

USPC C-Level Eventing COMPARISON Flow Chart (for C Standards 2024)

	C-1	C-2	C-3 (National Level Test)
Riding Expectations	<p>Candidate rides with control, demonstrating a secure base of support and a basic balanced position, and using natural aids. The candidate begins riding mount freely forward in balance and rhythm while developing a light contact. Discussions will include familiarity with the Training Scale, with attention to rhythm and relaxation/suppleness, and the beginning components of self-evaluation. Fences to 2'9".</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>	<p>Candidate rides confidently and with control, maintaining a secure base of support, while developing toward an independent seat, and coordinated use of aids. The candidate initiates free forward movement, with balance and rhythm while maintaining a light contact. Discussions will include an understanding and basic application of the Training Scale with attention to rhythm, relaxation/suppleness and connection/contact, and the evaluation of self and mount. Fences to 3'.</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>	<p>The candidate must maintain a basic balanced position with a secure base of support, appropriate to each phase of Eventing. While riding with confidence and control the candidate should demonstrate the development of an independent seat and coordinated use of the aids on the flat, and over fences. The candidate demonstrates elements of the Training Scale to include riding the mount in balance with rhythm, relaxation/suppleness, connection/contact, maintaining free forward movement with smooth transitions. In discussions, the candidate should evaluate the aids used and their effectiveness in relation to the Training Scale. All fences not to exceed 3'3".</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>
Presentation of Horse and Rider	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attire to be correct for Eventing Rulebook. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC policy 0800.A) must be worn during turnout, riding, and longeing. No inappropriate jewelry. • Candidate should demonstrate effective presentation and control while standing facing and slightly to the side of, rather than directly in front of, the mount. The candidate will hold the reins, one in each hand, close to the bit. Thumbs should not be hooked into bit rings. • Mount should be well-groomed, reflecting daily care, including ears, nose, eyes, dock, sheath or udder, mane and tail (no dandruff). • Tack to be safe, clean, metal polished, and reflecting consistent daily care. • Discuss the purpose and correct fit of mount's equipment used on the flat and over fences.

