



A Family Guide to Development Shows



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Whether you are new to horse shows or just want to be prepared for show season, this manual is for families to learn about making entries, which divisions to sign up for, how the timing works and who to ask which questions.

Even if you are a novice to start, you'll be a pro by the end of the season!

Please note that information in this guide may be updated from time to time.

Refer to the website for the most up-to-date information.

We are happy to welcome you to our farm and to the Development Show Family where relationships and friendships are formed and strengthened.

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

Development Shows are about...

LEARNING – Riders and horses learn by practicing their performance skills in a safe and structured environment.

FAMILY – Family is the backbone of Westar Development Shows, as the cheerleaders and supporters and the ones you share memories with now and into the future.

FRIENDS – It's fun to share the show day experience with friends from your barn and make new ones from across the region.

FUN – What could be better than spending a day with horses, friends and family?

CONSISTENT QUALITY – We are pleased to offer shows in various disciplines and levels and are proud to provide a high standard of attention and care to each and every one.



Did you know?

The prize list contains all the information with regards to rules, fees and class descriptions. You can find it at: westarfarms.ca

Show Format

There are at least 12 divisions in each show. They vary in jump height, course type of the level experience of rider or horse. Each rider/horse is registered in one or more divisions. A **division** is a related set of classes. A Development Show division consists of 2 or 3 classes and there are three different types of divisions:

Equitation, Hunter and Jumper

EQUITATION DIVISIONS

In an **equitation class**, the performance of the rider is evaluated based on their effective position and smooth communication with, and control of, the horse. An equitation division is made up of two jumping classes, where competitors perform a prescribed pattern over a set of 6 to 8 poles or jumps, (**Over Fences (OF) classes**) and a group class, where the competitors in the division are in the ring together and they work at the walk and trot (and canter depending on the level of the class). The group class is called a **Flat Class (FI)**. Equitation divisions are divided by rider experience and the height of the jumps, ranging from poles on the ground for young, inexperienced competitors up to 2'6" for the more experienced horse/ride combinations.

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.

HUNTER DIVISIONS

Hunter classes are judged based on how accurately and smoothly the horse performs. In the two jumping classes, competitors aim to keep a fluid, even rhythm. In the **Under Saddle (US) class** the horses work in a group at the walk, trot and canter (depending on level). Hunter divisions are divided by jump height and/or horse experience.

JUMPER DIVISIONS

The pattern of a jumper course usually involves more turns and some bending lines compared to a hunter or equitation course, and the jumps are more brightly coloured compared to the natural colours of equitation and hunter jumps. Competitors ride a Clear Round (practice course) and then two competition classes. Coaches and riders have an opportunity to walk the pattern of the jumper course to be able to make a mental picture of the path they'll be taking when they ride the course.

Did you
know?

We assign group warm-up and class start times within divisions so you know when to be at the ring and when your flat class starts.

Division Specifications

All the equitation and hunter jumping divisions have an **in-ring group warm-up**, two OF classes and a Flat or US class. The two Hack Divisions each have a warm-up period before the start of the two classes. All the jumper classes have a course walk and clear round course before two judged rounds.

EQUITATION DIVISIONS

Beginner Show Rider Equitation Division: 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. Riders may cross-enter into Poles to Xs Division only.

Poles to Xs Equitation Division: Open to riders under 18, in their first or second year of showing (not including BSR). Simple course of pole into lines, small X out of lines. Riders encouraged to trot the course. Cantering is not required. Riders may cross-enter into Beginner Show Rider Division only.

Beginner Show Rider (BSR) and Poles to Xs (P/X) are run a smaller ring and are for riders who have experience walking and trotting and maybe started cantering in lessons. Riders are encouraged to walk or trot the course in order to practice riding good corners and straight lines.

Did you
know?

Riders and horses from across the the region attend Development Shows to gain experience and have fun. We welcome students from many riding schools as well individuals who come with their coach or on their own.



HOLD YOUR HORSES
EQUESTRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



In the following divisions horse/rider combinations may compete at two successive heights

Xs Equitation Division: 12" maximum jump height - all crossrails (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" Equitation Division: X into line, maximum 18" vertical out of line. 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.

