



When to wear a 'Red Coat'

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YOUR RED COAT

You dreamed of getting one growing up, and now that you have it, where do you wear it? Out for dinner is what I would do! But the only red coat in my future is meant for the sidelines. In seriousness, where is it appropriate to wear this prestigious, hard-earned and beautiful trophy?

After asking some of our young North American riders, it seems the consensus is that it is reserved for only those special occasions when you are named to a Nations Cup team, and the rest of that competition week.

Similarly, the green jacket is given to the winner of the Masters tournament in golf every year, and there are different approaches to how, when and where to wear it. The 2012 and 2014 Masters champion Bubba Watson said that when he kept the jacket at his home, he would hide it from visitors. "I don't let anybody see or touch it! I'm very protective of it."

Three-time Masters champ Phil Mickelson has taken a vastly different approach. He wore it to all the corporate outings he was invited to, and to any event he could. He even used it as a surprise golf prop. "I would put it in my golf bag and if it was chilly in the morning, I would pull it out... It's fun to do that with that jacket. I wouldn't carry three jackets around with me, but I would say, 'I've got two more, if you're cold as well.'

Alec Lawler, one of the many talented upcoming American riders, says if he gets his red coat (or 'pink' coat as they refer to it in the USA) he would save it for special occasions. "I wouldn't want to use up the luck in it!" he said.

Canadian show jumping team member Samantha Buirs of Langley, BC, agrees and hasn't worn her red coat since her team debut in Argentina in 2010.

Tamie Phillips of Calgary got her coat in 2012 for the same Nations Cup event in Argentina, and she says her red coat will stay in the closet until the next time she is called upon by her nation.

Other riders get the opportunity more often to don their red coats, such as Calgary's Ben Asselin. Since his debut in Argentina in 2012, he has ridden on Nations Cup teams in Brazil, Spain, and the Masters in Calgary, to name a few. Ben explained that he feels that a suitable time to wear his red coat would be in Nations Cup competitions or "for a big Grand Prix, CSI 4* or larger." But he adds "after all it's your coat, so you should wear it whenever you like!"

So while there is no hard rule about these things, there appears to be some common ground on what the red coat signifies. Only wear it when you think it's important and will bring you luck and success!