

Pony Club®



Western Trail Rulebook *2022*

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 mount with consideration due a partner.

USPC MISSION STATEMENT

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is an educational organization which builds the foundations of teamwork and sportsmanship through riding, mounted sports, care of horses and ponies, while developing and enhancing leadership, confidence, responsibility, and a sense of community in its youth and adult members.

Introduction

The goal of the mount and rider combination is negotiating the course and obstacles without errors or disobediences. Each Western Trail course is intended to demonstrate the mount's maneuverability, willingness, grace, training and obedience, as well as the rider's horsemanship. The obstacles include objects or challenges that mimic what a working ranch mount may encounter or need to negotiate. Western Trail improves the agility and focus of both mount and rider and utilizes both physical skills to not only negotiate a series of obstacles, but to plan the proper approach for success.

Competitions

A Western Trail competition is usually comprised of multiple rounds that feature courses designed to challenge the mount and rider in many ways. Western Trail courses can consist of anywhere from 8 to 12 obstacles, and often include a gate, poles (either raised or on the ground), a bridge, a backing obstacle, water, cones, and a task such as transferring an object from one location to another. The mount and rider negotiate the specified course in an allotted time without major disobediences or negatively impacting the obstacle. Each obstacle is designed to challenge a mount and rider's precision, communication, training, and mental preparedness. In some rounds or competitive levels, there may be a timed portion or an option to plan the most efficient course to complete all the obstacles.

USPC CORE VALUES

Horsemanship with respect to healthcare, 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 mount 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.

Western Trail in Pony Club

Western Trail in Pony Club uses similar obstacles and challenges that are seen in other shows that contain a trail class. Members compete on a team of three to four riders with a stable manager and generally complete two to three courses at a rally. One or two rounds are a traditional trail class round with a specific order of obstacles, each obstacle is judged using a scale which evaluates the mount and rider team and how successful they were at negotiating the obstacle/challenge. One round may be a speed round with a time limit. Each obstacle must be negotiated successfully, and bonus points may be rewarded for successfully completing more obstacles than required within the time limit. Another round may be outside of an arena and take place in the open in an area the size of a pasture, on a cross country course, or along an actual trail that can be up to two miles long. During this round, each obstacle may have a different judge to facilitate the logistics of competition.

Members who are eligible and meet the requirements of the discipline at their regional rally may go on to compete in the National Championships.

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Resource List

- USPC website www.ponyclub.org
- United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) www.usef.org
- American Quarter Mount Association (AQHA) www.aqha.com
- State 4-H Competitive Trail Rules
- Working Equitation—United States (WE United) www.weunited.us
- Equine Trail Sports www.equinetrailsports.com
- International Mountain Trail Challenge Association www.imtca.org
- American Horsemen Challenge Association www.americanmountmenchallenge.com
- Ultimate Horsemens Challenge Association www.ultimatehca.com
- Southern Obstacle Challenge Association www.southernobstaclechallenges.com
- Extreme Cowboy Association www.extremecowboyassociation.com
- North American Trail Ride Conference www.natrc.org
- American Ranch Mount Association www.americanranchmount.net

Reminder: This is a new Rulebook for 2022. 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.

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SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

Article 1—Rally Definition

Pony Club rallies are team competitions, highlighting the team's achievement, whether competing unmounted or mounted. All mounted rallies (standard and modified) must include riding and Horse Management competitions. Mounted rallies may run within the framework of a local or recognized show. A rally may take place all in one day or may span several days of competition.

This rulebook is intended to establish standards for United States Pony Clubs (USPC) rallies while allowing variety in the types of competitions. Organizers of competitions should work with their regional supervisors (RS) to offer the levels and divisions that they feel are appropriate for the local needs. It is the responsibility of the organizer and RS to offer the appropriate standard or modified rallies and divisions that meet the needs of their members wishing to become eligible for Championships. Regions may host more than one rally per discipline in the same year. In modified rallies and divisions, organizers and RSs may make rule allowances based on the competitor's needs. Competitors aiming for Championships must strictly follow all attire and equipment specifications. Organizers must outline any rule adjustments in the entry information. Criteria for standard and modified rallies are listed below.

Standard Rallies

Standard rallies are always preferred. These rallies specifically follow all the rules outlined in the discipline rulebooks including utilizing a chief horse management judge (CHMJ) from the approved CHMJ list on the USPC website, and any other specified licensed officials. Certain divisions of Championships require the member to attend a standard rally, and attendance at a standard rally and meeting minimum eligibility requirements guarantee a members' ability to attend Championships.

Modified Rallies

Modified rallies do not specifically follow the discipline rulebooks and generally occur because of limited resources. While attendance of a modified rally makes some members eligible for the modified divisions of Championships, it does not meet the minimum eligibility requirements for other divisions.

Each year, every region should host rallies and is encouraged to work cooperatively with other regions to host joint rallies as appropriate. At all levels, organizers are encouraged to keep rallies simple and inexpensive. Local and regional rallies are team competitions involving club/centers from only one region. Interregional rallies are team competitions between two or more regions. Championships are national rallies organized by USPC that occur annually in varying locations. Visit the USPC website for specific details about upcoming Championships dates and locations.

If an individual's region does not offer a rally in the desired discipline, they may earn eligibility in another region upon obtaining approval from the RS in both regions.

Rally competitions are normally competed in as teams, but

sometimes members compete as individuals based on the needs of the hosting group. In all rallies, teams should be recognized for their achievements in the competition. In mounted rallies, team/competitor placings will be based on a combination of their riding scores and their Horse Management scores. Separate Horse Management awards are often given for the team/individual achieving the lowest Horse Management penalties during the rally.

Article 2—Governing Rules

With regards to standard rallies, this rulebook is a precise specification of rules that must be followed. For modified rallies/divisions/competitors, this rulebook should be viewed as a guide that can be adjusted by the rally organizer/RS to best meet the needs of the region. Modifications should be listed in the rally entry information. Additional governing documents for all rallies are the following:

- Annual Discipline Newsletters
- USPC Horse Management Handbook (current edition)
- Official Amendments and Clarifications from USPC
- Appropriate parent organization rulebooks (i.e. USEF, APA). If the rally is being run in conjunction with a recognized event, the parent organization rulebook will supersede this rulebook. If the rally is not being run in conjunction with a recognized event, then this rulebook will be followed.

Since rules cannot provide for every eventuality (unforeseen or exceptional circumstance), it is the obligation of the discipline ground jury to make decisions in a sporting spirit and to follow as closely as possible the intention of these rules. If there is an inconsistency, the discipline rulebook takes precedence over the Horse Management Handbook.

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Article 3—Responsibility

A competitor is ultimately responsible for knowing these rules and complying with them. The appointment of an official, whether or not provided for in these rules, does not absolve the competitor from such responsibility.

Article 4—Legal Liability

Neither the USPC, host club/center/region(s), the organizer, competition officials, staff, nor any other person acting on behalf of the organizer, shall be held liable for any loss, damage, accident, injury or illness to competitors, mounts or to any other person or property whatsoever.

SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

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 eligibility criteria 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 as of 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 all rallies should 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

(Policy 1002) 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, mountmanship, 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—Substances and Weapons

(Policy 0500) In the interest in the safety and welfare of all, it is the policy of the Board of Governors, during any Pony Club activities, to prohibit the inappropriate or illegal use of any substance, including but not limited to drugs or alcohol, by anyone participating in any manner. Weapons of any kind are forbidden.

Article 9—Mounts

(Policy 0840) Mounts used at a regional or interregional rally should be the participant's regular USPC mount, and be accustomed to being handled by its rider without adult supervision. A participant may use a mount other than the regular mount only with the advance permission of the DC/CA and RS.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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 on which they earned eligibility. In extraordinary circumstances, after becoming eligible for Championships, a substitute mount may be requested via the online application a minimum of five days before Championships move-in by the RS. The panel reviews each application to verify the substitute mount meets the same mount eligibility requirements as the original entry. Refer to the Mount Substitution application found on the Championships Competition Information page of the USPC website.

*Polocrosse teams can bring a spare mount for the competition. See Article 25 and Article 58 for additional information.

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 using 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 (TD)/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) 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. USPC defines medication 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.
2. Supplements (including vitamins and nutraceuticals) are substances added to a mount's diet that are not medications or normal foodstuffs.
3. Any mount under treatment by a veterinarian for a condition requiring medication administration while at a Pony Club activity or competition shall have a veterinarian's certificate stating the diagnosis, medication, dosage, and method of administration.
4. If a veterinarian recommends or administers medication during an activity, the mount may or may not be used while under the influence of the medication, depending on the veterinarian's certificate and applicable prohibited substances rules.
5. Competitors must record on the mount's feed chart and stall card any supplements to be administered during the Pony Club activity or competition.
6. Medications or supplements may only be administered by the mount owner or by a person designated by the owner of the mount.
7. Competitors at a rally shall be governed by the procedures on the use of equine medications and supplements described in the Horse Management Handbook.

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

Article 13—Cruelty to and Abuse of a Mount

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

Any action(s) against a mount by a competitor or other person, which are deemed excessive by a judge, steward, TD 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

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jury or other rally official can clearly and without doubt be defined as abuse of mounts shall be penalized by disqualification. Such acts include, but are not limited to:

- Riding an exhausted mount.
 - Excessive pressing of a tired mount.
 - Excessive use of whip and/or spurs, and/or bit.
 - Striking a mount in front of the shoulder.
 - Riding an obviously lame mount.
2. Rapping. All rapping (poling) is forbidden.
 3. Whip. The use of the whip must be for a good reason, at an appropriate time, in the right place, and with appropriate severity.
 - Reason—The whip must only be used either as an aid to encourage the mount forward, or as a reprimand. It must never be used to vent a rider's temper. Such use is always excessive.
 - Time—As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a mount is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. As a reprimand, the only appropriate time is immediately after a mount has been disobedient, e.g., napping or refusing. The whip should not be used after elimination. The whip should not be used after a mount has jumped the last fence on a course or completed the last obstacle.
 - Place—As an aid to go forward, the whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the rider's leg. As a reprimand, it must only be used behind the rider's leg. It must never be used overhand, e.g., a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank. The use of a whip on a mount's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.
 - Severity—As a reprimand only, a mount may be hit hard. However, it should never be hit more than two times for any one incident. If a mount is marked by the whip, e.g., the skin is broken, its use is excessive.
 4. End of the Reins (Western Trail only) - The use of the end of the reins must be for a good reason, at an appropriate time, in the right place, and with appropriate severity.
 - Reason—The end of the reins must only be used either as an aid to encourage the mount forward, or as a reprimand. It must never be used to vent a rider's temper. Such use is always excessive.
 - Time—As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a mount is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. As a reprimand, the only appropriate time is immediately after a mount has been disobedient, e.g., napping or refusing. The end of the reins should not be used after elimination.
 - Place—As an aid to go forward, the end of the reins may be used down the shoulder or behind the rider's leg. As a reprimand, it must only be used behind the rider's leg. It must never be used overhand, e.g., the end of the reins in the right hand being used on the left flank. The use

of the end of the reins on a mount's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.

- Severity—As a reprimand only, a mount may be hit hard. However, it should never be hit more than two times for any one incident. If a mount is marked by the end of the reins, e.g., the skin is broken, its use is excessive.
5. Spurs—Spurs must not be used to reprimand a mount. Such use is always excessive, as is any use that results in a mount's skin being broken.
 6. Bit—The bit must never be used to reprimand a mount. Any such use is always excessive.
 7. Reporting—Officials must report such actions as soon as possible to the discipline ground jury, supported where possible by statements from witnesses.
 - Discipline ground jury—if such actions are reported, the discipline ground jury shall decide if there is a case to be answered. If an individual member of the discipline ground jury observes such actions, they are obliged to disqualify the competitor forthwith on their own authority. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury's decision in a case of abuse.

Article 14—Dangerous Riding

- Any competitor who rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or wellbeing of the competitor, mount, other competitors, their mounts, spectators, or others will be penalized accordingly.
- Any act or series of actions that in the opinion of the judge, TD, steward, member of the discipline ground jury can be defined as dangerous riding shall be penalized at the discretion of the discipline ground jury.
- If such actions are reported, the discipline ground jury shall decide if there is a case to be answered. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury decision.

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

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wear a body protector at their discretion for any mounted activity.

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 their upper sleeve. (Armbands are available for purchase from Shop Pony Club.)
- Medical bracelets must visibly list these six items on them: name, 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

(Policy 0900): USPC requires all Pony Club volunteers in a leadership position within Pony Club and especially anyone involved directly with mounted or unmounted lessons or activities to complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) heat illness training module.

At all USPC activities, rally officials must consider the:

- Temperature and humidity using the "Heat Index Chart" (Appendix II).
- Time of day and season of activity.
- Level of exertion necessary for participation in the activity.

The Heat Index (HI) or "Apparent Temperature" is the temperature the body feels when heat and humidity are combined. This reduces the amount of evaporation of sweat from the body and outdoor exercise becomes dangerous even for those in good shape. Please refer to Appendix II.

