Team Member Expectations

Hunt Seat & Western

Updated October 2018
Preface

“The mission of The University of Alabama Equestrian Program is to provide University of Alabama students and special populations access to the opportunities and benefits of equestrian activities. This outreach will occur through a pursuit of academic equine degree programs and classes, IHSA competitive teams and equine assisted therapeutic riding with a research focus on the science of therapeutic riding.”

You are the building blocks to what we hope to be a long standing tradition of excellence in the University of Alabama hunt seat and western Equestrian program. This is a great opportunity and privilege, but also a great responsibility. How you work and live as members of the team will determine the culture of the program for years to come. Let's be sure we intentionally to build a culture we will be proud of.

UA EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM - TEAM POLICIES

• Team members are here to be students first. Must be a full time student at UA and in good standing with the University. Overall GPA of 2.5 or higher required.
  • Should a rider fall below an overall 2.5 GPA, they will not be permitted to compete until grades come up (but will still be required to attend all meets). Failure to raise grades will eventually result in a dismissal from the team.
  • All team members are expected to complete an Academic Action Contract.
• Must be a member of IHSA. Form must be completed online with coach.
• Team members will be required to pay team dues of $500 a year ($250 per semester). Members will also be responsible for providing their own (approved) show clothing beyond what is team provided. Your coach will provide you with a list of what show clothing you will be required to provide. Team dues are to be paid by September 1 in the fall and Feb. 1 in the spring.
• All team members (Hunt Seat and Western) must wear helmets at all times when riding. Due to customs in IHSA, Western riders are judged on their attire and can compete in their Western hats instead of their helmet. That is the only time that any team member is allowed to ride a horse without a helmet.
• Social media policy: as a member of this team, you are representing the Alabama Equestrian Program and the University of Alabama at all times. Refrain from posting material on your social media accounts which is in violation of team values and expectations. Failure to comply with representing the team's standards will result in consequences at the staff's discretion.
• All team members are expected to complete 4 hours of volunteer work a month during the academic year with the UA Therapeutic Division, which is also housed out of UA Equestrian at River Oaks Farm.
• It is mandatory for all team members to attend all team meets (home and away), all team meetings and community service dates, including fundraisers for the team. The only excuses to miss will be health issues or family emergencies.
• Team members MUST travel together on provided transportation.
• Century Oaks Farm is only open from 8 am until 5 pm Monday through Friday and closed on the weekends. Team members are not allowed to bring friends or family to Century Oaks Farm without prior permission from the Coach. Coaches are responsible for immediately notifying the Associate Director of the upcoming visit by the team member’s family and what date/time to expect them. The inner fencing around the barns and hay/shavings barn are considered for UA staff and team members only. No visitors in this area unless escorted during a tour; a participant/escort in a Therapeutic ride; or sitting in the marked designated visitor viewing area. Team members can give their family members a tour of the barns as long as they stay with their family and keep them away from any horses and the wash rack area. Family members are welcome to watch team practice from the bleachers or the designated viewing areas.
• No dogs are permitted at Century Oaks Farm.
COMPETING AND TEAM TRAVEL
Remember that it is our goal for people to recognize us when we travel and to acknowledge our growing reputation. You, as team members, create that reputation through your words, actions, and choices. There is always someone watching.

- All team members are expected to travel to all home and away meets. Requests for class excuses must be submitted to Cobe Brantley in the UA Equestrian office no less than 3 days prior to the meet. No exceptions.
- Competition riding slots are not guaranteed. The competition roster is decided on the needs of the team to win any given competition.
- Creating a competitive environment in practice will make every person better, regardless of their status on the team. Allow yourselves and your teammates to push each other toward improvement while continuously respecting each other in our words and actions.

ALCOHOL/DRUG/ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES POLICY
Because you were selected to be a member of this team and it is a privilege to represent your team and university, and you will abide by the following rules:

- Never wear your team attire to bars or clubs.
- No illegal drug use will be tolerated.

Consequences for violation of alcohol and drug policy are at the discretion of coach and staff. Any illegal activity is grounds for suspension or dismissal from the team.

2018-2019 UA EQUESTRIAN MEET SCHEDULE

October 7, 2018  KSU/NGA  Hunt Seat
October 20-21, 2018  Berry College  Hunt Seat
October 27-28, 2018  Univ of AL  Hunt Seat and Western **THIS IS FALL BREAK WEEKEND.
November 9-10, 2018  Auburn Univ.  Hunt Seat and Western
February 2-3, 2019  Berry College  Hunt Seat and Western
February 16, 2019  Judson College  Western
February 17, 2019  Univ of AL  Hunt Seat
February 23, 2019  Auburn Univ  Hunt Seat
March 2, 2019  Auburn Univ  Regionals
April ??  ???  Zones
May????  ???  Nationals

*Red indicates the meets that The University of Alabama Equestrian Program hosts.*
UA TEAM STANDARDS

Western Team Standards:
Full expectations are posted in the tack room. Failure to live up to expectations will result in consequences.

