



The following dress code is from the 1997 Guidebook of the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America. We particularly emphasize that proper, neat and clean attire, tack and horses show proper respect to the Landowners without whom foxhunting would be impossible. Please take this to heart and show them the utmost courtesy at every opportunity. Thank you.

The formal Hunting Dress, below, is given for guidance only. Over the years it has proved to be practical, comfortable and comparatively safe, for which reason it has become traditional. Masters have always had the authority to insist on whatever degree of formality or informality of dress which suits their own particular countries. These suggestions reflect decades of tradition and should only be deviated from for significant reasons.

Personal Appointments

(a) Master - Lady or Gentleman

- Coat: Square-cornered, single-breasted frock coat, cut to suit the wishes of the owner. No flaps on waistline, and no pockets on the outside of the coat except an optional whistle pocket. A Master who does not hunt hounds should have four front hunt buttons. A Master who does hunt hounds should have five buttons. There should also be two hunt buttons behind and two or three small buttons on the cuff of each sleeve. The material should be heavy twill or Melton Cloth. Scarlet is the most traditional color for hunting, but if the regular Hunt livery is of another color, that color should be worn. The collar and lapels of Hunt coats should be in conformity with the Hunt's livery. No Master, Whipper-in, Huntsman or member should wear his or her Hunt livery (scarlet coat, Hunt colors or buttons) in another country unless invited to do so. It is correct to wear a black or dark coat when participating in a joint meet without their own hounds.
- Breeches: May be brown, rust, canary (ladies), buff or white, of heavy cord, heavy synthetic stretch twill or other heavy material. Light weight breeches of silk or light synthetic knits are not correct.
- Vest: Canary, tattersall or appropriate Hunt color.
- Hat: Black or dark blue (ladies) velvet hunting cap with ribbons down or up according to local custom. (Ribbons down traditionally indicate professional Hunt staff.) A plain black safety helmet with chin harness securely fastened is recommended as well.
- Boots: Traditional hunting boots of black calf with brown tops sewn on, well polished, with tabs sewn on but not down. White or brown boot garters (to match breeches) may be worn. Rubber boots are acceptable, especially in wet weather.
- Spurs: Of heavy pattern with moderately short neck and no rowels. Light racing spurs are not permissible. Spurs should be set high on the boot just below the ankle and the spur arms should be parallel to the ground. The free end of the spur strap should be on top of or outside of the boot.
- Gloves: Heavy wash buff, brown or black leather. White wool or string gloves are also acceptable.
- Crop: Traditional hunting whip
- Horn: Traditional hunting horn carried either between buttons of coat or in a leather case fastened on either side of the front of the saddle. No horn should be carried by anyone except Master, Huntsman or First Whipper-in when given permission by the Master.
- Wire Cutters: Wire cutters may be carried in a leather case attached to the saddle.
- Neckwear: Plain hunting stock neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety- pin. Ends of the stock should be pinned down to remain tidy
- Flask and Sandwich Case: Gentlemen may carry either a flask or sandwich case (or both). Ladies may carry either a sandwich case or a combination flask and sandwich case.

(b) Honorary (Amateur) Huntsman

- Turn out the same as for Master. Should have five buttons on front of coat and ribbon on hat up or down, as determined by local custom.

(c) Professional Huntsman

Same as Honorary Huntsman except:

- Hat: Ribbon down. Couplings: Should carry one set of couplings fastened to a dee on off side of saddle.
- Crop: Traditional hunting whip or white whip and thong.
- Flask and Sandwich case: Not permitted.

(d) Honorary Whipper-in

Same as Honorary Huntsman except:

- Couplings: Should carry one set of couplings fastened to a dee on off side of saddle.
- Four buttons on coat instead of five.

