



The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR D-LEVEL DRESSAGE

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., establishes Standards of Proficiency within the framework of the international Pony Club movement as the educational curriculum for a program of instruction and evaluation of its members for ratings in three primary areas: Horse Management, On the Flat, and Over Fences.

The D-Levels offer an introduction to the fun and challenge of riding, establishing a foundation of safety habits and knowledge of the daily care of a mount and related equipment. The D-level Horse Management focuses on acquiring the knowledge and skills related to care and ground handling of the mount. The D level-member may also learn and be evaluated on riding independently on the flat, with control, maintaining a reasonably secure position at the walk, trot and canter. In addition, the D-level members may choose to learn and be evaluated while riding their mounts over low fences. All D certificates are awarded at the club/center level.

The C-1 and C-2 Levels are for the Pony Club member learning to become an active horseman, to care independently for his/her mount and tack, and to understand the reasons for what he or she is doing with the mount while either mounted or unmounted. Similar to the D-level, the C-1 and C-2 levels focus on advancement and evaluation of Horse Management skills as well as show development towards a secure, independent seat and increasing control and confidence in all phases of riding, flat and/or jumping. The C-1 and C-2 certificates are awarded at the club/center level.

The H-B, C-3, B, H-HM/H/H-A and A Certifications are facilitated on a national basis and require a greater depth of knowledge and proficiency than the earlier certifications. Successful candidates are competent, all-around horsemen, active and contributing members of USPC, who participate in a variety of Pony Club activities. They are also thoughtful leaders who set an example for all. Each of the national-level certifications have a minimum age requirement.

The H-B Certification covers Horse Management knowledge and skills that demonstrate increasing awareness, education, and competence in the care and handling of horses and in teaching the same skills to others. It reflects the theory and study as well as the practical aspects of unmounted horse management that can be expected of a high school curriculum. The minimum age for the H-B certification is 13 years old.

The H-HM/H/H-A Certification requires the knowledge, experience and maturity to evaluate and care for a mount's needs efficiently and in a variety of circumstances, to competently ground train horses; and to teach riding and horse care to others. It reflects the theory and study as well as the practical aspects of unmounted horse management that can be expected of a college curriculum. The minimum age for the H/H-M/H-H-A certification is 16 years old.

At the national level, Pony Club members may choose to follow one or all of three riding tracks. They are: Traditional, Show Jumping or Dressage.

The C-3 Certification reflects a basis of competence in riding, ground schooling, and horse care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses. The certification has both demonstration and discussion components. It is the first of the riding certifications to evaluate a member's ability to seamlessly transfer their riding skills from their own horse to an unknown horse. If the C-3 riding test is passed before the H-B, the member becomes a C+. The minimum age for the C-3 certification is 13 years old.

The B Certification is for the active horseman and Pony Club members who are interested in acquiring further knowledge and proficiency in riding. The B is able to ride experienced mounts, both their own and others, with confidence and control. Similar to the C-3, the certification has both demonstration and discussion components. The B should be able to ride and care for another person's experienced mount, maintaining proper mental and physical condition without undoing any of the mount's education. The B understands and is able to explain the reasons for what he or she is doing. The minimum age for the B certification is 14 years old.

The A Certification is the highest riding certification available to members. The A is able to ride mounts at various levels of schooling with judgment, tact and effectiveness; to train young mounts; and to retrain spoiled mounts. Like the C-3 and the B, the A understands and is able to explain the reasons for what he or she is doing as well as demonstrate the skills required. The A understands and demonstrates a variety of training techniques and discusses their training techniques as a trainer. The minimum age requirement to take the A certification is 16 years old.

NOTE: In addition to its instructional programs, USPC offers a variety of activities at club, regional, inter-regional and national levels for team and individual participation. Please visit www.ponyclub.org for a list of activities. Achieving a rating does not necessarily qualify the Pony Club member for competition in any horse sport, discipline, or activity. Further study and preparation for a particular activity, including working as a team member, is necessary.

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Our Mission:

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.

