

Guidelines for being a C – Advisor for a D Level Eventing Team in Pony Club!

The purpose of a C – Advisor is to help instruct and guide young or inexperienced teams at a D Level Rally. It is not to do the work of the team; it is to help give advice, guide and answer questions before and during the Rally to the team!

As a C- Advisor to your team, your role is to help prepare them for the Rally prior to the date of the competition and guide them during the competition. The following suggestions are to help you be the best C – Advisor you can be!

- ⇒ Obtain and read the current ***Horse Management Handbook (2002), Part V – VIII, p 27-47*** (can be downloaded free from www.ponyclub.org under forms in Acrobat Reader (Thumbnail #37-58)) This has great suggestions for Rally preparation!
- ⇒ Obtain and read the current ***Eventing Rulebook (2002), Section V, p 28-48, for the D Rally rules*** (can be downloaded free from www.ponyclub.org under forms in Acrobat Reader (Thumbnail #36-54))
- ⇒ Obtain the required Equipment checklist from the current Horse Management Handbook for Eventing Rallies. It should be form #2C for a one-day Rally (2002, p.65) and #2A for an overnight Rally. (2002, p.63) These are also available under forms at www.ponyclub.org
- ⇒ Find out from your DC who the team captain is and their phone number as soon as possible. (*If the team captain is young, you may have to ask a parent to help the captain get the team organized*)
- ⇒ Call the captain and if possible, meet to discuss how to figure out which team members will be bringing which of the required equipment items.
- ⇒ Have the captain arrange a meeting for the team to prepare for the Rally at least one to two weeks prior to the Rally. At this meeting, the members should bring their equipment!
- ⇒ At the meeting, help go through all the equipment: checking for condition of the equipment, put labels on everything, plus a piece of masking tape! (The masking tape is to write their competitor number on at the Rally) Remember to talk about the reasons why they have that equipment, where it applies, and how to use it.
- ⇒ Help them make their horse's stall card! (A sample is at the end of the Horse Management Handbook)
- ⇒ Review the rules from the Horse Management Handbook and the Eventing Rulebook, Section V
- ⇒ Discuss and plan a tentative schedule for how to get their horse area and tack stall organized and set up at the Rally. (It'd be great if you plan enough time to actually set up the tackroom like they will use at the Rally!)
- ⇒ Discuss the tentative Rally schedule (from set up to the end of the day)
- ⇒ Practice presenting themselves at Formal Inspection (name, rating, club/region)
- ⇒ **Emphasize TEAMWORK, sharing, and helping each other!**

Rally Day!

The most difficult part of the day today will be being unable to do the work of your team members! It is very natural to want to just step in and do it yourself. However, that defeats the learning experience of the D member. Your role is not to make sure that the team does not receive any penalty points for horse management.

Your role is to help guide the team through the day! A first time experience is always very nerve-racking! Do you remember how nervous you were at your first Rally? Under your guidance throughout the day, your team members will be able to have a better experience because you are there!

Here are a few "Do's and Don'ts" suggestions to help make your day go more smoothly:

- ⇒ **Do** ask and suggest, **don't** tell and order!
- ⇒ **Do** be positive, **don't** be negative!
- ⇒ **Do** ask them what their team plan is to get each other ready for Formal Inspection. **Don't** tell them they have to help each other.
- ⇒ **Do** remind them to check frequently on their horses. **Don't** order them!
- ⇒ **Do** remind them of turn-backs, written test, required equipment checks, checking scores, inquiries, etc.
- ⇒ **Do** hear both sides of disagreements and try to find a compromise!

Questions? Ask a Horse Management Judge!

Do review the Rally schedule!

Do listen to each member!

Do be a cheerleader for each team member and the team!

Emphasize TEAMWORK, sharing, and helping each other!

Remind the D's through asking rather than telling! *It works much better and they don't realize that you are instructing them! No one likes to be "told" to do something!*

Have patience and fun!