

# Pony Club®

*Where it all begins*



## Games 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

Mounted Games were originally the idea of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, as a way to encourage enthusiasm, participation, and training in younger riders without the need of expensive ponies. A natural draw to all levels of riding abilities, Games provide a fun sport that teaches the basic natural aids, physical coordination, self-confidence, and teamwork skills. It also fosters sportsmanship and the proper care of mounts in new and younger members.

## Competitions

Mounted Games competitions are comprised of several relay-style races requiring riders to pick up objects from the ground while remaining in the saddle, weave through a series of poles at high speeds, hand items off to teammates without slowing their ponies, and dunking objects into buckets (sometimes at a gallop!). Teams are made up of two to five riders of the same skill level.

Ponies are the preferred mount of choice for games as their shorter stature make several of the races much easier to play. Horses can be used but are much harder for riders to reach the ground from while remaining in the saddle and can be more difficult to mount/dismount at faster paces than a walk or standstill.

## 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.

Riders of any skill level and ability can compete in Mounted Games, with beginners usually competing at the Walk-Trot level before moving on into the Novice, Junior, Senior, and Advanced ranks. The levels are divided based on the ages of the riders, with the exception of Walk-Trot in which any member of any age can compete.

## Mounted Games in Pony Club

As one of Pony Club's most popular disciplines, Mounted Games provides members of all ages and ability with a fun, fast-paced activity that teaches riding skills in an exciting and teamwork-driven environment. Members compete on teams of four or five riders and have several opportunities to compete both nationally and internationally. Pony Club puts on games exhibitions with the Prince Philip Cup at the Kentucky Three-Day Event and the President's Cup. An International Exchange is also offered to some of the best Mounted Games riders in Pony Club, allowing them to travel and experience Games in countries such as England, Australia and Canada.

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4041 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, Kentucky 40511-8462 • (859) 254-7669 • Fax (859) 233-4652  
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## Resource List

- USPC website [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org)
- USPC Games web page [www.ponyclub.org/Members/Disciplines/Games](http://www.ponyclub.org/Members/Disciplines/Games)
- USPC Games Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/GamesinUSPC](http://www.facebook.com/GamesinUSPC)
- USPC International Mounted Games Exchange Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/USPCIMGE](http://www.facebook.com/USPCIMGE)

**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 are printed with the permission of the USEF, which neither sponsors nor is responsible for their publication or implementation at any United States Pony Club event.

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

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damage, accident, injury or illness to competitors, mounts or to any other person or property whatsoever.

## 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 parti-

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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 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 sub-**

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ject to penalty. The organizing committee must bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the competition.

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.

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- 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.

## 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.



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tion 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

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.

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## 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 permitted only if a region cannot field a team from within the region. The DCs/CAs of the clubs/centers involved may assist the rally organizer in forming scramble teams. Regional supervisors (RSs) may have final determination. The addition of a fourth or fifth rider to complete a team may be made only if recommended by the RSs of regions involved to the USPC Games Committee Chair.

A region (or even an individual club/center) should make every effort to field an intact team that remains intact through its formation, its regional rally, and through Championships. This team should be chosen with the minimal requirement that all of its rider/mount combinations are safe to compete at Championships. Although there is a natural desire to field a highly competitive team, the maintenance of the integrity of the regional team takes precedence over its competitiveness if the latter means that the regional integrity of the team is lost.

##### Championships:

A properly formed team, consisting of the same rider/mount combinations which properly became eligible at its standard rally and remains intact, will represent its region at Championships. The rider must ride the same mount that they rode at the standard rally to be considered a rider/mount combination.

Should the entire eligible team that completed the standard rally not be able to remain intact following that rally for Championships, the RS is empowered to complete the team from within their region. The substitute rider/mount combinations should all have competed at the same standard rally. The RS should follow the guidelines set forth in Appendix VIII, Algorithm for Formation of Games Teams. The RS is encouraged in all instances to make every effort to complete their region's team from within their own region. The fundamental minimal riding qualification is that a Pony Club member should be deemed to be able to compete safely within the division that they will be competing in at Championships.

