

2016-2017
SOUTHEAST MOUNTED DRILL TEAM ASSOCIATION
National High Point Series

We at Southeast Mounted Drill Team Association are dedicated to the growth of both the rider and team as a whole by providing a fair and competitive environment.



Show year runs September 1 through August 31

New means first competition you have ever competed in

2016-2017 SEMDTA High Point Series Show Dates

November 4-6, 2016 - Unadilla, GA - Southeastern Arena
Turkey Trot Competition (2 day show: Saturday & Sunday)

February 17-19, 2017 - Unadilla, GA - Southeastern Arena
Sweetheart Competition (2 day show: Saturday & Sunday)

April 6-9, 2017 - Unadilla, GA - Southeastern Arena
Easter Bash Competition (3 day show: Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

June 15-18, 2017 - Jacksonville, FL - Jacksonville Equestrian Center
National Patriotic Competition

Updated July 2016

**SOUTHEAST MOUNTED DRILL TEAM ASSOCIATION
OPEN AND 4-H MOUNTED DRILL TEAM RULES**

CLASSES

Color Guard: To be performed by four (4) riders (no more, no less) carrying four (4) flags. The four (4) required flags may be any combination (American, State, Organizational, other) provided the American flag, (required) is carried to the extreme right. A proper flag salute is expected and will be judged during the "line of march" portion of the competition unless all flags are National flags.

Quads: Four (4) minutes minimum and six (6) maximum. Music of choice. It will be Judges discretion as to emphasis of the drill, music, theme and any costumes used.

Freestyle: A minimum of six (6) riders allowed. A minimum of six (6) minutes and a maximum of eight (8) minutes are allowed. Music of choice. Points may be scored on how appropriate the music was to the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set to the music used. Primary emphasis shall be placed on the drill, uniforms, tack, equitation and music.

Theme: A minimum of six (6) riders allowed. A minimum of six (6) minutes and a maximum of eight (8) minutes is allowed. Music of choice. Points may be scored on how appropriate the music was to the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set to the music used and the appropriateness of the music to the theme of the drill.

PATRIOT: Any number of riders allowed. A minimum of four (4) minutes and a maximum of six (6) minutes are allowed. Team must utilize patriotic content/music. Flags are not mandatory; however, if flags are not utilized, this will affect the team's degree of difficulty and patriotic content scores.

Rodeo: Any number of riders allowed. A minimum of six (6) minutes and a maximum of eight (8) minutes is allowed. The team must be active as a rodeo team performing in at least (2) recognized rodeos in the previous 12 months prior to competition. Supply names of rodeo and contact person and phone numbers. These will be verified. Music of choice. Points may be scored on how appropriate the music was to the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set to the music used.

A minimum of two (2) teams are required per class. If only one team registers for a class, that class will be combined with another class. Show Manager will be in contact with the Coach to make these arrangements. (NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE)

One Show equals one year.

DIVISIONS

Green Division: Walk Trot Only. No restriction on ages of riders. No limit on years of riding until 8 years of age. If 8 years or older, may only ride in Green two (2) years. Must have only one (1) experienced rider in the Green Quad Classes and at least one (1) but no more than two (2) experienced riders in the other Green Classes. No flags or props. If a Green team rider rides in any other Division, they are no longer eligible to ride in the Green Division, including classes within the same show. Adult and Youth will all be judged together.

Novice Division: No gait restrictions. A new rider that has not competed in drill before (excluding Green Division). Rider is considered Novice for one competition year. Novice team must consist of at least 60% or more new riders. If a Novice team rider rides in any other Division, they are no longer eligible to ride in the Novice Division, including classes within the same show. This does not pertain to the 40% that are not true Novice. Adult and Youth will all be judged together.

Here is the breakdown for number of riders at 60% (20 = 12, 19 = 11, 18 = 11, 17 = 10, 16 = 10, 15 = 9, 14 = 8, 13 = 8, 12 = 7, 11 = 7, 10 = 6, 9 = 6, 8 = 5, 7 = 4, 6 = 4, 5 = 3, 4 = 3).

4-H/FFA: Must be a current member of 4-H, FFA or both. The State 4-H/FFA Horse Drill Team Competition will be held in conjunction with the SE Mounted Drill Team Association Drill Team Competition. Contestants are not required to ride their project horses nor must they own the horse to be ridden. Awards will be given through third places and the decision of the judges is final. Drill routine is to follow SEMDTA rule book. This contest does not carry Master Status and the team will not be recognized at the Special Events Program at State Congress. **4-H/FFA teams may include only one 4-H/FFA leader/volunteer on the team.**

Youth Division: All riders in this division will be under the age of nineteen (19) years old on September 1 of current fiscal year. One rider may be over the age of 18.

Adult Division: All riders in this division will be over the age of eighteen (18) years old on September 1 of current fiscal year. Two may be 18 or under.

Open Division: No restriction on ages of riders. Adult and Youth will all be judged together.

