announcements. It is your responsibility to be at the ring when the class starts.

TIP FOR COACHES: When preparing your rider to go in the ring, be sure to have provided all the information you want to share with the rider before the previous competitor has finished their course as your rider **MUST** enter the ring before the previous horse leaves the ring.



FLAT CLASSES: The flat class takes place after all the competitors in the Hunter or Hunter Equitation division have completed their jumping class. Be ready to go in when the class is set to start.

RIBBON & AWARDS PRESENTATIONS: These are made at the end of the flat class while competitors are still in the ring.

CANTEEN: There is a canteen in the **COMMUNITY HUB**, the building that also houses the show office and announcer's tower. Food is served from the start of the show to the end. If it will close early an announcement will be made. You can purchase anything from bagels and breakfast sandwiches and grilled cheese in the morning to burgers, hot dogs and sandwiches in the afternoon, along with drinks and sweet or frozen treats depending on the season. Payment can be made by cash or e transfer (minimum \$10 order for e transfer). There is a seating area ring beside the canteen.

SPECTATORS: There are places to sit or stand beside the show rings. Please only do so in the designated areas. There are bleachers by the rings or you can bring a lawn chair. We recommend wearing close-toed shoes as the area is sandy and has gravel along the walkways.

SPECTATOR ETIQUETTE: Be mindful and respectful of the competitors in the ring. Try not to move quickly or make loud noises when classes or warm-up are going on. Keep your eye out for horses when you are walking around the show ground as they sometimes move quickly. Horses have the right of way.

PHOTO BOOTH: There is a photo area close to the **COMMUNITY HUB** where you can take photos of people and horses all through the day.

END OF SHOW DAY: You may be finished your competition before the show ends. When you are done, bring your show number back to the show office. If your number isn't returned, you'll be invoiced a \$5 + hst number replacement fee.

Come prepared – Plan for success – Have fun!

Sample Packing List (edit or add your own)

Things to Bring on Show Day

<input type="checkbox"/> helmet	<input type="checkbox"/> sweater or jacket appropriate to weather	<input type="checkbox"/> water bottle
<input type="checkbox"/> hair net	<input type="checkbox"/> rubber boots if wet to go to paddock if needed	<input type="checkbox"/> snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> riding pants	<input type="checkbox"/> warm gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> treat for pony
<input type="checkbox"/> tidy polo or blouse	<input type="checkbox"/> over-pants to keep riding pants clean	<input type="checkbox"/> kind words for parents
<input type="checkbox"/> clean/polished boots	<input type="checkbox"/> sm towel to wipe boots	<input type="checkbox"/> smile
<input type="checkbox"/> half-chaps (if needed)		<input type="checkbox"/> positive attitude
<input type="checkbox"/> riding gloves		<input type="checkbox"/> \$ for canteen
<input type="checkbox"/> crop		<input type="checkbox"/> camera/phone for photos

Glossary of Terms

BSR – Beginner Show Rider: The first competitive level for riders under 12 who can walk and trot in lessons.

Championship: When a rider earns a ribbon in a class, each placing has a point value as follows:

1st – 7 pts 2nd – 5 pts 3rd – 4 pts 4th – 3 pts 5th – 2 pts 6th – 1 pt

The two riders with most points in each division are awarded **Division Champion** and **Reserve Champion** ribbons.

Class: A single event in a horse show. It may be defined by rider age or experience or by jump height. Large classes (14+ riders) are split into two sections.

Clear Round: Each rider in the Intro to Jumper division gets to ride a Clear Round before their first judged course. The coach may be in the ring for the Clear Round but not for judged rounds.

Course: A map or pattern riders follow along a prescribed path over a set of jumps. The course map is posted by the show ring and in some cases online in esm.ca

Course Walk: In the Intro to Jumper division riders and coaches will be given 10 mins to walk the course before each of the two jumping classes.

Division: A set of related classes. Hunter/Eq divisions have 3 Over Fences (OF) classes.

Entry Form: The form filled out for each rider and horse for each show. We use a horse show management system – esm.ca to manage our horse shows. Set up an account for each rider, owner and horse in order to make entries.

Equitation: A type of hunter class where the skills of the rider are evaluated – effectiveness and correctness of position, confidence and control of the horse or pony.

Finale Show: Last show of the season includes an awards presentation. All can enter, though those who have participated in 4 or more are eligible for hi-point awards.

Flat Class: Riders and horses are in the ring as a group and will be asked to walk, trot and in certain classes, canter. Rider equitation is evaluated.

Flat Warm-up: Riders come from the barn, meet with the coach and begin to loosen up the horse in the warm-up ring, at the walk and trot, and depending on their level, the canter.

Green: A horse with little or no show experience.

Groom: Someone who helps the rider get the pony/horse ready and helps with the gear at the ring. We provide a **head groom** at the barn to help with gathering tack and horse equipment and tacking up, as well as a **groom/assistant** to escort young riders to the show ring and assist at the ring.

Group Warm-up: An opportunity for riders to go in the ring in small groups to get familiar with the course and practice a few jumps.

High Point Awards: special ribbons presented to the top 6 riders in each division who have competed at 4+ shows.

Hunter: Type of competition where the style, accuracy and relaxed performance or a horse are evaluated.

In-gate: The area where competitors enter/exit the show ring.

In-ring warm-up: A period of 10 – 15 mins. When small groups of riders can practice over the jumps in the show ring.

Intro to Jumper: NEW division in 2024. One Clear Round and two jumping classes. This is a progressive step for riders who have already done 2'0" or 2'3" divisions previously.

Membership: All riders and horse owners must be members of Ontario Equestrian (OE).

Mental Skills: To optimize practice, performance or competitive skills, riders need to learn about realistic goal setting, positive self-talk, focus, optimal energy levels, dealing with adversity, as well as effectively analyzing performance. No competitor is too young to start to learn these principles.

Ontario Equestrian (OE): The provincial sport governing body. All Development competitors and horse owners must be members.

Over Fences (OF) Class: Riders follow the posted course map to ride a pattern of poles or jumps. They are scored on even pace, riding straight lines and good corners, and having an effective position.

Posted Order: The order in which competitors will appear in the over fences class(es). It is posted by the show ring.

Ribbons: The judge places riders from 1st to 6th in every class and those riders receive a ribbon. While ribbons are a wonderful bonus, they are not the main goal of competing. Riders should compete because they find the challenge fun and are seeking to do *their* best on *that* day, and make improvements based on what they learn from previous competitive experiences.

Show Number: Every horse/rider combination is assigned a show number as a means of easy identification. Remember to return your number to the show office at the end of your competition day.

Show Office: The two-storey building near the sand show rings. The show office is on the east side, ground floor and the Snack Shack is on the west side. Competitors from other stables pick up their show number at the office. Westar riders' numbers will be given out in the barn. Ribbons and prizes can be picked up at the show office when class placings are announced.

Under Saddle Class: Part of a Hunter Division, riders and horses are in the ring as a group and will be asked to walk, trot and in certain classes, canter. Horse performance is evaluated.

Vaccination Certificate: All horses must have proof that they have received all mandatory vaccinations including EHV, flu, rabies, EEE, WEE and they should also have a Coggins test. The vaccination certificate must be uploaded into the horse's *ESM* profile.

Whip or Whipper-In: The person who manages each show ring. They let the coaches and riders know when their turn is coming up and they communicate with the judge of the ring and with the show office.

Add your own notes or terms:

