



## The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. 'H-B' STANDARD

(Revised October 30, 2006)

The United States Pony Clubs has established Standards of Proficiency within the framework of the international Pony Club movement as the curriculum for a program of instruction and testing of its members.

**D Rating:** The D Ratings are an introduction to the fun and challenge of riding, establishing a foundation of safety habits and knowledge of the daily care of a pony and tack. The D-1 through D-3 Pony Club member learns to ride independently and with control, maintaining a reasonably secure position at the walk, trot and canter and over low fences. All D ratings are awarded at the club level.

**C-1 and C-2 Ratings:** The C-1 and C-2 is a Pony Club member learning to become an active horseman, to care independently for pony and tack and to understand the reasons for what he or she is doing. The C-1 and C-2 show development towards a secure, independent seat and increasing control and confidence in all phases of riding. The C-1 and C-2 ratings are awarded at the club level.

**The H-B, C-3, B, H/H-A and A Ratings** are facilitated on a national basis and require a greater depth of knowledge and proficiency than the earlier ratings. Successful candidates are competent, all-around horsemen, active and contributing members of USPC, who participate in a variety of Pony Club activities. They are also thoughtful leaders who set an example for all levels.

**The H-B Rating** covers Horse Management knowledge that demonstrates increasing knowledge and competence in the care and handling of horses.

Pony Club members may choose to follow one or all of three riding tracks. They are: Traditional Eventing, Show Jumping or Dressage.

**The C-3 Rating** reflects a basis of competence in riding and horse care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses. If the C-3 riding test is passed before the H-B, the member becomes a C+.

**The B Rating** is for the active horseman and Pony Club member who is interested in acquiring further knowledge and proficiency in riding. The B is able to ride experienced mounts with confidence and control. The B should be able to ride and care for another person's experienced mount, maintaining proper mental and physical condition without undoing any of the mount's education. The B understands and is able to explain the reasons for what he or she is doing and to contribute to the education of younger Pony Club members.

**The A Rating**, the highest rating, is divided into two parts: the H/H-A, which covers horse management, teaching and training and the A, which tests the riding phase. The H/HA has the knowledge, experience and maturity to evaluate and care for a mount's needs efficiently and in a variety of circumstances, and to teach riding and horse care to others. The A is able to ride mounts at various levels of schooling with judgement, tact and effectiveness; to train young mounts; and to retrain spoiled mounts.

**NOTE:** In addition to its instructional programs, USPC offers a variety of activities at club, regional, inter-regional and national levels for team and individual participation. These activities include Eventing, Dressage, Foxhunting, Quiz, Mounted Games, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, Polocrosse, and Vaulting. **Achieving a rating does not necessarily qualify the Pony Club member for competition in any horse sport.** Further study and preparation for a particular activity, including working as a team member, may be necessary.

### Dimensions of Fences D to A\* for Traditional Eventing

| Rating | Height | Width at Top |      | Width at Base |       |
|--------|--------|--------------|------|---------------|-------|
|        |        | CC           | SJ   | CC            | SJ    |
| D-2    | 18"    | 1'           | 1'   | 1'6"          | 1'6"  |
| D-3    | 2'6"   | 2'6"         | 2'6" | 4'3"          | 4'3"  |
| C-1    | 2'9"   | 2'9"         | 2'9" | 4'3"          | 4'3"  |
| C-2    | 3'0"   | 3'3"         | 3'3" | 4'7"          | 4'11" |
| C-3    | 3'3"   | 3'11"        | 3'9" | 5'3"          | 5'7"  |
| B      | 3'7"   | 4'7"         | 4'3" | 6'7"          | 6'3"  |
| A      | 3'9"   | 5'3"         | 4'9" | 7'10"         | 6'11" |

\*Based on USPC Eventing Rules and US Equestrian Eventing Rules. When a second height is required at any one level, use appropriate dimensions shown on the chart above.

### Dressage Specialty Levels:

C-3 = First Level\*\*  
B = Second Level\*\*  
A = Third Level\*\*

### Dimensions of Fences for Show Jumping Specialty Levels:

| Rating | Height up to | Width at Top up to | Triple Bar up to |
|--------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|
| C-3    | 3'6"         | 3'9"               | 4'3"             |
| B      | 3'9"         | 4'3"               | 4'6"             |
| A      | 4'3"         | 4'9"               | 5'3"             |

C-3=Level II-III\*\*      B=Level III-IV\*\*      A=Level V-VI\*\*

\*\*See USEF Level Descriptions

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## Horse Management Expectations

*Candidates should be competent and must demonstrate sound judgment and maturity in the continuing care of their mounts and equipment. Candidates should understand reasons for their decisions and know when to seek assistance, if necessary. They must show, through discussion and demonstration, knowledge of veterinary care and teaching principles. Candidates should have the ability to explain stable and veterinary routines to D-level Pony Club members.*

### Tack

Identify the three basic bit categories: snaffle, pelham and curb. Demonstrate their action.

