

Sunshine Region

of the

United States Pony Club

Pony Club Team Member Guide to Rally

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## **Introduction**

This guide is intended to make you familiar with rallies and the different members of the team. Each has certain responsibilities in order for your team to be successful.

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 Regional Supervisor (RS) to allow regional rally exceptions. Ask your District Commissioner (DC) to contact the RS for guidance whenever there is a choice or question.

## **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**

D Rally – Dressage riding test, Stadium Jumping course, Cross Country Course  
You must be D1, D2, or D3 to compete. Team will have a C advisor. This is usually a 1 day rally.

Dressage – 2 required Dressage tests, 1 optional Musical Freestyle or Pas De Deux. D rated may do an optional Prix Caprilli dressage test. 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. You 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 a 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 first course on Saturday is 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.

## **What to Expect and How to Prepare**

Regional (Scramble) Team – If you want to go to a rally and your club does not have enough members to make complete teams, you 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.

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

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

Read the rulebook for the rally and the Horse Management Rulebook. You will take a written test for your rating that includes questions from each. You should also read the manual for your rating. Let your Captain know if you need assistance. You can have someone read the test to you.

If you are riding you will also have a Formal Inspection. You and your mount will be inspected by an Assistant Horse Manager. Based on your rating they will look at how correctly you are turned out, cleanliness of your tack and mount, safety and correctness of your tack.

The Formal Inspection, written test, and your rides will be scheduled with a specific time. You must be on time. Your 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.

Your rides, written test scores and Horse Management points will be used to calculate your team score. Your ribbon will be based on the team score.

## Team Members

Team Member	Rally	Duties	Notes
Adult  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 . Your chaperone is responsible for your behavior	Must: Have 1, and only 1, per team Be at least 21 years of age Be declared on entry form May not be Coach
Coach - Required for Show Jumping, Optional for Eventing	Eventing Show Jumping	Will walk the course with you and help you plan your ride, help you with your warmup and assess your ride	May not be Chaperone, May have more than 1 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	Support other team members, be prepared, show good sportsmanship, teamwork, cooperation	Must be eligible as specified in rally rulebook, see rally rulebook for minimum/maximum number and rating/age requirements
Team Captain	All Rallies	Team leader, makes inquiries and protests, responsible for all communication between the team and rally officials	Designated by DC or Show Secretary
Team Members	Quiz	Support other team members, be prepared, show good sportsmanship, teamwork, cooperation	Must be eligible as specified in rally rulebook, see rally rulebook for rating and age divisions

## Captain's Responsibilities

Congratulations!! You have been chosen as captain of your pony club team for rally. This is both an honor and a responsibility. It is an honor because it shows that the DC believes you have proven yourself as a leader that can help your team succeed.

As team leader, the Captain should set the tone for the entire rally experience. The job begins long before the initial briefing. When the teams are formed, you should devise a plan for preparing your team for the competition. Contact each member and make sure he or she knows what to expect and what is expected of them in terms of dress, equipment needed, and pre-rally meetings. Set a meeting to get together required equipment and discuss responsibilities for bringing the equipment/tack to rally. Make sure your team members know when and where to go. Discuss any special needs of horse or rider.

You will help your team succeed in horse management if you meet before the beginning of rally for a tack cleaning "party." This will ensure that all members arrive with tack in "ready to be inspected" condition. You may also want to have a meeting with your members to discuss the rules for the discipline involved.

Remember that as team leader, you are the person most responsible for maintaining a positive attitude. Competition can be stressful, and team members may be upset or discouraged over their performance. You are the one to pick them back up and encourage them.

A major responsibility of the captain concerns protests at rally. Remember that Judges are human and make mistakes too. Since there is a limited time to make an inquiry or lodge a protest when a mistake has been made, it is your responsibility to make sure that scores are inspected within the challenge time period. This means listening for when scores are posted and inspecting them promptly. You should ask another team member to listen for announcements about score postings while you are riding and check when you return to the barn to make sure they haven't been posted in your absence. If you determine that a protest or inquiry is appropriate, be polite and factual.

Again, congratulations on this honor. Have fun at rally!!

## Horse Manager Responsibilities

Congratulations!! You have been chosen to represent your club as horse manager of a team at a regional rally. This is both an honor and a responsibility. It is an honor because it shows that the DC believes you have proven yourself as a leader that can help your team succeed.

The horse manager is a very important member of the team. Some would say it is the team anchor. The job begins long before the initial briefing at rally

Your captain should call a meeting for the team to get together and go over the equipment list. You may be responsible for team equipment. If you have not heard from him or her, you should make contact and make sure everyone knows when the equipment meeting will take place. The required equipment list is in the Horse Management Rulebook.

You should also make sure your teammates are aware of the formal inspection requirements that apply to his/her rating level. Formal inspection forms are in the Horse Management Rulebook. You should go to the Formal inspection with each rider to make any last minute touchup dusting to boots or cleaning dock.

**One of the most important responsibilities of the horse manager is helping team members manage their time properly. In the stress of competition, time flies. Know the time of each riders formal, rides, and test and help them get where they need to be on time.**

Another critical part of your job is helping maintain a positive atmosphere throughout the team. Again, competition can be stressful and team members may be upset or discouraged over their performance. You should offer encouragement to all team members. If you have a first time rally team member they may need extra attention.

You are not a slave and shouldn't be treated as such. However, as horse manager you will want to help team members perform grooming and stabling duties as your time permits and as needed. Some team members may need more help than others, and that is perfectly acceptable and understandable.

Again, congratulations on this honor. Have fun at rally!!

## **Team Member Responsibilities**

Congratulations!! You have been chosen to represent your club as member of a team at a regional rally.

Your participation is every bit as important as that of the Captain or Horse Manager. You must be prepared to do your best in every part of the rally. You must help the Captain encourage and support the team. You must have your equipment clean and inspection ready before you arrive at the rally. You must remember to bring any team equipment you have been assigned.

Listen for any announcements about score postings and inspect them promptly yourself. Bring any errors or questions to the attention of your captain immediately so he/she can lodge an inquiry or protest. If your captain is riding or taking a written test when the scores are posted and there is an error, let the Chief Horse Management Judge know. They will then be able to give your team an extension to inquire.

If you need extra help be sure to let your Captain and Horse Manager know. They are willing to help you but you should not expect them to do your work for you. Check on your mount often and make sure his needs are met. Check your teammates stalls also. You would be surprised how many times the Assistant Horse Management Judges see these actions and make positive comments on the daily sheets.

Have a great time at rally!

## 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

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