21" Equitation Division: Riders should be cantering the course. Skip or simple changes are not penalized.

2'0" Equitation Division: Skip or simple changes are not penalized.

2'3" Equitation Division: Skip or simple changes are not penalized.

2'6" Equitation Division: Skip or simple changes are not penalized.

Classes from Xs to 2'6", equitation and hunter, are run in one 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).

Divisions are usually split into Junior and Adult sections, though they may be combined if there are fewer than 4 competitors entered in either section.

If there are 16 or more riders in a division, it will be divided into A & B sections. These further splits of divisions are random, other than that we try to group them by trainer so that it makes it easier for coaching purposes and to avoid conflicts between rings.





Photo credits: Most of the photos in this guide were taken by **Charlie Collins** of **Hold Your Horses Equestrian Photography** <https://www.holdyourhorsesphoto.ca/>.

We expect to see Charlie at all our 2026 shows. Feel free to browse the photo galleries from 2025 on his website.



HUNTER DIVISIONS

Green Hunter Division: Open to horses in first year of showing. May be shown by a junior, amateur or open rider. Choose the jump height - either X to 18" (X into line, 18" out of line) or 2'0". Skip or simple changes are not penalized.

2'0" Open Hunter Division: New in 2026. Open to all riders jumping 21", 2'0" or 2'3" as eligible and open to all horses and ponies.

Horses that have previously competed in the green division or those showing at the same show in the Green Division might choose this as a division to enter.

Modified Hack Division: Open to all horses (no ponies permitted), junior, amateur and *open riders (* on green horses only). Consists of two classes. Competitors will be asked to perform at the walk, trot and canter. No more than 6 to canter at a time. Judged as a hunter division.

Modified Pony Hack Division: Open to all ponies, junior and amateur riders. Consists of two classes. Competitors will be asked to perform at the walk, trot and canter. No more than 6 to canter at a time. Judged as a hunter division. An open rider may ride a pony hors concours.

The Hack Divisions are great first show experiences for young horses or for riders who like to ride flat classes.

In flat classes and under saddle classes, everyone goes along the rail to the left to start. The ring manager gives the riders the instructions from the judge. These will include walking and rising trot (also sitting trot in equitation classes) both directions of the ring and cantering (only for the intermediate and advanced classes). With a large class, competitors may be asked to canter in a smaller group (5-8) depending on their level.



Did you
know?

Hors concours (h/c = non-judged) is permitted in any division except the BSR and P/X. Only ponies may go h/c in the Pony Hack Division.

JUMPER DIVISIONS

Intro to Jumper Equitation: Maximum jump height .60m/2'0". Open to junior and amateur riders. Judged as equitation. One clear round plus two jumper equitation classes. Clear Round and first course will be the same course. There will be a course walk before the Clear Round and before the 2nd jumper equitation class.

Green Jumper Division: Maximum jump height .60m/2'0". Open to all riders. Open to horses in first year of jumping competition. One Clear Round plus two Optimum Time jumper classes. Clear round and first course will be the same course. There will be a course walk before the clear round and before the 2nd class.

*Competitors in the Jumper divisions usually already have some experience riding courses in competition. The difference between the **Intro to Jumper** and **Green Jumper** is that the Equitation division is intended for riders starting into jumper competition to help them develop good riding and planning habits before starting to ride at speed at higher levels of competition, whereas the Green Jumper division is a training ground for young or inexperienced horses to gain some show ring experience over jumper-type obstacles in a low-key environment.*

*Walking the pattern in the **Course Walk** helps riders use their 'mind's eye' to see the jumps as they'll be seeing them and walk the path they'll be taking when they ride the class. They can visualize themselves riding the course in their mind. Visualization is something everyone can learn to do. You probably do it already when you imagine riding a perfect exercise or course!*

Competitors are grouped in sets of 3 – 5 by coach, where possible, to ride the clear round class and then their first judged course. The first class is the same course as the clear round course. A second course walk will be available before the second class, but no clear round.



New in 2026

2'0" Open Hunter Division: Open to all riders jumping 21", 2'0" or 2'3" as eligible and open to all horses and ponies.