If a region is unable to complete a team from amongst players from within its own borders, the RS should find additional eligible competitors again following the process outlined in Appendix VIII, Algorithm for Formation of Games Teams. This should preferably be a geographically adjacent region. A region should furnish a minimum of three rider/mount combinations from within its own region in order for the team to represent that same region. If a region has only

one or two players who wish to compete at Championships, they must be added to a team from another region that has the minimum number of three.

Regional supervisors who have individual players who have properly earned eligibility for Championships, and whose region is unable to field a team for Championships, are also encouraged to make this player known to the USPC Games Chair. The same is true of regional supervisors who have incomplete teams and who are hoping to complete their three- or four-person team from additional players outside of the region. Although the RS may contact a neighboring RS to discuss completing a team, the RS may also (or alternatively) ask the Games Chair to help in the completion of the team, as the Games Chair will be the repository of those additional players and teams who are looking to complete their teams.

When the substitution rule is invoked its tenants should be followed. Should a team desire to add additional players under the substitution rule, the DC/CA must approve and submit the request to the RS. If the RS approves, the RS must submit their request to the USPC Games Committee Chair for approval by both the Chair as well as the VPA.

#### Article 23—Team Configuration

Teams shall normally consist of 4 or 5 riding members. One member of the team will be designated as team captain. If competition entry numbers don't allow for 4-5 rider teams, pairs competition can also be allowed at the discretion of the rally organizer and regional supervisor (or VPA at Championships).

#### 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 technical delegate.

The team captain shall have full responsibility of directing the team's activities, arriving at the arena on time, sequence, seeing to it that the last rider is wearing the white hatband or cover, overseeing and correcting safety and equipment check procedures.

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.

## SECTION II: General Regulations

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### Article 25—Mount Specifications

1. All mounts entered in USPC Games rally must meet the requirements outlined in Article 9. In addition, Games has the following additional mount parameters.
  - The judging committee shall disqualify any mount that, because of its appearance or the sound it makes, causes other mounts to “spook,” thereby creating a hazard for other competitors, from further competition.
  - Mounts must be familiar with the games being played.
  - The judging committee shall disqualify any mount that is, in its opinion, lame, unruly or otherwise unsuitable for competition. In this case the judging committee’s decision is final and may not be challenged.
2. All rider/mount combinations must meet the following weight parameters. The rider’s weight will be no more than 18% of the mount’s approximate weight. A mount/rider weight table is available in Appendix IX for reference.

#### Calculation

- $(\text{Mount heartgirth measurement in inches squared} \times \text{mount length in inches}) / 330 = \text{Approximate mount weight in lbs.}$
- $\text{Approximate mount weight in lbs.} \times 18\% = \text{Maximum rider weight in lbs. dressed and ready to ride.}$

#### Example

- $(65 \text{ inch heartgirth}^2 \times 55 \text{ inch length}) / 330 = 704 \text{ lb approximate mount weight}$
- $704 \text{ lb mount} \times 18\% = 127 \text{ lbs. maximum rider weight}$

### Article 26—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 27—Coaches and Coaching

Games 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 Games 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 takes precedence over coaching duties.

#### Games Coaches:

- Must read, understand, sign and return a Coaches Form with the team entry (Appendix VI).
- Must know the USPC Games rules, especially regarding unauthorized assistance; see Article 18. Access to the team is limited and they may not enter the stable area except during authorized visiting times.
- May not approach a judge during the competition. All questions must be directed to the technical delegate.
- May only be in the holding area either outside or along the fences surrounding the playing field.
- Are NOT allowed on the playing field and may not coach once the team has entered the arena/playing field.
- Teams will be penalized with zero points for games in which more than one coach or chaperone in the holding area.
- At Championship competitions, coaches must attend the opening competitor briefing, and the coaches briefing.

## SECTION II: General Regulations

**Youth Open**—Complete a standard Games rally at the competition level and play a minimum of eight games.

**Modified Junior Intermediate**—Participate in a standard or modified Games rally at the competition level and play a minimum of eight games.

**Junior Intermediate**—Complete a standard Games rally at the competition level and play a minimum of eight games.

**Junior Open**—Complete a standard Games rally at the competition level and play a minimum of eight games.

**Modified Senior Intermediate**—Participate in a standard or modified Games rally at the competition level and play a minimum of eight games.