Steps to prevent heat related illness include:

- Providing unlimited cool water for consumption in ALL areas, especially riding areas.
- Make water breaks mandatory.
- Do not depend on thirst as an indicator of the need for water.
- Avoid the hottest part of the day if this is an option.
- Consider shortening the length/level or exertion of the activity.

During rallies, the discipline ground jury (overall ground jury at Championships) is responsible for monitoring the Heat Index and taking appropriate action as necessary. Those actions could include, but are not limited to:

- Waiving of coats/jackets
- Banning of coats/jackets
- Altering of schedule

Any official can and should bring a potentially dangerous heat situation to the attention of the president of the ground jury. If coats/jackets are waived or banned the following processes should be followed.

Waived Coats/Jackets

When the temperature and humidity are recorded in the danger zone, removal of coats during warm up is mandatory.

If the rider wants to put their coat/jacket on for their competition round, then they may leave their neckwear and helmet cover on during warm up.

If the rider does not want to put their coat/jacket on for their competition round, then they must remove all neckwear and their helmet cover during warm up.

SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

Additional Information

- When coats are waived, the competitors must be turned out per Competition Attire (including coats/jackets) unless they choose to compete wearing Basic Riding Attire.
- Riders must wear a collared shirt with long or short sleeves if they are not wearing a jacket.
- T-Shirts are not permitted.

Competitors must also remove neckwear and helmet covers on vented helmets if they do not wish to wear their jackets for their competitive ride.

Banned Coats/Jackets

When temperature and humidity are recorded in the danger zone and based on the decision of the discipline ground jury (overall ground jury at Championships) coats/jackets may be banned for the safety of competitors. If coats/jackets are banned then competitors must remove coats/jackets, neckwear and helmet covers for turnout inspections, warm up and for competition rounds.

Heat Illness Return To Play

A member believed by a leader, coach, parent or official of a USPC unmounted or mounted activity or competition to be suffering from heat illness shall be removed from play at that time and given appropriate treatment before being allowed to return to play.

Article 17—Concussion and Return to Play

(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 concussion training module.

A member believed by a leader, coach, parent or official to have sustained a concussion during a USPC unmounted or mounted activity must be referred to medical personnel. Medical personnel in conjunction with rally officials and organizers will determine if a written release is required for the member to return to the competition.

Article 18—Unauthorized and Permitted Assistance

1. Unauthorized Assistance: Unauthorized assistance is help and/or assistance during the competition from anyone other than other competitors, HMJs, and rally officials. Unauthorized assistance can occur in person or through the use of electronic communication, unless allowed by the specific discipline rulebook (e.g., coaches in certain situations)
2. If, in the opinion of a member of the ground jury, unauthorized assistance has been received by a competitor, that competitor may be eliminated from that phase of the rally, or in extreme cases, disqualified from the entire competition. If there is any question, the discipline ground

jury makes the final decision. There is no appeal.

3. Permitted Assistance:

- Adults may aid in the unloading of mounts and carrying of heavy gear into the stable area upon arrival, after which non-competitors must immediately leave the area.
- After a fall of a competitor or competitor dismounts, they may be assisted to catch their mount*, to adjust their saddlery, to remount, or to be handed any part of their saddlery or equipment, including whip, while they are dismounted or after they have remounted. Helmets must be replaced, and retention harnesses refastened before riders may remount.
- Exception for loose mounts in Games only: In Games, a loose mount may be caught by any competitor or official already in the arena when the loose mount is behind Lines A and C. However, only the mount's rider may enter the playing area to catch it.
- A competitor may receive clarification of jumping penalties from an obstacle judge, e.g., after jumping a flag at a corner, the judge may clarify whether it was a run-out or not.
- If bodily harm to mount and/or rider is imminent, assistance from anyone (Official or otherwise), without concern for penalties, is expected. Time permitting, the situation 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 mount 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.

SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

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/round score if related to a single phase/ round, or a 50% impact on the overall score. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury decision on issuing a Yellow Card or disqualifying a competitor.

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

SECTION II: General Regulations

Chapter 1—Team Composition

Article 22—Team Formation

Regional Rallies:

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

Championships:

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

Article 23—Team Configuration

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

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 64).

The team captain is the official spokesperson for the team and is responsible for all communications between the team and rally officials. 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 steward/TD.

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

Article 25—Stable Managers

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

Article 26—Mount Specifications

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

Article 27—Chaperones/Emergency Contacts

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

1. Chaperones:

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

2. Emergency Contacts:

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

Article 28—Coaches and Coaching

Western Trail coaches are allowed, but not mandatory for all rallies. There may be one or more coaches (may not also serve as chaperone). The presence of a coach at a Western Trail 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:

SECTION II: General Regulations

- Must be 18 years of age as of January 1st of the competition year.
- No scheduling changes will be made to accommodate the coaches/competitors ride times.
- Competitor's responsibilities and mount's care always take precedence over coaching duties.

Western Trail Coaches:

Must read, understand, sign and return a Coaches Form with the team entry. (Appendix VI).

Must know the USPC Western Trail rules, especially regarding unauthorized assistance, Article 18. Access to the team is limited and they may not enter the stable area except during authorized visiting times.

At Championship competitions, coaches must attend the opening competitor briefing, and the coaches briefing.

Chapter 2—Competition Levels and Divisions

Article 29—Competition Levels

At regional rallies a rider may compete in any level their mount is eligible for and in which they feel their mount would be able to perform. Below are the most commonly offered levels at Western Trail rally:

- Rookie (walk/jog and walk/trot) – This regional-only level is mounted introduction to Western Trail
- Level 1—This level is for riders who have developed basic skills and includes all three gaits (walk/jog/lope and walk/trot/canter).
- Level 2—This level is for riders who are proficient in handling obstacles and includes all three gaits.
- Level 3—This level is for riders who are skilled in handling the obstacles and are expected to complete more challenging obstacles.

Article 30—Competition Divisions

Competition divisions differ from competition levels in that competitors may be separated into divisions based on age and/or other parameters. A competitor's age is determined by their age as of January 1 on the year of competition. See Article 5 for more details on age minimums.

Junior Divisions—Up to and including 17 years of age

Senior Divisions—18 years of age and above

Note: Rally divisions can be split further or combined based on entry numbers and approval of the organizer and RS. Junior competitors can always compete up a division as a senior to fill out a team. Senior competitors can never compete down in a Junior division. Before combining junior and senior aged competitors on the same team rally organizers must get the written approval

(Appendix IV) of the junior competitor and their parent/legal guardian.

Article 31—Championships Divisions—Minimum Age and Certifications

To be eligible for Championships, competitors must meet the age parameters and minimum certifications for the offered Championships divisions. There are no age and no certification exceptions to the below requirements. See Article 5 for more details on age and certification minimums.

Modified Junior Level 1	D-2 DR/Flat/EV/HSE/WST	10-17
Modified Senior Level 1	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE/WST	18+
Modified Junior Level 2	D-2 DR/Flat/EV/HSE WST	10-17
Junior Level 2	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE/WST	12-17
Modified Senior Level 2	D-2 DR/Flat/EV/HSE/WST	18+
Senior Level 2	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE/WST	18+
Junior Level 3	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE/WST	12-17
Senior Level 3	C-1 DR/Flat/EV/HSE/WST	18+

Stable managers must meet the minimum age criteria of their division and be a D-2 HM for modified divisions and a D-3 HM for all other divisions.

Note: Championship divisions may be combined based on entry numbers and approval from VPA and the overall organizer.

Article 32—Championships Eligibility Process

Each individual Pony Club member who desires to compete at Championships must compete in a regional rally and be judged at the minimum HM level and same competition level in which they intend to compete at Championships. This constitutes the "individual eligibility" of the competitor.

Members wanting to become eligible for Championships must meet the below division criteria.

Modified Level 1 and Modified Level 2—Participate in a standard or modified Western Trail rally at the competition level and meet the following criteria:

- Must compete in a minimum of two different courses at the same level with at least eight obstacles in each.
- Successfully complete every obstacle within the round time allowed.
- Not be eliminated in any round.

Standard Level 2 and Standard Level 3—Complete a standard Western Trail rally at the competition level and meet the following criteria:

- Must compete in a minimum of two different courses at the same level with at least eight obstacles in each.

SECTION II: General Regulations

- Successfully complete every obstacle within the round time allowed.
- Not be eliminated in any round.
- Achieve a minimum score of 60% in one round.

If a standard or modified Western Trail rally is not available. Competitors may also earn competitive eligibility by meeting the following criteria.

- Must attend a standard regional rally as a mounted competitor and receive a mounted HM score.
- Must participate in a Competitive Trail event offered by USEF, AQHA, 4-H, ETS, AHCA, or similar organization with at least a state-wide or wider presence, on a course with at least eight obstacles.
- Must successfully complete the course and receive a score of 60% or better in a 1-10 scoring system or 70 or better using the USEF/AQHA scoring system.
- Must wear a helmet meeting USPC Policy (Article 15.1) at all times while mounted at the competition, regardless of competition rules.

Article 33—Eligibility Requirements for C-3/B/A Certified Members

Certified C-3, B and A members wishing to compete at Championships do not have to participate at a regional Western Trail rally but must have permission of their RS.

Article 34—Exceptions to Eligibility Requirements for Championships

Exceptions to the eligibility process are occasionally granted. There are no exceptions to minimum age and certification requirements. The process for requesting an exception is outlined on the Championships Competition Information page of the USPC website. All requests for exceptions must come from the RS to the review panel using the online application found on the Championships Information Page of the USPC website.

Chapter 3—Presentation of Competitor and Mount

Article 35—Competitor Identification

Identification numbers (pinnies, bridle numbers, etc.) must be worn in a prominent manner on 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.

Article 36—Competitor Attire

Each participant is responsible for organizing their own attire and equipment which must meet all safety requirements outlined in Article 15. Competitors should be neat and clean with inappropriate jewelry not permitted; see Horse Management

Handbook for specifications. Participants must wear a medical armband or bracelet as specified in Article 15.3. A Pony Club pin must be worn at all times unless otherwise stated by rally officials. Felt can be placed behind pins using the below designations:

Certification	Felt Color
A.....	Royal Blue
H-A.....	Orange
B.....	Red
H-HM/H.....	Purple
H-B.....	Brown
C-3.....	White
C+.....	Pink
C-1 and C-2.....	Green
D-1 through D-3.....	Yellow

Depending on the activity, different attire expectations exist, the different situations and attire expectations are listed below.

1. **General Barn Attire**—Attire must be safe, free of rips and tears. Shirts must have sleeves to the point of the shoulder or longer and appropriate unmounted footwear.
2. **Mount 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.
3. **Turnout Inspection and first round of competition**—All competitors must turnout and compete in appropriate competition attire. Any competitors not seeking Championships eligibility may turnout and compete in appropriate competition attire or in basic riding attire (which could be english styled) 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 Western Trail:**

Required

Helmet—Black or conservative style that meets the USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).

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

Shirt—Shirt of any color with a collar and sleeves, tucked into pants.

Pants—Western style trousers, jeans or split riding skirt of a conservative style.

Belt—Required if pants/skirt has belt loops. Conservative style.

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Trophy buckles are also permitted.

Footwear—Conventional type of Western riding footwear that covers the ankle, has a heel and a smooth sole is required. Western boots should be a conservative style. Boots having a severely pointed toe are discouraged.

Permitted

Neckwear—Bolo, kerchief, necktie, or pin.

Coat/Jackets/Sweater/Vest—Any color.

Gloves—Conservative style.

Chaps—Conservative style, any material, any length, any style.

Spurs—Western style spurs with shank and rowel no longer than 2". Rowel to be blunt and is not to exceed 1".

Not Permitted

Work boot/lugged or "waffle" soles

5. Basic Riding Attire for Western Trail:

Unrated and D-1

Required

Helmet—Any color and meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).

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

Shirt—Collared shirt with sleeves and tucked in.

Pants—Long pants.

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

Permitted

Belt—Any type/color.

Gloves—Any type/color.

D-2 and up

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

Required

Helmet—Any color and meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).

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

Shirt—Collared shirt with sleeves and tucked in.

Pants—Trousers, pants or split riding skirt of a conservative color.

Belt—If pants have belt loops, belts are required.

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

Permitted

Gloves—Any type/color.

Article 37—Bits, Saddlery and Equipment

The following information is the most basic description of

allowable bits, saddles and equipment for Western Trail. Final determination of permitted and prohibited bits, saddlery and equipment may require referencing the USEF Western Rulebook (WS 105) available on the USEF website for the most up to date information.

All competitors must turnout and compete per the specific bits, saddlery and equipment rules outlined in this rulebook and the USEF Western Rulebook (WS 105). Any competitors not pursuing Championships eligibility may request bit, saddlery and equipment allowances (including riding in English tack and attire) from the rally organizer and RS. (i.e., kimberwicke bits, grazing reins, standing martingale, etc.)

