

# Pony Club<sup>®</sup>

*Where it all begins*



## **Dressage Rulebook**

2021

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## THE USPC PLEDGE

*As a Member of the United States Pony Club,  
I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship.  
I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and  
take winning or losing in stride, remembering that without good  
manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being.  
I shall endeavor to maintain the best tradition of the ancient and  
noble skill of horsemanship, always treating my horse  
with consideration due a partner.*

## USPC MISSION STATEMENT

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. develops character, leadership, confidence, and a sense of community in youth through a program that teaches the care of horses and ponies, riding and mounted sports.

## Introduction

The object of dressage is the harmonious development of the horse in both mind and body. Every horse, regardless of its type or use, can benefit from this training. Dressage requires the horse and rider to combine strength and agility with the elegance and beauty of ballet.

## Competitions

Competitions are held at many levels, beginning with Walk-Trot and Training Level, and continuing through nine levels to Grand Prix. A dressage test is a series of movements, performed at various gaits, designed to test the rider's ability to communicate with their horse. Each movement is performed at a specified point in the arena and is scored individually on a scale from 0 to 10. A score of 0 means no portion of the movement was executed, while a score of 10 shows excellent execution. The individual scores are added and then calculated as a percentage of possible points to come up with a final score. The highest percentage wins the class.

## USPC CORE VALUES

**H**orsemanship with respect to healthcare, nutrition, stable management, handling and riding a mount safely, correctly and with confidence.

**O**rganized teamwork including cooperation, communication, responsibility, leadership, mentoring, teaching and fostering a supportive yet competitive environment.

**R**espect for the horse and self through horsemanship; for land through land conservation; and for others through service and teamwork.

**S**ervice by providing an opportunity for members, parents, and others to support the Pony Club program locally, regionally and nationally through volunteerism.

**E**ducation at an individual pace to achieve personal goals and expand knowledge through teaching others.

Tests are different for each level and are written so there is a way to consistently measure the horse's progress through the levels. Judges are looking for accuracy, obedience, suppleness of the horse, quality of the gaits, and the rider's use of the aids. There are also musical freestyle dressage tests for individual riders, pairs, and groups of four or more.

## Dressage in Pony Club

Pony Club offers many ways to compete in and learn about the sport of Dressage. Members can participate in a dressage rally—a competition where members compete as a team and are judged not only on their riding skills, but also how well they take care of their mounts. Pony Club offers Dressage Certifications from the very basic D-2 level all the way through the highest level of accomplishment, the A level. Certifications are a series of tests completed by members as they gain skills and abilities in both horse management and riding. Certifications provide a way to measure the rider's skill set as they progress in their riding careers.

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# Table of Contents

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## SECTION I: USPC Rally Uniform Officiation Rules (UOR)

Article 1—Rally Definition .....	1
Article 2—Governing Rules .....	1
Article 3—Responsibility .....	1
Article 4—Legal Liability .....	1
Article 5—Member Participation and Eligibility .....	2
Article 6—Member in Good Standing .....	2
Article 7—Code of Conduct Expectations .....	2
Article 8—Human <b>Substances and Weapons Policy</b> .....	2
Article 9—Mounts .....	2
Article 10—Substitution of Mounts .....	3
Article 11—Sharing of Mounts .....	3
Article 12—Equine Drugs & Medication .....	3
Article 13—Cruelty to and Abuse of a Mount .....	3
Article 14—Dangerous Riding .....	4
Article 15—Safety .....	5
Article 16—Heat Related Information .....	5
Article 17—Concussion and Return to Play .....	6
Article 18—Unauthorized Assistance and Permitted Assistance in all Phases .....	6
Article 19—Excused .....	7
Article 20—Elimination .....	7
Article 21—Disqualification .....	7

## Section II: General Regulations

### Chapter 1—Team Composition

Article 22—Team Formation .....	8
Article 23—Team Configuration .....	8
Article 24—Team Captains .....	8
Article 25—Stable Managers .....	8
Article 26—Mount Specifications .....	8
Article 27—Chaperones/Emergency Contacts .....	8
Article 28—Coaches and Coaching .....	9

### Chapter 2—Competition Levels and Divisions

Article 29—Competition Levels .....	9
Article 30—Competition Divisions .....	9
Article 31—Championships Divisions—Minimum Age and Certifications .....	9
Article 32—Championships Eligibility Process .....	9
Article 33—Eligibility Requirements for B/A Certified Members .....	10
Article 34—Exceptions to Eligibility Requirements for Championships .....	10

### Chapter 3—Presentation of Competitor and Mount

Article 35—Competitor Identification .....	10
Article 36—Competitor Attire .....	10
Article 37—Bits, Saddlery and Equipment .....	11
Article 38—Competitor and Horse Inspection .....	12

## SECTION III: Competition

Article 39—Competition Format .....	14
Article 40—Competition Schedule .....	14

### Chapter 1—Arenas

Article 41—Dimensions and Nature of the Competition Arenas .....	14
Article 42—Schooling Area/ <b>Warm-Up</b> .....	14

### Chapter 2—Types of Classes

Article 43—Technical Tests .....	14
Article 44—Scoring of Technical Tests .....	15
Article 45—Musical Tests .....	15
Article 46—Scoring of Musical Tests .....	16
Article 47—Optional Classes .....	17

### Chapter 3—Rules Governing the Dressage Test

Article 48—Judging of Test .....	17
Article 49—Calling of Test .....	18
Article 50—Voice .....	18
Article 51—Errors .....	18

