

Pony Club®



Horse Management Handbook and Competition Rules

2026

THE USPC PLEDGE

As a Member of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc., 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.

USPC MISSION STATEMENT

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. develops character, leadership, confidence, and a sense of community in youth through a program that teaches the care of horses and ponies, riding and mounted sports.

USPC CORE VALUES

Horsemanship with respect to healthcare, nutrition, stable management, handling and riding a mount safely, correctly and with confidence.

Organized teamwork including cooperation, communication, responsibility, leadership, mentoring, teaching and fostering a supportive yet competitive environment.

Respect for the horse and self through horsemanship; for land through land conservation; and for others through service and teamwork.

Service by providing an opportunity for members, parents, and others to support the Pony Club program locally, regionally and nationally through volunteerism.

Education at an individual pace to achieve personal goals and expand knowledge through teaching others.

Vision Statement

The USPC Program is available to and accessible by an intergenerational community of equine enthusiasts with a focus on youth through multiple means of delivery

- An instructional program supported by mounted and unmounted lessons at all levels
- Multiple forms of membership
- Fully enabled by technology
- Marketed to multiple audiences
- Recognized and recognizable nationwide as the leader in Horse Management education
- Trained and capable volunteers

This entire document is a resource for daily, routine Horse Management questions, and for competition judging purposes is to be considered as a valid source of information, and provides more detail on topics addressed in Sections II and III.

Reminder: This is a new Rulebook for 2026. Additions, deletions and changes have been made since the last rulebook was issued. Be sure to read the entire publication carefully so you will be aware of all the rules for the upcoming rally season.

This rulebook should be kept in a 3-ring binder to allow for addition of revisions and new instructional sections. Do not remove pages from your rulebook; be sure to make copies of all forms and charts before writing on them.

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SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

Article 1—Rally Definition

Pony Club rallies are team competitions, whether competing unmounted or mounted. All mounted rallies (standard and modified) must include riding and Horse Management competitions. Mounted rallies may run within the framework of a local or recognized show. A rally may take place all in one day or may span several days.

This rulebook is intended to establish standards for United States Pony Clubs (USPC) rallies. Organizers of competitions should work with their regional supervisors (RS) to offer the levels and divisions that they feel are appropriate for their local needs. It is the responsibility of the organizer and RS to offer the appropriate standard or modified rallies and divisions for their members wishing to become eligible for Championships.

Regions may host more than one rally per discipline in the same year. In modified rallies and divisions, organizers and RSs may make rule allowances based on the competitor's needs. Competitors aiming for Championships must strictly follow all attire and equipment specifications. Organizers must outline any rule adjustments in the entry information. Criteria for standard and modified rallies are listed below.

Standard Rallies

Standard rallies are always preferred. These rallies specifically follow all the rules outlined in the discipline rulebooks including utilizing a Chief Horse Management Judge (CHMJ) from the approved CHMJ list on the USPC website, and any other specified licensed officials.

Modified Rallies

Modified rallies do not explicitly follow the discipline rulebooks and generally occur because of limited resources.

Each year, regions should host rallies and are encouraged to work cooperatively with other regions to host joint rallies as appropriate. At all levels, organizers are encouraged to keep rallies simple and inexpensive. Local and regional rallies are team competitions involving club/centers from only one region. Interregional rallies are team competitions between two or more regions.

If an individual's region does not offer a rally in the desired discipline, they may earn eligibility in another region upon obtaining approval from the RS in both regions.

Rally competitions are normally held in a team format, but sometimes members compete as individuals based on the needs of the hosting group. In all rallies, teams should be recognized for their achievements in the competition. In mounted rallies, team/competitor placings will be based on a combination of their riding scores and their Horse Management scores. Separate Horse Management awards are often given for the team/individual with the lowest Horse Management penalties.

Article 2—Governing Rules

With regards to standard rallies, this rulebook is a precise specification of rules that must be followed. For modified rallies/divisions/competitors, this rulebook should be viewed as a guide that can be adjusted by the rally organizer/RS to best meet the needs of the region. Modifications should be listed in the rally entry information. Additional governing documents for all rallies are the following:

- Annual Discipline Newsletters
- USPC Horse Management Handbook (current edition)
- Official Amendments and Clarifications from USPC
- Appropriate parent organization rulebooks (i.e. USEF, APA). If the rally is being run in conjunction with a recognized event, the parent organization rulebook will supersede this rulebook. If the rally is not being run in conjunction with a recognized event, then this rulebook is to be followed.

Since rules cannot provide for every eventuality (unforeseen or exceptional circumstance), it is the obligation of the discipline ground jury to make decisions in a sporting spirit and to follow as closely as possible the intention of these rules. If there is an inconsistency, the discipline rulebook takes precedence over the Horse Management Handbook.

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Article 3—Responsibility

All competitors are ultimately responsible for knowing these rules and complying with them. The appointment of an official, whether or not provided for in these rules, does not absolve the competitor from such responsibility.

Article 4—Legal Liability

Neither the USPC, host club/center/region(s), the organizer, competition officials, staff, nor any other person acting on behalf of the organizer, shall be held liable for any loss, damage, accident, injury, or illness to competitors, mounts, or to any other person or property whatsoever.

Article 5—Member Participation and Eligibility

Participation in Rallies

At local, regional, and inter-regional rallies, participants

- May be of any age or certification
- Must be a member in good standing, must have paid all local, regional, and national dues, and insurance fees
- Must be a member on record with the USPC National Office at the time of the rally

SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

Members, parents, and anyone participating in USPC activities must all abide by the applicable Code of Conduct. Members seeking Championships eligibility must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this document. The member's age as of January 1 shall be the age of record throughout the competition year.

Competitors and mounts are expected to participate in all aspects of the rally including briefings, horse inspections, mounted competition, and Horse Management. For overnight rallies, all mounts are expected to stay on the competition grounds unless the competitor makes other arrangements with the rally organizer prior to the start of the competition.

While competitors are expected to participate fully in the rally, they are encouraged to get out of the barn if their mount is properly cared for with food and water. Based on the competition schedule, competitors may leave the rally grounds during competition hours.

If a mount is removed from the competition grounds without prior consultation with the rally organizer, the competitor may be penalized by the ground jury.

Championships Competitor Age and Certification

District commissioners (DCs) and center administrators (CAs) are responsible for the eligibility of competitors and mounts at all rallies. It is the responsibility of DCs/CAs and club/center primary instructors:

- To see that mounts and riders are entered in rallies at the appropriate level.
- All competitors are aware of health requirements (i.e., Coggins, immunizations, and state health certificates with valid dates).
- Entry forms are complete and submitted to the rally secretary on time.
- All Pony Club members in their jurisdiction have access to a copy of the current USPC discipline rulebook, current USPC Horse Management Handbook (HMH), current USPC discipline annual newsletter(s), and any other relevant information from the USPC Competitions Committee or the organizer of a specific rally where they will be competing.

Each discipline/division has minimum age and certification requirement for participation in Championships. Championships competitors must meet the age requirement based on January 1 of the Championships' competition year. They must have competed at the minimum or higher certification level at a standard or modified rally. Any standard rallies should base their division entry status on the competitor's age for the following year and all rallies should take into account planned advancements in certification level.

Article 6—Member in Good Standing

(Policy 1002) Members are considered in good standing if they are current with all dues and fees owed the registered club/riding center program, region, and USPC, and have met all compliance requirements.

Article 7—Code of Conduct Expectations

The officials of the competition may immediately suspend or expel any individual from the competition upon consulting with the discipline ground jury for anyone not conforming to the Code of Conduct.

DCs, CAs, RSs, rally organizers, officials, and judges must be familiar with, and enforce, the Participating Member and Adult Code of Conduct.

Participating Member Code of Conduct

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is proud of its reputation for good sportsmanship, horsemanship, teamwork, and well-behaved members. The USPC expects appropriate behavior from all members, parents, and others participating in any USPC activity. Inappropriate behavior may include, but is not limited to: possession, use, or distribution of any illegal drugs or alcohol; profanity, vulgar language or gestures; harassment (i.e., using words or actions that intimidate, threaten, or persecute others before, during, or following USPC activities); failure to follow rules; cheating; and abusing a mount.

Adult Code of Conduct

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is proud of its reputation for good sportsmanship, horsemanship, teamwork, and well-behaved members. It expects no less from the parents, guardians, adult family members, or others who volunteer for the organization. The USPC expects appropriate behavior when participating in any Pony Club activity. Inappropriate behavior may include, but not be limited to: profanity, vulgar language or gestures; harassment (e.g., using words or actions that intimidate, threaten, or persecute others before, during, or following any Pony Club activity); failure to follow rules; cheating; or abusive behavior.

"I understand that USPC activities operate under the governance of USPC and are subject to all applicable USPC By-laws, Policies, Rules, and Regulations. I understand that I have access to these By-laws, Policies, Rules, and Regulations and that it is my responsibility to read them. I agree to adhere to these By-laws, Policies, Rules, Regulations and this Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may, at the discretion of USPC, result in being restricted from attendance or participation in Pony Club activities."

SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

Article 8—Substances and Weapons

(Policy 0500) In the interest in the safety and welfare of all, it is the policy of the Board of Governors, during any Pony Club activities, to prohibit the inappropriate or illegal use of any substance, including but not limited to drugs or alcohol, by anyone participating in any manner. Weapons of any kind are forbidden.

Article 9—Mounts

(Policy 0840) Mounts used at a regional or interregional rally should be the participant's regular USPC mount, and accustomed to being handled by its rider without adult supervision. A participant may use a different mount only with the advance permission of the DC/CA and RS.

Ownership of a mount is not a prerequisite for membership in USPC. The responsibility for obtaining a suitable mount for mounted activities rests with the individual or parents/guardians of the individual member.

Per USPC Policy 0840 suitable mounts are defined as follows:

1. Stallions are not considered suitable mounts.
2. Mounts must be serviceably sound, in good overall health, and in condition for the activity in question.
3. Mounts must be appropriate for the certification level of the rider and must be at a level of training to participate safely in the activity.
4. Except as noted below, mounts must be at least five (5) years of age in order to participate in USPC competitive, instructional, and recreational programs and activities. In establishing the age of mounts, the first year is considered to be January 1 following the date of foaling.
5. Members holding a riding certification of C-1 and above may participate in all USPC activities on an appropriate mount at least four (4) years of age.

A mount must be excused from any activity if in the opinion of the instructor, examiner, or appropriate authority, it is unsafe either to its rider or to other riders or mounts.

Article 10—Substitution of Mounts

For all mounted rallies (except Tetrathlon), mount and rider become eligible for Championships as a team. Therefore, a competitor must enter Championships only on the mount on which they earned eligibility.

In extraordinary circumstances, after becoming eligible for Championships, a substitute mount may be requested via the online application a minimum of five days before Championships move-in by the RS. The panel reviews each application to verify the substitute mount meets the same mount eligibility requirements as the original entry. Refer to the Mount Substitution application found on the USPC website.

- Mounted Games and Polocrosse teams may bring a spare mount for the competition. See Section II and III for additional information (Discipline Rulebooks).
- Tetrathlon mounts do not need to have participated in a regional rally prior to Championships participation.

Article 11—Sharing of Mounts

In some disciplines and in some competitions, the sharing of mounts may be allowed. At regional rallies, the rally organizer, in consultation with the RS, may allow for the sharing of mounts by competitors. For Championships, requests for shared mounts must be submitted using the Mount Substitution online application found on the USPC website. Each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, for approval or denial. Determination of shared mounts must take into consideration the discipline, competition schedule, and suitability of mount. The welfare of the mount will be the highest priority in this situation and all competitors must agree that if the horse management judges (HMJ's), technical delegate (TD)/steward, or organizers on-site feel that the health of the mount is in jeopardy at any time, they may be removed from the rest of the riding portion of the competition.

Article 12—Veterinary Care and Medications

(Policy 0860 and 0860 P.1) To promote the safety and welfare of Pony Club members, their mounts, and provide fair and unbiased competitions, the Policy of the Board of Governors is that all mounts in USPC sponsored activities be serviceably sound and healthy. The definition of serviceably sound may vary based on the mount's duties and competition level.

Medications may be administered to mounts, provided their use does not create an unfair advantage or allow an unfit mount to participate as determined by the rally officials.

It is the owner/rider's responsibility, in coordination with a veterinarian, to determine what medication(s) are appropriate.

Competitors participating in USPC rallies held in conjunction with other competitions may be subject to medication rules of other organizations in addition to those of USPC.

Additional requirements and information:

- Any mount receiving medication for chronic conditions must have medications listed on their stall card.
- Mounts requiring medications for acute conditions treated by a veterinarian, the competitor/parent, or owner, must coordinate with the responsible party for the activity or Horse Management staff prior to administration.
- Medication is defined as any substance that is not water, salt, electrolytes, or a supplement, and is not considered a normal foodstuff.

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Article 13—Cruelty to and Abuse of a Mount

Cruelty to or the abuse of a mount present on the grounds of any competition is forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty. The organizing committee will bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the competition.

Any action(s) against a mount by a competitor or other person, which are deemed excessive by a judge, steward, TD or competition veterinarian, in the competition ring or anywhere on the competition grounds may be punished by official warning, elimination, or other sanctions which may be deemed appropriate by the organizing committee. Such action(s) may include, but are not limited to, excessive use of the whip or spurs.

USPC, judges, stewards, or TDs may appoint a veterinarian to inspect any animal on competition grounds or entered to compete. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after notification shall constitute a violation.

The following are included under the words cruelty and abuse but are not limited thereto:

1. Abuse. Any act or series of actions that, in the opinion of a judge, TD, steward, member of the discipline ground jury, or other rally official can clearly and without doubt be defined as abuse of mounts shall be penalized by disqualification. Such acts include, but are not limited to:
 - Riding an exhausted mount.
 - **Continued** pressing of a tired mount.
 - Excessive use of whip and/or spurs, and/or bit.
 - Striking a mount in front of the shoulder.
 - Riding an obviously lame mount.
2. Rapping. All rapping (poling) is forbidden.
3. Whip. The use of the whip must be **reasonably administered**, at an appropriate time, **and** in the right place.
 - Reason—The whip must only be used as an aid to encourage the mount forward.
 - Time—As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a mount is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. **Instances of inappropriate use of the whip include the whip used after elimination, after the last fence on course, and/or multiple times between obstacles.**
 - Place—As an aid to go forward, the whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the rider's leg. It must never be used overhand (e.g., a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank). The use of a whip on a mount's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.
 - Severity—**A whip** should never be used more than two times for any one incident. If a mount is marked by the whip (e.g., the skin is broken **or has visible marks from the use of the whip**), its use is excessive. **It must never be used to vent a competitor's temper. Such use is always excessive.**

4. End of the Reins (Trail **and Western Dressage** only) - The use of the end of the reins must be **reasonably administered**, at an appropriate time, and in the right place.
 - Reason—The end of the reins must only be used as an aid to encourage the mount forward.
 - Time—As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a mount is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. **Instances of inappropriate use of the end of the reins include use after elimination, after the last obstacle on course, and/or multiple times between obstacles.**
 - Place—As an aid to go forward, the ends of the reins may be used down the shoulder or behind the rider's leg. They must never be used overhand (e.g., the ends of the reins in the right hand being used on the left flank). The use of the ends of the reins on a mount's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.
 - Severity—**The ends of the reins** should never be used more than two times for any one incident. If a mount is marked by the ends of the reins (e.g., the skin is broken **or has visible marks from the use of the ends of the reins**), its use is excessive. **It must never be used to vent a competitor's temper. Such use is always excessive.**
5. Spurs—Spurs must not be used to reprimand a mount. Such use is always excessive, as is any use that results in a mount's skin being broken.
6. Bit—The bit must never be used to reprimand a mount. Any such use is always excessive.
7. Reporting—Officials must report such actions as soon as possible to the discipline ground jury, supported where possible by statements from witnesses.
 - Discipline ground jury—if such actions are reported, the discipline ground jury shall decide if there is a case to be answered. If an individual member of the discipline ground jury observes such actions, they are obliged to disqualify the competitor forthwith on their own authority. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury's decision in a case of abuse.

Article 14—Dangerous Riding

1. Any competitor who rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or well-being of the competitor, mount, other competitors, their mounts, spectators, or others will be penalized accordingly. **Dangerous riding may include but is not limited to the following:**
 - **Riding out of control (mount clearly not responding to the competitor's restraining or driving aids).**
 - **Riding obstacles too fast or too slow.**
 - **Repeatedly standing off fences too far (pushing the mount to the base of the obstacle, firing the mount to the fence).**

SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

- Repeatedly being ahead or behind the mount's movement when jumping.
 - Series of dangerous jumps.
 - Severe lack of responsiveness from the mount or the competitor.
 - Continuing after three clear obstacle refusals, a fall, or any form of elimination.
 - Endangering the public in any way (e.g., jumping out of the roped track).
2. Any act or series of actions that in the opinion of the judge, TD, steward, or member of the discipline ground jury can be defined as dangerous riding shall be penalized at the discretion of the discipline ground jury.
 3. If such actions are reported, the discipline ground jury shall decide if there is a case to be answered. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury decision.

Article 15—Safety

(Policy 0800) USPC is committed to safety while recognizing that equestrian activities are inherently dangerous. The USPC Safety Handbook is an excellent resource for making safety a priority at all rallies and Pony Club functions. This dedication to safety extends to requiring certain equipment be utilized during Pony Club activities. These include:

1. Protective Headgear (Policy 0810): USPC requires members participating in mounted and some unmounted activities to wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, containing certification that it meets the criteria established by the following international or national safety bodies:
 - ASTM F1163-15 or ASTM F1163-23 with SEI Mark (North America) (required for USEF Competitions)
 - SNELL Memorial Foundation E2021
 - PAS 015-2011 with BSI Kitemark (United Kingdom)
 - AS/NZS 3838 with SAI Global Mark (Australia and New Zealand)
 - VG1 01.040 2014-12 BSI Kitemark and/or IC Mark (European)
 - EN 1384 BSI Kitemark and/or IC Mark (European)
2. Safety Vest/Body Protector (Policy 0830): USPC requires wearing a properly fitted equestrian body protection vest (per manufacturer's guidelines) containing the standards and certifications that meet criteria established by specific safety bodies when jumping cross-country/solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by the USPC, its Regions, Registered Clubs, or Riding Center programs. A member may wear a body protector at their discretion for any mounted activity.
 - ASTM F1937-04
 - EN 13158:2018 BETA Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3

3. Medical Armbands and Bracelets (Policy 0820 and 0820P):

- USPC requires that members participating in any USPC affiliated mounted or unmounted activity, must wear either a medical armband or medical bracelet while participating in the activity. The member may choose which one to wear.
- Medical armbands must include a current completed copy of the individual's USPC or USEA Medical Card. It must be worn on the upper arm. If the member has small arms, they may safety pin the armband to their upper sleeve, (armbands are available for purchase from Shop Pony Club).
- Medical bracelets must visibly list these six items on them: name, date of birth, contact information, known allergies, current medications, and existing medical conditions. More information is acceptable, but these six items are required to be on the bracelet.
- All officials on-site at the USPC mounted or unmounted activity are encouraged to work with the competitors to remind them of this requirement.
- Any member at a USPC-affiliated mounted or unmounted activity* found not wearing either a medical armband or medical bracelet must be removed from the activity until the member conforms to the policy requirement.

**Tetraphalon competitors will not be required to wear them while actually shooting or swimming but must have them visible and next to them for these activities and must wear them at all other times.*

4. Unmounted Footwear: When working in the barn or near mounts, unmounted footwear must meet all the following criteria:
 - Thick-soled shoes/boots (short or tall)
 - Cover the ankle
 - In good condition
 - Made of leather or synthetic materials
 - Entirely closed
 - Securely fastened
 - Well-fitted to foot
 - Sturdy construction (e.g., Ugg-type boots do not meet this requirement)

Examples: paddock/jodphur boots, rubber riding boots, rain boots/wellies, western boots.

5. Smoking: In the interest of barn safety, it is strictly forbidden for anyone to smoke in or around barn and stable areas.

Article 16—Heat-Related Information

(Policy 0900): USPC requires all Pony Club volunteers in a leadership position within Pony Club and especially anyone involved directly with mounted or unmounted lessons or activities to complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) heat illness training module.

SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

At all USPC activities, rally officials must consider the:

- Temperature and humidity using the “Heat Index Chart” (Appendix II).
- Time of day and season of activity.
- Level of exertion necessary for participation in the activity.

The Heat Index (HI) or “Apparent Temperature” is the temperature the body feels when heat and humidity are combined. This reduces the amount of evaporation of sweat from the body and outdoor exercise becomes dangerous even for those in good shape. Please refer to Appendix II.

Steps to prevent heat-related illness include:

- Providing unlimited cool water for consumption in ALL areas, especially riding areas.
- Make water breaks mandatory.
- Do not depend on thirst as an indicator of the need for water.
- Avoid the hottest part of the day if this is an option.
- Consider shortening the length or level of exertion of the activity.

During rallies, the discipline ground jury (overall ground jury at Championships) is responsible for monitoring the Heat Index and taking appropriate action as necessary. Those actions could include, but are not limited to:

- Waiving of coats/jackets
- Banning of coats/jackets
- Altering of schedule

Any official can and should bring a potentially dangerous heat situation to the attention of the president of the ground jury. If coats/jackets are waived or banned the following processes should be followed.

Waived Coats/Jackets

When the temperature and humidity are recorded in the danger zone, removal of coats during warm up is mandatory.

If the rider wants to put their coat/jacket on for their competition round, they may leave their neckwear and helmet cover on during warm up.

If the rider does not want to put their coat/jacket on for their competition round, then they must remove all neckwear and their helmet cover during warm up.

Additional Information

- When coats are waived, the competitors must be turned out per Competition Attire (including coats/jackets) unless they choose to compete wearing Basic Riding Attire.
- Riders must wear a collared shirt with long or short sleeves if they are not wearing a jacket.

- T-shirts are not permitted.

Competitors must also remove neckwear and helmet covers on vented helmets if they do not wish to wear their jackets for their competitive ride.

Banned Coats/Jackets

When temperature and humidity are recorded in the danger zone and based on the decision of the discipline ground jury (overall ground jury at Championships), coats/jackets may be banned for the safety of competitors. If coats/jackets are banned, then competitors must remove coats/jackets, neckwear, and helmet covers for turnout inspections, warm up, and competition rounds.

Heat-Related Illness Return To Play

A member believed by a leader, coach, parent, or official of a USPC unmounted or mounted activity or competition to be suffering from heat illness shall be removed from play at that time and given appropriate treatment before being allowed to return to play.

Article 17—Concussion and Return to Play

(Policy 0900): USPC requires all Pony Club volunteers in a leadership position within Pony Club and especially anyone involved directly with mounted or unmounted lessons or activities to complete the concussion training module.

A member believed by a leader, coach, parent, or official to have sustained a concussion during a USPC unmounted or mounted activity must be referred to medical personnel. Medical personnel, in conjunction with rally officials and organizers, will determine if a written release is required for the member to return to the competition.

Article 18—Unauthorized and Permitted Assistance

1. Unauthorized Assistance: Unauthorized assistance is help and/or assistance during the competition from anyone other than other competitors, HMJs, and rally officials. Unauthorized assistance can occur in-person or through the use of electronic communication, unless allowed by the specific discipline rulebook (e.g., coaches in certain situations).
2. If, in the opinion of a member of the ground jury, unauthorized assistance has been received by a competitor, that competitor may be eliminated from that phase of the rally, or in extreme cases, disqualified from the competition. The discipline ground jury makes the final decision. There is no appeal.
3. Permitted Assistance:
 - Adults may aid in the unloading of mounts and carrying of heavy gear into the stable area upon arrival, after which non-competitors must immediately leave the area.