<p>Riding on the Flat</p>	<p><u>Dressage Warm-up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work. • Discuss candidate's warm-up and mount's warm-up in relation to rhythm and relaxation/suppleness, using terms and understanding of the Training Scale. • Discuss candidate's position and its influence on horse's balance, rhythm, and suppleness. <p><u>Movements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform figure eights with simple transitions at each gait and demonstrate correct bend. • Demonstrate long rein, loose rein and light contact at walk. • Demonstrate a step back of 1-2 steps. • Discuss aids for and demonstrate a turn on the forehand. • Ride without stirrups at the sitting trot and rising trot. • Ride USEF Beginner Novice Test A. • Discuss dressage test performance, including the rider's application of the Riding Expectations. • Rider shows firm basic balanced position while using natural aids and in control. The rider begins riding mount freely forward while developing a light contact. 	<p><u>Dressage Warm-up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the meaning of the Riding Expectations. • Discuss candidate's warm-up for rider and mount, using terms from and showing and understanding of the Training Scale. • Demonstrate warm-up for dressage. • Discuss differences in warm-up for 3 different activities of candidate's choice. <p><u>Movements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work mount at walk, trot and canter, changing directions at least twice in each gait, using coordinated aids, maintaining even rhythm, balance, energy, and smooth transitions. • Demonstrate 15-and 20-meter circles, figure eights, serpentines and work on the center or quarter lines to develop suppleness and straightness. • Halt squarely on centerline and stand quietly for 5 seconds. • Demonstrate a free walk on a long rein, returning to a walk on contact. • Demonstrate a step back of 2-3 steps. • Discuss aids for and then demonstrate leg yield at walk. • Ride mount without stirrups at all gaits. • Ride the current USEF Novice Test A. • Discuss performance, including the rider's position, and whether mount was moving forward in balance and rhythm. 	<p>DRESSAGE- WARM UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate warm-up to include the use of schooling figures and movements appropriate for your mount to prepare for the dressage test. <p>REQUIRED TEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride the current USEF Training Eventing Dressage Test A (Reference USEF – EV 133) • Evaluate test performance to include the quality of transitions and the accuracy of figures. Discuss the Training Scale to include the quality of rhythm, tempo, relaxation/suppleness, connection/contact and free forward movement-during the test ride. <p>REQUIRED MOVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the candidates discretion, demonstrate the required movements prior to or following the riding of the test. Movements include: free and medium walk, working trot and canter, lengthen trot and canter; a 20 meter circle at the rising trot allowing mount to stretch forward and down; 10, 15, and 20 meter circles; half circles, figure eights, serpentines, working on the center and quarter lines, leg yield at the trot, and rein back (3-4 steps). • Demonstrate 3 or more of the required movements in the sitting trot while maintaining tempo, free forward movement, relaxation/suppleness, and connection/contact. • Ride without stirrups at all gaits. <p>RIDING ON THE FLAT-SWITCH RIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride a different mount initiating free forward movement and rhythm/tempo at each gait while developing connection/contact. Candidate must maintain a basic balanced position and base of support while demonstrating confidence and control. • Evaluate the ride on a different mount as it relates to the Training Scale to include ways in which the mount was different from own.
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<p>Riding over Fences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride over small gymnastic grid of trot poles to 3 fences, finishing with an ascending oxer set at, but not exceeding, 2'9". Grid and trot poles to be set at appropriate distances for mount's stride. • Ride over a course of 6-8 obstacles in an enclosed area that includes a two-stride combination set at an appropriate distance for mount's stride. The majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 2'9". • Discuss performance, including balance and rhythm, and ways ride could be improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride over a gymnastic grid of trot poles to 3 fences, finishing with an ascending oxer set at, but not exceeding 3'. Grid and trot poles to be set at appropriate distances for mount's stride. • Develop a plan of how to ride a stadium course in an enclosed area. Course to consist of 7-9 jumps with one double combination. The majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 3'. • Ride course according to plan. • Discuss performance, including the quality of canter rhythm and tempo maintained throughout the course and ways ride could be improved. • Rider demonstrates secure basic balanced position over fences, showing control, rhythm and proper use of aids. 	<p>GYMNASTICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnastics grid on standard, course diagrams on website. Candidates should bring a device for measuring height and distances of grid/course. • Discuss reasons for different lengths of stirrups and the effect on position for different types of work. • Discuss the standard gymnastic grid distances diagramed on the SOP. Discuss how these distances relate to your mount and conditions where you're jumping (e.g., indoor or outdoor arena, footing, etc.). • Demonstrate warm up for jumping to incorporate the grid trotting poles. Ride through a simple grid that will progress in height to 3'3". • Ride without stirrups over the grid on own mount at 3'. • Evaluate warm-up and grid work. <p>STADIUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride one of the stadium courses provided on the USPC website, chosen by the examiner. The majority of fences will be set at, but not exceeding, 3.3" jump 1 will be set one hole lower. • Discuss course plan (e.g., distances, appropriate pace, track ridden) and evaluate course performance: use of aids to ride mount in balance, rhythm, and tempo. <p>RIDING OVER FENCES-SWITCH RIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride a different mount, demonstrating the riding expectations, over a modified course stated at the bottom of each course map. Fences set at 3', jump 1 will be set to one hole lower. • Evaluate performance and how mount differs from own.
<p>Riding in the Open</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride safely with control in a group, on a suitable mount, at the walk, trot, and canter over varied terrain. • Discuss and demonstrate riding safely over varied terrain, incorporating as many of the following elements as local conditions allow: hills, small/shallow ditches, low banks, flat open areas and shallow streams. • Ride over 5-7 cross-country obstacles at appropriate speed (240-350 mpm), connecting fences as a course. The majority of fences set at, 2'6" – 2'9" but not exceeding, 2'9". • Rider demonstrates a secure base of support and control over course. • Discuss performance, pace, and reasons for any disobediences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride safely with confidence and control in a group, on a suitable mount, at the walk, trot, and canter over varied terrain, through shallow water, banks, hills, and small ditches as occur in natural terrain, as local conditions allow. • Discuss safety measures when riding over varied footing, i.e., water, mud, rocks, ice, bog, hard ground, sand, pavement. • Ride over 5-7 cross-country obstacles, at appropriate speed (350-375 mpm) connecting fences as a course. The majority of fences set at, 2'6" - 3', but not exceeding, 3'. • Discuss performance to include adjustments to pace and balance, and ways ride could be improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate will have the opportunity to walk their cross country course prior to riding the course. • As a group demonstrate a progressive warm up using 3 cross country fences (novice and training height). • Ride over 6-9 cross country obstacles, minimum of 4 fences at training height (not to exceed 3'3"). Obstacles may include ditches, banks, drops, water, or combinations. Ride course at appropriate pace, 350-450 mpm, according to obstacles and terrain. • Discuss course plan (e.g., distances, pace, and track ridden for different obstacles) and evaluate course performance and reasons for any disobediences. Discuss appropriate rider positions for different obstacles and how

