

REASONS TO JOIN!

- **Riding Skills:** IDA show competitions help students set goals and improve their performance. Students become proficient navigating dressage tests, riding a variety of horses, and coping with show nerves.
- **Affordability:** Students gain frequent showing opportunities with low entry fees and horses provided through participation in IDA.
- **Level Playing Field:** Students do not need to own a horse to participate; colleges hosting IDA shows provide the horses and tack. Teams choose their horses by random drawing.
- **Lifelong Skills:** IDA competition promotes teamwork and camaraderie skills students will use throughout their lives.
- **National exposure:** IDA provides students the opportunity to compete for prestigious regional and national titles.
- **Publicity:** IDA member colleges have greater visibility via the IDA website that attracts thousands of students each month and coverage in national equine publications.

ABOUT THE INTERCOLLEGIATE DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

The Intercollegiate Dressage Association was founded by coaches who wanted to offer riders the opportunity to participate in team competition as part of their college experience. The organization now offers support in forming new IDA teams and hosting shows.

The IDA officially began in the fall of 2001 with over 150 student riders representing 20 schools. By the end of the first year, the number of member schools was 27. The West Coast Region came on board in the fall of 2002. The Rocky Mountain Region formed in 2003. By 2006 the number of regions and teams wanting to join IDA were so great that the board elected to change from using geographic locations as regional names to a system that assigns regional letters.

The IDA has developed its own set of rules and standards, but adheres closely to USEF dressage rules. The Board of Directors meets annually to examine rule changes, growth and development.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The IDA is governed by a National Board of Directors comprised of all the Regional Representatives in addition to the Executive Committee and sets policies, makes rule changes, and develops new programs within the association. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors consists of the President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and Vice President who are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the association and its policies.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Each region elects a Regional Representative who is responsible for tracking membership, regional records, organization and planning, showing schedules, and acts as liaison between the schools and the board. The Regional Representative is the best person to answer your questions, offer advice, and help you to establish your new college team.

RIDER LEVELS

IDA shows are divided into four divisions: Introductory, Lower Training, Upper Training and First Level. Riders qualify for these division based on past riding and show experience. Students complete a Rider Classification Form about their riding history that determines their level within IDA the rider classification rules.

REGIONAL SHOWING

The host school provides the horses, tack and facilities used for each show. Teams of four riders representing each division compete on horses that are unfamiliar to them with only a ten minute warm up period before riding before a judge. Competing on unfamiliar horses is the keystone to IDA competitions, and provides a challenging opportunity for riders to really test their abilities. Teams earn points based on the riders placing within each division. Individuals and teams earn points at each IDA approved competition, and these points are tallied to determine national qualification. All IDA shows are judged either by licensed United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) judges or by United States Dressage Federation (USDF) "L" graduates.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL SCORING

At each IDA show riders are placed individually within their division. Placings through sixth place earn designated points for each rider. At the end of the day overall team placings are determined by combining the points

from each team member. Schools can enter up to two teams of four riders per show. Depending on show entries schools can also enter individual riders. Scores are cumulative throughout the season. The team with the most points at the end of the academic year is named the Regional Champion and can advance to the National Championship. Riders can also qualify individually, based on the number points earned during the year. The number of teams and individuals from each region that advance to Nationals is based on the number of team memberships in that region. National Championship team and individual competition follows the same format as regional competitions. (See IDA Rules and Standards for more information.)

ORGANIZING YOUR OWN IDA TEAM

To get started you need a group of ambitious students who want to ride dressage as a college sport. Teams usually are formed as a “club sport” as part of an existing horse-related club (Equestrian Club, Horseman's Association, etc.) that is officially recognized by your college. If your college has an existing IHSA team for hunt seat or reining, they may be willing to help create an IDA team. Get them on board if at all possible. If your college doesn't have either a horse or riding club or IHSA team contact the administration to find out what your options are. Your regional representative will be an invaluable resource, as will other member schools. All members of the IDA want the organization to grow and can offer you advice and support.

COACH AND COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE

The IDA requires each team to have a **college representative** who is the official contact with the college, and a **coach** who is responsible for paperwork, forms, entries, correspondence, etc. These positions can be filled by the same person, but the more people involved means more support for your team.