SECTION I: USPC Uniform Officiation Rules

- After a fall or dismount of a competitor, they may be assisted to catch their mount, adjust their saddlery, remount, or be handed any part of their saddlery or equipment, including a whip, while they are dismounted or after they have remounted. Helmets must be replaced, and chin harnesses refastened before riders may remount.
- Exception for loose mounts in Mounted Games only: In Mounted Games, a loose mount may be caught by any competitor or official already in the arena when the loose mount is behind Lines A and C. However, only the mount's rider may enter the playing area to catch it.
- A competitor may receive clarification of jumping penalties from an obstacle judge (e.g., after jumping a flag at a corner, the judge may clarify whether it was a run-out or not).
- If bodily harm to mount and/or rider is imminent, assistance from anyone (official or otherwise), without concern for penalties, is expected. Time permitting, the situation should be brought to the attention of an official. If immediate intervention is necessary, then an official will be notified as soon as possible concerning the situation.
- If a mount is ill or injured, the owner/agent of the mount will be called in to discuss care.

Article 19—Excused

1. May also be called a "Technical Elimination"
2. To grant permission to, or request that a competitor leave the phase/round/game due to circumstances outside of the competitor's control (e.g., illness of rider, illness or lameness of mount)
3. Decided by
 - Inspection panel at mount inspection
 - Judge
 - Discipline ground jury
4. May not ride; therefore, will not receive any riding score during the excuse, but
 - May request a lameness recheck
 - Rider may request to compete in following phases/rounds/games if illness passes.
 - Both the mount and rider shall stay on rally grounds (unless the mount is transported for medical reasons) and continue to participate with the team and continue to be scored in Horse Management.
 - If ill, mount will be moved to another area, if possible.

Article 20—Elimination

- Elimination means to exclude a competitor or mount, for cause, from judging consideration in a class/phase due to a mistake (e.g., use of illegal equipment, violation of the rules of phase/rounds/games.)
- After elimination, the discipline ground jury, in consultation with the organizer, may allow participation in subsequent phases/rounds/games.
- Determined by judge or discipline ground jury.
- Refer to scoring of penalties for additional discipline-specific reasons for elimination.

Article 21—Disqualification

Disqualification is a punishment for misconduct arising from a deliberate attempt to contravene the rules and regulations of USPC applied at the discretion of the discipline ground jury. Any disqualified competitor and their mount may not take further part in the competition, including in Horse Management.

Reasons for disqualification include, but are not limited to:

- abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct
- obscene or inappropriate language
- the inappropriate or illegal use of drugs (other than those prescribed by a physician), alcohol, or tobacco (Article 8)
- rude and disruptive behavior
- cheating
- cruelty (Article 13)
- rough or dangerous riding
- knowingly riding a lame, sick, or exhausted mount
- misuse of equine medications (Article 12)

If a rally official identifies a competitor behaving in a way that could lead to disqualification, that official may issue a written warning to the competitor using Appendix VII, a Yellow Card. If the rally official believes the Yellow Card should have penalties attached to it, or that the competitor should be disqualified, they must refer the situation to the discipline ground jury.

The discipline ground jury shall investigate the situation and interview the competitor(s) and all applicable witnesses before making a final decision on penalty points.

If a Yellow Card with penalty points is assigned to a competitor, it may not exceed a 50% impact on the associated phase/round score if related to a single phase/round, or a 50% impact on the overall score. There is no appeal against a discipline ground jury decision on issuing a penalty point or disqualifying a competitor.

Refer to Section V for additional discipline specific reasons for disqualification and scoring (Discipline Rulebooks).

SECTION II: General Regulations

Chapter 1—Horse Management Rules

Article 22—Horse Management at all USPC Activities

Horse Management (HM) knowledge is applied in a practical manner at all meetings, tested during member certifications and evaluated at USPC rallies.

Horse Management is practiced at all USPC activities (e.g. mounted and unmounted meetings, clinics and certifications) to:

- Encourage a safe environment.
- Teach and advance the principles of safe, sensible and responsible horse care.
- Encourage members to demonstrate and increase their individual knowledge of unmounted horsemanship

Article 23—Horse Management at USPC rallies

Horse Management is judged at USPC rallies in order to promote the principles stated above as well as:

- Evaluate the knowledge level of competitors.
- Encourage teamwork.
- Enable club/center and regional leaders to assess the effectiveness of their HM programs.

At USPC rallies, competitors are evaluated according to their Horse Management certification level, not their riding certification level.

- H-B competitors will be evaluated according to the C-2 Horse Management standards.

Competitors are judged on their:

- Knowledge and
- Use of safe, sound, practical horse care.

Article 24—Safety is Paramount

Conditions and facilities vary greatly from activity to activity, but safe, workmanlike methods and procedures must always be demonstrated.

During USPC activities and rallies, Horse Management rules must be administered in such a way that the safety of members and mounts is the highest priority.

Article 25—Definitions

The following terms are used throughout.

Term	Definition
Appeal Committee	Group responsible for final decisions regarding an appeal of a contested protest decision. Section V, Article 128

Competitor	USPC member who is an entered participant in a USPC rally.
Full Team	Any team competing with the maximum number of competitors allowed per discipline rules.
Ground Jury	Once the competition has begun, the ground jury is ultimately responsible for judging (and in Eventing the administration of) the entire competition. Section V, Article 126
Horse Inspection	Opportunity to inspect mounts for soundness. Section III, Article 102
HM	Horse Management
HM Staff	Horse Management staff. Refers to and includes all Horse Management judges. Section II, Article 26
HMJ	Horse Management Judge
Inspection Panel	The inspection panel will officiate over the jogging procedure if a horse inspection is required.
Jog Out	Horse inspection
Member	Any US Pony Clubs member
Official Closing	Takes place at end of awards ceremony.
Official Opening	Time set by organizer after which HM judging begins.
Parents	Includes parents and guardians.
Rally	Includes and refers to any type and level of USPC competitions, including standard, modified, and local, regional and/or national.
Rally Officials	Includes and refers to those individuals who either organize the rally or judge and/or evaluate some part of the rally, to include: organizer, secretary, riding judges, stewards, technical delegates, Horse Management staff, veterinarians and course designers. Section V, Chapter 15
Rally Staff	Includes and refers to: gate attendants, ring clerks, farriers, timekeepers, announcers, ringmasters, scribes and other persons engaged directly by the rally, as well as all Horse Management staff.
Short Team	A team that competes with less than the maximum number of team members allowed per discipline rules. Section IV, Article 115
SM	Stable manager

SECTION II: General Regulations

TD	Technical delegate
Team Captain	Team member responsible for inquiries, protests and leadership within the team.
UOR	Uniform Officiation Rules. Common set of officiation rules that apply to all competitions regardless of discipline.

As a convenience to competitors, the UORs are located in USPC Horse Management Handbook, Section I

Address questions concerning the UORs to the USPC Vice President Activities (VPA).

Article 26—Levels of Horse Management Judges

There are different levels of Horse Management Judges (HMJs) based on the individual's level of knowledge, competence, and experience.

Levels of HMJs at USPC Rallies

Level	Acronym	Roles & Responsibilities
Chief	CHMJ	Head HM judge at a standard USPC rally and must be on the current CHMJ list
Mentor Chief	MCHMJ	CHMJ who has attained the experience to oversee & evaluate the performance of a provisional CHMJ at a rally.
Provisional Chief	PCHMJ	Apprentice CHMJ At a standard rally, the PCHMJ must be supervised by an approved mentor CHMJ.
Assistant HMJ	AHMJ	Any member of the HM staff other than a CHMJ who assists the CHMJ or the PCHMJ in judging horse management. A CHMJ may serve in an AHMJ role at Championships or a standard rally.

Note: Scribes are not considered HMJs.

Note: An individual who is not an Approved CHMJ may serve as the acting CHMJ for a modified rally only.

Article 27—CHMJ Selection & Qualifying Eligibility

Qualifying rallies must use a CHMJ selected from the current list of USPC Approved Chief Horse Management Judges.

- Competitors will only be considered eligible to qualify for USPC Championships if the CHMJ at the rally is on the current list of USPC Approved Chief Horse Management Judges.

Article 28—Addressing Infractions—Location of Infractions

Horse Management judging takes place on all competition grounds EXCEPT in the following locations, where the Riding Judge, Technical Delegate (TD), or Ground Jury address infractions:

- Warm-up area
- Competition ring
- While on course
- Holding area for Mounted Games

Chapter 2: Competitor Guidelines Specific to Horse Management Requirements

Article 29—Competitor Eligibility

Competitors must meet all specific discipline criteria and entry requirements set by the organizer. Additionally, competitors must know how to care for their mount and equipment with regard to the safety and comfort of the mount regardless of certification level. These skills must be developed before arriving at the rally. Regardless of the USPC member's level or certification, the member must be capable of fulfilling the following basic requirements to be eligible to rally:

- The stall/tie area must be kept safe and clean
- The mount must have water or be offered water at least every hour, and
- All equipment must be in safe condition and the competitor must know how to use it.

Article 30—Compliance with the Rules

Competitors must follow rally rules and all recognized Horse Management procedures and safety requirements from official opening to official close of the rally.

- Although there is no further HM scoring after the awards ceremony, safety practices must continue until leaving rally grounds.

Article 31—Assistance Upon Arrival

Assistance is limited upon arrival on competition grounds.

- Individuals who are neither competitors nor rally officials must leave the barn area immediately after unloading mounts and equipment, unless they are:
 - Walking mounts while the competitor sets up the stall/tie area, or
 - Helping to hang fans.
- All individuals who are neither competitors nor rally officials must leave the barns by official opening.
- No unauthorized assistance is permitted after the official competition opening.

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Examples of Assistance

Authorized

Unloading/carrying heavy equipment upon arrival

Hanging fans

Unloading mounts in barn area

Walking mount while competitor prepares stall/tie area until time of official opening

Handing a helmet to a dismounted rider

Assisting a competitor or mount in imminent danger

Unauthorized

Arranging tack room

Any part of set up, (e.g. cleaning tack, labeling equipment)

Coaching when not permitted by the discipline/phase

Coaching by anyone other than an official coach

Article 32—Assistance During Competition Hours

Competitors are expected to be self-reliant. Competitors are judged on their abilities as an individual or as a member of a team. This promotes teamwork, fosters individual problem-solving skills, and further develops self-reliance. Therefore, unauthorized assistance is not permitted.

Assistance, if needed, is available only from other competitors, HMs, and rally officials, unless otherwise stated in the discipline rulebook. It is never considered unauthorized assistance to ask one of these people for assistance with attire, mount, tack, or equipment.

- It is expected and allowed that parents and chaperones ask competitors general questions, i.e., “Are you having fun?”, “Have you had plenty of water today?”, and “Do you need more ice for your cooler?”

There are a few additional circumstances when assistance is authorized:

- If bodily harm to mount and/or rider is imminent, assistance from anyone (official or otherwise), without concern for penalties, is expected. Time permitting, the situation should be brought to the attention of an official. If immediate intervention is necessary, then an official will be notified as soon as possible concerning the situation.
- Handing a helmet to a dismounted rider.
- If a mount is ill or injured, the owner/agent of the horse will be called in to discuss care.

Article 33—Neutral Zone

The neutral zone is a designated area open to competitors, chaperones, and parents where the delivery/pick-up of lunches, money, ice, medications, etc. can be coordinated. It is also a convenient place for teams to meet chaperones or coaches.

- The neutral zone location will be communicated at the opening briefing.
- It is encouraged for competitors, parents, chaperones, and coaches to coordinate specific meeting times prior to the start of the competition day, if possible.
- Competitors are encouraged to speak to parents, chaperones, and coaches in the neutral zone or while as a spectator. Unauthorized assistance is still not permitted anywhere on the competition grounds.

Article 34—Communication/Electronic Devices

Definition of appropriate use of communication devices during competition:

- Electronic communication devices may only be used in areas where direct interaction with horses will not take place. (For example: the neutral zone, HM office, or team tack room.)
- Competitors are responsible for the safety of any communication device they bring onto rally grounds and/or into the barns.
- Competitors may use electronic devices (e.g., laptop, smart-phone, tablet, e-reader) to store and retrieve the HM Handbook, discipline rulebook, and any current newsletters at USPC rallies. Rulebooks/newsletters must be available for use by all team members at any time. Therefore, readability, mobile data access, device password protection, battery life, and charging capabilities must all be considered by competitors using this type of technology for this purpose.

Quiz competitions may prohibit the use of handheld devices during the competition hours.

- In some cases, facilities and/or ground management may have specific guidance regarding the use of electrical outlets or wireless equipment in support of cell phones, etc.
- Earbuds/headphones, when used, must be used in ONE EAR ONLY, so the competitor can clearly hear what is happening around him/her.
- Under no circumstances may any member have in view or hearing any media (video or audio) that conveys an inappropriate message that may contribute to a hostile environment for another member or volunteer.

Article 35—Competitor ID During Rally

Competitors must wear their pinny or other form of ID designated by the organizer as well as their medical armband (containing their current USPC or USEA medical card) or medical bracelet.

- To protect the member's privacy, it is recommended that the medical card be folded so the personal information is not easily seen.

Article 36—Arrival on Grounds

Competitors must arrive at the rally early enough to allow time to unload and care for their mounts, register promptly, and set up

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stalls and tack rooms in an organized manner. Competitors who need to arrive earlier than the announced arrival (grounds open) time must make prior arrangements with the organizer.

Article 37—Care for the Mount upon Arrival

Upon arrival, the care of the mount must take priority over everything, including stall and/or tack room set up. Competitors must unload the mount and remove leg wraps and coolers/blankets as appropriate.

Before engaging in any other tasks or duties, the competitor should:

- Check the mount thoroughly to determine condition after hauling
- Offer fresh water to the mount, and
- Walk the mount.

Competitors may set up their mounts' stalls prior to official opening.

Article 38—Check In at Rally

Competitors must check in with the rally secretary.

Article 39—Attendance at Briefings

Competitors are responsible for knowing all information from all official briefings whether present or absent.

- At least one representative from each team must be present at every official briefing.

During briefings, information is exchanged and competitors are able to ask any questions. This enables them to have a clear understanding of what they should do and what the Horse Management staff expects.

- Although not required, all team members are encouraged to attend all briefings.
- Parents, chaperones, and coaches are encouraged to attend the official briefing, so they understand what is expected of competitors.

Article 40—Access to the Barns During Rallies

Overnight rallies will have stated times for official barn opening and closing for each day.

- Mounts must be fed at barn opening and before barn closing.
- No competitor may return to the barn after the barns are closed without permission from the CHMJ.
- Any competitor concerned about their mount for a particular reason should speak with the CHMJ.
- The CHMJ will confer with the organizer and/or night watch to determine how to handle concerns.

Article 41—Leaving the Barn Area During the Competition Day

Competing horse and rider pairs are expected to attend the entire rally from start to finish.

It is expected that competitors will leave the barn area from time to time. It is acceptable for competitors to leave the barn area if all barn/horse care responsibilities are finished and team members have communicated to each other where they will be and when they will return.

The CHMJ will announce any specific expectations regarding leaving the barn area during the Initial Briefing, to include feeding, barn opening and closing procedures.

Chapter 3: Safety Attire (Helmets and Body Protector Vests)

Article 42—Helmet Requirements at USPC Activities

Please refer to the protective headgear policy in USPC Policies and Guidelines. All Pony Club members must wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, containing certification that it meets or exceeds the criteria established by a national or international safety body. A helmet is required to participate in any USPC activity at all times when members are:

- Mounted
- Longeing
- At horse inspections, and
- At turnout inspection and safety check. Helmet fit is critical to its effectiveness.
- Always consult the helmet manufacturers' instructions for correct fit.
- Refer to Section V, Chapter 16 and the USPC Safety Handbook for further instructions on proper helmet fit and to see how the helmet fit will be evaluated at a USPC activity.

Article 43—Helmet Check

In the interest of education and safety, HMJs or designated representatives will conduct helmet safety checks prior to the start of any riding phase. The helmet fit safety check is usually conducted as part of the initial briefing, during horse inspections, and/or at turnout inspections and safety checks.

Article 44—When a Helmet is Not Acceptable

Under no circumstances may an HMJ or a designated representative permit a member to proceed to the riding phase with a helmet of questionable fit or condition.

A member may be turned away from the helmet safety check if their helmet:

- Does not fit properly and on-site adjustments cannot be made, or the member will not grant permission for adjustments, or

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- Shows evidence of damage or excessive wear that cannot be resolved on-site.

If an HMJ or designated representative determines a member's helmet fit may cause it to be ineffective, they will, with the member's permission, help direct the member to adjust the helmet on-site.

- If on-site adjustment does not correct the issue, the member will be turned away from the check and every effort will be made to contact the parent/DC/CA/chaperone to resolve the situation prior to the riding phase.

Any questions a member, parent and/or chaperone has about helmet fit or condition will be referred to the TD.

At any USPC activity, if a helmet is not acceptable and no accommodation or acceptable adjustment can be made, the following procedures must be followed:

- Any discussion must include the chaperone/parent/guardian responsible for the member.
- The TD, organizer, DC/CA, and/or RS must be notified of the situation.
- The member, whether a competitor, certification candidate, or lesson/clinic participant, is not allowed to ride without a properly fitted helmet.
 - USPC rally: The CHMJ makes a decision and informs the TD and/or ground jury of their decision. The TD and/or ground jury makes the final decision.
 - USPC Certification or a Mounted Lesson: The senior examiner (PIP) or lead instructor makes the final decision.

Article 45—Helmet Comes Off While Mounted

If a helmet comes off or the harness becomes undone while mounted or longeing:

- The helmet must be replaced and/or re-secured before the rider continues. Failure to comply is cause for elimination.
- The rider must dismount to replace and/or re-secure the helmet.
- Any individual may hand a helmet to a rider. Note: This is not unauthorized assistance

Article 46—Body Protector Vests

1. USPC requires wearing a properly fitted equestrian body protection vest (per manufacturer's guidelines) containing the standards and certifications that meet criteria established by specific safety bodies when jumping cross-country/solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by the USPC, its Regions, Registered Clubs, or Riding Center programs. A member may wear a body protector at their discretion for any mounted activity.
 - ASTM F1937-04
 - EN 13158:2018 BETA Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3

Chapter 4: General Requirements for Attire at all Times at USPC Activities

Article 47—USPC Expectations

USPC expects members to dress in clothing appropriate to the discipline and activity. Certain phases of a competition may require specific attire. During the competition (including unmounted time in the barn or on activity grounds), members are expected to dress in a manner that conveys respect for themselves, others, our sport, and our organization.

General attire requirements are in effect for all competitors while on competition grounds. Members must follow the requirements for mounted/unmounted attire as appropriate.

- Regional or local club/center teams, in order to highlight their identity, may encourage a particular type of shirt or pants, such as a regional polo with khakis, for their teams.
- Under no circumstances may any member wear or display clothing that conveys an inappropriate message or graphic that may contribute to a hostile environment for another member or volunteer.

Identification

Members must wear their pinny and/or other designated form of ID as applicable.

Medical Armband/Bracelet

Members must wear a medical armband or a medical bracelet while on competition grounds.

Policy detail:

Medical Armbands must include a current completed copy of the individual's USPC or USEA Medical Card. It must be worn on the upper arm.

- To protect the members' privacy, it is recommended that the Medical Card be folded so the personal information is not easily seen.

Tip: Safety pins may be used to secure an armband to a sleeve to keep the armband from slipping down. Armbands are available for purchase from shopponyclub.org.

Medical bracelets must visibly list these six items:

1. name
2. date of birth
3. emergency contact information
4. known allergies
5. current medications and
6. existing medical conditions

More information is acceptable, but these six items are required to be on the bracelet.

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- Tetrathlon competitors will not be required to wear their medical armbands or bracelets while shooting or swimming, but must have them visible and next to them for these activities and must wear them at all other times.

Overall Appearance

Member attire must be:

- Safe
- Appropriate, and
- Neat and in good repair (no rips or tears)

Sleeved Shirt

Shirts must:

- Cover the shoulder (to the point of shoulder – no tank-tops), and
- Cover the midriff (no bare midriff).

USPC Pin

Members must wear a USPC logo pin at all times when mounted and unmounted, unless otherwise specified by the rules of the specific discipline. The required pin must be the official USPC trademark logo pin. If the member wishes to also wear a club/center or regional pin, this is allowed but cannot take the place of the official Pony Club logo pin.

- Official USPC trademark logo pins such as Championship pins, leader pins, alumni pins, life membership pins, or heritage pins are accepted as meeting the Pony Club pin requirement.

Colored felt backing denoting certification for USPC pins is recommended. If used, the colors are:

Certification	Felt Color
A.....	Royal Blue
H-A.....	Orange
B.....	Red
H-B.....	Brown
C-3.....	White
C-1 and C-2.....	Green
D-1 through D-3.....	Yellow

Jewelry

All visible piercings or other body jewelry-type adornments must lay close to the skin, i.e., stud or post. Because of the danger of entanglement in a barn or riding environment, no hoop or dangling adornments of any type on any visible body surface is acceptable. Members wearing any jewelry other than what is permitted will be asked to remove the jewelry.

- Any member choosing not to remove the jewelry will be disqualified from the entire competition by the TD/ground jury.

- Medical alert jewelry is permitted.

Article 48—Unmounted Attire

Attire must be safe, free of rips and tears. Shirts must have sleeves to the point of shoulder or longer and appropriate unmounted footwear.

Requirements for Unmounted Footwear at all USPC Activities

Footwear must meet all the following criteria:

- Thick-soled shoes/boots (short or tall)
- Cover the ankle
- In good condition
- Made of leather or synthetic materials
- Entirely closed
- Securely fastened
- Well-fitted to foot
- Sturdy construction (e.g. Ugg-type boots do not meet this requirement)

Examples: paddock/jodhpur boots, rubber riding boots, rain boots/wellies, western boots.

Article 49—Ceremony Attire

Competitor attire for unmounted USPC ceremonies, if not specified by the activity organizer, must be safe, appropriate, neat, clean, discipline specific, following general attire requirements and include:

- Proper unmounted or mounted footwear, and
- Neat discipline appropriate skirts, long pants, or mid-length or longer shorts with no rips or tears, with a collared shirt (e.g. polo style shirt, turtleneck, dress shirt, or ratcatcher) with long or short sleeves, shirt tucked in, or other neat, workmanlike attire. If pants or skirts have loops, belts are required.
- Khakis, chinos, or blue jean denim materials are allowed according to the discipline.

Attire for mounted ceremonies includes proper mounted attire.

Article 50—Attire for Horse Inspections

Competitor attire for horse inspections must be safe, appropriate, neat, and clean.

Horse inspections are often the first time the judge(s) see competitors and their mounts. Therefore, out of respect for the inspection panel and to make a good first impression, competitors must dress in a safe and appropriate manner, to include:

- Proper unmounted or mounted footwear
- Neat, discipline appropriate pants/skirt/mid-length shorts/riding pants and collared shirt, shirt tucked in, or other neat, workmanlike attire, (e.g., khakis and a Polo shirt). If pants or

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skirts have loops, belts are required and

- Approved helmet.

Gloves are recommended, but not required.

Blue jeans and blue jean shorts are not permitted for English disciplines, but are allowed for Western discipline as long as they are neat with no rips or tears.

Article 51—Mounted Attire

Mounted competitors must adhere to the following dress requirements in addition to the general attire requirements listed in Section II, Chapter 4.

Helmet

Properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened and meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).

Mounted Footwear

A conventional type of riding footwear with a heel is required. (e.g., leather, synthetic or rubber riding boots, paddock/jodhpur boots or equivalent).

Note: Refer to the individual discipline rulebooks as there may be additional specific requirements.

Hair

Hair must be neatly secured away from the eyes and identification number.

- Although not required, hairnets, show bows, and/or braids are helpful in maintaining a neat appearance for competitors with long hair.