Our Core Values:

Horsemanship with respect to health-care, nutrition, stable management, handling and riding a mount safely, correctly and with confidence

Organized teamwork including cooperation, communication, responsibility, leadership, mentoring, teaching and fostering a supportive yet competitive environment

Respect for the horse and self through horsemanship; for land through land conservation; and for others through service and teamwork

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

Education at an individual pace to achieve personal goals and expand knowledge through teaching others

Heights of Fences D to A for Eventing Levels:

Level	Height
D-2	18"
D-3	2'3"
C-1	2'9"
C-2	3'0"
C-3	3'3"
B	3'7"
A	3'9"

Heights of Fences for Show Jumping Specialty Levels:

Level	Height
C-3	3'7" – 1.10m
B	3'9" – 1.15m
A	4'3" – 1.30m
C-3=Level II-III**	
B=Level III-IV**	
A=Level V-VI**	

**See USEF Level Descriptions

Dressage Specialty Levels:

C-3 = First Level**
B = Second Level**
A = Third Level**

Explanation of H-HM/H/H-A Level:

H-HM: A candidate who passes all requirements of the H-A test and is an H-B member
H: A candidate who passes all requirements of the H-A test and is also a C-3 member
H-A: A candidate who passes all requirements of the H-A test and is also a B member

HEADGEAR: A properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, containing certification that it meets or exceeds the criteria established by a national or international safety body, is required to participate in any USPC activity (see USPC Policy 0125A).

STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR D-LEVEL DRESSAGE

THE D-1 STANDARD

Horse Management Expectations

The candidate is a beginning-level horse manager, willing to learn the simple routine necessary for safe handling of quiet, well-trained horses. His or her knowledge will vary widely depending on age, educational level, and experience.

Turnout/Tack

- Rider in safe and neat attire: collared shirt with long or short sleeves, long pants with shirt tucked in, short or tall riding boots or shoes that cover the ankle and have a boot heel. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened (*see USPC Policy 0125A*). Long hair neatly up or back. Half-chaps, gloves, show coat and belt optional. No inappropriate jewelry.
- Mount neatly brushed; hooves picked out (with assistance if needed); showing farrier care.
- Tack safe and neat (properly adjusted with assistance if necessary).

Conditioning

- Know one reason for cooling out mount after exercise.

Nutrition

- Know how to give water, grain, hay, and tidbit to a mount safely.

Stable Management

- Groom mount with brush and curry comb, pick out feet, with assistance.
- Tack up and untack mount, with assistance.
- Name 10 parts of saddle and bridle (any).
- Know two reasons for cleaning tack.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

- Name any 10 parts of the mount (such as mane, tail, leg, eye, etc.).
- Know color and breed of own mount.

Travel Safety

- Know basic rules of safe riding in a group, in an enclosed area.

Record Book

- Bring a stall card for own mount to rating.

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

- Discuss what a veterinarian is.
- Give one reason a vet might treat your mount.

Teaching

- Not applicable. (See D-3 Teaching.)

Land Conservation

- Verbally list three different places in your area where horse activities take place. Include where you have your Pony Club mounted meetings.

Leading & Longeing

- Approach mount safely, put on halter, lead and turn correctly and safely.

Foot & Shoeing

- Give one reason to pick out hooves.
- Tell whether your mount wears shoes or not.

Bandaging

- Not applicable.

Volunteerism (Pony Club Horsemasters Only)

- Discuss what being part of a volunteer organization means to you.
- Explain two ways you might be able to volunteer for the club/center you belong to.

Safety

- Name two pieces of clothing or equipment that you should wear for safety when you ride.

THE D-1 STANDARD Riding Expectations

Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without lead line, demonstrating basic balanced position at the halt and walk, and control at the walk and trot.

Riding on the Flat

- Ride on flat using Riding Expectations.
- Mount and dismount, with assistance if necessary.
- Pick up and hold reins correctly at halt.
- Pick up stirrups at halt.
- Shorten and lengthen reins correctly at the halt.
- Demonstrate basic correct position at the halt and walk.
- Ride at the walk and trot, with control, keeping mount on rail.
- Demonstrate simple change of direction at the walk and trot.
- Perform gradual transitions from walk to trot and walk to halt.

Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Walk over ground poles in the jumping position.
- Discuss with Examiner the reason for different positions when riding on the flat and over fences.

Riding in the Open

- Not applicable.

THE D-2 STANDARD Horse Management Expectations

The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills, with assistance if necessary, and should understand the basic reasons for the everyday routines of caring for his or her own mount.