The following restrictions begin upon arrival on the competition grounds and continue throughout the duration of the rally.

1. Bridles

A. Permitted

1. A plain headstall.

2. Certain hackamores or bosals are permitted. A permitted hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall. There must be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " between the nose and the bosal. The bosal will be no larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter at the cheek and will flex easily.

3. A side pull, Dr. Cook bitless bridle, Micklem Multibridle, are permitted or an English/jumping hackamore with shanks less than 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in overall maximum length (headstall attachment to rein attachment).

B. Not Permitted—Mechanical hackamores with shanks over 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " overall in maximum length (headstall attachment to rein attachment), and German hackamores.

2. Bits

A. Permitted—All bits must be properly fitted and consistent with their intended use.

1. There shall be no discrimination against any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. (The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars). Nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the mount. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two

SECTION II: General Regulations

or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard.

2. Standard snaffle bits are permitted. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee, or center mounted without cheeks. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachment hooks. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.
 3. Other snaffle bits that are not center single jointed, and that do not appear on the "Not Permitted" list below, are acceptable as long as they do not violate other parameters laid out in A.1) and A.2) above.
 4. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required and must be at least 1/2" in width, lie flat against the jaw, and be free of bars, wire, and/or twists.
- B. Not Permitted
1. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited.
 2. Using a curb bit without an appropriate curb strap is prohibited.
 3. Wire, rawhide, metal or other substance may not be used in conjunction with or as part of the leather chin strap, or curb chains. Rounded, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.
 4. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar shall not be used.
3. Nosebands and Reins
- A. Permitted
1. Western cavessons are permitted.
 2. Reins must be attached to each shank.
 3. Examples of permitted reins include: Mecate reins (Bosal or snaffle), romal reins without a popper (both snaffle and curb), romal reins (curb only), loop/connected reins, split reins, buckled reins. All reins must have a breakaway feature, either at the bit or at the buckle (if they have a buckle).

B. Not Permitted

1. Bosals with material such as: plastic, resin, glue, steel, metal or chains (Exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable if applied in a smooth, untwisted manner).
2. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard western bit is prohibited.

4. Saddlery

A. Permitted

Stock saddles are required and side saddles are also acceptable.

B. Not Permitted:

Tapaderos.

5. Extra Equipment

A. Permitted

1. Protective Boots, bandages, fly shields, ear plugs, nose covers, and seat covers are permitted.
2. Running martingales with reins stops are permitted for use with snaffle bits only.
3. Western breast collars.
4. Under penalty of elimination, no competitor may carry or use a whip over 30 inches in length while riding or schooling nor may a competitor use a whip which is weighted or has a pointed end, at any time while on the rally grounds. Lunge whips may be used for longeing only. No substitute for a whip may be used or carried (exception for split or romal reins if used).

B. Not Permitted

1. Tie downs are prohibited.
2. If using a bit other than a snaffle running martingales are prohibited.
3. Other martingales, any form of gadget (such as a bearing, or balancing reins, etc.) and any form of blinkers, are forbidden, under penalty of disqualification.
4. Mounts shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class is considered to be an artificial appliance.

Any questions of suitability or use of equipment will be referred to the steward/TD of the competition. The discipline ground jury shall have the right to determine the safety of all equipment and can disallow the use of any equipment.

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Article 38—Competitor and Horse Inspections

Mounts must be well groomed. Braiding or banding is optional, as long as it does not interfere with the competitor's responsibilities to their mount. Braids and bands must be removed prior to turnback. Mounts need not be shod, but their feet are expected to be in good condition and not in need of any attention upon arrival at the rally. The discipline ground jury may exclude unsafe, inappropriate, lame, otherwise unsound or exhausted mounts from the competition at any time during the rally.

Examinations of Mount and Rider Required at Western Trail Rally:

1. Horse Inspections (Jog Outs):

Horse Inspections are required at standard rallies and Championships and recommended for all rallies. Before the beginning of competition, the mounts must be examined for soundness in hand, by an inspection panel. All mounts shall be serviceably sound. Should the soundness of a mount be questioned, the matter shall be reported immediately to the steward/TD, who shall request an inspection of the mount by the veterinarian. In the absence of the veterinarian, the judges or Steward/TD shall determine the ability of the mount to compete. All decisions by the veterinarian, Steward/TD or judges regarding the soundness of a mount and its ability to compete are final.

- It is recommended that the president of the ground jury be present at the initial inspection.
- The discipline ground jury may, at its discretion, at any time, have any mount jog for soundness before the inspection panel.

2. Turnout Inspection:

Approximately 45-60 minutes prior to the first ride of the competition, all competitors will report to their turnout inspection. The rally organizer will designate turnout inspection times. At turnout inspection, competitors must wear the appropriate attire for their discipline and present their mount with all the equipment they will wear/use in the first ride of the competition. More details about turnout inspection requirements are listed in the HMM.

If multiple riders are sharing one mount:

- All riders using the same mount will present at the first scheduled turnout inspection time for the mount. If tack is removed or changed between riders, the mount must be returned to Horse management for a safety check.
- Faults against a mount are received by all sharing that mount. Members will be judged individually based on their certification level.

3. Safety Check:

Safety checks occur before warmup of each subsequent ride. Failure to present for a safety check prior to a ride is cause for elimination. More details about safety check expectations are listed in the HMM.

SECTION III: Competition

Article 39—Competition Format

USPC Western Trail rallies are competitions where teams compete against each other in both riding and Horse management competition. USPC Western Trail rally rules and procedures are largely based on USEF rules with the exception of scoring, which has been altered to better fit within USPC team competition.

Organizers of competitions are free to select from any combination and number of the following types of rounds in a Western Trail rally. A rally must include a Classic Trail or Ranch Trail round and at least one other round. If both rounds are Classic Trail or Ranch Trail rounds, then at least some of the obstacles must be exchanged or performed in a different order and a new course map provided to competitors.

NOTE: No rider/mount combination may compete more than once on each course.

After the official start of the rally, no competitor may ride/school/warm-up another competitor's entered mount.

Doing so is grounds for elimination, from that round, of all parties involved.

Article 40—Competition Schedule

The following is a general schedule. The actual schedule will be determined by number of rounds competed.

1. Briefing—Competitors are responsible for knowing all information from all official briefings whether present or absent. At least one representative from each team must be present at every official briefing.
2. Horse Inspection (formerly jog out)—required at standard rallies, and recommended at all rallies. Opportunity to inspect mounts for soundness.
3. Turnout Inspection—Each rider reports at the assigned time and location for the turnout inspection with their mount riders must present for turnout inspection in the exact attire and with all the equipment they will wear/use in the first riding phase of the competition.
4. First Competition Round (and subsequent rounds)—The secretary shall make up the order of go (OOG). The competitors will follow the order of go or risk elimination. The order of go will be available at the beginning of the rally and changes to the order of go may be made for subsequent rounds.
5. One or more subsequent rounds of competition may occur on the same or later days. Prior to each additional round of competition, a complete safety check of each competitor's attire, mount, and equipment must take place. A safety check will not be required when rounds are run back to back.
6. Turnback—Following riding phases, there may be an official check (turnback) of the mount, tack and equipment used for that phase.

Article 41—Dimensions and Nature of the Competition Arenas

Competitions may be held in an indoor arena, outdoor arena or outside of an arena. The steward/TD has the right to forbid an event to take place if a proposed competition area is in any way unsuitable for the competition.

For rounds ridden in an arena:

1. The dimensions and nature of the arena(s) should be given in the invitation to the competition.
2. The arena for certain rounds of competition must be enclosed. Temporary barriers are allowed. It is strongly recommended that the gate area be closed while a mount is competing, particularly for less experienced riders. If there is no gate or the gate is unusable, a temporary barrier is appropriate.
3. An average-size arena for Western Trail competitions is 200 feet by 150 feet. In smaller arenas, particular care must be exercised to avoid a too tight or a too restrictive track or overcrowding the arena with obstacles.
4. The footing should be well drained and level. Slight undulations and slopes are allowable, so long as not too great a problem for the caliber of competitors and so long as they are considered by the course designer in their planning.

For rounds ridden in the open:

1. Ideally, the course is a loop or horseshoe shape to allow for the start and finish areas to be located near each other.
2. The maximum distance of the course shall be two miles.
3. Gentle hills are acceptable but safety of the mount and rider should be considered when planning the course.
4. The course should be clearly marked with signs and volunteers positioned along the route to assist with directions, disobedience, or emergencies.
5. The footing should be well drained to minimize slips.

Article 42—Obstacles

Obstacles are categorized into three categories, agility, calmness, or control obstacles. Agility obstacles demonstrate an athleticism on the part of the mount/rider pair. Calmness obstacles demonstrate the ability of the mount/rider pair to perform possibly unfamiliar, and possibly scary (though not startling) tasks in a relaxed and confident manner. Control obstacles require rider control over the direction of movement of the mount, generally at low speed. All courses must utilize at least two obstacles from each category. Please reference Appendix VIII for Obstacle Specifications.

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Items to Keep in Mind

- The obstacles must be varied in their overall shape and appearance.
- Both the obstacles themselves and their constituent parts must be such that they can be knocked down, while not being so light that they fall at the slightest touch or so heavy that they may cause mounts to fall.
- The obstacles must not be unsporting nor unduly alarming to riders or mounts (e.g., sudden motions, sounds, projectiles, moving surfaces). All poles on the ground must not present an opportunity for the pole to roll if it is stepped on.
- Raised poles must not be taller than 12 inches.
- Obstacles should pose the same challenge to all riders, from first to last (e.g. avoid elements that might be unexpected or tricky for the first rider that are then not unexpected or tricky for later riders). Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large mount.
- Mounts must not be required to work on the rail. The course must be designed, however, to require each mount to show three gaits (walk, jog/second gait at least 30 feet, lope), (except at Rookie level, which excludes the lope). These can be designed as the only component of an obstacle, as part of navigating an obstacle task, or as part of entering or leaving an obstacle. Inclusion of both left and right leads at the lope is desirable but not required except for Championships. Quality of movement and cadence at the gait should be considered as part of the obstacle score.
- When sizing obstacles, figure mount's wheelbase at five feet front hooves to back hooves.

Agility Obstacles

Agility obstacles demonstrate athleticism on the part of the mount/rider pair. The most common types of agility obstacles utilized in Western Trail competition include: banks, ride over bridges, ditches, jumps, ride-overs, and platforms. Jogged and/or loped circles or patterns can also be used as agility obstacles. Other agility obstacles conceived by the course designer may be used as long as they do not include prohibited elements or pose a safety hazard. Please refer to Appendix VIII for agility obstacle specifications.

Calmness Obstacles

Calmness obstacles demonstrate the ability of the mount/rider pair to perform possibly unfamiliar, and possibly scary (though not startling) tasks in a relaxed and confident manner. The most common types of calmness obstacles utilized in Western Trail competition include: carrying objects, drags, water crossings, varied footing, and squeezes. Other calmness obstacles conceived by the course designer may be used as long as they do not include prohibited elements or pose a safety hazard. Bear in mind that while calmness obstacles may present an unfamiliar situation to the mount, they should not be startling or employ sudden movements of footing, projectiles, or loud sounds by design. Please refer to Appendix VIII for calmness obstacle specifications.

Control Obstacles

Control obstacles require rider control over the direction of movement of the mount, generally at low speed. The most common types of control obstacles utilized in Western Trail competition include: back-throughs, gates, serpentines, side passes, small clover-leaf, figure 8s, or turns on the forehand or haunches. Other control obstacles conceived by the course designer may be used as long as they do not include prohibited elements or pose a safety hazard. Please refer to Appendix VIII for control obstacle specifications.

Type	Obstacle	Rookie	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Agility	Bank (in the open only)			Up to 24"	Up to 24"
	Bridge	No Halt	May include a halt	May include a halt or a change of direction if the bridge is suitable.	
	Ditch (in the open only)		Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
	Jump	On the ground	Cross Rail up to 18"	Up to 24"	Up to 24"
	Platforms	On the ground	Up to 12"	Up to 18"	Up to 18"
	Ride-Over	On the ground Trot	On the ground Trot	Raised trot or canter up to 12"	Raised trot or canter up to 12"

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Type	Obstacle	Rookie	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Calmness	Drag			Straight line forward only	May include forward, backing, and turns
	Lift/Open/Carry Object	Lift/Open only	May involve lifting, opening, or carrying an object		
	Squeeze	Straight and forward direction only		May include a change of direction or increase height and/or length of obstacle.	
	Varied Footing	To increase the difficulty of the obstacle, the course designer may choose to have the competitor perform halts, direction changes, or turns.			
	Walk-over	Up to 18"		Up to 24"	
	Water Crossing	Forward only	May include turns	May include turns and backing	
Control	Back-Throughs	Straight		Includes one change of direction (e.g.. L)	Includes one or more changes of direction (e.g.. U, Z, 8, etc....)
	Cloverleaf	To increase the difficulty of the obstacle, the course designer may choose to increase the gait and/or decrease the figure size.			
	Figure 8	To increase the difficulty of the obstacle, the course designer may choose to increase the gait and/or decrease the figure size.			
	Gate	Open and pass through only	Open outward	Open inward or open outward	Open inward or open outward
	Serpentine	To increase the difficulty of the obstacle, the course designer may choose to increase the gait and/or decrease the figure size.			
	Side Pass		Straight		Includes one or more changes of direction
	Turn on Fore/Hind	Small circle/turn	On fore or hind	On fore or hind	On fore or hind

Article 43—Prohibited Obstacles

For safety reasons, the following items are not allowed to be used as an obstacle or as a part of an obstacle's construction or decoration.