Identify different types of bridles, nosebands, saddles, pads, girths, martingales, breastplates, cruppers and boots. Discuss their use and fit.

Fit a snaffle bridle.

### Conditioning

Discuss how to prepare a horse to be conditioned for activity of choice.

Present a conditioning schedule of 8 weeks preparing a horse for a stated activity or competition (Pony Club or otherwise). In addition, you may present your record of daily riding.

Demonstrate how to take a horse's temperature, pulse and respiration. Discuss what they should be at rest, at work and in recovery.

### Nutrition

Relate feeding principles and their effect on the mount's digestive system.

Discuss the 6 classes of nutrients needed by mount, why they are needed, and primary sources.

Evaluate samples of hay, grain, and bedding for suitability and safety.

For your area, know availability, cost, and origin of feed.

List any supplements given to own mount and reasons for their use.

Discuss seasonal variations of feeding mounts.

### Stable Management/Travel Safety

Identify five safety practices/precautions in this facility.

Identify three out of five examples/pictures of toxic plants in your area. Explain when they are most toxic, what parts are toxic and general symptoms of poisoning which would indicate a need to call the vet, i.e. change in temperature, pulse and respiration.

Discuss preparation of mount for safe, comfortable travel for short and long distances. Discuss preparation and checklist for vehicle and trailer safety.

### Conformation and Lameness

Identify the anatomy of the front and hind leg from shoulder and hip down, to include principal bones, tendons and ligaments.

Discuss both good and bad points of conformation of mount being presented and how they relate to long-term soundness.

Discuss conformation of the mount as it relates to interfering, over-reaching, forging, brushing, paddling, winging.

Know what conformation points might contribute to the blemishes or unsoundnesses listed. Also, discuss the following common causes of listed lameness, giving location and inner structure involved: bog and bone spavins, bowed tendon, bucked shins, corns, cracks, curb, navicular, osselets, ringbone, sidebone, splints, suspensory problems, thoroughpins.

### Veterinary Care and Record Book

(Health, Maintenance, Immunizations)

Must be kept up to date and brought to test.

Purpose: To supply an accurate and detailed outline of candidate's (or borrowed) mount's health care, feed schedule, hoof care, conditioning and competitive schedule so, in case the candidate were laid up or called away for a prolonged period, the mount could be properly maintained. The candidate needs to present a written outline supplying the above information. Candidates may use the USPC Pony Health & Maintenance Record Book or, preferably, their own record system. Records should reflect the appropriate depth of knowledge for this level. Must have records for at least 1 year prior to test. Records may reflect care of more than one horse.

Discuss age by teeth on presented mount (age of mount will be provided to you). Discuss special problems such as over- or under-shot mouth, cribbing, and reasons for floating.

Discuss teeth to include: concept that teeth grow continuously, and baby teeth replaced by permanent; location of incisors and molars; number of teeth (male and female).

Discuss in depth your annual immunization and parasite prevention schedules for your horse in your record book.

Discuss the simple life cycle and damage caused by the following internal parasites: bots, ascarids, small and large strongyles, pinworms and tapeworms.

Discuss signs of mount in distress (including vital signs) and care needed.

Discuss how diseases are spread and what preventive measures can be taken to lessen the spread of a disease for stabled and pastured mounts.

Discuss causes, signs and symptoms and preventive measures for colic, laminitis/founder, azoturia/tying up, flu, strangles, tetanus, encephalomyelitis, rhinopneumonitis, heaves, choking, skin and tooth problems, West Nile virus, and rabies, and care needed.

### Teaching

Teach unmounted lesson of choice at D-2 – C-1 Standard, to D-1 – D-3 Pony Club members (limit 10 minutes).

Present two 20-minute written lesson plans, one for flat work and one for jumping, up to C-1 Standard.

Discuss how to do a safety check and other safety aspects of teaching.

Candidate must bring a letter from DC stating that he/she is assisting in simple mounted lessons at the D and up to C-1 level with supervision. A minimum of six hours teaching prior to the test is suggested.

### Foot & Shoeing

Identify the principal outer and inner structures of the foot and their function.