- **The representative** must be someone officially attached to the college - a member of the faculty, staff, or administration. He/she may or may not be actively involved with the team but will be ultimately responsible for the team as its liaison to the college. They may be any interested person from any department on campus but typically is found in the departments of equine studies, agriculture, animal science, or physical education, has some riding background and is interested in helping you form a team.
- **The coach** is required, at some colleges, to be a professional trainer/instructor who accompanies the team to shows. Other

teams contract with a local professional trainer or instructor to work with the team and conduct weekly training sessions. Contracts should include all the specifics such as number of team members, number of team practices, cost of each etc. and is renewable at the start of each academic year. While the IDA strongly recommends using professional coaches, a student may act in the capacity of coach, accepting correspondence, attending coaches' meetings, appointing point riders, etc. Some states require coaches to have a special license or other qualifications. Check with your college and state to determine what these requirements are.

INSURANCE

The IDA has liability insurance available at a reasonable per-event cost. However, it is strongly recommended that all riders have adequate major medical insurance. For more information on liability insurance for host colleges contact the IDA President.

EXPENSES

- **Team Membership**- There are two categories for team membership: \$200 for **Participating Teams**- for schools participating in three (3) or more competitions per year, or \$100 for **Supporting Teams** – those participating in less than three competitions per year. Fees are usually paid by checks from a college, college department or official club or team account. Fees must be paid annually before the team attends its first show.
- **Individual Membership** -Each rider must submit an Individual Membership Application along with \$30 annual IDA membership dues.
- **School Representative/Coach Membership** – A representative or coach from each college must fill out an IDA coach's form.
- **Horse Show Entry Fees** -Entry fees can range from \$120 to \$160 per team and \$30 to \$40 per individual.
- **Travel Expenses** – Some IDA teams travel in either a college owned van, charter bus, or rented van while others will drive personal cars and share the cost of gas among all the riders in the car. Other expenses can include hotel rental and meals.
- **Other Expenses**- Each school program differs on fees to cover riding lessons, use of horses, and coaching fees. Most teams also invest in team jackets, polo shirts and other gear.

FUNDING

A fully college funded equestrian team is the ultimate goal, but most IDA teams are self-supporting and cover the costs from their own pockets. Teams can raise money to pay for their travel and other expenses through fund raising activities organized by the club or team.

Your college may provide some funding if you present them with a written proposal. A good figure to aim for in a proposal is from \$500 to \$2000, depending on the college and the number of team members.

If your team is growing, active in your region, and receiving publicity in the local or national media, chances are that the college, equine-related departments, organizations such as student government or alumni interested in dressage might contribute funds. For additional fund raising ideas contact IDA Marketing and PR Officer.

The IDA also offers assistance grants for the fall and spring semesters. The application can be found on our website. Teams must demonstrate need and provide a detailed budget.

STEPS TO STARTING AN IDA TEAM

1. Go to our website www.teamdressage.com. Download a copy of the IDA Rules and Standards and By-laws. Membership requires that you are willing to subscribe to and follow IDA by laws and rules. These documents will also give you a better idea of how the organization works and will help you answer questions your college or potential donors may ask.
2. Contact your IDA Regional Representative and let them know you are trying to form a team, and ask for help.
3. Research whether your college has a horse-related club or IHSA team and get them involved.
4. Find a school representative and coach.
5. Advertise with flyers placed around campus and place an ad in your campus newspaper or website. See if the college newspaper will run a short press release announcing that you are trying to form an IDA team and provide them with your contact information. Posting flyers in area barns and feed and tack stores can help you find both riders and local support and interest.
6. Every team needs to complete a Team Membership Application,

Coach's Application, and Team Eligibility Form. Each team member will need to complete a Rider Classification Form, Individual Membership Form and an Assumption of Risk Form. All of these forms can be found on our website www.teamdressage.com and must be signed by coach/college representative. The Student Eligibility Form must be submitted to your college registrar to be checked and signed, certifying that each student is in good standing at the college.

7. Forms are filled out online, printed and mailed to your Regional Representative along with team and individual dues (see website for current rates) before you attend your first IDA Show. Ask your Regional Representative for specific instructions, deadlines and procedures.

8. Talk to other schools in your region for ideas on how practices are run, fundraising ideas and other ideas. Start attending IDA shows in your region and try to host at least one IDA show each year.

For additional information or resources please contact your Regional Representative or visit www.teamdressage.com