- A. Live animals
- B. Hides
- C. Tarps or curtains
- D. PVC pipe
- E. Obstacles requiring a dismount
- F. Rocking or moving bridges or platforms
- G. Water box with floating or moving parts
- H. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, other smoke/steam/cloud/chemicals
- I. Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll
- J. Tires that are not filled in with compacted dirt and secured to the ground

SECTION III: Competition

Article 44—The Course

1. The course is the track the competitor must follow (including obstacles) to complete a round. The length must be measured accurately, paying particular attention to the turns, from the start line along the line normally to be followed by a mount to the final obstacle or finish line.
2. There must be at least one change of direction in every arena course.
3. No two courses at a single level may be identical.
4. Every course must contain a minimum of eight obstacles.
5. Each course must contain at least two agility obstacles, at least two calmness obstacles, and at least two control obstacles.
6. There will be three required obstacles that must be included in either the classic or ranch rounds. These required obstacles will change each year and will be specified in the annual Western Trail discipline newsletter.
7. Should circumstances make it necessary to alter the plan of the course after it has been posted (damage, safety, unforeseen conditions, etc.), the Steward/TD, course designer, and judge(s) should consult to determine an alternative plan. Coaches and all competitors must be apprised before the change is implemented.
8. Under no circumstances, once the competition has commenced, may any alterations be made to a course or may the conditions of the competition be changed. If it is necessary to interrupt the competition, because of a storm, bad light or other emergency, it must be resumed using the same course, obstacles and conditions at the exact point where it was interrupted. Exception: Should an obstacle become so damaged it can no longer be used in that round, it shall be replaced with one as similar as possible. If at any time the trail obstacle is found to be unsafe, it must be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and mounts have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted. No mount shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.
9. The start line must be at least 12 feet from the first obstacle. The finish line must be at least 24 feet from the last obstacle. Flags or properly flagged start and finish markers must mark these two lines. When electric timing equipment is used, it shall be placed with these markers or flags or on a line with such markers or flags.
10. Some obstacles are inappropriate or may need to be modified for certain competition levels. Please refer to the table in Article 42.

Article 45—Course Map

1. A map showing the layout of the course must be posted at the in-gate at least one hour prior to the start of competition for the information of the competitors and coaches. In

addition, a copy of the course plan must be given to the judge(s) before the commencement of the official inspection of the course, along with the scorecards.

2. Obstacles must be numbered consecutively, in the order in which they are to be attempted.
3. The plan must show the following:
 - A. The relative positions of the start and finish lines
 - B. The relative positions of the obstacles and their numbers
 - C. The direction in which each obstacle is to be taken must be marked by an arrow
 - D. Any compulsory passages or turning points
 - E. The gaits allowed
 - F. The length of the course as measured (when measuring courses in smaller arenas, the track taken should not require excessively tight turns)
 - G. The obstacle reference time for each obstacle
 - H. The time allowed for the round
 - I. The speed round time limit (for Speed Rounds only)

Article 46—Flags or Signs

1. The start and finish line must be indicated and match the course map.
2. Some directional flags or signs signifying acceptable gaits may be utilized by the course designer to assist competitors for the purpose of safety and skill level.
3. If signage is used, the following is recommended.
 - A. For specified gaits:
 - Green = All allowed gaits
 - Yellow = Walk/Trot/Jog only
 - Black = Walk only
4. Entirely red flags (front and back of flags) and entirely white flags may be used to mark the following on the course;
 - Compulsory turning points
 - The side limits of the obstacles
 - Obstacles used in the schooling area
 - The start and finish line
5. If red and white flags are used, they must be placed so that competitors leave the red flags on their right and the white flags on their left. Competitors must pass all flags correctly, under all circumstances.

Article 47—Start/Finish of Course and the Audible Signal (Bell, Whistle, Horn)

1. A start line must be established at least 12' from the first obstacle and a finish line at least 24' from the last obstacle, each indicated by two markers at least 12' apart. Mounts must cross the start line between the markers mounted,

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and to complete the course they must cross the finish line between the markers in the proper direction, mounted. (Exception: Speed Round). Passing through the starting markers in the improper direction before starting does not incur penalty.

2. Failure to enter the ring within one minute of being called incurs elimination. The time limit for entering the ring must be enforced by management. To prevent unfairness to a competitor, management may extend the time limit for entering the ring.
3. A competitor will have 45 seconds from the time the judge(s) sound an audible signal to cross between the start markers in the proper direction and start on course. If a competitor does not cross through the start line within the 45 seconds, the time on course will start when the 45 seconds expires.
4. Different audible signals (e.g., one horn, one whistle, one bell) shall be used when competition arenas are close enough so the audible signal in one arena may be heard in another arena.
5. Audible signals are used for the following purposes:
 - A. To give the signal to start the round
 - B. To stop a competitor for any reason or for an unforeseen incident (which also designates time out)
 - C. To indicate that an obstacle has to be reset before being retaken after it has been knocked down during a refusal (designating a time-out)
 - D. To give the signal for a competitor to continue his round after an interruption, also designating time-in (Note: It is the rider's responsibility to be ready to continue on the course when signal is given)
 - E. Two whistle blows will indicate for a competitor to abandon their current obstacle and move on to the next obstacle or finish line.
 - F. Three whistle blows to indicate the end of the time limit for the Speed Round.
 - G. Five whistle blows to indicate that the competitor has been eliminated

Regardless of the number of whistles blown, a competitor on course is expected to stop their current activity when the whistle is blown. Clarification may be sought from the judge if the rider is confused regarding the number of whistles.

Article 48—Access to the Arena

1. Competitors on foot may be admitted to inspect a course before competition. When the course is not open for inspection, a notice stating "Course Closed" must be placed at the in-gate or at the start line if the course is in the open. Permission to enter the arena or trail and inspect the course will be given by the Steward/TD with input from the course designer or the officiating judges by sounding the audible signal and/or by an announcement over the public address

system. A notice stating "Course Open" should also be displayed.

2. No competitor may enter the arena on foot once the competition has started except for designated course walks.
3. Competitors may not exercise or school their mounts in the course, except as indicated below, under penalty of disqualification.
4. The following are not considered to be practicing over the obstacles in the arena:
 - A. Participation in a previous competition.
 - B. Participation in the parade of teams, provided none of the obstacles are shown to mounts.
 - C. Participation for the benefit of the official photographer provided none of the obstacles are shown to mounts.

Article 49—Schooling Area

1. A schooling area must be provided. The schooling area should be near, but not necessarily next to, the competition arena or the start line for an in the open course. It does not have to be enclosed, but this is recommended. The area should be large enough to accommodate competitors who are practicing obstacles and warming up on the flat at the same time.
2. If the safety check is not being done in the barn area, an area near, but not in the schooling area, should be provided for the safety checks to be done if needed.
3. The schooling area must be equipped with at least one set of four poles on the ground, two barrels for figure 8 movements, two schooling standards (for gate practice), and two lines of poles on the ground (for backing or side passing).
 - A. At the discretion of the steward/TD and/or warm-up steward, additional obstacles may be included if space allows.
 - B. Only the warm-up steward or a coach may alter an obstacle, and only to replace it if broken or disturbed.
4. Rallies, which have more than one competition area, must have a separate schooling area for each competition area. If only one area is available, it should be large enough so it can be divided into two schooling areas

Exception: If the rounds are scheduled to immediately follow from one ring to the next, no further warm-up is necessary and one schooling area is adequate.
5. Every schooling area shall be under the jurisdiction of a warm-up steward who shall have complete authority to:
 - A. See that competitors and coaches comply with all schooling area rules
 - B. Limit number of competitors in warm up area, (a safety consideration)

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- C. Ensure general safety at all times
- 6. Schooling Area Rules:
 - A. All riders and coaches must follow the instructions given by the warm-up steward.
 - B. Any action deemed not in the best interest of the mount will not be allowed.
 - C. Only one competitor may school an obstacle at a time.
 - D. Be courteous to other competitors, once a rider has attempted a schooling obstacle for the third time, the rider must move on and allow the next competitor the opportunity.

Article 50—Classic Trail Round

The Classic Trail round should test the mount's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles. The obstacles will be painted in appearance and may have a variety of colors or manmade obstacles. The round must be performed in an enclosed arena and is typically judged by a single judge. Additional judges may be necessary based on the course.

1. These rounds are judged under Article 53 and the Table of Penalties outlined in Article 54.
2. Rounds are not scored based on time, but the round time is recorded and used as a tie breaker when necessary.
3. If the rally includes a second Classic Trail or Ranch Trail round, at least two of the obstacles must be switched out and the remaining obstacles must be completed in a different order.
4. The required obstacles for the year are communicated in the Annual Western Trail Newsletter.
5. After three unsuccessful attempts at the obstacle, the judge may signal the rider to move on down the trail to the next obstacle.

Article 51—Ranch Trail Round

The Ranch Trail round should test the mount's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work or on a natural trail. The obstacles will be natural in appearance. The round must be performed in an enclosed arena and is typically judged by a single judge. Additional judges may be necessary based on the course.

1. These rounds are judged under Article 53 and the Table of Penalties outlined in Article 54.
2. Rounds are not scored based on time, but time is recorded and used as a tie breaker when necessary.
3. If the rally includes a second Classic Trail or Ranch Trail round, at least two of the obstacles must be switched out and the remaining obstacles must be completed in a different order.

4. The required obstacles for the year are communicated in the Annual Western Trail Newsletter.
5. After three unsuccessful attempts at the obstacle, the judge may signal the rider to move on down the trail to the next obstacle.

Article 52—In the Open Round

This optional round is meant to be completed in a similar fashion as the Classic or Ranch Trail rounds with the exception that the obstacles are not confined to an arena, but instead in the open or found along a trail course. The course will be longer with the obstacles more spread out. Each obstacle is judged in the same way, however instead of having one judge for the entire arena, there is an individual judge for each obstacle. There is one chief judge to oversee all judging and one chief timer to oversee all timing. Each obstacle must also have a judge and a timer. It is very important that each judge understands the expectations of the obstacle. Similar to Eventing, there may be more than one rider on the course at a time, but they must be spread out enough that they do not interfere with each other. Safety and volunteer ability must be considered by the rally organizer and course designer

1. This round requires access to an open, unenclosed area. Because of facility limitations, it may or may not be offered as part of the Western Trail rally.
2. The round is in the open and may be up to two miles in length.
3. These rounds are judged under Article 53 the Table of Penalties outlined in Article 54.
4. Rounds are not scored based on time, but time is recorded and used as a tie breaker when necessary.
5. After three unsuccessful attempts at the obstacle, the judge may signal the rider to move on to the next obstacle.

Article 53—Scoring for Classic, Ranch Trail and In the Open Rounds

1. In each Classic/Ranch or In the Open round, competitors are scored utilizing positive points earned for each obstacle included in the course. Each obstacle has a potential score of 20 possible points, 10 points scored based on the performance of the mount and 10 points scored on the horsemanship of the rider. Half points are allowed.
2. Each obstacle to be scored is listed on the judge's sheets. For each obstacle, the rider and the mount will be scored from 0 to 10, using the below scale and half points are allowed.
 - 10 Excellent (Superior, nearly impossible to achieve)
 - 9 Very Good—Executed with precision and a high level of skill
 - 8 Good—Well done

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- 7 Reasonably Good—Above average. Well done but with room for improvement
 - 6 Satisfactory—Average. Obstacle completed as described
 - 5 Reasonable—Average. Obstacle completed as described but without precision and/or with difficulty
 - 4 Insufficient—Below average. Attempt not completely successful, elements not performed, or incorrect
 - 3 Poor—Not much success achieved or observed
 - 2 Bad—Many mistakes, training, trust, horsemanship clearly lacking
 - 1 Very Bad—Mount or rider fails to execute
 - 0 Failure (No real attempt)
3. The rider will be judged with emphasis on equitation, as well as horsemanship. Rider should have a centered and balanced seat, straight posture and eyes forward, heels, hips, and shoulders all in alignment, exhibit soft use of reins/bit and subtlety in cues, and exhibit care for the mount's training, safety, and well-being. Scoring should reflect
- A. Position in saddle (balanced seat)
 - B. Ease of movements; stability
 - C. Use of aids (natural and artificial)
 - D. Control and timing
 - E. Communication/partnership with mount
4. The mount will be judged with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to mounts negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Mounts should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Mounts shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Mounts with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the mount shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. Mount should proceed at rider's cue without hesitation. Nervousness, rushing, excessive swishing of the tail, pinning ears, pawing, kicking, or bucking will earn lower scores. Scoring should reflect
- A. Regularity and harmony of movements
 - B. Quality of gaits
 - C. Submission to aids, willingness
 - D. Relaxation, patience
 - E. Confidence in and trust of rider

5. Refer to the Rally Organizer's Guide for the judging rubric to provide volunteers and judges with guidance on how each obstacle is judged and what is required to earn higher scores. It is helpful to share this with volunteers who may be tasked with judging during an In the Open round.

