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## Resource List

- USPC website [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org)  
USPC Dressage website [www.ponyclub.org/Members/Disciplines/Dressage](http://www.ponyclub.org/Members/Disciplines/Dressage)  
USPC Dressage Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DressageinUSPC>
- USEF website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)
- USEF Rulebook [www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook](http://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook)
- USDF website [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)
- USEF/USDF Dressage Tests [www.usdf.org/downloads/forms/index.asp?](http://www.usdf.org/downloads/forms/index.asp?)
- USDF USDF L Graduates [www.usdf.org/about/contact/graduates.asp](http://www.usdf.org/about/contact/graduates.asp)
- USDF Glossary of Judging Terms [www.usdf.org/publications/](http://www.usdf.org/publications/)

**Reminder:** This is a new rulebook for 2020. Additions, deletions and changes have been made since the last rulebook was issued. Be sure to read the *entire* publication carefully so you will be aware of all the rules for the upcoming rally season.

*This Rulebook should be kept in a 3-ring binder to allow for addition of revisions and new instructional sections. Do not remove pages from your Rulebook; be sure to make copies of all forms and charts before writing on them.*

These rules are based on copyrighted Rules of the U.S. Equestrian Federation and U.S. Dressage Federation and are printed with the permission of the USEF and USDF, which neither sponsor nor are responsible for their publication or implementation at any United States Pony Club event.

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bility. Adult members and leaders should refrain from using alcohol or other substances that may adversely affect their judgment at any time that they are acting, or may be called upon to act in a responsible position.

A notation must be on the medical card/bracelet that a prescription medication is being used. This policy applies for the duration of the Pony Club activity. Duration of a Pony Club activity is defined in USPC Policy 0500 as being "A period of time beginning with the official opening of the activity and ending with the official closing of the activity."

Any underage Pony Club member found to be using, in possession of, or under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or other age restricted or illegal substances during a USPC sponsored activity shall be disqualified and barred from further participation in that activity. Any adult Pony Club member found to be using, in possession of, or under the influence of illegal substances during a USPC sponsored activity shall be disqualified and barred from further participation in that activity.

Any adult attending, participating, assisting with, officiating or chaperoning at any USPC sponsored activity whose behavior is inappropriate or creates a potential hazard to the safety and/or well-being of Pony Club members, officials, mounts, or other individuals may, at the discretion of the officials in charge of the activity, be asked to leave and be barred from the remainder of the activity.

Smoking is strictly forbidden in and around stable areas.

### Article 9—Mounts (Policy 0910.A)

Mounts used at a regional or interregional rally should be the participant's regular USPC mount, and be accustomed to being handled by its rider without adult supervision. A participant may use a mount other than the regular mount only with the advance permission of the DC/CA and RS.

Per USPC Policy suitable mounts are defined as follows:

1. Stallions are not considered suitable mounts.
2. Mounts must be serviceably sound, in good overall health and in condition for the activity in question.
3. Mounts must be appropriate for the certification level of the rider and must be at a level of training to participate safely in the activity.
4. Except as noted below, mounts must be at least five (5) years of age in order to participate in USPC competitive, instructional, and recreational programs and activities. In establishing the age of mounts, the first year is considered to be January 1 following the date of foaling.
5. Members holding a riding certification of C-1 and above may participate in all USPC activities on an appropriate mount at least four (4) years of age (See above). A mount must be excused from any activity if in the opinion of the instructor, examiner, or appropriate authority, it is unsafe either to its rider or to other riders or mounts.

Ownership of a mount is not a prerequisite for membership in USPC. The responsibility for obtaining a suitable mount for mounted activities rests with the parents or guardians of the individual member.

### Article 10—Substitution of Mounts

For all mounted rallies (except Tetrathlon) mount and rider become eligible for Championships as a team. Therefore, a competitor must enter Championships only on the mount they earned eligibility on. In extraordinary circumstances, after becoming eligible for Championships, a substitute mount may be requested utilizing the appropriate form, by the regional supervisor and must be approved by the applicable discipline chair and the Vice President of Activities.

Any substituted entry must meet the same mount and eligibility requirements as the original entry.

No mount substitution may be made once a competition has commenced. Refer to 'Mount Substitution Form'

### Article 11—Sharing of Mounts

**In some disciplines and in some competitions, the sharing of mounts may be allowed.** At regional rallies, the rally organizer in consultation with the RS may allow for the sharing of mounts by competitors. For Championships, requests for shared mounts must be submitted to the appropriate discipline chair, and VPA utilizing the Mount Substitution Form. Each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, for approval or denial. Determination of shared mounts must take into consideration the discipline, competition schedule, and suitability of mount. Obviously, the welfare of the mount should be the highest priority in this situation and all competitors must agree that if the horse management, judges, technical delegate/steward, organizers or HM onsite feel that the health of the mount is in jeopardy at any time that they may be removed from the rest of the riding portion of the competition.

