

Sunshine Region
of the
United States Pony Club
Parent Guide to Rally

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Introduction

This guide is intended to make you familiar with rallies, the different members of the team, and the volunteers needed at a rally. Each has certain responsibilities in order for a rally to be successful.

A rally cannot be run without volunteers. Not all volunteers need to be horse saavy. Many of the jobs described in this guide require nothing more than common sense (e.g. the ability to check names off a list, operate a stopwatch or follow simple directions).

A Pony Club Pledge

"As a member of the United States Pony Club,
I stand for the best in sportsmanship, as well as horsemanship.

I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played
and take winning and losing in stride,
remembering that without good manners and good temper,
sport loses its cause for being.

I shall endeavor to maintain the best traditions
of the ancient and noble skill of horsemanship,
always treating my horse with the consideration due a partner.

I shall strive at all times to uphold the high ideals
of the Pony Club and my country."

Rallies

Rallies are friendly team competition. Team members are expected to help, support, and encourage each other and other teams if needed. There will usually be no more than 6 teams in a division at a regional rally. Each team will come home with a ribbon. At some rallies other awards for Horse Management, perfect score for Written Test, or highest riding score may be also given.

Parents are not allowed to provide any assistance to the Pony Club team members during a rally. This includes any discussion of rally business or events, help in setting up the tack room, assistance in tacking or care of the mount. You may not offer criticism, or instruction. You will not be allowed in the barn area at all except for certain designated "visiting hours". You may not feed or water the mount when in the barn area. There is a designated Neutral Zone where you and your child may meet during the rally. You may offer encouragement to all team members in the form of "Have a good ride".

The guiding principals of Pony Club are Safety, Safety, Safety, Teamwork, Good Sportsmanship and Good Horsemanship. Some of the rules may seem silly or have obscure reason. Please feel free to learn about the reasons behind the rules. The resources at the end of this guide are a good place to start.

Rallies are offered at the regional level. If the rally meets the qualifications in the current discipline rulebook it will be a qualifying rally for Championships held in the summer of each year. Championships are held either in Lexington, Virginia as Eastern Championships or in Lexington, Kentucky (every third year) as Festival when USPC combines an educational Festival with Championships at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. Each discipline has rating and riding criteria to qualify. These criteria are explained in each discipline rulebook. Current Rulebooks can be downloaded from the USPC website. Directions are listed in the resources.

You may feel “separation anxiety” or be concerned about your child or equine during a rally. Please be assured that there are many adults around keeping an eye on both in the barn area. Volunteer for one or more of the jobs and learn more about the discipline, Pony Club, and rallies. You and your Pony Club member will have a great time at rally.

D Rally – Dressage test, Stadium Jumping course, Cross Country Course

The Pony Club team member must be D1, D2, or D3 to compete. Team will have a Pony Club C rated member advisor. This is usually a 1-day rally.

Dressage – 2 required Dressage tests, 1 optional Musical Freestyle or Pas De Deux. This is a 2-day rally, arriving early Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon.

Eventing – also known as Combined Training or 3 day eventing. Dressage test, Stadium Jumping, and Cross Country Course. The Pony Club team member must be C rated to compete. This is a 2-day rally, arriving early Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon.

Games – This is a series of games played on horseback. This is a 2-day rally, arriving early Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon.

Polocrosse – Think Polo with Lacrosse equipment. This is a 2-day rally, arriving early Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon.

Quiz – This is a knowledge event consisting of some combination of written test questions, barn setup, or display tables. Some exercises may be done individually, others as a group. This is a 1-day rally.

Show Jumping – Two required jump courses on Saturday, 1 on Sunday. The one course on Saturday is also judged for Equitation. An optional course may be offered on Sunday. This is a 2-day rally, arriving early Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon.

Tetrathlon – Swimming, Running, Shooting, Stadium Jumping. This is a 2-day rally, arriving early Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon.

Check the Sunshine Region Website for a Regional Calendar to find out when each of these events will be held during the year. <http://sunshine.ponyclub.org/>.

Volunteers

Note – the same job may have different titles in different disciplines. Refer to the Rally rulebook for the title and job description. Many of these positions require several people at the same time. Usually there will be morning and afternoon shifts each rally day. Effort will be made to schedule you to work when your child is not riding but subs are also needed to rotate in to allow parents to leave a task to watch their child.