Green Jumper Division is for horses in their first year competing over fences. The division will consist of a Clear Round and two 'Optimum Time' classes.

Starting with the June show, the second over fences class in the **2'0" to 2'6" equitation** divisions will have **equitation turns and rollbacks**.

Educational sessions – May 2 and July 4 to give riders some tips for successful show ring performance.

Fun and Games special activities at the May, 18, June 21, July 4 and Aug 22 shows.
All proceeds go to the Lanark Animal Welfare. Society.

Grass Ring Schooling sessions on Development Show days – Book a time slot in the Getting to know Grand Prix and/or Intro to Hunter Derby crossrail schooling courses.



How Show Days Run

The first division usually starts at 8:00 or 8:30 am. Every division has an in-ring warm-up so riders and horses have opportunity to work in the ring with their coach before the judged classes. Competitors in equitation and hunter divisions are divided into groups of 3 to 5, grouped by coach where possible, and given between 10 and 20 mins of warm-up time per group (3 riders - 10 mins, 4 - 15 mins, 5 - 20 mins). Before the Hack Divisions, 5 - 10 minutes warm-up is allotted depending on the number in the class. Before the jumper divisions, riders have 10 minutes to walk the course with their coach. They also have a clear round course before the judged rounds.

Following the group warm-up, equitation and hunter riders will follow the posted order taking turns doing their first OF class, and then their second OF class. Once the riders in all the groups in a division have had their turn, they all return for the Flat class. At the end of the class, the riders will be asked to line up, side-by-side (but spread out) in the center of the ring and then the ribbons and awards for the division will be presented.

For the Hack Division and Pony Hack Division, following the walk warm-up, the class will start with all competitors on the left rein. After performing both directions at the walk, trot and canter, they'll line up in the centre of the ring. Ribbons and awards will be presented after the second class in each division.

Jumper riders will receive a clear round ribbon if they go clear in the clear round class. Ribbons and awards for the judged classes will be awarded at the in-gate after the 2nd class is complete.



Did you know?

For safety reasons, we purposely do not have jumps in the warm-up ring. Riders and horses are safer jumping during the controlled warm-up time in the show rings before each group in a division. It also ensures horses are not overjumped before their classes.

Ribbons and Awards

Ribbons are awarded in every class to 6th place. Each division has a **Champion** and **Reserve Champion** (Hi-Point/Reserve Hi-Point for jumper divisions) 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 a division is divided into two or more sections, each will have separate class ribbons and Champion and Reserve Champion (Hi-Point/Reserve Hi-point for jumper divisions) awards. In jumper divisions, competitors get 2 points for riding a clear round in the clear round class.

If there is a tie for Champ or Res, it is broken according to who got more points in the over fences classes. **New this year** – If still a tie, a ribbon will be given to each tied competitor. If there is a tie for champion and awards are given to two champions, then no reserve champion award will be presented. Along with the champion and reserve champion ribbons, there is usually a small prize as well to add to the fun.



Development Finale Show

The last show of the season on Saturday, September 19 is open to all

At the end of the day of the final show of the season, we celebrate with a pizza party and present high point awards 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. Competitors who have shown in the minimum number of shows in their division, regardless of overall placing are also recognized. Riders are eligible for awards in up to 2 divisions.

Did you
know?

*Riders and coaches in the Finale
on September 19 get a free pizza party ticket*



Special Events / Fun Classes

New in 2026

Development Shows are about a solid and educational foundation to competition. They are also about fun, so we thought we'd add some emphasis to both.

EDUCATION SESSIONS- At the first show of the season on May 2, we'll be providing show performance training tips from our judges for riders and parents with time for Q & A.

At the July show, we'll be offering a learning session on riding roll back turns and Equitation Medal classes as we start to introduce one course with rollback turns in each of the 2'0" to 2'6" equitation divisions. If you have other educational requests, let us know.

FUN – Everybody likes fun! We'll be adding a fun class at certain shows. All competitors are eligible to enter. A small entry fee (\$5) will be charged with all proceeds going to charity.