### Article 12—Equine Drugs & Medication (Policy 0910.C)

Per USPC Policy 0910.C. DCs/CAs, RSs, rally organizers, officials and judges must be familiar with and enforce this policy. Parents and competitors must also be familiar with and abide by this policy. Failure to observe this policy will result in disqualification.

1. All mounts in a USPC sponsored activity shall be serviceably sound and healthy. Mounts should be free of medication other than dressings for minor wounds or scrapes, unless under treatment by a veterinarian. Medications and supplements may not be used to provide an unfair advantage over other competitors or to allow an unfit mount to be used.
2. Medication is defined as any substance that is not water, salt, electrolytes, or a supplement and is not considered a

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other competitors, their mounts, spectators, or others will be penalized accordingly.

- Any act or series of actions that in the opinion of the judge, TD, steward, member of the discipline ground jury can be defined as dangerous riding shall be penalized at the discretion of the discipline ground jury.
- If such actions are reported, the discipline ground jury shall decide if there is a case to be answered. If an individual member of the discipline ground jury observes such actions, they may eliminate or penalize the competitor forthwith on their own authority. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury decision.

### Article 15—Safety

USPC is committed to safety while recognizing that equestrian activities are inherently dangerous. **The USPC Safety Handbook is an excellent resource for more making safety a priority at all rallies and Pony Club functions.** This dedication to safety extends to requiring certain equipment be utilized during Pony Club activities and include:

1. Protective Headgear (Policy 0800.A): USPC requires members participating in mounted and some unmounted activities to wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, containing certification that it meets the criteria established by the following international or national safety bodies: ASTM F1163 (North America), AS/NZ 3838 (Australia and NZ), PAS 015 (UK).
2. Safety Vest/Body Protector (Policy 0800.C): USPC requires members to wear a properly fitted equestrian body protector when jumping cross-country or solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by the USPC, its regions, registered clubs or riding center programs. USPC recommends wearing a body protector that is ASTM-certified (manufactured in US) or certified to the BETA Level 3 (manufactured in Great Britain).
3. Medical Armbands and Bracelets (Policy 0800.B):
  - USPC requires that members participating in any USPC affiliated mounted or unmounted activity, must wear either a Medical Armband or Medical Bracelet while participating in the activity. The member may choose which one to wear.
  - Medical armbands must include a current completed copy of the individual's USPC or USEA Medical Card. It must be worn on the upper arm. If the member has small arms, he/she may safety pin the armband to his/her upper sleeve. (Armbands are available for purchase from Shop Pony Club.)
  - Medical bracelets must visibly list these six items on them: name and date of birth, contact information, known allergies, current medications, and existing medical conditions. More information is acceptable, but these six items are required to be on the bracelet

- All officials on site at the USPC mounted or unmounted activity are encouraged to work with the competitors to remind them of this requirement.
- Any member at a USPC affiliated mounted or unmounted activity\* found not wearing either a medical armband or medical bracelet must be removed from the activity until the member conforms to the policy requirements.
- \* Tetrathlon competitors will not be required to wear them while actually shooting or swimming but must have them visible and next to them for these activities and must wear them at all other times.

4. Unmounted Footwear: When working in the barn or near mounts unmounted footwear must meet all the following criteria:

- Thick-soled , shoes/boots (short or tall)
- Cover the ankle
- In good condition
- Made of leather or synthetic materials
- Entirely closed
- Securely fastened
- Well-fitted to foot
- Sturdy construction (e.g., Ugg-type boots do not meet this requirement)

Examples: paddock/jodphur boots, rubber riding boots, rain boots/wellies, western boots.

### Article 16—Heat Related Information

Heat Illness (Policy 0900): USPC requires all Pony Club volunteers in a leadership position within Pony Club and especially anyone involved directly with mounted or unmounted lessons or activities to complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) heat illness training module.

At all USPC activities, rally officials must consider the:

- Temperature and humidity using the "Heat Index Chart" (Appendix II).
- Time of day and season of activity.
- Level of exertion necessary for participation in the activity.

The Heat Index (HI) or "Apparent Temperature" is the temperature the body feels when heat and humidity are combined. This reduces the amount of evaporation of sweat from the body and outdoor exercise becomes dangerous even for those in good shape. Please refer to Appendix II.

Steps to prevent heat related illness include:

- Providing unlimited cool water for consumption in ALL areas, especially riding areas.
- Make water breaks mandatory.
- Do not depend on thirst as an indicator of the need for water.

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- Avoid the hottest part of the day if this is an option.
- Consider shortening the length/level or exertion of the activity.

During rallies, the discipline ground jury (overall ground jury at Championships) is responsible for monitoring the Heat Index and taking appropriate action as necessary. Those actions could include, but are not limited to:

- Waiving of coats/jackets
- Banning of coats/jackets
- Altering of schedule

Any official can and should bring a potentially dangerous heat situation to the attention of the president of the ground jury. If coats/jackets are waived or banned the following processes should be followed.

