



Information Packet

2025/2026 Season

Dear Parents and Riders,

The mission of the Alaska Youth Equestrian Club is to not only teach horsemanship, but also to instill core values such as hard work, integrity, teamwork, responsibility, perseverance, honor, and—most importantly—family values and friendship.

The safety of all riders and horses is our highest priority. For that reason, I want to clearly communicate expectations for both riders and parents. This sport is not a simple drop-off-and-pick-up activity; it is a family-oriented program where parental involvement is essential. Please carefully consider the time and family commitment required when deciding to join one of our teams.

I am committed to supporting both your rider and your family to ensure the success of each participant and of our teams as a whole. If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this packet, I encourage you to reach out to me directly.

Because of the number of riders, parents, horse owners, and family members we communicate with, text messaging will be the primary and most efficient way for me to share important updates.

Every rider is expected to follow the rules outlined in this information packet. By signing the commitment page and consent forms, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by these rules, as well as accept the financial responsibilities detailed within.

Thank you for your support—I look forward to a wonderful and successful season ahead!

Crystal Borstad, Owner/Coach
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Membership & Showmanship Guidelines

Membership Expansion

Historically, the Alaska Youth Equestrian Club has been youth-only. In keeping with our commitment to family, we are expanding participation to include **adults (18 years or older as of October 1 of the season)**, provided they sponsor a youth rider on the team(s).

Team Opportunities

- **Trick Performance Team**
 - Minimum age: 10
 - Performance eligibility requires **8 months of practice** with **80% or better attendance**
- **Junior Drill Team**
 - Designed as a learning opportunity for younger riders
- **Performance Drill Team**
 - Membership requires an **audition** to demonstrate showmanship skills
- **Barrel/Poles Team**
 - Minimum age: 10

Adults who regularly practice with teams may fill in for performances if there are missing riders or uneven numbers.

Consent Requirements

- Every rider must have a signed “**Consent for Rider Travel and Participation**” form on file.
- This form covers all team events for the season.
- Additional forms may be required by specific event sponsors for insurance purposes.
- Riders without completed forms **will not ride**.

Family Involvement

Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in practices and shows by:

- Holding trick tape or horses
- Assisting younger riders with tack
- Carrying equipment or supplies
- Providing photography/videography
- Helping ensure rider and horse safety

Your involvement creates memories, builds community, and sets an example of teamwork.

Code of Conduct

- All riders and parents must conduct themselves with **integrity, respect, honesty, and sportsmanship** at all times.
- Conflicts should first be addressed directly between the individuals. If unresolved, bring the issue to the coach.
- Facility use (WCCEC and others) is a **privilege, not a right**. Everyone is responsible for:
 - Picking up trash
 - Closing gates/doors
 - Returning tack to its place
 - Cleaning up after horses (trails, arenas, roads, round pen, etc.)

Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in:

1. Verbal reprimand
2. Suspension from the team (at coach's discretion)
3. A \$20 fine per occurrence

Attendance & Practice Policy

Attendance Requirements

- Riders must maintain **85% or higher attendance** to perform at shows.
- 75–85% attendance requires participation in the **two practices prior to performance**.
- Attendance under 60% may result in dismissal from the team.
- **Mandatory:** All riders must attend the final practice before any performance.

Notifications

- **24-hour notice** required for missing practice (otherwise, practice fees still apply).
- **14-day notice** required for missing a performance (to ensure safe positioning and preparation).
- Failure to give notice may result in a **\$25 fine**.

General Guidelines

- Riders must arrive early enough to tack, warm up, and prepare their horse.
- Riders arriving late may only join at the beginning of the next drill run.
- Riders unable to ride (e.g., due to injury, grounding) but who attend practice may still earn attendance credit by helping teammates.
- Attendance resets on **October 1 each year**.

Make-Ups & Non-Ride Days

- Some absences may be made up prior to events at the coach's discretion.
 - Non-ride days (e.g., bad weather) will include drill diagramming and book review, which **count toward attendance**.
 - Weather cancellations: No practice when below **10°F**, arena conditions are unsafe, or roads are hazardous. Alternative activities may be arranged.
-

Tack & Pack (Mandatory)

1. **Beginning of Season**
 - Riders receive a **tack tote** with an inventory sheet.
 - Each rider is responsible for their tote contents and condition.
 2. **End of Season**
 - Riders must return totes and participate in the Tack & Pack.
 - Fees apply if requirements are not met:
 - \$50 cleaning fee if present but not participating
 - \$50 late fee for clean tack / \$100 late fee for dirty tack if tote not returned
 - Missing items must be replaced at the rider's expense (tote value: \$500+).
-

Performance Dress & Tack

Rider Requirements

- **Helmets:** All riders must wear equestrian-approved helmets (team rule for all ages).
- **Boots:**
 - Summer: heeled riding boots
 - Winter: snow boots with a heel
- **Clothing:** Jeans/riding pants, sleeved shirt, hair secured out of face
- Improper attire = no ride

Horse & Tack Requirements

- Each horse must have a **bit and curb strap** for show bridles.
- Riders are responsible for all tack and horse gear, including: saddle, pad, boots/wraps, grooming tools, trailer ties, grain (if needed), etc.
- Riders are expected to clean, inspect, and prepare gear before shows.

