

**Raccoon Valley Pony Club Handbook of Good Practices**

**2011**

Suitable Mount

A suitable horse for club activities is a mare or gelding, five years or older in good health and with no communicable diseases, serviceable sound and adequately conditioned for the activity with feet well trimmed or shod. It must be safe and appropriate for the child and must not pose a risk to the safety or learning experience of other members. Pony Club feels that a good rule of thumb is that the child and the horse's age should equal 20 years or above when added together.

Safety

There will be safety checks supervised by a knowledgeable person including horse, helmet, footwear and saddlery before every mounted activity. All equipment used must be safe, suitable and comfortable for the child and horse. If it is not, the child may not ride until the situation is rectified.

Every member must wear an approved ASTM-SEI helmet and a Pony Club armband with a properly filled out Medical Release at all mounted meetings and any unmounted meeting that takes place in a barn environment, or is around horses.. Boots or barn-safe shoes must also be worn.

Mounted Meetings

Parents should be committed to getting their child to all Pony Club meetings on time with the proper equipment. This means arriving early enough at mounted meetings to tack up and be ready to ride by the stipulated time. They should remain at the meeting with their child, particularly younger children.. It is expected that everyone (members, parents, siblings, sponsors, and volunteers) attending club functions will treat the facility, horses and each other with the utmost respect and will help out whenever and wherever needed. The adult in charge has the right to excuse anyone for unsportsmanlike, abusive or unsafe action. Alcohol, weapons, tobacco, and drugs (other than medicines prescribed by a doctor or a vet if for a horse) are forbidden for everyone at club activities.

It is important that parents refrain from talking to or giving their child instructions while the child is taking a lesson. The child will find it impossible to listen to two people at once and the action is very disrespectful to the instructor. Parents may of course ask questions before and after the lesson.

Appropriate dress for mounted meetings would be: boots, high or jodhpur, or suitable shoe with heel; shirt tucked neatly into pants with well fitting sweater or jacket if weather so dictates;, breeches, jodhpur pants or suitable riding pants with a belt if pants have belt loops. Long hair should be neatly contained.

Mounted meetings may be held at various locations. A fee may be charged if we have a guest instructor or if we are using outside facilities where we need to pay an arena fee.

Trailering

It is the responsibility of the parent to get the pony clubber to their mounted events. Members sometimes haul with someone else, taking turns to ease the time and responsibility. These agreements are strictly between people involved and must involve both members' parents' informed consent. The club is NOT responsible for such arrangements or any resulting consequences. If you do trailer with someone else, you should pay a portion of the gas.

Standards and Ratings

* **Club Level Certifications**

The current Standards of Proficiency are divided into D1; D2; D3; C1 and C2; the D2 through C2 ratings are further divided into Horse Management (HM), Flat (F) and Jumping (J). Those sections may be taken individually. HM must be passed before Flat, which must be passed before Jumping, but once a section is passed a member may advance to the next rating level at that section without taking the other sections of the lower rating. For example, a member may be a C1-HM, D3-F and D1-J. Raccoon Valley will normally schedule 2 ratings a year. Generally, at the D level, all three levels are taken at once

Members will submit a Flow Chart completed by an instructor or a higher level Pony Clubber who is familiar with the Standards prior to the rating.

Fees for the ratings are: D1 – no charge, $10 for each D section, $15 for each C section.

* **National Ratings**

These are HB; C3 Specialty & Traditional; B Specialty & Traditional; H/H-A and A Specialty & Traditional These are scheduled by the National office. The Midwest Region will generally hold HB, C3 and B ratings every year (usually in the summer) and other ratings when there are enough regional candidates. Candidates are free to take National Ratings out of region with the permission of the DC and RS.

Typical Yearly Regional and National Activity Calendar

 Last weekend in January – National Annual Meeting

Early March, Regional Quiz Competition

Mid May, upper level Eventing Rally in conjunction with MCPC Horse Trials

June, Mega Rally

Mid September, Regional Games Rally

September or October, Annual Sponsors Meeting

* **Regional Quiz Competition**

 The USPC Midwest Regional Quiz Competition is held the end of Feb or the first of March in the Kansas City area. Pony Clubber's compete in a team environment based on their Rating level and age. Competitors are tested orally in knowledge in the classroom, on practical hands on knowledge in the barn, given team questions at stations, and are asked to identify horse related objects in the mega room. During these testing sessions, the competitors are tested on subjects of horse management, equine health, riding skills and a variety of other subjects appropriate to their Rating level. Teams consist of four members. There are divisions of D juniors, D seniors, C juniors and C seniors.

 Entries are due to the DC or the Quiz Coordinator early in January, the date to be set by the DC each year according to when the regional entries need to be made. Unmounted meetings will be held for the months of January and February in order to prepare the team members for the Quiz Competition.

Raccoon Valley is responsible for the awards ceremony at the end of the competition on Sunday afternoon. We set out the ribbons and trophies and emcee the ceremony.

Approximate entry cost for Quiz Competition is around $45.00. Families are responsible for the cost of their own motel room

* **Eventing Rally**

The Midwest Region holds their pre-novice, novice, training and Prelim Eventing Rally in conjunction with the Mill Creek Pony Club Horse Trials at Longview in Kansas City most years (Festival and MW Championship years, sometimes other years as well). When Rallies are held in conjunction with USEA events, we are required to follow their rules of competitors wearing safety vests and arm bands. Cost of eventing rally will be slightly higher than the regular fees of an event.

* **Mega Rally**

The USPC Midwest Region Mega Rally is held Wednesday through Saturday in mid-June at William Woods College, in Fulton MO. Pony club is unique in that the members have to do their own work. Parents are not allowed in the barn, or allowed to help their children or other competitors. The barns are closely supervised by Horse Management officials at all times in order to ensure the safety of all competitors and horses.

Team competition is offered for Dressage, One Foot-Two Foot and Beginner Novice Eventing, (non-qualifying), Show Jumping and Tetrathlon. Teams may cross enter two disciplines. A full team consists of four riders and a stable manager. Current Coggins tests are required for the horse.

* **Games Rally**

The Midwest Region Games Rally is held in September at the Longview Horse Park.Competitors compete as **t**eams over a select number of pony club games. Competition starts Sat and runs through Sunday. Horse management is a part of the competition. Entries are sent out in the summer. There is usually a clinic for learning games that same weekend.

**Subsidies Policy *(Approved October 2011, amended April 2013)***

In order to meet its goal of encouraging and offering support to members who take National Ratings, go to Rallies and Championships:

**RVPC would reimburse families for 25% of:**

·        National Ratings (the national test fee and the regional fee).  Would only reimburse for the 1st test at each level

·        Rallies – entry and stabling fees

·       National PC Championships – entry and stabling fees

·         Annual National Pony Club Meeting and Symposium – registration fee

Maximum of $250 / member / year.  Club will reimburse up to $2500 / calendar year.  Must ask before the event, since the subsidy must be paid to the rally / rating organizer, not the member or parent.