			rider position changes throughout a cross country course.
Longeing	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate proper fit and use of equipment, including bridle and cavesson (optional), saddle or surcingle, and side reins. Mount must be longed in side reins, set at appropriate height and length. • Longe own mount on a 20 m circle, initiating connection through safe longeing techniques and proper use of aids (longe line, whip, voice, and body position) in order to develop free forward movement at the walk, trot and/or canter, and smooth transitions.
Bandaging	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a stable bandage. Discuss purposes and dangers involved with stable bandages. • Apply a hoof abscess bandage under supervision.
	C-1	C-2	C-3 (National Level Test)
Horse Management Expectations	The candidate should show a developing awareness of cause and effect in the care of their mount. They should be familiar with local common horse terms. Assistance is recommended in the demonstration of bandaging.	The candidate should show a solid awareness of cause and effect in horse management skills. Assistance is allowed in some demonstrations of bandaging, longeing, and loading mount.	SEE H-B as noted.
Presentation/ Turnout and Tack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates' mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Present in appropriate "Competition" attire for either Eventing, Dressage, or Show Jumping discipline (found in the discipline rulebook). • Mount to be well-groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with little, if any, dandruff. External areas around sheath/udder clean. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, dock clean. • Tack to be safe, clean, and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No jockeys or dust and all stress points clean. • Identify tack on own mount and discuss fit. • Name 3 different snaffle bits. • Name 1 curb bit and describe how its function is different than a snaffle, as described in the USPC D Manual. • Describe how to adjust a curb chain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates' mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Mount to be well-groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with little, if any, dandruff. External areas around sheath/udder clean. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, dock clean. • All tack to be safe, clean, and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No jockeys or dust, and all stress points clean. • Present in appropriate "Competition" attire for either Eventing, Dressage, or Show Jumping discipline (found in the discipline rulebook). • Identify and explain reasons for equipment used on own mount and discuss adjustment and reasons for fit of tack. Explain reasons for equipment used on own mount. • Explain the action of 2 types of snaffle bits. 	Not applicable.
Conditioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the meaning of conditioning and the reasons for conditioning a mount. • Describe 3 factors to consider before a horse can begin a conditioning program. • Discuss 2 types of conditioning work such as long slow distance and hill work and how this helps to improve your mounts fitness. • Name 2 indications (evidence) of improved fitness for your mount. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the weekly riding plan in your record book. Candidate should show and be able to discuss details of duration, activity, and general exercise involved. • Discuss how you would condition your mount from unfit to ordinary riding fitness that includes changes in feed, TPR, and recovery rates. 	SEE H-B