Non-Open Mixed Riders: This Division is for a team of adult and/or youth not riding in open. No restriction on ages of riders. No gait restrictions. **Not allowed to ride in Open.** As of September 1, 2015 forward, riders in these classes cannot compete in an Open class - including classes within the same show, or they are not eligible to compete in the Non-Open Mixed Rider Division. Teams not adhering to this rule will be disqualified from this division. If only one team enters a Non-Open Mixed Rider class, that class will be combined with either the Youth or Adult Division depending on the one with the least number of teams.

RULES AND INFORMATION

Show Manager has complete control over all rules

- 1. Arena Time:** Arena time will be on a first come, first served basis and is limited to 20 minutes per head Coach. Additional 20 minute practice times can be used if there is not a team waiting for arena use. A sign up sheet will be available at the show office. Please be courteous and respectful of your fellow Coaches by exiting at the end of your arena time if someone is waiting. **Show Management will not be playing music during arena time and the announcer booth will not be open.**
- 2. General Scoring:** SEMDTA uses the ranking system to determine placings for all classes.

RANKING POINT								
For Example: there are 3 teams in a class								
	Judge 1 Score	Judge 1 Placing	Ranking Pts	Judge 2 Score	Judge 2 Placing	Ranking Pts	Overall Total Ranking Pts	Overall Placing
Theme								
Team A	585	1	3	530	2	2	5	1st
Team B	581	3	1	550	1	3	4	2nd
Team C	583	2	2	510	3	1	3	3rd

Ties will be broken based off the Judges scoring starting with Degree of Difficulty, Execution of Drill and then Horsemanship.

- 3. State Placings:** this is an accumulation of ranking points from the November (1st Show), February (2nd Show), and April (3rd Show) shows. If your team places first at the April show in any class your team will be announced as the winner of that class for the April show and will receive a first place ribbon; however, the team with the overall highest accumulated ranking points from the three shows will be named the SEMDTA State Champion. You do not have to be from Georgia to win the Georgia State Championship.
- 4. Regional Placings:** this is an accumulation of ranking points for Quad, Theme, and Freestyle within each Division for the Regional Show. Example: to be eligible for the SEMDTA Regional Championship of the Green Division a team must enter Quad Green, Theme Green and Freestyle Green. If you have multiple teams in a Division, Coach must declare on the entry form which team will be competing for points. There will be a separate form to enter riders names per class that is also required to complete your registration. If separate forms are not received with your entry forms, your entry will not be accepted and late penalties will apply.
- 5. National Placings:** SEMDTA will use the ranking system to determine placings for all classes. If your team places first at the National show in any class your team will be

announced as the National Title winner of that class. The Freestyle Open class winner will be announced as our SEMDTA National Champion.

6. **Division Overall High Point Placings:** this is an accumulation of ranking points in each Division for all five SEMDTA shows (November, February, April, Regional and National). The Overall High Point team per Division will be the SEMDTA National Division Champion (Green, Novice, 4-H/FFA, Youth, Adult, and Open). To be eligible for the SEMDTA National Division Championship a team must compete in 80% of all SEMDTA shows including Nationals.
7. **Flag Protocol:** proper flag protocol and flag carriage must be maintained at all times during competition. Flag tops must be balls or caps (no eagles, pikes, or spears due to safety concerns and insurance) during competition, except during Color Guard competition. No pyrotechnics are allowed at any competition. Teams will be disqualified using any flag top other than ball or cap during regular competition.
8. **A rider** may not leave the arena and return during a performance. Team will be disqualified.
9. **Whistle:** Use of the whistle for maneuver changes during competition is at the discretion of each Head Coach; however, each class will require two riders on the team to wear a whistle for safety and emergency use to be used as notification for all riders to stop their horses.
10. **Outside coaching/giving direction** from outside of the arena will penalize the team with a 75 point per judge deduction.
11. **No person** on foot allowed in the arena at any time except for an Emergency. Only people allowed in arena for an Emergency is Coach, parents of rider and appointed medical personnel. The other exceptions are show officials when necessary and judges during Color Guard competition. Anyone entering the arena to help out in any way after the gate is closed will be cause for the team to be disqualified except for the above mentioned.
12. **Arena:** you should look over the riding surface for dropped items before you enter for competition. Any item in the arena at the end of your ride will receive the proper deductions. Courtesy laps are a good time to inspect the arena floor.
13. **Reins:** the topic of which hand to use on reins during competition drill has always been a spirited debate. Here is the answer: **ALL** riders on each team are to ride one of three choices; all left handed, all right handed or all two handed. It will be scored the same by all judges in a fair and impartial manner. If one rider or more is different, then deductions would apply under uniformity rules. **Will not affect Novice or Green teams.**
14. **Courtesy lap:** your team will be allowed to take a courtesy lap around the arena before your drill.
15. **Gate:** each team must have your own person to work the gates. For safety reasons

gates must be closed during all classes.