Team Uniforms

- Drill team riders receive **team shirts and chaps** (maintained by the coaches).

- Riders are responsible for cleaning and organizing totes after each show.

Show Day Expectations

- Riders wear barn clothes for prep, then change into costumes.
- All team members must remain together near the team trailer.
- No rider is “ready” until **every rider is ready**.
- After performances: horses must be cooled, tied, and untacked before riders are dismissed.
- Riders in costume may only drink water (no food or other beverages).

Hauling

- \$.65 per mile per horse (team trailer). Shared horses = split fee.
- Riders must help load/unload horses and gear. Failure to do so = \$25 fee.

Team-Specific Rider Requirements

- **Junior Drill Team:** Helmet, boots, long-sleeve shirt, weather-appropriate clothing. Horse boots if needed.
- **Performance Drill Team:** Jeans, helmet cover, black boots, belt, black & blue horse support boots.
- **Trick Team:** All tack and costumes for performances provided by rider.
- **Barrel/Poles Team:** Helmet, boots, long-sleeve shirt, weather-appropriate clothing. Horse boots if needed.

Riders must have required gear by **May 1**.

Show Requirements

- Membership fees paid **1 month prior** to first show
- Sponsorships secured by **February 15**
- Monthly fees no more than **30 days overdue**
- Horse substitutions allowed only for safety/vet reasons (with 2 practices minimum)
- Minimum of **4 riders** = grand entry/pre-show performance
- Odd-number rider drill teams will be adjusted for safety



Practice Schedule

The current schedule for the 2025-2026 season is as follows:

McKinley Sweethearts and Cadence Varsity Drill Team

October-September - Tuesdays 6-7:30pm

Rebel Riders Trick team practice

October-September - Thursdays 6-8:00pm

The Cadence Drill team is the show/performance team and is encouraged to attend Jr Drill team practices to show support, and encouragement to younger or less experienced riders. This can also be used to make up attendance.

Scheduled Breaks:

Thanksgiving (November 27-28, 2025)

Christmas and New Year's (December 19, 2025 - January 2, 2026)

March 2026 there could be no practice during spring break unless all team members are available and want to practice. This will be evaluated in February. Anchorage School District Spring Break is scheduled for March 9-13, 2025.

Excused Sick Absences

Each rider is allowed up to **three (3) excused sick absences** per membership year (October – September).

- To qualify, a text message must be sent **prior to the start of practice** to **(907) 441-5315**.
- These absences do **not** require the standard 24-hour notice and will not be charged as a missed practice.
- However, providing as much advance notice as possible is greatly appreciated so we can adjust plans and ensure safety for all riders and horses.



Show Schedule Options

(Tentative – no posted schedules yet. These schedules are usually posted the March/April/May prior to the events.)

May:

27-29 Ninilchik Horse Camp - Not mandatory - but highly recommended
23-24 Extreme Bulls Rodeo

June:

13-14 Autism Awareness Rodeo, Soldotna
20-21 Father's Day Rodeo, Anchorage

July:

4-5 Ninilchik 4th of July Rodeo
11-12 Northern Most Rodeo in America Fairbanks- Golden Days

August:

8-9 Ninilchik rodeo – Fair
22-23 Alaska State Fair, Palmer

****Barrel/Pole race dates will be released in the spring of 2026.**

*****Please keep in mind that this is based on prior dates and is subject to change (it most likely will change). I will update you with an email for specific dates & times as shows are confirmed and/or dates are changed.**



Sponsors

Sponsorships are a vital part of what makes the Alaska Youth Equestrian Club possible. They help our teams continue performing, while also providing unforgettable experiences for our riders. Sponsorship funds help offset costs for families and are used for:

- Costumes for the drill team
- Team-owned tack and equipment
- Riding clinics and training opportunities
- Trailering horses to shows (if funds exceed the minimum goal)
- Indoor arena rental during winter months

Beyond the financial support, sponsorships connect our community to the next generation of riders and foster pride in a family-oriented sport. The more sponsors each rider secures, the less financial strain is placed on families.

Important Notes:

- All sponsorship funds stay with the **team as a whole**, not with individual riders.
- Sponsorship agreements will remain confidential between the parties involved.
- Sponsorship information packets and pamphlets will be distributed to riders and emailed to all families each season.

