

EQUI-VENTURE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE



RIDING ATTIRE

Just like every other sport or recreational activity, there are equipment and attire recommendations and requirements to keep the participant safe and comfortable. Some sports or clubs even have dress codes or uniforms. There are products for those that are on a budget, as well as elaborate and expensive lines. The equestrian sport is no different.

The following is a list of acceptable and mandatory lesson attire:

- 1. **For English Riders:** riding breeches or jodhpurs **ONLY!** (Jeans damage our English saddles! Those English students showing up in jeans will not ride. *A new beginner student may ride in sweat pants for the first three lessons only.*

For Western Riders: jeans are preferred, but English riding breeches or jodhpurs are acceptable.

NOTE: NO SHORTS!!!! All students must wear long pants or they will not ride. Sweat pants and the like are too “slippery” and should not be worn.

- 2. English or Western riding/paddock boots or a hard, smooth soled, enclosed toe shoe with a 1-and-a-half inch heel. **ACTUAL RIDING BOOTS OR PADDOCK BOOTS ARE REQUIRED BY THE THIRD RIDING LESSON.** English riders that choose to wear paddock boots instead of tall boots, will also need a pair of half-chaps or if the student is a child wearing jodhpurs, jodhpur straps.*

NOTE: The following are not allowed and the student will not ride or may not be allowed to be around horses: Sandals, open-toed shoes, sneakers, dress boots or treaded work boot types are DANGEROUS. Sandals, open-toed shoes, and sneakers will not help protect your foot if a horse should step on you and will allow your foot to slip through your stirrup. Western “dress boots” (or other type dress boots), are not designed to be worn in a stable and do not offer adequate protection and support for your feet. Also, these types of Western and dress boots have a higher sloped arch and larger, (sometimes angled) heel. These are also not acceptable riding boots as they cause the rider’s heel to come up due to the heel height and arch angle. It is almost impossible for the rider to have the correct and safe foot position in the stirrup!

- 3. riding shirt /blouse or polo/western type shirt that is tucked in, as we want to check your posture and position. **Over sized shirts that are not tucked in are DANGEROUS** as they can cause a rider to get hooked on tack. Halter, tube, half and spaghetti strap shirts are not allowed.*

4. *hair pulled back **without** clips or barrettes that could cause injury in the event of a fall (even under a riding helmet)*
5. *no large earrings or excessive jewelry that can cause entanglement*
6. *no chewing gum or candy (we don't want you to accidentally choke)*
7. *schooling chaps are optional (worn over long pants), but half chaps are required for those English students that wear paddock boots (to protect the rider's calves from getting bruised and pinched)*
8. *riding gloves are optional*
9. **THE MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT:** *the student's own ASTM/SEI approved and properly secured riding helmet It is absolutely DANGEROUS TO BE ON ANY HORSE, NO MATTER HOW ACCOMPLISHED YOU ARE, WITHOUT AN EQUESTRIAN HELMET!!!! REQUIRED BY THE THIRD RIDING LESSON*

NOTE: ALL students, even adults, are required to wear such a helmet whenever around horses or when mounted.

10. *the student's own equestrian vest (preferably Pony Club approved) for any jumping lesson **REQUIRED BY THE THIRD JUMPING LESSON***

NOTE: ALL students, even adults, are required to wear such a vest whenever jumping.

11. *For winter riding, dressing in layers is preferred over wearing a heavy winter coat.*

If there is any problem with a student getting these items, please contact us. There may be a loaner available or possibly a used item for sale. Some other students may be willing to share an expense on some item(s) if the same size fits each student and if the item(s) is used at different times.