**BONNIE LEA AEL TEAM**

***Athletic Equestrian League*** <http://www.athleticequestrian.com/>

The Athletic Equestrian League is an organization of 4th-12th grade equestrian athletes who compete in practical horsemanship. In addition, a Minis division was added in 2015 for 1st-3rd graders and we also added an Adults division(Minis and Adults do not count into the team totals).  Riders in the AEL are judged against a set of standards, both on the flat and over fences, and receive a score on their ride. In addition, each athlete completes an unmounted practicum, and that score is added to their mounted score. Each rider receives a flat score(40 points), a fences score(40 points), and a practicum score(20 points), and all three scores are added together for their score for the day.

Riders in the AEL ride the “host” team’s horses, they do not bring their own mounts.

For each class in the AEL, a group of six riders, all competing at the same level, ride as a group for their flat phase, then proceed directly to their fences phase, then proceed directly to their practicum phase. Spectators, as well as families and friends, are familiar with the judging standards, and have a good understanding of how the rider places and what the rider needs to work on in order to improve their score. Each athlete takes home a copy of their score sheets that includes the judge's comments.

Levels in the AEL include Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Open. In the Flat phase, all riders are scored on eight standards, and receive a score from 1-5 on each standard. For the Fences phase, each rider is required to complete eight tests, and is scored from zero to five on each test. For the Practicum phase, each rider scores between 1-20 points.

**Attire** is more “athletic” than normal show attire. Athletes wear tall boots or half-chaps/paddock boots, any color breeches or solid color schooling tights or tights, athletic short or long-sleeved shirt(shirts must have a collar or a ¼ zip) in team colors, gloves and ASTM-SEI helmet. Competitors wear an arm number on their left arm, plus a colored wristband for their Flat Phase, in order to ease the judging since the judge has to watch all six riders for each of their tasks in the flat class. Below is a description of the levels offered in the AEL:

**Beginner**: Beginner flat riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising trot, halt, and do the two-point position at the trot. Beginner fence riders compete over a set pattern of ground poles, which includes work at the walk, trot, and halt. Beginner riders have had less than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot and have not shown in a mounted competition at the canter. Beginner fences riders have not shown in a mounted competition over 12” fences.

**Advanced Beginner**: Advanced Beginner flat riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising trot, canter, halt, and do the two-point position at the trot. Advanced Beginner fence riders compete over a set pattern of ground poles, which includes work at the walk, trot, and halt. Advanced Beginner riders may have had less more than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot and can canter in a group and have not shown in a mounted competition at the canter. Advanced Beginner fences riders have not shown in a mounted competition over 12” fences.

**Novice**: Novice riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising trot, sitting trot, canter, and halt. Novice fences riders will compete over a set pattern of cross-rails, which will include work at the walk, trot, canter and halt. Novice riders have had more than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot and the canter. Novice riders have not shown in a mounted competition over fences higher than 18”.

**Intermediate**: Intermediate riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising and sitting trot, canter, halt, and will perform a sitting trot. Intermediate fences riders compete over a set pattern of 2’-2’3” verticals, which includes work at the walk, trot, canter and halt. Intermediate riders have had more than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot, sitting trot and canter. Intermediate riders have not shown in a mounted competition over fences higher than 2’6”.

**Open**: Open riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising and sitting trot, halt, canter and hand-gallop. Open obstacle riders compete over a set pattern of 2’3”-2’6” fences, which includes work at the walk, trot, canter and halt. Open riders have had more than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot, canter and hand gallop. Open riders may have shown in a mounted competition over fences higher than 2’6”.

**Practicum**: Each level has progressively difficult practicum tasks, and all practicum tasks take into account rider knowledge and safety. All practicum tasks will be pulled from the CHA Composite Manual.

# *REGISTER ONLINE*

Follow the prompts for REGISTRATION on the AEL website for student or adult membership, as appropriate. PARENTS of those under 18 MUST FILL OUT THE ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM.

<http://www.athleticequestrian.com/>

# *Competition Schedule*

**NORTHEAST**

**New England:**

* **9/17/17** [Faith Hill Farm, East Greenwich, RI](http://www.athleticequestrian.com/pdf/AEL-invite-9-17-17.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
* **9/24/17** [West Meadow Stables, Bradford, NH](http://www.athleticequestrian.com/pdf/AEL-WMS-9-24-17.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
* **10/15/17** Concord Equestrian, Concord, MA
* **10/22/17** Faith Hill Farm, East Greenwich, RI
* **10/29/17** Nashoba, Littleton, MA
* **11/26/17** Nashoba, Littleton, MA
* **1/28/18** Nashoba, Littleton, MA

**AEL National Championships:**

* **5/12/18** Mount Holyoke Equestrian Center, South Hadley, MA

Eligibility for Membership and Participation.

A. In order to become an Individual AEL Member, an athlete must be in 4th to 12th grade, for team and individual competition. In addition, members may be individual members classified as Minis in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade or as adults who are above the age of 18 and have graduated from high school.

B. Annually,prior to their first competition, an eligible athlete must apply online for membership on the official AEL Individual Membership form, to indicate participation in the AEL. The application must be signed by that individual, and their parent if the athlete is under age 18, and must be filed with the AEL. It must include an individual membership fee of $35.00. Athletes new to the AEL are allowed to pay a one-time introductory fee of $10 for one competition before deciding to go with full membership. If they decide to do more competitions, they will pay the balance of $25.00. **Each athlete and parent MUST electronically sign the online individual membership application, team trainers or coaches may not sign for an athlete or parent.**

COST:

Membership to the AEL is $35 per year for riders. Note – the first time competitor can pay $10 and then the balance of $25 if she/he chooses to continue competing.

Entry fees: $60 per competition.

Coaching: To Be Determined - based on number of participants. We are trying to keep the costs as low as possible so as many as possible can participate.

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