

SugarTide Rider's Show Guide

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THROUGH THIS CAREFULLY

1) What Is a Show?

Both Academy and non-academy riders are invited at their coach's discretion to horse shows throughout the year. This is a great way to take all the skills that we work on in our weekly lessons and show them off in a really fun way! We learn a course/pattern of a few jumps or show off our walk trot and canter around the ring and complete it to the best of our ability while being marked by a certified judge for the Alberta Equestrian Federation and Equestrian Canada. Those that place 1st to 3rd/6th/8th place (depending on the show) in each class take home a ribbon, but winning ribbons isn't what matters, it's about learning, how hard you tried, and how well you took care of your horse/pony.

2) How Do We Enter the Show?

Classes for hunter/jumper shows run in divisions according to height, and your coach will recommend the appropriate classes in which to compete (usually 3-5 classes per person, or two classes per day per horse for shows that span two days or more), large venues like Spruce Meadows always runs as one class per day per division. Dressage Shows are divided into divisions based on difficulty of the test being performed and usually run a maximum of two classes/tests per day.

You will receive a show invitation via email and when you reply accepting the invite and as soon as we receive your email accepting the invitation your horse is reserved for you. An entry form or waiver completed for you by your coach will then follow. Please have your parent/guardian sign this entry form/waiver (physically or electronically) so we can submit it to the show grounds as soon as possible.

Horses are allocated at coaches' discretion to ensure fairness and so that the horses do not get overworked. We do this so that everyone has an opportunity to compete during the year, so please get your entry forms in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Once you commit to the show via return email to our invitation, we will send you an invoice for the mandatory show deposit which totals \$262.50. This deposit secures our entries, shavings, and hay as we gear up for the show and gets deducted from your final invoice total. We pay for all show entries up front, and you will receive an invoice from us with horse rental and trailer fees included so please do not pay the show grounds directly.

3) What Are the Costs Involved in Showing?

Horse Use

Your coach will allocate the horse for you for any given show, please trust in your coach's judgement and that they have your best interests at heart. Should your coach recommend a horse switch while at a show, for instance to do a flat class, please trust them then also. The horse use fee for using a school horse is \$50.00 + GST per day.

Horse Prep Fee

Especially in the winter, it takes time and equipment to ensure that the horses are show ready, this includes clipping, bathing, mane and tail trimming, loading and unloading your horse, as well as maintenance of the equipment used such as halters, show blankets, water buckets, wheelbarrows brooms and pitchforks. Therefore, a fee of \$15.00 + GST per person per show is charged to cover the labor and equipment needed for the horses to look and feel their best.

Entry Forms

As stated above, entry forms will be prepared by your coach, please get them back to us asap once received and do not pay the showgrounds directly, we take care of all that to make sure the day runs smoothly for you. The cost of entries fluctuates depending on the show, but they are usually \$25.00 - \$60.00 per class depending on the type of class.

Coaching Fee

Our coaching fee for the day is \$50.00 + GST per person, per day. As we often cancel lessons to attend shows, we charge a coaching fee in line with standard rates across the industry. Your coach will be there with you every step of the way to tell you what to expect and help you navigate all the ins and outs of competing.

Stalls

At most shows we will require you to purchase a day or overnight stall for your horse. This makes it much easier to handle your horse throughout the day and gives them an opportunity for a rest and a meal if the day gets long. Stalls range from \$25.00 - \$50.00 + GST per day depending on the show venue.

- At venues like RMSJ and Spruce Meadows, we are required to purchase shavings and hay if we are stabling for the day or overnight. We split the total cost of shavings and hay for the weekend evenly among all competitors. You will see this cost on your final bill however it is usually minimal (around \$15 - \$20 per day).
- A Tack Stall is booked to store all our equipment and keep it safe from theft. This tack stall is locked nightly. You will see this cost on your final bill and it is similarly split between all competitors (around \$10 - \$15 per show).
- For the summer shows where riders are competing in more than one ring, we rent a golf cart from the show venue. This ensures our coaches are available to riders with enough time in between rings. While we are more than happy for competitors and parents to also use the golf cart to get around, we ask that please ask your coach first before taking it (around \$10 - \$15 per show).

Braiding

At some higher end venues, horses' manes must be braided. We will take care of this and charge \$15.00 + GST per braiding when it is necessary. Most shows we attend do not require braiding so we will let you know ahead of time if the show you are attending requires braiding. Braiding is mandatory at dressage shows.

Trailer

We must transport horses to and from the show, and this price can vary depending on the distance to the show. For shows around Calgary like RMSJ and Spruce Meadows the round trip is usually \$90.00 per horse and is split between however many people are riding that horse at the show (usually two).

Overall Cost Estimates:

Horse riding shows can be expensive, so please be prepared for the costs involved with competing. See the basic estimates outlined below (excluding GST).

