



WELCOMING ALL NEWCOMERS

A Spectator's Guide to the Horse Shows

Are you stepping into the world of equestrian sport for the first time? Don't worry. We've got you covered! This introduction is specially tailored for new spectators, providing a brief insight into the main events at Flintfields Horse Park. The Traverse City Horse Shows feature a range of equestrian disciplines centered around Hunters, Equitation, and Jumpers. We showcase everything from pony riders to Olympic athletes. So, step into the ring, embrace the thrill, savor the spectacle, and prepare for an unforgettable equestrian experience at the Traverse City Horse Shows!



Hunters

Hunters place focus on showcasing the elegance and grace of the horse. Judges evaluate them based on movement, style, and disposition. Hunter competition derives from the fox hunting horses that galloped long stretches and jumped natural-looking fences while chasing after foxes with their hounds. While there is no cut-and-clear method of scoring, scores range from the 90's down to the 40's if penalties are incurred. A score in the 70's is considered average.

Equitation

Equitation classes serve to assess the skills and form of the rider. While still an important factor, the horse's performance takes a backseat here. The control and capability of the rider to navigate the course gracefully remain paramount.

Similar to hunters, there is no standardized method of scoring and the scores fall in the same range.

Jumpers

Jumpers encapsulate the elements of speed, agility, and accuracy. The competitors aim to pilot a course of jumps in the shortest time, ensuring no faults to their time. Show jumping is one of the few Olympic sports where men and women compete on equal terms.

Faults include knocking a rail (4 faults), landing in a water jump (4 faults), refusing a jump (4 faults), two refusals (elimination), rider falls off (elimination), and exceeding the time allowed (1 fault per second over).