## SECTION IV: Scoring

Article 52—Points and Penalties .....	19
Article 53—Inquiries, Protests and Appeals .....	19
Article 54—Scoring of Excused .....	20
Article 55—Scoring of Elimination .....	20
Article 56—Scoring of Disqualification .....	21
Article 57—Team Scoring .....	21
Article 58—Individual Scoring .....	22
Article 59—Posting Scores .....	22
Article 60—Placing of Teams .....	22

## SECTION V: Officiation

Article 61—Rally Organizer .....	23
Article 62—Technical Delegate (TD) .....	23
Article 63—Discipline Ground Jury .....	23
Article 64—President of the Discipline Ground Jury .....	24
Article 65—Overall Ground Jury/Appeals Committee (for Multiple Championships) .....	24
Article 66—Horse Management Judges .....	24
Article 67—Chief Horse Management Judge (CHMJ) .....	24
Article 68—Dressage Judges .....	24
Article 69—Inspection Panel .....	24
Article 70—Veterinarian .....	25
Article 71—Chief Scorekeeper .....	25
Article 72—Required Medical Personnel .....	25

# Table of Contents

---

## SECTION VI: Appendices

Appendix I	Mounted Competitions Scoring Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Form .....	27
Appendix II	Heat Illness and Heat Index Chart .....	29
Appendix III	Chaperone and Emergency Contact Forms .....	30
Appendix IV	Junior/Senior Team Formation .....	33
Appendix V	USPC Dressage Rally Technical Delegate Evaluation and Report .....	34
Appendix VI	Dressage Coaches Form and Guidelines .....	37
Appendix VII	Dressage Yellow (Warning) Card .....	38
Appendix VIII	Permitted Bits and Nosebands .....	39
Appendix IX	Dressage Arenas .....	43

## 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 2021. 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.



# SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

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## Article 5—Member Participation and Eligibility

### Participation in Rallies:

At local, regional, and inter-regional rallies, participants may be of any age or certification, must be a member in good standing, must have paid all local, regional, and national dues, insurance fees, and their membership be on record with the USPC National Office at the time of the rally. Members, parents, and anyone participating in USPC activities must all abide by the applicable Code of Conduct. Members seeking Championships eligibility must meet the criteria determined by the discipline committee and outlined later in this document. For rally purposes, the member's age as of January 1st shall be the age of record throughout the competition year.

### Championships Competitor Age and Certification:

Each discipline/division has minimum age and certification requirements for participation in Championships. Championships competitors must meet the age requirement based on their age on January 1 of the Championships' competition year. They must have competed at the minimum or higher certification level at a standard rally and have achieved the minimum certification level by the closing date of the Championships. Therefore, any autumn standard rallies should base their division entry status on the competitor's age for the following year and take into account planned advancements in certification level.

District Commissioners (DCs) and Center Administrators (CAs) are responsible for the eligibility of competitors and mounts at all rallies. It is the responsibility of DCs/CAs and club/center primary instructors to see that mounts and riders are entered in rallies at the level corresponding to the combination's abilities, to make all competitors aware of health requirements i.e., Coggins, immunizations and state health certificates with valid dates, and to see that entry forms are complete and submitted to the rally secretary on time. It is also the responsibility of DCs/CAs to see that all Pony Club members in their jurisdiction have access to a copy of the current USPC discipline rulebook, current USPC Horse Management Handbook (HMH), current USPC discipline annual newsletter(s) and any other relevant information from the USPC discipline committees or the organizer of a specific rally where they will be competing.

## Article 6—Member in Good Standing

Members are considered in good standing if they are current with all dues and fees owed the registered club/riding center program, and region.

## Article 7—Code of Conduct Expectations

Anyone not conforming to the code of conduct is subject to the following action: the officials of the competition may immediately suspend or expel any individual from the competition upon consulting with the discipline ground jury.

DCs, CAs, RSs, rally organizers, officials and judges must be familiar with, and enforce, the Participating Member and Adult Code of Conduct.

### Participating Member Code of Conduct

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is proud of its reputation for good sportsmanship, horsemanship, teamwork and well-behaved members. The USPC expects appropriate behavior from all members, parents and others participating in any USPC activity. Inappropriate behavior may include, but is not limited to: possession, use or distribution of any illegal drugs or alcohol; profanity, vulgar language or gestures; harassment (i.e., using words or actions that intimidate, threaten or persecute others before, during or following USPC activities); failure to follow rules; cheating; and abusing a mount.

### Adult Code of Conduct

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is proud of its reputation for good sportsmanship, horsemanship, teamwork and well-behaved members. It expects no less from the parents, guardians, adult family members or others who volunteer for the organization. The USPC expects appropriate behavior when participating in any Pony Club activity. Inappropriate behavior may include, but not be limited to: profanity, vulgar language or gestures; harassment (for example: using words or actions that intimidate, threaten or persecute others before, during or following any Pony Club activity); failure to follow rules; cheating; or abusive behavior.

*"I understand that USPC activities operate under the governance of USPC and are subject to all applicable USPC By-laws, Policies, Rules and Regulations. I understand that I have access to these By-laws, Policies, Rules and Regulations and that it is my responsibility to read them. I agree to adhere to these By-laws, Policies, Rules, Regulations and this Code of Conduct."*

## Article 8—Human Use of and Alcohol & Drugs Policy (Policy 0500)

In the interest in the safety and welfare of all, it is the policy of the Board of Governors, during any Pony Club activities, to prohibit the inappropriate or illegal use of any substance, including but not limited to drugs or alcohol, by anyone participating in any manner. Weapons of any kind are forbidden.