FUN CLASSES – Details can be found in the prize list.

- MAY 18: **Stick Horse Agility Class**
- July 4: **Costume Class**
- June 21: **Carrot and Stick Obstacle Course**
- August 22: **Twilight Lead Line Class**
(riders lead their parents)



Lanark Animal Welfare Society

Giving every paw a chance.



Things to Know Before You Show

**Being prepared makes the show experience more enjoyable for everyone.
Here are some tips to help things go smoothly**

- Read the prize list. It has all the important information about making entries, fees, classes, tentative schedules and much more
- Get/renew your Ontario Equestrian (OE) membership and if you are making entries, ask for your coach's membership number.
- Coaches - if you are making entries for your students, be sure to include complete information for each rider and horse so no one is charged an incomplete entry fee. Remember every Person Account needs a valid email. Use a parent/guardian email for junior riders.
- Book vaccinations and coggins in advance. Sometimes it takes a while to get a vet appointment and vaccinations must be within 6 months but no less than 7 days before the competition. Coggins tests are valid for 1 year.
- Make your entry early. You can edit or cancel up to the show closing date (usually 5 days before the show as noted in the prize list). If you are missing anything on your form, you'll have a chance to have it complete before the closing date.
- If you have never competed away from home, consider booking a schooling session at Westar so you are familiar with the surroundings.
- Practice your performance at home. Plan and practice - how you will warm up, what you want to be thinking about in the in-gate, how you'll remember your courses, and how you might handle show day nerves. It's good to 'practice' getting nervous at home and figuring out how you'll deal with it on show day. Practice deep breathing, it helps you focus. Practice visualizing riding your course. Like anything, the more you practice, the easier it gets!
- Watch your inbox for show updates in the days before the show. We send these out by email (make sure you have a valid email in your esm profile).
- Have all your show gear clean and ready well before the show so you aren't overloaded at the last minute.
- Plan for success and learn from every experience!

Did you
know?

Show numbers are assigned to every rider in the show. These are 'loaners' and need to be returned to the office at the end of the show day. If you keep yours please let us know before you leave and pay the \$5 replacement fee.

How to Register

**Registering or 'making an entry' is done online at
<https://www.eqshowmanager.com/>
 It's easy once you have your accounts set up.**

Setting Up Accounts

You'll need to create:

- An **EXHIBITOR ACCOUNT** as the adult in charge of the accounts. You might be the rider or parent/guardian of a rider under 18 years of age or the trainer or coach.
- A **PERSON ACCOUNT** for each rider, adult or child, coach or horse owner. Every account needs a connected email account so if you are a parent making the entry, rather than share a child's email, you can use a different email or if the Exhibitor is the coach/trainer, we recommend using the parent/guardian email address.
- A **HORSE ACCOUNT** for every horse entered.
- Every account needs a separate email address so that each individual in the system has a unique identifier.
- As show organizers, we usually send updates about an upcoming show and we can tailor who to send them to - coach, rider and/or owner or maybe just the entrants in a certain division.

Memberships



Riders, horse owners and coaches must all be members of Ontario Equestrian (OE) or Cheval Quebec (CQ) if you live in Quebec. You can register at: <https://www.ontarioequestrian.ca/> or <https://www.cheval.quebec/types-dadhésion.html>

Vaccination Records for Horses

In order to reduce the spread of disease, all horses coming onsite must have been vaccinated against **EHV 1 & 4 and Equine Influenza** within 6 months of the but no less than 7 days before the competition date. A **negative Coggins Test** is required for all horses.

Upload the vaccination record to the horse account (bottom left column in Horse Profile)

Did you
know?

*You only have to set up account information once.
It will be at your fingertips for all future entry submissions.*

Making an Entry in ESM

Once you have all the accounts set up, including memberships and vaccinations, you are ready to make an entry

1 Show & Horse

1. Select the show from the dropdown list
2. Select the Horse from the dropdown list
3. Click Next

2 Riders & Classes

1. Select the rider from the drop down list
2. Click on Select Classes
3. Choose the classes from the dropdown list
4. Click Next

3 Person Responsible / Payer & Payee

1. Name a Person Responsible - this can be the coach/trainer or a parent
2. Click Next

4 Stalls & Services

1. If you'd like a stall for your horse for the day, you can add it here. Click on Stall Type (only 1 choice)
2. You can also add hay and bedding
3. Click Next

5 Payment

1. Choose payment method.
2. Be sure to click **Enter in Show**
3. Fees are due before the show day and can be paid by e transfer to: entries@westarfarms.ca

Did you know?