**Senior Intermediate**—Complete a standard Games rally at the competition level and play a minimum of eight games.

**Senior Open**—Complete a standard Games rally at the competition level and play a minimum of eight games.

- A region which sends its regional team to another region (visiting team) to compete must have its team finish in the top four, and outscore at least one other team, to become eligible for Championships. In this instance, the visiting region's team, having fulfilled these criteria, will be considered the first-place team for their region and thus will be eligible for Championships.

### Article 32—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 Games rally but must have permission of their RS.

### Article 33—Exceptions to Eligibility Requirements for Championships

Exceptions 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 34—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.

**Pinnies:** For regional competitions and Championships, each club/center will provide its own pinnies. It is the responsi-

bility of the regional supervisor, or the local organizer if the regional supervisor so delegates, to ensure that the pinnies from the different clubs/centers are clearly distinguishable from each other so as to avoid confusion in the judging of the competition. The only required information on the pinnies shall be a 6" tall number (1-5) in the center of the pinny, both front and back, that indicates the rider's number on the team. Optional information would be the division (W, I, O) on the left shoulder, with the letters being no more than 4" tall.

### Article 35—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.
3. Turnout Inspection and first round of competition—All competitors must turnout and compete in appropriate competition attire. Any competitors not seeking Cham-

## SECTION II: General Regulations

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pionships 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 Games

#### **Required**

Helmet—Any color that meets the USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1). White helmets must be marked by colored tape/other marking to distinguish them from the white cover/band.

Hat Band/Cover—Each team must have a white elastic band or helmet cover that is interchangeable for the last rider in the race.

Hair—Hair should be neatly secured (away from the eyes) and may not cover competitor number.

Shirt—Any colored shirt may be worn, with no more than two colors, with a collar, long or short sleeves and tucked into pant.

Pinnies—Team pinnies with 6" tall number (1-5) in the center of the pinny, both front and back, indicating the rider's number on the team.\*

\* For Regional Competitions and Championships, each club/center will provide its own pinnies. It is the responsibility of the regional supervisor, or the local organizer if the regional supervisor so delegates, to ensure that the pinnies from the different clubs/centers are clearly distinguishable from each other so as to avoid confusion in the judging of the competition. Team pinnies with 6" tall number (1-5) in the center of the pinny, both front and back, indicating the rider's number on the team. Optional information would be the division (W, I, O) on the left shoulder, with the letters being no more than 4" tall.

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

Footwear—Conventional type of riding footwear, that covers the ankles (short or tall) with a heel. Tall boots (dress or field) or jodhpur/paddock boots, black or brown in color with or without a matching full-grain smooth leather half-chap are allowed. Tall socks worn over breeches with jodhpur/paddock boots are allowed.

#### **Permitted**

Gloves—Any type/color.

Safety/Protective Vests—Any color.

#### **Not Permitted**

Spurs, belt, full chaps and/or suede half-chaps.

### 5. Basic Riding Attire for Games:

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

##### **Required**

Helmet—Any color 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**

Gloves—Any type/color.

Half-chaps—Any type/color.

Safety/Protective Vests—Any color.

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

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

##### **Required**

Helmet—Any color 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.

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.

## Article 36—Bits, Saddlery and Equipment

The following restrictions begin upon arrival on the competition grounds and continue throughout the duration of the rally. Mounts must be neat and clean and turned out with appropriate english tack. All equipment must be properly fitted and consistent with their intended use.

### 1. Bridles

English bridles (including nosebands/cavessons, as explained below). English hackamores with shanks of no more than 6 inches and bitless bridles are permitted and do not require a noseband.

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## SECTION IV: Scoring

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### Article 53—Points and Penalties

Scoring for the Games will be on a positive point basis. The first place team in each game is awarded 1 point more than the number of teams competing in that game. The second place team is awarded one point less, etc. (e.g., If 6 teams compete, the 1st place team receives 7 points, 2nd place receives 6 points, 3rd place receives 5 points, 4th place receives 4 points, 5th place receives 3 points, 6th place receives 2 points.) An eliminated team receives one point. A disqualified team receives no points.

