



USPC
Horse Management Handbook
and
Rules for Rallies
2007

United States Pony Clubs, Inc.

USPC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the United States Pony Clubs is to provide a program for youth that teaches riding, mounted sports, and the care of horses and ponies, thereby developing responsibility, moral judgment, leadership, and self-confidence.

GUIDING BELIEFS

- USPC is an educational organization which progressively develops the well-rounded horseperson.
- The well-rounded horseperson is capable of riding safely and tactfully on the flat, over fences, and in the open.
- Knowledgeable care of horses and ponies (Horse Management) is basic to the well-rounded horseperson.
- USPC is committed to the well-being of the horse.
- Fair and friendly competitions develop teamwork and sportsmanship.
- Fun and friendship are part of Pony Club.
- USPC requires parental and volunteer involvement and support.
- The USPC is committed to safety.
- The local club is the core of USPC.

THE PONY CLUB 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 horse with consideration due a partner.

CODE OF CONDUCT

USPC is proud of its reputation for good sportsmanship, horsemanship, teamwork and well-behaved members. The USPC and the organizers and officials of USPC activities/competitions expect appropriate behavior from all competitors, parent(s) and others participating in any USPC activity/competition.

Inappropriate behavior is, but not limited to:

- Possession, use, or distribution of any illegal drugs or alcohol
- Assault
- Profanity, vulgar language or gestures
- Harassment – using words or actions that intimidate, threaten or persecute others
- Cheating
- Abusing a horse

Any USPC member or parent not conforming to the Code of Conduct is subject to the following action: The Officials of the competition may immediately suspend or expel an individual from the competition upon consulting with the Ground Jury.

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Preface and Acknowledgements

The USPC organization, founded in 1954, is dedicated to the development of knowledgeable, competent, responsible and caring horsepeople. From the moment young people join Pony Club until they graduate, they are part of a broad network of activities and educational programs that promote the health and safety of both mount and rider. Pony Club is unique among riding organizations, because its educational programs place equal emphasis on three basic objectives:

- To develop riding skills
- To develop horse care fundamentals, and
- To provide opportunities to participate in various mounted disciplines as a team.

HM Instruction & the Pony Club Experience

The USPC educational program progressively develops the well-rounded horseperson as outlined in the current USPC Standards of Proficiency (Standards). Through the Horse Management (HM) program, members develop an understanding of, and an appreciation for, the necessary principals and skills to safely handle and care for a mount. HM instruction is incorporated into the Pony Club program at meetings, ratings and rallies. Although the style of HM instruction varies from region to region and club to club, the result is a common level of knowledge for members at any given rating, since every program is developed on the foundation of the Standards.

The HM Handbook and Discipline Rules

Every attempt has been made to update this handbook, so it is in line with the rules imposed by specific discipline committees. If there is an inconsistency, the discipline rulebook takes precedence over the HM Handbook.

In order to be considered current & complete, the HM Handbook and discipline rulebooks must be:

- Current
- Contain all revisions and addenda, and
- Contain the current newsletter.

Any changes or addenda to the HM Handbook will be posted on the USPC website. Addenda will have:

- The revision date in the lower left corner, and
- Significant revisions to the text marked with a change bar (|) in the margin next to the change.

The HM Handbook is divided into three parts. Reading through the entire handbook will help clarify the expectations of HM judging at USPC Rallies. We hope you find this format “user friendly” - easy to use and understand.

Part	Information Covered
1. HM Rules for USPC Rallies	▪ USPC HM rally rules without any additional information or explanation related to each rule. **This is the only part of the HM Handbook competitors must have at a USPC rally.
2. Amplified Instructions to HM Rules for USPC Rallies	▪ Detailed information of the HM Rules for USPC Rallies to provide competitors with a clear understanding of the rules and exactly what HM Judges expect at a rally.
3. Administering the HM Program at USPC Rallies	▪ The roles and responsibilities of HMOs, rally organizers and HM Judges as related to HM at USPC rallies.

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many Pony Club members, parents, volunteers, Horse Management Judges and National Office staff members who have contributed to this handbook, either by submitting, editing and re-editing this handbook.

**Respectfully,
USPC Horse Management Committee**