6. To calculate a round score, all positive mount and rider points are totaled. All penalties are added together and then they are subtracted from the total positive points to give the corrected total. The corrected total is then divided by the total points possible to determine the percentage score. Please see the formula and example as follows.

$(\text{Mount Score} + \text{Rider Score} - \text{Penalty Points}) / (20 \times \text{number of obstacles in round}) \times 100 = \text{Round Score}$

or to simplify,

$(\text{Corrected Total} / \text{Total Possible Points}) \times 100 = \text{Round Score}$

Example

If there are eight obstacles and the mount/rider pair have a corrected total of 106.5, what is the round score?

Corrected Total = 106.5

Total Possible Points = $20 \times 8 = 160$

Corrected Total / Total Possible Points = $106.5 / 160 = .665625$

Round Score = 66.5625% or 66.5625

Article 54—Penalties and Eliminations for Classic Trail, Ranch Trail and In the Open Rounds

In each Classic Trail, Ranch Trail and In the Open round, competitors may be assigned penalty points based on errors during the round or be eliminated. The following table outlines the possible infractions.

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Table of Penalties and Elimination for Classic Trail, Ranch Trail and In the Open Rounds

Possible infractions resulting in a 0-SCORE on an individual obstacle:

- Performing the obstacle outside the specified order (off course)
- No attempt to perform an obstacle
- Failure to address obstacle within specified obstacle time
- Failure to enter, exit, or work obstacle from correct side or direction
- Failure to ride correct line within or between obstacles
- Failure to work an obstacle in the specified/posted manner
- Leaving the vicinity of an obstacle in the process of attempting it (leaving the obstacle area but still inside the course boundary)
- Third refusal at obstacle

Possible infraction resulting in a ½ point deduction from the individual obstacle score (per infraction):

- For each tick or light knock of log, pole, cone, or obstacle

Possible infractions resulting in a 1-point deduction from the individual obstacle score (per infraction):

- Each major hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or obstacle - Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space - Skipping over or failing to step into required space
- Split pole in lope-over (pole between two front or two hind feet at lope)
- Incorrect lead (when lope lead is specified)
- Break of gait when a specific gait is specified (Including to correct a lead)
- Wrapping rope around hand or horn
- Moving between obstacles at a non-allowed gait for the course.

Possible infractions resulting in a 2-point deduction from the individual obstacle score (per infraction):

- First refusal, balk (notable hesitation,) or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than 2 strides away
- Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate
- Blatant disobedience (kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)
- Second refusal, balk, or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than 2 strides away
- Severely disturbing an obstacle.
- Negotiating an obstacle at a non-allowed gait for that obstacle.

Possible infractions resulting in an Elimination score for the round:

- Fall to the ground by mount or rider
- Starting before judge's audible signal to proceed.
- Failure to enter the ring within one minute of being called.
- Addressing any obstacle before crossing start line unless said obstacle is designated as a practice obstacle.
- Addressing any obstacle after crossing finish line, whether forming part of the course or not.
- Rider and/or mount leaving the course boundary before finishing the course (penalized at any time the mount is in the ring).
- Failure to cross the finish line, mounted, before leaving the arena.
- Unauthorized assistance.
- Riding another competitor's entered mount.
- Dangerous or reckless riding.

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Article 55—Speed Round

1. In this optional speed round, competitors are scored using positive points earned for successfully completing as many obstacles on course as they are able within the specified time limit. The competitor determines the order of obstacles in the most efficient fashion possible considering their mount's strengths. After attempting each obstacle at least one time, competitors may proceed to the bonus portion of the round where they can repeat additional obstacles up to four times. They do not need to attempt obstacles equally during the bonus portion. Once the time limit is reached, a whistle will blow three times to signal the competitor that their time is up. Only successfully completed obstacles count toward the competitor's final score.
2. Each obstacle successfully negotiated receives 10 points for the first successful negotiation. If after attempting all other obstacles on course a competitor decides to repeat an obstacle they will receive 6 points for the second successful negotiation, 3 points for the third successful negotiation and 1 point for the fourth successful negotiation. Full details about scoring Speed Rounds are included in Article 56 and the Table of Penalties in Article 57.
3. The round must be performed in an enclosed arena and is typically judged by a single judge. Additional judges may be necessary based on the course.
4. The Speed Round time limit must be adjusted for each competition level.
5. A Speed Round may use the same obstacle layout previously used in a Classic or Ranch round, however the obstacles may be attempted in any order the competitor chooses.
6. Course direction:
 - A. Competitors may cross the start line from any direction.
 - B. Some obstacles must be attempted from one direction. In this case, a red flag will be on the right of the obstacle and a white flag will be on the left.
 - C. Some obstacles may be attempted from either direction. In this case, there will be no directional flags specifying the right/left of the obstacle.
7. Negotiating the Obstacles:
 - A. Competitors may go from obstacle to obstacle at any gait permitted by the competition level.
 - B. Some obstacles must be attempted at a certain gait or slower. The allowed gait for each obstacle may be designated by a sign attached to all approaches to the obstacle
 - C. Safety of the mount and rider must be considered when designing the course and determining the allowed gaits for each obstacle.
 - D. Suggested gaits for each obstacle are found in the Appendix.

Article 56—Speed Round

1. Optional Speed Rounds will have a specified time limit, which is calculated by multiplying .75 by the time allowed for the course. This reflects the time of an efficient mount and rider to complete the course.
2. The mount/rider pair will receive either 10 points for each obstacle negotiated as described (task achieved) or zero points for failing to achieve the obstacle task as described. No points are given for equitation, style, or partial completion of obstacles. Once all obstacles have been attempted, rider may repeat any obstacle(s) chosen in any order. Scoring for additional attempts at obstacles is as follows:
 - A. Second successful attempt at obstacle: 6 points
 - B. Third successful attempt at obstacle: 3 points
 - C. Fourth successful attempt at an obstacle: 1 point
 - D. No points for additional attempts
3. Each obstacle of the course must be attempted at least once (skipping an obstacle, i.e., repeating an obstacle before all obstacles are attempted at least once, will constitute off course) before repeating any obstacle for additional points.
4. When the time limit is reached, the rider and mount must leave the course. Any obstacle in progress but not completed when time expires receives a zero score.
5. In the case of a tie, a clear round (no penalties) will prevail. In the case of identical clear round scores, the tie shall stand.
6. A rider and mount score (total minus penalties) for each Speed round shall be calculated as follows:

To calculate a round score, the positive points for the round are totaled. Penalties are then subtracted from the total to give the corrected total. The corrected total is then divided by the total points possible and multiplied by 100 to determine the percentage score. Please see the formula as follows.

Corrected Total = (((# obstacles successfully completed once x 10) + (# obstacles successfully completed twice x 6) + (# obstacles successfully completed three times x 3) + (# obstacles successfully completed four times x 1)) – Penalty Points)

Total Possible Points = (20 x # of obstacles in round)

Round Score = (Corrected Total / Total Possibly Points) X 100
7. The number of obstacles in the round is the number of different obstacles on the Speed course (the same for every rider), not the number completed by the rider within the Speed Round time limit.
8. Please see the below examples:
 - For example, there are nine obstacles on the course. The rider successfully completes all nine within the time limit, and proceeds to successfully navigate them all again plus one additional obstacle before time is called with no penalties. Corrected Total Score would be (9 x 10) + (9

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$x 6) + (1 \times 3) = 147$. The Round Score will be $147 / (20 \times 9) = 81.6667\%$ or 81.6667.

- In another example, there are 10 obstacles on the course. The rider attempts all 10, succeeding on eight. Still having time, the rider proceeds to achieve five more of the obstacles a second time before time runs out with one penalty for ticking a cone. Corrected Total Score would be $((8 \times 10) + (5 \times 6)) - 2 = 108$. The Round Score will be $108 / (20 \times 10) = 54.0000\%$ or 54.0000.

Article 57—Penalties and Eliminations for Speed Rounds

The following table will apply for Speed rounds.

Article 58—Time

In Pony Club Western Trail competition, each round has a specified time allowed which is calculated by taking the distances between obstacles, multiplying them by the appropriate gait factors and then adding the obstacle times. Individual obstacle times can be taken into consideration by the judge who after a competitor exceeds the obstacle time, may signal to the competitor to proceed on to the next obstacle on the course without receiving a score on the attempted obstacle. Competitors are not penalized for exceeding the round time allowed or obstacle reference time, but the judge, at their discretion may end a competitor round if they have exceeded the round time allowed. Competitor time is documented as a tie-breaker and in determining Championships eligibility.

- Time is taken from the instant the mount's chest reaches the start line until it reaches the finish line. The competitor is considered to have started the course when the chest of the mount crosses the "start line" (between the markers), in the proper direction.
- The time of a round is not interrupted except as laid down in this article of these rules. The clock is not stopped for going off course, disobediences, or for adjusting equipment.
- If, as the result of a disobedience, a competitor displaces or

Table of Penalties and Eliminations Speed Rounds

<i>Possible infractions resulting in a 2-point deduction from the individual obstacle score (per infraction):</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Per disobedience at an obstacle, 1 deduction per obstacle (2 refusals at an obstacle earns a zero score for the obstacle, see Article 51)Per disobedience between obstacles, per infractionFor each tick, touch, rub, or light knock of log, pole, cone or obstacle.
<i>Possible infractions resulting in a 5-point deduction from the individual obstacle score (per infraction):</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Knocking over or seriously disturbing an obstacle
<i>Possible infractions resulting in an Elimination score for the round:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fall to the ground by mount or riderStarting before judge's audible signal to proceed.Failure to enter the ring within one minute of being called.Rider and/or mount leaving the course boundary before the time limit is reached.Unauthorized assistance.Riding another competitor's entered mount.Dangerous or reckless riding.

SECTION III: Competition

knocks down any obstacle (with the exception of raised poles), a signal is given and time is stopped until the obstacle has been rebuilt. When the obstacle has been rebuilt, a signal is given to indicate that the course is ready and that the competitor may continue the round. Time is restarted at the moment when the mount re approaches mount the obstacle where the disobedience occurred.

4. A signal may be given and time stopped due to an unforeseen circumstance hindering rider progress or while an obstacle is being rebuilt due to it being knocked down or displaced for a reason other than negotiating or attempting the obstacle.
5. Disobediences are not penalized during interrupted time.
6. All rules governing elimination remain in force during interrupted time.

Article 59—Obstacle Reference Time

1. For Classic, Ranch, and In the Open Courses, each obstacle will have a defined reference time. Suggested reference times for obstacles are included in the Rally Organizer's Guide. Final obstacle reference times are determined by the course designer.
2. When a competitor has exceeded the reference time on an obstacle, they may be asked to move on to next obstacle, at the discretion of the judge.

Article 60—Round Time Allowed

1. Classic/Ranch/In the Open Round time allowed is calculated by measuring the course's length taking into account the allowed gaits in the competition level and then adding the obstacle reference time for each obstacle. Suggested obstacle reference times are included in the Rally Organizer's Guide.
2. The speed round time limit is calculated by multiplying 0.75 by the time allowed for that round.
3. Time allowed must be announced and posted prior to the start of each round for each level.
4. The time allowed may be adjusted at the discretion of the judge if they feel it is inaccurate, but only after consultation with the course designer and/or the steward/TD. The time allowed may only be adjusted after the first competitor completes the round without a disobedience and not later than following the third competitor to complete the course without a disobedience. Time allowed may not be adjusted thereafter. Once a competitor has completed a course without a refusal and within the original time allowed, the time allowed may not be lowered to such an extent so that competitor exceeds the new time allowed.
5. After the first competitor has completed their round, the time allowed and the competitor's time should be announced. In cases where an electronic display clock is not available, or visible to the riders, in the in-gate area, the round times for the first three riders should be announced.

Article 61—Recording Time

1. The time shall be recorded in seconds.
2. Automatic timing equipment is recommended for all competitions, with time also taken by a backup stopwatch. The officiating judge should run the automatic timer and an additional stopwatch for timing the start from the horn, holds, etc. When automatic timing equipment fails in use, the time of the stopwatch will be used.
3. If an automatic timing system is not available, time may be taken by using two stopwatches. One watch will be primary and the other will be back-up, or both may be primary with time averaged between the watches.