## Article 9—Mounts (Policy 0840)

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.

## SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

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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 RS 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 the Mount Substitution online application found on the Championships Information page of the USPC website.**

### 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 online application found on the Championships Information page of the USPC website. 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. The welfare of the mount will be the highest priority in this situation and all

competitors must agree that if the horse management, judges, technical delegate/steward, or organizers 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—Veterinary Care and Medications (Policy 0860 and 0860.P1)

**Per USPC Policy 0860 and 0860.P1. 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 normal foodstuff. It is administered either orally, via stomach tube, by application to an external surface, or by injection.
3. Any mount under treatment by a veterinarian for a condition requiring administration of a medication while at a Pony Club activity or competition shall have a veterinarian's certificate stating the diagnosis, medication, dosage and method of administration.
4. Supplements that are administered to any mount at a Pony Club activity or competition must be recorded on the mount's feed chart and stall card.
5. Medications or supplements may only be administered by the owner of the mount, or by a person designated by the owner of the mount.
6. If, during the course of an activity, it becomes necessary to administer a tranquilizer, stimulant, or depressant (e.g., for suturing) the mount may not be used while under the influence of the medication.
7. Competitors at a rally shall be governed by the procedures on the use of equine medications and supplements described in the Horse Management Handbook.

For any competitions recognized by USEF, or in states that require it, mounts may be drug tested.

### Article 13—Cruelty to and Abuse of a Mount

**Cruelty to or the abuse of a mount present on the grounds of any competition is forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty. The organizing committee must bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the competition.**

# SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

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Any action(s) against a mount by a competitor or other person, which are deemed excessive by a judge, steward, technical delegate or competition veterinarian, in the competition ring or anywhere on the competition grounds may be punished by official warning, elimination, or other sanctions which may be deemed appropriate by the organizing committee. Such action(s) may include, but are not limited to excessive use of the whip or spurs.

USPC, judges, stewards, or TDs may appoint a veterinarian to inspect any animal on competition grounds or entered to compete. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after due notification shall constitute a violation.

The following are included under the words cruelty and abuse but are not limited thereto:

1. Abuse. Any act or series of actions that, in the opinion of a judge, TD, steward, member of the discipline ground jury or other rally official can clearly and without doubt be defined as abuse of mounts shall be penalized by disqualification. Such acts include, but are not limited to:
  - Riding an exhausted mount.
  - Excessive pressing of a tired mount.
  - Excessive use of whip and/or spurs, and/or bit.
  - Striking a mount in front of the shoulder.
  - Riding an obviously lame mount.
2. Rapping. All rapping (poling) is forbidden.
3. Whip. The use of the whip must be for a good reason, at an appropriate time, in the right place, and with appropriate severity.
  - Reason—The whip must only be used either as an aid to encourage the mount forward, or as a reprimand. It must never be used to vent a rider's temper. Such use is always excessive.
  - Time—As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a mount is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. As a reprimand, the only appropriate time is immediately after a mount has been disobedient, e.g., napping or refusing. The whip should not be used after elimination. The whip should not be used after a mount has jumped the last fence on a course or completed the last obstacle.
  - Place—As an aid to go forward, the whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the rider's leg. As a reprimand, it must only be used behind the rider's leg. It must never be used overhand, e.g., a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank. The use of a whip on a mount's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.
  - Severity—As a reprimand only, a mount may be hit hard. However, it should never be hit more than two times for any one incident. If a mount is marked by the whip, e.g., the skin is broken, its use is excessive.

4. End of the Reins (Western Trail only) - The use of the end of the reins must be for a good reason, at an appropriate time, in the right place, and with appropriate severity.

- Reason—The end of the reins must only be used either as an aid to encourage the mount forward, or as a reprimand. It must never be used to vent a rider's temper. Such use is always excessive.
  - Time—As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a mount is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. As a reprimand, the only appropriate time is immediately after a mount has been disobedient, e.g., napping or refusing. The end of the reins should not be used after elimination.
  - Place—As an aid to go forward, the end of the reins may be used down the shoulder or behind the rider's leg. As a reprimand, it must only be used behind the rider's leg. It must never be used overhand, e.g., the end of the reins in the right hand being used on the left flank. The use of the end of the reins on a mount's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.
  - Severity—As a reprimand only, a mount may be hit hard. However, it should never be hit more than two times for any one incident. If a mount is marked by the end of the reins, e.g., the skin is broken, its use is excessive.
5. Spurs—Spurs must not be used to reprimand a mount. Such use is always excessive, as is any use that results in a mount's skin being broken.
  6. Bit—The bit must never be used to reprimand a mount. Any such use is always excessive.
  7. Reporting—Officials must report such actions as soon as possible to the discipline ground jury, supported where possible by statements from witnesses.
    - 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 are obliged to disqualify the competitor forthwith on their own authority. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury's decision in a case of abuse.

## Article 14—Dangerous Riding

- Any competitor who rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or wellbeing of the competitor, mount, 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. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury decision.

# SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

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## Article 15—Safety (Policy 0800)

USPC is committed to safety while recognizing that equestrian activities are inherently dangerous. The USPC Safety Handbook is an excellent resource for 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 0810): 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 0830): 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. A member may wear a body protector at their discretion for any mounted activity. 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 0820 and 0820P):
    - 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, they 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.

