



JUST STARTING OUT: MOVING INTO THE COMPETITION WORLD

Think of learning to ride horses like learning to drive a car. First your child will learn in a parking lot with no other cars around – just like we teach them first in the hallway where they get comfortable guiding and steering and the basics of trotting. Then they are ready to move to the arena in a small group lesson, where they are still one on one with their instructor. This is like driving on a two-lane road, where you may encounter other cars, but there's not a lot of traffic to worry about. It's not until your child has mastered the two-lane road that they are ready to get on the "highway" – this is when they are riding in a medium-sized group, and your instructor may be teaching one or two other children at the same time.

After your child has been riding in lessons and has mastered the basics of walking and trotting, as well as proper form; they are ready to begin competitions. Sometimes this can take a mere matter of months, while for other children this can take a year, or more. Of course, competitions are not required and not every child wishes to compete; however, we encourage all riders to give it a shot, as it helps us set goals in our riding lessons, and helps us see new things to work on. It also keeps our students motivated – and like everything else in life, the harder they work, the more they see the results!

The first step into competitions is our "fun show". These fun shows are for any level rider – even a beginner just starting out – and is a barn show with just our own riders, and sometimes one other barn that we invite. The atmosphere is fun and laid-back and a perfect opportunity to get your feet wet and see what competitions are all about!

BASIC CLOTHING:

After the first few lessons, and once riders are independently going around the arena, we require all riders to have their own helmet, gloves and boots. We also strongly recommend riders to have breeches or jodhpur pants for practice.

Helmets: Helmet requirements vary across the country, and the Kentucky competition circuit requires them for all riders age 17-and-under. While not required, helmets are strongly recommended for all lesson students. We recommend the Ovation Deluxe Schooling helmet (\$69), the size chart is accurate – they can be purchased online at many places. Try them on at the barn with your instructor to determine what size is needed for your rider. The most important thing when purchasing a helmet is to make sure it fits properly and is an ASTM/SEI Certified riding helmet (not a bike helmet). A poorly-fitting helmet can cause serious problems. When you have the helmet on, it should not be possible to pull it down over the eyes. We recommend helmets that have adjustment in the back so that they will fit any head and will grow with your child. Please do not purchase a used helmet – as the history is not disclosed and therefore, they are no longer certified. If a helmet has been in an accident, a new helmet must be purchased. Just like with car seats, damage is often not noticeable, but it can no longer protect the rider sufficiently.



Ovation Deluxe Schooling Helmet

Boots: We suggest tennis shoes for the first few lessons, or another closed-toe shoe with a small heel. Cowboy boots are not functional for saddle seat riding, as it does not allow the rider to get their heel down, or their foot in the proper position. Rain boots are also not permitted. Riding boots can be purchased for a reasonable fee at local stores or online. Black Jodhpur Boots (often called paddock boots) are what saddle seat riders wear both in lessons and in the show ring. Traditionally, they come in a pull-on, lace-up or zip option in many different brands.



Ariat Zip Paddock Boot

Prices start out around \$40 and up for new boots, depending on brand and quality. Boots may also be purchased on consignment.

Brands to look for: Ovation, Ariat, Devon Aire, Dublin and Saxon



Gloves: In the beginning it can be hard to learn how to properly hold the reins, and young children often complain that their hands will hurt after riding (usually it is because they are ‘over-gripping’ the reins and actually holding them too tightly, causing their hands to cramp). Gloves can be purchased inexpensively and will really help the rider grip the reins (think how baseball players wear gloves to bat). It is also a good practice to wear them every time they ride, as they are required for competitions. **Leather riding gloves are preferred**, as they will grip leather reins the best and will mold to your rider’s hand, becoming broken-in and very comfortable. Most practice gloves are in the \$30 and under range. For competitions, black (or coordinating color) gloves are required.

Brands to look for: SSG, Roeckl, Heritage

Top: Hartmeyer Long Leather Show Glove. Bottom: SSG Leather Riding Glove

Jodhpur Pants: Saddle seat riders wear Kentucky Jodhpurs. This is a style of pant that has a ‘bell’ at the bottom and a tie-down or underpass (elastic strap) that goes underneath the boot and helps hold the pants down so they don’t ride up the leg (which is uncomfortable and rubs the leg). The basic style is a polyester jod in black. Jods should be plenty long and go well below the heel of the boot - when they are off the horse it is proper practice to turn the bell up at the bottom so they don’t walk on them. Many lesson riders will ride in **bootcut breeches** for lessons; these are typically for hunt seat riding and are more stretchy leggings with knee patches. Breeches are acceptable for practice, however will not be permitted for competitions. There are many brands of Kentucky Jodhpur pants and prices range from \$50-\$150. Some popular brands include, Kerrits Bootcut Breeches, Ovation Jodhpur Pants, Freedman’s, Jelly Bean Jods, and Alympic. These can also be purchased on consignment.

Our favorite tournament Jods: https://mytrainerscloset.com/products/black-mtc-academy-stretch-jods-xs-c8035?_pos=1&_psq=black%20mtc&_ss=e&_v=1.0&variant=41085227335851

Can be purchased directly from Jelly Bean Jods: On Facebook @ Jelly Bean Jods – owner, Robin Jensen

Or: Freedman Tous les Jours Performance Jods available in ladies or youth

<https://freedmanharness.com/collections/tous-les-jours-collection>



L: Kerrits bootcut breeches R: Ovation Jods (shown too short for competition).