Protective Vest

A properly fitted safety vest (per manufacturer's guidelines), aka equestrian body protector, is required when jumping cross-country/solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by USPC, its regions, registered clubs, or riding center programs. See USPC Safety Vests Policy (Article 15.2).

- Members should fit their vests according to manufacturers' guidelines.
- Protective vests may be worn for any discipline at the discretion of the member.

Article 52—Exercising & Schooling (Basic Riding) Attire

For D-1 level:

- Rider in safe, neat, and clean attire.
- Properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, and meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).
- Hair must be neatly secured away from the eyes. Although not required, hairnets, show bows, or braids are permitted.
- Collared shirt with long or short sleeves, and shirt tucked in.
- Long pants, short or tall riding boots, or shoes covering the ankle with a boot heel.

- Pony Club pin.

- USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet. Medical armband cannot be worn on the leg.

Tip: use safety pins to make the medical armband fit on the arm for younger, smaller members.

- Half-chaps, gloves, and belt optional.
- No inappropriate jewelry.

A properly fitted safety vest (per manufacturer's guidelines), aka equestrian body protector, is required when jumping cross-country/solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by USPC, its regions, registered clubs, or riding center programs. See USPC Safety Vests Policy (Article 15.2).

For D-2 through C-2 for DR, HSE, and Eventing, the following are required for clinics and Pony Club activities unless competing in a standard rally seeking to attain Championships eligibility, then competition attire is required.

- Rider in safe, neat and clean attire.
- Hair must be neatly secured away from the eyes. Although not required, hairnets, show bows, or braids are permitted.
- Collared shirt with sleeves (e.g. polo style shirt, turtleneck, dress shirt, or ratcatcher) shirt tucked in.
- Breeches, jodhpurs (with garters and/or pant clips), or riding pants, belt (if belt loops).
- Tall boots or paddock boots with or without half chaps.
- Pony Club pin.
- USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet. Medical armband cannot be worn on the leg.
- Properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, and meeting USPC Helmet Policy (Article 15.1).
- A properly fitted safety vest (per manufacturer's guidelines), aka equestrian body protector, is required when jumping cross-country/solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by USPC, its regions, registered clubs, or riding center programs. See USPC Safety Vests Policy (Article 15.2).
- Gloves optional.
- No inappropriate jewelry.

Article 53—Longeing attire

Proper longeing attire includes proper exercising and schooling attire plus:

- Gloves, and
- Timepiece.

Article 54—Attire for Turnout Inspection (Competition Attire)

All competitors must wear the correct attire for turnout inspection which is in accordance with the requirements of the

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specific disciplines. See the current rulebook and newsletter for the discipline for specific information.

Riders must present for turnout inspection in the exact attire and with all the equipment they will wear/use in the first riding phase of the competition.

Article 55—Mandatory Removal of Jackets: Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing Competitions

The requirement for wearing jackets and neckwear may be waived. If the competitor is wearing a medical armband, it must be placed back on the arm after the jacket is removed.

If removal of jackets is called, competitors must follow the guidelines below:

- Turnout Inspection:
 - C-1 and higher must wear their jackets to turnout inspection.
 - Uncertified and D level competitors may choose to wear jackets to turnout inspection, but they are not required to do so, even if they were originally planning to. (Note: Jackets are not required for uncertified through D level riders).
 - All riders must wear a collared shirt with long or short sleeves if they are not wearing a jacket.
 - Sleeveless riding shirts/ratcatchers and T-Shirts are not permitted.
- Warm Up:
 - All riders (regardless of certification) must remove their jackets for their warm up.
 - If the rider does not want to put their jacket back on before entering the arena, all neckwear and helmet cover, if wearing a vented helmet, must also be removed for warm up.
- Competitive Arena/Ring:
 - Just prior to entering the competitive arena (ring), riders may choose to put their jackets back on, and the medical armband must be placed back on the outside of the jacket sleeve.

Correct Dress after Jackets are Waived

If the rider...	Then the rider may...
Wants to put their jacket back on before entering the competitive arena,	Leave neckwear and helmet cover on during warm up, and Remove them only AFTER the ride is complete
Does NOT want to put their jacket back on before entering the competitive arena,	Remove all neckwear and helmet cover (if on a vented helmet) when the jacket is removed.

Chapter 5: Saddlery and Bitting

Article 56—Overview—Saddlery & Bitting

All tack, equipment, and bits must:

- Be safe and in good repair
- Reflect regular, proper care, and
- Comply with requirements in the appropriate discipline rulebook.

Any questions regarding the appropriateness of saddlery or a bit are referred to the technical delegate (TD) for approval/clarification.

Any misuse of tack, equipment, and/or bits that could cause injury to a mount may be reported to the TD.

Old and/or worn equipment is acceptable as long as it is in safe condition and reflects proper care.

Tack is judged according to the requirements for the different certification levels in the following areas:

- Safety
- Cleanliness, and
- Suppleness

Article 57—Halters

Every mount must wear a clean, properly fitted safety (leather or breakaway) halter at all times when not under saddle, unless approved by the CHMJ.

When not in use, the halter and uncoiled lead rope must be hung up off the ground

Article 58—Halter Fit

Properly fitted halter:

- The noseband lies halfway between the projecting cheekbone and corner of the mouth.
- No more than the width of three (3) adult fingers fits between the nose bone and the noseband.
 - The noseband of rope halters is often generously sized. Make sure it is correct.
- No more than an adult sized fist fits between the throatlatch and the mount's cheek.

Article 59—Safety Halters

Safety halters are required at all USPC activities to help prevent injury to the mount. If a mount pulls back, the halter has at least one section that is designed to break in case of an emergency. The leather/breakaway device on the halter will break before the mount's neck is injured.

Halters intended for training purposes (e.g., those with leads attached) are not designed for stall or tying use and must not be used in a stall or for tying.

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There are four types of halters that are considered safety halters:

Type of Halter	Material	What breaks?
Full leather	Noseband, cheek pieces, crownpiece, throatlatch, and connecting strap are all constructed of leather.	Any part of the leather
Synthetic with breakaway crown piece	Usually made of flat web nylon with a thin to medium thick breakaway crown piece that buckles on both the near and far side.	Crown piece
Synthetic with breakaway safety tab	Full synthetic halter with the exception of a breakaway "loop" or "tab" at the cheek.	Loop/tab/section made of leather or hemp twine
Rope with breakaway safety tab	Full rope halter with the exception of a breakaway "loop" or "tab".	Loop/tab/section made of leather or hemp twine

Article 60—Halter Identification

The mount's halter must have some form of identification on it at all times.

The halter must be labeled in such a way as to easily find the mount's rider and/or stall assignment. The label on the halter may include any or all of the following:

- Rider name
- Barn name
- Stall number
- Contact phone number for emergency situations such as severe weather.

Competitors must be aware that at multiple discipline rallies, the same competitor number may be used in more than one discipline. Therefore, the competitor name may be the better identification.

When alternative stabling options are in use (e.g., portable electric corrals or highlines), the rider's name and a cell phone number would be more efficient methods to reunite the horse to the rider.

Article 61—Tack Adjustment

Tack, equipment, and bits must be properly fitted and adjusted on the mount. Tack must conform to discipline rules and standards.

- Refer to current USPC Manuals of Horsemanship and the current USPC Safety Handbook for information on adjusting equipment properly.
- Members are expected to understand the fit and adjustment of their tack in accordance with their certification level.
- Members must have valid safety reasons for any unusual adjustments.

Unacceptable Tack

Under no circumstances may an HMJ or designated representatives permit a member to proceed to the riding phase with tack of questionable fit or condition.

- If an HMJ or designated representative determines a member's tack fit may cause it to be ineffective, then, with the member's permission, they will assist the Uncertified to C-1 rated member with tack adjustment. C-2 and higher certified members are considered to be sufficiently skilled to adjust their own tack.
- If assistance with equipment or tack is needed, the CHMJ may include parents, coaches, mount's owner/agent, and/or chaperones in the discussions.
- If on-site adjustment does not correct the issue, then the member will be turned away from the check and every effort will be made to contact the parent/chaperone to provide the opportunity to resolve the situation prior to the riding phase.

Members may also be turned away from safety checks if their tack shows evidence of damage or excessive wear that cannot be resolved on-site, or if members are unwilling to provide permission for on-site adjustment. Members will not be allowed to proceed to mounted phase.

Note: Any questions about tack fit or condition should be referred to the TD.

Article 62—Tack Exceptions

Saddlery and biting rules generally follow USEF Rules with some USPC exceptions as noted. Members who present in tack that is not permitted will be referred to the TD.

Exceptions to USEF Tack Requirements at USPC Activities:

Bridles

For all bridles: There must be at least one hole above each buckle to allow for adjustments or in case the bridle breaks.

Girth

Girths on saddles must:

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- Have at least two buckles at each end, and
- Be fitted on the mount so there are at least two spare holes at the top and one spare hole at the bottom of the billets after the girth is tightened.

Over-Girth

Over-girths are designed to be used for a very short period of time. If used, members must:

- Secure the over-girth behind the front legs, either by:
 - Running through straps (loops) on the girth, or
 - Passing through the loop where the breastplate attaches to the girth.
- Loosen the over-girth as soon as possible following its use.

Buckle/Billet Guards

Buckle/billet guards are required, except on saddles with long billets.

- Billet guards must cover the buckles on the girth.

Stirrup Bars

Stirrup bars must be down (open) when riding. Therefore, stirrup bars must be down at turnout inspection/safety check.

Stirrup Irons

Stirrup irons must be one (1) inch wider than the rider's boots.

Stirrup Pads

Fillis stirrup irons must always have stirrup pads.

Synthetic Tack

Synthetic tack is acceptable.

- Synthetic reins must have a breakaway section.
- Synthetic tack must be appropriate to the discipline.

Pads

Wither, girth, and saddle pads are optional, unless required for proper saddle fit.

Martingales

When using martingales, the following procedures must be followed:

- If walking a distance, including leading the mount to the turnout inspection/safety check station, the running martingale must be knotted at the chest with the reins out of the rings.
- The running martingale must be adjusted prior to the turnout inspection and/or safety check, so the mount is presented ready to ride. The correctly fitted martingale must be in place and properly adjusted with a stopper at the chest and rein stops on each rein (on bit side of the martingale rings).

Protective Boots & Wraps

Protective boots/wraps, if worn for any phase, must be on and properly fitted for the turnout inspection/safety check for that phase.

Studs

When using studs, the following procedures must be followed:

- Studs may be inserted and/or removed by:
 - Competitor/member
 - The owner/agent of the mount or person designated by the owner/agent. The CHMJ must be notified that this individual will be entering the barn area.
- Individuals may not insert or remove studs while sitting down.
- Studs may not be inserted more than one hour prior to the ride.
- Competitors must remove their competition studs before turnback or as soon as possible after their last ride when no turnback is necessary. Upon removal of the competition studs, competitors will take care of the stud holes in the manner in which they normally do. This is to include either leaving the holes open, plugging the holes, or replacing the studs ridden in with "blanks" or small studs that they might use on a regular basis for this purpose.

Bits & Biting

Any bit used in USPC to provide control must do so without causing pain or injury to the mount.

- Biting for each discipline will conform to the rules established by the specific USPC discipline committees as specified in the current discipline rulebooks.

Chapter 6: Work in the Barn Area Safety

Article 63—Safe & Practical

Work in the barn area should reflect safe, sensible care of mount and equipment, utilizing time and supplies economically.

All work must be aimed towards:

- Avoiding injury to a mount or person
- Avoiding damage to equipment, and
- Economical use of time and supplies.

Article 64—Glass Containers

Glass containers used near a horse, or related to the care of the horse, must be wrapped in duct, masking, or electrical tape. Glass containers used by competitors (i.e., drink bottles) do not have to be wrapped but must be confined to the tack room.

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Chapter 7: Unmounted Work with Mounts

Article 65—Handling, Leading, & Tying Mounts

Mounts must be handled and led safely at all times.

It is forbidden for a person to hold a mount while using an electronic device, while sitting down, or hold a mount near where others are sitting.

Article 66—Lead Ropes

Cotton lead ropes are recommended, because they offer less of a risk of rope burn than nylon leads in the case the lead is pulled through the hands.

- If a nylon lead is used, it is recommended but not required that the member wear gloves to protect his/her hands.
- If a lead rope with a chain shank is used, the chain must be threaded over the mount's nose or attached to the halter in some other safe, appropriate way, so neither the member nor the mount becomes tangled in the chain
- It is recommended that all lead ropes be secured to a breakaway component (i.e. twine).

Tip: Cotton lead ropes are easier than nylon to cut with a knife in the event a horse becomes tangled.

Article 67—Tying Mounts

Mounts must be tied safely and appropriately (Refer to current USPC Manuals of Horsemanship)

When mounts are tied, they must be tied to a secure object with:

- A quick release knot tied at the mount's point of shoulder or higher
- A lead without a chain shank
- A lead short enough, so the mount cannot become tangled, and
- Enough distance between mounts to prevent injury.
- Alternative "slow release" tie methods may be used for safety when used as intended.

Some types of leads may not be used for tying:

Tying with this type lead...	Is not allowed because...
Flat lead—with or without chain shank	If the mount pulls back, the lead may become too tight to untie.
Chain shank—even if the chain is not used	Mount could get caught in the chain
Shock (bungee) cord	Too much give and the recoil can cause significant damage.

When mounts are tied, they must be tied to a secure object.

Object	If mount pulls back...	Examples
Secure	A secure object will NOT break loose	Post Permanent stall wall Trailer hitched to a braked towing vehicle
Not Secure	An object that is NOT secure COULD break loose.	Fence rail Sliding stall door Trailer NOT hitched to a braked towing vehicle Portable stall

It is recommended, but not required, that members use breakaway loops made of twine between the lead rope and the secure object to which the mount is tied.

Article 68—Bandaging

Members, not yet certified through C-2, must have an HM staff member check any bandages to establish if they are properly applied.

Safety is paramount. Improper bandaging may be harmful and, regardless of certification level, a member may be asked to redo any bandage considered improperly or poorly applied. (Refer to current USPC Manuals of Horsemanship.)

Bandages may only be applied by the following individuals:

- Competitor/member
- The owner/agent of the mount or person designated by the owner/agent. The CHMJ must be notified that this individual will be entering the barn area.
- Horse Management staff may observe bandage application and provide assistance for educational and instructional purposes in accordance with certification level, but will not be responsible for sole application.
- Members may go to turnback with bandages applied

Article 69—Braiding

Braiding is governed by the specific disciplines and is permitted at all levels and in all disciplines except Mounted Games.

- Braiding of any kind will not be judged on quality.
- Braiding may not take precedence over, or interfere with, regular barn chores.
- All braiding must be removed for turnbacks at multi-day rallies and after the last ride of a one-day rally.
- Braids may be reapplied after turnback and before barn closing.

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Any object used to stand on while braiding must be:

- Safe and solid with no holes where a mount or member could become trapped
- Capable of holding the member's weight, and
- Placed in a manner that makes it safe and stable.

Examples of Items Used to Stand on when Braiding

Acceptable

Mounting block
Milk crate
Straw/hay bale

Unacceptable

Pail or bucket
Step ladder
Chair

Article 70—Washing

Mounts should be bathed at home and be clean upon arrival. Washing should be kept to a minimum, with awareness of water conservation. Using buckets for washing/cooling out minimizes the use of water, hoses, and wash racks and is strongly encouraged.

All washing or cold hosing of mounts must be:

- Approved by the CHMJ during official briefing, in consultation with organizer and
- Confined to the assigned area.

Article 71—Exercising & Schooling

Mounts may only be ridden and/or schooled by their entered rider(s) under penalty of elimination.

Exercising and schooling mounts must be coordinated with the organizer.

- Mounts must be ridden in saddle and bridle (no bareback riding).
- Members must have a safety check at the location and with the personnel designated by the organizer prior to mounting the horse for exercising and schooling. Exception: A safety check is encouraged, but not required if members exercise or school before official rally start.

Article 72—Longeing

Longeing must follow USPC standards and safety procedures and only may be done with the consent of the CHMJ. It is recommended that the organizer, in consultation with the CHMJ, designate the longeing area. (Refer to current USPC Manuals of Horsemanship.)

Individuals Authorized to Longe

Individuals who may longe at USPC rallies:

- Any age competitor C-3 and higher
- The owner/agent of the mount or person designated by the owner/agent. The CHMJ must be notified that this individual will be entering the barn area.
- Any competitor, if directly supervised by a non-competing adult, at the direction and approval of the CHMJ.

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

Chapter 8: Stall Set Up

Article 73—Initial Stall Set Up

Stalls and/or tie areas may be set up prior to official opening. The stall/tie area must be safe and secured.

- Upon arrival the needs of the mount, including stall set up, must take priority over all other things.

Stalls vary greatly at different facilities, but in all cases, safety is of primary importance. Taking facility rules into consideration, competitors must check their assigned stabling/tie area and correct any problems, such as:

- Nails
- Broken boards
- Sharp edges, and
- Any other unsafe conditions.

Article 74—Securing Mounts with Portable Panels, Electric Tape or Picket Lines

USPC recognizes that in some regions, or at some facilities, there are not always stalls available for horse use. As a result, the competitors may elect to use portable pens (aka “hot pens”), or panel corrals, or tie mounts to an overhead picket line for overnight confinement.

Communicate with the rally organizer before arrival for information about which alternative methods will be allowed, and whether or not there are size restrictions for the space used.

Refer to the amplification section for links to articles concerning these alternative methods.

Article 75—Stall Guards

If there are no stall doors, some method must be used to secure the mount safely in the stall, such as stall guards or stall grates.

If used, stall guards must be:

- Hung so the top of the stall guard is chest level to the mount, and
- Unlatched when entering a stall (no one may duck under the stall guards, due to the danger of being kicked in the head or upper body).

Additionally, if the stall has a door:

- The stall guard may only be used when team members are present
- When the guard is used, the door must be secured open, and
- The stall guard must be taken down and the door securely latched shut when the mount is in the stall and team members are not in the barn area.

Article 76—Stall Card

A stall card with all required information must be posted on the stall or near the tie area whenever a mount is on competition grounds.

Stall cards provide quick access to specific information about your mount and are important in an emergency situation. There is no specific way to design a stall card, but the stall card must:

- Have all the required information, and Section V, Article 138
- Be neat and organized, so it can be easily read.

Article 77—Buckets & Feed Tubs

Buckets must be attached securely to the wall at the proper height (top of the bucket should be at the mount’s point of shoulder) with the exception of ground feed tubs and oversized (ground) water tubs.

When buckets are hung, they must be attached securely to the wall.

- Stall buckets for water must be of rigid construction.
- Shock (bungee) cords may not be used to hang buckets.
- If ground feed tubs are used, they must be removed after the mount is finished eating.
- If oversized (ground) water tubs are used, they:
 - must be kept clean of bedding and other debris,
 - must be placed on the ground inside the stall where the horse is fed, and
 - handles must be taped down or removed to prevent mount from becoming entangled

Article 78—Fastening Materials

To promote a safe, comfortable environment for the mount during rally or while away from home, appropriate fastening materials must be used to secure items.

- The mount’s halter and reins are the only items and/or equipment that must have breakaway capability.
- It is recommended, but not required, that buckets inside the mount’s stall be securely hung with breakaway capacity.
- Any items hung in the stall/trailer area, including buckets and fans, must be secured with appropriate materials.

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

There are a variety of materials that can be used for securing items. Types of fastening materials are:

Type	Uses	Examples
Breakaway	Use with chains or baling twine to secure items at the correct height	Rope/hemp baling twine Double ended snaps Carabineers <i>(acceptable if sturdy enough to support the weight of the hanging item, but not so strong that will not break).</i>
Non-Breakaway	Securing stall guards Securing fans Setting up tack rooms	Nylon baling rope <i>(often orange or yellow)</i> Cable (zip) ties Screw eyes <i>(often prohibited; check with the organizer to make sure screw eyes are permitted).</i>
Elastic	Secure stall cleaning equipment, fans, etc. May NOT be used to secure buckets or tie mounts	Shock (bungee) cords

Article 79—Bedding Stalls

Stalls need enough bedding to make the mount comfortable. Bedding in a stall helps to absorb urine and keeps it from splashing, thus making the horse more comfortable.

- More bedding is needed in a stall with cement flooring than a stall with a dirt floor.

Article 80—Fans

If fans are permitted, they must be hung safely and securely.

- Shock (bungee) cords or cable ties can be used to secure them.

The CHMJ, in consultation with the organizer and facility, will determine if and when (day and/or night) fans are permitted. If fans are allowed, the following procedures must be followed:

- Heavy gauge, outdoor electrical extension cords must be used.
- Fans and all electrical cords must be secured in such a way that:
 - The mount does not have access to them.
 - The mount cannot dislodge them.
 - The stall door can open and close without interference from the fan and/or cords.

- It is not necessary to unplug the fan to open and close the stall door.

Article 81—Hay Nets & Hay Bags

Hay nets or hay bags must be properly tied and securely fastened, if used.

Hay nets/bags must be hung high enough, so even when empty, the hay net or bag opening does not hang below the mount's point of shoulder. This reduces the chance of the mount getting a foot caught.

- Cotton hay nets are recommended over nylon, but not required. (If a mount gets tangled in the net, cotton is more likely to break, avoiding injury to the mount.)

Article 82—Working in the Stall

Whether or not the stall door/guard must be open or closed depends on who is in the stall.

Who is in the Stall

Empty—(No mount or person)

Mount only
(No person)

A person AND a mount are in the stall

Stall Door/Guard Must Be...

Kept shut and latched.

Kept shut and latched.

Kept shut, but unlatched, and a lead rope must be attached to the halter.

Mount does not need to be tied, but if not tied, the lead rope must be over mount's neck, so the mount does not get tangled. Mount may be tied in the stall, as long as it is to a secure stall wall—not a temporary stall wall or sliding stall door.

Article 83—Cleaning Stalls

To promote the well being and comfort of the mount, a neat, clean, and workmanlike environment (stall/tie area) should be maintained throughout the rally.

- Stalls must be mucked out in the morning and picked out at regular intervals throughout the day, with attention to any wet spots as well as manure piles.
 - It is not expected that manure piles be removed immediately, but it is expected that members make an effort to keep the stall clean and dry.
- Replace bedding as needed to maintain a comfortable environment for the mount.
 - Competitors are expected to strip the stalls of all bedding at the end of competition unless directed otherwise by the CHMJ or organizer.
- Aisles in front of stalls must be appropriately swept or raked.
 - Any manure piles must be removed from the aisles immediately.
 - Any manure piles must be removed from common areas immediately (e.g., wash racks, barn cross aisles, judging areas).

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

Chapter 9: Tack Rooms

Article 84—Tack Room Set Up

Tack rooms are to be:

- Workmanlike
- Well organized, neat, and uncluttered
- Must be visibly labeled at the entrance with the team or individual name, and competitor number(s).
- Trash must be emptied prior to leaving for the night, and
- Tack room door must be closed and latched when team members are not in the immediate barn area.

Competitors must regard the tack room as a work area. The barn aisles must always be kept clear of any unnecessary equipment.

At regional rallies, competitors may not set up tack rooms until the CHMJ or organizer has given approval.

Tack room set up is a team effort, thus allowing each team member to know where all rally equipment is stored. While some parental assistance may be necessary to move in large, heavy items, assistance is to be minimal with respect to actual set up, so the tack room reflects the team's efforts.

- When trailers are used for tack and/or feed storage, they must be completely set up on the rally grounds at the time designated by the CHMJ or organizer. They may not be brought in to the rally already set up for use.

When mounts have traveled long distances (e.g., as in Championships) the issue of tack room set up will be addressed by the CHMJ or organizer(s) on an individual basis with consideration given to the fact that the competitor will need much of this equipment to care for their mount properly.

- In these situations, the tack room will still be judged at the same standards and/or expectations at the start of the rally and competitors will be expected to have all supplies for first check—set up & safety and all items on the required equipment list. Section V, Chapter 20, B and C

Article 85—Decorations & Accessories

Excessive and/or unnecessary decorations are not appropriate.

