

# STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12: TAKE THE REINS AND JOIN THE IEA

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*No need to  
own a horse!*



INTERSCHOLASTIC  
**EQUESTRIAN**<sup>™</sup>  
ASSOCIATION

IT'S YOUR FUTURE. TAKE THE REINS.  
GRADES 6-12.



## **THE OBJECTIVES OF IEA ARE:**

- To promote the equestrian as an athlete
- To provide students with organized competitive opportunities
- To introduce new riders to equine sports
- To promote the IEA among middle, and secondary schools
- To provide students with opportunities for further education in equine sports and other equine-related matters
- To encourage liaison with IHSA, NRHA, USEF, USHJA and other interested bodies
- To provide information concerning the creation and development of school associated mounted and non-mounted equestrian programs
- To establish and enforce IEA rules, standards and policies
- To evolve with the continuing progress of equestrian sports
- To generally promote the common interests of riding instruction, competition and education in matters related to the horse industry and all segments thereof.



## **COMPETITION OFFERINGS:**

- Three disciplines: Hunt Seat, Western, Saddle Seat
- Hunt Seat: flat and fence classes
- Western: horsemanship and reining classes
- Saddle Seat: rail and pattern classes
- Individual and team competitions
- Four ability levels: beginner, novice, intermediate, open.

## THE INTERSCHOLASTIC EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION (IEA)

Long-time equestrian teachers and trainers, Roxane Lawrence and Wayne Ackerer, founded the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) in 2002 to provide and promote equestrian athletic competition among middle and high school students.

Through the IEA, students have the opportunity to earn scholarships towards their college education, as well as experience showing in a format similar to collegiate programs like the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) and Varsity Equestrian (NCAA).

As its National Western Sponsor, the IEA has an alliance with the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA). The IEA is also an affiliate of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA), United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) and the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF).

In the initial 2002–03 school year, 175 riders on 13 teams competed as IEA members riding only in Hunt Seat. The following competition year, membership more than tripled! By the end of the 2009-2010 membership year, IEA had over 3150 members and nearly 200 teams in 31 states from across the country competing in 150 Hunt Seat and Western shows. This tremendous growth in membership is expected to continue in both formats and in the newly-added Saddle Seat Division.



## WHY JOIN IEA?

Because competing with IEA is fun and challenging and *there is no need to own a horse*—horses are provided to each rider at every event. Moms and dads really like the fact that IEA provides an affordable format for their child as they build equestrian skills.

The show formats used by IEA are true tests of horsemanship. All mounts are selected by a draw. Riders are judged on horsemanship skills and equitation. All riders must compete on an unfamiliar horse and in unfamiliar tack. Hunt Seat riders compete over equitation courses and in flat equitation classes. Western riders display their talents in reining and horsemanship on various mounts. Saddle seat participants demonstrate skills as they ride in-group, rail classes and individually performed pattern classes.



Riders not only compete for individual points, but for their team as well. Prior to discovering what horse each student will ride, coaches select riders from each class to accumulate points for their team. This format adds team camaraderie to a normally individual sport. Competing with IEA prepares serious equestrian athletes for collegiate competition and provides scholarship opportunities.

## STARTING A TEAM:

A team must have access to an operating equine facility, preferably with a riding program already in place. The team must have a qualified coach, and both coach and facility must have liability insurance coverage (available through the IEA). Membership forms and liability waivers for team, riders and coach are also necessary. School teams or barn teams are acceptable. A minimum of three riders is required to form a team.

## WHO CAN RIDE WITH IEA?

Riders in grades 6–12 can compete with IEA. All riders must be members of a team, coached by an IEA member coach. Teams can be formed by any group of riders, whether they are in the same school or ride at the same barn.



## IEA SPORTSMANSHIP:

The IEA was established to provide competitive and educational opportunities through equestrian athletics. Good horsemanship and honorable participation are priorities at every event. It is the responsibility of all attendees to foster a spirit of belongingness, an atmosphere of community enjoyment, and a mutual respect for all participants. All attendees must commit to the following oath:

## OATH:

In representation of the participants at this event, I promise to respect and abide by the governing rules of the Interscholastic Equestrian Association and to represent myself, my team and this association in the spirit of good horsemanship and honorable competition.





For additional information about the IEA or answers to questions concerning team organization, visit our website: [www.rideiea.org](http://www.rideiea.org) or call 877-RIDE-IEA (877-743-3432).