Identify basic farrier tools.

With tools, imitate how to remove a shoe.

Identify common types of shoes, two materials they are made of, widths, and common features such as fullered grooves, heels, clips, concave surface, bar features and studs.

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## TESTING INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL TESTINGS

### Requirements for Candidates

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing, as defined in club policy, having paid local, regional and National dues and fees for at least the current and preceding years.
- Have a record of regular attendance and participation.
- Be at least 13 years of age prior to January 1 of the year of application for the H-B and C-3, 14 for the B, 16 for the H/H-A and A.
- Be recommended by the District Commissioner and Regional Supervisor.
- Candidates may take the H-B or C-3 Riding test in whichever order they choose. If the C-3 Riding test is taken first, the C-3 Certificate is not awarded until completion of the H-B; candidate is recognized as a C+ until that time.
- Fulfill the active participation criteria set by the region.
- Compete in at least one mounted rally on a mounted or unmounted basis.
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements for the ratings and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirements from all previously attained standards.

### Attire

Safe, working attire, including proper footwear, must be worn in the barn area and when working around mounts. Proper informal attire (boots and breeches) is required for teaching mounted lessons, longeing, and riding phases. Refer to USPC Horse Management Handbook, USPC Rules for Eventing, and USPC Manuals of Horsemanship, Volume I, II and III.

ASTM/SEI approved headgear with full harness and with chin strap in place must be worn.

### Equipment

Saddlery and biting for USPC Testings should comply with the Horse Management General Rule on Saddlery and Biting and with the USPC Eventing Rules for Saddlery and Biting. Be able to discuss equipment used on own mount. Whips, no longer than 43 inches including lash, will be allowed in the flat section of testings. Any discipline rule change following publication of the current Horse Management Handbook will supersede these rules.

### General

There are no waiting periods between the H-B/C-3 through A ratings, as long as all applications are submitted by the Application Deadline (see below). However, candidates must successfully pass all sections of the H-B before obtaining the C-3 (if they pass the riding test first, they are called C+ members until they pass the H-B) and all sections of the H-A before taking the A.

Test dates are established by the National Testing Committee in response to Regional\* requests. Candidate applications must be made through the District Commissioner and Regional Supervisor. Candidates may apply for the date of their choice, but those living within the host Region will be given priority. Information on testing dates, sites and equipment needed may be obtained from the District Commissioner, Regional Supervisor, the USPC Web site, or the National Office.

Testing applications, USPC medical release, and club check for the test fee, must be mailed by the DC to the RS. Except in the case of H-B/C-3 tests being facilitated by a Region (*see below*), the RS must forward all completed application materials (with required signatures) to USPC National Office postmarked by the Application Deadline (see below). Applications for the H/H-A must include proof of compliance with the First Aid requirement.

*\*The RS of a Region hosting a Regional H-B/C-3 test will submit date to the National Office for posting to the Testing Schedule, set Regional application deadlines, and will receive candidate testing application, USPC medical release, and club check for test fee from the DC for candidates.*

### Application Deadlines

Applications for testings from January through May 31st must be postmarked by January 15th, or 8 weeks prior to the test date, whichever is earlier. Applications for testings from June through October 31st must be postmarked by April 15th. Applications for testings in November or December must be postmarked by the deadline stated on the National Testing Schedule (*which will be 8 weeks prior to the test date*). Late applications will be accepted up to 2 weeks after the stated deadlines but will require a \$100 late application fee. No late applications will be accepted after this point.

H/H-A applicants must provide proof of successful completion of a basic first aid certification course (typically a 4-hour course) with their testing application. Candidates planning to take their H/H-A should make plans early to get their certification done well before the testing application deadline in case their class is canceled or rescheduled. A copy (both sides) of their current First Aid card **MUST** accompany application or it will be considered incomplete and returned to their RS. Proof of enrollment in a course **is not** acceptable; candidate must have completed the course by the application deadline, and include a copy of the First Aid card with the H/H-A application. There are many different organizations offering first aid certification and any basic first aid course is acceptable. Candidates may bring their own or a borrowed or rented mount to a testing.

Candidates who DNMS on no more than four sections of the H-B or two sections of the H/H-A can retest only those sections not passed. It will be the candidate's choice whether to retest at another scheduled H-B or H/H-A testing or arrange for a retest outside of a testing. If they choose the second option, it is the responsibility of the candidates to check the Examiners List provided by the National Office to find a qualified examiner who can retest them on the necessary section(s). If they wish to retest at another scheduled testing, they must contact the National Office within 4 weeks of their testing to make arrangements. Retests must take place within the calendar year. Any exceptions to that deadline must be approved by the National Office and the National Testing Committee. There is no charge for retesting. To achieve the C-3, B and A ratings, candidates must pass all phases of the test.