You can edit or cancel the entry up to the show closing date as listed in the prize list

Attire



There are no specific rules with regards to attire, however most riders wear a riding jacket and riding blouse, light coloured riding breeches and long riding boots or paddock boots. A tidy plain-cloured short or long sleeved polo shirt or blouse is also fine. All riders must wear an ATSM approved riding helmet with chin strap done up. Long hair should be tied back and consider a hair net.

Braiding is optional in hunter and hunter equitation classes. Jumpers are generally not braided.



Looking for equipment, particularly for a junior rider? Second hand is an affordable option. There are many Facebook groups to look for equipment for horses or riders. ***Always buy a new helmet.** Don't purchase one second hand.

You can use the same groups to sell equipment as your child outgrows their show gear. If you ride at a stable, maybe set up an equipment exchange in the spring and fall. For new gear, we are fortunate to have a number of excellent tack shops in and around Ottawa with friendly, helpful staff.

If you have a question about equipment for rider or horse, just send us a note.



Show Stabling

We have **40 ringside stalls** for the comfort and convenience of horses and riders to spend their time at the show when not in the show rings. We offer a **discounted rate** to Development competitors. Riders like them because they don't have to hold the horse the whole time at the show when they aren't mounted. Horses like them because they have a nice sheltered place to stand and they are usually eating hay!

The stalls have a stonedust base. You can bring your own bedding and hay or purchase it before the show on your entry form. If you forgot to pre-order, just come to the show office and we can arrange delivery for you. Be sure to bring water buckets and tie or clip them in your horse's stall and keep them well-filled through the day.

If you use a stall, you must clean it out before you leave, including bedding, hay and all garbage in and around the stalls. Please be careful not to dig up the stonedust base. Do not stick or afix anything to the stalls and please cut off and dispose of any cable ties or twine.

Did you
know?

There are 4 washracks for everyone's use (not just horses using show stalls). There is also a tank of water between the parking area and stalls, close to the laneway. Please only bathe horses in designated areas i.e. washstalls, on the gravel away from the stalls or in the parking area.



Schooling at Westar

Westar has **4 competition rings** – **two sand rings, a grass Grand Prix Ring and a grass Hunter Derby Field**. We offer opportunity to book schooling sessions in any of our show rings almost all season long. It's not always easy or convenient to bring riders and horses over so we thought we'd make it a bit easier.

You are welcome to book a quiet session on your own or with your coach and stable mates. This is a great way to get a feel for the show rings on a non-competition day, taking your time and moving the jumps up and down as you like.

New in
2026

We'll be offering schooling
in our **GRAND PRIX RING** and **HUNTER DERBY FIELD**
on Development Show days at a special height and a special price

This year, on Development Show days, we'll have a crossrails (12 – 18" max) course set in each of the grass rings so with their coaches, riders can try **GETTING TO KNOW GRAND PRIX** or **INTRO TO HUNTER DERBY**.

Coaches and riders can book a time slot and school in one of the grass rings with one or more students for a special show rate for riders entered in the Development Show of **\$40 + hst per horse/rider**. Riders and horses not entered in the show also get a special rate of **\$60 + hst**.



Who do I Ask?

If you have a question, we're here to help!

The Show Office can help with all questions related to entries and payments, show stalls, hay and bedding or show rules.

The Ring Manager is the one to ask about things related to class timing and order of go. If you missed getting your ribbon, check with them. You'll find them in the booth at the entrance to each ring.

The Show Manager can answer questions about show rules, safety concerns,

The Grounds Manager is the one to see about parking, safety concerns and warm-up ring matters.

If the team member you ask doesn't have the answer to your question, they'll get in touch with the person who can.