- The CHMJ may ask members to remove items that pose a safety hazard or that unnecessarily clutter the tack room.
- There should be no competition for the 'best decorated' tack room, etc.

The CHMJ may amend the following list concerning decorations and accessories, on a rally-specific basis.

Decorations & Accessories in the Tack Room

Item	Acceptable	Reason
Table, chairs, or other non-essentials	Yes	These items may be inside tack room only. Non-essential items are not permitted in the aisles or inside stalls.
Carpet or floor covering	Yes	Sometimes outdoor carpet or a tarp will help reduce the amount of dust in a tack room.
Decorative plants	No	Plants of any type (real or artificial) are not permitted. Many plants are toxic to mounts and even plastic plants may be eaten, causing a mount to choke.
Refrigerators, microwaves, plug-in coolers, etc	No	Many items may overtax the barn's electrical system, this causing an unsafe situation.
Tack Room drapes	Yes	Drapes may only be inside the tack room to cover a wall or to provide privacy if needed for changing clothes.

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

Article 86—Tack Room Equipment

Tack room equipment, which must be clearly labeled, includes all items on the Required Equipment List.

All equipment used in competition, other than clothing, must be kept in the team areas (tack room, feed room, stall, etc.) unless otherwise instructed by the CHMJ.

- The competitor takes responsibility for items rally Officials allow them to remove overnight.
- If the team wishes to lock their tack room at night, they may make arrangements with the CHMJ.

Article 87—Labeling Equipment

- All equipment must be clearly labeled in such a way that it is easy to identify the owner, so the item(s) can easily be returned.
- Each individual kit item does not need to be labeled, but labeling assists in the return of borrowed or misplaced items.

For example:

- All individual equipment must be labeled with the competitor's name or number.
- Team equipment must be labeled with the team name or team number or the name or number of any team member.
- Small items can be stored in a labeled container/zip-close bag.
- Place a label with the competitor's name or number on the rack next to their saddle/bridle, when labeling saddles and bridles.

Article 88—Required Equipment List (REL)

Checklist is found in Section V, Chapter 20, C

Each team member is responsible for knowing:

- The location of each item on the required equipment list, and
- How to use each item on the required equipment list.

The Required Equipment List is a list of items most commonly needed and/or used when traveling and/or competing with a mount. All items have a specific purpose.

- Each team must have all items listed.
- Each team (but not each separate member of the team) or each individual competitor sharing a tack room is responsible for any missing or incorrect equipment, unless they have just used the item to replace something broken or in use.
- Competitor REL will be judged and points deducted for any missing items only once during the rally.

Article 89—REL Check: Abbreviated Evaluation Option

In consultation with the HMO and/or organizer, the CHMJ will determine if a full or abbreviated required equipment list (REL) Check will be performed. In an abbreviated REL check, HMJ's only check certain kits/equipment on the REL, rather than every item listed.

An abbreviated REL check will include a check of the following kits:

- Equine first aid kit
- All Extra Equipment required for the discipline, and
- Random selection of three other sections on the REL.

If an abbreviated REL check is performed:

- The same method (kits/items selected) must be used for all teams and by all HMJs.
- The method must be clearly announced to all HMJs and competitors.

Competitors must come to every rally prepared for a complete check of all required equipment.

Chapter 10: Feeds & Feeding

Article 90—Feed Room Set Up

- All feed must be stored in the area designated by the CHMJ or organizer.
- Feed storage areas must be visibly labeled at the entrance with the team or individual name.
- Feed room door must be closed and latched at all times unless a member is inside feed room.
- Feed room area should be kept safe, neat, and workmanlike.
- Feed must not be accessible to horses or other animals.

Article 91—Feed Chart

A feed chart with all required information for each mount must be posted in the area where the feed is stored. Feed charts are required at one-day rallies for what is fed during the rally.

Feed charts provide the information needed for any individual, not just a team member, to safely take over the feeding of any mount on that team. There is no specific way to design a feed chart, but the feed chart must:

- Have all the required information, Section V, Article 141, and
- Be neat and organized, so it can be easily read.

Article 92—Water

All mounts must have a constant supply of fresh water accessible at all times (unless water is offered at least once an hour). Mounts drink about 10-20 gallons of water per day.

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

The minimum requirements at USPC rallies are:

- One-day rally: 1 – five gallon bucket (or the equivalent)
- Overnight rally: 2 – five gallon buckets (or the equivalent)
- When tied to trailers or when there is no suitable location, or it is impractical to secure a water bucket (e.g., trailer rallies), mounts must be offered water at least once an hour.

If electrolytes are used in the water:

- The bucket must be labeled “Electrolytes”, and
- At least one bucket of plain, fresh water (without electrolytes) must be available at all times.

Article 93—Top Off Buckets

Top off buckets (a minimum of 5 gallons of fresh water) must be:

- Labeled with team/competitor name/number.
- Filled and left outside each stall at night for use by the Night Watch.

Note: it is acceptable for a competitor to leave out two smaller top off buckets if desired. Each gallon of water weighs approximately 8 pounds, and a full 5-gallon bucket could weigh 40 pounds.

- Top off buckets must be removed from the aisle during the day.
- Clearly labeled as a “top off” bucket to differentiate them from the wash buckets.

Article 94—Hay/Roughage, Concentrates/Grain, & Supplements

1. Hay/roughage, concentrates/grain, supplements, and salt may be pre-packaged or in bulk.
2. Pre-packaged feed must be stored in breathable packaging/ containers/ manner to prevent molding and spoiling.

Hay/Roughage/Pre-packaged Concentrates/Grain

Measuring Measured by weight. (This weight may then be converted to volume. For example, 1 flake=5 lbs.)

Ingredients may be weighed at home and prepackaged into individual meals.

Packaging Packaged in a non-airtight, breathable container.

Acceptable

Feed bags
Brown paper bags
Plastic containers with air holes
Cloth
Burlap bags
Bulk in bales must be re-tied/closed after each feeding

Unacceptable

Airtight containers
Plastic bags

Labeling Must be clearly labeled to show mount’s name, and which meal (e.g. AM, PM, Mid-day) that package is for.

Storing & Securing Feed must be stored in a secondary, sturdy container with tight, secure-fitting lid/safety latch. Hay may be stored on top of cloth or plastic tarps to keep hay clean and dry. Hay pellet bags must be secured closed (i.e., with tape, clip, tied with twine).

Supplements USPC follows USEF rules regarding permitted supplements.

Measuring Measured out for each feeding at mealtime.

The team/member must have a scale to weigh the concentrates or a volume measure with a pre-measured weight per volume.

(For example, “1 quart = 1 lb”, “one can = 14 oz”, “2 scoops = 1 kilo”, etc.)

Each feed will have a different weight per volume, so each bulk feed must have its own volume measure.

*This weight to volume conversion must be listed on the feed chart.

Packaging Packaged in a non-airtight container.

Acceptable

Same as for prepackaged, or
Trash can

Unacceptable

Airtight containers
Plastic bags

Labeling Must be clearly labeled with mount(s) name(s) and contents listed on container/packaging.

Storing & Securing Feed must be stored in a secondary, sturdy container with tight, secure-fitting lid/safety latch.

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

Article 95—Feeding at Overnight Rallies

Barn Opening Mounts are expected to be fed upon barn opening by at least one member of the team.

Supplements USPC follows USEF rules regarding permitted supplements.

Some supplements, even natural and herbal compounds, contain ingredients that are restricted by USEF. Consult USEF rules before using a supplement at any rally. These rules can be found on www.usef.org.

If using a supplement, the member must understand its purpose and what benefit it provides the mount.

Measuring Supplements do not have to be weighed, they may be listed by volume.

Salt Salt must be available at overnight rallies even if electrolytes are fed.

Offering salt and/or electrolytes may become necessary at a one-day rally.

Most horses in moderate work need at least 1-2 oz of salt per day, more in hot, humid conditions.

Block salt must be left in the stall off the ground (i.e., not directly on the ground). For example, tied up, in a properly hung bucket, or in a ground feeder.

Loose salt may be fed alone or in feed.

Storing & Securing Bulk (loose) salt and supplements must be labeled and may be stored in any secondary sturdy container with a tight, secure-fitting lid.

Chapter 11: Veterinary Care while at USPC Activities

Article 96—Need to Consult with Vet During USPC Activity

Each participating member has the sole responsibility for the safety and health of their entered mount while at the USPC rally/activity.

Any member requiring veterinary care for their mount during a USPC activity must make their own arrangements directly with a veterinarian, either on-site or on call.

Members are expected to consult, as appropriate, with their parents, coaches, and/or the owners/agents of the mount when determining the most effective treatment options.

Members and/or teammates should immediately inform CHMJs or USPC instructors if they have arranged for veterinary care or of any perceived condition that may require veterinarian care, for the purpose only of assisting the member in coordinating care.

Article 97—Veterinary Care & Equine Medications

Medication may be administered to mounts, provided their use does not create an unfair advantage or allow an unfit mount to participate as determined by rally officials or the party responsible for non-competition activities.

It is the owner/rider's responsibility, in coordination with a veterinarian, to determine what medication(s) are appropriate.

Competitors participating in USPC rallies held in conjunction with other competitions may be subject to medication rules of other organizations in addition to those of USPC.

Article 98—Veterinary Care & Equine Medications Procedures and Instructions

Medication is defined as any substance that is not water, salt, electrolytes, or a supplement, and is not considered normal foodstuff.

Any mount receiving medication for chronic conditions must have medications listed on their stall card.

Mounts requiring medications for acute conditions treated by a veterinarian, the competitor/parent, or owner, must coordinate with the responsible party for the activity or Horse Management staff for administration.

Article 99—Drug Testing

Drug testing of mounts may be conducted at any time in accordance with the discipline rules. Failure to submit a mount for required drug testing may result in disqualification.

Article 100—Storing Equine Drugs & Medications

Equine drugs and/or medications that are stored at the activity barn or stable must be labeled with the contents and the name of both the horse and member. Store drugs and medications in a clean place, at temperature recommended by the manufacturer.

Note: Medications may not be premixed in feed.

Allowed

Kept or stored by a parent/guardian

Kept or stored in a secured team feed area

Not allowed

Kept or stored by the HM Staff

Pre-mixed in feed

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

Chapter 12: Inspections

Article 101—Horse Inspection Procedures

All mounts within each discipline will be judged using the same procedure per current discipline rulebook:

- On the same surface
- During the same Inspection
- By the same inspection panel throughout the competition.

If, for any reason, a competitor must have another competitor (e.g., the team stable manager) jog the mount, the CHMJ must be notified prior to the start of the horse inspection and informed of the reason.

Article 102—Presentation of Mount

Mounts will be presented standing and in motion.

- Members must be aware of their mount's appearance at the horse inspection. Mounts must be workmanlike clean. (i.e., free of manure stains, no shavings in mane or tail, and show evidence of good grooming).
- Timeliness at horse inspection is reflected in the competitor's score.

Article 103—Presentation Procedure

See first table at the end of Chapter 12 for more details on presentation procedures for horse inspections.

Article 104—Re-Inspection

At the discretion of the inspection panel, mounts may be re-inspected.

If a re-inspection is required, the inspection panel may either:

- Hold the re-inspection immediately after the inspection of the last mount, or
- Postpone the decision and inspect the mount again at some other specified time.

If a re-inspection inspection is required:

- It will be evaluated by the same panel.
- It will follow the same procedure as the first inspection.

The inspection panel has the authority to re-inspect the mount at any time throughout the competition.

If, after a second inspection, it is determined that the mount is, in fact, unsound and not fit to continue, this is considered a technical elimination.

- The mount is not allowed to compete.
- Both rider and mount (unless transported to the veterinarian for further evaluation) should remain in the rally and take part in all Horse Management activities.

- The inspection panel has the authority to make the final decision.

See second table at the end of Chapter 12 for more details on re-inspection.

Article 105—Multi-Day Rallies

Multiple day rallies may require horse inspections on subsequent days. This will be noted in the competition program. The same procedures will be followed at all horse inspections held during any competition.

Article 106—Safety Check & Turnout Inspection

At all USPC competitions, prior to each and every riding phase, a complete safety check of each competitor's attire, mount, and equipment must take place.

- Turnout inspection will serve as the safety check for the first riding phase of the competition.
- Riders who do not go through a safety check prior to mounting may receive the maximum HM penalty points and will be referred to the ground jury for possible elimination.

A safety check assesses that all tack and equipment used is:

- Safe,
- Workmanlike clean,
- Properly fitted to the mount,
- Complies with discipline rules,
- Mount is clean and brushed, and
- Rider attire complies with discipline rules.

Refer to Section V, Chapter 20, Item 3

Article 107—Safety Check & Turnout Requirements

Each member reports at the assigned time and location for the turnout inspection with the mount.

- Present in the exact attire and with all equipment as if ready to ride in that phase.
 - The member must be able to explain the function of any tack and equipment used.
- Requirements at turnout inspection for rider, mount and equipment are based on the rider's Horse Management certification level.
 - Evaluations are based on the HM turnout inspection sheets Section V, Chapter 20, F-1 thru F-4
 - Members must meet requirements of their current and prior certification levels.

For the disciplines of Mounted Games and Polocrosse, where all the members are on the field of play at the same time:

- Teams will present themselves for turnout inspection as a group prior to the start of their first game. Team members are expected to report to turnout together.

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

- Late penalty points will be assessed against any rider, not the entire team, arriving late for their appointed time.
- The turnout inspection will be conducted as per the level of certification of each competitor.

For the disciplines of Tetrathlon, Show Jumping, or Dressage where there may be two or more riders sharing one horse:

- All riders using the same mount will present at the first scheduled turnout inspection time for the mount. If tack is removed or changed between riders, the mount must be returned to Horse Management for a safety check.
- Faults against a horse are received by all sharing that mount up to their certification level.

Presentation at Safety Check

- Safety checks must show evidence of sufficient, workmanlike grooming.
- Mounts are not expected to be “turnout clean” at safety checks, but they are to be suitably clean per certification.
 - At a minimum, mounts must be “workmanlike clean” (free of manure stains, no shavings in mane or tail) and show evidence of good grooming.

Corrections

- Any member sent back to the barn to fix or replace unsafe or ill-fitting tack must report back to the same turnout/safety HMJ after the problem has been corrected and before reporting to the warm up/competition area.
- Standard tack adjustments, such as tightening a girth or changing the length of stirrup leathers, may be done in the warm up area without an additional safety check.
 - If these simple tack adjustments cannot be made safely while mounted, the member may dismount to complete the adjustments without the need for an additional safety check.
- Riders may NOT readjust their helmet after safety check without having the fit rechecked.

Article 108—C-3 and Higher Scheduling Option

Purpose: The upper level competitor may have a better understanding and knowledge of the appropriate warm up time for their mount.

- C-3 and higher members who want to change their turnout time must discuss this with the organizer.
 - The member must carefully consider how their decision may affect the ride. Warm up time should be just enough to prepare the mount for work.

Article 109—Turnback & Procedures for Turnback

Following riding or in-hand phases, there may be an official check (turnback) of the mount, tack, and equipment used for that phase. The purpose of the turnback is to ensure the mount receives proper care for both mount and equipment.

Turnback presentation does not need to reflect the level of care judged during a turnout inspection.

Procedures for turnback may vary. The CHMJ will determine and announce the procedure for turnbacks at the initial briefing. Some CHMJs prefer to schedule the turnback for a specific period of time after each competitor’s ride (i.e., one hour after the ride); others prefer to have the entire team do turnback inspections as a team after the last team member rides. Some CHMJs prefer to go to the competitor’s stalls/tack rooms, while others have competitors come to them.

There will be no official turnback:

- After the last phase of a one-day competition.
- On the last day of a multi-day competition.

Absence of an official turnback is not an excuse for not tending to the mount or caring for equipment before it is put away. It does not mean poor horse care is acceptable or will go unnoticed.

At turnback, the HMJ may check the mount, rider, and equipment to see if they have been properly cared for after the ride. Turnbacks are judged to the certification level of the competitor. Refer to Section V, Chapter 20, Item 4

SECTION III—Care of Horse and Tack

Presenting a Mount for the Horse Inspection	
Procedure	Purpose
Mounts must wear only a bridle. • Boots, bandages, or any other equipment is not permitted.	To enable the panel to observe the mount's movements without obstruction and make a fair evaluation of the mount's soundness.
Keep mount moving until the inspection begins.	To ensure the mount is properly warmed up.
Hold the reins with the: • Bight (slack) in the left hand, and • Right hand about one foot below the bit.	To allow full freedom of the mount's head.
The presenter must either: • Move the mount straight away from the judges, then turn to the right (away from the presenter) in order to keep mount between presented and inspection panel and move straight back to the Panel, or • Follow the pattern described by the Panel, such as a circle or a figure 8.	To allow the panel to evaluate the mount from all sides when trotting in hand.
A whip, appropriate in length for in-hand work, to encourage the mount to trot forward, may be carried.	

Presenting a Mount for Re-Inspection	
If the re-inspection is held immediately after the first inspection of the last mount.	The mount should be • Kept moving in an officially supervised holding area until further inspection, and • Evaluated by the same Inspection Panel immediately after inspection of the last mount.
If the re-inspection is held at a specific time determined by the panel.	The competitor may need to walk the mount prior to the horse inspection to provide proper warm up, especially if the mount is unaccustomed to being stabled.

SECTION IV - Scoring

Chapter 13: Horse Management Scoring

Article 110—HM Scoring System

A straight point scoring system (no coefficients) will be used by the CHMJ for all Horse Management scoring.

The standard Horse Management score sheets will be used in all competitions. A full set of HM scoring/judging forms is found online and in the Regional HM Judges Guide.

Competitors should be familiar with:

- HM score sheets found in Section V, and
- Information in the specific discipline rulebook regarding Horse Management scoring.

The CHMJ will consult with the HM staff to determine scores. The CHMJ is responsible for all HM scores.

Article 111—Reviewing HM Scores

Horse Management Judges (HMJ's) will make every effort to discuss and review the score sheets from the required equipment check, turnout inspection, safety check, and turnback with the competitor before they are delivered to the CHMJ.

- Purpose: To help competitors understand the evaluation and what corrections are needed, if any.
- Any corrective actions made by competitors as a result of this discussion will be noted on the Score Sheets.

Article 112—Team HM Scores

Each discipline dictates the maximum number of riders per team and whether or not teams are allowed a stable manager. Since teams are scored uniformly, teams competing with less than the maximum number of riders allowed by the discipline plus a stable manager will be given ghost scores to compensate for the missing competitor(s).

- Any score on the required equipment or daily sheet that can be attributed to an individual competitor will be assigned to that competitor. Any penalties that cannot be attributed to an individual will be assigned to the stable manager or the team, depending on the discipline.
- HM scores that can be attributed to the team as a whole and not to any one particular individual are added to the stable manager's score. They are not added to individual rider scores, as this may affect their overall placing with regards to Championships.

Article 113—Full Teams

A "full team" is any team competing with the maximum number of competitors allowed per discipline rules.

All Horse Management scores for each competitor will be counted (unlike the riding phases of team competition, where only the top three (3) scores are counted).

Article 114—Short Teams

A "short team" is a team that competes with less than the maximum number of team members allowed per discipline rules. A team may compete even if it has one rider less than allowed by the discipline. Additionally, with permission from the regional supervisor and organizer, a team (either full or short one rider) may be allowed to compete without a stable manager.

- A ghost score is the average of the team members' scores for the turnout Inspection phase.
- This ghost score is recorded as the absent competitor's score for the short team.

Article 115—Ties in HM

In the event of a tie in Horse Management, every effort will be made to break the tie using the following procedures.

Breaking Horse Management Ties Steps to Follow to Break Tie(s)

Score Tied at zero

1. Go to the turnout inspection sheets. The team with the most "exceeds standards" wins the tie.
2. If the tie still stands, the teams will be brought together for a "team challenge". Each team will be asked questions according to the directions found on the "team challenge". Find team challenge procedures and questions in the Appendix, Item K.

The team answering the most questions correctly in the allotted time wins the tie.

Tied at a score greater than zero

1. Go to the turnout inspection sheets. The team with the fewest total points on their turnout sheets wins the tie.
2. If the tie still stands, go to the daily sheets. The team with the fewest total points on their daily sheets wins the tie.
3. If the tie still stands, go to the turnout inspection sheet. The team with the most "exceeds standards" wins the tie.
4. If the tie still stands, the teams will be brought together for a "team challenge". Each team will be asked questions according to the directions found on the "team challenge." The team answering the most questions correctly in the allotted time wins the tie.

SECTION IV - Scoring

Chapter 14: Inquiries, Protests & Appeals of HM Scoring

Article 116—Posting Scores

All Horse Management score sheets will be posted in a prompt manner in the location stated at the competitor briefing and remain posted for a required thirty minute period.

- The CHMJ will remain in the area where the HM score sheets are posted to accept inquiries.
- Competitors can view their scores at the location stated at the competitor briefing.
- The time scores are posted will be noted and announced to competitors.
- If a team does not have an inquiry, it is recommended the team captain sign off on the score sheet, reflecting they understand any points the team may have received and the total team score(s).

Article 117—Horse Management Scoring Inquiries

- Only competitors have the right to dispute scores and only competitors can participate in the process. Any non-competitor involvement in the process is considered unauthorized assistance.
- Competitors may only inquire about their own team/individual scores.
- Inquiries are encouraged if there are any scores with which the team does not agree or understand, or if they feel a mistake has occurred. Any disputes regarding scores are to be made following the procedures as stated in the governing documents.
- All inquiries, protests, and appeals must be made in a polite and courteous manner. Abuse of these procedures or rude

behavior may be penalized up to and including elimination and/or disqualification.

- The process will include verbal inquiry, written inquiry, written protest, and written appeal.

Article 118—HM Verbal Inquiries

Verbal Inquiries may be initiated if the team captain/individual competitor does not agree or understand, or if they feel a mistake has been made. Horse Management verbal inquiries are made to the CHMJ following the posting of scores.

Inquiries must be:

Initiated within 30 minutes from the time the score sheet(s) are posted by the CHMJ, and made in person by:

- The team captain, if competitor is on a team. The competitor involved may go with the team captain.
- The competitor involved (if competing as an individual).

If the team captain is riding when scores are posted and will not be available within the allowed thirty-minute period, another team member may notify the CHMJ that an inquiry is likely.

At the end of the required 30-minute inquiry period, the CHMJ must:

- Make any necessary adjustments/changes to scores based on the outcome of any inquiries that may have been made and are settled. (Only the CHMJ may adjust points as a result of inquiries.)
- Transcribe any changes in scores to the HM master score sheet and turn in master score sheet to the rally scorer.
- No further inquiries will be permitted, except for transcription errors. Transcription errors are a discrepancy between actual scores shown on Horse Management sheets and scores posted by the scorer.

Examples of HM Scoring a Short Team 3 Riders plus 1 Ghost Rider & Stable Manager (SM)				
Competitor	Turnout	Required Equipment List	Daily Sheet	Total
#1	-0 pt		-1 pt: Turnback - feet not picked out	-1
#2	-1 pt	-1 pt: Missing a body sponge.	-1 pt: Turnback - feet not picked out	-3
#3	-3 pts		-1 pt: Rider 3's mount: Stall door left open when mount taken out for longeing. -1 pt: Turnback - feet not picked out	-5
#4 (Ghost rider)	-1.33 pts the average of the 3 riders' Turnout scores.			-1.33
SM/Team		-1 pt: Leather Punch missing from Utility Kit. Not added to riders' scores.	-1pt: Wheelbarrow left in aisle w/ manure while team went to lunch.	-2
			Team Total	-12.33

SECTION IV - Scoring

Article 119—HM Written Inquiry

Written Inquiries may be initiated if the team captain/individual competitor disagrees with the CHMJ's decision on a verbal inquiry. Written Inquiries are made to the technical delegate/steward via the rally office.