(e) Professional Whipper-in

Same as Honorary Whipper-in except:

- Flask and sandwich case are not permissible. Coat should have a large hare pocket on inside of skirt.
- Stirrup leather should be worn outside of coat over right shoulder, under left arm, buckled in front with the point of the strap down.
- Hat: Ribbon down.
- Crop: Regulation hunt whip or white whip and thong. If the Huntsman carries a white whip and thong the lash should be long enough to strike the ground.

(f) Gentleman Member

- Scarlet coat: should have rounded corners and three buttons in front, or:
- Black coat: Frock coat cut same as scarlet coat, or black hunting coat is preferable to a shadbelly coat. Buttons may be regular buttons adopted by the Hunt, but most preferably a dark button with Hunt initials or crest design in white. There should be three buttons on the front of the coat and two buttons on back if frock coat. It is not customary to wear Hunt colors on the collar of a black coat. It is customary that brass buttons on black coats are reserved for Masters, ex-Masters, Honorary Secretaries and ex-Honorary Secretaries.
- Vest: Canary, tattersall or appropriate color designated by the Master.
- Breeches: May be brown, rust, buff or white (only with a frock coat) of heavy cord, heavy synthetic stretch twill or other heavy material. Light-weight breeches of silk or synthetic knits are not correct.
- Hat: A safety helmet in black with chin harness fastened is recommended. Ribbon should be up. With the Masters permission: Top Hats can be worn with scarlet coat, frock coat or shadbelly coat (hat-guard optional). Bowler hat with formal black hunting coat.
- Boots: Plain black calf without tops worn with black hunting coat. Brown topped boots should be worn with frock coat. Black field boots with laces are not considered proper formal boots. White or brown boot garters (to match breeches) may be worn.
- Hair: If long, to be confined neatly.
- Neckwear: Plain white hunting stock neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. End of the stock should be pinned down to remain tidy.
- Spurs: Same as for Master
- Crop: Traditional hunting whip.

(g) Lady Member (Astride)

- Coat: Frock or hunting coat of black, dark blue, tan, or dark gray or color material, suitably cut, with buttons and collar trimming adopted by the Hunt represented. A frock coat should have rounded corners with three buttons in front and two on back: hunting coats have rounded corners and three buttons are required on the front of the coat.
- Vest: Canary, tattersall or appropriate color designated by Hunt.
- Breeches: Buff, rust, brown or yellow (not white cord or heavy synthetic stretch twill (not knitted) material.
- Hat: Velvet hunting cap in black or dark blue or a safety helmet in dark blue or black with a chin harness fastened is recommended. Ribbon up. With permission of the Master: Black bowler or silk top hat (the crown should be six inches or more and worn only with a frock coat). Short dressage hats are not appropriate.
- Sandwich Case (or combination flask and sandwich case) optional. Flask case is not customary.
- Hair: Should be neatly confined. Hair nets are advisable and correct.
- Gloves: Heavy wash leather, buff, black or brown leather. White wool or cotton string gloves are allowed.
- Spurs: Regular hunting spurs, same as for Master
- Neckwear: Plain white hunting stock neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. The ends should be pinned down to remain tidy. No other jewelry should be visible.
- Crop: Light hunting whip with thong.
- Boots: Black calf hunting boots without laces. Black leather or patent leather tops are appropriate, especially with a frock coat.

(h) Lady Member (Side-Saddle)

Same as Lady Member (Astride) except:

- Habits: Dark melton or other cloth, suitably cut.
- Veil: Must be worn with a top hat but not with a bowler.
- Hat: Top silk (hunting hat) to be worn with double-breasted dress hunting coat (crown should be six inches): black bowler (derby) to be worn with plain jackets. Safety headgear in black with chin harness properly fastened is recommended with ribbon up.

Exceptions to the Suggested Attire:

(i) Juniors

It is not necessary for Juniors to wear formal attire as it is often both difficult and expensive to obtain properly fitting formal attire in the small sizes. Whichever type of turnout is chosen, it should be immaculately clean and appropriate for various weather conditions with an approved ASTM (American Society of Testing Materials) safety helmet properly fastened.