5. Smoking: In the interest of barn safety, it is strictly forbidden for anyone to smoke in or around barn and stable areas.

## 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.
- 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:



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## SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

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### 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

Disqualification is a punishment for misconduct arising from a deliberate attempt to contravene the rules and regulations of USPC applied at the discretion of the discipline ground jury. Any disqualified competitor and their mount may not take further part in the competition including in horse management.

Reasons for disqualification include, but are 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 (Article 12);

If such actions are reported, the discipline ground jury shall decide if there is a case to be answered. When considering the disqualification of a competitor, the discipline ground jury may decide to give a Yellow (Warning) Card in lieu of disqualifying a competitor. If a Yellow Card is assigned to a competitor, it may or may not include penalty points not to exceed a 50% impact on the associated phase score if related to a single phase, or a 50% impact on the overall score. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury decision on issuing a Yellow Card or disqualifying a competitor.

Refer to Section V for additional discipline specific reasons for disqualification and scoring.

## SECTION II: General Regulations

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### Chapter 1—Team Composition

#### Article 22—Team Formation

##### Regional Rallies:

The district commissioner (DC) or center administrator (CA) of local clubs/centers are responsible for club/center team formation at regional rallies. A team made up of members from one local club/center remains the ideal and is always the goal. Scramble teams made up of members from multiple clubs/centers are also accepted. The DCs/CAs of the clubs/centers involved may assist the rally organizer in forming scramble teams. Regional supervisors (RSs) may have final determination.

##### Championships:

The RS is responsible for region team formation for Championships. A team made up of members from one region remains the ideal and is always the goal. RSs who have individual competitors who have earned eligibility for Championships, and whose region is unable to field a team for Championships, may submit individuals for Championships who will be placed on a scramble team by the Championships discipline secretary. Requests for preferred teammates may be submitted, but are not guaranteed.

#### Article 23—Team Configuration

1. Teams shall normally consist of 3 or 4 riding members and an unmounted stable manager. One member of the team will be designated as team captain. A competitor may serve as both the stable manager and team captain at the same time. The team members can all belong to one or possibly multiple divisions as determined by the rally organizer.
2. At the organizer's discretion, there may be an alternative configuration of teams based on entries.
3. The requirement of an unmounted stable manager may be waived at regional rallies by the regional supervisor.

#### Article 24—Team Captains

Each team entered in the competition shall have one member designated as team captain who shall act as spokesperson for the team. Only the team captain may lodge a protest on behalf of any team member (see Article 53).

The team captain is responsible for all communications between the team and rally officials. The team captain is the official spokesperson for the team. In the event of an inquiry, protest or appeal, the captain represents the team. The competitor involved should accompany the captain. It is the responsibility of team captains to ensure that their team members follow all rules and regulations of the competition and to transmit to them any changes or additional instructions provided by rally officials. Any withdrawal of a team member must be reported to the TD.

Teams losing a team captain to illness must designate another team member to take over the responsibilities of captain. If the original captain returns, they will resume the responsibilities of captain.

#### Article 25—Stable Managers

A non-riding stable manager is required at Championships. At regional rallies, non-riding stable managers are highly recommended. Riding stable managers may be allowed at the discretion of the RS. The stable manager works closely with the team captain to coordinate preparations for the rally, in addition to assisting in keeping the team organized and on schedule during the competition.

#### Article 26—Mount Specifications

All mounts entered in USPC Dressage rally must meet the requirements outlined in Article 9.

#### Article 27—Chaperones/Emergency Contacts

All competitors below the age of majority must have an official chaperone, 21 years of age or older, listed with rally organizers. All competitors above the age of majority must have an emergency contact, who is available during the competition, listed with the rally organizers. Please review the following criteria for chaperones and emergency contacts.

##### 1. Chaperones:

- Any team with a competitor under the age of majority must have an official chaperone, 21 years of age or older, designated for the competition.
- The chaperone will act as the contact person for that team and must always be on the rally grounds during competition hours.
- Several individuals may share one team's chaperone duties, but only one name will be listed as the official chaperone. All persons sharing this duty should be made aware of this name and answer to it.
- The chaperone should serve as a volunteer for the competition but may not assume coaching duties.
- Anyone serving as team chaperone must understand and agree to the duties outlined in Appendix III.

##### 2. Emergency Contacts:

- Any competitor above the age of majority must submit a completed Emergency Contact Form (Appendix III) with their entry.
- Those listed as an emergency contact must be available by phone during the competition.

#### 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 horseman-

## SECTION II: General Regulations

ship 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 **and including** 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.
- Training Level—**Complete a standard Dressage rally at the competition level, earn a minimum score of 60% on Test 3, and ride a musical freestyle.**
- 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, earn a minimum score of 60% on Test 3, and ride a musical freestyle.**

## SECTION II: General Regulations

### 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 the competitor or mount, as designated by rally officials. Pinnies must always be worn in the barn area. Competitor nametags must always be worn, 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. Attire requirements may be adjusted based on excessive heat as detailed in Article 15. In inclement weather, competitors will be allowed to wear a helmet cover and a transparent or conservative colored raincoat.
4. 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 (away from the eyes) and may not cover competitor number.

**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, that covers the ankles (short or tall) with a heel. Through First Level, tall 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.



## SECTION II: General Regulations

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### **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

### **5. 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 (away from the eyes) and may not cover competitor number.

Shirt—Collared shirt with sleeves and tucked in.

Pants—Long pants.

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

##### **Permitted**

Belt—Any type/color.