Turnout/Tack

- Rider in safe and neat attire: collared shirt with long or short sleeves, breeches, jodhpurs or riding tights with shirt tucked in, short or tall riding boots or shoes that cover the ankle and have a boot heel. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened (*see USPC Policy 0125A*). Long hair neatly up or back. Half-chaps, gloves, show coat and belt optional. No inappropriate jewelry.
- Mount to be clean and well brushed, with hooves picked out and showing farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off.

STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR D-LEVEL DRESSAGE

- Tack to be safe and clean, (properly adjusted with assistance, if necessary) with attention to stitching, girth, and stirrups. No obvious dirt, jockeys or heavy dust.
- Name and locate 15 parts of saddle and bridle.
- Name 3 different bits.
- Demonstrate (with assistance of examiner) how to apply protective boots and bell boots to mounts leg if regularly used.

Conditioning

- Describe ways to know if mount is properly cooled out.
- Describe condition of own mount (e.g. thin, fit, or overweight).

Horse Sports

- Name two horse sports.

Nutrition

- Know 3 basic rules for feeding and explain feeding schedule for own mount.

Stable Management

- Groom mount, pick out hooves with assistance if needed.
- Name 5 grooming tools and demonstrate how to use them.
- Tack up and untack with assistance if necessary.
- List three examples of unsafe equipment.
- Name three common stable vices.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

- Name and locate any 15 parts of the mount.
- Name and describe six colors of mounts.
- Name and describe five markings of mounts.
- Name six horse or pony breeds.

Travel Safety

- Know the basic rules for riding on public roads in your state.
- Name two ways you can help your mount be safe in a trailer.

Record Book

- Bring a complete stall card for own mount to show Examiner.
- Discuss what is included on a stall card.

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

- Give two reasons to have your mount routinely checked by a veterinarian.

Teaching

- Not applicable. (See D-3 Teaching.)

Land Conservation

- Talk with grandparents, parents, instructors and/or older friends/neighbors about where they rode when they were young and what is not available today.

Leading & Longeing

- Lead mount correctly in hand and while tacked up.
- Do walk-halt-walk transitions in hand.
- Lead mount in and out of stall safely, tie up in appropriate place with quick-release knot.

Foot & Shoeing

- Know reasons for daily hoof care.
- Give two reasons why the farrier regularly checks your mount.

Bandaging

- Give two reasons why you would bandage a mount's leg(s).
- Apply (with assistance of examiner if needed) protective boots and bell boots, if appropriate, to mount's leg.

Volunteerism (Pony Club Horsemasters Only)

- Describe how you have volunteered for your local club or center.
- Explain two leadership opportunities for adult volunteers at the local and regional level.

Safety

- Describe what you should do for yourself when you fall off a horse.
- Name at least three items that should be included in a human first aid kit.

THE D-2 STANDARD Riding Expectations

Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without lead line, demonstrating control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the medium walk and working trot, and should begin to develop the canter.

Riding on the Flat

- Ride on flat using Riding Expectations (see above).
- Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary).
- Shorten and lengthen reins at halt and walk.
- Free walk and medium walk on contact.
- Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and halt and discuss 1 or 2 reasons for doing this.
- Ride without stirrups at the walk.
- Demonstrate emergency dismount at the walk. (Pony Club Horsemasters-in lieu of performing emergency dismount, discuss conditions in which an emergency dismount is to be performed).
- Ride at the medium walk and working trot on correct diagonal, performing simple turns and 20m circles.
- Ride at the canter in both directions in an enclosed area and be aware of leads.
- Discuss performance with Examiner, indicating whether or not mount was on correct lead.
- Discuss how to pass others safely while riding in an enclosed area.

Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Maintain a balanced position at the trot on the flat and over 3-4 ground poles, in posting trot and two point position.
- Discuss with Examiner ways to improve ride and balance.

Riding Test

- Bring hand-drawn diagram of USDF Intro Test.
- Perform USDF Intro Test C
- Discuss performance with examiner relative to the Purpose of the test and the Collective Marks in the USDF Introductory tests.

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely and considerately on public or private property (open field or open space), in a group.