Horse Use	\$50.00	Per Day
Horse Prep Fee	\$15.00	Per Horse
Show Entries	\$120.00	Variable
Paramedic & Administration Fee	\$60.00	Per Entry/Rider
Coaching	\$50.00	Per Day
Stalls	\$50.00	Per Day
Tack Stall	\$10.00	Per Rider
Trailer	\$90.00	Per Horse – Usually Split

Total: +-\$300.00 + GST per day per rider (this is just a general estimate, prices for these elements can fluctuate depending on the show)

4) National and Provincial Federation Memberships

Alberta Equestrian Federation Membership

All riders should have an **Alberta Equestrian Federation** membership for the year. All show venues require one. To get one of these you need to join the AEF at the following link online:

<https://albertaequestrian.com/memberships/adult-and-youth-membership>

NOTE: Jump Alberta memberships are no longer required

Show Jumping Canada Sport License

In order to show at Rocky Mountain Show Jumping, each rider must have a Show Jumping Canada Membership for the year. This replaces the Jump Alberta framework and there a ton of bursaries available:

<https://showjumpingcanada.ca/?v=707f3a40153b>

Calgary Area and Alberta Dressage Association

In order to compete at dressage shows around Alberta, each rider must hold a CAADA membership for the year. <http://www.ca-ada.com/membership.html>

Equestrian Canada Sport License

In order to compete at Spruce Meadows or in FEI classes at RMSJ (usually 1.00m and above), each competitor must have an Equestrian Canada Sport license at a minimum level of Bronze for the year and can be purchased at the following link online:

<https://licence.equestrian.ca/myec/login?lang=en>

Those riders competing at a Spruce Meadows show that start at 0.90M must upgrade their licenses to Gold and must also have their horses registered with Equestrian Canada. Your coach will confirm if the show you are entering is Gold sanctioned and if you require a Gold license.

5) What to Expect on Show Day

Please bring appropriate clothing to shows. We live in the ever-changing climate of Alberta and most of these shows are held in outdoor facilities, so please ensure that you bring appropriate clothing to keep warm and dry should the four seasons decide to visit in the span of eight hours as they sometimes do. Bringing folding chairs is also highly recommended as there is not always adequate seating. No umbrellas or gazebos though please, as these elements are very scary to horses.

As a show is already quite a busy day with lots of animals and people around, we ask that you please not bring your dogs. Even though the venue might have no issue with dogs on leads attending, at SugarTide we would just like to avoid any potential problems or liability and recommend that the pup stays at home.

We also recommend bringing food and drink to last the duration of the day. Most venues have a concession of some kind, but this is not a guarantee, so we recommend having enough food and drink to ensure your comfort.

6) Show Equipment and Stalls

No matter your competing time, the comfort of your horse is the most important thing, from the time you arrive at the venue and are responsible for your horse, to when you either hand them over to another competitor, or they are done for the day, you must ensure their safety, comfort, and wellbeing. Your horse should always have two full buckets of fresh water, a minimum of two flakes of hay to eat, and a clean stall that has been continually picked and topped up with fresh sawdust, these are all the responsibility of the riders. If you aren't sure how to do this, ask an academy rider or your coach, they will happily show you how, and all the tools to achieve these things will already be set up and on hand for you.

It is the responsibility of the rider to keep the school equipment in as clean and tidy a state as possible while at a show. We will be offering 'box packing parties' on the evening before we take the horses to the show grounds so that everyone can learn how to clean tack and pack their horses' box for showing. Please make sure that while at the show, the area around where our horses are being kept is frequently swept and tidied and that rubbish doesn't accumulate, if we leave a good impression the venues will love having us back!

Tack boxes must be as nicely packed for going home as they were when they arrived, all grooming kits kept clean with all their pieces intact. When the horse's boxes are being packed for the last time riders must please make sure no hay, sawdust or dirt ends up in their horses' show box and empty said box if it does.

7) Morning, Daytime and Night Checks

Not everyone competes at the same time of day while showing so it becomes a community responsibility to ensure that the horses are well looked after throughout the day and evening, that means even the horses you aren't riding will need your attention so that your horse will get the same consideration from others once you have left or before you arrive if you show later in the day.

Those arriving for the first sets of classes in the morning will be required to help give morning feeds and water to all horses at the show as well as pick their own horses' stalls. A coach or academy rider will be on hand to show you how and give direction for these tasks. Those competing through the day are required when at the barns between classes to check all horses regarding hay and water and ensure they pick stalls at least once during the day. You can check with a coach or academy rider to see whose stalls are most in need of attention besides your own. Should you be leaving the showgrounds at 3pm or later it is your responsibility to wrap your horses' legs to help the night checks go smoothly. All competitors are required to attend at least one evening of night checks at shows where the horses stay overnight. We will assign night check leaders/families/academy riders with experience for each night with a checklist so that those with less experience can get to know the routine.

All horses should be walked outside of their stalls a minimum of twice a day, ideally three times, not including their show classes, as on our farm they live outside and are not used to staying cooped up for so

long. All horses should be walked in pairs to avoid herd bound issues and all horses must have their show numbers on their halters at all times when not in their stalls.

8) Conduct on the Show Grounds

As stated in our academy code of conduct, the way you conduct yourself at a show is very important. Shows can be great, but inevitably some shows may not go according to plan, and it can be disappointing or frustrating as with any competitive sport. We require all SugarTide competitors to practice good sportsmanship and respect for parents, coaches, other competitors, and officials on the grounds of the show venue. Absolutely no negativity towards other riders, disrespect of parents, coaches or officials will be tolerated.

We ask that parents undertake talking to their kids about how placing or getting a ribbon is not the most important aspect, but the experience and how hard you try is! We ride for the love of the sport and the animal, to feel the satisfaction of hard work coming to fruition, not for bribes or for promised rewards, and we always congratulate other riders with smiles and kindness.

Most importantly taking out any feelings on your horse is strictly prohibited and your coach reserves the right to remove you from your horse and scratch you from your remaining classes with no refund of fees should your behavior cause the horse any discomfort or distress.

Some horses will test you; some will teach you, and some will bring out the best in you. We look so forward to watching you all shine as you leap into the world of horse shows and can't wait to be at your side as you make the awesome memories that will stay with you for the rest of your lives.