Gloves—Any type/color.

Half-chaps—Any type/color.

Safety/Protective Vests—Any color.

Spurs—As described in Competition Attire.

#### **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 (away from the eyes) and may not cover competitor number.

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, that covers the ankles (short or tall) with a heel.

##### **Permitted**

Gloves—Any type/color.

Half-chaps—Any type/color.

Safety/Protective Vests—Any color.

Spurs—As described in Competition Attire.

### **6. 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 their 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 IV: Scoring

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### Article 52—Points and Penalties

In each round, competitors are scored utilizing positive points earned for each movement listed on the test. Positive points (marks) awarded by the judge are multiplied by the corresponding coefficient where applicable. All positive points are totaled. Penalties for errors are subtracted from the totaled good marks to give the corrected total. The percentage score is calculated by taking the corrected total and dividing by the maximum points possible for the specific test. The resulting percentage score will be used as the rider's positive point score for the test (i.e., 130 points / 200 possible points = .65 or 65%). Total final results must be published in marks as well as in percentages with numbers to three places after the decimal point.

#### 1. Positive Points

All movements and certain transitions from one to another that have to be marked by the judge(s) are numbered on the judge's sheets. They are marked 0 to 10, 0 being the lowest mark and 10 being the highest.

The scale of marks is as follows (half points are allowed for all tests):

- 10 Excellent
- 9 Very Good
- 8 Good
- 7 Fairly Good
- 6 Satisfactory
- 5 Marginal
- 4 Insufficient
- 3 Fairly Bad
- 2 Bad
- 1 Very Bad
- 0 Not executed

"Not executed" means that practically nothing of the required movement has been performed.

#### 2. Penalties

Errors of the course and errors of each test (Article 51) are cumulative.

Error penalties are assessed as follows:

First error: 2 points.

Second error: 4 points, for a total of 6 points, (2 + 4 = 6).

Third error: Elimination

Penalties for use of voice are not cumulative and should be confirmed with the judge, not assumed. (Article 50)

### Article 53—Inquiries, Protests, and Appeals

- Only competitors have the right to dispute scores and only competitors can participate in the process. Any non-competitor involvement in the process is considered unauthorized assistance.
- Competitors may only inquire about their team/individual scores.
- Inquiries are encouraged if there are any scores with which the team does not agree or understand, or if they feel a mistake has occurred. Any disputes regarding scores are to be made following the procedures as stated in the governing documents.
- All inquiries, protests and appeals must be made in a polite and courteous manner. Abuse of these procedures or rude behavior may be penalized up to and including elimination and/or disqualification.
- The process will include verbal inquiry, written inquiry, written protest and written appeal and use Appendix I.

### Horse Management

#### Horse Management Verbal Inquiry

Verbal inquiries may be initiated if the team captain/individual competitor does not agree or **understand or if they feel a mistake has been made**. Horse management verbal inquiries are made to the CHMJ following the posting of scores.

#### ***Inquiries must be:***

Initiated within 30 minutes from the time the score sheet(s) are posted by the CHMJ, and made in person by:

- The team captain, if competitor is on a team. The competitor involved may go with the team captain.
- The competitor involved (if competing as an individual).

If the team captain is riding when scores are posted and will not be available within the allowed thirty-minute period, another team member may notify the CHMJ that an inquiry is likely.

At the end of the required 30 minute inquiry period, the CHMJ must:

- Make any necessary adjustments/changes to scores based on the outcome of any inquiries that may have been made and are settled. (Only the CHMJ may adjust points as a result of inquiries.)
- Transcribe any changes in scores to the HM master score sheet and turn in master score sheet to the rally scorer.
- No further inquiries will be permitted, except for transcription errors. Transcription errors are a discrepancy between actual scores shown on Horse Management sheets and scores posted by the scorer.

## SECTION IV: Scoring

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### Horse Management Written Inquiry

Written Inquiries may be initiated if the team captain/individual competitor disagrees with the CHMJ's decision on a verbal inquiry. Written inquiries are made to the TD/steward via the rally office.

#### **Written Inquiries must be:**

Made in writing, using the official Horse Management Written Inquiry Form (signed by the team captain/individual competitor), containing the references to the rules covering the reason for the inquiry, delivered within 30 minutes of the CHMJ decision on the verbal inquiry to the rally office.

### Mounted Competition

#### **Mounted Competition Scoring Written Inquiry**

Written inquiries may be initiated if the team captain/individual competitor does not **understand or if they feel a mistake has been made**. Mounted competition written inquiries are made to the TD/steward following the posting of scores.

#### **Inquiries must be:**

Initiated within 30 minutes from the time the score sheet(s) are posted and made in person by:

- The team captain, if competitor is on a team. The competitor involved may go with the team captain.
- The competitor involved (if competing as an individual).

If the team captain is riding when scores are posted and will not be available within the allowed thirty-minute period, another team member may notify the rally office that an inquiry is likely.

#### **Written Protest to the Discipline Ground Jury**

If a team does not agree with the TD/steward's decision on a written inquiry, they may advance a written protest (utilizing the existing written inquiry form) to the discipline ground jury.

The decision must be made while the team is sequestered and within 10 minutes after the TD/steward's announcement of the decision to the team.

#### **Written Protests must be:**

##### **Initiated by:**

- The team captain, if competitor is on a team. The competitor involved may go with the team captain.
- The competitor involved (if competing as an individual).
- Made within 10 minutes of the TD/steward's announcement of the decision to the team.