Formal Attire: Same as for Lady Member (Astride). Junior colors may be worn according to individual Hunt customs.

- Hat: A properly fitting ASTM approved safety helmet with chin strap properly fastened is required with ribbon up.
- Crop: A light-weight hunting crop with or without thong.
- Neckwear: A plain white stock neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. Turtleneck shirts should not be worn except by very young children.
- Hair: If long, should be neatly confined or braided.
- Informal Attire: A tweed coat in a muted color (no reds), tan or brown breeches or jodhpurs, shined brown/black jodhpur boots, string or brown/black leather gloves, a plain or colored stock neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. "Ratcatcher" shirts are also correct with a neck band or neatly-tied bow or mans necktie. Turtleneck shirts are usually for very young children only. Hat as stated.

In hunting countries where extremes of temperature regularly occur, modifications to the foregoing suggested formal attire may be in order. Such modifications for extremes of temperature may be made by the Master(s) of individual Hunts as needed, particularly in cold weather when parkas and heavy jackets are very warm when worn over regular coats.

(j) Informal or Ratcatcher Attire

Gentlemen & Ladies

- Hat: Black hunting cap, black or brown bowler or approved ASTM helmet with secure chin strap with ribbon up.
- Coat: Tweed or wool in muted color, tailored and vented.
- Shirt: Ratcatcher or other light colored shirt. Stock tie (plain or colored) with horizontal pin or man's neck tie. Whether stock or necktie, ends should be pinned down to remain tidy. Neckbands are also appropriate for ladies. Turtlenecks and polo shirts are usually reserved for children, but are used in some hunts that experience extremely hot temperatures during cub hunting season.
- Breeches: Earth tone colors - buff, tan, grey or rust.
- Spurs: Regular hunting style with no rowels.
- Boots: Brown or black leather, dress or field with laces.
- Formal boots with brown, patent or leather tops are not appropriate. Rubber boots are acceptable with the Master's permission as are canvas-topped (Newmarket) boots and jodhpur boots with either canvas or leather leggings.
- Gloves: Black or brown leather or string gloves.
- Wire Cutters, Flask and Sandwich: Same recommendations as in formal attire.
- Crop: Regulation hunting whip. Thong and lash may be removed during cub hunting.

Lady Member - Side Saddle

- Coat: Beige, brown or off-white; suitably cut; plain, tweed or salt sack.
- Skirt: Should coordinate with the coat.
- Hat: Bowler, velvet hunting cap or safety helmet with chin harness fastened.
- Veil: Not appropriate for informal attire.

Accessories

- Raincoats: Masters can allow certain rain gear (common sense should prevail), but they should be used sparingly and be of muted colors (brown, black or dark green).
- Eyewear: Sunglasses or tinted eyewear are not appropriate unless specifically prescribed or recommended by a physician. This does not preclude clear prescription glasses.

Tack Appointments

At the most basic level, horses and all tack should be impeccably clean, polished and shining. It is a disservice to the landowners to do anything less.

- Bridle: Black or brown leather, may be either double or single. A cavesson (noseband) should be used. Colored or ornamental browbands are not acceptable.
- Breastplate: Optional.
- Martingale: Optional; if used, should be plain\raised leather. A running martingale must have stops on the reins.
- Saddle: Brown or black leather. Saddle pads (if used) should be saddle-shaped, of a light color (white, buff or yellow).
- Numnahs or saddle cloths are not proper. Stirrup irons should be large and workman-like and clean (shined). Safety equipment such as cruppers, grazing over-checks and safety stirrups should be used whenever advisable.
- Girth: Preferably leather, but clean string and cloth girths are permissible as are girth covers made of fleece.
- Accessories: Accessories such as figure eight and flash nosebands, bell and shin boots, gel and cushion saddle pads should be used sparingly and only when required for safety or health of the horse. Accessories like fly hood, and ear or muzzle covers are not appropriate in the hunting field.