Job Title	Rally	Notes
Announcer	All Rallies	Makes announcements over a sound system. Keeps “Official Rally Time”. A good announcer makes sure to know how to pronounce all competitor names correctly. Announce who is riding, in which ring, and may give information about the club, mount, and rider if available and time permits. Announce reminders about formals, written tests, or other rally news as needed.
Assistant Scorer	All Rallies	This is an assistant to the Official Rally Scorer. They will help check all score sheets and tally team scores. The ability to use a calculator or in some cases a computer program will be helpful.
Assistant Umpires	Polocrosse	Need to be knowledgeable horseperson and able to ride
Controller	Eventing	Need to be able to multitask and keep track of all horses while on course.
Gate Keeper/Ring Steward/Paddock Master	All Rallies except Quiz	1 needed at each competition riding area during competition. This is a very easy task but very important to keeping the rally moving on time. This person will send a rider into the ring and make sure the next rider is present and ready to ride. They open and close gates for the riders.
Goal Judges	Polocrosse	Signals when goals are scored or missed
Jump Judges	D Rally Eventing	These judges are stationed at each jump on the cross-country course. Their task is to observe each rider and note any refusals, failure to jump or falls.

Job Title	Rally	Notes
Jump/Ring Crew	Dressage Eventing Games Show Jumping	This group is responsible for ring changes. Jumps may be removed or lowered, game equipment placed, or dressage ring shortened.
Lane, Line A, Line B, Line C Judges	Games	These games judges are watching to see that relays are handed off correctly, which competitor crosses a finish line first, and that the game is played correctly
Mega Room Table Monitor	Quiz	Table monitors do not necessarily have to be knowledgeable in the area in which they are officiating. Parents, chaperones, upper level pony club members are good resources. Table monitors will read the instructions and point level of its table before each round. They do not have the authority to judge the correctness of answers. They monitor the table to make sure all competitors are given the same opportunity.
Proctors	All Rallies	All qualifying rallies have written tests. This is a multiple-choice test for each rating level. Proctors are required to watch for cheating, help grade and score the tests, to assist young Pony Club members who may have trouble reading, or those with disabilities.
Room Stewards	Quiz	Assists in maintaining the decorum necessary for a fair Quiz competition in the assigned phase
Runners	Dressage Eventing Show Jumping	Collect judges score sheets and take to Scorers
Scorer - Games/Shooting/ Table/Wall	Polocrosse Quiz Tetrathlon	Different from Rally Scorer – duty is to keep game/shooting/phase scores – see rulebook
Scribes	All rallies except Quiz	This requires writing – a lot if you are scribing for a Dressage judge, a little if you are with a Show Jumping judge. Scribes are also used in the Formal inspection to take notes for the AHMJ who is conducting the formal

Job Title	Rally	Notes
Shooting Range Officer	Tetrathlon	Oversees the Shooting Phase of rally – must be knowledgeable with guns and rules of competition
Starter	Tetrathlon	Tetrathlon is a timed event and each phase will need a starter to blow the whistle to begin the timing of each timed phase
Stations Table Judge	Quiz	The Table Judges do not necessarily need to be knowledgeable in the area in which they are officiating. The Table Judge will read the instructions and point level of its station at the beginning of each round. They do not have the authority to judge the correctness of answers but instead will grade the answers against an answer key. A Table Judge will not officiate in any area in which any member of his/her family is competing.
Swimming Officer	Tetrathlon	
Swimming Referee	Tetrathlon	Assists with the swimming phase – ensures the start and finish are fair and within the swimming rules
Target Placers	Tetrathlon	Assists with target changes during the shooting phase
Time Keepers	Eventing Polocrosse Quiz Show Jumping Tetrathlon	The ability to operate a stopwatch is the only skill required. Each discipline has elements that require timing, either to limit the time the competitor has to complete the exercise or test, or to time how long it took them to ride the course. Usually there will be 2 timers to ensure accuracy and provide backup in the case of stopwatch failure.
Umpire Groom	Polocrosse	Usually this is an upper level pony club member who is working for regional service hours. Must be horse savvy?
Umpires	Polocrosse	If current Pony Club member they must be at least 18 years of age and C-3 or above

Job Title	Rally	Notes
Warm-up ring Steward/Paddock Master	All Rallies except Quiz	This is similar to the Gate Keeper above except that there will be a number of riders in the warm-up area. The Warm-up Ring Steward must limit the riders to a safe number and let riders know when it is time to go to the competition area.

Teams

See each discipline rulebook for specific team requirements. Some disciplines require members to be riding the same tests or levels; others require members to be certain rating or age. Some rulebooks allow the RS to allow regional rally exceptions. Contact the RS for guidance whenever there is a choice or question.

