YEDA Hunt Seat Division FAQ's

What is the YEDA Hunt Seat Division?

The YEDA Hunt Seat Division is a new expansion of the Youth Equestrian Development Association (YEDA), designed to provide Hunt Seat riders with the same educational, competitive, and team-focused opportunities that have made YEDA's Western program successful.

Who can participate?

The Hunt Seat Division is open to riders in:

- Elementary School Grades 4-5
- Junior High School Grades 6-8
- High School Grades 9-12

What type of competition does YEDA Hunt Seat offer?

The Hunt Seat Division uses a catch-riding format, meaning riders compete on horses provided by the host facility rather than their own horses.

What classes will be offered?

- Flat Equitation Classes for every division
- Over Fences Classes; depending on division level, classes may include:
    - Ground Poles
    - Cross Rails
    - 18" Equitation
    - 2' Equitation
    - Medal-Style Championship Classes

What divisions are available?

- Pearl- Beginning riders- Walk/Trot Flat & Ground Poles
- Opal- Walk/Trot riders- Flat Equitation & Ground Poles
- Emerald- Walk/Trot/Canter riders- Flat Equitation & Cross Rails
- Ruby- Intermediate riders- Flat Equitation & Cross Rails
- Sapphire- Advanced riders- Flat Equitation & 18" Over Fences
- Diamond- Advanced riders- Flat Equitation & 2' Over Fences
- Diamond Elite- Championship-level riders Medal-style competition Advanced testing

** EWD and Alumni divisions are planned for future expansion. To ensure a successful launch, the inaugural pilot season will focus on our core Hunt Seat divisions, with additional opportunities expected as the program continues to grow.

Do I need to own a horse?

No! One of the greatest benefits of YEDA is that horse ownership is not required. Riders compete on horses supplied by the host facility, making participation more affordable and accessible.

What should riders wear to show?

Traditional hunt seat attire required:

- ASTM/SEI-approved helmet
- Breeches or jodhpurs
- Tall boots or paddock boots with half chaps
- Hunt coat
- Show shirt
- Gloves
- Belt
- Hair net

Will there be team competition?

Yes! YEDA's team-first model remains a key part of the Hunt Seat Division.
Riders earn points for:

- Individual achievements
- Team standings
- Year-end awards
- National Championship qualifications

How many shows will there be this season?

The inaugural pilot season will include:

- Four Pilot Shows
- National Championship

How are riders placed into divisions?

Division placement is based on:

- Riding experience
- Competition history
- Jumping experience
- Coach recommendations
- Steward review when necessary

The goal is to ensure fair and competitive divisions for all riders.

How are riders placed into divisions if they ride both Western & Hunt Seat?

Division placement for crossover riders will be dependent on the riders' show experience and comfort within the discipline. Riders may be qualified to show one division lower.

Will there be year-end awards?

Absolutely! Awards may include:

- High Point Rider
- Reserve High Point Rider
- High Point Team
- Sportsmanship Awards
- National Championships
- Special Recognition Awards

Will there be a Hunt Seat (Scholarship Incentive Fund) SIF

The pilot season points will not contribute to the SIF fund. The Hunt Seat division SIF will be developed in our future season.

What makes YEDA different from other organizations?

- Catch-riding format
- Team competition where every rider matters
- Affordable membership and show fees
- Scholarship opportunities
- No regional boundaries
- More opportunities to compete, grow, and succeed

How can I start a team?

Starting a team is easier than you may think!
Teams may be organized through:

- Riding lesson programs
- Boarding facilities
- Trainers
- Equine organizations
- Homeschool groups
- Schools and clubs

Complete the Hunt Seat Division interest form if you are interested in becoming a coach or forming a team.

Member Interest Form

How can my business support YEDA Hunt Seat?
We are actively seeking sponsors for:

🖤 Rider scholarships

🎗️ Ribbons and awards

🏆 Championship prizes

🐴 Event operations

📚 Educational programming

Sponsors may contribute through:

- Monetary donations
- Products
- Gift certificates
- Services
- Promotional partnerships

Why is YEDA adding Hunt Seat?

The goal is simple: To expand opportunities for youth equestrians while maintaining the values that make YEDA special.The Hunt Seat Division will allow more riders, coaches, barns, and families to participate in a supportive environment focused on education, growth, sportsmanship, and fun.

Additional Questions?

Contact the YEDA Hunt Seat Division Team: YEDAHUNTSEAT@gmail.com