



Wentworth Hunt Club Hunter Pace Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be a member of the Wentworth Hunt to participate in the hunter paces?

No. All levels of riders are welcome. We love spectators too! These events are certainly something to see. Consider volunteering!

Can I sign up on the day of the pace?

Yes. Here are some great tips that will help the event secretary process your entry in a timely manner. It gets VERY busy at check in around 10am. Consider coming earlier and filling out paperwork (forms available from event secretary) in advance. PLEASE: Check your Coggins papers. Make sure they're not out of date (no older than 12 months prior to event) and that you have it with you. Make a clear and legible copy of your negative Coggins to submit with your entry paperwork. Tip: print entry forms, waivers, etc. on line and fill them out in advance along with your payment. Put it all together (in envelope or staple together) and you're set. Event secretaries everywhere will thank you!

Do I need a coggins?

Yes, it's the law. NH residents, within 12 months of the event. (Out of state, within 6 months of event).

Is there a dress code? What can I wear?

No. The only requirement is a certified helmet, hard soled shoes with heels and covered toes. Otherwise wear whatever you feel comfortable in. This is a fun event in a relaxed atmosphere!

Do I need a certain type of saddle, such as a hunt or english saddle?

No. You can use any type of saddle, including western saddle. The only requirement is that all tack must be in safe, working condition.

How many riders can I have in my team? I have five riders instead of four.

Minimum of two riders up to four in a team. You can have five, but only four ribbons will be awarded to a team that places. No one will be allowed to go out alone.

I am a single rider and don't have a team, can I still ride?

Yes, BUT you cannot ride alone. We're more than happy to help you find a team that fits your needs as best we can. Suggestion: call ahead or come early.

I don't jump my horse, can I still participate in the event?

Yes. You can ride in any division. The non-competitive division is not timed.

What is a hunter pace?

Essentially it's a timed team event, ridden as if simulating a fox hunt. The time is set by Wentworth Hunt officials, is kept secret, then posted AFTER 11:30am; once the last team has started the course. The time is taken as each team starts and then finishes the course. Times are posted on the leader board.

Winners are posted after all riders have finished the course. Winners are determined by the team that comes closest to the course time. There is a 5 minute mandatory break in the middle.

What is the purpose of this event?

It's an opportunity for us to offer riders who want to get the feel of a fox hunt, a relaxed, low-key environment to do so. It's a great opportunity to ride on one of our wonderful territories that landowners so generously allow us. This is a fund raiser for us, but more importantly, we love to connect with friends, old and new, and have a chance to talk about our club, drag fox hunting and enjoy a really great day together as equine enthusiasts! Great photo opps too!

Do hounds participate in the hunter pace?

No. The hounds are not at the pace event.

What is the difference between the divisions?

A course is chosen, then timed for the Field division; faster time (more canter, trot and walk) and Hilltop division; slower time, (less canter, trot, and walk). Jumping is optional in any division. A non-competitive team is not timed and not eligible for ribbons; much like a trail ride as a team. The riders then "pace" the course, as if fox hunting, to complete the course in an optimum time considering your division and the condition of both rider and mount.

How fast or slow should we go?

It's the rider's choice. Ideally the ride should be at a "hunter pace" which is as if following foxhounds on a normal fox hunting day. Depending on your division, some walking, trotting, cantering, and some standing and resting; typically done while waiting for hounds to pick up scent or while gathering up hounds after a good chase (check point). It's a judgment call considering your division, the length of the course and the condition of your mount. It is a PACE, not a RACE. Be safe, relaxed, and have fun!

Can we pass other teams in front of us?

Yes, with permission of the riders. Do not run up on them. Once passed them, please WALK until you are far past them so as not to spook their horses.

Can I pony my child along with me?

Yes. As long as you are safely in control of both horses.

Spectator information:

Friends and family are welcomed to join us. Pony clubs or school equestrian clubs are welcomed as well, please let the chairman know in advance so we can plan our refreshments accordingly. Consider volunteering! Spectators can stay in the parking fields or go to the check point. Photo ops abound! We ask that you do not hike the course as it may interfere with the competition.

Courtesies in the field:

Be courteous to our landowners by staying on the trail, picking up rails you knocked over, etc... Be alert for normal field hazards such as rocks, holes, wire, low branches and livestock. Be thoughtful when passing other farms and livestock. WALK, please. Pass others only with permission and with courtesy, please. No galloping to the finish line, please. Report any issues to the event secretary.

Cancellation:

Under extreme weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances an event could be canceled. Cancellations will be posted on our web site the night prior to the event.