Article 62—Disobediences

1. Evasion or Refusal of an Obstacle
 - A. Refusal: Any action taken by the mount to avoid performing an obstacle, part of a combination obstacle or any portion of a trail course. These actions may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - i. Balking: Any action that results in a mount blatantly and continuously refusing a rider's command.
 - ii. Evading or running past an obstacle.
 - iii. Each complete loss of the gate.
 - iv. Any blatant action by the mount that demonstrates any unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete an obstacle.
 - B. Evading or passing the obstacle or the finish line or attempting an obstacle outside its limiting markers is penalized as a disobedience. The rider must attempt the obstacle again or be signaled by the judge to move on to the next obstacle or finish line.
 - C. A rider should encourage their mount to attempt each obstacle, however if the mount refuses to attempt it, the judge may signal the rider (two whistles or other audible signal) to move on to the next obstacle or finish line once at least three attempts have been made (three refusals result in zero obstacle score, see Scoring) or the obstacle reference time has been exceeded.
2. Off Course
 - A. A competitor is considered off course when they deviate from the course as shown by the diagram and attempt an obstacle prior to rectifying the deviation. This could include:
 - i. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
 - ii. Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
 - iii. Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
 - iv. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.
 - v. Not following the correct line of travel. (i.e. The drawn pattern and judge's instructions)

SECTION III: Competition

- B. Anyone who draws the attention of a competitor to a deviation from the course is giving unauthorized assistance. In this case, the competitor may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge. Any such person giving unauthorized assistance shall be immediately informed of the rule on unauthorized assistance by the steward/ TD or the judge and be asked to leave the area.
3. Fall of Mount or Rider
- A. A rider is considered to have fallen when they are voluntarily or involuntarily separated from their mount (which has not fallen) in such a way that they have to remount or vault into the saddle.
 - B. A mount is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or the obstacle and the ground.
 - C. A fall of a mount and/or a rider is penalized by elimination.

SECTION IV: Scoring

Article 63—Points and Penalties

In each round, competitors are scored utilizing positive points earned completing each obstacle and penalties are deducted which are then divided by the total points possible for the round. In Classic Trail, Ranch Trail and In the Open rounds both the rider and mount are scored based on Article 53 and 54. Speed Rounds are scored based on Article 55 and 56.

Article 64—Inquiries, Protests, and Appeals

Only competitors have the right to dispute scores and only competitors can participate in the process. Any non-competitor involvement in the process is considered unauthorized assistance.

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

Horse Management

Horse management Verbal Inquiry

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

Inquiries must be:

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

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

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

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

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

transcription errors. Transcription errors are a discrepancy between actual scores shown on Horse Management sheets and scores posted by the scorer.

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 steward/TD via the rally office.

Written Inquiries must be:

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

Mounted Competition

Mounted Competition Scoring Written Inquiry

Written inquiries may be initiated if the team captain/individual competitor does not understand, or if they feel, a mistake has been made. Mounted competition written inquiries are made to the Steward/TD 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 steward/TD's decision on a written inquiry, they may advance a written protest (utilizing the existing written inquiry form) to the discipline ground jury.

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

SECTION IV: Scoring

Frivolous Protest

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

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

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

Written Appeal to the Championships Overall Ground Jury

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 championships overall ground jury.

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 CHAMPIONSHIPS OVERALL GROUND JURY IS FINAL.

Article 65—Scoring of Excused

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

Article 66—Scoring of Elimination

To determine the elimination score for all riders eliminated in a round. The scorekeeper determines the worst score earned in that division in that round and deducts an additional 20 points. Each round will likely have a different elimination score. When determining the worst score in a round the term division indicates all competitors competing for the same set of ribbons (which may include multiple competition levels) and does not equate to the competition level designation.

Article 67—Scoring of Disqualification

1. The discipline ground jury may disqualify a competitor and/or a team from competition, for the reasons stated in Article 21 and as listed below. Decisions of the discipline ground jury are final.

Additional causes for disqualification in Trail are:

- A. Exercising mounts in the competition arena at any time, except as allowed by the organizer
 - B. Willfully attempting any obstacle of a competition in which the rider is going to compete except as allowed by the organizer
 - C. Refusing to leave the arena at the end of a round or following elimination
 - D. Schooling obstacles other than those provided by the organizer
2. Competitors (or teams) who are disqualified from competition shall have all their scores from the competition stricken. If the disqualification of a competitor causes an already short team, to become a shortened team, then shortened team ghost scoring will apply. If a stable manager is disqualified, all the team’s Horse management points accumulated points will be split evenly among the remaining team members. Disqualified competitors and their mounts 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.
 3. If the discipline ground jury accesses a Yellow Card with penalties to a competitor for a disqualifiable offense. The maximum number of penalties that can be assessed for a single round is 50 and the maximum number of penalties possible for the entire competition is found by multiplying 50 by the number of rounds. Yellow Card penalties are scored in the “Other” column of the score sheet and are subtracted from the positive score.

Article 68—Team Scoring

Based on the number of mounted competitors, teams may or may not have a drop score. Four rider teams will drop the worst (lowest) score for each round of the mounted competition. Three rider teams will keep all three scores from each round. If Horse Management ghost scores are needed, those will be calculated per the current Horse Management Handbook.

The final score is calculated using the below formula.

Overall Score = Riding Score + HM Bonus Score

1. Riding Score = Sum of round scores as calculated per Articles 50 and 53.

SECTION IV: Scoring

2. Horse Management bonus score varies according to the number of rounds
 - For a four-round rally, Horse Management Bonus Score = 300—(Total Horse management Penalties X 3)
 - For a three-round rally, Horse Management Bonus Score = 225—(Total Horse management Penalties X 2.25)
 - For a two-round rally, Horse Management Bonus Score = 150—(Total HM Penalties X 1.5)

*Additional information for calculating the Horse Management Score. The number of rounds only includes the rounds utilized for overall team scoring.

3. In extraordinary circumstances when a short team (three rider team) becomes a shortened team (two rider and one stable manager), prior to the start of 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. Ghost riding scores will be determined by averaging the riding scores of the two remaining competitors.
 - 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, and ghost riding scores will be determined by averaging the riding scores of the two remaining competitors.

Please note: The above scoring is not to be used in a four man team's loss of a rider or mount. Only to be used with a three man team rather than losing a team completely from the rally.

Article 69—Individual Scoring

While rallies are normally scored only as teams, there are some instances when the tabulation of individual scores is necessary. To determine an individual's score:

1. The scores earned from each competitor's rides will be added together.
2. The individual Horse Management Bonus Score, will be calculated using the above formulas and added to the competitor's round score totals.
3. The winning individual is that individual who has the highest total score after all scores have been added.

Breaking A Tie

1. For Classic/Ranch or In the Open rounds, scores include both mount and horsemanship scores. The competitor with the highest rider horsemanship score in any single round will be placed above other competitors with the same overall score. If there is no highest horsemanship score (highest horsemanship score is tied), then highest total horsemanship scores for all rounds will prevail.

2. If both rider horsemanship scores are equal, the fastest average course time for all Classic/Ranch or in the Open rounds is used to break the tie. In the event a tie remains, the scores of pre-designated obstacle(s) will be utilized.
3. If a tie still remains, and Speed rounds were included in scoring, a clear round (no zeroes, penalties) will prevail. If there were no Speed rounds, or if both have clear Speed rounds, ties will stand.

Article 70—Posting of 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 68). 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 71—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.

Breaking a Tie:

1. The team with the highest total combined horsemanship scores from all Classic, Ranch, and In the Open rounds will be placed above teams with the same overall score. (Lowest score from each round is dropped if it is a 4-person team).
2. If combined total horsemanship scores are equal, then the average of all the fastest 3 course times for each Classic/Ranch or In the Open round will prevail (dropping the slowest score of each round if a 4-person team).

Awards:

Overall team and Horse Management awards are usually presented at mounted rallies. Other awards may be also be given and all awards must be published in the prize list.

Please Note: A disqualified mount/rider combination may not be placed or receive an award.

SECTION V: Officiation

Overview

The use of appropriately licensed officials is always preferable. In regards to 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 person to fill official positions. Organizers needing help are encouraged to reach out to the Competitions committee (refer to www.ponyclub.org About/ Contact Us/Activities Council to find contact information for the USPC committee members). These resource people can help with courses, officials or other questions.

Article 72—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 73—Steward/Technical Delegate (TD)

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

1. The organizer shall appoint a knowledgeable person to serve as steward/TD. Steward/TD should be licensed by U.S. Equestrian or of a comparable association. If a licensed steward/TD is not available, a knowledgeable trail competition judge or other knowledgeable person may be used.
 - A. The steward/TD shall act with complete impartiality and report to the organizer and USPC, protecting the interests of competitors, judges, officials and the competition organizers. The steward/TD shall have no connection with the management or judging of a competition.
 - B. No steward/TD may officiate at any competition in which a member of their family, any owned mounts or any of their students are competing.
 - C. No competition shall be organized and held without the presence of a steward/TD.
2. The steward/TD is responsible for:
 - A. Ensuring the competition is organized and managed in strict compliance with the USPC Western Trail Rulebook.
 - B. Inspecting competition areas, warm-up areas, courses and obstacles prior to the competition with the course designer and/or judges.

- C. Supervising the soundness jog(s).
 - D. Once the competition begins, the steward/TD is responsible for accounting for the presence of all competitors and mounts on rally grounds. Any withdrawals of mounts or riders must be reported to the steward/TD 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 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. Furnishing USPC 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.)
3. The steward/TD shall have no duties other than those specified above and included in this rulebook.

Article 74—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 steward/TD and other officials during a rally.

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

1. Any competitor, manager, chaperone, coach or owner of a mount 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 mount entered in the competition
4. The organizer or any member of the organizing committee
5. Any other horse management judge from that competition
6. The steward/TD

Duties of the Discipline Ground Jury:

1. 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 steward/TD and organizing committee shall ensure that all arrangements for the rally, including that all competition areas are appropriate. If, after consultation with the steward/TD, the discipline ground jury is not satisfied with the arrangements or areas, it has the authority to modify them.
2. The discipline ground jury will be responsible for determining objections against decisions by technical personnel, including judges and time-keepers, and may substitute their judgement for that of any judge or official, whether or not in favor of the competitor.

SECTION V: Officiation

3. The discipline ground jury oversees all phases of a rally and determines whether competitors may continue in the next phase, after elimination or excused.
4. The members of the discipline ground jury are obliged to be on the grounds from the official rally opening until awards have been made.
5. Any member of the discipline ground jury has the duty and authority at any time during the rally to disqualify any competitor who is unfit to continue because of physical exhaustion or impairment, abusive or dangerous behavior.

There is no appeal against such a decision.

Article 75—President of the Discipline Ground Jury

The chief obstacle judge shall be president of the ground jury.

Article 76—Championships Overall Ground Jury

At Championships (when multiple disciplines are competing at the same time and on the same facility), there will be a championships overall ground jury composed of three to five persons to include: the VPA, the championships horse management organizer, and one or more knowledgeable horse persons designated by the organizer, one of whom will be designated president.

The purpose and duties of the championships overall ground jury include:

- Determine dress requirements for turnout inspections and competition; and responsibility for waiving of dress requirements when the heat/humidity index so indicates
- Decide issues that affect all disciplines at the Championships, so as to promote uniformity among the competitions
- Handle instances regarding the uniform application of disciplinary action for poor sportsmanship, cruelty or misbehavior by a competitor
- Make a proper inquiry into both sides of the cases in all appeals concerning decisions made by the discipline ground jury, or referred to the championships overall ground jury by the discipline ground jury

The decision of the championships overall ground jury is final.

The following may not serve on the overall ground jury/ appeals committee at a Championships:

- Anyone serving as a steward/TD
- Anyone serving on a discipline ground jury
- Anyone serving as a CHMJ for the competition
- Anyone serving as a judge for the competition

Article 77—Horse Management Judges

- All rallies must include judging of Horse Management. Horse Management shall be judged in accordance with current USPC Horse Management Handbook. At all events, horse management judges will judge safety standards

throughout the day.

- The horse management judges shall be responsible for conducting stable, turnout and turnback inspections.
- Horse management judges shall be responsible for safety checks. The safety checks will be performed in assigned areas, as close to warm up and competition areas as feasible.

Article 78—Chief Horse Management Judge (CHMJ)

One member of the rally horse management staff will be designated as the CHMJ. If the rally is a standard rally for Championships, the CHMJ must be selected from the current CHMJ list on the USPC website.

Article 79—Course Designer

1. The organizer shall appoint a qualified course designer (CD), and provide the course designer with a list of available obstacles to select from along with riding area measurements. If planning an In the Open trail round, the terrain and trail length must also be provided.
2. The CD will create a physical course map for each level and round of competition that can be communicated to competitors and their coaches.
3. The CD should supervise the layout of the course from the plan provided.
4. The CD is responsible for course layouts and measurements, which comply in all respects to the rules and regulations governing the courses, and obstacles permitted for the various types of competition as listed in this Rulebook.
5. The CD shall have a clear understanding of the intents and purposes of USPC Western Trail competitions, be thoroughly knowledgeable of the USPC Western Trail Rulebook and ideally be experienced in the design and layout of trail courses. Whenever possible, the CD shall have as assistants, Pony Club members who are not competing in the competition, thereby providing an educational opportunity.
6. The CD shall do an official course walk with all competitors.

