



# About The NCEA

## NCEA FAQs

### HOW MANY WOMEN ARE ON A TEAM?

There is no roster size limit. The teams range from 15 to 85 girls. The average team has about 46 members.

### CAN NCEA TEAMS ONLY COMPETE NCAA?

No, schools that are members of the NCEA are permitted to compete in both the NCAA-NCEA head-to-head format and IHSA (club) competitions. However, universities can only compete in one National Championship event.

### HOW MANY COACHES ARE THERE?

There can be anywhere from one to five coaches. Some teams also have volunteer coaches designated by the team- one western coach and one jumping seat coach for the whole season.

### WHERE DO THE TEAMS PRACTICE?

Practice and competition facilities can be owned by the athletics department or can be multiple use facilities on campus partnered with the Agriculture or Animal Science Department. Some programs lease a private facility.

### WHO PROVIDES THE HORSES?

Most programs have their own string of horses for practice and competition. These horses are donated, purchased or leased for the competition season.

### TYPICALLY HOW MANY COMPETITIONS ARE THERE?

Teams can have up to 15 dates of competition, not including conference or national championships. Competitions that last more than one day, or tournaments can be considered one date, up to five times.

### WHAT DOES IT COST TO RUN AN EQUESTRIAN TEAM?

Annual operating budgets can range from \$100,000 to \$450,000, depending on the size of your program. The average cost per student athlete is \$3,000 to \$7,000.

### WHAT ABOUT GRADES?

The average equestrian grade point average is 3.2

### ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS?

The sport of equestrian can offer up to 15 scholarships per team. The NCAA defines equestrian as an equivalency sport, allowing the scholarships to be divided amongst the team.

### CAN STUDENT-ATHLETES RECEIVE COURSE CREDIT?

Some universities offer class credit for participation.

## NCEA HISTORY

In 1998, Equestrian was identified and adopted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA) as an emerging sport for women at the Division I and II levels. Currently, there are 16 Division I and four Division II programs sponsoring equestrian.

The National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA), a non-profit corporation, was created as a governing body to advance the sport of equestrian. The NCEA is responsible for the development and administration of equestrian rules and guidelines. Equestrian is subject to all NCAA policies and procedures in the same manner as other sports.

The NCEA developed sub-committees for areas critical to the advancement of equestrian. These sub-committees consist of coaches and administrators from member institutions. Coaches and administrators are invited to serve on any of the various NCEA Committees of their choice. The committees include but are not limited to: Membership Services, Competition, Strategic Communications, Sponsorship, Selection, and Championship. Each committee is charged with helping to progress equestrian to championship sport status within the NCAA. Additionally, liaisons from the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) interact with and provide input to these committees and the NCEA Executive Committee.

Part of the NCEA's structure includes a National Advisory Board (NAB) comprised of corporate leaders, philanthropists, and equine industry experts. The goal of the NAB is to develop the financial support to make Equestrian the first financially-independent non-revenue generating collegiate sport. NAB efforts have shown early success in the form of grants to help sustain current NCEA teams, as well as providing financial strategies for the development of new Equestrian teams across the nation.

## MISSION

The NCEA, in concert with the mission and vision of the NCAA, is committed to providing collegiate opportunities for female equestrian student-athletes to compete at the highest level, while embracing equity, diversity and promoting academic and competitive excellence.

## VISION

To be recognized globally as the premier level of competition for elite female collegiate equestrian student-athletes.

# About SEC EQUESTRIAN

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) adopted the sport of equestrian during the 2012-13 academic year. The four programs that currently comprise the SEC have a rich history of elite success in the sport.

Since the National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) began contesting a national championship in 2002, all SEC programs have won a national championship. The annual NCEA Championship is held in Ocala, Florida each year.

Georgia has tallied a league-leading seven overall national championships, including three consecutive from 2008-10 and most recently in 2021. Auburn follows with six and South Carolina has three national titles, while Texas A&M has two overall national titles.

The three schools of the formerly 12-member SEC have been contesting a yearly Southern Equestrian Championship since 2003, which in 2012-13 was replaced by the first-ever SEC Championship, involving all four schools.

The Southern Equestrian Championships were held on campus sites on a rotating basis. Georgia won a league-leading six Southern Equestrian Championship titles, while Auburn captured three and South Carolina one.

The first-ever SEC equestrian meet was held on September 9, 2012 when Georgia hosted Texas A&M in Bishop, Ga. In March of 2013, the first-ever SEC Championship in the sport of equestrian was held in Auburn, Ala., with South Carolina taking home the inaugural trophy.