### Frivolous Protest

- During a rally, each team is allowed one "free" inquiry to the TD/steward. After the first, the TD/steward may present to the discipline ground jury any inquiry presented in which the decision of the judge was upheld and which the TD/steward deems frivolous and not in the spirit of good sportsmanship. Any inquiry deemed frivolous, may be assessed 5 points by the discipline ground jury.
- If any score change results, the chief scorekeeper must be notified by the official making the decision and changes recorded scores.

The discipline ground jury will meet, review the Written Inquiry/Protest Form, make a decision, document the decision on the original Written Inquiry/Protest Form, and report its decision.

THE DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINE GROUND JURY IS FINAL AT REGIONAL RALLIES.

### **Written Appeal to the Overall Ground Jury/ Appeal Committee**

#### **(AT CHAMPIONSHIPS ONLY)**

If a team does not agree with the discipline ground jury's decision on a written protest, they may advance an appeal (utilizing the existing Written Inquiry Form) to the overall ground jury/appeal committee.

The team's decision to appeal must be made while the team is sequestered and within 10 minutes after the announcement of the discipline ground jury's decision to the team.

#### **Appeals must be initiated by:**

- The team captain, if competitor is on a team. The competitor involved may go with the team captain.
- The competitor involved (if competing as an individual).

THE DECISION OF THE OVERALL GROUND JURY/APPEAL COMMITTEE IS FINAL AT CHAMPIONSHIPS.

### **Article 54—Scoring of Excused**

Horses excused after the beginning of competition will receive elimination scores for all of the following rounds, unless they are later judged to be sound and allowed to compete again.

### **Article 55—Scoring of Elimination**

Eliminations: Any ride judged as an elimination shall be scored, as a final percentage score, of 20.00% (20.00 positive points).

1. Mount and rider combination shall be eliminated from the competition or from the current or next class depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred (for all other), under the following circumstances:
  - A. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry

## SECTION IV: Scoring

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- 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

The discipline ground jury may disqualify a competitor and/or a team from competition, for the reasons stated in Article 21. Or the discipline ground jury may decide to issue a Yellow (Warning) Card in lieu of disqualifying a competitor. Decisions of the discipline ground jury are not appealable except at Championships.

1. If a Yellow Card is accessed to a competitor, it may or may not include penalty points. The discipline ground jury can access penalties ranging from 0 up to the maximum penalties as defined below. Any accessed penalties should be included in the "Other" column on the scoresheet and are deducted from the positive point score prior to combining them with the Horse Management Score.

**Single Test Infraction**—The maximum number of penalties accessible for infractions related to a single test is 50 penalties.

**Full Competition**—For infractions related to the entire competition, the maximum number of penalties possible is calculated by multiplying the number of tests ridden during the competition by 50.

2. 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 accumulated Horse Management 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.

### 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



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## SECTION V: Officiation

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### Overview

The use of appropriately licensed (US Equestrian, US Dressage Federation, etc.) officials is always preferable. Regarding standard rallies, appropriately licensed officials may be required. However, realizing that not every area has Pony Club-oriented licensed officials easily available, rally organizers are asked to utilize suitably experienced personnel to fill official positions. Organizers needing help are encouraged to reach out to the appropriate discipline committee (refer to [www.ponyclub.org>About/Contact Us/Activities Committees](http://www.ponyclub.org>About/Contact%20Us/Activities%20Committees) to find contact information for the USPC discipline committee members). These resource people, available by e-mail, or phone, can help with courses, officials, or other questions.

### Article 61—Rally Organizer

The rally organizer serves as the manager of the competition. They must be on the grounds during competition and available to rally officials in the event a problem arises concerning the facility or equipment. Rally organizers do not participate in the officiation, unless required due to extenuating circumstances. They must engage individuals necessary to fill all official capacities at the competition. Full details and job descriptions for rally organizers are available in the Rally Organizer's Guide.

### Article 62—Technical Delegate (TD)

The technical delegate oversees the technical and administrative arrangements for a competition. They are responsible for knowing and enforcing the rules of the competition. The TD is the person to whom an inquiry is presented by the team captain in the event of a question regarding mathematical errors or scoring irregularities. If the initial inquiry to the TD fails to resolve the question at hand, the discipline ground jury then makes a final decision. The TD may not be a member of the discipline ground jury.

1. The organizer shall appoint a knowledgeable person to serve as TD. The TD should be licensed by U.S. Equestrian or by a comparable association.
  - A. The TD shall act with complete impartiality and report to the organizer and dressage committee, protecting the interests of competitors, judges, officials and the competition organizers. The TD shall have no connection with the management or judging of a competition.
  - B. No TD may officiate at any competition in which a member of his/her family, any owned horses or any of his/her students are competing.
  - C. No competition shall be organized and held without the presence of a TD.
2. The duties, powers, and responsibilities of the TD are defined as follows:
  - A. To protect the interests of competitors, judges, and rally organizers

- B. Ensuring the Dressage rally is organized and managed in strict compliance with the USPC Dressage Rules
  - C. Inspecting arenas and warm-up areas
  - D. Supervising the horse inspection jog(s)
  - E. Once the competition begins, the technical delegate is responsible for accounting for the presence of all competitors and horses on rally grounds. Any withdrawals of horses or riders must be reported to the TD as soon as possible
  - F. Supervising the technical conduct of the competition
  - G. Reporting any infraction or violation of the competition rules and regulations to the organizer or dressage committee, by any competitor, coach, manager, competition official, staff member or any other person present on the competition grounds, and seeing that immediate action is taken
  - H. Furnishing the USPC dressage committee with a complete written report on the competition, including any infractions or violations of the rules, within three days following completion of the competition. (See Appendix IV.)
3. The TD is authorized to insist on alterations to arenas and/or the facility if, in his/her opinion, the arenas and/or facility do not comply with the established limits for the competition. If the arena or facility is considered unsuitable for competition, the TD is encouraged to confer with the organizer and/or judge(s) before insisting on alterations;
4. The TD shall have no duties other than those specified above and in Uniform Officiation Rules.