## Waived Coats/Jackets

When the temperature and humidity are recorded in the danger zone, removal of coats during warm up is MANDATORY.

If the rider wants to put their coat/jacket on for their competition round, then they may leave their neckwear and helmet cover on during warm up.

If the rider does not want to put their coat/jacket on for their competition round, then they must remove all neckwear and their helmet cover during warm up.

## Additional Information

- When coats are waived, the competitors must be turned out per Competition Attire (including coats/jackets) unless they choose to compete wearing Basic Riding Attire.
- Riders must wear a collared shirt with long or short sleeves if they are not wearing a jacket.
- T-Shirts are not permitted.

Competitors must also remove neckwear and helmet covers on vented helmets if they do not wish to wear their jackets for their competitive ride.

## Banned Coats/Jackets

When temperature and humidity are recorded in the danger zone and based on the decision of the discipline ground jury (overall ground jury at Championships) coats/jackets may be banned for the safety of competitors. If coats/jackets are banned then competitors must remove coats/jackets, neckwear and helmet covers for turnout inspections, warm up and for competition rounds.

## Heat Illness Return To Play

A member believed by a leader, coach, parent or official of a USPC unmounted or mounted activity or competition to be suffering from heat illness shall be removed from play at that time and given appropriate treatment before being allowed to return to play.

## Article 17—Concussion and Return to Play

**Concussion (Policy 0900):** USPC requires all Pony Club volunteers in a leadership position within Pony Club and especially anyone involved directly with mounted or unmounted lessons or activities to complete the concussion training module.

A member believed by a leader, coach, parent or official to have sustained a concussion during a USPC unmounted or mounted activity must be referred to medical personnel. Medical personnel in conjunction with rally officials and organizers will determine if a written release is required for the member to return to the competition.

## Article 18—Unauthorized Assistance and Permitted Assistance in all Phases

1. Unauthorized Assistance: Unauthorized assistance is help and/or assistance during the competition from anyone other than other competitors, HMJs, and rally officials. Unauthorized assistance can occur in person or through the use of electronic communication, unless allowed by the specific discipline rulebook (e.g., coaches in certain situations)
2. If, in the opinion of the president of the ground jury, unauthorized assistance has been received by a competitor, that competitor may be eliminated from that phase of the rally, or in extreme cases, disqualified from the entire competition. If there is any question, the discipline ground jury makes the final decision. There is no appeal.
3. Permitted Assistance:
  - Adults may aid in the unloading of mounts and carrying of heavy gear into the stable area upon arrival, after which non-competitors must immediately leave the area.
  - After a fall of a competitor or competitor dismounts, they may be assisted to catch their mount\*, to adjust their saddlery, to remount, or to be handed any part of their saddlery or equipment, including whip, while they are dismounted or after they have remounted. Helmets must be replaced, and retention harnesses refastened before riders may remount.
  - \* Exception for loose mounts in Games only: In Games, a loose mount may be caught by any competitor or Official already in the arena when the loose mount is behind Lines A and C. However, only the mount's rider may enter the playing area to catch it.
  - A competitor may receive clarification of jumping penalties from an obstacle judge, e.g., after jumping a flag at a corner, the judge may clarify whether it was a run-out or not.
  - If bodily harm to mount and/or rider is imminent, assistance from anyone (Official or otherwise), without concern for penalties, is expected. Time permitting, the

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situation should be brought to the attention of an Official. If immediate intervention is necessary, then an Official will be notified as soon as possible concerning the situation.

- If a mount is ill or injured, the owner/agent of the mount will be called in to discuss care.

## Article 19—Excused

1. Jumping disciplines may call this a “Technical Elimination”
2. To grant permission to, or request that a competitor leave the phase/round/game due to circumstances outside of the competitor’s control (e.g., illness of rider, illness or lameness of mount)
3. Decided by
  - Inspection panel at horse inspection
  - Judge
  - Discipline ground jury
4. May not ride; therefore, will not receive any riding score during the Excuse, but
  - May request a lameness recheck
  - Rider may request to compete in following phases/rounds/games after if illness passes.
  - Both the mount and rider shall stay on rally grounds (unless the mount is transported for medical reasons) and continue to participate with the team and continue to be scored in horse management.
  - If ill, mount will be moved to another area, if possible.

## Article 20—Elimination

- Elimination means to exclude a competitor or mount, for cause, from judging consideration in a class/phase. Competitor not scored in a class due to a mistake (e.g., use of illegal equipment, violation of the rules of phase/rounds/games.)
- After elimination, the discipline ground jury in consultation with the organizer, may allow participation in subsequent phases/rounds/games.
- Determined by judge or discipline ground jury.
- Refer to scoring of penalties for additional discipline specific reasons for elimination.

## Article 21—Disqualification

1. Disqualification means that a competitor and his/her mount(s) may not take further part in the competition including in horse management.
2. It is applied at the discretion of the discipline ground jury.
3. Disqualification is a punishment for misconduct arising from a deliberate attempt to contravene the rules and regulations of USPC.

