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### Roadmap to International Competition

Did you know... Equine Mounted Games Canada offers local competitions each year but EMGC riders also can participate in US and other International competitions! In fact, many members have competed internationally for the last 20+ years!

**Interested in learning more? See below for helpful tips in getting started:**

### US Competition Overview

Generally, this is the first international experience for Canadian Mounted Games riders. These competitions are usually held on weekends with 3-5 riding sessions. Riders are responsible for looking after their ponies. **EMGC members are expected to be courteous, organized and exemplify good horsemanship at all times.**

**Most competitions are Teams or Pairs.** You do not need to be an Open rider to participate US competition! USMGA and MGAA offer various divisions much the same as EMGC.

### Preparation for US Competition

1. The first step for success is ensuring you have access to a safe truck and trailer for hauling.
2. Expect to bring your own hay and shavings.
3. Speak with the EMGC Board of Directors or other members about routes and crossing the border efficiently.
4. Make a packing list and ensure all items will travel safely in the truck/trailer.

Every horse/pony crossing the border needs to have:

- 1) **Health Papers** (temporary) - Requires a vet appointment to confirm your horse is healthy before traveling. Temporary papers are only valid for **30 days** and do not require seeing a vet at the border. If you are travelling back and forth to the US multiple times in that 30 days, you may use the same health papers.
- 2) **Coggin Papers** – This can be done at the same vet appointment. Your vet will take a blood sample and send it to a lab. All horses must test Negative and this test is valid for **6 months**.

### **Making it Happen:**

- Competitions in the US are organized by USMGA and MGAA. See their website for a complete list of competition dates. Generally, they are held from April-October. Many of their competitions are within a 10-hr drive of southern ON and even include the Kentucky Horse Park!
  - <https://www.usmga.us/>
  - <https://www.mountedgames.org/>
- To find a team, ask your fellow EMGC members (it's more fun to travel with friends!) OR the following communication forums have had a history of great success for building all-Canadian or Canadian/US teams.
  - <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1HatFZTvZC/> - EMGC Member Group
  - <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/15v62QTPMA/> - MGAA Member Group
  - <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1Qdun57NBL/> - USMGA Member Group

### International Competition

Generally, international competition includes more significant investment and requires an earlier commitment than US competition. Every year, IMGA organizes the highest level of competition with several different hosting countries for each event.

Events:

1. World TEAM Championships
2. World PAIRS Championship
3. World INDIVIDUAL Championship
4. Nations TEAM Championship
5. European TEAM and INDIVIDUAL Championship

Other international competition may be available on a year-to-year basis, such as the Royal Welsh Show, or others.

<https://www.mounted-games.org/> - See locations/schedule of competitions here

### The Process

The EMGC Board of Directors (BOD) will ask membership for interest in TEAM competitions annually. The BOD will also ask membership for COACHING interest for TEAM competitions. Once commitment level is known, the BOD will organize a Selection Committee for tryouts for international TEAM competition, should there be enough committed riders. Tryouts may be held in various times of year and in various formats set out by the current EMGC BOD.

Selected teams and their Coach must then organize a Chef d'équipe volunteer and ensure there are enough certified Assistant Referees to support volunteering at the events. The team must also ensure there are sufficient educated equipment volunteers to support equipment set-up at the events. The expectation is that **Canadian riders are courteous, organized and exemplify good horsemanship at all times**. The Team is in charge of ensuring all payments are made on time. They are also responsible for their itinerary and planning how they will obtain ponies (either through using the pool of ponies or by sourcing specific international ponies). The Board of Directors will design a jersey and organize the order. The team will cover all costs, including jerseys.

For those riders interested in PAIRS or INDIVIDUAL competition, OR if there is not enough interest for a full Canadian TEAM for Nations TEAM Championship, riders may still organize their attendance at these competitions independently. Nations TEAM Championship allows United Nations teams to be developed that consist of riders from multiple countries. If EMGC members are interested in participating in a UN team, they must work with the organizer of the competition independently. EMGC has historically participated in UN teams successfully. Riders interested in PAIRS and/or INDIVIDUALS competitions are able to connect with BOD at [equinemountedgamescanada@gmail.com](mailto:equinemountedgamescanada@gmail.com) to confirm their ability to attend international competition. Once approved, similar to TEAMS competitions, the riders must ensure all payments are made on time. They are also responsible for their itinerary and planning how they will obtain a pony (either through the pool or through private plans with international owners of ponies). The Board of Directors will design a jersey and organize the order. The team will cover all costs, including jerseys. The expectation is that **Canadian riders are courteous, organized and exemplify good horsemanship at all times**.

There are often livestreams of international competitions! EMGC members at home will be cheering you on virtually!

To connect with the Board of Directors, email: [equinemountedgamescanada@gmail.com](mailto:equinemountedgamescanada@gmail.com)