Written Inquiries must be:

- Made in writing, using the official Horse Management Written Inquiry Form (signed by the team captain/individual competitor), containing the references to the rules covering the reason for the inquiry Section VI, Chapter 24, D
- Delivered within 30 minutes of the CHMJ decision on the verbal inquiry to the rally office.

Article 120—HM Written Protest

If a team does not agree with the technical delegate/steward's decision on a written inquiry, they may advance to a written protest (utilizing the existing Written Inquiry Form) to the discipline ground jury.

The decision must be made while the team is sequestered and within 10 minutes after the TD/steward's announcement of the decision to the team.

Written Protests must be:

Initiated by:

- The team captain, if competitor is on a team. The competitor involved may go with the team captain.
- The competitor involved (if competing as an individual).
- Made within 10 minutes of the TD/steward's announcement of the decision to the team.

Frivolous Protest

- During a rally, each team is allowed one "free" protest to the technical delegate/steward. After the first, the TD/steward may present to the ground jury any protest presented in which the decision of the judge was upheld and which the TD/steward deems frivolous and not in the spirit of good sportsmanship. Any protest deemed frivolous may be assessed 5 points by the Ground Jury.
- If any score change results, the chief scorekeeper must be notified by the official making the decision and changes recorded scores.

The ground jury will meet, review the Written Inquiry/Protest form, make a decision, document the decision on the original Written Inquiry/Protest form, and report its decision.

THE DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINE GROUND JURY IS FINAL AT REGIONAL RALLIES.

Article 121—Written Appeal to the Championships Overall Ground Jury

If a team does not agree with the discipline ground jury's decision on a written protest, they may advance an appeal (utilizing the existing Written Inquiry Form) to the overall ground jury/appeal committee.

The team's decision to appeal must be made while the team is sequestered and within 10 minutes after the announcement of the Discipline Ground Jury's decision to the team.

Appeals must be initiated by:

- The team captain, if competitor is on a team. The competitor involved may go with the team captain.
- The competitor involved (if competing as an individual).

THE DECISION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS OVERALL GROUND JURY IS FINAL.

SECTION V - Heat Index, Helmets, & Vests

Chapter 15: Heat Related Illness

Article 122—Overview:

At all USPC activities, rally officials must consider the

- Temperature and humidity using the "Heat Index Chart".
- Time of day and season of activity.
- Level of exertion necessary for participation in the activity.

Article 123—Prevention

Take these steps to prevent heat related illness.

- Unlimited cool water must be constantly available for consumption in ALL areas, especially riding areas. The importance of hydration cannot be overstated. Make water breaks mandatory.
- Do not depend on thirst as an indicator of the need for water.
- Consider shortening the length/level or exertion of the activity.

Article 124—Heat Index

The heat index (HI) or "apparent temperature" is the temperature the body feels when heat and humidity are combined. This reduces the amount of evaporation of sweat from the body and outdoor exercise becomes dangerous even for those in good shape.

Article 125—Mandatory Removal of Coats (Dressage, Eventing, and Show Jumping Competition)

The president of the ground jury, or the overall ground jury at multiple discipline competitions, has the authority to waive the requirement for jackets. Any official can and should bring a potentially dangerous heat situation to the attention of the president of the ground jury.

The decision is based on the "Heat Index (Apparent Temperature) Chart"

- At the president's or ground jury's discretion: coats, neckwear, or helmet covers on vented helmets may be removed before the temperature and humidity index reaches the danger zone.
- When the temperature and humidity are recorded in the danger zone, removal of coats during warm up is MANDATORY. Competitors must also remove neckwear and helmet covers on vented helmets if they do not wish to wear their jackets for their competitive ride.

Further Information: refer to Section I, Article 16.

HEAT ILLNESS	Symptoms	What to do
Heat Stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confusion• Fainting• Seizures• Excessive sweating or red, hot, dry skin• Very high body temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact Medical Personnel, EMT, or Call 911 <p><i>While waiting for help:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place person in shady, cool area• Loosen clothing, or remove outer clothing• Fan air, place ice packs in armpits, apply cool compresses• Provide fluids (water)
Heat Exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cool, moist skin• Heavy sweating• Headache• Nausea or vomiting• Dizziness• Light Headaches• Weakness• Thirst• Irritability• Fast Heart Beat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place person in shady, cool area• Provide fluids (water)• Cool person with cold compresses, ice packs, fans
Heat Cramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muscle Spasms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rest in cool, shaded area• Drink water• Wait a few hours before returning to play

SECTION V - Heat Index, Helmets, & Vests

Chapter 16: Helmet Requirements

Article 126—Need for Protection

The activities with highest risk of head injury are: motorcycle racing, car racing, and horseback riding. It has been proven that riding helmets save lives and prevent serious brain injury! That is why they are required.

While a fall from two feet can cause permanent brain damage,

- A mounted rider is elevated eight feet or more above the ground.
- When a rider falls and hits their head, the most impact tends to occur at the back of the head. Riding helmets are designed to protect that area, whereas bike helmets are not designed for this type of impact.

Article 127—The Rule

Every Pony Club member (even members over the age of 18) must wear a properly fitted, approved helmet with the chin harness secured at all times:

- when mounted
- when longeing
- at horse inspection (jog for soundness), and
- at pre-riding inspections (turnout inspection and safety checks).

Article 128—Helmet

Protective Headgear (Policy 0810): USPC requires members participating in mounted and some unmounted activities to wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, containing certification that it meets the criteria established by the following international or national safety bodies:

- ASTM F1163-15 or ASTM F1163-23 with SEI Mark (North America) (required for USEF Competitions)
- SNELL Memorial Foundation E2021
- PAS 015-2011 with BSI Kitemark (United Kingdom)
- AS/NZS 3838 with SAI Global Mark (Australia and New Zealand)
- VG1 01.040 2014-12 BSI Kitemark and/or IC Mark (European)
- EN 1384 BSI Kitemark and/or IC Mark (European)

Article 129—What to do if Your Helmet Comes Off

If a helmet comes off, or the harness becomes undone while riding or longeing, the helmet must be replaced and/or re-secured before you continue. Failure to comply is cause for elimination from competition.

Riders must dismount to replace and/or re-secure helmets. In competition, someone may hand your helmet to you—it is not unauthorized assistance.

Article 130—Put the Helmet on Correctly

Even the best safety helmet will not provide adequate protection if it does not fit properly or is not worn correctly. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for fitting the helmet.

- Helmet manufacturers have stated that it doesn't really matter if the rider wears their hair under their helmet or outside the helmet, as long as the helmet is properly fit.
- When trying on a new helmet, wear your hair in the same style you will wear it for riding (such as a braid or plait doubled up and tucked under in a hair net).
- Make sure the helmet is level—the visor should not tip up or down.



- Fasten the harness, making sure it's comfortably snug.

Article 131—Checks

Check the Fit

Make sure the helmet fits snugly all the way around.

- Wiggle it back and forth and side to side; when the helmet moves, your scalp and your eyebrows should move with it.
- If it slides freely, you need a smaller size.
- If it squeezes uncomfortably, you need a larger size.

Check the Shape

The helmet may not be the right shape for your head. A different style with a more or less oval shape may be needed.

- The helmet is too round if it squeezes the brow, but still rocks freely side to side.
- The helmet is too oval if it fits at the sides, but rocks back and forth.

Small fitting problems can be solved by following the manufacturer's instructions, usually by adding the foam padding provided with the helmet or by adjusting the internal harness if it has one. If the helmet needs more padding than is provided, a smaller size or a different model is needed.

- For example, if the helmet is too round, put a pad on each side or try a different style with a more oval shape.

SECTION V - Heat Index, Helmets, & Vests

Check the Brim

The brim should rest 1/2" to 1" inch above your eyebrows. Some helmets can be adjusted (with lacings or foam pads) to rest lower or higher or try a style with a deeper or more shallow crown.

- If it sits higher, you're not getting full protection; any lower, and it could obscure your vision.
- Check the fit of the retention harness and chin strap.

Helmets are made to work with a snug harness. You should be able to fit one finger between your chin and the strap.

- Adjust the harness so the chin strap fits snugly under the chin.
- If there is an adjustable 'V' harness, the tip of the V should fit under the ear.



Correct Harness Fit

The helmet should stay on when harnessed, without rocking or moving around, regardless of activity. It should be comfortably snug and adjusted for firm contact with the jaw/chin.

* Bend over at the waist and shake your head. With the harness secured, the helmet should move very little.

Check it Before you Ride

All adjustments should be checked each time the helmet is worn, making sure it fits snugly and correctly at all times. A properly fitted, well adjusted, and correctly positioned helmet:

- Is more likely to remain in place during an accident, and
- give the most protection available for the design, and
- will be the most comfortable to wear.

With the helmet on and tightly fastened, try to remove it by rolling it backwards and forwards as far as possible.

- The helmet should not be able to be removed or roll backwards or forwards to expose the forehead or obscure vision.
- Repeat fitting steps as necessary until you have the correct fit.

Article 132—Improperly Fitting Helmet

USPC Chief HM judges, examiners, and instructors may make a judgment on the fit of the helmet. They may NOT take a helmet that does not fit and make it do so by adding padding, etc.

Article 133—Helmet Care and Storage

To preserve optimal function and lifespan of a helmet, avoid placing it in contact with hairspray, sunscreen, or insect repellents. Clean the inside and outside of the helmet often with warm water

and a mild detergent. DO NOT soak any part of the helmet, put it close to high heat, or use strong cleaners. Helmets should be stored in a room that does not get too hot or too cold and where it is away from direct sunlight. (Do not store an equestrian helmet in a car.)

Article 134—Old or Damaged Helmets

- You can't always tell if a helmet has been damaged by looking at or even from feeling a helmet. Not all helmet damage is easily seen or felt.
- The material inside a helmet that absorbs the concussion is expanded polystyrene, which is similar to the material used to protect heavy electronics during shipping. This material may be damaged if the helmet is dropped or worn in a fall. It will be unable to effectively absorb another impact in the same area.
- Helmets showing signs of aging or damage of any kind, should be replaced.
- The headliner (the soft material between the head and the hard, outer shell) may compress over time, making a helmet too loose.
- Any helmet worn in a fall should be inspected for damage by the manufacturer before further use, or replaced.
- Save the helmet box and receipt. If there is suspected damage after a fall, many manufacturers will replace the helmet for a nominal fee if you have documentation.

Chapter 17: Body Protector Vests

Article 135—Need for Protection

A study of incident report data was performed by the USPC safety committee, and there was a statistically significant reduction in risk of injury when body protection was worn during cross-country activities. Because of the results of this study, wearing a properly fitted equestrian body protector is required when jumping cross country/solid obstacles during any USPC activity per USPC Safety Vests Policy (Article 15.2).

1. USPC requires wearing a properly fitted equestrian body protection vest (per manufacturer's guidelines) containing the standards and certifications that meet criteria established by specific safety bodies when jumping cross-country/solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by the USPC, its Regions, Registered Clubs, or Riding Center programs. A member may wear a body protector at their discretion for any mounted activity.

- ASTM F1937-04
- EN 13158:2018 BETA Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3

Article 136—Body Protector Fit

When purchasing a body protector, it is important to follow the manufacturer's guidelines for fit. These are generally located on

SECTION V - Heat Index, Helmets, & Vests

the websites of each manufacturer. In addition to the use of sizing charts, the final step in determining proper fit should be sitting on a saddle to check the back length of the body protector. There should be approximately four fingers between the saddle and the base of the body protector, so that it will not interfere over a drop fence. At the front, the body protector should reach the breastbone at the top and cover the bottom rib, but should not cover the belly button.

Getting the Best Fit for Your Body Protection Vest

Wearing a body protector that provides high technology coverage will protect your internal organs, chest, and ribs, and may prevent bruising, cuts, and contact burns on the area it covers.

However, a body protector that doesn't fit properly won't be able to give you the highest level of protection.

Achieving the perfect fit is as easy as taking the right measurements and selecting the right body protector model to suit your preferences. Remember that your body protector should be fitted over light clothing and that heavier garments should be worn over it.

There are four measurements that will determine what size body protector you need.

- The circumference of the widest part of the chest to find the appropriate size range. Some models for kids and teens are adjustable and designed to fit a growing rider.

- The circumference of the natural waist to ensure that the body protector won't feel too loose or shift on the body.
- The measurement from waist to waist over the shoulder.
- The measurement of back length, starting at the base of the neck and ending at the base of the spine, approximately at the cross seam of the seat of your breeches.

Once you've referenced the size chart available on each body protector tag, try on the one that best matches your measurements. Fasten any adjustable straps to make a snug fit.

If possible, the final step should be sitting on a saddle to check the back length of the body protector. There should be approximately four fingers between the saddle and the base of the body protector so that it won't interfere over a drop fence. At the front, the body protector should reach the breastbone at the top and cover the bottom rib but should not cover the belly button.

SECTION VI - Appendices

Chapter 18: Stall Cards

Article 137—The Rule

Whenever a mount is on USPC competition grounds, a stall card with all of the specified required information must be posted on the stall or near the tie area.

Article 138—Why are Stall Cards Required?

Stall cards provide quick access to information about your mount. Specific information is required because it brings together information that may be important in an emergency situation, perhaps in the absence of the owner or rider. This could save time, avoid confusion, and may serve to assist a veterinarian in making a decision as to choice of treatments.

For instance, this information may be useful in the following situations:

- The mount isn't feeling well. The baseline vital signs (TPR) listed on the stall card may help the vet evaluate the mount's condition and determine if treatment is needed.
- The night watch, noticing a mount is showing signs of discomfort, can quickly notify the rider and owner using the contact information on the stall card.

Article 139—Making a Stall Card

You may copy and use this card or design your own. There is no specific way to design a stall card, but the stall card must:

- Have all the required information,
- Be updated prior to each activity/rally with current mount and contact information, and
- Be neat and organized, so it can be easily read.

Required Information for Stall Card

Rider	Mount
Rider Name(s)	Name (must match name on entry, Coggins, equine release, and insurance)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitor Number(s)• HM and Riding Certification(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age• Sex (written near age)• Height• Resting temperature• Resting pulse• Resting respiration• Allergies• Medications• Stable vices• Accurate, representative photograph or physical description of mount
Note: All riders using mount must list:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name(s) and Number(s), and• Certification(s)	
Chaperone or Adult Emergency Contact	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name• Contact information• Cell phone number w/area code	
Veterinarian (for consultation)	Insurance (write on back of card!)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Veterinarian• Phone number w/area code	If the mount is insured, list the following on the back:
Farrier (for consultation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of company• Phone number w/area code• Policy number• Name on policy• Whether or not "pre-authorization" is required prior to treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Farrier• Phone number w/area code	



Stall Card

Club or Center/Region: _____

Rider Name(s): _____

Mount's Name: _____

Competitor Number(s): _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____ Height: _____

Certification(s): _____

Vital Signs at Rest: Temp: _____ Pulse: _____ Resp: _____

List competitor information for ALL riders using mount.

Stable Vices: _____

Allergies: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Chaperone: _____

List any medications: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Veterinarian: _____

Picture or Physical Description of Mount

Phone Number: _____

Farrier: _____

Phone Number: _____

For Adult Members Only

Adult Competitor Phone Number: _____

Adult Emergency Contact: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

SECTION VI - Appendices

Chapter 19: Feed Charts

Article 140—The Rule

Whenever a mount is on USPC competition grounds, a feed chart must be posted in the area where the feed is stored. This includes one day rallies as it is assumed the mount will be provided roughage/hay.

Article 141—Why are Feed Charts Required?

Feed charts provide the information needed for any individual, not just a team member, to safely take over the feeding of any mount on that team.

- The feed chart provides instruction for properly feeding a mount should the rider not be present. A mount's digestion can get easily upset if he is not fed properly, which can lead to colic or founder.

- It is important to stick to a daily routine, and using the feed chart ensures someone is able to maintain the feeding schedule for the mount and ensures any and all supplements/medications are given properly at scheduled times.

Article 142—Making a Feed Chart

You may copy and use this card or design your own. There is no specific way to design a feed chart, but the feed chart must:

- Have all the required information, and
- Be neat and organized, so it can be easily read.

Required Information for Feed Chart

Heading for Chart

- Mount's name
- Stall number (if available)
- Team name
- Rider Name(s) and Number(s)

Feeding Schedule

- Feeding time (AM, PM, etc.)
- Make a note if there are to be any daily adjustments due to phase of competition (i.e., Eventing cross-country day)

Types and Amount of Feed (may show conversion to volume)

- Concentrates/Grain by weight
- Roughage/Hay by weight
- 1 flake = ? lbs (should be listed for each type of roughage)
- Supplements
- Form of Salt (block or loose), measured in feed or free choice

Medications

- Include name of medication, dosage, and time of day given.



Feed Chart

Mount's Name: _____ Stall Number: _____ Team: _____
(if available)

Rider's Name: _____ Rider's Number: _____

	AM Feeding	PM Feeding	Other Feeding
Concentrates/Grain			
Roughage/Hay 1 flake = _____lbs			
Supplements			
Form of Salt (circle)	Block or Loose ~ In Feed or Alone		

Medication Details

SECTION VI - Appendices

Chapter 20: Checklists and Horse Management Competition Judging Forms

Item Number	Name of Sheet	Color	Copies Needed
1	Mounted Competition Scoring Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Form		
2	Mounted Competitions Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Form		
A	Master Score Sheet	Gold	1 per 4 teams
B	First Check - Set Up & Safety	White	1 per team
C	Required Equipment List	Blue	1 per team
D	Horse Inspection Worksheet	Gray	1 per 20 riders/mounts
E	Daily Sheet (one per day of rally)	Green	1 per team
F	Turnout Inspection Sheets		
	1. D-1 and D-2	Ivory	1 per rider
	2. D-3	Ivory	1 per rider
	3. C-1/C-2/H-B	Ivory	1 per rider
	4. C-3/B/H-A/A	Ivory	1 per rider
G	Turnback Inspection Worksheet	Pink	1 per 20 riders/mounts
H	Safety Check Worksheet	Lavender	1 per 20 riders/mounts
I	Cross-Country Phase Team Sheet	Yellow	1 per team
J	Finish of Cross-Country Test Worksheet	Yellow	1 per 6 riders/mounts
K	Team Challenge Procedure for Breaking Ties in HM	White	1 per rally
	Category A	White	1 per rally
	Category B	White	1 per rally

SECTION VI - Appendices

Item 1 - Mounted Competition Scoring Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Form

Remember

- Only competitors have the right to dispute scores and can participate in this process.
- For Horse Management score questions, a verbal inquiry must have been made to the CHMJ before this form can be used.
- After submission to the TD/steward, no additional information can be added by the team.

Date: _____ Discipline: _____ Division: _____ Team #: _____

Team Captain Name and Phone Number: _____

Team Member # for Protest: _____ Team Member Certification: _____

State infraction and provide points assessed:

Statement of Protest:

References (Name reference and page number):

Signature of Team Captain/Competitor: _____

SECTION VI - Appendices

Item 2 - Mounted Competitions Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Form

Written Inquiry/Protest/Appeal Review

For Official Use Only

Written Inquiry Disposition: Date/time: _____

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Points awarded if any: _____

Technical Delegate: _____

CHMJ (if HM related) _____

Team Captain: _____

Requesting Advance to Protest Yes: _____ No: _____

Written Protest Disposition: Date/time: _____

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Points awarded if any: _____ Penalty, if any: _____

Discipline Ground Jury: _____

Team Captain: _____

Requesting Advance to Appeal (Championships ONLY) Yes: _____ No: _____

Appeal Disposition: Date/time: _____
(Championships Only)

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Points awarded if any: _____ Penalty, if any: _____

Discipline Ground Jury/Appeal Committee (Championships ONLY): _____

Team Captain: _____

Received by Scorer: (to indicate receipt and adjustment of a change)

APPENDIX: Master Score Sheet

Item A (Worksheet)

Master Score Sheet

Team	#	F Setup 30/team	J Turnout 80/comp	G Req. Equip. 30/team	I Daily Sheets			M X-Country 60/team	Total Points	Team Final Points	Tiebreaker use ONLY Turnout ES
Max pts/team					Day 1 60/day	Day 2 60/day	Day 3 60/day				
	Team Points										
	Team Points										
	Team Points										
	Team Points										

Team points to be used ONLY for disciplines without a Stable Manager (i.e., Tetrathlon, Games, etc.)

APPENDIX: First Check - Set Up & Safety

(Post)

White

Item B - USPC Horse Management First Check - Set Up & Safety

Judge(s): _____ Date: _____

Team Label Area

All areas neat and workman like.

Judges: Points should be attributed to individuals whenever possible.

Please use reverse side for any additional comments for each section.

Item	Comment				
	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider/SM #
Stabling & Tack Area (0-10) Stall Cards: – Complete Safe stall/trailer conditions, to include: – Doors/horse secured – Water (5 gal/1 day rally, 10 gal/overnight rally) – Stall fixtures/buckets correctly hung – Bedded properly – Salt Tack room and aisle: – Visibly labeled – Organized, neat – Door secured					
Horse Equipment (0-5) Halter: – Labeled – Breakaway – Fitted Lead Rope: – Hung outside stall door – Mount safely tied – Stall door properly secured <i>(Stall rallies)</i>					
Feed Room (0-10) Visibly labeled Feed Chart: – Posted in feed area – Complete Hay, grain, and stable equipment: – Feed labeled and stored correctly – Door secured					
Initial Horse Inspection (0-10) – On time – Proper attire – Mount properly presented					

Total Points (30 Maximum)

Mounted Competitors					SM or Team	Total Score
Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	(SM#)	

APPENDIX: Required Equipment List

(Post)

Blue

Item C - USPC Horse Management Required Equipment Check

All items labeled correctly.

Team/Rider Name: _____

Refer to Amplifications for details and suggested items not on this list.

Judges: Points should be attributed to individuals whenever possible.