4. Includes but not limited to:

- Cruelty (Article 13);
  - abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct;
  - **obscene or inappropriate language;**
  - the use of drugs (other than those prescribed by a physician), alcohol, or tobacco (Article 8);
  - rude and disruptive behavior;
  - cheating;
  - rough or dangerous riding;
  - knowingly riding a lame, sick, or exhausted mount;
  - misuse of equine medications (USPC Policy 0910.C);
5. If such actions are reported, the discipline ground jury shall decide if there is a case to be answered. If an individual member of the discipline ground jury observes such actions, they may eliminate or penalize the competitor forthwith on their own authority. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury decision
  6. Refer to scoring of penalties for additional discipline specific reasons for disqualification.

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Team chaperones may coordinate with the other parents of the team for lunch or drink arrangements.

### 2. Emergency Contacts:

Any team or competitor above the age of majority must submit a completed Emergency Contact Form with their entry. See Appendix III.

### Article 28—Coaches and Coaching

Dressage coaches are allowed, but not mandatory for all rallies. There may be one or more coaches (may not also serve as chaperone). The presence of a coach at a Dressage rally is to promote safety, good sportsmanship and good horsemanship in the warm-up area and the competition ring. Coaches are expected to help any Pony Club competitor who asks for assistance or whose coach is not present in the warm up area.

Competitors in a rally may also coach other competitors, providing they meet the following criteria:

- Must be 18 years of age as of January 1st of the competition year.
- No scheduling changes will be made to accommodate the coaches/competitors ride times.
- Competitor's responsibilities and mount's care always take precedence over coaching duties.

#### Dressage Coaches:

Must read, understand, sign and return a Coaches Form with the team entry. (Appendix V)

Must know the USPC Dressage rules, especially regarding unauthorized assistance, Article 18. Access to the team is limited and they may not enter the stable area except during authorized visiting times.

At Championship competitions, coaches must attend the opening competitor briefing, and the coaches briefing.

## Chapter 2—Competition Levels and Divisions

### Article 29—Competition Levels

At regional rallies a rider may ride at any level offered, in which they feel their mount would be able to perform. Below are the most commonly offered levels at Dressage rally:

- Introductory
- Training
- First Level
- Second Level
- Third Level
- Fourth Level

### Article 30—Competition Divisions

Competition divisions differ from competition levels in that competitors may be separated into divisions based on age

and/or other parameters. A competitor's age is determined by their age as of January 1 on the year of competition. See Article 5 for more details on age minimums.

Junior Divisions—Up to 17 years of age

Senior Divisions—18 years of age and above

**Note:** Rally divisions can be combined based on entry numbers and approval of the organizer and regional supervisor. Junior competitors can always compete up a division as a Senior to fill out a team. Senior competitors can never compete down in a Junior division. Before combining Junior and Senior aged competitors on the same team rally organizers must get the approval (Appendix IV) of the Junior competitor and their parent/legal guardian.

### Article 31—Championships Divisions—Minimum Age and Certifications

To be eligible for Championships, competitors must meet the age parameters and minimum certifications for the offered Championships divisions. There are no age and no certification exceptions to the below requirements. See Article 5 for more details on age and certification minimums.

Modified Junior Training Level	D-2 DR/Flat/EV/HSE	10-17
Junior Training Level	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE	12-17
Modified Senior Training Level	D-2 DR/Flat/EV/HSE	18+
Senior Training Level	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE	18+
Modified Junior First Level and Up	D-2 DR/Flat/EV/HSE	10-17
Junior First Level and Up	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE	12-17
Modified Senior First Level and Up	D-2 DR/Flat/EV/HSE	18+
Senior First Level and Up	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE	18+

Stable Managers must meet the minimum age criteria of their division, and be a D-2 HM for modified division and a D-3 HM for all other divisions.

**Note:** Championship divisions may be combined based on entry numbers and approval from Vice President of Activities (VPA) and the overall organizer.

### Article 32—Championships Eligibility Process

Each individual Pony Club member who desires to compete at Championships must compete in a regional rally and be judged at the minimum HM level and same competition level in which they intend to compete at Championships. This constitutes the "individual eligibility" of the competitor.

Members wanting to become eligible for Championships must meet the below division criteria.

- Modified Training Level—Participate in a standard or modified Dressage rally at the competition level and earn a minimum score of 55% on Test 2.

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- Training Level—Complete a standard Dressage rally at the competition level and earn a minimum score of 60% on Test 3.
- Modified First Level and Up—Participate in a standard or modified Dressage rally at the competition level and earn a minimum score of 55% on Test 2.
- First Level and Up—Complete a standard Dressage rally at the competition level and earn a minimum score of 60% on Test 3.

### Article 33—Eligibility Requirements for C-3/B/A Certified Members

**Certified C-3, B and A members** wishing to compete at Championships do not have to participate at a regional Dressage rally but must have permission of their RS.

