

IMPLEMENTATION OF USPC PROVISIONAL POLICY ON AGE EXTENSION

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. has extended the age limit of participating members from 21 to 25 years of age for a trial period of three years, beginning January 1, 2006. This action is consistent with what is currently being done in Pony Clubs in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Time Frame: The provisional policy will commence January 1, 2006 and remain in effect until December 31, 2008. At that time, the age extension will be reviewed by the Board of Governors.

Eligibility: Must have been an active member in USPC prior to his/her 21st birthday. Any participating member who has graduated ("aged out") prior to the implementation of this policy, and who is still under the age of 25 on January 1, 2006, will be eligible to rejoin.

Active Participation Policy: The active participation policy for this new Pony Club age group will be:

1. Teach at the club or regional level (policy to be established by each region).
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2. Work at least two rallies as part of the organizing committee, in horse management, or in scoring, etc.

Graduation: Pony Club members may graduate ("age out") at any point between 21 and 25 years of age. They will be listed as having graduated the year after they decide to age out or the year following their 25th birthday.

Age Extension Q & A for membership renewal.

Eligibility –

Q: Can new members, age 21-25 join, or do they have to be pony club members prior to age 21?

A: New members age 21 and over can NOT join Pony Club. Only renewing members may participate in the Age Extension.

Q: Does a member have to be current the year they turn 21 to be eligible for this program?

A: No. To be eligible for the Age Extension, a member only must have previously been an active member.

Q: If a child already aged out, and is now, say, 22, can she rejoin until she is 25?

A: Yes. Recent graduates may renew.

Q: What about former members over the age of 21 who have not been active for years?

A: Provided one was active when they were previously a member, (s)he is eligible.

Graduation –

Q: Can members who would have normally aged out this year still be considered Pony Club graduates if they choose not to join after this year?

A: Yes. Former members will be considered Graduates after the age of 21 if they do not continue membership.

Q: Will others have the option to "Graduate" at 21?

A: Members may choose to Graduate at 21 as always.

Q: If a member wants to continue participating through the Age Extension, when will (s)he Graduate?

A: If a continuous membership is maintained, Graduation would occur on December 31 of the year in which the member turns 25.

Process -

Q: How do I go about re-enrolling her, would she be new enrollment or re-enrollment?

A: Since no new members are being accepted into the Age Extension, all would join as renewals.

Q: What are the dues for these members?

A: Membership dues are the same as for all renewals. However, prorated renewals are not being accepted for the fall of 2005.

Q: As a 23 year old graduate, can I join now or do I have to wait until next year?

A: Renewals may be submitted with the fall club packet, but participation CAN NOT begin prior to January 1, 2006.

Q: There is a 23 year old member renewing that hasn't been active for several years. Does she need to pay late fees?

A: No. Late fees will be waived for 2006 renewals ONLY for Age Extension participants.

Q: Will 21+ year-olds still need parents to sign medical release forms, etc.?

A: Members age 21 and over do not require a parent's signature on forms.

Conflict -

Q: A recent Graduate currently holds the position of JtDC for the club, is she eligible to renew and participate?

A: No. A member should not assume any volunteer role that contains authority or other decision-making capabilities over Pony Club members' functions and activities. If the individual wishes to remain in this volunteer role, (s)he will not be able to participate as a member.

Q: May a 24 year-old PCer also be a sponsor for a club?

A: No. Participating (youth) Members should NOT be Club Sponsors.

Q: Up until now, it has been all right for 22 – 25 year-olds to teach PCers without supervision, but in the future, if they are members, it will be necessary for them to be supervised?

A: Yes. ANY active Pony Club Member should be supervised when teaching. Regardless, it is always a good idea to have a "responsible adult" in addition to instructors at meetings.

Other -

Q: We have a recent graduate who now has a Life Membership in pony club. If she should decide she would like to rejoin under the age extension, what fees would she owe since her membership is essentially paid for life?

A: A Life Membership is a Corporate Membership for life. This does not entitle an individual to participate. If a Life Member wishes to rejoin Pony Club and participate in any activities, regular Participating Membership dues must also be paid. An individual age 21 or older may be both a Life Member and a Participating Member.

****Note:** *If there are any questions regarding a member's eligibility to renew and participate in the Age Extension, please contact the Member Services Department at USPC. Our email address is memberservices@ponyclub.org, or you may call 859-254-7669 for assistance.*