

# Registration Information





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### Introduction

1. This registration information booklet contains team and individual athlete registration information for the competition season.
2. The documents and forms required for registering teams and individual athletes for the competition season may be found on the WAHSET website at [www.wahset.info](http://www.wahset.info). The forms may be reproduced locally as necessary for team and athlete registration.

### Requirements

1. To participate in WAHSET, an athlete must either be covered by a parent's or guardian's medical insurance policy or purchase medical coverage through their school.
2. **Each WAHSET athlete MUST be covered by a medical/accident insurance policy prior to participation!**
  - a. The prospective athlete may either:
    - i. Name the family's insurance company, including policy and identification numbers, or
    - ii. Purchase the medical/accident insurance coverage through the company endorsed by your school. All pertinent information and



forms on school insurance may be obtained through your high school office.

3. All required forms and fees **must** be in the possession of the applicable District Chair (or designated officer) **before** an athlete may participate in a team practice. If the required documentation is not on file, the athlete is **not** allowed to practice.
4. The following items are required for individual athlete registration:
  - a. Online Athlete Enrollment Form
  - b. Completed Athlete Registration Form (three pages)
  - c. Team/Club Individual Fees
5. The following equipment is also required before an athlete may participate in practices or competitions:
  - a. Appropriate boots at all practices and competitions.
  - b. Properly fitted regulation helmet when mounted at all practices and competitions.
  - c. Appropriate team long sleeve polo shirt and appropriate pants at all competitions.
6. The following items are required for team registration:
  - a. Completed Team Registration Form
  - b. District Team Fees
  - c. Completed Cooperative Sponsorship Application (if applicable)
7. Any questions may be referred to your Team Advisor or District Representative.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the WAHSET mission?
  - a. WAHSET is dedicated to promoting and organizing equestrian competition in high school athletic or activity programs.
  - b. The main goal is to provide recognition in the high schools of the equestrian athlete and to give them an opportunity to achieve that recognition in a fair, positive and educational format. Additional goals are to encourage team play, peer acceptance, good horsemanship and to have cooperative adult supervised leadership for all students in grades 9 through 12.
2. Who can participate?
  - a. Any high school in the United States of America is eligible to form a team and join the High School Equestrian Teams organization. The state is divided into districts, which are made up of high schools. Each high school competes as a team. Athletes are affiliated with a high school team.





- a. Each athlete is assessed an annual fee that covers participation in all events. This fee is paid to the District that the team competes in, with a portion forwarded to the State. All fees are used to cover the cost of arena rent, judges, awards and equipment. The fee is reassessed on an annual basis by the District and State. Fees for this competition season are \$225.00 for competitors and \$100.00 for non-competitors.
  - b. In addition, each team is assessed an annual fee. This fee for this competition season is \$50.00
  - c. There are no fees paid to coaches or other professional horse trainers. Those riders who choose to work with a trainer may do so at their own expense.
  - d. Team uniforms are the responsibility of each team member, with many teams utilizing fund raising programs to pay for the team items.
  - e. No individual class fees are assessed, with the exception of district discretion for cattle events.
  - f. Transportation to and from the events is the responsibility of each rider/athlete and all stall, horse and tack (equipment) expenses are theirs alone.
7. What about the liability?
- a. Many strategies are enlisted by WAHSET, the coaches, advisors, and the athletes to diminish any liability. Under Washington State Equine Inherent Risk Laws, RCW 4.24.540 and 4.24.530, all athletes participate at their own risk, and accordingly, under the law, no person shall be liable for damages sustained by another solely as a result of risks inherent in equine activity.
  - b. This law identifies the limitation of risk for schools as an equine activity sponsor. All “equine activity sponsors” shall not be liable for any injuries to or death of a participant. This provides exceptional protection for each school district from lawsuits, as the law disallows lawsuits involving the inherent risk law from even being filed.
  - c. To ensure that each participant and guardian have knowledge of the inherent risk law, WAHSET required each athlete and legal guardian to sign a WAHSET Code of Conduct attestation that stipulates adherence to safe equestrian practices and awareness that they are participating and riding at their own risk. All high school rules and their respective Code of Conduct will be honored and adhered to as well. WAHSET requires the



athlete to have medical insurance to participate, to provide coverage in the rare case there is a personal injury.

