



The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR SHOW JUMPING SPECIALTY RATINGS

(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

THE SHOW JUMPING C-3 SPECIALTY RIDING STANDARD

Riding Test Expectations: *At initial briefing, discuss expectations for this level. The candidate should maintain a basic balanced position appropriate for jumping that is developed through an independent seat, and is demonstrated by the coordinated use of the aids on the flat, over fences, and in the open. The candidate should initiate and maintain free forward movement with smooth transitions and a steady, light feel of the mount's mouth. The candidate should discuss, demonstrate and evaluate the aids used. The candidate should show confidence and control at all gaits on the flat, over fences, and in the open. The level of riding is at the USEF Level II-III.*

Presentation of Horse and Rider

Correct formal or informal attire.

Candidate should demonstrate effective presentation and control while standing facing and slightly to the side of, rather than directly in front of, the mount. The candidate will hold the reins, one in each hand, close to the bit. Thumbs should not be hooked into bit rings.

Mount should be well-groomed, reflecting daily care, including ears, nose, eyes, dock, sheath or udder, mane and tail (no dan-druff).

Tack to be safe, clean, metal polished, reflecting consistent daily care.

Discuss the purpose and correct fit of mount's equipment.

Riding on the Flat

Demonstrate warm-up for flat work. Critique warm up plan and effectiveness with Examiners.

Ride schooling figures to include circles, half circles and straight lines at each gait. School figures will include circles of 20m, serpentine of 3 loops, lengthening trot and canter, canter changes through walk and trot, 10m half circles at trot and canter, leg yield at trot and/or canter, reinback and turn on the forehand.

Discuss performance with Examiners, including accuracy of transitions and whether or not mount maintained forward motion and was bent correctly on during school figures.

Discuss and be prepared to demonstrate lengthening/shortening of stride as compared to increasing/decreasing speed.

Switches

Demonstrate ability to ride a different mount, initiating free forward movement at each gait, showing confidence and control.

Discuss performance with Examiner, including ways in which the mount was different from own mount.

Gymnastic Jumping Exercises

Set a gymnastic line using a tape measure, after discussing with examiners the distances to be used, at a height of 3'3" to 3'6" including verticals and oxers. Candidates to bring a plan for a gymnastic line they have used for their horse and be prepared to discuss (perhaps at initial briefing).

Demonstrate warm-up for jumping, using exercises appropriate for mount.

Discuss reasons for different lengths of stirrups and the affect on position for different types of work.

Ride over gymnastics without stirrups at 3'.

Courses

Ride over a show jumping course, not to exceed 3'6", to include oxers, verticals, bending lines with related distances as well as at least one (1) combination.

Candidates will discuss and may be asked to demonstrate the necessary skills to ride against the clock, which may include riding bending lines, angled fences, jumping out of short turns and from long or short distances.

Discuss with Examiner(s) their performance and whether their ride(s) could be improved, including the adjustability of their mount's pace, balance and striding while on course.

Switches

Demonstrate ability to ride a different mount, showing confidence and control, over show jumping fences not to exceed 3'.

Evaluate performance and how mount differs from own.

Riding in the Open

Demonstrate a knowledge of pace while riding in a galloping position. Ride at a controlled pace, developing to 350 mpm, using a large circle in an open area individually and in a group, if appropriate.

Ride with pace appropriate to terrain

Ride with control over several derby- type obstacles, not to exceed 3'3". These may include ditches, banks, slopes up and down and a Liverpool.

Discuss performance considering pace, balance and striding while on course.

Evaluate mount's fitness and condition (i.e., vital signs).

Longeing

Supervision is required in the testing of longeing.

Demonstrate proper fit and use of equipment, including bridle or cavesson, saddle or surcingle. (Side reins are allowed if appropriate).

Longe own mount, demonstrating safe longeing techniques and proper use of aids (voice, body position, etc.) at the walk, trot and/or canter, while initiating free forward movement and smooth transitions, making horse appropriate for the C-3 rider.

Bandaging

Independently apply a shipping bandage and a stable bandage.

Discuss purposes and dangers involved with shipping and bandages.

