

San Juan Sparkles & Spurs

New Member Tryout Process updated as of 10/15/2023

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Summary

With so many moving parts, and riding animals that can be unpredictable, it is very important that we all have a certain level of horsemanship, riding abilities, and keep safety first. With this in mind, please know that we want each rider to have fun and succeed, so don't take advice/criticism personal because it's intended to help not hinder.

Drill Basics

Alignment
Spacing
Timing
Briskness

All members are required to be on our team group on the Band App

Additional Resources are available on the Band App under the attachments section

Checklist

- Review Contract
- Review schedule/calendar
- Download & Login to the Band App
- If you do not have a flag boot, please let us know
- Begin by recording and send required video

Basics

- The team and all riders use western saddles (full list on contract)
- All flag boots will be attached to the **fender** of your saddle
- Regular jeans, riding boots, and no spaghetti strap/crop top shirts
- If your horse acts out aggressively towards another horse you are **expected** to correct them
 - We carry a 3 strikes you're out rule for horses
- Please read through our participation & attendance policy thoroughly

Overview on the process

1. Provide a video of you riding our pattern
2. We will invite you to do 1 of the following:
 - a. Ride a small routine with 3 experience riders
 - b. Consider the Flag Team as a starting point
 - c. Continue advancing your riding skills & retry later
3. Determine the best fit for you, your horse, and the team

Things to look forward to

Our team pays to be able to practice year-round. Fall and winter practices are Sundays and spring and summer practices are on Thursday evening.

See You Soon!

Potential Member Information Sheet

Rider Owned Items

• Black Pants	• Black Cowboy Hat	• Spurs need to be strap-on (if used)
• Leg wraps for practices	• Loop reins for practices	• Shanked bit

General Knowledge

Start time: This is when we want to start riding as a team for practices (your horse should be warmed up PRIOR to practice start time) OR the time you need to arrive for Parades/Performances to get ready. Once January hits, this will be very important that we start ON TIME.

3 Strike Rule: This is really for horses having bad behavior. Each horse is expected to behave and get along with other horses. "Strikes" are when a horse makes physical contact with a horse or rider and/or causes an unsafe environment (ie – bucking its rider off, kicking another horse, biting, etc) When a Strike occurs, it will HAVE to be given in a written format via email or text FROM HOLLY. It is intended for formality purposes not against anyone or their horse. We do HIGHLY encourage you check your horse's physical health when something like this happens.

Arena Rules: We do our best to have an organized warm up arena no matter where we are. We feel riders should never be a cause for problems and act in a manner that others will want to invite us back. When warming up; please wear proper riding gear, slow riders move to the outside, and go with the flow (go the same direction as other riders, when going 2 different directions - join already created circles do NOT create more going the same way, warn others when coming from behind, don't stop directly in front of someone). You should always pick up after your own horse when hauling.

Additional Information

1. Bring a willing attitude, be prepared to be moved and try new things. There is 1 person in charge of "All Routine Things" and that is Holly.
2. Drill is about how the team looks as a whole. We don't "pick on" your specific riding skills, leads, and so forth while riding a routine. We know that these things are important and we do try to improve them, but know that your physical position in relation to others is what we will be looking at.
3. Before riding with the team, you will be required to fill out and sign agreeing to a "Liability Waiver" and all members are required to fill out and sign agreeing to our member contract and application.
4. Commitment and attendance are key to a successful drill team. We know the schedule is intense at times, especially in the summer, and we do our best to work with everyone's schedule. We don't want to 'down play' this in any way manner or form, **but know** that we are happy, willing, and do work with your schedule.
5. Practices run year-round, but June through August are our busy months.
6. The team uses the Band App to set the schedule, share pictures, take votes on specific things, have a team group chat, and more. You will be required to have this app and keep tabs on it if you are on the team.

Flag Team

- Intended to be an 'Introduction to Drill' for riders that cannot commit or aren't ready for the extensive/intense requirements of the Performance Team. Flag Team is HIGHLY encouraged to attend all practices but only *required* to attend 2 practices of each month (set months ahead of time), the REQ (required) participation dates set in the contract, and business meetings.
- Membership Fee is \$50 – please chat with us on details of costs
- For Flag Team riding requirements, please reference our contract.

Performance Team

This is for advanced riders that are able to commit to a more intense schedule. Practices are once a week. We also consider ourselves a 'loping flag team' so riders will need to be able to ride at that level. We don't expect perfection but we do require commitment. Membership Fee is \$150 – please chat with us on details of costs

1. Those who are active Performance Team members, will automatically be awarded a position for the upcoming season.
2. Open positions will be based on existing horse-rider pairs and number of qualified horse-rider pairs.
3. Those that do not get awarded a position can be placed on the Back-Up List. They will be ordered in a manner that the next best fit will move into an available position in case that a position is lost.
4. The Back-Up List is where we determine who will be riding for absences.
5. Back-Up List riders will be required to participate in the Flag Team.

Positions for the 2024 Season will be determined by but not limited by the following:

1. How a horse-rider pair performs with the existing positioned horse-rider pairs
2. Ability to execute a routine with confidence
3. Ability to ride controlled, well behaved, one handed, with a flag, and various loping speeds
4. Ability to be versatile in positions within a routine and still keep the basics of drill (alignment, spacing, timing, briskness)

Note that the attitude and ability of a horse is JUST as important as a rider and will be included in determining a horse-rider pair for a position on the Performance Team

Please provide a video of you, on the horse you plan to use, riding the following pattern (1 & 2 should be ridden continuously – starting by loping in/from the entry gate and all the way back to where you started) at a lope and carrying a flag or at minimum a pole in your right hand. Circles should be approximately 30 feet in diameter each. If only main interest is in the Flag Team, you may skip the figure 8. This should be provided no less than a week before you plan to ride with the team so that we have time to review.

