



## Rolling Rock Hunt Pony Club Policies

Revised January 2010

### General:

The policies of Rolling Rock Hunt Pony Club are intended to supplement, not replace, the policies of the Tri-State Region and The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. It is recommended that these policies be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

### Philosophy:

The philosophy of Rolling Rock Hunt Pony Club – hereafter referred to as RRHPC, is to foster the safe enjoyment of horses and riding. RRHPC promotes the highest ideals of sportsmanship, teamwork, and citizenship, thereby cultivating strength of character, responsibility, and self-discipline. Strong parental involvement and support for these efforts is encouraged.

### Membership:

1. Club Membership:
  - (a) Members are admitted at the discretion of the District Commissioner(s) hereafter referred to as D.C.
  - (b) RRHPC will accept members on a continuing base; however, the club encourages new members to join at the beginning of the calendar year in order to gain the full benefit of Pony Club.
  - (c) Information regarding the USPC will be provided to any individual expressing an interest in Pony Club.
  - (d) Membership shall consist of active and non-active status.
2. Active members in good standing:
  - (a) Must have current dues paid in full.
  - (b) Must have grounds fee paid in full by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, otherwise participation in mounted sessions and rallies will be prohibited until the balance is paid in full
  - (c) May attend mounted instruction and USPC rallies if they meet qualifications
  - (d) Must submit required medical releases, rally releases, negative coggins, **and proof of immunization for: Rabies, Tetanus, Strangles, and Rhino Flu** annually.
  - (e) May participate in the weekly lessons at the discretion of the instruction coordinator(s) and should always come prepared to ride
  - (f) Are strongly encouraged to attend a majority of the mounted and unmounted lessons even if their mount is not available
  - (g) Are expected to exhibit the highest level of good sportsmanship, always treating their mount with consideration
  - (h) Must encourage one or more responsible adults to participate in as many RRHPC activities, including fundraising
3. Non-Active members in good standing:
  - (a) Must have current dues paid in full
  - (b) May participate in the club camp and unmounted sessions only
  - (c) Must submit required medical releases and negative coggins annually
  - (d) Are expected to exhibit the highest level of good sportsmanship, always treating their mount with consideration.
4. Sponsors:
  - (a) In order to participate in voting, any parent of an active member, graduate pony club members, current RRHPC instructors, current board members, and current club officers shall pay annual due of \$1.00. This fee is included in the club dues, which members pay to join pony club. All other sponsors must remit \$1.00 payment to the treasurer.
  - (b) Parents of current and past non-active pony club members or any other person upon approval of the current officers shall pay annual dues of \$25.00.
  - (c) All parents are entitled to become sponsors upon payment of the fee at the prior year's annual sponsors meeting and/or at least four weeks prior to the annual meeting. Other individuals may become sponsors upon application to the secretary, approval of the D.C., and payment of the fee.
  - (d) At any meeting of RRHPC sponsors, one-third of the current sponsors constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the club.
  - (e) USPC requires an annual meeting of the sponsors, which takes place in October each year. At this meeting, the sponsors must vote on any major decisions or changes to policy or the by-laws of the club.
  - (f) Sponsors elect/nominate the club officers at the October meeting.
    - (i) Three months prior to the sponsors meeting, the D.C. appoints the nominating committee.
    - (ii) The nominating committee accepts suggestions for candidates.
    - (iii) Nominees must give their consent prior to the sponsors meeting.
    - (iv) The nominating committee selects from the suggested candidates for the ballot.
    - (v) Voting will be in person and one vote will be registered per sponsor family or individual sponsor.
  - (g) Nominations for club officers shall also be accepted from the floor.

**Financial:**

RRHPC is a non-profit organization. To meet its fiscal responsibilities, the club draws financial support from numerous sources including but not limited to donations, membership dues, and fundraising activities. All pony club members and parents are strongly encouraged to participate in fundraising events that benefit RRHPC. RRHPC agrees to accept financial responsibility in the following areas:

1. USPC Annual Sustaining Membership dues for the District Commissioner hereafter referred to as D.C. and Joint D.C.
2. D.C.'s, Joint D.C.'s or designee's registration fees for national meetings
3. Reimbursement costs for mailing, copying, and telephone expenses or any other reasonable expense
4. The cost of regularly scheduled club ratings, excluding regional and national ratings
5. The entry fee for stable managers at rallies
6. Subsidize the entry fee for National Championships, depending on available club funds from year to year
7. Supply rally equipment and supplies as needed
8. Purchase any equipment or material deemed necessary for the benefit of the membership
9. Lease, maintain, and improve St. Clair Stables, including barns, rings concession stand, grounds, equipment, jumps and cross country course.

**Conduct:**

1. Members and parents participating in any pony club activity, either as a participant or as an observer, are expected to display the highest levels of citizenship, good manners, and sportsmanship.
2. Rally participants receiving points for poor sportsmanship may not be permitted to compete in their next scheduled rally.
3. Any RRHPC members using drugs or alcohol at a pony club activity will be asked to leave the activity immediately and will be suspended from participating in pony club activities until the end of the rally season.
4. Chaperones must refrain from using alcohol or illegal substances during the duration of the activity they are chaperoning. The "Uniform Chaperone Duties" form provided by USPC must be signed by all chaperones.
5. Parents are asked to refrain from using alcoholic beverages at any Pony Club function.

