



Northern Lakes Region General Guide to USPC[®] D Level Eventing Rallies

This guide is intended as a general summary; it does NOT include all of the rules and information. **It is the Pony Clubbers' and parents' responsibility to be familiar with the rulebooks for Horse Management and Eventing!** You can and should obtain a copy of the Eventing Rulebook 2002 and the Horse Management Handbook from the USPC[®] web site at www.ponyclub.org under forms. They are both available for downloading free of charge in the Adobe Acrobat Reader format! Excerpts are taken from the following pages in the rulebooks: Eventing Rulebook 2002 (*Section V for the D Rally Rules, p.28-48; thumbnail #36-54 in Adobe*) and the Horse Management Handbook 2002 (*Part V – VII, p. 27-47; thumbnail #37-58 in Adobe*)

Introduction:

“The objective of a Pony Club Eventing Rally at the D level is education in the sport of eventing through team competition in five phases: Dressage, Cross-Country, Stadium Jumping, Horse Management, and a Written Test. D-rated competitors are judged on all phases of an Eventing Rally at their individual rating levels. A D Rally is meant to be a fun, positive experience. It is not a test, but an opportunity for Pony Club members to display what they have learned in their regular Pony Club lessons in a safe, supportive and educational environment.”

“In USPC, teamwork and good sportsmanship should be rewarded. Organizers and DCs should encourage team effort during rally competitions. Awards should emphasize team achievement.”

At USPC Rallies, the unique aspect of the competition is that the competitors are judged on the care of their horses and teamwork without parental direction in the Horse Management phase. The competitors are expected to be self-reliant and work together as a team, but will always have access to the Horse Management Judges, Ground Jury and the Technical Delegate for help. Horse Management is meant to be educational: teaching the competitors proper horse management practices. The judging is a test of what the PCers have learned at their regular club lessons. Care of the horse, tack and rider will be assessed during the Rally. Penalty points that may be assigned will be posted on the Horse Management score sheets that can be found in the Horse Management Handbook. Team members are judged in Horse Management from the official briefing until the end of the Awards ceremony. Judging is done in accordance to the current Horse Management Handbook at each PCers rating level.

The Organizer for contact between competitors and the chaperone, coaches, instructors, parents and friends will designate a supervised **Neutral Zone**. This is where competitors may pick up items left for them, talk to parents, leave notes for their parents/friends and vice versa.

General D Rally Schedule:

- Grounds open: arrival
- Horse stall or trailer area set up by teams (remember to have a stall card!)
- Tack room (may be in a trailer) set up by each team without outside assistance
- Official briefing
- Formal inspection
- Dressage test
- Cross-country course walks

- Safety inspection
- Cross-country test
- Vet check (may be done by the Horse management team)
- Safety Inspection
- Stadium Jumping test
- Awards
- ~A written test, horse management checks on horse area, tack room, and horse care, lunch will be incorporated into the rally schedule ~

General Rally Information:

Competitor:

- Must be a USPC member in good standing
- Rating at the closing date determines the D level that they compete at the Rally
- Parents must have signed the USPC Competitors' Rally Release Form
- **Be familiar with the current rules for D Level Eventing and Horse Management Rules at USPC Rallies!** These can be found in the **Eventing Rulebook 2002 (Section V for the D Rally Rules, p.28-48; thumbnail #36-54 in Adobe Acrobat Reader)** and the **Horse Management Handbook 2002 (Part V – VII, p. 27-47; thumbnail #37-58 in Adobe Acrobat Reader)**

Mounts:

- Must be five years old or above to compete
- No stallions
- Must be their regular mount.
- Must have current negative Coggins

Teams:

- Team members can be from the same club or a scramble team with members from several different clubs.
- Each team has three to four riders.
- A Horse Manager (unmounted) who also takes the Written Test along with the other team members.
- One of the team members shall be the Team Captain. The Team Captain is responsible for the team members following the rules and regulations, passing on any changes or additional instructions given by the Rally Officials. In case of an inquiry in scoring, the Captain will represent the team no more than 30 minutes after the scores of any phase have been posted.
- All team members should be Ds. Exception may be the horse manager or if a beginner novice level is part of the Rally. (This exception is determined by the organizer, RS, or HMO)

