



2025 Western Dressage Newsletter



2025 Western Dressage Rulebook

The 2025 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 15 – Safety: The Safety Committee has made updates to headgear and protective safety vests (policies 0810 and 0830).
- Article 37 – Whips with a maximum length of 47.2 inches, including the lash, are permitted in all classes, including USPC Championships.
- NEW: Peacock stirrups are no longer permitted.

Western Dressage Opportunities

NEW: USPC Virtual Western Dressage Competition

Compete from the comfort of your own home! Virtual competitions are offered during non-Festival years and are open to members of all ages and certification levels. More information on [USPC Virtual Competitions](#) being offered may be found on the USPC website.

Registration: March 3–31
Upload Period: April 1–22
Judging Period: April 23–May 5
Scores Posted: May 7

2026 USPC Festival

The weeklong [USPC Festival](#) is held every other year at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky., and is a blend of USPC Championships and Educational clinics.

Championships

Pony Club is proud to offer Championship competitions in eight competitive disciplines, as well as open competitions in Gymkhana and Trail. The qualification period for 2026 Festival Championships is January 1, 2025–June 22, 2026 (the entry closing date). Entries will open in spring 2026.

Members who wish to compete at the USPC Festival Championships must meet the age, certification, and competition eligibility requirements as outlined in the rulebooks and in the 2026 Competitor Eligibility Document found on the [Championships Information page](#).

Education

USPC Festival Education is open to all USPC members, leaders, and non-members. Mounted clinics are offered in various disciplines, including: Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing cross-country, distance riding, horsemanship and more. Mounted clinics will be available to audit.

A large variety of unmounted clinics and D Camp are also offered at Festival Education.

More information for [USPC Festival Education](#) can be found online.

USPC Member Opportunities

Awards

Annual awards include the Brookfield Conservation Award, the Live Oak Hounds-USPC Foxhunting Challenge Award, and breed awards for Cleveland Bays and Thoroughbreds. Visit the [Awards](#) and [Recognition Programs](#) pages for more information.

College Scholarships

Pony Club offers several [college scholarships](#) to members interested in continuing their education. Pony Club scholarships are awarded based on merit, as well as an essay, to any member meeting the qualifications.

USPC Convention

Join us in the North Central Prairie Region in January 2026 to connect with leaders, members, and friends from across the United States at [USPC Convention](#). Participate in events, educational workshops, and opportunities, such as the National Youth Congress, Research Project Fair, and more.



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PCIA International Exchanges

Pony Club international exchanges offer each participant a cultural experience with a competitive edge. Exchanges are offered in Dressage (virtual), Eventing (Inter-Pacific Exchange), Foxhunting, Mounted Games, Quiz (in-person and virtual), Show Jumping (virtual), and Tetrathlon. Each exchange has its own age and certification requirements. Members who meet the criteria for the requirements are encouraged to apply. Learn more on the [International Exchanges page](#).

NEW: Member Achievement Program

The USPC Member Achievement Program allows members to earn points for participating in their everyday USPC activities, as well as regional, national, and international events, while also supporting education, instruction, membership, and all other aspects of Pony Club. Learn more and register on the [Member Achievement Program](#) website.

Research Project Fair

Have you ever looked at your horse and said, "I wonder why...?" Is there something you always wanted to learn about your horse? Now you have an excuse to spend time with your best four-legged friend, satisfy your curiosity, and educate your fellow Pony Club members. Participate in the USPC Research Project Fair, a science-based competition held the beginning of every year during the USPC Convention. Learn more about the Research Project Fair on the [Special Opportunities page](#).

Recognition Programs

USPC members participating in USPC activities and Dressage, Eventing, or Foxhunting may be recognized for their achievement. Visit the [Recognition Programs page](#) to learn more.

USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge

Members of both USPC and USHJA have the unique opportunity to compete in a Quiz-like competition in November of each year. Visit the [HQC webpage](#) to learn more and register for the new season.

USPC Pony Jumper Team

USEF Pony Jumper Championships takes place each summer at the Kentucky Horse Park in conjunction with the USEF Pony Finals. The competition is run by USEF and includes a team championship and individual championships. USPC is invited to send riders.

The dates of this year's competition and other information about the competition and qualification process can be found on the [USEF website](#). To declare your intent to represent USPC, members must submit a declaration form by March 10. Learn more and find the declaration form on the [Special Opportunities page](#).

2025 Activities Calendar

Find a calendar of Activities and Events in 2025 [here](#).

Regional Rally Support

Rally Resources and Materials

Rally resources and materials can be found through the USPC [Competitions page](#).

The Rally Organizer's Guide is available for download [online](#) or purchase from [Shop Pony Club](#).

Rally Technical Delegate Reports

Regional rally organizers are reminded that Technical Delegate (TD) Reports are REQUIRED for standard rallies and requested for all rallies.

Electronic versions of [TD reports](#) are always preferred, but hard-copy versions are also acceptable. Please make sure that your TD is submitting the reports.

National Events Calendar

Having a rally or fun event in your region or club/center? Submit it to USPC's [National Calendar](#), and use the link to your event to help you promote it.



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Supporting USPC

Annual Fund

The USPC Annual Fund bridges the critical gap between what member dues cover and the actual cost of delivering the Pony Club program. In fact, member dues account for less than half of the expenses needed to serve just one participant each year. Support the Annual Fund [here](#) and share the link to support USPC.

International Exchanges and Special Opportunities Fund

To support USPC members in International Exchanges and Special Opportunities, please consider donating to the [USPC International Exchanges and Special Opportunities Fund](#). Your donation helps offset expenses and support USPC member participation in Special Opportunities.

Western Dressage Resources

The USPC Activities Committees can provide support to leaders, members, and volunteers. Current contact information for them can be found on the [Activities Committee page](#) of the USPC website.

Competitions Committee

The Competitions Committee oversees rally participation and support, rulebooks, and Championships eligibility.

Discipline Education Committee

The Discipline Education Committee oversees discipline pages on the USPC website, educational handbooks, and educational opportunities.

Special Opportunities Committee

The Special Opportunities Committee oversees participation and organizing groups for international exchanges, invitationals, and other special opportunities.

USPC News to Your Inbox

To keep up to date with all announcements and deadlines from USPC throughout the year, please [subscribe to Pony Club Enews](#), if you do not already receive it.

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