### Article 54—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.
- No protests of any sort concerning the playing of the Games, placement, elimination or disqualification shall be allowed in Games at any level. Upon penalty of disqualification, no competitor, parent, spectator, chaperone or other individual may approach the judges during the course of the Games to question their decision.
- 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.

#### 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 technical delegate/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 Section VI, Chapter 24, D

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 agree or **understand or if they feel a mistake has been made**. Mounted competition written inquiries are made to the technical delegate/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.

## SECTION IV: Scoring

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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 technical delegate. After the first, the TD may present to the ground jury any inquiry presented in which the decision of the judge was upheld and which the TD deems frivolous and not in the spirit of good sportsmanship. Any inquiry deemed frivolous, may be assessed 5 points by the ground jury.
- If any score change results, the chief scorekeeper must be notified by the official making the decision and changes recorded scores.

The 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 55—Scoring of Excused**

Excused competitors/mounts will receive same score as an elimination score for any phase from which they are excused. Competitors/mounts may rejoin the competition soon as they are able.

### **Article 56—Scoring of Elimination**

1. An eliminated team receives one point for that games.
2. Specific reasons in Games:
  - Rider violates a specific rule of any game as set forth in the Games rules (e.g., failing to re-set a knocked over bending pole)
  - Failure to complete the game.
  - The last rider in every game must wear a white hatband or helmet cover. Infringement of this rule, or anyone else wearing the white hatband or helmet cover, will incur elimination.
  - If a head judge blows the whistle to move a game along, it should be considered an elimination.
  - Passing the wrong side of a post unless corrected.
  - Failure by the rider concerned to replace a post they have knocked down.
  - Any Games equipment being put in the rider's mouth at any time. The penalty for infringement is elimination.
  - Except when the rules allow riders to dismount, they must remain mounted (facing forward, legs astride the saddle). Should a competitor fall off and lose their mount, they must remount and resume the race from the point where they fell off. The penalty for infringement is elimination.
  - If a rider or mount breaks a piece of equipment so that it cannot be used to complete the game in the manner in which it was intended, the team will be disqualified from that game.

### **Article 57—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 Game Infraction**—The maximum number of penalties accessible for infractions related to a single game is calculated by taking the number of teams in the game and adding 1, then dividing the total by 2.

**Full Competition**—The maximum number of penalties accessible for infractions related to the entire competition is calculated by taking the number of teams in the game

## SECTION IV: Scoring

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and adding 1, then dividing the total by 2. Next, multiply the number just calculated by the number of games played during the competition.

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.

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.

Causes for disqualification in Games are:

- Late arrival for the start of the game
- Use of whips or spurs
- Using anything other than an open flat hand to strike the mount (including, but not limited to, Games equipment, the reins, stirrup leather)
- Intentionally striking or kicking another competitor's mount
- Kicking the mount from the ground, or with any part of the foot but the heel when mounted
- Improper dismounting (i.e., the rider intentionally bringing the leg over the withers instead of the croup)
- Rough or dangerous riding
- Interference by a rider or a mount with the progress of another team in the playing of a game. Interference is defined as having forward motion impeded or having to deviate from the chosen riding line
- Unauthorized assistance either during a game or in preparation for a game or anywhere on the competition grounds; cheering of a team or competitor must be done by pinny color, team, club/center or regional name only. General cheering only is allowed; specific instructions from non-team members are forbidden, including those from riders in other divisions
- A mount running loose away from its rider AND creating a hazard to the other mounts and competitors (a loose mount may be caught by any competitor or official already in the arena behind lines A and C; only the mount's rider, however, may enter the playing area to catch it)
- Use of rude, abusive, obscene or inappropriate language, gestures or behavior
- Un-sportsmanlike conduct
- Abuse of or cruelty to a mount
- Mount or rider leaving the arena before a game is completed
- A third false start
- Causing a significant delay in games play
- Not maintaining a constant rein contact with their mount while in the games arena.