### Appropriate Horse

It is the responsibility of the candidate and his/her parent(s) or guardian to bring an appropriate horse(s) to the testing. The conditioned mount(s) must be capable of completing all required phases of the test. The mount(s) must also be available for change of riders. Embracing USPC's commitment to safety for all horses and riders is of utmost importance. Failing to follow these guidelines may make it difficult for the candidate to meet the standard on that given day.

Candidates should do outside reading and independent study in an effort to expand knowledge and understanding of all aspects of horsemastership. For the appropriate testing level, this in-depth study should develop sophistication in riding, maturity in training a mount or rider, and flexibility to adapt to horsemastership techniques that vary according to geographic area.

Candidates should also prepare themselves through practical experience in all requirements and possess a thorough understanding of the level tested. However, it is at the discretion of National Examiners as to what is covered during a test.

No candidate shall be allowed to take the test "just for the experience."

The testing shall be a constructive working session. The candidate shall be required to demonstrate and maintain adequate ability in performance and knowledge for the level tested.

Candidates should discuss with the Examiner any problems with the mount being used, should ask questions, and request permission to repeat any performance if so desired.

The attitude and maturity of the candidate shall be considered throughout the testing. Respect for other people and handling of the mounts shall be considered a direct reflection of the candidate's maturity level.

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## STUDY MATERIALS FOR H-B CANDIDATES

\*Note: Item numbers denoted are those found in the current USPC Bookstore Catalog. For availability and pricing please contact the USPC National Office. *Candidate is also responsible for knowledge of information contained in recommended sections of reading lists for all preceding levels.*

### Recommended for H-B Candidates

| No.  | Title   |
|------|---|
| 1330 | United States Pony Clubs Manual of Horsemanship, Volume I   |
| 1340 | United States Pony Clubs Manual of Horsemanship, Volume II  |
| 1350 | United States Pony Clubs Manual of Horsemanship, Volume III |
| 1040 | United States Pony Clubs Standards of Proficiency           |
| 2000 | Horse Management Handbook & Rules for Competition           |
| 9070 | USPC Guide to Longeing Video                                |
| 9032 | USPC Guide to the C3 Standard Video                         |
| 2123 | Grooming to Win   |
| 2129 | Horse Gaits, Balance & Movement                             |
| 2180 | Safe Horse - Safe Rider                                     |
| 9010 | Every Time - Every Ride Video                               |
| 1030 | USPC Guide to the D Standard                                |
| 2010 | USPC Guide to the Health & Maintenance Record Book          |
| 7042 | Horse Owner's Veterinary Handbook                           |
| 7062 | Understanding Equine Medications                            |
| 2215 | Pony Club Safety Information Packet                         |
| 7084 | Veterinary Notes for Horse Owners                           |
| 3046 | Solo Schooling  |

### USPC Discipline Rule Books for:

| No.  | Title        |
|------|--------------|
| 5000 | Eventing     |
| 6000 | Dressage     |
| 3000 | Games        |
| 2001 | Quiz         |
| 3500 | Polocrosse   |
| 5500 | Show Jumping |
| 4000 | Tetrathlon   |

### Enrichment for H-B Candidates

| No.  | Title   |
|------|---|
| 7041 | Horse Foot Care by Butler                                   |
| 2124 | Determining the Age of the Horse                            |
| 2126 | Handbook of Riding Essentials                               |
| 2160 | Feeding and Care of the Horse, 2nd Edition                  |
| 2162 | Thinking Riding Volume I                                    |
| 2163 | Thinking Riding Volume II                                   |
| 7010 | Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy                             |
| 2141 | Maximum Hoof Power  |
| 7043 | Practical Guide to Lameness in Horses                       |
| 5530 | School Exercises for Flatwork & Jumping                     |
| 2199 | Horsefeathers: Facts Versus Myths About Your Horse's Health |
| 7083 | The Equine Body   |
| 2256 | Horse Owners Field Guide to Toxic Plants                    |
| 2257 | No Foot, No Horse   |
| 6073 | Progressive School Exercises                                |
| 8121 | Teaching the Child Rider                                    |
| 2038 | Conformation and Performance                                |

**Local Resources:** Veterinarian, farrier, feed stores, local professionals and Cooperative Extension

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