### Article 63—Discipline Ground Jury:

The discipline ground jury is the group that adjudicates the rally. The discipline ground jury makes proper inquiries into both sides of cases in all protests concerning decisions made by the TD and other officials during a rally.

The discipline ground jury shall be composed of the chief judge, the chief horse management judge, and one other Pony Club knowledgeable person as appointed by the rally organizer. The following persons are ineligible to serve on the discipline ground jury:

1. Any competitor, manager, chaperone, coach or owner of a horse entered in the competition
2. Any close relative of a person named in item 1. above
3. Any instructor or trainer of any competitor or horse entered in the competition
4. The organizer or any member of the organizing committee
5. Any other horse management judge from that competition
6. The TD

## SECTION VI: Appendices

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### Appendix III: Chaperone and Emergency Contact Information

#### Team Chaperones vs. Emergency Contacts

When competitors under the age of majority (minors) participate in a rally, there will be a designated “Official Team Chaperone.” In the situation of scramble teams, the official team chaperone will be appointed by the rally officials and will be so noted in the rally program. The team chaperone serves as the team contact for rally and a responsible guiding presence to prepare the team for success. Competitors who are above the age of majority (adults) participating in a rally will not have a designated chaperone but must submit the name and contact information for their emergency contact.

#### Team Chaperones

##### *Time Commitment*

The official team chaperone is responsible for team members during the hours of competition and on competition grounds only (from arrival on grounds until departing rally ground at beginning and end of each day of competition).

##### *Transportation, Driving and Lodging*

Decisions to allow a competitor to drive or not, who they can or cannot ride with, who they can or cannot have in a vehicle that they are driving, where they stay at night and with whom they stay, and who is to be responsible for a competitor are all decisions that must be made by the parent/legal guardian. These decisions are not a decision of USPC, their region, club/center, or the rally organizer. Specific arrangements must be made by and between the parent/legal guardian and the adult assuming any of these responsibilities in the absence of the parent/guardian.

##### *Preparing Your Team for Success*

- Initiate contact with all team members prior to leaving for the competition and gather cell phone numbers as appropriate. In cases of scramble team members, request contact information from the rally secretary. Share this information with team captain and/or stable manager.
- Encourage the team to have meetings prior to leaving for rally. Be sure all members of a scramble team are included in the decision-making process, either by email or phone contact, if a distance away.
- Discuss team equipment, review all rules that apply and any decisions regarding snacks, drinks, plans for meals, etc. Determine how the team members plan to provide snacks and drinks (i.e., each team member contribute a sum of money to a pot or each member is assigned specific items to bring). If each is contributing money, it must be collected before the rally. Be sure to know who is bringing cooler(s), as to avoid a trip to the local store.

- Plan arrival time at the competition site and any details such as arrangements for ordering bedding, if needed, and who is assigned to do this (again collect money in advance if needed).
- On the first day of the rally, gather the team together before they separate for the night and make plans for the next day. Include a review of their competition schedule and how they can best work together to help each other prepare.
- Determine a regular meeting place and de-brief the team at the end of each day of competition. Take this opportunity to offer words of praise, acknowledge their accomplishments, and encourage the sense of teamwork and team building. Guide the team towards constructive criticism and steer them away from finger pointing. Have the team make plans for the next day concerning time they will arrive on the competition grounds, who will feed horses the next morning, who will re-supply the tack room cooler with ice, drinks and snacks (get requests for drinks/ snacks) and make the plans for lunch. Be sure any plans for cooler and/or lunch delivery follow any requirements as stated in the competition entry and they understand the plan. Have the team leave with a plan for the next day in place before they go off for an evening of relaxation.

#### Emergency Contacts

Anyone listed as an emergency contact for a competitor should be reachable by phone for the duration of the competition. Emergency contacts do not need to be on the competition grounds, but ideally are also within driving distance of the competition in the case of an emergency.

# SECTION VI: Appendices

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## Appendix III Chaperone Form

*To be completed by the chaperone and turned in with the rally entry for USPC members below the age of majority.*

### Chaperone duties shall include:

1. The primary function of the "Official Team Chaperone" is to ensure that there is a contact person for every USPC member below the age of majority, on the grounds for the duration of the competition.
2. While multiple Chaperone Forms may be turned in for a single team, only one person will be designated the Official Team Chaperone. If the Official Team Chaperone must leave the grounds during the competition, they must delegate the team chaperone duties to another responsible adult, making it clear that they are to respond to rally officials and any team members in your absence.
3. Be present and available to rally officials and all team members for the duration of the competition.
4. Being in contact with parents/guardians for all team members during competition hours.
5. Being in contact with all team members and their parents/guardians outside of competition hours.
6. Have copy of and be familiar with the current discipline rulebook and the current Horse Management Handbook and Rules for rallies. Rulebooks available for download from [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org).
7. Be aware that USPC members are required to wear a current, up to date USPC medical card/bracelet on their arm at all USPC activities.
8. Be familiar with the effects of heat and humidity and the potential risk for heat related illness. Take an active role in helping to keep all team members well hydrated and take every opportunity to encourage water breaks.
9. Uphold USPC Substances and Weapons Policy which prohibits the inappropriate or illegal use of any substance, including but not limited to drugs or alcohol, by anyone participating in any manner. Weapons of any kind are forbidden. Refer to About/About the Organization/By-Laws, Policies and Resolutions on [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org) for the full policy statement.
10. Remember that administration of medications is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian.

