

Welcome to the Illini Equestrians! We look forward to another year of learning and growing as a group. Our purpose is to seek to further student knowledge of, appreciation for, and participation within the equine industry through social, educational, and competitive activities. Whether you choose to participate in just the club, take lessons, or become part of a show team, we are happy to have you join us!

Please read through this entire document thoroughly before signing, as this information is important for the 2021-2022 school year, whether you wish to be a part of the Illini Equestrians club or one/both of the show teams.

### **The Club**

Our club has monthly meetings and bimonthly socials with the intent to promote the enjoyment of being involved in the equine industry. Club meetings and socials are both excellent ways to meet and talk with other members in the club. Meetings are meant to be educational and informative, whether you have a background with horses or not. Due to the nature of our activities, it is recommended that you read our COVID-19 statement (listed on our website) to understand our policies. This year we will be having more in person meetings and socials than last year, but they may be reduced as new COVID-19 information emerges. Our executive team is focused on keeping everyone safe and healthy while still trying to provide our club members with opportunities throughout the year.

### **The Show Teams**

Our show teams are offshoots of the club. We have both english and western show teams that compete on the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) circuit as part of Zone 7 Region 1. IHSA offers a unique competition setup where schools in the region provide a pool of horses of varying abilities and skill levels. Riders randomly draw horses that have been designated as appropriate for their height, weight, and level of competition, and without any warm up, enter the ring and compete. All show team members are required to be members of the club, participate in club fundraising, participate in lessons with the team coach(es), pay team fees to the coach(es), be a registered IHSA member, and pay any costs associated with participation in shows such as class fees, the club show attendance fee, and travel fees not covered by the team fee, Student Org Resource Fee (SORF) Board, or the club.

### **Club Costs**

Club dues are \$25 per academic year (August-May), which includes participation in any/all club activities. If you join after the fall semester has ended/during the spring semester, dues are \$15 for the semester (January-May). Meetings are usually free, while some socials may have an additional cost depending on their nature.

### **Team Costs**

The show teams each have different costs associated with them that are paid to the club, the coaches, or IHSA. The english team has a team fee of \$600 per academic year or \$350 per semester. English lessons are \$45 for an hour group lesson, though show team members may

purchase a package of 10 lessons at \$400 for use within the semester of purchase. The english team is coached by Terri Foreman, owner of Commonwealth Farm.

The western team has a team fee of \$60 per show day. Western lessons are \$40 for a half-hour group lesson. A lesson package of \$140 for 4 lessons is also available to everyone. The western team is coached by Megan Tyler, owner of Meg's Riding Academy.

The cost to register as an IHSA member is \$45 per academic year for english or western, or \$65 per academic year for both disciplines. Individual classes at a show are \$40 each for both english and western.

Show team members who attend a show must also pay a \$5 show attendance fee per show to the club. Team members who do not participate in the required club fundraising will be subject to fines to help offset the lack of participation.

Additionally, anyone may participate in lessons at Commonwealth Farm or Meg's Riding Academy without joining the club or either team, but they may not be offered the same discounts as team members.

### **Appropriate Conduct at Club Events**

We expect all members of our club to be respectful of one another as well as any professionals, guests, volunteers, animals, etc. involved with demonstrations or meetings. Our meetings often feature those who have volunteered their time, knowledge, and resources to our club for educational purposes. We expect you to be courteous of those who are running meetings and their animals.

As members of the Illini Equestrians, we expect you to conduct yourself appropriately around any animals, whether at a barn, meeting, social, show, trip etc. This means we should not receive reports of you purposefully startling, spooking, beating, or abusing animals. We also expect you to respect any owners' instructions for their animals. Should any incidents come to the executive team's attention, we will be investigating any claims that are made and acting accordingly.

Any social events hosted by the Illini Equestrians will be planned and run by the social chair and will be discussed by the executive board before proceeding with the event. We expect all members and any other persons attending the event to act appropriately in accordance with the code of conduct.

### **Appropriate Conduct at Horse Shows**

We expect all members of show teams to respect one another and work as a team to create an environment conducive to supporting one another. Any conflicts at shows are to be handled by the show coordinator(s), assistant coach/co-coach, or coach.

Riders should be respectful of all horses, horse holders, coaches, assistant coaches, show stewards, judges, announcers, any horse show staff, and all other riders while participating in any IHSA shows. The Illini Equestrians do not tolerate or promote a culture of disrespect for those who have volunteered their time and energy to assist in running horse shows.

Anyone representing the Illini Equestrians while horse-holding is encouraged to assist the rider and promote good horsemanship and horse care after the horse is finished for the day. English team riders are expected to hold horses when the coach brings horses to shows and participate in the care and upkeep of said horses before, during, and after the horse show.

We highly encourage members to help each other out, from assisting with hair and makeup to lending show clothes. We expect the more experienced riders/members to assist with those who may not have the same amount of experience, whether they are handling horses or preparing for their class.

### **Executive Board Members**

Our executive team is crucial in the success of the Illini Equestrians. They are responsible for making some of the important decisions and planning our events. Elections are held every spring to determine who will be on the board.

- President - Gabriella Lamb (gclamb2@illinois.edu)
- Vice President - Peyton Arnett (parnett2@illinois.edu)
- Secretary - Grace Garvey (ggarvey3@illinois.edu)
- Treasurer - Rebecca Rauchmayer (rar4@illinois.edu)
- English Horse Show Coordinators - Amber Mohammed (ambersm2@illinois.edu) & Carson Tazzioli (carsont2@illinois.edu)
- Western Horse Show Coordinator - Keely Mogge (keelycm2@illinois.edu)
- Fundraising Chairs - Emily Cryer (ecryer2@illinois.edu) & Sydney Friedman (sydneyf3@illinois.edu)
- Social Chair - Anastasia Oleksyn (oleksyn3@illinois.edu)
- Social Media Coordinator - Lauryn Jones (lej2@illinois.edu)

### **Coach Contact Information**

English coach/barn: Terri Foreman/Commonwealth Farm  
cmnwea@aol.com

Western coach/barn: Meg Tyler/Meg's Riding Academy  
mltyler1@gmail.com

As a member of the Illini Equestrians, I agree to abide by the code of conduct. I understand that as a member of the organization, I represent the Illini Equestrians, and, if participating on either the english or western teams, I am representing the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at IHSA competitions.

With my signature below, I agree not to participate in the following behaviors while representing the Illini Equestrians or while at any events hosted by the Illini Equestrians:

- Extreme profanity or vulgarity against any person or any animals;
- Abuse of any substance; including but not limited to alcohol, marijuana, or any prescription drugs;
- Abuse of any animals under any circumstance;
- Cheating;
- Physical violence or threats of physical violence against any person;
- Any hazing, psychological abuse, etc.;
- Any language that seeks to persecute, threaten, or discriminate against anyone based on their race, sex, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, etc.

If found to be participating in any of these inappropriate behaviors, I understand that I may be suspended or expelled from an event or any future events by the Illini Equestrians board.

I have read by and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for the 2021-22 academic year.

---

Printed name & signature\*

Date

\*I understand any signature, even digital, is binding