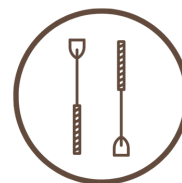


# Instructor Half Halt

A place for riding instructors to connect, inspire and grow



## Why Are Games Important for Learning?

When it comes to learning, it's easy to focus on technical skills, but it's just as important for your riders to enjoy the process. Games can transform the learning experience by:

- Increasing engagement: A well-designed game captures attention and motivates riders to participate actively.
- Providing immediate feedback: Games offer quick responses to actions, helping riders understand their progress.
- Encouraging problem-solving: Fun challenges stimulate creative thinking and decision-making.
- Building confidence: When riders play, they gain skills while boosting their confidence and enjoyment in the saddle.

## Tips for Teaching the Game:

- Before starting, review the key skills involved and explain how you'd like to see them executed during the game.
- Be sure you include What, How, Whys!
- Emphasize having fun while learning. The goal is not just skill development but also creating confident, happy, and focused equestrians who love to learn.

Games aren't just a break from work – they are the work of learning. By weaving essential riding skills into a playful, energetic format, we create an environment where riders feel challenged, supported, and excited to grow. Now, let's put this into action with a fun, fast-paced game that builds both skills and smiles: Enjoy my equestrian original "Hungry Hungry Hippos"!

# Hungry Hungry Hippos

An unmounted game played by individuals or teams using 2 - 4 horses



**Skills Focus:** Leading, Backing, Horsemanship, Grooming, Memory

**Objective:** Equestrians will practice, leading, halting and backing a horse to compile a full grooming set for their horse.

## Setup:

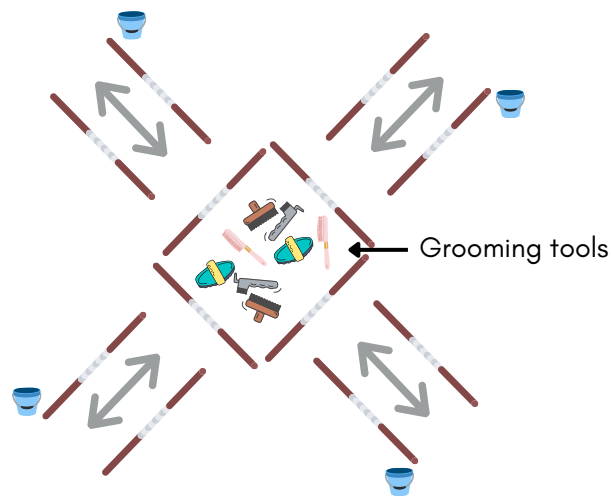
**4 Poles** - set up in a square

**2 Poles per horse** - for making lanes

**1 Full set of grooming tools per horse** (curry, stiff brush, soft brush, hoof pick, mane/tail brush)

**1 Bucket or grooming bag per horse** (optional)

**2 - 4 Horses** - haltered with leads



## Directions:

- Each equestrian starts with their horse on lead halted just behind their lane (marked by poles)
- When directed to start, lead the horse forward but halt so that the horse does not enter the center square.
- The equestrian will then pick out a grooming tool then backs their horse until the horse's front feet have exited the lane (poles)
- The equestrian adds the grooming tool they collected to the grooming bucket/bag
- Once each horse has a complete set they can share their collection for accuracy

## Variations and Challenges:

- Require square halts
- Require a grooming tool demonstration for the win
- Add or subtract grooming tools to/from the middle
- Play the game with a hobby horse or another equestrian instead of a horse
- Add a turn on the haunches or turn on the forehand before returning to the shoot
- Utilize different barn objects -have them identify the item and what it is used for
- Challenge equestrians to play without using leadrope pressure