### Article 34—Exceptions to Eligibility Requirements for Championships

Exceptions to the eligibility process are occasionally granted. There are no exceptions to minimum age and certification requirements. The process for requesting an exception is outlined on the Championships Competition Information page of the USPC website. All requests for exceptions must come from the RS to the appropriate discipline chair [using the online application found on the Championships Information Page of the USPC Website](#).

## Chapter 3—Presentation of Competitor and Mount

### Article 35—Competitor Identification

Identification numbers (pinnies, bridle numbers, etc.) must be worn in a prominent manner on competitors/mounts, as designated by rally officials. Pinnies must be worn at all times in the barn area. Competitor nametags must be worn at all times, except when mounted.

### Article 36—Competitor Attire

Each participant is responsible for organizing their own attire and equipment which must meet all safety requirements outlined in Article 15. Competitors should be neat and clean with inappropriate jewelry not permitted; see Horse Management Handbook for specifications. Participants must wear a medical armband or **bracelet** as specified in Article 15.3. A Pony Club pin must be worn at all times unless otherwise stated by rally officials. Felt can be placed behind pins using the below designations:

Certification	Felt Color
A .....	Royal Blue
H-A .....	Orange
B .....	Red
H-HM/H .....	Purple

H-B .....	Brown
C-3 .....	White
C+ .....	Pink
C-1 and C-2 .....	Green
D-1 through D-3 .....	Yellow

Depending on the activity, different attire expectations exist, the different situations and attire expectations are listed below.

1. General Barn Attire—Long pants, mid-length or longer shorts or modest length skirts made of khaki, chino or denim materials of any color, with no rips or tears, a shirt with sleeves, and appropriate unmounted footwear (Article 15.4), are examples of appropriate attire for unmounted work in the barn.
2. Horse Inspection (Jog Outs)—Attire must be safe, appropriate, neat and clean. It must include a helmet (meeting USPC Helmet Policy, Article 15.1), and appropriate unmounted footwear (Article 15.4). Workmanlike and discipline appropriate attire including a tucked in collared shirt with pants/skirt/mid-length shorts/riding pants. If the pants/skirt has belt loops a belt is required. Blue jeans are not acceptable for english discipline horse inspection attire.
2. Turnout Inspection and first round of competition—All competitors must turnout and compete in appropriate competition attire. Any competitors not seeking Championships eligibility may turnout and compete in appropriate competition attire or in basic riding attire as detailed below. In inclement weather, competitors will be allowed to wear a helmet cover and a transparent or conservative colored raincoat.
3. Competition Attire for Dressage:

#### **Required**

**Helmet**—Black or any conservative color meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).

**Shirt**—Shirt of any color with a collar and sleeves, tucked into pants.

**Hair**—Hair should be neatly secured and away from the eyes.

**Neckwear**—Stock tie, choker, tie or integrated stand-up collar. Traditional stock ties require a stock pin, pre-tied stock ties may be worn with or without stock pin.

**Coat/Jackets/Vest**—Short riding coat of solid conservative color. A cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tail is permitted. Competitors may compete without a jacket. In such cases, the shirt must be neatly tucked into the riding breeches.

**Pants**—Jodhpur or breeches. White or light color.

**Belt**—If pants have belt loops, belts are required.

**Footwear**—Conventional type of riding footwear with a heel that covers the ankles are required. Through First Level, tall

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black or brown dress or field boots, or jodhpur/paddock boots with matching full grain smooth leather leg piece or leather-like material are allowed. Above First Level must wear tall black or brown dress or field boots.

### **Recommended**

Gloves—Conservative colors.

### **Permitted**

Spurs—Must be english style, no longer than 2 " including rowels. If curved must be pointed down. "Dummy" spurs with no shank are allowed.

Safety/Protective Vests—Any color.

### **Not Permitted**

Full chaps and/or suede half-chaps, pastel and dark colored breeches

4. Basic Riding Attire for Dressage:

### **Unrated and D-1**

#### **Required**

Helmet—Any color and meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).

Hair—Hair should be neatly secured and away from the eyes.

Shirt—Collared shirt with sleeves and tucked in.

Pants—Long pants.

Footwear—Conventional type of riding footwear, short or tall, with a heel that covers the ankles are required.

#### **Permitted**

Belt—Any type/color.

Gloves—Any type/color.

Half-chaps—Any type/color.

### **D-2 and up**

Rider must be in safe, neat, and clean attire.

#### **Required**

Helmet—Any color and meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).

Hair—Hair should be neatly secured and away from the eyes.

Shirt—Collared shirt with sleeves and tucked in.

Pants—Breeches, jodhpurs (with garters and/or pant clips) or riding pants.

Belt—If pants have belt loops, belts are required.

Footwear—Conventional type of riding footwear, short or tall, with a heel that covers the ankles are required.

#### **Permitted**

Gloves—Any type/color.

Half-chaps—Any type/color.