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- Ride with control, up and down hills, at the walk and trot, if available.
- Discuss two or three things to do to show “good manners” or courtesy while riding on someone else’s property. (e.g., regarding gates, planted rows in fields, etc)

THE D-3 STANDARD

Horse Management Expectations

The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills without assistance, and to discuss care of the mount, beginning to use common horse terms.

Turnout/Tack

- Rider in safe, neat, clean attire: collared shirt (polo, turtleneck, dress shirt or ratcatcher) with long or short sleeves, breeches, jodhpurs or riding tights with shirt tucked in, belt (if belt loops), tall boots or paddock boots with or without half chaps. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened (*see USPC Policy 0125A*). Long hair neatly up or back. Gloves, neckwear and show coat optional. No inappropriate jewelry.
- Mount to be well brushed (no sweat), clean (no dirt), with feet picked out, showing farrier care. Mane and tail brushed and eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off.
- Tack to be safe – especially stitching on stirrups/girth – and clean – no jockeys or dust, stress points clean, stirrup pads (if used) clean, and bit clean. All tack must be properly adjusted.
- Describe formal attire, informal attire.
- Describe proper adjustment of the snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband. Describe proper adjustment of curb chain if appropriate.

Conditioning/Nutrition

- Know 5-7 basic rules of feeding.
- Describe care of mount after strenuous work, to include cooling out, inspection of legs, watering and feeding.
- Know vital signs of mount at rest and what TPR stands for.
- Describe two indications a mount may not be fit enough for the work asked of him/her.
- Discuss the amount of roughage and the amount of concentrates per ration for own mount.

Horse Sports

- Name five horse sports offered in USPC.

Stable Management

- Demonstrate and discuss how to clean a dirty/soiled stall. Demonstrate the proper steps and methods for removing manure and wet areas, how to bank a stall, and discuss the reasons for and benefits of regular stall cleaning for the health and safety of your mount. For testing purposes, a soiled horse trailer may be used.
- Demonstrate and discuss the proper methods of hanging a water bucket and haynet/haybag, hanging both at a proper height for your mount, at either a trailer or stall. Discuss the different needs of your horse during a day rally or clinic, or overnight stay.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

- Name six horse breeds, four pony breeds, and five draft horse breeds.
- Describe how to measure height of mount.
- Identify at least 20 parts of the mount, to include hock, gaskin, withers, croup, fetlock, pastern.
- Know common conformation faults of neck, back, shoulder, head and pasterns.
- Describe the characteristics of a strange mount clearly enough for another person to recognize it within a group. Include: color, breed, markings, size, sex, and obvious conformation characteristics.
- Describe location of eyes and how this affects the mount’s vision.

Travel Safety

- Know rules for riding safely on public roads in your state.
- Know procedure for mounted group crossing a public roadway.
- Discuss the proper procedure for loading and unloading a mount.

Record Book

- The D-3 is expected to keep careful records of veterinary visits, and general health of mount and riding activities. Record Book must be brought to the test. A minimum of three months of records is required.

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

- Name some symptoms of a sick or injured mount that would cause you to seek help.

Teaching

- D-3s are encouraged to assist D-1s and D-2s during horse management Pony Club activities, not mounted activities.

Land Conservation

- Name three important rules when riding across privately-owned land.
- Write thank-you notes to two landowners who support your club and tell them why you appreciate being able to use their land. If you ride on public land, write a thank-you note to the manager or contact person.

Leading & Longeing

- Demonstrate correctly jogging mount, moving mount forward with whip (if necessary).
- Lead safely from both sides.

Foot & Shoeing

- Name three parts of the hoof.
- Describe obvious signs of a hoof needing shoeing or trimming.
- Discuss signs of Thrush.

Boots & Bandaging

- Describe critical areas protected by shipping bandages or boots and give reasons for their use.
- Describe a stable bandage and give two reasons they can be used.
- Apply polo wraps with assistance.

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Safety

- Explain 2 ways to cool off a rider during a hot day.
- Give at least 2 examples of when a riding helmet needs replacing.
- List some common injuries that may happen when a rider falls off a horse.

THE D-3 STANDARD Riding Expectations

Candidate should ride in a basic balanced position with control at the medium and free walk, working trot, and working canter. Candidate should maintain a secure base of support while developing balanced rhythm and relaxation (see USDF Training Scale) with their mount.