Judge(s): _____

<p>Grooming Kits</p> <p>◆per mount</p> <p>____ Rider Numbers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hoof Pick</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Curry Comb</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Dandy Brush (hard bristles)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Body Brush (soft bristles)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Rub Rag</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Wet Wipes or 2 Sponges marked 'Dock' and 'Face'</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Body Sponge</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Scraper</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Wash Bucket – (labeled 'Wash Only')</p> <p>Individual Equipment</p> <p>◆per competitor</p> <p>____ Rider Numbers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Saddle Rack</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Bridle Racks (one per bridle)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Boot Trees for tall leather boots (must have leg only) Western excluded</p> <p>Feeding Equipment for Overnight Rallies Only</p> <p>◆per mount</p> <p>____ Rider Numbers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy-Duty Feed Tub</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Top Off Bucket (filled and left outside stall at night, labeled)</p> <p>Cleaning Equipment</p> <p>◆per team</p> <p>____ Manure Fork or Shovel</p> <p>____ Rake or Broom</p> <p>____ Manure Basket or Wheelbarrow</p>	<p>Human First Aid Kit</p> <p>◆per team, easily accessible</p> <p>◆required expiration date current</p> <p>____ 1 extra Medical Armband with blank USPC or USEA Medical Card</p> <p>____ Adhesive Bandages (bandaids) assortment of sizes</p> <p>____ Triple Antibiotic Ointment; exp? _____</p> <p>____ 3 pair Synthetic Protective Gloves</p> <p>Tack Room Equipment</p> <p>◆per team</p> <p>____ Flashlight (hung by entrance)</p> <p>____ Charged Fire Extinguisher Type A or ABC (hung by entrance)</p> <p>____ Notice Board</p> <p>____ Trash Container</p> <p>____ USPC HM Handbook & Competition Rules, all Appendices & Newsletter (current & complete)</p> <p>____ Discipline Rulebook, all Appendices and Newsletter (current and complete)</p> <p>Tack Cleaning Kit</p> <p>◆per team; refer to Amplification section for details</p> <p>____ Tack or leather cleaner</p> <p>____ Tack Sponge</p> <p>____ Cleaning Cloths</p> <p>____ Pail</p> <p>____ Drying Basket for Sponges</p> <p>Utility Kit</p> <p>◆per team</p> <p>____ Hammer</p> <p>____ Nails</p> <p>____ Screwdriver</p> <p>____ Pliers</p> <p>____ Scissors</p> <p>____ Jackknife (capable of cutting rope, hung by entrance)</p> <p>____ Leather Punch</p> <p>____ Duct Tape—at least 1/2 roll</p> <p>____ 2 USPC logo Pins (minimum)</p>	<p>Equine First Aid Kit</p> <p>◆per team, easily accessible</p> <p>◆required expiration date current</p> <p>____ Petroleum Jelly</p> <p>____ Digital Thermometer</p> <p>____ Liniment—at least 8 oz.</p> <p>____ Isopropyl Alcohol—at least 8 oz.</p> <p>____ Antibacterial or Antimicrobial or Antiseptic Scrub</p> <p>____ Topical Antibacterial or Antimicrobial or Antibiotic Agent (min 2 oz); exp? _____</p> <p>____ 4" x 4" Sterile Wound Dressing Gauze Pads - minimum of 8</p> <p>____ 1 roll Gauze (2" min. width)</p> <p>____ 2 Flexible Stretch Adhesive/Cohesive Bandages</p> <p>____ 1 Lb. Roll 12" Absorbent Cotton</p> <p>____ Bandage Scissors (blunt end, capable of cutting bandage)</p> <p>____ 1 Roll Adhesive Tape (1" minimum width)</p> <p>____ Set(s) of 4 stable wraps, with suitable pads to fit all team horses</p> <p>Extra Equipment</p> <p>◆per team; clean to highest certification level appropriate for discipline</p> <p>◆sufficient to fit all team mounts/members</p> <p>____ 2 extra Lead Ropes, one with Chain Shank</p> <p>____ Halter(s) (adjustable, breakaway)</p> <p>Specific for ENGLISH</p> <p>____ Complete Bridle(s) with Bit(s) for discipline</p> <p>____ Girth(s)</p> <p>____ Pair(s) Stirrup Leathers & Irons</p> <p>Specific for EVENTING</p> <p>____ Extra 5-gallon wash bucket per horse for Vet Box</p> <p>Specific for WESTERN</p> <p>____ Head stall with bit and reins</p> <p>____ Rawhide Latigo laces or tie strings (at least 8 pieces)</p> <p>____ Latigo and off side billet complete with rawhide latigo tie</p> <p>____ Cinch(es)</p> <p>____ Chicago screws (at least 10 w/flathead screwdriver)</p> <p>____ Stirrup hobbles</p> <p>Specific for POLOCROSSE</p> <p>____ Extra Racket</p> <p>____ Breastplate(s) or breastcollar</p> <p>____ 2 Pair Boots or Bandages</p> <p>____ 2 Pair Bell Boots</p> <p>____ 1 Standing Martingale or Tiedown if used for any</p> <p>____ Extra 5-gallon wash bucket per horse mount on the team</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Maximum Points: 30</p>
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Mounted Competitors					SM or Team	Total Score
Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	(SM#)	

APPENDIX: Horse Inspection Worksheet

(Worksheet)

Gray

Item D - USPC Horse Management Worksheet - Horse Inspection

Date: _____

[illegible]

**This sheet is to be used for note taking only.
Comments and penalty points must be transferred to Daily Sheet(s) Item I.**

APPENDIX: Daily Sheet

(Post)

Green

Item E - USPC Horse Management Worksheet - Daily Sheet

Judge(s): _____ Date: _____

Team/Rider Name: _____

All areas neat and workman like.

Judges: Points should be attributed to individuals whenever possible.

Please use reverse side for any additional comments for each section.

Item	Comment				
	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider/SM #
Stable & Tack Area <i>(0-15 points)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable/tack area safe Equipment used correctly Doors secured 					
Care of Mount <i>Safe & efficient (0-15 points)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grooming Handling Feeding Tacking and untacking Properly tied 					
Overall Impressions <i>Team: 0-10 points</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sportsmanship Safe attire Conduct Responsibility 					
Turnback (App H-6) <i>(0-10 points/team)</i> <i>Notes from worksheet K</i>					
Safety Check (App H-7) <i>(0-10 points/team)</i> <i>Notes from worksheet L</i>					
Unauthorized Assistance <i>(0-15 points/team)</i>					
General Overall Comments					

Total Points (30 Mximum)

Mounted Competitors					SM or Team	Total Score
Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	Rider #	(SM#)	

APPENDIX: Turnout Inspection Sheets

(Post) - Ivory

Item F-1

USPC Horse Management D-1/D-2 Turnout Inspection

Rider must meet the requirements for their own certification level, as well as all previous requirements.

Rider Name or Number: _____ Certification: _____
 Inspection Station: _____ Judge(s): _____
 Time: _____

Key: **ES** (Exceeds Standards), **MS** (Meets Standards), **SBS** (Slightly Below Standards) (-1), **FBS** (Far Below Standards) (-2)

Note: Comments required for SBS and FBS

Rider Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Pony Club pin/pinny/number					
Medical armband/bracelet					
Properly fitted, approved helmet					
Safe, neat, & clean attire					
Appropriate attire for discipline					
Mount Requirements - D-1	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Body neatly brushed					
Feet picked out					
Feet showing farrier care					
No shavings, burrs, etc. in mane or tail					
Mount Requirements - D-2	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Clean (no obvious dirt)					
Body well brushed (no obvious sweat)					
Eyes/nose/lips/dock wiped off					
Feet picked out					
Feet well-trimmed and/or shod					
Tack Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Bridle safe					
Bridle clean					
Saddlery safe					
Saddlery clean					
Stitching on stirrups/girth in good repair					

Late Penalties: 5 points plus 1 point for each minute late, up to 40 points total, added to Inspection Penalty Score.

Number of ES: _____

D-1 Inspection Penalties: _____ (maximum 28)

D-2 Inspection Penalties: _____ (maximum 30)

Late Penalties: _____ (maximum 40)

Total Penalties: _____ (D-1 maximum 68, D-2 maximum 70)

APPENDIX: Turnout Inspection Sheets

(Post) - Ivory

Item F-2

USPC Horse Management D-3 Turnout Inspection

Rider must meet the requirements for their own certification level, as well as all previous requirements.

Rider Name or Number: _____ Certification: _____

Inspection Station: _____ Judge(s): _____

Time: _____

Key: **ES** (Exceeds Standards), **MS** (Meets Standards), **SBS** (Slightly Below Standards) (-1), **FBS** (Far Below Standards) (-2)

Note: Comments required for SBS and FBS

Rider Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Pony Club pin/pinny/number					
Medical armband/bracelet					
Properly fitted, approved helmet					
Safe, neat, & clean attire					
Clean boots					
Appropriate attire for discipline					
Mount Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Clean (no dirt)					
Well brushed (no sweat)					
Eyes/nose/lips/dock wiped off					
Feet picked out					
Feet well-trimmed and/or shod					
Mane and tail brushed					
Tack Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Bit clean					
No jockeys or dust, clean					
Properly adjusted					
Safe, especially stitching on stirrups/girth					
Stirrup pads (if used) clean					
Stress points clean					

Late Penalties: 5 points plus 1 point for each minute late, up to 40 points total, added to Inspection Penalty Score.

Number of ES: _____

Inspection Penalties: _____ (maximum 36)

Late Penalties: _____ (maximum 40)

Total Penalties: _____ (maximum 76)

APPENDIX: Turnout Inspection Sheets

(Post) - Ivory

Item F-3

USPC Horse Management C-1/C-2/H-B Turnout Inspection

Rider must meet the requirements for their own certification level, as well as all previous requirements.

Rider Name or Number: _____ Certification: _____

Inspection Station: _____ Judge(s): _____

Time: _____

Key: **ES** (Exceeds Standards), **MS** (Meets Standards), **SBS** (Slightly Below Standards) (-1), **FBS** (Far Below Standards) (-2)

Note: Comments required for SBS and FBS

Rider Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Pony Club pin/pinny/number					
Medical armband/bracelet					
Properly fitted, approved helmet					
Clean boots (C-1)					
Boots polished, in good repair (C-2/H-B)					
Safe, neat, & clean attire					
Appropriate attire for discipline					
Mount Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Well groomed, reflecting regular care					
No sweat or dirt; healthy coat					
Eyes/nose/lips/dock clean					
External areas around sheath/udder clean					
Feet picked out					
Feet well-trimmed and/or shod					
Mane and tail brushed					
Little, if any, dandruff					
Tack Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Safe, clean, and properly adjusted					
No jockeys or dust					
Metal clean and polished					
All stress points clean					
Stirrup pads (if used) clean					
No cracked leather					
Supple, reflecting regular conditioning					

Late Penalties: 5 points plus 1 point for each minute late, up to 40 points total, added to Inspection Penalty Score.

Number of ES: _____

C-1 Inspection Penalties: _____ (maximum 42)

C-2/H-B Inspection Penalties: _____ (maximum 42)

Late Penalties: _____ (maximum 40)

Total Penalties: _____ (maximum 82)

APPENDIX: Turnout Inspection Sheets

(Post) - Ivory

Item F-4

USPC Horse Management C-3/B/H-A/A Turnout Inspection

Rider must meet the requirements for their own certification level, as well as all previous requirements.

Rider Name or Number: _____ Certification: _____

Inspection Station: _____ Judge(s): _____

Time: _____

Key: **ES** (Exceeds Standards), **MS** (Meets Standards), **SBS** (Slightly Below Standards) (-1), **FBS** (Far Below Standards) (-2)

Note: Comments required for SBS and FBS

Rider Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Pony Club pin/pinny/number					
Medical armband/bracelet					
Properly fitted, approved helmet					
Boots polished, in good repair					
Stock tie (if used) tied correctly, correct pin placement					
Safe, neat, & clean attire					
Appropriate attire for discipline					
Mount Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Well groomed, reflecting regular care					
No sweat or dirt; healthy coat					
Eyes/nose/lips/dock clean					
Sheath/udder showing regular care					
Feet picked out					
Feet well-trimmed and/or shod					
Mane and tail clean and tangle free					
No dandruff					
Tack Requirements	ES	MS	SBS	FBS	Comments/Suggestions
Safe, clean, supple, no jockeys or dust					
Properly Adjusted					
Metal clean and polished					
All stress points clean					
No cracked leather					
No residue in holes or lacings					
Saddle pad clean & brushed, if applicable					

Late Penalties: 5 points plus 1 point for each minute late, up to 40 points total, added to Inspection Penalty Score.

Number of ES: _____

Inspection Penalties: _____ (maximum 46)

Late Penalties: _____ (maximum 40)

Total Penalties: _____ (maximum 86)

APPENDIX: Turnback Inspection Worksheet

(Worksheet)

Pink

Item G - USPC Horse Management Turnback Inspection

Date:

[illegible]

**This sheet is to be used for note taking only.
Comments and penalty points must be transferred to Daily Sheet(s) Item I.**

APPENDIX: Safety Check Worksheet

(Worksheet)

Lavender

Item H - USPC Horse Management Worksheet - Safety Check

Date: _____

[illegible]

**This sheet is to be used for note taking only.
Comments and penalty points must be transferred to Daily Sheet(s) Item I.**

APPENDIX: Cross-Country Phase Team Sheet

(Worksheet)

Yellow

Item I - USPC Horse Management Worksheet - Cross Country Phase Team Sheet

Team/Rider Name/Numbers: _____

--	--	--	--	--

Judge(s): _____

Competitor Number	Correctly pulled up after finish/ Reported to official after finish of XC	Cooling-out procedure	Condition of Mount	Competitor Total
	(0-15 points per team)	(0-20 points per team)	(0-15 points per team)	
Rider # _____				
Rider # _____				
Rider # _____				
Rider # _____				
Stable Manager # _____	N/A		N/A	

Comments: include documentation of unauthorized assistance or other actions resulting in assessable points.

Cross-Country Phase Team Sheet Maximum Points: 60	
Unauthorized Assistance or other assessable points not provided for on Daily Sheet	
Total Points	

APPENDIX: Finish of Cross-Country Test Worksheet

(Worksheet)

Yellow

Item J - USPC Horse Management Worksheet - Finish of Cross Country Test

Upon completing the test, competitors should gradually pull up to a walk and present themselves to the HMJ or veterinarian. Then, under the supervision of the Horse Management staff, perform any preliminary measures needed for the comfort of the mount. If eliminated, competitors must ride or lead the mount to the vet box.

Upon return to the holding, THE CONDITION OF THE HORSE WILL BE JUDGED BY A VETERINARIAN THROUGH PERIODIC CHECKS. These checks typically include measurement of pulse and respiration, but may include other checks such as temperature, capillary reflux, and other checks at the discretion of the vet. In the absence of a veterinarian, the responsibility for monitoring the condition of the horse will shift to the Horse Management staff.

At the completion of these examinations, the competitor will be given permission to return the mount to the stable area.

Competitor Number	Time	1st Check	Time	2nd Check	Additional Checks/Comments
		T		T	
		P		P	
		R		R	
Competitor Number	Time	1st Check	Time	2nd Check	Additional Checks/Comments
		T		T	
		P		P	
		R		R	
Competitor Number	Time	1st Check	Time	2nd Check	Additional Checks/Comments
		T		T	
		P		P	
		R		R	
Competitor Number	Time	1st Check	Time	2nd Check	Additional Checks/Comments
		T		T	
		P		P	
		R		R	
Competitor Number	Time	1st Check	Time	2nd Check	Additional Checks/Comments
		T		T	
		P		P	
		R		R	
Competitor Number	Time	1st Check	Time	2nd Check	Additional Checks/Comments
		T		T	
		P		P	
		R		R	
Competitor Number	Time	1st Check	Time	2nd Check	Additional Checks/Comments
		T		T	
		P		P	
		R		R	

This sheet is to be used for note taking only.

Comments and penalty points must be transferred to Item M.

APPENDIX: Team Challenge Procedure for Breaking Ties

Item K - Team Challenge Procedure for Breaking Ties in HM

To enter this procedure, the following conditions must be met:

Final HM scores amongst two or more teams are tied at zero AND each team has exactly the same number of Exceeds Standards.

– OR –

Each team involved in the tie has exactly the same number of Turnout points AND Daily Sheet points AND Exceed Standards.

Materials needed:

- Scissors
- Watch with minute hand
- Pencil and paper for each team

There are two categories of questions:

1. Category A questions are list type questions
2. Category B questions are short answer

Directions: Category A

1. Cut Category A questions and place in bag.
2. Flip a coin to determine which team captain will draw the first question from the bag.
3. Read the drawn question to both teams. Place each team in a separate area to answer the same question. Suggested time limit: two minutes.
4. Team members may confer and write the answers. Answers are returned to the CHMJ, who will determine the winner. The team who lists the most correct answers will win.

S

till a tie? The tie-breaking moves onto the cards from Category B.

Directions: Category B

1. Cut Category B questions and place in bag.
2. The team captain who did not draw in the last round draws a question.
3. Read the drawn question to both teams. Place each team in a separate area to answer the same question. Suggested time limit: one minute.
4. Teams members may confer and write the answers. Answers are returned to the CHMJ, who will determine the winner. The team who lists the most correct answers will win. Continue drawing cards and answering questions from Category B until the tie is broken.

APPENDIX: Team Challenge Procedure for Breaking Ties

Team Challenge Procedure for Breaking Ties in HM, continued

CATEGORY A

Copy Single sided for use at rally

All references are found in current HM Handbook and noted in parentheses

List all the required items in the Equine First Aid Kit. (Item C)	List the required items on a complete Feed Chart (Article 141)	List the correct Felt Colors for all USPC certifications. (Article 47)
List all the required Feeding Equipment for an Overnight Rally. (Item C)	List the items needed for a complete Tack Cleaning Kit. (Item C)	List the items needed in the Human First Aid Kit. (Item C)
List the required items in the Extra Equipment Kit. <i>Designate Discipline</i> (Item C)	List the items required in a complete Utility Kit. (Item C)	Write the Pony Club Pledge. (Page i)
List the items required for a complete Grooming Kit (include optional items). (Item C)	List the items required for the Rally Tack Room Equipment. (Item C)	List the required items on a complete Stall Card. (Article 138)

APPENDIX: Team Challenge Procedure for Breaking Ties

Team Challenge Procedure for Breaking Ties in HM, continued

CATEGORY B

Copy Single sided for use at rally

All references are found in current HM Handbook and noted in parentheses

List three of the safety rules to be followed when tying mounts. (Articles 67 and 82)	Name three permitted and two prohibited items for tack room decoration at a rally. (Article 85)
What six criteria must footwear meet to be considered acceptable for unmounted activities? (Article 48)	Name five of the listed "acts of cruelty" under the Abuse of Mount section in the HM Rulebook? (Article 13)
What two criteria must a helmet meet to be considered acceptable for use at USPC activities? (Article 43)	What two items on the Required Equipment List must have a current expiration date? (Item C)
List the issues that lead to disqualification and/or elimination. (Articles 20 and 21)	Describe proper competitor attire and horse equipment needed for Horse Inspection. (Articles 50 and 104)
Who can help competitors at a rally without it being considered unauthorized assistance? (Article 18)	According to the Participating Member Code of Conduct, what are the five examples of inappropriate behavior? (Article 7)
At what four times are competitors required to wear their approved helmets? (Article 42)	List three rules regarding braiding one's horse at a rally. (Article 69)
What is considered appropriate attire while unmounted at a rally? (Article 48)	What is the difference between disqualification and elimination? (Articles 20 and 21)
Name four items of required information needed on the Feed Chart. (Article 141)	What is the process for breaking HM ties at a rally when scores are tied at greater than zero? (Article 115)
What two factors determine the heat index? (Article 124)	What are the eligibility requirements of mounts at a rally? (Article 9)
Name six things that HM Judges may check at Turnbacks. (Items B and K)	What are the three steps of the inquiry process to dispute HM penalties? (Articles 118 , 119, and 120)
HM judging takes place on all competition grounds except which four locations? (Article 28)	What are the two rules to follow when giving horse electrolytes in their water at a rally? (Article 92)
Regardless of certification, what three standards of horse care must all competitors be able to provide at a rally? (Article 29)	

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification



Use this amplification section to learn more about the *purpose*, *requirements*, and *tips* to improve your Horse Management skills and knowledge.

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Horse Management Instruction Program

"The Horse Management Program in a USPC club or center must stress and teach safety first, above all else. The health of USPC members and their horses or ponies is of primary importance. To this end, the program for all levels must stress preventive techniques, common sense, and daily routines within a reasonable framework of expectations. USPC members must recognize that all horse sports require effective care of the horse. The instruction program should, therefore, be incorporated into all USPC activities."

From the 1984 Horse Management Handbook. Still true today!

General Instructions

The Required Equipment List (REL) is a list of items most commonly needed and/or used when traveling and/or competing with a mount. All items must be "show ready" and present in the tack room or in use within the barn area at the beginning of the rally. A member of the Horse Management staff will check equipment to make sure you have everything that is required. At some rallies, they will only check some of the Kits (Article 89) but you need to be prepared with all the equipment every time.

Individual tack must be clean and conditioned according to the Standard of Proficiency appropriate to the certification level of the rally competitor who will be using it.

First Aid Kits and the Utility Kit must be stored so they are readily available in case of an emergency. Every team member should be familiar with the contents of these Kits and the purpose and use of each item in the Kits.

Extra equipment must be clean/conditioned to the Standard of Proficiency for Turnout Inspection of the highest certified rider on the team who would use that piece of equipment, so it is ready to be used at a moment's notice by any team member.

The following items must be hung by the door of the Tack Room so they can be grabbed quickly in case of an emergency

- Working flashlight
- Jackknife
- "A" or "ABC" Fire Extinguisher

Labeling

The purpose of labeling is to allow lost items to be returned quickly to the rightful owner. All equipment must be clearly labeled to identify the owner, so the item(s) can be returned easily and promptly (Article 87). For example:

- All Individual Equipment must be labeled with the competitor's name or number.
- All team equipment must be labeled with the team name or number or the name or number of any team member.
- Loose items (such as nails) may be stored in a box or bag which can then be labeled.
- If the item (such as a hoof pick or scissors) has a hole or opening in the end, tie a piece of ribbon or landscaping

tape through it and knot it. Then write the competitor number in permanent ink on the ribbon/tape.

- When identifying saddles and bridles, competitors must place a label with the competitor's name or number on the rack next to their saddle/bridle.

Additional Items

The Required Equipment Checklist is a minimal amount of equipment necessary for caring for a horse when away from home. This is not a complete packing list for rally. There will be additional items that a competitor may wish or need to bring when at a rally. No points are awarded or assessed for extra items which are not on the REL which are present in the tack room and/or barn area for a competitor's use, unless the item is prohibited by the rules of competition.

References

- Current USPC HM Handbook and Competition Rules and Newsletter
- Current USPC Manual of Horsemanship: Basics for Beginners– D Level, Susan E. Harris
- Current USPC Manual of Horsemanship: Intermediate Horsemanship – C-1/C-2 Level, Susan E. Harris
- Current USPC Manual of Horsemanship: Advanced Horsemanship – H-B - A Levels, Susan E. Harris
- Current USPC Standards of Proficiency – All Certification levels

These references and other helpful information are available from shopponyclub.org.

Grooming Kit

Purpose

Each competing rider is expected to bring a grooming kit to rally, unless sharing a mount. Sharing grooming equipment is unsanitary and can lead to many health issues for the mount and sometimes the rider. Pony Club members are expected to know how to use the grooming equipment correctly.

Note: The USPC Manual of Horsemanship has detailed information on grooming mounts.

Requirements

- One kit per mount
- Labeling: The kit container must be labeled with the competitor's name or number. Each individual kit item does not need to be labeled, but labeling assists in the return of borrowed or misplaced items.

Checklist

Hoof Pick

- Mount's hooves are picked out before and after riding.

Required: Reasonably clean

Unacceptable: Broken, excessively rusted



Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Rubber or Plastic Currycomb

- A good currycomb has concentric rings with serrated or 'tooth' edges to trap the dirt, which can then be tapped off using the sole of your boot. A currycomb has three uses:
- To loosen caked mud and dandruff from your mount's coat
- To rub and stimulate blood flow, and
- To clean your brushes after several strokes.



Required: Reasonably clean

Unacceptable: Plastic curries with hose attachments for washing horses. Competitors need to bring an additional approved currycomb with which to clean brushes.

Tip: Place a piece of masking tape across the back of the currycomb and write the name in permanent marker.

Example: Metal shedding rings with three concentric rings and a handle work well for cleaning brushes, but are not meant to be used as a curry comb.



Dandy Brush

A dandy brush is a stiff brush used to remove heavy dirt, dried sweat, and mud. It works very well on mounts with long coats.

- They can be made with synthetic or natural bristles.



Required: Reasonably clean

Unacceptable: Softer than your body brush

Body Brush

A body brush has shorter, softer bristles than the dandy brush and is used to remove dust, scurf, and dried sweat from a mount. This is the brush that adds the shine! Oval brushes with handles across the back are usually (but not always) body brushes.



Required: Bristles should be soft. Reasonably clean.

Unacceptable: Stiffer than the dandy brush.

Cleaning Brushes

Clean dandy and body brushes with the currycomb after every few strokes. Clean and disinfect them thoroughly on a regular basis to remove embedded dirt and dust. Fill a small bucket with warm water and a few drops of liquid dish detergent. Swish the brushes in the warm water for about one minute. Fill another small bucket with a gallon of warm water and about 3 tablespoons liquid disinfectant. Swish the brushes for about one minute to rinse. Shake out the excess water then let them dry, bristles down, overnight. Try not to soak brushes with wooden or leather handles for more than one minute.