Sponsorship Requirements

- Each rider must secure a **minimum sponsorship by March 1st** of each year (providing 5 months to gather support).
- Minimum sponsorship levels:
 - **Drill Team:** \$500 per rider
 - **Trick Team:** \$800 per rider
 - **Both Teams:** \$1,300 per rider
- Additional sponsors can be added at any time. Sponsorships received after March 1st will be applied to the following show season.

2026 Sponsorship Goals

- Purchase **pink chaps** for the **Tough Enough to Wear Pink Rodeo** (Drill Team)
- Travel to lower 48 to participate in a specialty trick riding clinic (Trick Team)

Parents: Please encourage and support your riders in seeking sponsorships. It is an important responsibility and a valuable life skill that directly impacts the opportunities available to our teams.

Financial Responsibility

Required Memberships & Fees

- **WCCEC Membership:** \$125 annually (must be maintained to ride and practice)
- **AKYEC Membership Fee:**
 - \$150/season for showing members
 - \$100/season for non-show members
- **Sponsorships:** See fee schedule above

Practice Fees

- Drill Practice: \$15/session
- Trick Practice: \$30/session
- Barrel/Pole Practice: \$30/session
- Non-Ride (diagramming/planning): \$10/day

Travel & Mileage

Mileage is charged at **\$0.65/mile per horse**. Examples (one way):

- WCCEC: \$2.86 (4.4 miles)
- Palmer/Butte/FHEC: \$33.15 (51 miles)
- Soldotna: \$39.00 (60 miles)
- Ninilchik: \$63.05 (97 miles)
- Fairbanks: \$243.75 (375 miles)

Additional Costs

- Equidome Rental: \$5 per rider, per use

Failure to Meet Responsibilities

These fees are **avoidable** by meeting expectations:

- Travel Fee (failure to load/unload horse/tack): \$25 per occurrence
- Tack & Pack (beginning/end of year) – failure to attend: \$100
- Tack & Pack – failure to participate in end-of-year cleaning: \$50
- Tack & Pack – tack tote not returned on time: \$50/month late fee
- Tack & Pack – missing items: replacement cost
- Attendance Notice Failures: \$25 each occurrence
 - Missing practice without 24-hour notice
 - Missing/canceling a show without 14-day notice

Non-Payment Policy

- Accounts more than **30 days past due**: Rider may not participate in performances until balance is paid.
- Accounts more than **60 days past due**: Rider will be dismissed from the team.

Requesting Assistance

- Riders may submit a **written request** for partial assistance with fees if facing genuine financial hardship.
- Requests must outline the specific need.
- Assistance may only be granted **once per season** and is dependent on the availability of **excess sponsorship funds**.

Show Commitment

This page allows families to communicate known or potential scheduling conflicts (vacations, trips, family events, appointments, etc.).

- Please list all dates the rider may miss.
- Clearly mark each as **Confirmed** or **Tentative**.
- Tentative dates must later be confirmed by the parent/rider with the coach and leasers.

Contact and Consent

Rider's Information

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Rider's Cell Phone _____ Rider's Email _____

Parent's Information

Father's Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Mother's Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Parent's Email (Primary communication) _____

Medical Information

Doctor Office _____

Doctor's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Does your child have any medical conditions or allergies or take any medications?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain: _____

Consent for Emergency Medical Treatment

_____ In consideration of the above named rider's opportunity to participate in related activities, I hereby give my consent to medical examination, emergency medical treatment, hospitalization or other medical treatment as may be necessary for the welfare of the above named rider, by a physician, nurse practitioner, PA, athletic trainer, community health aid, and/or hospital in the event of illness or injury during all periods of time in which the rider is away from his or her legal residence. I further hereby waive on behalf of myself and the above named rider, any liability of the Alaska Youth Equestrian Club, its Instructors or any agents, arising out of such medical treatment.

Insurance Provider _____

Group ID _____ Member ID _____

Policy Holder _____

Coverage is provided as follows: (Please initial one)

___ Insurance Carrier ___ Military ___ Private Insurance ___ Native Services

___ None. I will assume financial responsibility for injuries

Emergency Contacts

Name _____

Relationship to Rider _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

Relationship to Rider _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

Relationship to Rider _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Consent for Rider Travel & Participation for all 2025-2026 Season Practices & Events

Consent for Participation

_____ I hereby give my consent for _____ (rider) to engage in practices, shows, parades or other functions for the 2025-2026 season. I also give my consent for the above-named rider to accompany the group as a member on all club/team related trips. I understand that participation in any of the practices or events that there is a risk of serious injury or death of the rider. I hereby waive, on behalf of myself and the above rider, any liability of the Alaska Youth Equestrian Club or its coaches or any agents, of any damages sustained in the program.