TOURNAMENTS:

Depending on the time of the year that the student is ready for competitions, they will likely start out with “tournaments”. Tournaments are local competitions for riders of all levels and abilities. Zubrod Stables belongs to the local Winter Tournament Association, which holds informal competitions from November to March each year (the off-season from our regular shows). Tournaments are available for all riders to participate in - show or academy - and give our students a chance to practice what they have been working on over the winter. Tournaments are a great way for inexperienced riders to compete for the first time. They offer a wide variety of classes, and all riders new to competitions, compete in the “beginner” level their first year, therefore it is on an even playing field. Classes are divided by level and age, and will have no more than 6 riders in each class. Each rider will compete in two classes – a class that focuses on equitation (proper form) and pleasure (horsemanship). See below for more detailed information. Riders compete in black Kentucky Jodhpur pants and a Zubrod Stables pullover (which are purchased from us each fall).

2024-2025 TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

November 23, 2024

December 14, 2024

January 11, 2025

February 1, 2025

March 8, 2025

All tournaments are held at Lakeside Arena in Frankfort, Kentucky. The address is 1385 Duncan Road. Tournaments start at 9am and our lead line riders will compete first, and then all walk-and-trot riders compete in age order (oldest to youngest), followed by those that canter in the afternoon. The facility is heated, however is typically only running when the temperature outside is 40’s or lower. Even with the heat on – it’s usually pretty chilly, so please dress appropriately. While we encourage all riders to stay and cheer on their teammates, the tournaments will typically run 6 + hours, so we will give each rider an arrival time and you can expect to be at the show for approximately 2 hours. Riders can learn a lot from watching – they can see where the judge is standing, what they are looking at, how they are tying classes, and also how the horse they will be competing on is doing with other riders. There are restrooms and a concession stand with hot food. We also have a table set up – feel free to bring snacks!

Riders compete as the age they are as of December 1st, 2024. They will compete as this age for the entire 2024-2025 season (both tournaments and academy).

Riders will receive a back number at the first tournament they compete in and **MUST KEEP** this back number all season!!! If you lose or forget your number, you will have to replace it and notify the tournament association. Please keep it with your things – or leave it on your competition pullover only to be worn at shows!

Pricing: \$325 per tournament. Price includes two classes. This price includes participation in the high point program for all riders that have competed in 3 or more tournaments each season. Additional pattern class at your trainer’s discretion is an extra \$50.

At the end of the season, all riders will receive a High Point Medal for participation in the program. Champion and Reserve Champion riders from each Equitation and Horsemanship division will also be awarded with a tri-color ribbon and trophy. Awards will be given out during our annual Zubrod Banquet – typically in April.

TOURNAMENT RIDER CHECKLIST:

- Boots – black paddock boots
- Helmet – black ovation deluxe schooler helmet (or purchase a helmet cover if they have a colored helmet)
- Black jodhpur pants with tie downs (extra-long so they cover the heel 2” + with the riders knee bent into riding position). **WE PROMISE NO PANTS ARE ‘TOO LONG!’ – THEY SHOULD BE LONG. REPEAT – LONG!!!!**
- Belt (black and conservative) if needed. I love the adjustable magnetic elastic belt on Amazon as it is easily adjustable.
- Solid colored turtleneck or ‘under-armour’ type fitted shirt. Black, white or grey to wear under the pullover.
- Long underwear and warm socks when temperatures are cold.
- Zubrod Stables Gray team pullover (purchase via our online store <https://stores.inksoft.com/zubrodstables/shop/home> or used through Zubrod Stables).
- Hair neatly pulled back in a French braid or pigtail braids, long hair in two braids over shoulders so that it does not interfere with the back number. Buns also look great at shows – however we don’t have the time to coordinate doing 20+ buns throughout the day, so we ask that everyone do their own hair!
- Safety Pin or Number Magnets to attach back number (please keep back number for ENTIRE season) <https://www.wcircle.com/inc/sdetail/23504> (**white, black or pearl**). These can be purchased in person at Winner’s Circle and The Show Shop.
- Gloves – black (leather preferred for competitions)

PLACES TO PURCHASE BASIC RIDING GEAR AND ACADEMY/SHOW CLOTHING:

Show Ring Outfitters

Online shop with number magnets, whips, etc.

<https://www.showringoutfitters.com/zubrod-stables-preferred-items/>

The Show Shop • Sarah Tompkins

718 Main St. Shelbyville, KY 40065

Phone: 502-681-3920 • www.showshopconsignment.com

Commotion! Consignment Riding Apparel • Heather Marchiafava

104 E. Main St. Midway, KY 40347

Phone: 859-552-5983 • www.shopcommotion.com

The Patchwork Pony

614 D Street, Suite A Charleston, WV 25303

Phone: 304-552-7216 • www.thepatchworkpony.com

Becker Brothers Custom Equestrian Clothing • Brad Seacrist

Phone: 859-227-6452

Midwest Saddle Seat Consignment – Jen Owen

20730 Holyoke Ave. Suite 168 Lakeville, MN 55044

Phone: 612-598-2427 • www.midwestsaddleseatconsignment.com

Jelly Bean Jods • Robin Jensen

On Facebook

Scintilla Equestrian

262-443-5165 • www.scintillaequestrian.com