Regional (Scramble) Team – If your child wants to go to a rally and your club does not have enough members to make complete teams, he/she may be part of a regional team. Members of 2 or more clubs will be put together to make a team. This is an exciting opportunity to meet Pony Club members from other areas.

Team Members

Adult Team Member	Rally	Duties	Notes
Chaperone – required for each team	All Rallies	Holds a copy of the medical releases for the team. Responds to any emergency involving a team member, accompanies team member to hospital in absence of parent	Must: Have 1, and only 1, per team Be at least 21 years of age Be declared on entry form Have signed Chaperone form May not be Coach May have more than 1 team
Coach	Optional for Eventing Required for Show Jumping	Walk the course with the riders and help plan their rides, help with warm-up and assessing ride. Coaches should be horse knowledgeable and able to provide the necessary guidance but do not need to be trainers and are not there to teach the rider	Must: Be declared on entry form, May not be Chaperone, May have more than 1 team Should be at least 18 and C3 or higher rated or adult

Pony Club Team Member	Rally	Duties	Notes
Captain	All rallies	Team leader, makes inquiries and protests, responsible for all communication between the team and rally officials	Designated by DC. Show Secretary may designate Captain of Scramble team.
Horse Manager –1 per team	All Rallies except Quiz	Time manager, assists team members as needed, provides encouragement and support	Must be eligible as specified in rally rulebook
Riders	All Rallies except Quiz		Must be eligible as specified in rally rulebook, see rally rulebook for minimum/maximum number and rating/age requirements
Team Members	Quiz		Must be eligible as specified in rally rulebook, see rally rulebook for rating and age divisions

What to Expect and How to Prepare

Your child will be expected to arrive at the rally with his/her equipment inspection ready. They may be asked to bring team equipment. Their mount should be clean and in good condition. When all team members are present they will set up the tack room. Parents are not allowed to help in any way except with lifting of heavy items. From the time equipment is unloaded when you arrive until the time you load up when the rally is over, your child and teammates will support, encourage and help each other.

There will be an equipment check. An Assistant Horse Manager will go to the team tack room with a copy of the equipment list. He/She will ask to see each item on the list. If the team Captain and other teammates are not present, the team member can ask to be inspected at another time.

Your child should read the discipline rulebook for the rally and the Horse Management Rulebook. You also will want to download the Written Test Study Guide on the USPC Website under forms (W) for the discipline and rating level. The written test includes questions from each. Your child should also read the manual for their rating. Tell your child to let the team Captain know if they need assistance. Someone may read the test to your child and assist with the mechanics of taking the test.

Riders will also have a Formal Inspection. An Assistant Horse Manager will inspect the rider and mount. Based on the rating they will look at how correctly the rider is turned out, cleanliness of tack and mount, safety and correctness of tack.

The Formal Inspection, written test, and rides will be scheduled with a specific time. The team will get points for lateness, missing or dirty equipment, dirty

stalls, horses without water, or messy tack rooms. These are Horse Management points. The goal is to have no HM points.

Ride scores, written test scores and Horse Management points will be used to calculate the team score. The ribbon will be based on the team score. All teams will get a ribbon.

Rally Participation Agreement

I wish to participate in one or more regional rallies during the 200__ rally year. I understand that I will be representing _____ Pony Club and that by choosing to participate, I agree to conduct myself in a manner that would bring pride and honor to my team and my club. This responsibility includes the following:

1. I will arrive at the rally with horse and tack in "show" condition, suitable for my rating, and ready for inspection.
2. I will be familiar with and abide by the rules of the sport.
3. I will share in the responsibilities of the team.
4. I will offer encouragement and a positive attitude to teammates.
5. I will treat officials, teammates, and opponents with respect.
6. I will not argue judgment calls of officials, other than to make legitimate protests pursuant to the rules, nor will I blame others for my team's performance.
7. I will put the care and treatment of my horse above all other concerns.
8. I will be a good sport whether winning or losing.
9. I will act at all times with dignity and character out of respect for my club, myself, my teammates, and my sport.

If I fail to substantially comply with this agreement, I understand that I will be restricted from future participation in one or more rallies, at the sole discretion of the DC.

Pony Club Member Signature

Date

As the parent/guardian of the above _____ Pony Club member, I support their participation as a member of a rally team. I agree to volunteer at least once as a rally volunteer.

Parent Signature

Date

Resources

United States Pony Club
4041 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511
859-254-7669

USPC Manual of Horsemanship

www.ponyclub.org

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