Multimedia Waiver

_____ By signing this, I, _____, state that I give permission for the coaches of Alaska Youth Equestrian Club (AKYEC) to post photographs/videos of my child on social media, and the AKYEC web site for the purposes of promoting this organization.



**Participant Agreement,
Release and Assumption of Risk
GENERAL RELEASE**

**THIS RELEASE AND DISCHARGE, ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS (“RELEASE”) AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS.
YOU MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND IT BEFORE SIGNING IT.**

In consideration of the use of horses, equipment and the opportunity to interact with and ride horses, I hereby release and forever discharge Crystal Borstad, Alaska Youth Equestrian Club, officers, directors, governors, members, employees, volunteers, servants, agents and all affiliates who host or sponsor any events and or horse boarding/horse riding/lessons/clinics or any other events involving the horses or other livestock that has any affiliation with Crystal Borstad or any other facility/organization utilized for the purposes stated herein. This release is a general release releasing Crystal Borstad and their successors from any/all liability foreseen and unforeseen that may arise from your participation in any event involving horses on the premises or in any other arena or property utilized for horse clinics, lessons, or other equine events for which I have freely agreed to participate in.

This release is a full release from all liability associated with any injuries or damages of any kind whatsoever, including without limitation, claims of negligence of the released parties that may or could result from your participation in any event held by Crystal Borstad other equine facility or trail to include, but not limited to, the use of any of the horses and/or equipment whether owned, maintained, supplied or provided directly or indirectly.

This general release covers and includes, but is not limited to all known, unknown, unforeseen, or unanticipated claims, injuries, damages and losses or any consequences thereof.

I acknowledge that equine sports have inherent risks. Those inherent risks include but are not limited to horses bucking, kicking, biting and throwing riders. Horses are large animals and by their very nature can be extremely dangerous and have been known to lame and even cause death to riders. Additional injuries have also arisen from the malfunction of tack including saddles not properly secured, bridles that break and bits and other gear/equipment that fracture and becomes worn and fail. All of these things can and do contribute to the inherent risk of equine sports. I acknowledge that participation and training of riding horses can lead to accidents, injuries and even death. I fully acknowledge all of these risks and further assert that I acknowledge that these risks can and may lead to permanent and life-threatening injuries and even death.

I have also been advised that safety gear is an added level of protection from injuries, but that no safety gear exists that will guarantee that serious and permanent injuries will not result in my participation of this sport. I have been strongly advised to procure safety gear for this sport. Given all of these factors, I still agree to release the parties and entities stated above from any and all liability for any/all injuries that may occur in or from my/our or my minor child's participation in this activity. I have been given notice that all minors will ride with an approved equine helmet supplied by the participant, all participants will have the appropriate footwear, no drugs or alcohol will be allowed on the premises by any participant or spectator at any time.

After considering the risks and fully acknowledging the potential consequences of these risks, I elect to participate in this event knowing fully that in the event of injury to myself or my child(ren), all damages, if



any, will be at my own peril. I agree to hold harmless and indemnify Crystal Borstad and all other entities/individuals listed above from all claims, demands, suits, and damages of any kind resulting from injuries even if those injuries are permanent or life threatening. Being fully informed, I/we freely waive all of my legal rights to demand and/or sue for damages or to bring claims of any kind for which absent this release I may legally be entitled as a matter of law to bring and maintain. I further acknowledge that I am giving up a legal right and all legal remedies that I may be entitled to.

I also acknowledge that I do not have the right to legally sign off on the legal right of my ward and/or children. Therefore, in the event that my ward and/or children are injured and are entitled as a matter of law to an award of damages for negligence of any kind, in this event, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify Crystal Borstad and all other individuals/entities listed above from all claims, suits, judgments of any kind whosoever situated for any damages arising from my ward/child's participation in any equine events to include but not limited to play days, lessons, trail rides, shows. I accept full legal responsibility for any claims of liability and incurred costs associated with any claims/suits that may be brought by or on behalf of me and or my ward and/or child including but not limited to all judgments, litigation costs and attorney fees including any and all defense costs and court fees.

By signing this document, I affirm and assert that I have read and understand this release and freely execute this document acknowledging that I have received a copy of said release. I shall hold the Owner harmless for any injury to persons, death or damages to any property caused by the leased horse, per Alaska Senate Bill No 176, Sec 09.65.145

I further assert that I have my own liability/accidental insurance coverage and that I accept all of the terms set forth above on my behalf and on behalf of my ward and/or children.

MY SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES THAT I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE RELEASE AND THAT I UNDERSTAND IT COMPLETELY AND THAT I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY ITS TERMS.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT and PARENT/GUARDIAN (IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDERAGE OF 18)

Date: _____

Participant Name (print clearly) _____

Participant Signature: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Minor – If Participant is under 18:

Parent Name (print clearly) _____

Parent
Signature _____