**Ratings:**

1. To rate, a member must be in good standing as previously defined in these policies.
2. Each RRHPC member must notify the D.C. annually of his/her intent to rate and discuss the preparation planned in order to achieve this rating. Before the scheduled rating day, a member intending to rate must have each block on their rating check sheet initialed by an approved instructor and presented to the D.C. for review. Rating sheets must be signed and turned in to D.C. – ONE MONTH PRIOR TO RATING.
3. In order to keep the ratings as fair, the D.C. shall select an impartial examiner. Persons from whom they have received regular lessons should not examine pony clubbers.
4. Pony clubbers may rate in as a D-1 or D-2 D-2's must be tested on unmounted knowledge of all the standards of the D-1 level. If they do not pass one of those rating standards, they must take the riding portion of the D-1 standard.

**Regional Rallies:**

1. Rallies are an important part of pony club. They are meant to foster sportsmanship and teamwork. RRHPC strongly recommends that all pony clubbers participate in rallies as their rating permits, especially at the D level.
2. Horse management is a cornerstone of pony club. Any pony clubber showing a disregard for horse management at rallies by attaining a high number of horse management penalties, will not be sponsored by RRHPC for attendance at further rallies for the rest of the year.

**Regional Rally Participation and Responsibilities:**

1. The pony clubber must be a member in good standing.
2. The pony clubber must notify the D.C. by the first week of mounted instruction which rallies he/she hopes to compete in that season. This in no way obligates them to attend these rallies, but will be helpful to the D.C. in making sure that everyone intending to participate has been notified.
3. The pony clubber must have the approval of the D.C., Joint D.C., and the rider's instructors (where applicable).
4. It is strongly recommended that the pony clubber attend all applicable prep sessions.
5. Each team is responsible for returning RRHPC's horse management equipment. The contents must be clean, complete, and in good order. The team will be charged replacement cost for damaged or missing items.

**Pony Clubbers Responsibilities:**

1. General Responsibilities:
  - (a) Pony clubbers should always maintain good communication with their D.C. This includes notifying the D.C. of their rating and rally intentions as required by the club.
  - (b) It is the pony clubber's responsibility to be aware of all requirements for their rating. They should be familiar with all the information in the standards and be thoroughly prepared for the testing.

- (c) Pony clubbers should take advantage of all possible opportunities to improve their skills. They should be active in their club and the region, taking on more responsibility as they progress through the ratings. Older pony clubbers, less able to participate in all the regularly scheduled club activities due to college, work, or distance from their own club, will be encouraged to contribute to their pony club or one closest to them on an occasional basis. This is to be arranged by the pony clubber and the D.C.s involved.
2. Mounted Instruction and Rally Responsibilities:
    - (a) Pony clubbers should:
      - (i) Come prepared with clean and safe tack, clean and neat attire, and a clean mount
      - (ii) Come prepared to work for the good of the team
      - (iii) Have a cooperative attitude
      - (iv) Respect the organizers efforts and the facility by leaving the area in better condition than it was before he or she arrived
      - (v) Take the time to make new friends in the region
      - (vi) Respect the position of the stable manager; realizing his/her job is to be a helping hand to all team members
      - (vii) Thank the organizers for their work in planning the competition.

**Parents Responsibilities:**

1. General Responsibilities:
  - (a) Parental participation is required. Parents are encouraged to participate in as many RRHPC activities as possible during the year.
  - (b) Parents must serve on one grounds committee and one special events committee annually.
  - (c) Parents should:
    - (i) Strive to make a pony clubber's participation in pony club a positive and successful experience
    - (ii) Understand that ratings are not competitive events - ratings are an examination of the child's knowledge and skills to determine whether a child is "safe to work" within that standard
    - (iii) Ensure that the pony clubber and horse arrive at any pony club activity on time and with the proper supplies and equipment
    - (iv) Check all written requirements and ensure they are finished and legible prior to any rating or activity
    - (v) Encourage the child to assume more and more responsibility in preparation for the rating or activity
2. Rally Responsibilities:
  - (a) Parents should keep the interest of the pony clubber in mind. It is the responsibility of the parent to get the child and the mount to the rally in calm, rested, and prepared state before the scheduled time.
  - (b) Except for helping the pony clubber to unload heavy items, parents are not permitted to assist, coach, set up or help in any manner, but are encouraged to volunteer at rallies. Parents should always maintain a positive attitude and good sportsmanship, allowing the child the freedom to compete without parental "guidance".

**St. Clair Stables:**

1. General:
  - (a) RRHPC leases grounds and facilities from the Rolling Rock Farms.
  - (b) Any use of the grounds and facilities by RRHPC members at any time other than during RRHPC sanctioned events is solely at the risk of the member. If RRHPC members use the facilities for non-sanctioned events they agree to indemnify and hold RRHPC and the Rolling Rock Farms harmless from all claims and demands of any kind arising from the use of such grounds and facilities.
  - (c) The use of grounds outside of scheduled mounted meetings must be approved by D.C. and insurance coordinator 48 hours prior to use. Members and parents are responsible for being aware of the rules and following them.

**RRHPC Hunting Privileges:**

1. Hunting privileges have been extended to the RRHPC with no capping fee.
2. RRHPC members who are strong C1's and above may hunt without a chaperone with the permission of the DC. All others may hunt only with an approved chaperone.