I have read and understand the duties of a chaperone as listed above.

Chaperone for the following team or individual(s)

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Name of Chaperone

Cell Phone Number

Signature

Date

## SECTION VI: Appendices

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### Appendix III Emergency Contact Form

*for USPC Members Above the Age of Majority*

The age of majority is the threshold of adulthood in law. As USPC members above the age of majority are adults in the eyes of the law and therefore responsible for themselves; USPC does not require a “chaperone” for these members at competitions. USPC does require that members above the age of majority submit Emergency Contact information for each competition. Age of majority varies per state.

USPC Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age: \_\_\_\_\_ State of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Competition Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Competition Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Relationship to Competitor: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*An additional Emergency Contact can be included, but is not required.*

Secondary Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Emergency Contact Relationship to Competitor: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Emergency Contact Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Emergency Contact Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



# SECTION VI: Appendices

## Appendix VI Dressage Coaching Guidelines Form

Each coach should have a copy and a signed copy submitted with entries. Photocopy as necessary.

Penalties for violating these coaching guidelines will be assessed by the discipline ground jury and/or overall ground jury under the rules governing unauthorized assistance. Any coach not adhering to the rules set forth below may be removed from their position for the duration of the phase and/or competition.

Coaches are recommended for Dressage rallies and Championships. There may be one or more coaches per team; the organizer or ring steward may limit the number of coaches in a warm-up area at any given time.

### Agreement

By signing this form, you:

- Agree to be familiar with and observe all USPC By-Laws, Policies and competition rules.
- Agree to be governed by Horse Management guidelines as expected of competitors, including appropriate attire, footwear and conduct.
- Agree to adhere to the USPC Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Policies in all your actions and decisions.
- Agree to conduct yourself in a fair and courteous manner.

### Coaches Must

- Check in as requested and attend any official coaches' briefings.
- Be familiar with, understand and comply with the current USPC discipline and Horse Management rules.
- Be aware of the welfare of horse and rider.
- Wear identification as provided by the organizer/secretary during the competition times.
- Follow all discipline coach parameters outlined in the discipline rulebook.
- Assist competitors in learning and understanding all rules pertinent to the competition.
- Help any Pony Club competitor who asks for help or who is present without a coach.

### All phase coaches must sign that they have read this sheet:

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and agree to follow the USPC Dressage Rulebook and above guidelines for coaching.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please list the competitors/teams you are coaching:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

### Coaches Must Not

- Enter the barn except during authorized visiting times.
- Interfere with the immediate care of the mount under penalty of elimination of the competitor.
- Coach in a manner that interferes with the warm-up of other competitors.
- Be the organizer, and member of the organizing committee or any other official of the competition.
- Be a team chaperone.
- Be a regional supervisor at a regional competition.

### Coaching Duties

- Warming-up competitors for competition in the designated warm-up areas only.
- In addition, a coach may lead a competitor's mount into the arena area.
- Coaches may observe but not participate in (unless requested), soundness checks or horse inspections.
- Meet with the team to discuss ride times, planning and how to best utilize the coach within the team.

### Communications between Coaches and Competitors

- Coaches may communicate with the competitors during the official briefing and any subsequent briefings as required by the organizer and in the warm-up area prior to and following the competitor's ride.
- Coaches may accompany competitors during their ride, arena inspection, course walks or any other subsequent times competition areas are open for warm-up, during which they may give advice and coach.

### Competitors who wish to Coach while Competing

Championships competitors who are 18 years of age as of January 1 of the competition year may coach other members recognizing that:

- No scheduling changes will be made to accommodate coaching /riding times.
- Care of mount and other competitor responsibilities take precedence over coaching.

# SECTION VI: Appendices

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## Appendix VII Dressage Yellow (Warning) Card

UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS

A yellow warning card may be issued by the discipline ground jury after being notified by a technical delegate, steward, or competition official at a USPC competition to any competitor, spectator or participant for improper conduct, or for noncompliance with the rules. When issuing a yellow card, the discipline ground jury may assess penalty points as outlined in Article 21 and 56.

Important information to know about the issuance of a Warning (Yellow) Card:

1. A Yellow Card is a warning with possible attached penalty points given for any infraction that is a disqualifiable offense.
2. A Yellow Card may be, but is not required to be given before the disqualification of a competitor or team.
3. A Yellow Card that incurs penalty points that will be recorded in the "Other" column of the scoresheet.
4. There is no appeal against receiving a Yellow Card.
5. A copy of any Yellow Card issued must be sent to the Activities Department, [activities@ponyclub.org](mailto:activities@ponyclub.org).

Issued to: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Competitor # \_\_\_\_\_

Region/Club/Center \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

At the following competition: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of incident: \_\_\_\_\_ Description of incident: \_\_\_\_\_

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*(please use back of page if necessary)*

Issuing Official: (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities Department • United States Pony Clubs • 4041 Iron Works Parkway • Lexington, KY 40511 •  
859.254.7669 • Fax 859.223.4652 • [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org)