Another method is to add one-half a cup of baking soda to a pan with one to two inches of white or apple cider vinegar (make sure the pan has high sides, the mixture will foam!) Put the bristles into the mixture. The foaming action cleans and loosens the dirt. Rinse as directed above.

Rub Rag

Great for removing stains, rubbing out sweat marks, and giving a great final polish after grooming.

Acceptable: Reasonably clean, at least the size of a hand towel, absorbent, made of a towel-like material.

Unacceptable: Potholders

Tip: Retired dish towels make great rub rags. Label with a permanent marker.

Wet Wipes, Moistened Towelettes, or 2 Sponges

Used to clean the mount's eyes, nose, and dock. Don't use the same wipe/sponge on the face and dock.

Required:

- Wet wipes must be moist; thrown away after use.
- Individual package per mount.
- Sponges must be neat and reasonably clean. Store wet sponges in sponge drying rack. They must be marked to indicate which is for the dock and which is for the face.

Unacceptable: One large tub of wipes for all mounts. Wet wipes should not be dried out or contain any alcohol or bleach – think baby wipes.

Tip: Label dry sponges with a permanent marker. 'F' can stand for 'face', 'D' for 'dock'. Wet wipes store well in a sealed zip-close bag labeled with a permanent marker.

Body Sponge

Body sponges are large and absorbent, and easily fill your hand. Can be synthetic or natural sponge. The purpose of a body sponge is to get as much water as possible onto the horse's body for washing and cooling purposes.



Required: Large

Unacceptable: Sponge mitts or kitchen sponges

Tip: Label dry sponges with a permanent marker. Or put a string through the sponge to attach a label.

Scraper

A scraper pulls the extra water off a wet horse, which speeds the drying/cooling time. Scrapers are usually plastic, aluminum, or rubber.

Unacceptable: A metal scraper with teeth along one side, which is called a Shedding Comb/Blade.

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Wash Bucket

Required: At least two gallons. "Pickle" buckets are acceptable.

- Must be marked 'Wash Only'



Wash Bucket Eventing Only

5-gallon (min) bucket per horse for Vet Box to be used in proper cool out for mounts after cross-country phase. Labeled 'Wash Only' so as not to confuse with drinking water bucket(s).

Required: One extra 5-gallon (min) bucket per horse, labeled 'Wash Only.'

Unacceptable: Less than 5 gallons.

Individual Equipment

Purpose

Members must be prepared to care for their mounts, tack, and equipment while at a rally or activity. Members must also have the right equipment for the riding phases of the rally or activity.

Requirements

- One per rider/mount

Checklist

In addition to personal tack and equipment that is needed for the specific discipline, the team must bring:

Saddle rack

Competitors must have their own places to store saddle(s). This can be individual saddle racks, a team rack, or a combination.

Required: Store only up to two saddles for one competitor on one rack.

Tip: Limit the amount of weight stored on top of your saddle. Stacking may cause damage to the lower saddle because of the weight resting on it. Store with a clean, dry saddle pad between to prevent damage.

Bridle Rack

Each bridle should be hung on a separate holder or hook. This can be individual bridle hooks, a team rack, or a combination.

Tip: Flat round cat food or tuna fish cans screwed to a 1x6 board make a great bridle rack.

Boot Trees

(Legs required, toes suggested but not required) Not required for Western boots

A form used to keep boots in shape when not being worn. The function of the boot tree is to straighten the creases at the ankle to reduce cracking and prevent boot from toppling over or sagging down. The function of the toe tree is to straighten the crease at the top cap to reduce cracking. Required for every team member who is wearing tall leather boots. Leather boots are an investment that can last years if cared for correctly and boot trees and toes help them maintain their shape and prolong their life.

Paddock boots or tall rubber boots that stand up on their own do not need boot trees.

Acceptable: Wood, plastic, foam, or other material that is stiff enough to help boots stand up and maintain shape.

Unacceptable: Crumpled paper or other flexible material.

Tip: Plastic shoe trees make very good toes. Boot trees can be made by rolling and taping newspaper, cardboard, or even an empty drink bottle and then taping it up or placing the roll in a large tube sock. Tennis balls cut in half, or a HM favorite, kitty litter in a nylon stocking (hey, it absorbs odors!).

Stall Card

(checked on "First Check Set Up & Safety" form during rallies)

Blank stall cards and directions for complete information needed on each card may be found in Chapter 18 of the current USPC Horse Management Handbook.

Required: Easy to read, correct, and complete.

Unacceptable: Missing required information.

Tip: Stall cards can be slipped into clear page protectors to keep them clean. Remember to add your competitor number when you arrive at rally!

Halter

(checked on "First Check Set Up & Safety")

Every mount must wear a clean, properly fitted safety halter at all times when not under saddle, unless approved by the CHMJ. All halters used at rallies must:

- Fit correctly (Article 57)
- Have breakaway capability (Article 59), and
- Have some form of identification on it at all times. (Article 60)

Lead Rope

(checked on "First Check Set Up & Safety") Refer to Article 66 for information on what types of lead ropes are permitted at rallies and activities. You will also find information on the use of chain shanks.

Tip: Wrap a piece of duct or masking tape around the end of the lead rope and label with the stall number or competitor number.

Water Buckets

(checked on "First Check Set Up & Safety") The number of buckets required at a rally depends on the type of rally (one day or overnight) and whether your mount is getting electrolytes in the water. Electrolytes are a way to help replace the minerals a horse loses when they sweat (very similar to Gatorade). If a horse is receiving electrolytes they must also have fresh water available at all times.

Required: Heavy-duty. Heavy-duty muck buckets, with handles taped down or removed can also be used for this purpose. If



Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

adding electrolytes to one of the buckets, that bucket must be clearly marked "Water and Electrolytes".

Unacceptable: "Pickle" buckets, flexible ribbed garden buckets.



FAQs

When do I need one water bucket?

- One day rallies when the mount is not getting electrolytes in his water.

When do I need two water buckets?

- One day rallies when the mount is getting electrolytes in his water. (One bucket for plain fresh water, the other water with the added electrolytes.)
- Overnight rallies.

What if I'm at a trailer rally and there is no place to safely hang a water bucket?

- From Article 92: "When tied to trailers, or when there is no suitable location or it is impractical to secure a water bucket (e.g., trailer rallies), mounts must be offered water at least once an hour."

Hanging Buckets:

Refer to Article 77 for details concerning how to hang buckets.

- Flat back buckets need one point of attachment (one snap); round back buckets need two points of attachment. Muck tubs should be placed in a corner of the stall so that mount is less likely to knock it over.

Tips: An easy way to hang buckets and tubs is to use double ended snaps, but they are not required. It is also recommended but NOT required that if using double ended snaps, the trigger side of the snaps face towards the stall wall to prevent anything from catching. Bring at least two snaps. Extras always come in handy.



Feeding Equipment

Feeding Equipment is required when feed (concentrates, grain) is present and the equipment is needed. Top off buckets are not required at one-day rallies.

Purpose

What would happen if, for some reason, you were unable to feed your horse(s)? How would a team mate or chaperone know which hay was yours? Which meal to feed to your horse? How much grain he should eat? Does he get any medication? Feed Charts and appropriate labeling can make this clear and simple.

Competitors at rallies are encouraged to set up their Feed Rooms as if someone else was going to feed their mounts.

Requirements

- Per team and/or mount.

Mounts at rally may be fed in one of two ways: prepackaged meals or loose feed. (See Article 90)

1. Prepackaged meals: Before you go to rally, you can "serve up" each of your mount's meals in non-airtight bags. Then, at rally, you can just empty the bag into your mount's feed bucket. Note: Prescription medication may not be included in pre-packaged meals. Refer to Articles 90-95)
2. Meals from bulk (loose) concentrates/grain: You can bring your bag of grain and containers of supplements to rally and measure out your mount's meals at rally. If you chose to feed in this way, your team must include a feed measure.

Checklist

Team/Individual Identification (posted at entrance)

Feed Chart

Refer to Article 91 and Chapter 19 for complete information to include on the Feed Chart.

Required: Easy to read. Hung in the feed area.

Unacceptable: Missing required information.

Feed Measure

Only need be included if mount's feed is not pre-measured. If you chose to feed this way, your team must include a feed measure.



Tip: Labeled with the mount(s) name the measure is used for.

Unacceptable: Glass. Not labeled.

Appropriate Feed Storage (Secured)

If a feed room is located in a spare barn stall then prepackaged grain storage must have secondary security. Stall doors might be accidentally left open and are exactly the right size for a horse to walk through.

Feed must be stored in a sturdy, secondary container with tight, secure-fitting lid/safety latch.

Examples of a secondary, sturdy, container:

- Metal container with lid: small galvanized trash cans with handles make good grain storage containers.
- A sturdy plastic container with lid is also acceptable.

If the changing areas of trailers and other completely enclosed spaces with narrower latching doors are used, then grain may not need secondary security since the smaller door opening

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

acts as a barrier. The CHMJ may use discretion and allow the competitors to dispense with a secondary feed container if the CHMJ considers the situation is appropriately safe from vermin.

Heavy-Duty Feed Tub

One per mount. Can be a feed bucket or tub that sits on the ground.

Required: Heavy-duty. Reasonably clean.

Unacceptable: Have handles that a horse could get a leg caught in if it's being used on the ground. If handles cannot be removed they must be taped down.

Top-Off Bucket

- One per horse.

Since this bucket is not going to be hung in a stall, it can be a 'pickle' type bucket, which has a thinner bail and straight walls. They are called 'pickle' buckets, because sliced pickles (along with other kinds of food) are delivered to many restaurants in these sturdy food-grade 5-gallon plastic buckets. Many restaurants give them away for free. These buckets are usually sturdier than similar ones sold at hardware stores and the pickle buckets also have a snap-on lid (so you can store other items in them between rallies). Be careful using old paint or drywall compound buckets, since they are hard to clean and those ingredients can be toxic.



Required: At least five gallons of water available outside each stall, so water buckets can easily be topped off during the HM night check.

Unacceptable: Top-Off Buckets must not be left in the aisle during the day.

Tip: Because a full five-gallon bucket is often difficult to handle, two buckets equaling five gallons may be used. Each gallon of water weighs 8 pounds.

Salt Block or Loose Salt

- One per horse.

Horses must have salt available to them at an overnight rally. Loose salt fed with their feed is acceptable if it is noted on Feed Chart.

Equine First Aid Kit

Purpose

The items in the Equine First Aid Kit were selected to:

- Make a horse more comfortable after a day of competition.
- Assess the condition of a horse, and
- Help perform emergency first aid on injured horses

The bandaging materials listed in the Equine First Aid Kit are geared toward the treatment of multiple emergency leg wounds, with the worst injury during competition being a traumatic leg wound that requires blood stoppage.

Definitions

Expiration Date

The expiration date of a medicine is the date at which the manufacturer can still guarantee the full potency and safety of the drug. This date usually is based on proper storage in sealed containers away from harmful factors like heat and humidity. Drugs can have 'half-lives', and as they mature, the potency of the drug can change and they may become stronger or weaker. No expiration date on a package means the product contains no 'real' antibacterial, antimicrobial, antibiotic or antifungal ingredients in the pharmaceutical sense of the word. Items that should have an expiration date are tagged Expiration Date ALERT!

Shelf Life

Shelf life specifies the period of time during which a product can be stored, under specified conditions, and remain in optimum condition and suitable for use. It is also the length of time that a given item can remain in a saleable condition on a retailer's shelf.

The "/" symbol

In medical terminology "/" means "or" so the topical agent you use needs to say on the packaging that it is either antibacterial, or antimicrobial, or antibiotic (or any combination of the three).

Antibiotic

The word antibiotic means "against life". An antibiotic is a drug that weakens or stops bacteria and other microorganisms from growing. It is used to treat infections and prevent the growth of bacteria within the body. Antibiotics are not effective against viral, fungal, and other nonbacterial infections. Various antibiotics can target different types of bacteria, so you may need different antibiotics for different types of infections.

Antiseptic

An antiseptic is a germicide that is used on skin or living tissue for the purpose of inhibiting or destroying microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and viruses. Using antiseptics reduces the possibility of sepsis or infection by germs. Disinfectants are similar, but they are used on non-living objects such as thermometers and scissors.

Antimicrobial

An antimicrobial is an agent that acts against bacteria, fungi, and parasites in the body. Antimicrobial is a general term for something that kills or slows the growth of bacteria (antibacterial activity), fungi (antifungal activity), viruses (antiviral activity), or parasites (antiparasitic activity).

Antibacterial

An antibacterial is an agent that interferes with the growth of bacteria. While antibiotics and antibacterials both attack bacteria, these terms have evolved over the years to mean two different things. Antibacterials are usually described as products that are used to disinfect non-living surfaces and eliminate potentially harmful bacteria. Unlike antibiotics, antibacterials are not used

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

as medicines for humans or animals. Antibacterials are found in products such as soap, detergent, skincare products, and household cleaners.

Requirements

- One kit per team
- Easily accessible
- Printed expiration date on Topical Antibacterial, Antimicrobial, or Antibiotic Agent must be current.
- Sufficient supplies for all mounts on team

Labeling: The kit container must be labeled with team name or numbers. Each individual kit item does not need to be labeled, but labeling assists in the return of borrowed or misplaced items. Items not in original packaging must be labeled with contents.

Checklist

Petroleum Jelly

Primarily used to lubricate the thermometer. It can also be used on a mount's chapped heels (from standing in mud) to protect them from wet and weather.

Required: Container at least half full.

Tip: It is a good practice to use synthetic protective gloves or gauze squares when applying any topical, so you do not contaminate (get germs in) the topical. Using squeeze tubes lessens the chance of contamination.

Digital Thermometer

Used for taking a horse's temperature. Turn on the digital thermometer. Make sure the battery is not low. Digital thermometers are intended to be held in place during use. They take temperature readings quickly and usually beep when they are finished. Do not let go of it while you are taking your mount's temperature. Clean the thermometer with soap and water or rubbing alcohol after use.



Glass Thermometers

Glass thermometers are no longer allowed due to the health hazard created by mercury or broken glass.

Liniment

Liniments may be used on horses following exercise to combat pain and swelling, applied either by rubbing on full-strength, especially on the legs, or applied in a diluted form, usually added to a bucket of water and sponged on the body. They are also useful in hot weather to help cool down a horse after working, the alcohol cooling through rapid evaporation, and counterirritant oils dilating capillaries in the skin, increasing the amount of blood releasing heat from the body. Does not need expiration date.

Required: Bottle at least 8oz.

Tip: Put it in a zip-close bag so it doesn't leak.

Isopropyl Alcohol

Isopropyl alcohol, also known as rubbing alcohol, is used to clean and disinfect items like bandage scissors and thermometers. Does not need expiration date.

Required: Bottle at least 8oz.

Tip: Put it in a zip-close bag so it doesn't leak.

Antibacterial or Antimicrobial or Antiseptic Scrub

An easy way to think about the difference between an antibacterial/antimicrobial/antibiotic 'solution' and a 'scrub' is that the solution treats a wound and the scrub cleans it. Somewhere on the label the words 'antibacterial', 'antimicrobial', or 'antibiotic' must appear. Does not need expiration date.

Acceptable: Antibacterial liquid soap.

Required: At least eight ounces.

Unacceptable: A "solution", unless liquid soap is also present.

Tips:

- A scrub can be made from an antibacterial/antimicrobial/antibiotic "solution" by adding a quarter to a third of the volume in liquid soap, then after mixing it gently pour a little out and see if it makes suds or at least feels slimy between your fingers.
- Because scrubs usually come in large bottles, it is okay to pour some into a smaller plastic bottle with a tightly fitting lid. Be sure to label the smaller bottle with the name of the scrub, and team/competitor identification.
- Antibacterial liquid soap is an inexpensive option for this item.

Topical Antibacterial, Antimicrobial, or Antibiotic Agent

Must contain the words "antibacterial" OR "antimicrobial" OR "antibiotic" on the label/package.

Expiration date ALERT! MUST have a current expiration date.

WARNING: While the active ingredients in topical agents are effective in the treatment of wounds in horses, they can be hazardous to your health. It is a good practice to use synthetic gloves or gauze squares when applying these topical agents.

Required: At least two (2) ounces (which is roughly the amount of a half-stick of butter) and the words "antibacterial" OR "antimicrobial" OR "antibiotic" on the tube, and a current expiration date.

Tips:

- Human treatments of any triple antibiotic ointment are an acceptable topical agent. You would need at least 2 ounces to treat a horse. This makes it more expensive than many equine specific treatments.

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

- Check the label. Some formulas contain active ingredients for "Pain Relief" or "Anti-Itch" that are prohibited substances.

4" Sterile Wound Dressings

Each dressing must be individually wrapped to be sterile. The current USPC Manual of Horsemanship, C Level (See 'Treating Minor Wounds' above), recommends a minimum of four to treat a minor wound: two to clean, one to blot, then one to dress.



Required: At least eight dressings in sealed packages that say "sterile".

Unacceptable: Less than eight dressings in sealed packages that say "sterile". Packages that are discolored or have become unsealed.

Tip: Additional sterile wound dressings of other sizes may be included.

1 Roll Gauze (at least 2" wide)

This is very helpful in keeping a gauze pad in place over a wound.

Tip: Roll gauze can be the brown type that veterinarians use, or stretchy cling gauze available in grocery stores

2 Flexible Stretch Adhesive/Cohesive Bandages

These are useful in keeping a gauze pad or other wound padding in place. Apply snugly enough to keep it in place, but use caution, since it can stretch and cut off circulation.



Required: Useable. Check to make sure they are still useful. They can break down over time and become difficult to unroll, especially if they are left in hot environments (like cars or trailers).

Unacceptable: Non-self-adhesive human stretch bandages, (e.g., Ace wraps), because they stretch too much and can cut off circulation.

Tip: At the beginning of rally season, take older flexible bandages and have members practice wrapping wounds. This will refresh their skills and you can start the season with new rolls of bandages.

1 lb. Roll of 12" Absorbent Practical Cotton

Absorbent practical cotton is used when building a bandage over a bleeding or oozing wound, otherwise the other padding (pillow, no bow, sheet cotton) are used.

In building a bandage from the items in the Equine First Aid, the first layer against a wound should be 4" sterile wound dressings (gauze pads or non-stick pads) and roll gauze. Over this sterile layer, apply a layer of practical absorbent cotton (sterile or non-sterile), then a leg wrap to hold it all in place. Because you are using absorbent practical cotton, there is no plastic "barrier" layer to cause problems to bandaged area (retention of heat, increased moisture, plastic binding against the skin, tabs taped on skin, etc.) and layering is easy.

Roll cotton is multi-purpose. It can be cut or pulled apart to make small sized pieces, saturated with Isopropyl Alcohol and used like a sponge to apply to an overheated horse, or cut to fit the base of a hoof to wrap as sole pad, etc.

Required: At least 12" wide, can be wider; highly absorbent; at least one pound. Roll cotton can be open; it does not need to be sterile, since it should not be used next to a wound.

Unacceptable: Pads, absorbent or not, disposable diapers, etc. These are not wide enough nor of variable length to accommodate bandaging different sized legs or parts (forearm, carpus, cannon, fetlock, pastern, hoof, gaskin, hock). Should not be non-absorbent sheet cotton, the type used to make standing bandages.

Tip: This item can be somewhat hard to find. Do not leave this for a last-minute shopping trip! Gamgee padding is an acceptable substitute.

Bandage Scissors

Bandage scissors are used to cut a bandage off a mount. The blunt tip allows the scissors to cut close to the skin without cutting it.

Required: Blunt tipped and capable of cutting through thick bandages.

Unacceptable: Regular scissors, (since the points are too sharp), or children's blunt school scissors.

Tip: Tie a long piece of ribbon or landscaping tape to the handles, then label.

1 Roll Adhesive Tape (1" Minimum Width)

Adhesive tape keeps a gauze pad or other wound padding in place. This tape is specifically designed to hold bandages on. It is also known as cloth sports tape or bandage tape.

Required: At least one full roll

Unacceptable: Masking tape, duct tape, cellophane tape

4 Leg Bandages with Appropriate Padding for Four (4) Stable Wraps

These can be applied over treated leg wounds. Remember to bandage the adjacent leg to provide support.

Bandages: If bandages do not have velcro closures, at least two bandage pins or strong safety pins per bandage must be included. Note that diaper pins may also be used, but the plastic ends can shatter easily.

Required: Track bandages, flannel bandages, knit bandages

Unacceptable: Polo-wraps

Padding

Required: Must be sized/sizes to fit every mount on the team. Must be soft, smooth, and thick enough to distribute pressure evenly without binding or causing too much pressure on any structure of the leg. (Refer to current USPC Manuals of Horsemanship.)

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Unacceptable: Torn, dirty, insufficient amount to achieve the correct thickness of a stable wrap.

Human First Aid Kit

Purpose

The Human First Aid kit is intended to provide first aid and comfort to competitors. It has the items needed to take care of the simplest of cuts/scrapes when further care is not required. Some of the materials in the Equine First Aid Kit are acceptable for use by humans, such as gauze bandaging, scissors, and adhesive tape. Medicated products from the Equine First Aid Kit are not intended for human use.

Requirements

- One kit per team
- Easily accessible
- Printed expiration date on Triple Antibiotic Cream must be current
- Sufficient supplies for all team members

Labeling: The kit container must be labeled with team name or numbers. Each individual kit item does not need to be labeled, but labeling assists in the return of borrowed or misplaced items.

Checklist

Extra Medical Armband with Blank Medical Release Card

If a competitor's original armband is lost, the parent/guardian or team Chaperone may complete the blank card for that competitor's use. Competitors should not fill out the form on their own unless they are over 18.

Tips:

- If the extra armband or form needs to be used, the competitor can place a note in the Kit alerting the team to that fact. This allows the team to alert the HMJ doing the equipment check to the location of this item.
- It is a good idea for each competitor to bring 2 completed Medical Release Cards to rally. One for your Armband and the other can be kept in a zip-close bag in your Grooming Kit. It will be ready to use with the extra Armband if lost.

Band-Aids

Required: Assortment of sizes.

Tip: Stock the Human First Aid Kit with a selection of bandage sizes and shapes. Bandages made especially for blisters are always useful.

Triple Antibiotic Ointment

Triple antibiotic ointment is effective protection against infection from minor cuts, burns, abrasions, and other first aid emergencies.

Expiration date ALERT! No Expiration Date = No active ingredient and that's not good!

Required:

- Must contain the word 'antibiotic' on the label.
- Must have a current expiration date.

Pair Synthetic Protective Gloves

Can be vinyl or other synthetic material.



Required: At least three pairs.

Unacceptable: Less than three pairs. Dishwashing gloves, since these are too clumsy to be useful.

Tip: Check for cracks and holes. Put them in zip-close bag for easy access. Vinyl gloves are usually a good choice, since some people are allergic to latex.

Tip: Store in a zip-close plastic bag to avoid spills.

Additional items may be added to the kit, such as:

- Tweezers
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Instant cold compresses
- Human digital thermometer
- Antiseptic wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Aloe Vera cream/sunburn cream
- Blister bandages

Items that should not be included in the Human First Aid Kit:

- Over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, decongestants, allergy relief, etc.
- Prescription pharmaceuticals, including inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors.

Tack Room Equipment

Purpose

These required items are necessary for barn safety, team communication, and use and knowledge of the rules of competition.

Requirements

- One kit per team

Checklist

Team/Individual Identification (posted at entrance)

Flashlight

The flashlight must be hung by door of tack room, low enough for the shortest member of the team to grab without needing a stool. Make sure it is visible and easy to get without untangling or untying.

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Required: Working with a strong, bright light.

Unacceptable: pen-type or miniature flashlights

Tips:

- Hang it with a double ended snap, so it is easily removed for use.
- Include a set of spare batteries in the Utility Kit.

Fire Extinguisher (Charged)

The fire extinguisher must be hung by the door of the tackroom, low enough for the shortest member of the team to grab without needing a stool. Make sure it is visible and easy to get without untangling or untying.