5. Musical Tests Costume Attire for Dressage:

Costumes will be allowed for Musical Freestyles, Pas de Deux and Quadrille Freestyles. Competitors must have the approval of their RS as to the suitability of the costumes. Guidelines for costumes are listed below.

### **Required**

Helmet—Any color and meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).

Footwear—Conventional type of riding footwear with a heel that covers the ankles are required.

Tack—Tack must be under the guidelines listed in Article 37.

### **Permitted**

Polo Wraps—Polo wraps are allowed if they are part of the costume.

### **Not Permitted**

Long Capes

Whips

Clothing wrapped around the neck

Clothing that can get tangled around the rider or the horse

Items covering mount's body

Prohibited tack as described in Article 37 is still prohibited, except polo wraps or other boots in certain circumstances.

## **Article 37—Bits, Saddlery and Equipment**

The following information is the most basic description of allowable bits, saddles and equipment for Dressage. Final determination of permitted and prohibited bits, saddlery and equipment may require referencing the USEF Dressage Rulebook and Annex A which are both available on the USEF website for the most up to date information.

All competitors must turnout and compete per the specific bits, saddlery and equipment rules outlined in this rulebook and the USEF Dressage Rulebook and Annex A. Any competitors not pursuing Championships eligibility may request bits, saddlery and equipment allowances from the rally organizer and regional supervisor. (i.e., kimberwicke bits, grazing reins, standing martingale, etc.)

The following restrictions begin upon arrival on the competition grounds and continue throughout the duration of the rally.

1. Bits and Nosebands

A. All bits must be properly fitted and consistent with its intended use. For Training, First and Second Level tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment) or a crossed noseband.

B. Except for the buckles and a small disk of sheepskin, which may be used in the intersection of the two

## SECTION III: Competition

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### Article 39—Competition Format

USPC Dressage rallies are competitions where teams compete against each other in both riding and Horse Management competition. USPC Dressage rally rules and procedures are based on USEF and USDF rules. Refer to the USEF or USDF website for additional clarification: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org), [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org).

### Article 40—Competition Schedule

The following is a general schedule for a Dressage rally. Final schedules will be determined by number of tests performed and competition management.

1. Briefing—Competitors are responsible for knowing all information from all official briefings whether present or absent. At least one representative from each team must be present at every official briefing.
2. Horse Inspection (formerly jog out)—required at standard rallies and recommended for all rallies. Opportunity to inspect mounts for soundness.
3. Turnout Inspection—Each rider reports at the assigned time and location for the turnout inspection with the mount. Riders must present for turnout inspection in the exact attire and with all the equipment they will wear/use in the first riding phase of the competition.
4. First Dressage test
5. One or more subsequent tests of competition may occur on the same or later days. Prior to each additional ride a complete Safety Check of each competitor's attire, mount, and equipment must take place.
6. Turnback—Following riding phases, there may be an official check (turnback) of the mount, tack and equipment used for that phase.
7. Awards

## Chapter 1—Arenas

### Article 41—Dimensions and Nature of the Competition Arenas

1. At Championships, all tests, including Freestyles, Quadrilles and Pas de Deux, will be ridden in standard arenas.
2. The arena should be on as flat and as level ground as possible. It is recommended that the difference in elevation across the diagonal or along the length of the arena shall in no case exceed 0.50 meters. It is recommended that the difference in elevation along the short side of the arena shall in no case be more than 0.20 meters. The standard arena is 60 meters long and 20 meters wide. The small arena is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. The following must be held in a standard arena: USEF First Level tests and above, and musical freestyles, except those tests written for a small arena. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure. It is recommended that

arenas be separated from the public by a distance of not less than 15 meters. The enclosure itself should consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high. The fence should be such to prevent the mount's hooves from becoming entangled, and arena stakes, if used, must be covered by a ball or similar object so as to prevent injury. Rope, concrete or unbreakable chain fencing is not allowed. The part of the fence at A should be easy to remove to let the competitors in and out of the arena in a suitable way. The part of the fence at A can remain open. The letter A must be placed at least five (5) meters away from the arena. No publicity is permitted anywhere on the arena fence.

3. The letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.5 meters from the fence and clearly marked. So that the judges can note the exact point on the track opposite each letter, it is desirable to place a special marker on the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned. It is permissible to decorate the letters with flowers or greenery to enhance the appearance of the arena.
4. A separate enclosure (booth, tent, trailer, vehicle) should be provided for the judge and scribe. This must be placed outside the arena about five meters from the edge of the arena and in line with the center line running from the letter "A" to the letter "C." This enclosure should be raised at least 0.5 meters (20-inches) and for Freestyle Tests possibly a little higher above the ground to give the judge(s) a good view of the ring.
5. Where local conditions necessitate, use of a modified arena is acceptable as long as the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list.

### Article 42—Schooling Area/Warm-Up

A schooling/warm-up area must be provided. The schooling/warm-up area should be near, but not necessarily next to, the competition arena. It does not have to be enclosed.

In cases where there is limited space for schooling/warm-up. The number of mounted allowed to warm-up at one time may be restricted by rally organizers.