Riding on the Flat

- Ride on flat using Riding Expectations (see above).
- Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary).
- Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in the stirrups while mounted at the halt.
- Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work under examiner supervision.
- Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at medium walk and working trot under direction of examiner.
- Ride mount on flat demonstrating 20-meter circles, diagonals, halt on centerline, showing correct positioning of bend in both directions at walk, at sitting and rising working trot with correct diagonals and at the working canter with correct leads.
- Ride without stirrups at the working trot sitting.

Ground Poles/Cavaletti

D-2 = 3-4 ground poles

D-2

_____ 4 - 4 1/2 feet

- Demonstrate an increase and decrease of length of stride either alone or with others as appropriate.
- Demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back.
- Discuss performance with examiner including rider's basic balanced position, and whether or not circles were round and correct size and natural aids were used correctly.
- Shorten and lengthen reins at the halt, walk and trot.

Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Discuss differences in position, and stirrup length for riding on the flat, riding over fences and riding in the open.
- Ride over 3-4 trot poles, maintaining a balanced position in posting trot and two point position.
- Ride over 3-4 trot poles followed by an elevated trot pole or raised cavaletti up to 6"
- Canter over a single ground pole.
- Discuss performance, reasons for any disobediences.

Riding Test

- Bring diagram of USEF Training Level Test 1 or 2
- Discuss goals for the test
- Perform USEF Training Level Test 1 or 2
- Discuss performance with examiner-relative to the Purpose of the test and the Collective Marks

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely and considerately on public or private property (open field or open space) over varied terrain, in a group, at the walk, trot, and canter.
- Discuss ways to control a mount in the open.
- Discuss performance with Examiners.

Ground Poles/Cavaletti

D-3 = 3-4 ground poles/cavaletti

D-3

_____ 4 - 4 1/2 feet

X _____ X 8 - 9 feet

STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR D-LEVEL DRESSAGE

Information for Candidates

Requirements for Candidates

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing
- Be recommended by the District Commissioner (DC) or Center Administrator (CA).
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements of the level being tested and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirements from all previously attained standards.
- Candidate must be evaluated on and successfully meet the standards on all sections of the selected test before being awarded the new certificate.
- Adhere to the USPC code of Conduct at all times.
- No child is responsible for the safety of another child. There must always be adult supervision.

Attire

Safe, workmanlike attire, including proper footwear, must be worn in the barn area and when working around mounts. Refer to the Horse Management Handbook.

Refer to Standards of Proficiency, in this document, for proper Turnout and mounted attire.

A USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet must be on the candidate's person, as described by the Horse Management Handbook.

A properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened (*see USPC Policy 0125A*) must be worn during Turnout and when riding. Safety vest wear is at the discretion of the member, parent, or guardian.

Presentation of the Mount for Turnout

Standards for Turnout are indicated in the Standards of Proficiency and on each appropriate test sheet. Refer to the Horse Management Handbook.

For the purposes of the test, braiding of the mount is not allowed.

Stand by mount, on near side, with Examiner, facing rear, reins in left hand below bit, slack in right, changing sides with Examiner.

Equipment

Saddlery and biting for D and C-level certificates must comply with the Horse Management Rules on Saddlery and Biting as well as with any current USPC discipline rules for Saddlery and Biting.

Appropriate Horse

USPC's commitment to safety for all horses and riders is paramount during a testing at any level.

Candidates may bring their own, borrowed, leased or rented mounts to a test. They may present with more than one mount at a test. The care of each of the candidates' mounts at a test is the responsibility of the candidates themselves.

It is the responsibility of the candidate and his/ her parent(s) or guardian to bring to or arrange for appropriate mounts at the test. The properly conditioned mounts must be capable of the skills required for the level being tested, to include standing for evaluation of the Turnout and bandaging. For the riding sections, the mount(s) must be capable of completing the flat and jumping phases at the heights indicated at the appropriate levels and speeds.

While not recommended, the sharing of suitable mounts for a test is allowed at the D-1 through D-3 level. However, sharing should only be permitted if:

- Each proposed candidate is familiar with the mount and has ridden it prior to the test, successfully and safely at the level being evaluated On the Flat and Over Fences, as applicable;
- Each proposed candidate informs the testing organizer of the "shared mount" requirement prior to the testing day in order to accommodate the mounts' condition and the test schedule. As the safety of horses and riders are paramount, if Examiners determine that shared mounts' condition or other circumstances preclude those mounts' continued participation in the test, they may indicate the candidates in question must withdraw from the test.