Article 80—Obstacle Judges

The rally organizer shall appoint the obstacle judges. All obstacle judges must be knowledgeable in the USPC Western Trail Rulebook and shall be given a copy of these rules. It is to be carefully noted that while these rules closely follow USEF rules, there are variances.

- A judge shall not officiate at any event in which any member of their family, any owned mount or any of their students compete.
- Organizers are encouraged to give Pony Club members over 18 years of age the opportunity to assist and observe the qualified judges.

SECTION V: Officiation

Article 81—Warm-Up Steward

1. There shall be a warm-up steward for each schooling area. This is typically a volunteer position.
2. The warm-up arena is under the full jurisdiction and control of the discipline. The location of and the size of the warm-up arenas will dictate the number of volunteer stewards needed. Warm-up stewards need to be familiar with the discipline rules and report any unsafe riding, unsportsmanlike behavior, unauthorized assistance or coaching issues to the discipline ground jury of the discipline. Riders will have received safety checks from horse management prior to arriving in the warm-up area and will be allowed to make minor last-minute adjustments (tightening the girth or adjusting stirrup leathers) to their tack.
3. The schooling obstacles may be altered by either the coaches or by the warm-up steward.
4. The warm-up steward should have a working understanding of the obstacles within the USPC Western Trail Rulebook.

Article 82—Timekeepers

1. For each competition, two timekeepers must time all competitors, using either electric timing equipment with one backup stopwatch or two stopwatches. All timing devices must have a time-out feature.
2. One timekeeper may be designated as the chief. All timekeepers must be thoroughly knowledgeable of the USPC Western Trail Rulebook and the proper timing of competitors during a round. The chief timekeeper may also serve as a judge.
3. All timekeepers shall act with complete impartiality.

Article 83—Inspection Panel

An inspection panel made up of the president of the discipline ground jury, the CHMJ, and a veterinarian or other qualified mount person, will officiate over the horse inspections (jogging). The veterinarian's decision shall be final when a judge or the steward/TD requests an inspection or examination as to the serviceable soundness of a mount. In the absence of a veterinarian, the judges or the steward/TD shall have the right to excuse a mount from further participation on the grounds of unsoundness.

Article 84—Veterinarian

- The veterinarian should be a part of the inspection panel for all mount inspections.
- Regional competitions should have a qualified veterinarian present during the jogs, cross-country and jumping phases of the competition.
- The veterinarian shall assist the organizer in all matters pertaining to the health and welfare of the mounts at the competition.

- The veterinarian, when required to be present at a competition, shall have the right to inspect and examine any mount at the competition. The judges or the steward/TD may request an inspection or an examination of any mount.
- The veterinarian's decision shall be final when a judge or the steward/TD request an inspection or examination as to the serviceable soundness of a mount. In the absence of a veterinarian, the judges or the steward/TD shall have the right to excuse a mount from further participation on the grounds of unsoundness.

Article 85—Chief Scorekeeper

- The chief scorekeeper is responsible for prompt and accurate scorekeeping. The judges and timekeepers provide factual data for the chief scorer to use in the calculation of scores and place standings.
- Accurate, up-to-the-minute scorekeeping is very important to keep the competitors, officials and spectators informed. Therefore, the judges and the chief scorekeeper shall work in close cooperation with the announcer.
- The chief scorekeeper shall appoint such assistants as they may require for the work. All scoring shall be conducted with complete impartiality.

Article 86—Required Medical Personnel

1. For mounted rallies—An EMT-Basic (paid or volunteer) is required onsite one hour prior to the first ride of the rally and stay until riding concludes for the day. The EMT or rally organizer must be aware of the closest ambulance and hospital locations.

The EMT must:

- Have CPR certification and license to perform basic assessment and non-invasive treatment.
 - Not have any other duties at the mounted rally.
 - Have a reliable means of communicating with the local EMS service and knowledge of the nearest hospital.
 - Have direct communication with all riding areas, especially those out of view.
 - Coordinate with the rally organizer on how to handle injured parties.
2. Additional Information:
 - An EMT who is Intermediate or Paramedic level, both meets and exceeds the minimum requirement.
 - Facility requirements may exceed the minimum USPC EMT requirement.
 - Rallies run as recognized events may exceed the minimum USPC EMT requirement.
 - An on-site ambulance is highly recommended, but not required.

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SECTION VI: Appendices

Appendix I: Mounted Competition Scoring Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Form

Remember

- Only competitors have the right to dispute scores and can participate in the process
- Before this form can be used, a verbal inquiry must have been made to the CHMJ for Horse Management score questions
- After submission to the Steward/TD, no additional information can be added by the team

Date: _____ Discipline: _____ Division: _____ Team #s: _____

Team Captain Name and Phone Number: _____

Team Member # for Protest: _____ Team Member Certification: _____

State infraction and provide points assessed:

Statement of Protest:

References (Name reference and page number):

Signature of Team Captain/Competitor: _____

SECTION VI: Appendices

Appendix I: Mounted Competitions Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Form

Written Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Review

For Official Use Only

Written Inquiry Disposition: Date/time: _____

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Points awarded if any: _____

Technical Delegate: _____

CHMJ (if HM related) _____

Team Captain: _____

Requesting Advance to Protest Yes: _____ No: _____

Protest Disposition: Date/time: _____

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Points awarded if any: _____ Penalty, if any: _____

Discipline Ground Jury: _____

Team Captain: _____

Requesting Advance to Appeal (Championships ONLY) Yes: _____ No: _____

Appeal Disposition: Date/time: _____

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Points awarded if any: _____ Penalty, if any: _____

Discipline Ground Jury/Appeal Committee (Championships ONLY): _____

Team Captain: _____

Received by Scorer: (to indicate receipt and adjustment of a change)

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Appendix II: Heat Illness and Heat Index Chart

HEAT ILLNESS	Symptoms	What to do
Heat Stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion • Fainting • Seizures • Excessive sweating or red, hot, dry skin • Very high body temperature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Medical Personnel, EMT, or Call 911 <p><i>While waiting for help:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place person in shady, cool area • Loosen clothing, or remove outer clothing • Fan air, place ice packs in armpits, apply cool compresses • Provide fluids (water)
Heat Exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cool, moist skin • Heavy sweating • Headache • Nausea or vomiting • Dizziness • Light Headaches • Weakness • Thirst • Irritability • Fast Heart Beat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place person in shady, cool area • Provide fluids (water) • Cool person with cold compresses, ice packs, fans
Heat Cramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscle Spasms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest in cool, shaded area • Drink water • Wait a few hours before returning to play

Heat Index (Apparent Temperature) Chart

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
70°	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	70	71	71	72
75°	69	70	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
80°	73	75	77	78	79	81	82	85	86	88	91
85°	78	80	82	84	86	88	90	93	97	102	108
90°	83	85	87	90	93	96	100	106	113	122	+
95°	87	90	93	96	101	107	114	124	136	+	+
100°	91	95	99	104	110	120	132	144	+	+	+
105°	95	100	105	113	123	135	149	+	+	+	+
110°	99	105	112	123	137	150	+	+	Danger Zone		
115°	103	111	120	135	151	+	+	+			
120°	107	116	130	148	+	+	+	+			
125°	111	123	141	+	+	+	+	+			
130°	117	131	+	+	+	+	+	+			

This chart is based upon shady, light wind conditions.

Exposure to direct sunlight can increase the HI by up to 15°F.

"+" indicates the heat index temperature is so great it is off the scale.

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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 mounts 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.

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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.

Rulebooks available for download from 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 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)

Name of Chaperone: _____

Signature: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Date: _____

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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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Appendix IV: Junior/Senior Team Formation

PERMISSION FOR JUNIOR COMPETITORS TO PARTICIPATE IN A RALLY ON A TEAM WITH SENIOR COMPETITORS

When merging a member under the age of 18 on a team with member(s) 18 years of age or older, written permission should be obtained by the person configuring the team. This form can be used for written permission, but other methods (email, etc.) are also acceptable. Written permission should be maintained with the rally entry paperwork.

This agreement acknowledges that _____ and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) agree to
(Name of Participant)
the participant's placement onto a rally team with:

(Name of Senior Participant)

(Name of Senior Participant)

(Name of Senior Participant)

(Name of Senior Participant)

at _____ rally.
(name of rally)

PARTICIPANT NAME (Print): _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (Print): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

*PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (Print): _____

*PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Note: Combining junior and senior teams into one division is not the same as combining junior and senior members onto one team. Junior competitors can always compete up a division as a senior to fill out a team. Senior competitors can never compete down to a junior division. Before combining junior and senior aged competitors on the same team, rally organizers must obtain the permission of the junior competitor and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

*Second parent/guardian signature if applicable.

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Appendix V: USPC Western Trail Rally Steward/TD's Report

(This form is also available electronically on the rulebooks page of the USPC website.

=information required; circle yes or no when you see **(yes/no).*

Steward/TD's Name * _____ Phone * _____

Steward/TD's Email Address * _____

Steward/TD's License number and affiliation _____

Organizer's Name * _____ Phone * _____

Organizer's Email Address * _____

CHMJ Name* _____ Phone * _____

CHMJ Email Address * _____ Number of AHMJ's* _____

Rally Information

Region * _____ Rally Start Date * _____ Rally End Date * _____

Rally locations (please include all if multiple) _____

Is this a standard rally? * _____

Did you have a CURRENT copy of the Discipline's Rulebook? * **(yes/no)**

Did you read the rulebook prior to attending the rally? * **(yes/no)**

Was the entire rally conducted according to these rules? * **(yes/no)**

Did Horse management function according to the rules? * **(yes/no)**

Did you have any problem with a stated rule? * **(yes/no)** If yes, please tell us why. _____

Did you have a situation for which there was not a stated rule? * **(yes/no)** If yes, please describe the situation. _____

Did any competitors receive Yellow Cards given during the rally? **(yes/no)** If yes, how many and why. _____

Were any competitors disqualified during the rally? * **(yes/no)** If so, please tell us who and why. _____

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Was the rally well-organized? **(yes/no)** Please describe. _____

Were the facilities suitable for all phases of the rally? **(yes/no)** If no, please describe areas of concern. _____

Were the organizers and other officials friendly and supportive to competitors and each other? * **(yes/no)**

Was sufficient personnel provided to manage all phases? * **(yes/no)**

Were medical personnel & equipment (EMT, ambulance) on the grounds during mounted activities and on call at all times? * **(yes/no)**

Were any accident reports filed? * **(yes/no)**

For the duration of the rally, was safety placed as a priority? **(yes/no)** Please describe. _____

Were the communications suitable for all phases of the rally? **(yes/no)** If no, please describe areas of concern. _____

Were briefings held? **(yes/no)** Please describe. _____

Was the rally a learning experience for all competitors? * **(yes/no)** Please describe. _____

Do you feel you were given all the materials to do your job effectively? * **(yes/no)** If no, please describe why not. _____

Horse management Review

As the steward/TD, you are charged with the first level of reviewing the decisions in Horse Management. Under the rules of competition, the initial protest from the decision of the CHMJ is to the steward/TD. A protest can only be made by the team or individual competitor against whom an adverse decision is made. Therefore if a protest comes to you to reconsider the decision of the CHMJ and you do NOT sustain the decision of the judge, the protest is concluded. If you do sustain the CHMJ, then a protest can be placed before the discipline ground jury.

Were all inquiries/protests that were brought to you as steward/TD in written form on the official form?* **(yes/no)**

Do you have any comments on the Horse management competition at this rally? _____

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

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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*
Junior Level 1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Level 1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Junior Level 2	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Level 2	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Junior Level 3	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Level 3	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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 License number and affiliation _____

Judge's Name* _____ Phone* _____

Judge's Email Address* _____

Judge's License number and affiliation _____

Judge's Name* _____ Phone* _____

Judge's Email Address* _____

Judge's License number and affiliation _____

Please email to events@ponyclub.org or mail to
Activities Department • United States Pony Clubs • 4041 Iron Works Parkway • Lexington, KY 40511
859.254.7669 • Fax 859.223.4652 • www.ponyclub.org

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Appendix VI: Western Trail 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 Western Trail 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 mount and rider.
- Wear identification as provided by the organizer/secretary during the competition times.
- Follow all discipline coach parameters outlined in the discipline rulebook.
- Assist competitors in learning and understanding all rules pertinent to the competition.
- Help any Pony Club competitor who asks for help or who is present without a coach.

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

I _____ have read and agree to follow the USPC Western Trail Rulebook and above guidelines for coaching.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please list the competitors/teams you are coaching:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
3. _____
4. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Coaches Must Not

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

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Appendix VII: Western Trail 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 67.