- Dismounting in the games arena without permission
- Failure to remain mounted, remount, remain in place or walk out of the arena until excused or granted permission shall result in disqualification
- Occupying the incoming zone of the playing field
- Pulling or yanking on a mount's mouth is also prohibited as determined by the judge

### Article 58—Team Scoring

1. Team scoring for Games is on a positive point basis. The total number of points earned in all the games will be added to the Horse Management score to determine the final team score. The final score is calculated using the below formula.

Riding scores are calculated using Article 52.

Horse Management bonus score = (number of games played) —(number of HM penalties).

Overall score = riding score + HM bonus score (possibly a negative number that reduces rather than increases the total score).

2. In extraordinary circumstances when a short team (four rider team) becomes a shortened team (three rider team) during the 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. The team will no longer be eligible for overall team awards but will still be eligible for Horse Management awards.
  - 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. The team will no longer be eligible for overall team awards but will still be eligible for Horse Management awards.

### Article 59—Posting 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 inquiry regarding the scores (Article 54). 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.



## SECTION V: Officiation

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### Overview

The use of appropriately licensed (US Equestrian, 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 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 technical delegate fails to resolve the question at hand, the discipline ground jury then makes a final decision. The technical delegate may not be a member of the discipline ground jury.

Per the appropriate discipline rulebook the organizer shall appoint a knowledgeable person to serve as technical delegate. The technical delegate shall act with complete impartiality and report to the organizer and appropriate discipline committee, protecting the interests of competitors, judges, officials and the competition organizers. The technical delegate shall have no connection with the management or judging of a competition. No Pony Club rally competition shall be organized and held without the presence of a technical delegate.

The technical delegate is responsible for:

- A. Ensuring the competition is organized and managed in strict compliance with the appropriate discipline rules
- B. Inspecting competition facility prior to the competition with appropriate officials
- C. Supervising the horse inspections
- D. 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 technical delegate as soon as possible.

- E. Supervising the technical conduct of the competition.
- F. Reporting any infraction or violation of the competition rules and regulations to the organizer or appropriate people, 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
- G. Protecting the interests of competitors, judges, officials and the competition organizers
- H. Furnishing the discipline 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 V).

The technical delegate is authorized to insist on alterations to the facility and competition areas if, in their opinion, they do not comply with the established limits for the competition.

### 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 technical delegate 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 games 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. No other horse management judge from that competition
6. The technical delegate
7. Any member of the overall ground jury/appeal committee

Duties of the discipline ground jury:

- A. The discipline ground jury is ultimately responsible for the judging of the rally and for settling all problems that may arise during its jurisdiction. Together with the technical delegate and organizing committee shall ensure that all arrangements for the rally, including that all competition areas are appropriate. If, after consultation with the technical delegate, the discipline ground jury is not satisfied with the arrangements or areas, it has the authority to modify them.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 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*
Youth Walk/Trot	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Junior Walk/Trot	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Walk/Trot	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Youth Intermediate	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Junior Intermediate	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Intermediate	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Youth Open	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Junior Open	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Open	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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 Experience (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

# SECTION VI: Appendices

## Appendix VI Games 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 Games 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.

### 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.

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

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and agree to follow the USPC Games 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. \_\_\_\_\_

# SECTION VI: Appendices

## Appendix VII Games 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 57.

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)