## Chapter 2—Types of Classes

### Article 43—Technical Tests

1. A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the final salute, as soon as the mount moves forward.
2. Anything before the beginning or after the end of the test has no effect on the marks. The competitor should leave the arena in the way prescribed in the test.
3. After the sound of the bell, the competitor should enter the arena at A as soon as possible. Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination.

## SECTION IV: Scoring

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- A. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry
  - B. Dress code violations inside the competition ring at the discretion of the discipline ground jury except elimination is mandatory for failure to wear properly secured headgear. (Article 15.1)
  - C. Use of illegal equipment (Article 37)
  - D. Unauthorized assistance (Article 18)
  - E. Three errors of the course and/or test (Article 51)
  - F. Fall of mount or rider
  - G. Mount's tongue tied down (Article 37)
  - H. Late entry into the arena
  - I. All four feet of the mount leave the arena with or without the rider (Article 44)
  - J. Marked lameness (Article 38)
  - K. Resistance of longer than 20 seconds (Article 48)
  - L. Concern for the safety of rider, other exhibitors or their entries
  - M. Evidence of blood on a mount in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination from the class by the judge at "C." Evidence of blood on a mount outside the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by competition management, after consultation with the technical delegate, from either the last class in which the mount competed or next class in which it is scheduled to compete, depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred. Environmental causes such as insect bites shall normally not be cause for elimination.
  - N. Schooling in the dressage arena after it has been prepared for competition and before the actual competition.
  - O. Failure to wear a competitor number (Article 35)
  - P. Not wearing a helmet when mounted (Article 15.1)
  - Q. Any situation where a direct rule violation can be cited. Where a violation cannot be cited, a competitor is not eliminated.
2. Only the officiating judge may eliminate a competitor for a rule violation listed under this article, only from the test in question, and (except for late entry into the arena) only after the competitor has entered the arena. Members of the discipline ground jury have no authority to eliminate under any other circumstances, except for use of illegal equipment during the test. Authority for rule enforcement outside the competition rings rests solely with the competition discipline ground jury. Competition discipline ground jury has the authority to eliminate for use of illegal equipment during a test that is discovered after the competitor has left the arena.

### Article 56—Scoring of Disqualification

Competitors (or teams) who are disqualified from competition shall have all their scores from the competition stricken. If the disqualification of a competitor causes an already short team, to become a shortened team, then shortened team ghost scoring will apply. If a stable manager is disqualified, all the team's HM points accumulated points will be split evenly among the remaining team members. Disqualified competitors and their horses may not take further part in the rally, and may be asked to leave the grounds. A disqualified competitor/team may not receive an award.

The discipline ground jury may disqualify a competitor and/or a team from competition, for the reasons stated in Article 21. Decisions of the discipline ground jury are final.

### Article 57—Team Scoring

1. Based on the number of mounted competitors, teams may or may not have a drop score. Four rider teams will drop the worst (lowest) score for each round of tests. Three rider teams will keep all three scores from each phase. If horse management ghost scores are needed, those will be calculated per the current Horse Management Handbook.

Team totals will be calculated by totaling final riding scores with the Horse Management Bonus Score for the team totals. The final score is calculated using the below formula.

Overall Score = Riding Score + HM Bonus Score

HM Bonus Score = Maximum HM Score—(Total HM Penalties X multiplier)

The Maximum HM Score and the multiplier vary according to the number of rounds

- For a four-round rally, HM Bonus Score = 300—(Total HM Penalties X 3)
  - For a three-round rally, HM Bonus Score = 225—(Total HM Penalties X 2.25)
  - For a two-round rally, HM Bonus Score = 150—(Total HM Penalties X 1.5)
2. In extraordinary circumstances when a short team (three rider team) becomes a shortened team (two rider and one stable manager), prior to the start of competition, the following team scoring will take effect.
- A. In the event of the competitor being removed completely from the team. Ghost Horse Management scores will be determined per the Horse Management Handbook. Ghost riding scores will be determined by averaging the riding scores of the two remaining competitors.
  - B. In the event of the competitor no longer being able to participate in the riding portion of the competition. They shall continue to earn Horse Management scores, and ghost riding scores will be determined by

## SECTION IV: Scoring

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averaging the riding scores of the two remaining competitors.

Please note: The above scoring is not to be used in a 4 man team's loss of a rider or mount. Only to be used with a 3 man team rather than losing a team completely from the rally.

### Article 58—Individual Scoring

While rallies are normally scored only as teams, there are some instances when the tabulation of individual scores is necessary. To determine an individual's score:

1. The percentage scores of each competitor's rides will be added together.
2. The total scores, including all Horse Management scores, will be added from the competitor's positive riding score.
3. The winning individual is that individual who has the highest total score after all scores have been added. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken first by the best Dressage score, then by the best Dressage collective marks, and, finally, by the best Horse Management score.

