Polo Instructor and Coach

The Department of Animal Science in the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources (CAHNR) at the University of Connecticut (UConn) and UConn Polo Team invites applications to fill the combined role of Polo Instructor and Coach. This is a part-time role, compensated on an hourly basis, located at UConn’s main campus in Storrs.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The selected candidate will hold responsibilities that encompass both the Department's Equine Practicum program and the UConn Polo Team, which include:

1. INSTRUCTION

   - Arrive 30 minutes ahead of each session to prepare the horses for riding and stay an additional 30 minutes after each lesson to put away the horses.
   - Instruct beginner and intermediate community polo lessons within the Department's horse units and indoor arena three times a week—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:30 PM.
   - Teach students how to tack up, wrap tails, and care for horses in the barn.
   - Work with individuals and groups of up to 8 students simultaneously, organizing practice chukkers and providing personalized instruction.
   - Teach mallet skills and polo rules to riders at various skill levels.
   - Match students with horses based on their skills, height, weight, and learning needs.
   - Enhance students' horsemanship skills and maintain a positive attitude during lessons.
   - Attend meetings and report to the Director of Riding.
   - Positively represent the UConn Riding Program in and out of the University.
   - Communicate with UConn Barn Management regarding any horse health issues.

2. COACHING

   - Arrive 30 minutes ahead of each session to prepare the horses for riding and stay an additional 30 minutes after each lesson to put away the horses.
   - Coach practices for college players with previous polo experience, preparing them for games and tournaments, two times a week—Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 PM.
   - Foster a safe and educational environment for students and horses during practices and games.
   - Work with individuals and groups of up to 9 students simultaneously, running drills and providing personalized instruction.
   - Match students with horses based on their skills and learning needs.
   - Improve students' horsemanship and hitting skills and provide instruction on polo rules and strategy.
   - Offer constructive feedback to individuals and teams during lessons and games.
   - Attend weekend home and away games with the team.
   - Participate in Coaches’ meetings and report to the Director of Riding.
   - Positively represent the UConn Riding Program in and out of the University.
• Communicate with the Team Advisor and UConn Barn Management regarding games, events, horse use and health issues.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
5 years of polo experience, with teaching experience preferred for the Polo Instructor role. At least one of these years must be teaching polo lessons at the beginner and intermediate level.

QUALIFICATIONS
The ideal candidate for this combined role will possess the following qualifications:

• Proficient polo player and rider with experience in polo instruction and coaching.
• Solid understanding of the game of polo, including strategy and rules.
• Preference given to USPA Certified Polo Instructors and/or those with umpiring experience.
• Familiarity with basic veterinary care, first aid techniques and procedures, and safe horse handling practices.
• Strong communication skills to effectively work with students and teams.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment of the successful candidate is contingent upon the successful completion of a pre-employment criminal background check.

TO APPLY

Please submit your resume and three references via email to Alena Meacham, Riding Director, at alena.meacham@uconn.edu, and Kimberly Syme at kimberly.syme@uconn.edu.

Review of applications will begin on August 7th, 2023, and continue until a successful candidate is selected.

All employees are subject to adherence to the State Code of Ethics which may be found at http://www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp.

The University of Connecticut is committed to building and supporting a multicultural and diverse community of students, faculty and staff. The diversity of students, faculty and staff continues to increase, as does the number of honors students, valedictorians and salutatorians who consistently make UConn their top choice. More than 100 research centers and institutes serve the University’s teaching, research, diversity, and outreach missions, leading to UConn’s ranking as one of the nation’s top research universities. UConn’s faculty and staff are the critical link to fostering and expanding our vibrant, multicultural and diverse University community. As an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer, UConn encourages applications from women, veterans, people with disabilities and members of traditionally underrepresented populations.