

The Paard Yard Olympic Games



New competition style, mini-clinics, and all-around fun weekend to ride and learn with our clinician!

Team Competition

- Teams of 3
 - Team registrations should have 3 competitors and 1 Chef d'équipe (Husband/boyfriend/dad). Declare your country of registration on the form.
 - Individuals can sign-up and will be assigned to a "scratch team" if they do not have a team in mind. You will meet your teammates through email so you can coordinate your country.
- Teams choose country to represent
 - Teams can buy/make their own country flag. Available to use flags via Paard Yard are: America, Slovakia & Germany (at time of printing)
- Teams compete against each other
 - Different levels of jump height ok – just has to be declared prior to event (poles, 18" or 2'3").
 - English and Western Riders welcome to participate.
 - Teams can be a mix of English and Western Riders
- Teams need to dress alike/decorate their horse/be unique
- Teams need to showcase their country somehow on their clothing or saddlepad

Teams/Individuals compete in 3 events

- 1 Dressage test, 1 jump course at specified height, 1 modified cross country (cx) course. Western Riders will have poles for jumping and cross country (trail)
- Individual and Team Medals (Gold, Silver & Bronze) will be awarded to each type of event (1 for dressage, 1 for jumping and 1 for cross country)- average based on individual achievements .
- Overall Event medals in Gold, Silver & Bronze, will be awarded to the Individual and team that has best combined scores for all disciplines.
- Medals will be presented in Olympic-style medal ceremony complete with anthems

Fun Awards

- To be determined by judge!

Event Timeline

- Friday
 - Lessons
 - Setup @ 7pm
- Saturday
 - 8:00 am Opening Ceremony: Introduction of Teams
 - 8:20 am Dressage
 - Cross Country
 - Jumping
 - Potluck BBQ (bring something to share from your country). Hamburgers & Chicken provided.
 - Medal Ceremony
 - Fun Awards
- Sunday
 - Lessons

Dressage:

Each horse and rider entered in the competition will perform either USDF Intro B (W/T) or USDF Training Level Test 1 (W/T/C). These tests can be done in either a Western or English saddle. Reader is allowed but with a score penalty.

Jumpers:

Team jumping competition: There is 1 round at your specified jump height (poles, 18" or 2'3).

Faults are determined as follows:

- 1 fault per second away from optimum time (under or over)
- 4 Faults for hitting a pole (for pole classes)
- 4 faults per rail knock down
- 8 faults for refusal (2 maximum refusals)
- EL for fall/more than 2 refusals

Modified Cross-Country/Trail

Since there is no access to a full cross-country course, some of the poles/jumps will be inside the arena and some jumps will be outside the arena. Course will start outside the arena and then move to inside, then outside and back to inside. Western riders will have low obstacle poles to contend with.

Clinic & Instructional Opportunities

Hot Weather Horse Care

Competition in our area lends to one season. If we're lucky, maybe two. That short window of opportunity for showing is in the heat, dry, smoky air, coupled with wind. Not exactly ideal conditions to exercise in for horse or rider! Learn how to care for yourself and the horse under less-than-ideal showing conditions through conditioning, horse care on show weekends, and tricks of the trade to keep your horse cool, hydrated and performing at his/her best.

Course Walking

Twists and turns are all about those hunter equitation and jumper classes! Memorizing the test is the first hurdle – but how do you go about the execution of the plan? Learn how to course walk and determine the best path to success.

Eyes On The Prize

What are those judges really looking for during a dressage test? How do they determine the score you receive on the maneuvers? Wish you could be inside their brain and see what they see? How are judges trained to evaluate? Get some insight and practical application with peer judging guided by our clinician and put into practice what you learn. Each Team's designated Captain will be the delegate to take part in this opportunity.

Lesson With A Pro

Lesson with our clinician on Friday or Sunday with individual instruction. Her fees have been generously discounted for this event!!! Lessons are \$75 for new students or those who have not ridden with her in the past 6 months. Please take advantage.

FAQ:

Q: Do I have to register a team? Can I register as an Individual?

A: You do not have to register as a team. If you register as an individual, you will be placed with other individuals to make up a team ("scratch team") ahead of the event so you can coordinate your country and team spirit. Similarly, if you have more than one horse you would like to compete on, we can assign your second ride to a scratch team.

Q: What is the Chef d'equipe and what do they do?

A: This person is the token husband/boyfriend/dad of a team member who oversees the team – basically he's manager of his group for the day. The Chef d'equipe is also specially recognized and paraded on a leadline on a team member's horse during the Opening Ceremony. Chef d'equipe should participate in the team spirit so competitors know which team they belong to. He gives pep-talks, makes sure his team has clean boots and horses, cheers for the team, holds the horses when needed, helps set the jump course and then helps with BBQing after the medal ceremony.

Q: Does everyone on the team have to compete at the same level?

A: No. All different levels of team members are welcome. Scores will be calculated based on how the horse/rider combo performs at their level.

Q: May I still participate if I don't jump?

A: Yes. You can enter the "ground pole" class as your jumping class.

Q: I ride Western, but this looks fun, and I want to participate. May I?

A: Yes! You can ride the tests in a Western Saddle – dressage will be the same, but the jumping will be poles as well as the cross country "jumps".

Q: Am I allowed to just come and do my own "thing" and not be on a team?

A: No. The whole point of this event to promote comradery and participate in a new competition style.

Q: What if I am unable to attend after I register? Do I get a refund?

A: No refunds are given UNLESS the event is cancelled by the The Paard Yard. You are required to pay at time of registration.