### Article 59—Posting of Scores

Depending on the length of the rally, scores may be posted multiple times during the rally or just once. Any time scores are posted there is a 30-minute inquiry period where competitors can inquire regarding the scores (Article 58). After the final inquiry period, the only changes that can occur are if a transcription error has occurred. Following the final inquiry period, final scores for all competitors must be posted for review by competitors, parents, coaches, etc.

Anytime scores are posted during the competition, there will be an announcement of official score posting and time.

### Article 60—Placing of Teams

The winning team is that with the best (highest) final score after riding scores and the Horse Management bonus score are added together.

#### Ties:

In a team competition, ties will be decided on the following conditions:

1. Add each individual competitor's test scores to get a total individual score, then rank the individuals on the team. The team whose third-ranked competitor has the highest total score wins the tie.
2. Add the collective marks for each individual from all tests to get a total collective mark score for each rider, then rank the individuals and add total collective mark scores for the top 3 riders on the team. The highest total of all collective marks for the top three riders in all rides wins the tie.

#### Awards:

Overall team and Horse Management awards are usually presented at mounted rallies. Other awards may be also be given and all awards must be published in the prize list.

#### Please Note:

1. A disqualified horse/rider combination may not be placed or receive an award.
2. Teams reduced to two riding members may not be considered in the final placing, but scores may be continued for team members' information.



# SECTION VI: Appendices

## Appendix V USPC Dressage Rally Technical Delegate's Evaluation and Report

*(This form is also available electronically on the USPC website.)*

\*=information required; circle yes or no when you see **(yes/no)**.

TD/Steward's Name \* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

TD/Steward's Email Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

TD/Steward's License number and affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Organizer's Name \* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

Organizer's Email Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

CHMJ Name\* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

CHMJ Email Address \* \_\_\_\_\_ Number of AHMJ's\* \_\_\_\_\_

### Rally Information

Region \* \_\_\_\_\_ Rally Start Date \* \_\_\_\_\_ Rally End Date \* \_\_\_\_\_

Rally locations (please include all if multiple) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this a standard rally? \* \_\_\_\_\_

Did you have a CURRENT copy of the Discipline's Rulebook? \*(yes/no)

Did you read the rulebook prior to attending the rally? \* (yes/no)

Was the entire rally conducted according to these rules? \* (yes/no)

Did Horse Management function according to the rules? \* (yes/no)

Did you have any problem with a stated rule? \* (yes/no) If yes, please tell us why. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did you have a situation for which there was not a stated rule? \* (yes/no) If yes, please describe the situation. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did any competitors receive Yellow Cards given during the rally? (yes/no) If yes, how many and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were any competitors disqualified during the rally? \* (yes/no) If so, please tell us who and why \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Was the rally well-organized? **(yes/no)** Please describe \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were the facilities suitable for all phases of the rally? **(yes/no)** If no, please describe areas of concern. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were the organizers and other officials friendly and supportive to competitors and each other? \* **(yes/no)**

Was sufficient personnel provided to manage all phases? \* **(yes/no)**

Were medical personnel & equipment (EMT, ambulance) on the grounds during mounted activities and on call at all times? \* **(yes/no)**

Were any accident reports filed \* **(yes/no)**

For the duration of the rally, was safety placed as a priority? **(yes/no)** Please describe \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were the communications suitable for all phases of the rally? (yes/no) If no, please describe areas of concern. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were briefings held? (yes/no) Please describe. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Was the rally a learning experience for all competitors? \* **(yes/no)** Please describe \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel you were given all the materials to do your job effectively? \* **(yes/no)** If no, please describe why not. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Horse Management Review

As the Technical Delegate/Steward, you are charged with the first level of reviewing the decisions in Horse Management. Under the rules of competition, the initial protest from the decision of the Chief Horse Management Judge is to the Technical Delegate/Steward. A protest can only be made by the team or individual competitor against whom an adverse decision is made. Therefore if a protest comes to you to reconsider the decision of the Chief Horse Management Judge and you do NOT sustain the decision of the judge, the protest is concluded. If you do sustain the Chief Horse Management Judge, then a protest can be placed before the Discipline Ground Jury.

Were all inquiries/protests that were brought to you as TD/Steward in written form on the official form?\* **(yes/no)**

Do you have any comments on the Horse Management competition at this rally? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any additional comments or thought you would like to share? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Rally Competitor Numbers

Please utilize the lines below to indicate what competition divisions were offered and the number of teams and competitors in each.

	Level/ Division*	Number of Teams*	Number of Competitors*	Number of Competitors with D-2 Certification above 10 years of age*	Number of Competitors with C-1 Certification above 12 years of age*
Junior Introductory	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Introductory	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Junior Training Level	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Training Level	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Junior First Level and Up	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior First Level and Up	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other (please specify)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

President of the Ground Jury's Name \* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

President of the Ground Jury's Email Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

President of the Ground Jury's License number and affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name \* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Email Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's License number and affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name \* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Email Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's License number and affiliation \_\_\_\_\_