## SECTION VI: Appendices

Horse's Length (in)		Horse's Heartgirth (in)																															
		40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
45	41	43	45	48	50	52	54	57	59	61	64	66	69	72	74	77	80	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	104	107	110	113	117	120	124	127	131
46	42	44	46	49	51	53	55	58	60	63	65	68	70	73	76	79	82	84	87	90	93	96	100	103	106	109	113	116	119	123	126	130	134
47	43	45	47	50	52	54	57	59	62	64	67	69	72	75	78	80	83	86	89	92	95	99	102	105	108	112	115	119	122	126	129	133	137
48	44	46	48	51	53	55	58	60	63	65	68	71	74	76	79	82	85	88	91	94	97	101	104	107	111	114	118	121	125	128	132	136	140
49	45	47	49	52	54	57	59	62	64	67	70	72	75	78	81	84	87	90	93	96	99	103	106	109	113	116	120	124	127	131	135	139	142
50	46	48	50	53	55	58	60	63	65	68	71	74	77	80	83	86	89	92	95	98	101	105	108	112	115	119	122	126	130	134	137	141	145
51	47	49	51	54	56	59	61	64	67	70	72	75	78	81	84	87	90	94	97	100	104	107	110	114	118	121	125	129	132	136	140	144	148
52	48	50	52	55	57	60	63	65	68	71	74	77	80	83	86	89	92	95	99	102	106	109	113	116	120	124	127	131	135	139	143	147	151
53	49	51	53	56	59	61	64	67	69	72	75	78	81	84	87	91	94	97	101	104	108	111	115	118	122	126	130	134	138	142	146	150	154
54	50	52	54	57	60	62	65	68	71	74	77	80	83	86	89	92	96	99	103	106	110	113	117	121	124	128	132	136	140	144	148	153	157
55	50	53	55	58	61	63	66	69	72	75	78	81	84	87	91	94	97	101	104	108	112	115	119	123	127	131	135	139	143	147	151	156	160
56	51	54	56	59	62	65	67	70	73	76	79	83	86	89	92	96	99	103	106	110	114	117	121	125	129	133	137	141	145	150	154	158	163
57	52	55	57	60	63	66	69	72	75	78	81	84	87	91	94	98	101	105	108	112	116	120	124	128	132	136	141	145	149	154	158	163	168
58	53	56	58	61	64	67	70	73	76	79	82	86	89	92	96	99	103	106	110	114	118	122	126	130	134	138	142	146	151	155	159	164	169
59	54	57	60	62	65	68	71	74	77	80	84	87	90	94	97	101	105	108	112	116	120	124	128	132	136	140	144	149	153	158	162	167	171
60	55	58	61	63	66	69	72	75	79	82	85	88	92	95	99	103	106	110	114	118	122	126	130	134	138	143	147	151	156	160	165	170	174
61	56	59	62	64	67	70	73	77	80	83	87	90	93	97	101	104	108	112	116	120	124	128	132	136	141	145	149	154	158	163	168	172	177
62	57	60	63	65	68	72	75	78	81	85	88	91	95	99	102	106	110	114	118	122	126	130	134	139	143	147	152	156	161	166	170	175	180
63	58	61	64	67	70	73	76	79	83	86	89	93	97	100	104	108	112	116	120	124	128	132	136	141	145	150	154	159	164	168	173	178	183
64	59	62	65	68	71	74	77	80	84	87	91	94	98	102	106	109	113	117	122	126	130	134	139	143	147	152	157	161	166	171	176	181	186
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66	61	64	67	70	73	76	80	83	86	90	94	97	101	105	109	113	117	121	125	130	134	138	143	147	152	157	162	166	171	176	181	187	192
67	61	64	68	71	74	77	81	84	88	91	95	99	103	107	111	115	119	123	127	132	136	140	145	150	154	159	164	169	174	179	184	189	195
68	62	65	69	72	75	78	82	85	89	93	96	100	104	108	112	116	121	125	129	134	138	143	147	152	157	162	167	172	177	182	187	192	198
69	63	66	70	73	76	80	83	87	90	94	98	102	106	110	114	118	122	127	131	135	140	145	149	154	159	164	169	174	179	184	190	195	201
70	64	67	71	74	77	81	84	88	92	95	99	103	107	111	116	120	124	128	133	137	142	147	152	156	161	166	171	177	182	187	192	198	203
71	65	68	72	75	78	82	86	89	93	97	101	105	109	113	117	121	126	130	135	139	144	149	154	159	164	169	174	179	184	190	195	201	206
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73	67	70	74	77	81	84	88	92	96	100	104	108	112	116	120	125	129	134	139	143	148	153	158	163	168	173	179	184	190	195	201	206	212
74	68	71	75	78	82	85	89	93	97	101	105	109	113	118	122	127	131	136	141	145	150	155	160	165	171	176	181	187	192	198	203	209	215
75	69	72	76	79	83	87	90	94	98	102	106	111	115	119	124	128	133	138	142	147	152	157	162	168	173	178	184	189	195	200	206	212	218