PRACTICES
- Required practices 2-3 times per week, with the exception of health or family emergency. In case of an emergency, team members must notify coach and reschedule their practice time.
- Practice attire is to be comprised of riding appropriate boot cut jeans, non-lace up western boots, and a University of Alabama shirt. No tank tops permitted.
- No cell phones during practice.
- Late arrival to practice is unacceptable. Allow for at least 30 minutes of time before practice to groom and tack up your assigned horse & at least 30 minutes after practice to cool down and care for horse/equipment.

WORKOUTS
Physical conditioning is an important component to an equestrian athlete's regimen. The successful athlete who takes their riding and conditioning seriously will strive to go above and beyond expectations to give themselves even the slightest edge in the competition arena.
- Team members are required to attend 1 team workout on a weekly basis during season. Official excuses must be brought to attention of coach ahead of time.

FACILITY & HORSE CARE EXPECTATIONS
Your facility is a physical representation of your pride in what you do for Alabama Equestrian. The tack room is to be clean and orderly at all times, with equipment properly maintained and cared for.
- If your horse makes a mess while you have it out, you are expected to clean up after yourself.
- Should something arise that may need healthcare attention, bring it to the coach’s attention.
- You are assigned a care horse for the semester. It is your job to keep up with bathing/clipping/otherwise tending to this horse’s needs without reminder. Due dates assigned as needed for shows, etc.
- River Oaks Farm is open from 8am to 5pm on weekdays. It is closed outside of business hours and on weekends (except for events). Permission from Coach or Barn Manager is need before bringing any family/friends/guests to the barn.

CONSEQUENCES
As a member of this team, you have been made aware of what is required of you and what behaviors are tolerated. It is your duty as a team member to live up to those minimum standards, if you truly want to help grow this program and have pride in what your team can be you will exceed expectations and show pride in your work.
Should a team member fail to meet minimum standards detailed above, a discussion with the coach will occur along with the following consequences:
- First strike: warning, behavior will be pointed out and addressed.
- Second strike: team member will be assigned task to make up for incurred offense.
- Third strike: team member will be held from competition for set amount of time
- Fourth strike: team member will be excused from team.

COMMITMENT
High achievement is a team endeavor. I would not expect you to live up to high standards if I did not expect the same of myself. As your coach, I will work as hard as I can to provide you with opportunities to learn and grow both as a rider in the arena and a person outside of the arena. There will be challenges that push you outside of your comfort zone; we do not learn when we are comfortable. However, I will also support, encourage, and fight for you
in and out of the arena. This team is a two way street, you will get out of it only as much effort as you give. To build Alabama's Western Team, we need students who are committed to working hard, passionate about the sport, and willing to go above and beyond as teammates. If you believe you are up to this challenge, and ready to be a part of something bigger than yourself, please sign below. This is your contract as a team member to live up to the above expectations.

**Hunt Seat Team Standards**

- You must be a member of IHSA. This form must be signed and given to the coach at the first team meeting
- You are required to have the following once on the team:
  - A certified ASTM/SEI helmet (GPA, IRH, Charles Owen, or Samshield)
  - Tan breeches
  - Tall boots (black) - Needs to be approved by coach
  - Black leather gloves
  - White shirt
- Team members are to be at 2-3 practices per week unless there is a major life reason such as an illness or death in family, etc. The excuse must be approved by the coach, along with rescheduling your lesson
- Be on time to practice. Arrive at least a half-hour prior to practice time to ensure enough time to groom, tack up and put gear on. Plan at least a half-hour after practice to properly cool down horse and clean tack. Their feet must be picked before and after ridden. Wash or curry after ride. Brush so no ring footing/mud is on their body, feet, stomach or legs. Wipe face down with wash cloth. Always refer to the info card on the wall with the horses name for specific pads, boots, polos, stick, spur and bridle. It changes so pay attention. Always clean tack after ride and clean bit with clean water and rag. Fold bridle and hang back on appropriate hook.
- You are expected to be at all team meets whether you are showing or not. NO exceptions including sorority or fraternity activities
- If your horse makes a mess you are expected to clean it up
- You will be assigned a horse for the season. That horse is your responsibility to keep looking neat and tidy. This means clipping, mane pulled, body clipped (coach's approval first) and anything else pertaining to that horse's appearance.
- No cell phones during practice
- There are lockers in our tack room for your things. Please put them neatly in the lockers instead of leaving them out.
- Team members are expected to be respectful to coach, other team members, as well as responsible, caring, honest, and fair.
- Hair must be neatly put in hairnet under helmet or tied back in pony tail.
- Expected to join a workout class at the recreation center once a week or a private gym
• Expected to take care of your practice horse after practice (blanketed, hosed down, or groom)
• Team members are expected to show leadership and motivation for other team members
• You are required to wear UAET apparel on the outside of your clothes at the shows if weather permits while you are not showing. This includes hats, jackets, and vests.
• Develop relationships with professors that have classes on Fridays, because you may have to miss a few classes

All team members must sign below to acknowledge they understand and agree to abide by the UA Equestrian Team member rules and expectations set out above.

Printed Name: ____________________________________________         Date: ________________________

Signature: __________________________________________