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 2 ways to help cool your mount in very hot conditions. 	
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss how much water an average horse drinks in a day and 2 reasons why water is important for horses. Describe 2 characteristics of bad hay and explain why access to good quality roughage is important. Name one legume hay and one grass hay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe own mount's ration when developing fitness, maintaining fitness, taking day off, sick, and extended time off. List the 6 classes of nutrients. Look at a feed label and identify the percentage of protein and fat. From the ingredients list, identify 1 source of each of protein, carbohydrates, fat, vitamin, and mineral. (Candidate should bring own label or copy.) 	SEE H-B
Stable Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss 1 drainage and 1 absorbent bedding. Describe 3 areas that are important to check for a sheet or blanket to fit correctly. Name 2 safety concerns when putting on a blanket or removing a blanket. Discuss 5 general barn safety practices. Describe and give reasons for 3 types of clipping. Name 2 internal and 2 external parasites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss 3 concerns for pasture safety and fencing. Discuss emergency information that should be posted in all barns. Name 3 toxic plants in your area and describe 1 aspect of each plant that would help you recognize it in the pasture (e.g., type of plant, flower, color, height etc.). Describe 3 ways to manage internal and/or external parasites in pastures and stalls.. 	SEE H-B
Conformation and Unsoundness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and discuss 3 bad points of basic leg conformation. Describe the outward appearance, and locate these 5 common unsoundnesses: splint, bowed tendon, bone spavin, curb, and ringbone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss how conformation of own mount is related to its breed. Discuss angles of shoulder and hip of own mount. Name 5 basic conformation qualities that you want in a mount for your own use, and how they affect the basic movement and soundness. Describe appearance, and specific location of the following unsoundnesses: splint, bowed tendon, ringbone, sidebone, navicular, thoroughpin, curb, and bone and bog spavin. 	SEE H-B <i>Anatomy, Conformation and Lameness</i>
Travel Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe basic equipment or care needed for mount's safety and comfort during trailer travel. Discuss 5 items from the truck/trailer safety checklist that you should check before you travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain 5 ways to keep your mount safe and comfortable during travel. Name which equine health certificates and/or documents are required to travel in your state. 	SEE H-B
Health and Maintenance Record Book	<p>Purpose: to supply an accurate and detailed outline of a member's (or borrowed or virtual) mount's basic health and care information in order for someone else to properly care for mount if member was laid up or called away for a prolonged period.</p> <p>Provide a hard copy (in a folder/binder) of mount's Health and Maintenance Record Book that contains records for at least 6 months prior to the test. In addition to the information from the previous levels (D-2 & D-3), records must contain:</p> <p>D-2 Horse information and photo Contact Information for veterinarian and farrier Feeding information and schedule</p> <p>D-3</p>	<p>Purpose: to supply an accurate and detailed outline of a member's (or borrowed or virtual) mount's basic health and care information in order for someone else to properly care for mount if member was laid up or called away for a prolonged period.</p> <p>Provide a hard copy (in a folder/binder) of mount's Health and Maintenance Record Book that contains records for at least 6 months prior to the test. In addition to the information from the previous levels (D-2 & D-3), records must contain:</p> <p>D-2 Horse information and photo Contact Information for veterinarian and farrier Feeding information and schedule</p> <p>D-3</p>	SEE H-B

