

Dear Leaders, Members and Parents,

In an effort to offer a better experience, and more opportunities to our membership, USPC considered options to restructure and reorganize competition opportunities within USPC Championships. The most exciting is the expansion of USPC Championships with new divisions offered in every discipline. While there are some logistics yet to be integrated, the following is an overview of the new Championships divisions' format that can be found in the Guidebook to Championships, available in April on the Championships Competition Information page of the Pony Club website.

Eligibility Requirements - To be eligible for Championships, competitors must meet the age parameters and minimum certifications set by each discipline, for the division they want to enter. There are no age and no certification exceptions to the specified minimum requirements. Details are available in each discipline's 2019 rulebook online and will be posted in the 2019 Guidebook.

Divisions Offered - Every discipline will offer both championship and modified divisions. Both divisions offer the opportunity for members to compete peer to peer and so neither division is designated as the 'main' division over the other at Championships. Members are encouraged to enter the division that best reflects their regional rally experience and own personal eligibility.

Competition Format - Both championship and modified divisions will specifically follow the discipline rules as outlined in each rulebook. Due to the adjusted mounted eligibility requirements for the modified divisions, all disciplines will use a shortened mounted competition format from that of championship divisions and the schedule will be adapted to include full group educational workshops, and more one on one team time with HM staff. The competition format and schedule of each discipline will be posted in the 2019 Guidebook.

Horse Management at Championships - The judging of horse management will adhere to horse management competition standards as outlined in the 2019 Horse Management Handbook. The horse management competition standards are the same across both championship and modified divisions, for all disciplines. Horse management will follow previous Championships by adhering to horse management competition standards while allowing members to showcase their horse management knowledge and expertise in the championship competition setting. The point value system used for judging will be the same for both championship and modified divisions.

Championship competitors need to know and come prepared to demonstrate their knowledge of horse management competition standards.

Modified Championships competitors need to know and come prepared to demonstrate their knowledge of horse management competition standards. If a competitor is unprepared to demonstrate to the standard, the HM staff will help by advising and helping while the competitor will take an active role in completing the task. Modified championship will adhere to the same competition standards as Championships but will be structured to allow additional education to members when understanding, and execution, if the competition standard has not been met. Expanded education opportunities include one on one in the moment, horse management staff time with individual teams to expound on a specific topic, and full group workshops to cover areas generally proven less understood across all disciplines. The horse management staff in the modified division will explore the How's and Why's of foundation horse management while maintaining the same level of HM standard as the championship division.

Educational Workshops - Each discipline and horse management staff will provide the modified divisions full group workshops that will focus on education of foundation skills for their future success in their sport. These workshops will be a part of the modified competitor's competition day and attendance will be required.

Stabling - Championship and modified teams will be stabled together by discipline. One horse management team will be hired by each discipline and will be the HM staff for both championship and modified divisions within the same discipline.

Awards - The awards given in each division will indicate which level and division in which a team has competed.

A reminder that the official documents for all disciplines at USPC Championships include the 2019 discipline rulebooks and handbooks, the 2019 Championships Guidebooks, and the USPC Annual Discipline Newsletters.