THE SHOW JUMPING B SPECIALTY RIDING STANDARD

Riding Test Expectations: *Candidates should be prepared to discuss and then demonstrate an independent seat and effective tactful use of aids on the flat and over fences. Candidates should ride each mount forward while establishing and maintaining a regular pace with the mount accepting the aids; be confident in coping with any problems; be able to explain the application and reasons for aids and to discuss how it relates to jumping. The level of riding is at the USEF Level III-IV.*

Riding On The Flat

Demonstrate warm-up for working your mount on the aids on the flat in preparation for jumping.

Be prepared to ride the following movements, demonstrating accurate and smooth transitions and correct use of aids:

- Leg yield
- Turn on the forehand
- Turn on the haunches
- Serpentine, 3 loops, sitting and/or posting at trot
- Shallow loop serpentine at counter canter
- 1 stride canter changes of lead through walk and/or trot or show flying changes
- 15-meter circles and 10-meter half circles at sitting trot and/or canter
- Lengthening and shortening of stride at trot and canter
- Reinback
- Be prepared to discuss aids for flying changes

Be prepared to discuss the reasons for the specific warm-up exercises used, the amount of warm-up time required for the mount being ridden and whether you were riding your mount on the aids.

Evaluate and discuss performance with Examiner, including strong and weak points of the mount being ridden.

Ride on the flat without stirrups at all gaits.

Switches

Demonstrate ability to ride different mount with confidence and tact at all gaits while performing schooling figures

Discuss performance, including whether or not each mount was balanced, supple, and moving forward with rhythm and impulsion; in other words 'on the aids'.

Discuss how to relate flat work to jumping.

Gymnastic Jumping Exercises

Candidates will discuss benefits of placing poles and different distances between jumps for gymnastic exercises. Gymnastic lines need to include at least 4 jumping elements with verticals and oxers, finishing at height of 3'9", and may include a bounce. Candidates need to bring plans for, and be prepared to discuss, gymnastic exercises, specifying distances and heights and spreads.

Ride gymnastic line without stirrups, at a height of 3'3", showing a secure and independent position.

Discuss performance over gymnastic lines.

Courses

Candidates will bring a plan for a course appropriate for own mount and be prepared to explain reasons for distances and placement of fences.

After discussion with Examiners, candidates will set a suitable show jumping course.

Demonstrate ability to ride over show jumping course with 50% of course set at 3'9". Course to include bending lines, related distances, single fences, combination fences and rollbacks.

Candidates will discuss and may be asked to demonstrate the necessary skills to ride against the clock, which may include riding bending lines, angled fences, jumping out of short turns and from long and short distances.

Candidates will discuss their performance in relation to the adjustability of their mount(s) balance, pace and striding while on course.

Switches

Candidates will demonstrate their ability to ride different mount(s) over fences with tact and confidence. Course to be shortened and lowered to 3'6".

Critique their performance using same criteria as for their own mounts.

Riding In The Open

Demonstrate a knowledge of pace, and showing the galloping position in an open area, increasing their speed up to 350-400 m/m individually and if appropriate in a group.

Ride own mount over derby type obstacles with control at height not to exceed 3'6", including banks, ditches, jumps on slopes up and down and a Liverpool.

Discuss performance with Examiner(s).

Longeing

Discuss how to teach a mount to longe.

Discuss benefits and dangers of longeing the mount.

Discuss benefits and dangers of longeing the rider.

Discuss and demonstrate proper fit and use of equipment, to include side reins.

Longe own mount, appropriate to mount's ability, at the walk, trot and/or canter, at the discretion of the examiner; to include free forward movement and to establish regular rhythm. Be prepared to use side reins.

Bandaging

Demonstrate shipping, stable, and tail bandages; discuss materials used, reasons for wrapping, potential dangers.

THE SHOW JUMPING A SPECIALTY RIDING STANDARD

Riding Test Expectations: *Candidates must be able to ride different mounts at various stages of training, displaying a confident, consistent, and effective performance on the flat and over fences. Candidates are expected to assess each mount's level of schooling and to ride with tact and empathy for its capabilities, demonstrating awareness and knowledge of different exercises for training challenges. After each performance, the candidate will evaluate and discuss the stage of schooling, including strengths, weaknesses and discuss a plan for training of each mount. The level of riding is at the USEF Level V-VI.*

Riding on the Flat

Demonstrate efficient warm-up appropriate for level of the mount.