C-1 and C-2 candidates may share a horse if they meet the above criteria and additionally are only testing for the:

- Flat portion of the Traditional (Eventing) Certification
- Taking the Dressage C-1 or C-2 Certification.
- Taking only the Jumping portions of the Traditional (Eventing) Certifications.
- Or if the Testing is split into multiple days offering the Flat portions on one day and the Jumping portions on a separate day.

All this is to protect the mount from over use on any given day.

Failure to follow these guidelines will make it difficult for the candidate to meet the standards on that given day or testing experience.

Information on Conducting a Test

Please review the Guidelines for Club and Center-Level Testings found online at www.ponyclub.org.

Clubs and Centers must facilitate a testing opportunity for members a minimum of twice a year. Dates are determined by the District Commissioners (DC) or Center Administrators (CA). This may be done at the local level or in partnership with another club/center, or organized by the region.

At the D/C Levels, tests are designed to and should be conducted in one day. If, due to unforeseen circumstances (such as weather or footing) it is not possible to complete a test in one day, all requirements must be tested/completed within a one-month period if at all possible.

A certification should be an educational, working session, covering requirements listed on the Standards. However, it is not a "lesson" on each section.

Oral certification and/or demonstration are required for all parts of the horse management phase. Written tests are not allowed. However, at the discretion of the Examiner(s), members may use their own writing and/or drawing to convey their answers during the questioning and/or discussion periods of the test.

There is no set time limit between taking any of the local level tests, but each certificate must be attained in the proper order and no levels may be skipped. The Horse Management skills and knowledge must be attained prior to presentation of or any riding skills evaluation, however, there may be exceptions due to weather and facilities. If the riding sections are evaluated prior to the Horse Management sections, then the award of the certificate must wait until the successful evaluation of the Horse Management section.

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The DC, CA, and/or an adult designated by the club, center, or region must be present throughout the testing day. In addition, USPC strongly encourages the use of "Impartial Observers" at the tests.

Retest Information

A candidate may retest only if the candidate qualifies for a retest by passing the minimum number of sections stated on the test sheet and the original Examiner has recommended the candidate to retest. Those testing during the current year have until December 1st of the following year to retest. Candidates must arrange for retests through their DC/CA. Please refer to each test sheet for each certificate level for specific requirements for retests.

Examiners (D-1 through C-2)

Please review the Guidelines for Club/Center Level Testings found online at www.ponyclub.org.

The DC, CA, or in the case of regional testing, the RS, selects the Examiners for the D-1 through C-2 tests, based on recommendations of USPC leaders and volunteers and/or participation in a regionally-facilitated Standards of Proficiency clinic.

Examiners should be selected with care, should be completely knowledgeable of the Standards of Proficiency at the level(s) they are testing, as well as the level(s) above and below the one(s) they are testing. DCs, CAs, or RSs must ensure that Examiners have a copy of all current USPC Standards, test sheets, and study guides prior to the test.

Examiners should be mature and sensitive to both young people and their adult supervisors.

Examiners must conduct tests in an educational framework, setting a positive tone that makes every effort to draw the best from each candidate, without allowing the test to become a lesson on the skill in question.

While the test is intended to be a learning experience, Examiners should take care to encourage the candidates to express what they know, rather than a demonstration of what the Examiner knows.

Examiners should bear in mind that candidates and their responses and performances may range from adequate to superior, and anyone within that range who "Meets Standard" or better, should pass.

Responsibilities and Authorities

The USPC Vice President of Instruction, is responsible for the Standards of Proficiency and the general USPC certification program. While the actual management may be delegated, for club/center level tests, the Club DC or CA is responsible for the scheduling, organizing, and conduct of the tests. This may be in coordination or cooperation within the Region or other clubs/centers.

Any special testing requests, including exceptions or exemptions, must be submitted to the USPC National Office, Attention: Director of Instruction, through the District Commissioner and the Regional Supervisor. The Director of Instruction forwards exceptions or exemptions requests to the Chair, D-1 through C-2 Program Committee, for recommendations. The Vice President of Instruction is the final approval authority.

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