	<p>Dated list of routine care (vaccinations, deworming, shoeing, dentistry) Daily schedule of care which may include grooming, riding, clinics, etc.</p> <p>C-1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weekly riding/conditioning schedule and changes to this schedule (seasonal or other). ○ Activities (beyond daily routine, e.g., lessons, clinics, competitions, etc.). ○ Extra veterinary visits (beyond routine care). ○ Expenses (income can be added, but not required). <i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i> 	<p>Dated list of routine care (vaccinations, deworming, shoeing, dentistry) Daily schedule of care which may include grooming, riding, clinics, etc.</p> <p>C-1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weekly riding/conditioning schedule and changes to this schedule (seasonal or other). ○ Activities (beyond daily routine, e.g., lessons, clinics, competitions, etc.). ○ Extra veterinary visits (beyond routine care). ○ Expenses (income can be added, but not required). <p>C-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 page or less description of your mount's history (if known) and daily routine. ○ Tack and equipment used. ○ Any blanketing or special care requirements. <p><i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i></p>	
<p>Health Care Veterinary Knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe how to treat minor wounds. ● Discuss parasite management for your mount. ● Name 3 things you can do to prevent your horse from contracting a communicable disease (i.e., while riding at other facilities or keeping mount at show grounds). ● Discuss 3 health concerns before bringing a new horse into a barn or stable. ● Explain the reason for having a Coggins test done. ● Discuss causes, signs, and preventative measures for the following: colic, laminitis, and choke. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss immunizations and health requirements appropriate for your area (may refer to record book). ● List 3 prevalent internal parasites in your area. ● Discuss causes, signs, and preventative measures for the following: tetanus, rabies, encephalomyelitis, West Nile virus, and scratches. ● Explain the need for the regular care of teeth. ● Describe location of the parts of the horse's mouth to include bars, lips, incisors, molars, wolf teeth, and canines. 	<p>SEE H-B</p>
<p>Teaching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring a letter from DC/CA verifying the member assisted twice at an unmounted Pony Club activity. ● Demonstrate a safety and tack inspection for a D member (explaining any safety issues found) to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rider attire (helmet, boots and medical armband or bracelet) ○ Bit is right way up and is attached to bridle correctly ○ Curb chain adjusted correctly if using ○ Crownpiece/Headstall and browband fitted Reins attached correctly ○ Billets, stirrup leathers and reins in good repair ○ Girth is good size for mount and in good condition ○ Saddle fits mount and rider and pad is correctly attached ○ Reins attached correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring a letter from DC/CA stating, under supervision, the member is assisting in simple unmounted instructional activities for D-level members. A minimum of 4 hours teaching prior to the test is recommended. ● Under direct supervision by the examiner, teach a D member how to safely prepare their mount for turnout at a rally or certification (not to exceed 10 minutes). Discuss with the examiner how you might handle a tack or equipment check where there is a safety concern. ● Describe the following unsafe equipment and how it might be fixed: loose throat latch, saddle pad not attached, bit too low/high, worn out stitching, and cracked leather. <i>(At C-Level, changes to tack should only be made by parent or supervising adult.)</i> 	<p>SEE HB <i>Teaching (Technique)</i> <i>Teaching (a Class)</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ponies' feet picked out 		
Land Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 2 different locations near you where the land is used for horseback riding and other outdoor activities such as hiking and sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss what public land is available to ride on in your county. Describe 2 things you can do to be a good steward for public land used for recreation (equestrian activities, hiking, biking, etc.). 	SEE H-B
Leading/ Longeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss 3 reasons for longeing. • Name 4 required items the rider must have when longeing and 3 items used for a mount at the C level as described in the USPC C Manual. • Describe parallel longeing and explain why it might be used. • Demonstrate parallel leading (from both sides at the walk only) with assistance, if necessary, as described in the USPC C Manual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the fit of the longeing equipment being used on the mount. • Discuss the type and length of the longe line used. • Name 3 safety precautions when longeing. • In an enclosed area, longe familiar mount at walk and trot in both directions on a 20-meter circle, with assistance, if necessary. While longeing, demonstrate the correct use of equipment, body position, posture, and voice. • Discuss technique used (parallel or pivot) in longeing demonstration.. 	SEE H-B <i>Training/Longeing</i>
Foot and Shoeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss causes of thrush and prevention. • Identify 6 farrier tools and their uses. • Identify 3 types of shoes. • Describe 3 examples of bad shoeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the 5 steps in shoeing. • Describe 2 -3 types of common shoe features and why they might be used (e.g., clips, square toe, pads, studs) • If shod, discuss features of own mount's shoes. 	SEE H-B
Bandaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 2 possible effects of poor bandaging techniques. <p>Apply 2 stable (aka standing) bandages (front and rear diagonal pair) with assistance if needed from the Examiner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under direct supervision, apply 1 stable bandage without assistance. Discuss why you would make the choice to use a cupping technique. • Apply a tail bandage (for shipping or grooming) with assistance. 	SEE H-B
Rider Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List 3 ways to determine if a riding helmet fits properly. • Describe 3 signs of heat illness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List 3 signs of a concussion. • Explain 2 ways to cool off a rider during a hot day. • Explain the importance of the heat index 	SEE H-B



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4041 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

(859)254-7669 ~ www.ponyclub.org

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