- d. As additional protection, WAHSET maintains a commercial insurance liability policy that covers arenas, spectators, staff and other associated actions. **This policy, however, does not cover riders.**
  - e. Additionally, copies of medical and insurance information for each athlete is maintained and available at each event.
  - f. A primary strategy to reduce risk is our promotion of safety in our program. As in any sport, we have experienced horse people present to help identify the vary rare unsafe situation. Most riders are horse owners and are familiar with the responsibilities that go along with partnering with a horse in competition. Coaches and Advisors are encouraged and expected to continually assess an athlete's skills and abilities. Additionally, WAHSET rules of participation guide our athletes and advisors in national and state recognized standards of performance, such as wearing helmets and boots when riding, appropriate equipment, no riding on concrete, no riding bareback, no ponying of another horse, etc., that all focus on a safe and pleasurable competition.
8. What is needed from the high school?
- a. Requirements are minimal - approval to participate as a school sport or activity.
  - b. Other niceties include:
    - i. Informing the Advisor or Coach of school related requirements of athletes, such as grade point averages, code of conduct requirements and other school-specific eligibility requirements.
    - ii. Team meeting space - generally a classroom for planning meetings.
    - iii. Announcements of upcoming meetings, WAHSET competitions and equestrian champions.
    - iv. Recognition of the Equestrian Athlete. Many high schools award Varsity Letters when the athletes meet similar predetermined criteria, similar to other sports.
    - v. Space to display awards and trophies earned by the Equestrian Team.
9. What are the lettering requirements?
- a. The following is a guideline only. The final lettering requirements and/or standards should be in harmony with the other sports at the high school:



- i. The team Advisor/Coach will recommend the awarding of the letter to the team members, and will submit the recommendation to the appropriate Athletic Director. If required, upon the verification of school rules, policies and/or regulations, the Athletic Director will approve the award. When possible the team should be included in the awards programs of the respective high school.
  - ii. A team member must meet either of the following criteria in addition to any other school rules or regulations:
    1. If a team member is awarded a first, second or third place District medal in an event, provided that they participated in two of the three District meets.
    2. The following will give each team member the opportunity to earn 100 points total for active involvement. In order to earn a letter, the team member must earn at least 80 of the 100 points. The team Advisor/Coach will score each team member according to their participation in:
      - a. One-time completion of Athlete Goals & Evaluation forms
      - b. Active participation in team meetings and participation on at least one team, District or State committee.
      - c. Active participation in team fund-raising events.
      - d. Active attendance at scheduled events whether participating in the competition or not, as this demonstrates team spirit and support.
      - e. Athlete must read, sign and abide by the Code of Conduct set forth by WAHSET and the high school the athlete represents.
10. How many other Washington high schools have Equestrian Teams and who are they?
- a. There are currently seven districts in WAHSET. Specific information on current schools and their approved co-ops may be found at the WAHSET website [www.wahset.info](http://www.wahset.info).
11. How is the team structure set up?
- a. Each team is provided direction from one Advisor who functions as an organizer, scheduler and mentor. This adult does not have to be a trainer or coach. This leaves the training and instruction to those best suited and equipped, the coach.



- b. The team Advisor reports to the District High School Equestrian Board. The Advisor may be a parent, or if desired, may be a member of the school faculty. All adult Advisors, Coaches and supervisors will adhere to Criminal History Background Checks or other prerequisites to fill the position, at the Board's discretion. All WAHSET Advisors and Coaches are volunteers - there are no paid positions.

12. What are the steps to follow after Board approval?

- a. Set up a meeting date for the school term.
- b. Canvas the school:
  - i. Posters that outline the purpose of the Equestrian team;
    - 1. List the available events.
    - 2. Varsity sport or activity.
  - ii. Announcements made during school announcements.
  - iii. Written announcement in school newsletter to parents
  - iv. Have students that are interested contact other students that ride and ask to attend the meeting.
  - v. Contact local 4-H groups.
- c. Get a sense of participation
- d. Register interested participants:
  - i. Signed Athlete Registration Form (includes Code of Conduct)
  - ii. Have them fill out the Online Registration Form
  - iii. Collect participation fees - State, District and Team fees, as applicable
- e. Register team - forms and fees must be turned in to the District by December 15 (existing teams) or January 15 (new teams):
  - i. Complete Team Registration form
  - ii. Enclose State and District participation fees.