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.
1. A Yellow Card may be, but is not required to be given before the disqualification of a competitor or team.
1. A Yellow Card that incurs penalty points that will be recorded in the "Other" column of the scoresheet.
1. There is no appeal against receiving a Yellow Card.
1. A copy of any Yellow Card issued must be sent to the Activities Department, events@ponyclub.org.

Issued to: (Name) _____ Competitor # _____

Region/Club/Center: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

At the following competition: _____

Date/Time of incident: _____

Description of incident: _____

(please use back of page if necessary)

Issuing Official: (print) _____ Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please email to events@ponyclub.org or mail to
Activities Department • United States Pony Clubs • 4041 Iron Works Parkway • Lexington, KY 40511
859.254.7669 • Fax 859.223.4652 • www.ponyclub.org

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Appendix VIII: Competition Obstacle Specifications

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Agility Obstacles		
Obstacle	Obstacle Description	Obstacle Specifications and Estimated Obstacle Time
Bank (In-the-open obstacle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bank (embankment) has a level area (plateau) at both the top and the bottom. There may be ramps or natural terrain leading to and from the level plateaus. May be executed as either and up-bank, a down-bank, or both and scored as one obstacle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embankment must be at least 7' long in the direction of travel. Bank height may not exceed 24". <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 30 seconds</p>
Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bridge is a wooden structure designed to imitate bridges a rider and mount may encounter on the trail. It may be a simple walk over or it can be paired with additional challenges at higher levels. <p>* All bridges must be negotiated at a walk, even during a speed round.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 3' wide, minimum of 4' wide if railings are used. Railings are recommended and if used should be 3'-4' tall. Minimum of 6' long. Maximum height of 12". All corners and edges must be smoothed to avoid injury if a mount steps off and rubs the edge/corner of the bridge. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 30 seconds</p>
Ditch (In-the-open obstacle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A ditch is designed to imitate natural occurrences a rider and mount may encounter on the trail. Mounts are expected to enter and exit the ditch calmly and without hesitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum width of 5' and length of 8'. Maximum depth of 24". Must have a visible barrier at the edges of the ditch. May be dry or contain water. If it contains water, there may not be anything floating in the water. May be framed with logs that mounts step over to go into or out of the water. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 30 seconds</p>
Jump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumps may be single or placed in series along a straight or curved path. <p>* Jumps may be approached at any gait, based on competition level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum height is based on the level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rookie – Poles on the ground Level 1 – Maximum height of 18" Level 2 and Level 3 – Maximum height of 24" Minimum of 4' width between the standards. Combinations: 12' for a one stride, 6' for a no stride (bounce). Must be designed to be jumped from either direction if utilized in a speed round. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 30 seconds</p>
Platforms	<p>A platform is an object raised above the ground designed to be mounted by the mount and rider. A platform can be negotiated by simply stepping up onto with all four feet and then stepping off in a calm manner or it can be paired with additional challenges at higher levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 42" across in any direction. Maximum height of 16". If tires are used, they must be filled with compacted earth and fixed in place. The top surface of the platform must be flat and strongly supported to prevent the possibility of tripping or catching a hoof. All corners and edges must be smoothed to avoid injury if a mount steps off and rubs the edge/corner of the platform. Railings are prohibited.
Ride-Over	<p>A ride-over obstacle Involves riding over objects (generally small logs or poles of non-rolling design) placed on the ground or slightly elevated.</p> <p>They may be negotiated at jog/trot or lope/canter as specified in the obstacle description provided by the course designer.</p> <p>This obstacle generally includes at least 4 objects, which may determine a straight, curved, zigzag or a combination path.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum height of 10". Jog/Trot overs: 3'-3'6" apart or multiples thereof (space is measured between poles). Lope/Canter overs: 6'-7' apart or multiples thereof – 6' is preferable for most mounts. No rolling poles. All elevated poles must be in a pole holder. Tires set up like a boot-camp drill are prohibited.

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Appendix VIII: Competition Obstacle Specifications

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Calmness Obstacles		
Obstacle	Obstacle Description	Obstacle Specifications and Estimated Obstacle Time
Carrying and Handling Objects (can use both)	This obstacle requires a rider to pick up, move or manipulate objects using the hands or another object.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objects must be positioned at a height of 4'. Objects must be easily carried in one hand and should not have streamers or moving parts Objects must be easily dropped if necessary. If a cup or small cone is used, it must be picked up from a pole and placed on a pole If a pole is used, it must be light enough to easily carry and maneuver while mounted. It is picked up from an opened-top barrel and deposited into a different opened-top barrel An object to be lifted should not easily blow over The surface the object sits on must be level If a mailbox is used, the height must be between 4'6"-5'. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 60 seconds</p>
Drag	Requires rider to move an object from atop the mount that is wholly or partly on the ground by means of a rope or by a gripping the object itself. Object should be dragged such that rope/object stays away from mount's feet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ropes must be made of cotton and must be attached to a weighted object. Competitors may half-dallied the rope around the horn for leverage, but must not to tie or loop the drag rope completely around the saddle horn or any part of their body. Objects must be heavy enough to be unaffected by wind. <p>Prohibited Nylon ropes or chains are prohibited. Objects with wheels.</p> <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 60 seconds</p>
V a r i e d Footing	The mount and rider pair must to maneuver through terrain that differs from the rest of the course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrain must not blow in the wind. Terrain must not have mud or slippery footing. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 30 seconds</p>
Walk-Over	A walk over is typically one or more large obstacles that are negotiated by a mount calmly approaching at a walk and stepping over without hesitation. Mounts should not jump any portion of the obstacle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum height is 16". Minimum spacing 20"-24" or multiples thereof, between poles is generally considered good spacing for walkovers, depending upon difficulty desired. Tires set up like a boot-camp drill are prohibited. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 60 seconds</p>
Squeeze	A squeeze involves the a rider and mount passing between two or more objects that are relatively close together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance between obstacles must be between 42" and 48". Obstacle must be designed to fall over or move if knocked by the rider or mount. Obstacle may be an arch or combined with a walkover to form a keyhole, but it must not contain a curtain or any form of hanging piece. Obstacles are prohibited from using arena walls and boundary fence as a portion of the obstacle. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 30 seconds</p>
W a t e r Crossing	Water crossings involve riders and mounts walking, without hesitation, into and through a natural water body or man-made water container. All four feet should enter the water during negotiation of the obstacle, though not necessarily at the same time if the water obstacle is less than 5 feet across.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be a minimum of 5' length in direction of mount's path if all four hooves expected to be in water at the same time. <p>Prohibited Tarps Moving or floating objects</p> <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate) - 30 seconds</p>

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Appendix VIII: Competition Obstacle Specifications

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Calmness Obstacles		
Obstacle	Obstacle Description	Obstacle Specifications and Estimated Obstacle Time
B a c k - Through	This obstacle requires steering the mount backwards through a path (straight or not straight) marked on the ground or by objects standing above the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On ground: Minimum inside width of 32" Elevated: Minimum inside width of 42" Barrels: Minimum inside width of 48" Poles on the ground must not should a mount step on them. Elevated obstacle must be designed to fall over or move if knocked by the rider or mount. Obstacles are prohibited from using arena walls and boundary fence as a portion of the obstacle. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (<i>Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate</i>) - 30 seconds</p>
Gate	Requires opening, passing through, and closing a rigid hinged or rope gate. Rigid hinged gates or rope gates may be used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be 60" high with latch available at that height. Operation of gate or knocking into gate must not endanger mount or rider. If a rope gate is used, the rider must never flip the rope over the mount's head or change hands on the rope. Rope should be substantial enough to prevent entangling, and held high enough to prevent the mount's legs from getting over it. <p>Prohibited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latches that could catch a mount, rider, or their tack. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (<i>Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate</i>) - 60 seconds</p>
Serpentines	This obstacle is performed around a series of objects such as vertical poles, barrels, or pylons at a gait specified by the course designer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pylons must be a minimum of 6' apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, can be no more than 4' from either side of the pylons. Pylons or standards must be allowed to be knocked over should a mount make significant contact. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (<i>Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate</i>) - 15-30 seconds depending on the length of the obstacle section and the gait being used.</p>
Side pass	This obstacle involves moving sideways over a single linear object (such as a pole on the ground) or along a marked channel (may require one or both pairs of legs in the channel).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum height for a single pole on the ground is 16". Minimum inside width for a channel or slot of poles, is 24" (space is measured between poles). Levels 2 and 3, may include the side pass be in a L or U shape or be incorporated into raised obstacles such as platform or bridge. Poles on the ground must not roll. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (<i>Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate</i>) - 30 seconds</p>
Cloverleaf or Figure-8	This obstacle requires competitors to perform a pattern around drums or barrels at a specified gait.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrels must be allowed to be knocked over should a mount make significant contact. The minimum spacing between the drums/barrels in a cloverleaf arrangement is 13' base to base. The minimum spacing between the drums/barrels in a figure-8 arrangement is 10' base to base. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (<i>Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate</i>) - 15-30 seconds depending on the length of the obstacle section and the gait being used.</p>
Turns on forehand or haunches	This obstacle may require full or partial turns, with the entire mount or only the pivoting legs within a marked area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any boundaries on the ground must be configured or supported so they cannot roll or strike the mount should they be stepped on. <p>Estimated Obstacle Time (<i>Course Map Obstacle Time Supersedes this Estimate</i>) - 30 seconds</p>

SECTION VI: Appendices

Appendix IX: Permitted Bits, Bridles, and Nosebands

NOTE: Final determination of permitted and prohibited bits and saddlery may require referencing the USEF Western Rulebook on the USEF website. Exception: Equipment restricted to mounts under 5 years of age under USEF rules is permissible for any age mount.

Examples of Permitted Western Bits

(Not an all-inclusive list. Photos should be used as guidelines)

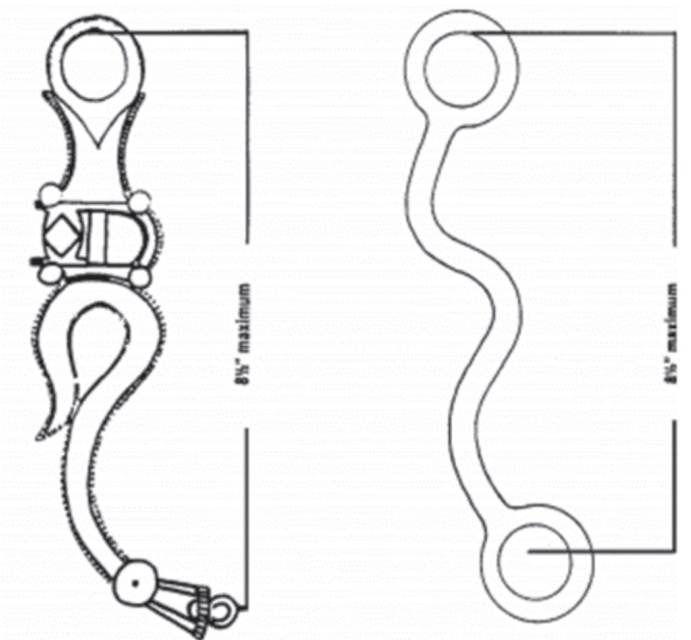
There shall be no discrimination against any standard Western bit.

A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2". The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. (The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars). Nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the mount. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints.

A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard.

When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required and must be at least 1/2" in width, lie flat against the jaw, and be free of bars, wire, and/or twists.

How to Measure Bit Length

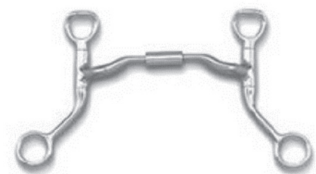
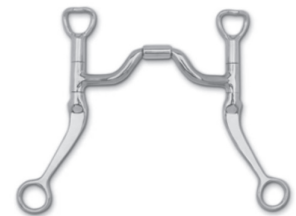


Examples of Permitted Western Bits

Any low-port or mullen-mouth curb bit



Broken-mouth curb bit (such as Tom thumb)



SECTION VI: Appendices

Examples of Permitted Western Bits (Continued)

Curbs with ported mouthpieces



Jointed Mouthpieces



Rollers



Examples of permitted curb chains



Examples of Permitted Snaffles

Standard snaffle bits are permitted. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee, or center mounted without cheeks. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachment hooks. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.

Other snaffle bits that are not center single jointed, that are otherwise permitted, and that do not appear on the "Not Permitted" list are acceptable.

Examples of Permitted Snaffle Bits



SECTION VI: Appendices

Examples of Permitted Bridles

Ordinary Headstall



Side pull, Dr. Cook bitless bridle, Micklem Multibridle or other



Neckline hackamore (shanks less than 7 1/2 inches)



Nosebands - plain or western cavesson (without tie-down)



Bosal (braided rawhide or leather)



Reins - attached to each rings or shank. hair, rope, leather or other materials and having a breakaway feature.

