



# 2026 Horse Management Newsletter



## 2026 Horse Management Handbook and Competition Rules

The 2026 rulebooks are now available in [Shop Pony Club](#) and on the USPC website. Edits and clarifications are noted in red font. Please note the following changes:

- Article 13 - Cruelty to and Abuse of a Mount: Update to appropriate whip usage.
- Article 14 - Dangerous Riding: Updated to include examples.
- Policy 0810 - In order to promote and uphold the highest standards of safety **for all participants (including members, instructors, volunteers, and non-members)**, it is the policy of the USPC Board of Governors to require properly fitted and securely fastened helmets certified by one or more of the approved safety standards organizations listed in the applicable USPC Rulebooks/Handbooks. Helmets are required at all USPC-sponsored mounted activities (except vaulting) and at certain un-mounted activities as specified in USPC Rulebooks/Handbooks.
- Policy 0830 - In order to promote and uphold the highest standards of safety **for all participants (including members, instructors, volunteers, and non-members)**, it is the policy of the USPC Board of Governors that all participants must wear a properly fitted equestrian body protection vest (per manufacturer's guidelines) when jumping cross-country or solid obstacles during all USPC sponsored activities. Equestrian body protection vests must be certified by one or more of the approved safety standards organizations listed in the applicable USPC Rulebooks/Handbooks.

- Article 109 - Turnback and Procedures for Turnback: clarifying wording added
- Trailer Rally Guide: Great information and tips for horse management during a trailer rally. Pg. 74
- NOTE: Required first aid kits (human and equine) for rallies will allow one kit per club or center, up to three teams for only local and regional rallies.

## Horse Management Resources

### *Horse Management Committee*

Contact the committee chairs with any questions.

- [Jocelyn Hunt](#) - Co-Chair
- [Karen Marcotte](#) - Co-Chair

**Have a great rally season!**

*Posted 2/23/2026*