If you foresee an issue, it's always best to communicate sooner rather than when the issue arises. This is especially relevant when it comes to timing issues like possible ring conflicts. Communication helps find solutions.



Tricia Turriff
Show Office



Bridget McKessock
Show Manager



Jeff McKessock
Grounds Manager



Steph Wark
Head Trainer



About Us

Westar Farms was 'born' in 1984, and Jeff and Bridget McKessock have been running their farm and business at the current location on Fernbank Road since 1988. Both were competitive riders, Jeff in eventing and jumpers, Bridget in hunters and jumpers. Jeff is a National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) High Performance Jumping Coach and Bridget is a Competition Coach Specialist.

Stephanie Wark started as a student at Westar in 1999. She began competing on ponies and has worked her way up through the hunter and jumper ranks. Steph gained her coaching credentials in 2016 and is currently a Competition Coach. Steph, Jeff, Bridget and the rest of the teaching staff are also EC licenced coaches and trainers.

We run a riding school and train riders and horses in hunter jumper and equitation and our riders compete at Development, Bronze, Silver and Gold level competitions in Ontario and Quebec. We also host 13 horse shows here at the farm each season - 6 Development Shows, 3 Trillium and/or Bronze Hunter Jumper Shows and 4 Gold, Silver and ESD Dressage Shows.

Our philosophy behind the Development Shows is to provide a safe, structured environment in which to introduce riders of all ages, and young horses, to competition. We want everyone to have fun while learning and have it be affordable so it's accessible to many families in the area.

It takes a village... Many of the people you see helping out with Development Shows are volunteers who love being involved with the shows. They are a vital part of the Development Show community. We are grateful to the teens from Westar who perform the duties of show ring managers and announcers. Acting in these roles helps them develop confidence and a sense of responsibility as well as being part of a team. Younger students assist the ring managers, and riders, brothers and sisters of riders from lots of different riding stables who are at the show love to be ribbon presenters. They are also part of the development community and team.



Glossary of Terms

BSR – Beginner Show Rider: First competitive level for riders under 18 who can walk and trot in lessons. The division runs in a smaller ring. Riders may cross-enter into Poles to Xs.

Champion and Reserve Champion: 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 (16+ riders) are split into two sections.

Clear Round: Each competitor in the jumper divisions gets to ride a Clear Round (prescribed course) 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 a few days before the show, online at <https://westarfarms.ca/competitions/#development-shows>

Course Walk: In the jumper divisions 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 2 Over Fences (OF) classes and a flat/under saddle class. Hack divisions have two classes and jumper divisions have 2 classes.

Entry Form: An online form filled out for each rider and horse for each show. We use Equestrian Show Manager – <https://www.eqshowmanager.com/> Entry forms are usually filled out by the coach, rider or parent.

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. For Development Shows it refers to horses in their first year of competition.

Groom: Someone who helps the rider, pony/horse get ready and with the gear at the ring.

Group Warm-up: An opportunity for riders to go in the ring in small groups (3 - 5) to get familiar with the course and practice over the jumps.

Hunter: Type of competition where the style, accuracy and relaxed performance of 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.

Hack Division: Consists of two flat classes. Judged on manners, obedience and way of going. Horses will perform at the walk, trot and canter.

Intro to Jumper: NEW division in 2025. 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, horse owners and coaches 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.

Modified Hack Division: Open to junior or amateur riders on horses. Open to open riders on green horses (first year of competition). Consists of two flat classes. Judged on manners, obedience and way of going. Horses will perform at the walk, trot and canter.

Modified Pony Hack Division: Riders must be juniors or amateurs. Open riders may compete hors concours on ponies. Consists of two flat classes. Judged on manners, obedience and way of going. Horses will perform at the walk, trot and canter.

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.

2'0" Open Hunter Division: New in 2026 Open to all horses. Open to riders competing between 21" or 2'3" in the same show.

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 ranks the top 6 riders 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.

Ring Manager: Also called whip or whipper-in. They let the coaches and riders know when their turn is coming up, answer questions from competitors and coaches and they liaise with the judge and the show office.

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 canteen 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: 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.







Good Luck

to all

competitors