

# *Frenchtown Riding Club*

## Show Camp & Schooling Show Guidelines

Horse show rules vary wildly, according to the type of show (schooling versus rated), the discipline (hunter/jumper, dressage, etc.), the age of the rider, and (when it comes to schooling shows) the host. The information in this guide is intended for Frenchtown Riding Club Show Campers and members only.

### **On-site horse show at Frenchtown Riding Club on Saturday**

All FRC Show Campers are automatically enrolled in the FRC schooling show scheduled for the Saturday at the end of their camp week. All FRC members are also welcome to compete.

Because this is a schooling show that we're hosting, we have the privilege of determining the dress code. In setting our guidelines for these shows, our objective is to introduce our interested riders to the world of horse shows in a way that will foster and support their goals, while also being careful to avoid imposing a financial hardship (let's face it, this is an expensive sport) or overwhelming our youngest riders with requirements that may be too stringent for them at a young age (like fussy or uncomfortable clothing). This is a delicate balancing act, and we encourage our riders and their parents to contact us to discuss any concerns. The dress code for this show is:

- Jodhpurs ("jods"), breeches (like [these](#)) or riding tights are preferred, but leggings are also acceptable
- Any comfortable shirt, but riding shirts and show shirts (short or long sleeved, like [this](#)) are preferred
- Paddock boots (like [these](#)) with or without half chaps (like [these](#)) or garters (like [these](#)), or tall boots (like [these](#)), are preferred, but any closed toe shoe or boot with a minimum half-inch heel is acceptable
- Hair should be tied back, preferably in single or double braid with ribbon(s), so that the number on the rider's back remains visible (more on that [here](#))

### **Off-site horse show at Bucks County Horse Park on Thursday**

Enrollment in this show will be limited to eligible FRC Show Campers. BCHP restricts eligibility for their lead line classes to riders aged seven and younger (which is very common). Therefore, our older (ineligible) lead line riders will, instead, gain valuable experience in helping to prepare for the show; assist with grooming and tacking and handling the horses during the event; provide support and encouragement to their teammates; and have the chance to observe a schooling show firsthand before their show at FRC on Saturday.

The dress code for eligible Show Campers ten and under (Sophie, Gracie, Sara) is:

- Tan jodhpurs ("jods") or breeches (like [these](#))
- Button-up show shirts (like [this](#))
- Paddock boots (like [these](#)) with garters (like [these](#)), or tall boots (like [these](#))
- Hair must be braided with appropriate ribbons, in either one or two braids, so as not to obstruct the show number on the rider's back (More on that [here](#))
- Show jacket (like [this](#)) recommended, but not required

The dress code for eligible Show Campers older than ten (Isla) is:

- Tan jodhpurs (“jods”) or breeches (like [these](#))
- Button-up show shirts (like [this](#))
- Paddock boots (like [these](#)) without garters or half chaps, or tall boots (like [these](#))
- Hair must be braided with appropriate ribbons, in either one or two braids, so as not to obstruct the show number on the rider’s back (More on that [here](#))
- Show jacket (like [this](#)) recommended, but not required

### What is a schooling show?

A schooling show (a.k.a. an “unrated show” or “unrecognized show”) is a casual competition not governed by a recognized body (such as the USEF or “United States Equestrian Federation”). They tend to be more low-key, geared toward riders just beginning their show careers, with more relaxed rules that will vary from one equestrian facility to the next.

A rated show (or “recognized show” or “affiliated show”) is, by contrast, a more formal show with more rigid guidelines, governed by a recognized industry organization (such as the USEF or USHJA) and generally part of a show circuit (a series of related horse shows over which points are accumulated toward a year-end standing).

### A brief visual dictionary



Paddock boot



Paddock boot with half-chaps



Paddock boot with garters



Tall boot



Button-down show shirt



Show jacket



Breeches (similar to jodhpurs)

### Where to shop

- A local tack shop, such as Dover Saddlery in Branchburg NJ or Warrington PA, is best when in need of expert advice and/or to ensure a proper fit.
- A tack shop with a good consignment offering, such as Horsemen’s Outlet in Lebanon NJ, may be a good choice when purchasing items that will be quickly outgrown.
- Online bargains abound and may be a good choice for purchases not requiring fitting, advice or other services.
- All FRC Show Campers are eligible to receive a \$25 Dover Saddlery gift card. If you have not received yours yet, please let us know.

### Questions or concerns?

Contact Shelby at 845-323-0062 or [FrenchtownRidingClub@gmail.com](mailto:FrenchtownRidingClub@gmail.com).