It must be a Class "A" or "ABC" extinguisher.

- "A" = capable of extinguishing cellulose/wood fires,
- "B" = capable of extinguishing gasoline, grease or oil fires
- "C" = capable of extinguishing electrical fires.
- Make sure the indicator reads "charged" or "full".

Required: Portable. Charged. Hung by door of tack room so all members can reach it.

- Labeled with team name or numbers or the name or number of any team member.

Acceptable: Fire extinguisher spray instead of traditional fire extinguisher.

Unacceptable: Not hung by door. Empty. Class other than A or ABC.

Tips:

- Hang with a double-ended snap so that it is easily removed for use.
- Many local fire departments run classes in how to use a fire extinguisher. This makes a great unmounted meeting.

Notice Board

This can be a dry erase board, chalkboard, cork board, etc. Be sure to bring the proper markers or pens to use on your board! You can use the notice board to write things such as ride times and notes to team members.

Trash Container:

Required:

- Trash must be emptied prior to leaving for the night.

Tips:

- A large trash container can double as a storage/transport container for other team kits when not at rally.
- A size of 3 gallons or more helps the team to empty the trash less during the day
- Using a trash container with a lid helps keep flies and insects away.

Horse Management Handbook and Competition Rules

Each team is required to have a current copy of the USPC Horse Management Handbook and Competition Rules, and the current annual HM Newsletter, so every competitor has easy access to the rules both before and during competition.

These can be found on the USPC website: www.ponyclub.org.

Discipline Rulebook

Each team is required to have a current copy of the Rulebooks, so every competitor has easy access to the rules both before and during competition.

The Rulebook is considered complete if it is current and includes all Addenda and the current annual Discipline Newsletter.

These can be found on the USPC website: www.ponyclub.org.

Note on Rulebooks: Electronic forms of the Rulebooks are allowed, but...

- It is acceptable to bring electronic forms of the rulebooks, but remember it is not always possible to recharge electronic devices during a competition. Additionally, the small display screens of some devices make looking up rules difficult. Check before the rally to make sure your device displays the rulebooks in an easy-to-read format and check with the organizer to make sure you will be able to keep your device charged throughout the rally!

Utility Kit

Purpose

Pony Club teams need to be prepared for proper stable care when they arrive at rally. The Utility Kit is stocked with items that help repair stall boards, hang water buckets, post notices, loosen stuck doors, etc. Additional items may be included in the kit, such as plastic cable ties for hanging items. The required list is the minimum that must be included.

Labeling: The kit container must be labeled with team name or numbers. Each individual kit item does not need to be labeled, but labeling assists in the return of borrowed or misplaced items.

Tip: You can tie a piece of ribbon or landscape tape to the handle of many of these items for labeling. It makes it easier to find them if they land in the grass!

Requirements

- One kit per team, easily accessible

Checklist

Hammer

Required: A medium to heavy duty all-purpose claw type hammer (for pulling nails)

Unacceptable: A specialty hammer such as a carpenter's maul (all wood) or rubber hammer.

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Nails

Required: Heavy duty type and have a distinct head.

Unacceptable: Lightweight 'panel' type or finish nails. Should not be rusted or bent.

Tip: Include a selection of nails in various sizes and weights. Can be stored in snap top plastic containers.

Screwdriver

- Can be either a Phillips head (+ sign tip) or flathead (- sign tip).

Tip: Medium to heavy duty recommended

Pliers

Unacceptable: Do not open/function.

Tip: Medium to heavy duty type recommended.

Scissors

Sharp scissors can be used for cutting gauze for first aid, baling twine, ribbons, etc.

Jackknife

Hung by door of the tack room, low enough for the shortest member of the team to grab without needing a stool. In an emergency situation, a horse may become trapped in a hay net or with a lead rope and need to be cut free. It is important to have a sharp, sturdy knife on hand. A jack-knife is considered a solid, reliable, and safe form of knife for this purpose. It is extremely important that all Pony Club members know how to use it safely.

Required: Functional.

Unacceptable: Dull or broken. Heavy-duty box cutters or utility knives, which use retractable, replaceable thin razor blades are not considered a suitable alternative to jack knives, because the blades can snap very easily. The blades dull quickly and can be tricky to replace.

Tips: Serrated edged knives cut easier than smooth edge. Make sure all team members know how to open as well as close the knife, because they often have safety latches.

- The Boy Scouts of America have an excellent program that teaches proper use of jackknives. Contact your local troop and ask them to come to your next unmounted meeting and instruct your group.

Leather Punch

A leather punch comes in handy for last minute tack adjustments.

Required: Functional.

Unacceptable: Incapable of creating holes, misaligned, broken.

Duct Tape

Required: At least half a roll.

Unacceptable: Masking tape. Cellophane tape. Tacky/gummy/does not unroll.

Tip: Write team name in permanent marker on the inside of the roll.

Two USPC Logo Pins

These are spares in case a member loses or breaks one. The pin must bear the official image of USPC (see picture). Official USPC Championships pins and other official USPC logo pins with USPC image, discipline, and date are acceptable. Colored felt backings, indicating certification, are optional.



Tip: At least two Pony Club pins; having more is fine!

Tack Cleaning Kit

Purpose

Good tack, when properly cared for and fitted, can give many years of service. The process of cleaning standard leather tack with stitching can be broken down into three stages.

1. **Cleaning**—If tack is dirty, use a sponge and cleaner to remove dirt. Care should be taken not to allow the soap to foam—this indicates the use of too much water, which will dry out the leather. The tack is then rinsed off with a slightly damp sponge to remove the cleaning agent, which is too harsh to be left on the saddle or bridle. Some good cleaners are: Lexol Cleaner, Castile Soap (Kirk's), LeatherCare, Ivory Soap.
2. **Conditioning**—Leather should be soft and supple, with no cracks, and should not squeak while you're riding. If oil is needed, use a 1" to 2" paintbrush to apply in thin layers to the "flesh" or rough side of the leather, then work the leather by hand, bending it back and forth as well as rolling. The heat from your hands will help the leather soak up the oil or conditioner. Don't go overboard—condition your leather gradually!
3. **Protecting**—Bar glycerin soap is the traditional choice of protection, since it will seal the pores of the leather to protect and nourish it. It acts as a type of raincoat for the leather, but does not clean it. If oil is applied after this step the leather will be duller, lacking polish, and the oil will not get into the fibers of the inner layers of the leather, because they have been sealed. Some good protectors: bar glycerin soap, Fiebing's Saddle Soap, Belvoir Glycerin.

Tip: With new tack materials being sold today, it is always best to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning and protecting your tack.

Requirements

- One kit per team

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Labeling: The kit container must be labeled with team name or numbers. Each individual kit item does not need to be labeled, but labeling assists in the return of borrowed or misplaced items.

Checklist

A minimal tack cleaning kit is required at rallies:

- Tack or leather cleaner
- Tack sponge
- Cleaning cloths
- Pail
- Drying Basket

Tack and Leather Cleaner

Required: Tack or leather cleaner

Unacceptable: Deodorant soap or anti-bacterial liquid soap. These types of soap may damage leather.

Tack Sponge

Used to apply tack cleaners, conditioners, and protectors.

Required: Clean, smaller sponges that can easily fit in your hand – it is difficult to use large sponges to clean tack.

Tip: Stock your tack cleaning kit with several small sponges and store wet sponges in the team drying basket after use.

Cleaning Cloths

Used for applying tack cleaners as well as metal polish.

Tip: Keep separate cleaning cloths for metal since you don't want the residue of metal polish on leather. Old terrycloth face cloths work great.

Pail

Fill with warm or tepid (if available) water for tack cleaning, enough to get sponges wet.

Drying Basket

Used to dry sponges and wet cloths.

Required: Hanging or free standing. May be stored while not in use.

Tip: Mesh laundry bags work well and can be hung by their string. Tri-level hanging baskets used in the kitchen also work well.

Additional items may be added to the kit, such as:

- Tack Oil or Conditioner
- Leather Protectant or Sealant
- Metal Polish
- Cleaning Hook
- Boot Polishing Kit

Some of these items may become essential in certain weather conditions.

Cleaning Equipment

Purpose

Keeping the stable area neat and clean is one of the primary goals of good horse management.

Requirements

- One kit per team, clean, in good repair, and appropriate to the task.
- Equipment must be safely and neatly stored.

Tip: Label tools with a piece of tape.

Checklist

Manure Fork or Shovel

Rake or Broom

Manure Basket or Wheelbarrow

- All items must be labeled with team name or numbers or the name or number of any team member.

Extra Equipment

Purpose

It is anticipated that equipment may break or be lost during a competition, and the expectation is that competitors will replace these items with items from the Required Extra Equipment. Therefore, Extra Equipment used to replace items that are lost or broken during the course of a competition will not be penalized. However, equipment that was not brought to the rally and must be replaced with items from the Required Extra Equipment will result in a penalty.

Example: If a competitor forgets their bridle and has to use the spare = penalty. If the reins break and a competitor has to use the spare = no penalty.

Note: Storing extra equipment. Many clubs/centers store extra equipment in sealed plastic containers. While this is a good way to keep out dust and works well for bits and stirrup irons, it can cause mildew in leather and fabric. A better suggestion is to store extra equipment in a zippered sports bag that can be hung on a hook by its handles.

Requirements

- At least one set of extra equipment per team. (Individual riders may bring their own extra equipment.)
- Sufficient sizes and types to fit all team mounts/members. If the team has several sized mounts, there must be a selection of girths, halters, etc. to fit the different sizes.
- Each team member may bring their own extra equipment, clearly labeled, and hung on separate hooks.
- A team may bring adjustable equipment (adjustable halters, girth extenders), so the tack can be adjusted to fit different mounts.
- All extra equipment must be clean to the USPC Standard of Proficiency for Turnout Inspection of the highest certified member of the team who would use that piece of equipment.

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Checklist

Two Extra Lead Ropes, one with Chain Shank

- See the explanation under Individual Equipment "Lead Rope" and Article 66

Tip: Cotton lead ropes are easier than nylon to cut with a knife in the event a horse becomes tangled.

Halter(s)

Make sure your team Extra Equipment includes an extra halter to correctly fit every mount on the team. You may be able to bring an adjustable halter that can be modified to fit all the mounts. If the mounts on your team are very different sizes, you will need to bring more than one halter. Refer to Article 58 for information about correctly fitting halters.

Remember:

- All halters used at rallies must have breakaway capability (Article 59).
- The mount's halter must have some form of identification on it at all times (Article 60). If you use a halter from your Extra Equipment, remember to put your identification on it.

Specific for English Disciplines: Complete Bridle(s) with Bit(s)

Extra bridles must be complete and assembled.

As with the extra halter, extra bridle(s) and bit(s) must be able to fit all the mounts on the team. Team members need to make sure the extra bridle(s) and bit(s) included with the team equipment will be safe and suitable for their mount. If a team member can't ride with the extra bridle or bit for safety reasons, they need to bring an extra one that they can use. Often, you can borrow the extra bridle and/or bit for the rally (especially if you return it clean!).

See Article 62 for exceptions to USEF tack requirements at USPC activities.

Girth(s)

There must be an extra girth to fit all the mounts on the team. The team may need to bring more than one girth or a girth extender may work to make the one girth fit multiple mounts.

Tip: Make sure you know what kind of saddles your teammates are bringing. For instance, dressage saddles use short girths that will not work on all-purpose type saddles.

Pair Stirrup Leathers and Stirrup Irons

Stirrup leathers may be leather or synthetic. All stitching must be in good repair with no broken stitches. Any cracks in leather may not go through more than one-half the thickness of the leather. Fillis stirrup irons must have stirrup pads.

Tip: Place every member's foot in the extra stirrup irons, since there should be 1 inch of extra room (or 1/2 inch on each side) when the widest part of a rider's foot is placed across the stirrup iron.

Specific for Eventing:

Extra 5-gallon wash bucket per horse for use in the VET BOX

Required: 5-gallon (min) bucket for Vet Box to be used in proper cool out for mount after cross country phase. Labeled "WASH ONLY" so as not to confuse with drinking water bucket(s)

Unacceptable: Less than 5 gallons

Specific for Western Disciplines Head stall with bits and reins

Headstall(s), bit(s), and reins must be able to fit all the mounts on the team. It is the responsibility of all team members to make sure the extra headstall(s), bit(s), and reins included with the team equipment will be safe and suitable for their mount. If a team member cannot ride with the extra headstall, bit, or reins for safety reasons, they need to bring an extra one that they can safely use.

Required: appropriate and legal for use for discipline. A curb chain is required on all curb bits.

Acceptable: browband, one ear, slip ear headstall, or other similar headstall, snaffle or curb bit, roping, split, or romel reins.

Unacceptable: Bosal hanger as a headstall. Curb bit without a curb chain

Cinch(es)

The extra cinch must fit all the mounts on the team. The team may need to bring more than one cinch.

Example: if you have a mount who wears a 34-inch size, and another that wears a 28-inch size, you will need to bring 2 extra cinches.

Rawhide Latigo Laces or Tie Strings

Required: Must be made of leather, at least 8 laces/strings since these are used in more than one place

Latigo Complete with a Rawhide Latigo Tie

Required: At least one latigo. Must fasten to saddle with either rawhide tie strings, Chicago screws, or slip through leather.

Chicago Screws

Required: 10 screws minimum. May be plain or tooled. Must have appropriate screwdriver that will fasten them. Screws and screwdriver should be kept together.

Stirrup Hobbles

Required: Made of leather and at least 1 pair

Extra Polo/Polocrosse Equipment

Additional Extra Equipment Requirements

- One kit per polo/polocrosse team
- Sufficient to fit all team mounts/member

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

Checklist

Extra Racket/Mallet

Breastplates(s) or Breastcollar(s)

Acceptable: At least one that fits all mounts.

Two Pair Boots, Bandages, or Combination of Both

Acceptable: At least two pairs. Must fit all mounts.

Two Pair Bell Boots

Acceptable: At least two pairs. Must fit all mounts.

Extra Wash Buckets Per Horse.

To use in the Cool Out area between chukkas. There may be multiple people cooling out horses and the extra equipment is needed to do so efficiently and quickly.

Tip: 5-gallon wash buckets are used for sponging horses who are standing still. Smaller 2 to 3-gallon wash buckets are easier for sponging moving horses because it's easier to carry a smaller bucket when you are walking and sponging at the same time. May also bring more than one of these.

Alternative Stabling Resources:

There are several different methods for confining mounts when traditional barn stalls are not available. To name a few:

1. Portable travel stalls – which consist of folding travel panels that open to 12 feet wide, and close to 6 feet for storage.
2. Portable Electric Camping Corrals – consist of treaded posts; polytape and a fence charger. Very popular method, but make sure you do a test run with your horse at home, to make sure it understands that contact with the tape can be shocking. The pen size should be large enough to allow the horse room to roll and lie down without getting tangled in the wire/polytape. (24x24 is suggested) Also a double strand of wire/polytape (one on top and one lower, but not touching the grass because it will ground out). Maintain sufficient space between the pens to allow people to walk between them, and for cleaning equipment to get through. This is enough room that the horses will not reach over the fence to be competitive with food or try to reach each other. You can choose between a solar charged, or a battery-powered charger for the fence. But always remember to make a “gate” to get in and out of the enclosure!

Trailer Rally Guide

A trailer rally is typically a one-day rally where horses are tied to a trailer instead of stabled in stalls or pens. While all rally rules apply in all stabling situations, there are some unique situations that are addressed here for trailer rallies.

Parking

Parking of horse trailers that will be used in the rally needs to be carefully organized.

There must be adequate distance between each trailer so horses can be safely tied on both sides with space in between. All trailers should ideally be facing the same way or in a horseshoe so the Horse Management (HM) office can be seen from each tack room. This way, HM staff can see the trailer area and most horses at all times. This adds another layer of supervision in a situation that is out of the norm for most horses and riders.

The trailers should ideally be in a fenced or partially fenced area. In the case of loose horses, it makes catching easier.

Trailers that are being used to tie horses must be hooked up to trucks, braked, and with the wheels blocked/chocked.

Trailer Setup

Check the exterior of the trailer for possible exposed metal or license plates, and how they can be made safe. For any metal that needs to be covered, a pool noodle will work in many areas. Foam core board and duct tape can be used for covering license plates. Duct tape, rags, and diapers are also good for protecting horses from sharp metal.

- Doors should be secured open if used as a tack room, ramps up and doors secured if used for tying mounts. If you're using a trailer with a ramp as a tackroom and for tying mounts, consult with HM to discuss the best options for safety.
- Manure forks and buckets and other bulky items that aren't needed in the tack room can be stored between the front of the trailer and the end of the truck.

Tie Area Setup and Horse Care During the Day

- Tying
 - When horses are tied to a trailer, it is strongly encouraged to use a device that breaks or releases in addition to a breakaway halter. It is common for horses to pull back and break away from a trailer and it is easier to catch them if they are still wearing a halter. While optional, baling twine, hemp twine, plastic release clips, and slow-release tie methods are all acceptable if it makes sense for the horse.
 - Alternative/slow-release ties are allowed without quick release knots when used as intended for those horses who do not hard/straight tie well.
 - Inform HM staff if a horse isn't doing well tied to the trailer.
 - Pick up manure as often as possible.
 - Mounts must be supervised at all times when tied to trailers.

- Water
 - HM staff can discuss different options for hanging water buckets. Sometimes the best option is to not hang water buckets at all. It is not advised to hang a hay net, water bucket, and tie a horse to the same tie ring on a trailer. Plastic release clips that have a break away feature are a good option for your bucket. You can connect several of them together to lower the bucket for access and safety.
 - If water buckets are not hung, water must be offered no less than once per hour.
- Stall Cards
 - The best way to secure stall cards to the trailer so it doesn't spook mount or get damaged/removed is to tape all edges with painter's tape. Painter's tape won't damage the trailer paint like duct tape can. Plastic sheet protectors secured with strong magnets work on some trailers.

Tack Room

The trailer should be labeled as "tack room" on the back doors. If you plan on using the existing trailer tack room, it's a good idea to remove any items not needed for the team. It is easier for HM to check Required Equipment if it is neat and tidy.

Pop-up tents or canopies are acceptable to be used as tack rooms or team gathering areas. It provides shade and can offer more room than a trailer. Canopies must be set up away from mounts and must be anchored. Chairs and a cooler for drinks and snacks are an added bonus for any tack room.

Feed Room

The feed room may be included in the tack room. If it is separate, it must be visibly labeled as "feed room" on the door. If the trailer is entirely enclosed, it is considered to be a secure "container" for feed, so no secondary feed storage is needed.

Inclement Weather

In the event of pending inclement weather be aware of the proper procedure to load and unload horses onto a trailer with the possibility of evacuation. When loading your pony onto a trailer, always wait until the tail bar is fastened before you tie him up. When unloading, always untie the horse and attach a lead before you lower the ramp, open the backdoor, or unfasten the tail bar.

- It is a good idea to have extra leads and halters ready and tagged with your contact information. The Safety Handbook has an Equine Safety Disaster Plan which discusses the need for preparedness. Print and post the USPC Emergency Preparedness Safety Poster from the Safety page on the USPC website.

Proposed PACKING LIST for Camps, Clinics, and Rallies (Required Equipment)

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From Chapter 20: Item B, C, and F: These are items the HMJ will check during the First check Set-Up and Safety, the Required Equipment List check, and the Turnout Inspection. **This list is NOT comprehensive and it is your responsibility to check to make sure that you bring everything you will need for a rally.**

Rider and Mount
Grooming Kit: per mount
Hoof pick
Curry comb (rubber or plastic: capable of cleaning brushes)
Dandy brush (hard bristles)
Body brush (soft bristles)
Rub rag
Wet wipes or 2 sponges marked "Dock" or "Face"
Body sponge
Scraper
Wash bucket (labeled "Wash only")
5 gallon bucket (labeled "Wash Only") for cooling out in Eventing and Polocrosse
Individual Equipment: per competitor
Saddle rack
Bridle rack
Boot trees for tall leather boots (leg and toe) Western boots excluded
Stall card
Water Bucket(s)
Breakaway Halter
Lead rope
Any necessary tack and attire for discipline
Feeding Equipment: per team and/or mount:
Feed chart
Feed measure (pre-packaged meals or scale or scoop/can)
Appropriate feed storage
Heavy duty feed tub
Top off bucket (filled and left outside stall at night, store in tack or feed room during day; labeled)
Salt block (note on Feed Chart if loose salt is used)
Team Equipment
Human first aid kit: per team; easily accessible; required expiration dates are current)
1 extra medical armband with blank USPC medical card
Adhesive bandages
Triple antibiotic ointment with current expiration
3 pair synthetic protective gloves
Tack Room Equipment: per team
Sign for Team/individual identification (posted at entrance) of tack room and feed room
Flashlight (hung by entrance)
Charged Fire extinguisher Type A or ABC (hung by entrance)

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

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Notice board
Trash container
USPC HM Handbook and Competition Rules. All appendices and Newsletter (current and complete)
Discipline rulebook, all Appendices & Newsletter (current and complete)
Tack Cleaning kit: per team
Cleaning product appropriate for saddlery
Drying basket for sponges: and the means to hang it up OR free-standing
Tack sponge
Cleaning cloths
Pail
Leather protector or sealant if needed
Tack oil or conditioner if needed
Metal Polish if needed
Cleaning hook if needed
Boot polishing kit if needed
Utility Kit: per team
Hammer
Nails
Screwdriver
Pliers
Scissors (capable of cutting paper)
Jackknife (capable of cutting rope)
Duct tape - at least one half roll
2 USPC logo pins
Equine First Aid kit: per team, required expiration date is current
Petroleum Jelly
Digital thermometer
Liniment
Isopropyl Alcohol
Antibacterial, Antimicrobial, or Antiseptic scrub
Topical Antibacterial or Antibiotic agent with current expiration date, at least 2 ounces
4" sterile wound dressing (Gauze pads)
1 roll gauze (2" min. width)
Adhesive tape (1" minimum width)
2 Flexible stretch adhesive/cohesive bandages
1 lb. roll 12" absorbent practical cotton of gamgee
Bandage scissors (with blunt end, capable of cutting through thick bandages)
4 leg bandages with appropriate padding for 4 stable wraps (to fit all mounts on the team)
Extra Equipment: per team; sufficient to fit all team mounts/members - should be turnout ready clean
2 Extra lead ropes, one with chain shank
Halter(s) (adjustable, breakaway)
Specific for ENGLISH
Complete Bridle(s) with bit(s) for discipline
Girth(s)

Required Equipment and Scoresheet Amplification

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Pair(s) stirrup leathers and irons for english saddles
Specific for EVENTING
Extra 5 gallon wash bucket per horse for Vet Box
Specific for WESTERN
Headstall with bit and reins, or bosal
Rawhide latigo laces or tie strings (at least 8 pieces)
Latigo and off side billet complete with rawhide latigo tie
Cinch(es)
Chicago screws (at least 10 with flat head screwdriver)
Stirrup hobbles
Specific for POLOCROSSE
Extra racket
Breastplate(s) or breastcollar
2 Pair boots or bandages
2 Pair bell boots
1 Standing martingale or tiedown if used for any mount on the team
1 Extra wash bucket, plus sponge and scraper per horse
Cleaning Equipment: per team
Manure fork or shovel
Rake or broom
Manure basket or Wheelbarrow
Other things you may want or need to bring:
Example: Thing you will use that are not listed as required on an HM form
Current coggins
Travel certificate valid for this trip
List of emergency contact phone numbers
Helmet
Body protector
Gloves
Longe line and longe whip
Chairs
Cooler
Snacks
Hand sanitizer
Kleenex
Hand soap
Bug spray (human)
Sunscreen
Boot hooks (if tall boots without a zipper are used)
Boot jack (if tall boots without a zipper are used)
Double ended snaps
Baling twine
