



Governance Committee recommends the following changes to the By-Laws of the Regions of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc., (USPC), in order to clarify who has voting rights on the Regional Council.

Background:

Article 8.2 of the **By-Laws of USPC** indicate that the *majority* of voting members of the Regional Council are to be representatives of the local level, i.e., Clubs or Centers, rather than Regional Officers.

The following Articles are included in the **By-Laws of the Regions**:

Article 2.1 provides the definition of Administrative Officers of USPC.

Article 4.1(a) states who are members of the Regional Council and 4.2(a) provides that all members may initiate and participate in discussions.

Article 4.2(b) specifically addresses who may vote. This article provides that only one vote is allowed per person (or position), that all must be present to vote, and states who may delegate their vote to another individual, to whom, and under what specific circumstances.

In order to maintain the balance that a majority of the voting membership of the Regional Council are to be local level leaders rather than regional leaders, the intention has been that there is only one elected Regional Officer per position, and that person is a voting member of the Regional Council. However, in some cases, especially in larger regions, certain Regional Officer positions such as the Regional Instruction Coordinator (RIC) and Horse Management Organizer (HMO), have been shared by two or more individuals. In regions which have multiple individuals serving in these positions, it was unclear who was allowed to vote at Regional Council meetings. Some regions might appoint assistants to the RIC or HMO and others might elect additional RICS or HMOs. The proposed change to Article 4.2(b) is intended to clarify who may vote in this situation.

In the second sentence of 4.2(b), Joint District Commissioner is struck. Joint DCs do not have the right to vote by virtue of their position, per 4.2(a) which indicates the DC or Joint DC may vote. Joint DCs would vote only if they are designated to vote by the DC, either because the DC will be absent, or the DC holds a regional officer position. Therefore, a Joint DC does not delegate their vote to another individual.

By-Laws of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc.

8.2 Regional Council. Each region shall have a Regional Council. All Administrative Officers serving for a region shall be members of the Regional Council for such region. A majority of the voting members of the Regional Council must be local USPC leadership (such as District Commissioners, Joint District Commissioners, or Riding Center Administrators).

By-Laws of the Regions

Article 2.1 Administrative Officers includes the definition of Administrative Officers: ... “Regional Supervisors and Vice Regional Supervisors as well as District Commissioners and Joint District Commissioners are Administrative Officers of USPC.”

Article 4: REGIONAL COUNCIL

1. **Regional Council.** Each Region has in accordance with USPC By-Laws a Regional Council to provide the assistance, advice and cooperation necessary for the Regional Supervisor to effectively execute ~~his/her~~ their duties and responsibilities.
 1. **Membership.** All USPC Administrative Officers (Regional Supervisor, Vice Regional Supervisors, District Commissioners, and Joint District Commissioners); Center Administrators; and all Regional Officers within the region are members of the Regional Council, providing that the majority of the membership consists of local USPC leadership (such as District Commissioners, Joint District Commissioners, or Riding Center Administrators) in accordance with USPC By-Laws. The President of the USPC, the Vice President of Regional Administration, and any appointed representatives of these officers shall be ex-officio members of the Regional Council. ~~Temporary membership may be conferred by any absent council member upon his/her designated representative.~~ Any absent Council member may confer temporary membership to their designated representative. Temporary membership does not confer voting privilege.
2. **Regional Council Meetings.** Regions shall have sufficient Regional Council meetings to enhance communication ~~between~~ among all members of the Regional Council. It is essential that Regions hold an Annual Meeting as defined herein.
 1. **Meeting Protocol.** The Regional Supervisor, or the designated Vice Regional Supervisor, shall act as the Chair of the Regional Council at all meetings. All members of the Regional Council may make motions to initiate discussion of the subject issues. The Regional Supervisor, Vice Regional Supervisor, Secretary of the Region, USPC President, USPC Vice President of Regional Administration, or a majority of the voting membership of the Regional Council may call a meeting of the Regional Council.
 - b. **Voting.** Administrative Officers of the Region; Regional Officers; the District Commissioner, or Joint District Commissioner, or the designated representative (authorized in writing by the District Commissioner) of each Registered Club; and the Center Administrator or designated representative (authorized in writing by the Center Administrator) of each Recognized Pony Club Riding Center are each entitled to one vote. A person must be present to vote. No person may vote more than once on any item called for a vote. Administrative Officers of the Region and Regional Officers who ~~are also a~~ also hold either the position of District Commissioner, ~~Joint District Commissioner~~ or Center Administrator ~~have only one vote and~~ shall authorize in writing a designated representative to vote on behalf of their Club/Center. Regional Officer positions which allow for sharing of responsibilities, such as the Regional Instruction Coordinator and/or Horse Management Organizer, are entitled to one vote per position regardless of how many share the duties of the position. The officer entitled to vote shall be designated at the time of election or appointment and may delegate their vote in their absence in writing only to another person who shares the responsibilities and title of the position.

~~The same voting rights shall also apply to any other local entities entitled to accept members in the Region consistent with any requirements in Resolutions, Regulations, Rules and Policies adopted by the Board of Governors of USPC.~~