- 16. Pets:** Absolutely no pets will be allowed in the competition arena at any time regardless if they are on a leash or just someone holding their pet. All pets must be on a leash or in a carrier during the show. If pets are seen in the arena area; the show will be stopped until they are removed. **No Exceptions!**
- 17. Children and Spectators:** Must stay in or behind seating areas. Absolutely no one allowed on or beside arena railing!
- 18. Barn Aisles:** must be kept clean and clear. If your team plans meals in the barn you must rent a tack stall to set up your tables and food. Absolutely no tables are allowed in the aisles. As a courtesy chairs should be folded and neatly aligned on the stall wall or placed in tack stall when not in use.
- 19. Judges Meeting:** There will be a Judges Meeting before each competition begins in a designated area (time will be announced). All Head Coaches must be represented at the morning Judge's meeting. No more than two (2) members per Head Coach are allowed. If your team has anything to declare, that will be the time to do it. Even if you have nothing to declare, you will still need to be present at the meeting. If you have a horse or rider that is hurt and has something on them that will stand out to the Judges that is different from the other horses or riders, the Judges will need to know about it.
- 20. Entry Forms:** Each team with a different name **must** have separate entry and release forms. Do not combine multiple teams onto one form. Example: Floyd County JV and Floyd County Varsity each must have their own entry form and their own release form. Also, if you have three teams entering Quad, Theme or Freestyle, they will need to be on a separate entry form with the name of the team. All signatures on the release form and on the entry form must be received prior to the competition. The 4-H County Agent and the FFA Agent must sign all forms for teams entering in these classes or you will not be allowed to participate. Any team without all of the proper signatures will not be allowed to compete and no refunds will be given. Entry deadline will be strictly enforced. **All forms and full payment must be received by the entry deadline. Absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS! Late penalties will be enforced.**
- 21. Late Entries:** Entries received after the deadline will be charged a \$50.00 late fee which must be included with the entries **and in addition, each class will be penalized 25 points.** Head Coach will also be responsible for the postage and additional costs for awards ordered after the deadline. The Show Manager tries to maintain low costs for the shows by ordering all awards in bulk based upon entries received by the deadline date. Entries received after this date are not included in the initial award order and are subject to higher costs for which the Head Coach is responsible for paying prior to the awards being ordered. The riders deserve to receive their awards at competition, so the respect of submitting your entries on time is appreciated. As a reminder: Championship awards are special ordered after the competition; therefore, these awards will arrive 6-8 weeks after the competition. Ensure that your riders and parents are aware of the delay in receiving the Championship awards.
- 22. Coggins and Health Certificate:** Negative Coggins is required for all horses. If you

are coming from another State, you will need to have a Health Certificate plus your Negative Coggins for the competition. All Coggins and Health Certificates must be posted on the stall door in a plastic sleeve (not provided).

- 23. Absolutely no smoking in barns, no under age smoking or drinking!** Show Personnel has the right to ask a person their age and proof of age. If underage, offender will be turned over to their Head Coach for discipline and will be disqualified from riding in that competition. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- 24.** Time will be announced after each team's drill to eliminate disruption in the announcers booth.
- 25. JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL!**

RULES FOR PROTESTS

A Grievance Committee will be designated by the show management before the drill team competition begins. This committee will act upon protests arising out of matters pertaining to rules and eligibility. A grievance or protest must be made in writing and presented by the Coach only, accompanied by a \$100 cash fee during or immediately upon conclusion of the drill in question. Protests made by anyone other than a Coach will be considered invalid. The rider and/or riders and the reasons for the protest being filed must be designated (division, team name, riders). Protests will be made with the understanding that the protestor's name will be made public. If the protest is upheld by the Grievance Committee, the deposit will be refunded to the Coach. If the protest is overruled, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Competition fund. The decision of the Committee is final. The Grievance Committee will not reverse the placing of the class if the protest is found to be invalid. If protest is found to be valid, placements will be adjusted accordingly. **No protests, questions, or discussions regarding decisions of the show will be accepted or held after the awards ceremony.**

MUSIC RULES

1. All music must be on separate cd's for each class. No cassettes or thumb drives may be used. It is recommended to have 2 copies of each cd: one to be used during competition, and one for the Head Coach as a back-up.
 - A. Each cd must be in a paper sleeve (not hard case).
 - B. The cd cannot have a sticker or paper label on the actual cd. These have resulted in music not working properly at different venues.
 - C. It is highly recommended that iTunes is not used for your music due to various codes being imbedded into the music and not allowing them to be recognized at the venue.
2. Music and introduction must be turned in at registration. **Failure to turn in your music and introduction at this time will result in a 10 point penalty for each class for which music and introduction (where used) are not submitted at this time.**
3. Each class must have one assigned Team Music Representative in case of a problem with music.
4. Each class should have a separate introduction (where used) and a separate music cd. The introduction and music for a single class must be recorded on the same cd and they must be combined into a single track. Example: If a team rides to the same music in class 5 and class 15, two separate cds are required.
5. Introductions not included in the music track must be typed and double spaced in a 12 point font.
6. Music and introductions for each class must be separated into separate 8 1/2" x 11" envelopes (not 5 x 7 or 11 x 13). Music and introductions cannot be shared between classes. Each envelope must be labeled with the following information in this order:
 - a. Team Name
 - b. Class Number
 - c. Class Name