

# HORSE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



**T**here are no new rules specific to Horse Management at rallies for 2006. Much of this newsletter will be used as an opportunity to share information on the tasks facing the Horse Management Committee as we prepare for the future. Part of this newsletter will be used to review and repeat information contained in last year's newsletter so that it does not get lost or forgotten until the rulebook review is completed. So, read on!!!

Horse Management is defined by USPC as a set of skills and base of knowledge needed to safely and competently take care of (manage) horses and ponies on a daily basis. The USPC Mission Statement and Guiding Beliefs both clearly state that "Horse Management" is an integral part of our program. Teaching these skills and knowledge with the belief that this is basic to the well rounded horseperson is what sets USPC apart from all other youth equestrian organizations.

So, why is it that when one hears "Horse Management" s/he almost immediately thinks of Horse Management Judging at competition and all too often in a negative way? Horse Management Judging accounts for a very small percent, maybe 20%, with the other 80% focused on the education of our members towards developing these skills and knowledge base. Horse Management Judging at competition is intended to be the tool by which the organization can assess the effectiveness of our instructional programs and have a better understanding of where change needs to be made or emphasis needs to be placed.

The Horse Management Committee is very excited about the recently developed Horse Management Strategic Plan, which will serve to re-focus the instructional responsibilities of Horse Management. This plan was developed through the brainstorming of a group of experienced volunteers with consideration given to input from rally/Championships evaluations and observations from many different situations. Although initially overwhelmed, the committee is confident and enthusiastic that we will be successful in

obtaining the objectives set forth in this plan. Here is a brief summary of the 4 major areas of focus outlined in this plan.

- Modify Horse Management Judging at rallies to result in improving the rally experience and emphasizing the educational/instructional opportunities afforded by rally towards developing the skills of competent horse care
- Develop a more functional and user-friendly rulebook (*We will have a new handbook/rulebook by the start of the 2007 rally season!!*)
- Use Horse Management to reach more people – this will likely include use of the internet to make Horse Management teaching strategies more available to those both in and outside of Pony Club (*share our knowledge and experience with the world*)
- Develop procedures and methods to enhance the instruction of Horse Management at the club, regional and national levels

The Horse Management Committee values your opinions and will strive to keep you informed of our progress as we plan for the future. The Committee will solicit input from the various layers of our organization when appropriate.

We look forward to our future with enthusiasm as we take on the challenge of "changing the face of Horse Management" from the perception of the Judge to the reality of Teacher.

## **NEW IN 2006 – As agreed by the Joint Councils (for rally and ratings)**

Boots – tall black or brown dress or field boots, or jodhpur/paddock boots with or without a matching full-grain smooth leather half-chap or legging, are allowed. Half-chaps or leggings not made of smooth leather are not allowed.

# HORSE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

## REMINDERS AND REPEATS FROM 2005 NEWSLETTER

**BRAIDING:** Braiding is governed by the discipline rulebook. As of this date, braiding is being permitted at all levels and in all disciplines except Games. The provisions are as follows:

- (1) All braids must be removed immediately after the last ride of the day and before the turn-back at the end of the day;
- (2) Horse Management will not assess points based upon the quality of the braiding;
- (3) Braiding must not interfere with other chores and braiding will not be accepted as an excuse for not having other tasks completed in a timely manner;
- (4) If an object is going to be stood on to braid, it must be safe, solid and capable of holding the competitor's weight; it must have no holes in which the mount may get its foot caught. Mounting blocks and milk crates will be acceptable for braiding. Buckets and pails are NOT acceptable to stand on.

**FIRST-AID:** Latex/Vinyl gloves are a part of the first aid kit. Vinyl gloves are being listed as an approved alternative to latex gloves due to the number of people who have allergic reactions to latex.

**STALL CARDS:** Effective immediately, stall cards must list the competitor's rating. The sex of the mount must be written near the mount's age on the form. Hotel room numbers are **NOT** to be filled in. We want the name and telephone number of the hotel and the name of the person registered in the room where the chaperone will be located. Cell telephone numbers are permitted and encouraged for the stall card information for the competitor and chaperone.

**CHAPERONES:** The Chaperone Duties form now requires that the Chaperone's name be printed neatly in addition to requiring the Chaperone's signature on the form.

**STOCK TIES:** Pre-tied (fake) stock ties are not acceptable. Wearing a stock tie indicates that it could be used in an emergency as a temporary bandage. Since pre-tied stock ties cannot be used as a bandage, they create a false impression. If a competitor is not using a real stock tie, s/he should choose one of the alternative neckwear selections listed in the Horse Management Handbook.

**EXTRA EQUIPMENT, TACK:** Tack items required for extra equipment must be Turn-out inspection clean and ready for use.

**EVALUATION FORMS:** The New Competitor's Evaluation forms for Horse Management must be used by all competitors, Assistant Horse Management Judges, and Rally Organizers. The old forms for the Chief Horse Management Judge and/or for a Mentor Judge shall continue being used. Rally and Facilities Evaluations are for the benefit of the Rally Organizer and should be delivered to the Rally Organizer at the end of the rally; they should NOT be sent to the National Office with the other evaluation forms. THEREFORE, the Rally and Facility Evaluation form should NOT be copied on the back of any other evaluation form. HMOs should review the Chief Judge's Evaluation form to see how each assistant was rated. If an assistant is recommended for the Provisional Chief Program, the HMO should notify the HMO Coordinator of that fact and supply the assistant's contact information.