Perform exercises to improve each mount's relaxation, free forward movement, impulsion, rhythm, lightness and engagement in order to ride their mount on the aids.

Ride the following school figures and movements at trot and/or canter, maintaining rhythm and impulsion

- leg yield
- turn on the forehand
- haunches-in
- canter from walk
- 10-meter canter circle
- flying changes
- counter canter
- reinback
- showing adjustability necessary to shorten and lengthen stride in all gaits

Ride on the flat without stirrups at all gaits.

Gymnastic Jumping Exercises

Candidates to set up and ride effectively over gymnastics using placing poles and verticals and oxers. The gymnastics should include a bounce, at least 4 jumps and will finish at height of at least 3'9".

Candidates will ride over gymnastic line, at 3'6", without stirrups, showing a secure and independent position.

Candidates will discuss and evaluate their performance over the gymnastics lines.

Courses

Candidates will set up and then ride effectively over a course appropriate for level of mount, with 50% of fences to be at 4'3". The course will include related distances, bending lines, single fences, combinations and rollbacks, as typically seen in USEF Show Jumping Talent Search classes.

Discuss with examiners, trainer to trainer, methods to improve performance after riding the course on their own mount.

Candidates will discuss and may be asked to demonstrate the necessary skills to ride against the clock, which may include riding bending lines, angled fences, jumping out of short turns and from long or short distances.

Candidates will demonstrate ability to ride different mounts over fences with tact and confidence. The course may be shortened and/or lowered for the switches.

Riding In The Open

Ride in an open area at the gallop, demonstrating an effective galloping position, a controlled pace, and ability adapt to varied terrain, individually and if appropriate in a group.

Candidates will ride their own mounts over derby- type obstacles at 3'9", including banks, ditches, jumps on slopes up and down and a Liverpool.

Training

Candidate must bring to the test a less experienced horse to be put into the 'switch pool'.

Ride one or more assigned mounts on the flat and over fences, demonstrating appropriate training techniques.

Evaluate the performance of each mount effectively with understanding of the level of training, their strong and weak points, and any apparent training challenges.

Discuss and demonstrate effectiveness of trotting poles, gymnastic exercises, the shape and distances between fences as training aids.

Discuss how to design a course suitable for assigned mount.

Offer a long-term plan to improve training of the mount on the flat and over fences.

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.

STUDY MATERIALS FOR SHOW JUMPING SPECIALTY 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 All Show Jumping Candidates:

USPC Discipline Rulebooks for:

No. Title

5500 Show Jumping
1330 USPC Manual of Horsemanship, Volume I
1340 USPC Manual of Horsemanship, Volume II
9010 Every Time – Every Ride Video
2010 USPC Guide to the Health & Maintenance Record Book
2158 The Classical Seat
2180 Safe Horse – Safe Rider
2119 Centered Riding
9070 USPC Guide to Successful Longeing Video
2123 Grooming to Win
6073 Progressive School Exercises
2129 Horse Gaits, Balance & Movement
1000 USPC Standards of Proficiency B, H/H-A, A

No. Title

1350 United States Pony Clubs Manual of Horsemanship, Volume III
1040 United States Pony Clubs Standards of Proficiency
3046 Solo Schooling
2126 Handbook of Riding Essentials
5530 School Exercises for Flatwork & Jumping
2038 Conformation and Performance
The Horse Magazine
2223 A Photographic Guide to Conformation

The following books are recommended but may not be available from the USPC Bookstore:

The de Nemethy Method
Reflections on Riding and Jumping
Winning with Frank Chapot
The American Jumping Style
Give Your Horse a Chance
101 Jumping Exercises
The Art of Horsemanship
Horsemanship
Riding Logic
The Cavalry Manual of Horsemanship
Riding & Jumping
Hunt Seat Equitation

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

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