Advisors:

- *Teams that are young or inexperienced may have a C-or-above rated Pony Clubber member who may advise (instruct) and direct the team, but may **NOT DO THE WORK OF THE TEAM!***
- *The advisor may **NOT** be the coach!*

Coaches:

- Coaches are not required, but recommended if possible.
- Teams may share a coach, but may not have more than one coach per team (unless a scramble member has a different coach).
- Refer to **Appendix 9, Coaching Guidelines at Eventing Rallies, page 45 of the 2002 Eventing Rulebook.**
- Must have signed Coaching Guidelines.

Chaperones:

Each team is required to have a chaperone that is on the grounds during the entire Rally competition. If the chaperone duties are being shared, the Rally Organizers need to be informed of whom is the chaperone during specified time periods.

- Refer to **Appendix B, Uniform Chaperone Rules/Duties, page 57-58 of the 2002 Horse Management Rulebook.**
- Must have signed Uniform Chaperone Rules/Duties for each Chaperone.

Required Team Equipment:

Refer to the current Horse Management Handbook for the required Equipment Checklist for Eventing (Form #2C for a one-day Rally (2002: p.65), Form #2A for an overnight Rally (2002: p.63)).

- Contact your team members to organize the required equipment. Some clubs have Rally team equipment. Other clubs have the team members bring items they have to be used by the team. (Do this at least one-two weeks prior to the Rally!)
- *Equipment should be kept to a minimum and must arrive clean and in sound repair!*
- A helpful hint is to make sure all items are labeled (use address labels with the PCer name, Club, Region) and place an unmarked piece of masking tape on too prior to arrival at the Rally. Once they arrive at the Rally and have their competitor number they just have to write down their number on the masking tape!
- Refer to the 2002 Horse Management Handbook, Section VI through VIII for great hints on tack care, tips for a successful Rally, and everyday horse care!

Attire, Saddlery, and Bitting:

- All rules applying to the competitors and mounts are listed in **Appendix 1, 2, 3a, and 3b** of the current Eventing Rulebook. Failure to follow these rules may incur Disqualification.

Special rule exceptions for D Rallies to be used in addition to the complete information in Appendix 1 through 3b are:

Competitor dress:

- May be Formal, Informal, or simply clean well-fitted conventional riding clothing and footwear in good repair. Dress requirements must be clearly stated in the Rally Announcement.
- NO WAFFLE SOLES on riding footwear.
- **MUST be wearing a fastened, ASTM/SEI approved helmet and appropriate footwear at all times while mounted!**
- Stud earrings in the ear ONLY.
- Unmounted footwear: shoe that is securely fastened, entirely closed, covers the ankle, thick soled and in good condition. NO totally canvas or cloth shoes of any kind are allowed.
- Attire for wear in the barn areas must be neat, clean and in good repair. Shirts should cover the shoulder. No tank tops or bare midriffs.

Dressage test:

- All D-rated competitors may use **grass reins** and **standing martingales** when riding their test and warm-up.
- All Ds may use dressage whips: which may not be longer than 4 feet including the lash, and must be un-weighted.
- Ds may use a **snaffle, pelham or kimberwicke bit**. A regular cavesson noseband must be used with the pelham and kimberwicke bits. Rein converters are allowed on pelham bits at the D level.
- **ALL BITS MUST BE SMOOTH, with NO TWISTS!**
- D competitors always ride in a small dressage arena.
- The dressage test should be ridden from memory. If necessary, the test may be read and a penalty of 2 points is added to the dressage score.
- Elimination for resistance of longer than 20 seconds does NOT apply at the D level!

Cross- Country and Stadium Jumping Tests:

- Ds may use properly adjusted **standing or unrestricted running martingales with a chest stop and rein stops on each rein**, on the bit side of the martingale or Irish martingales. If a standing martingale is used, it must be attached to a cavesson noseband and not any other type of noseband.
- All bits with more than one point of attachment of attachment (Gag, Pessoa, Pelham, etc.) must have one rein attached so that the snaffle action of the bit is in effect. If other bit actions are to be used, two reins will be required with the exception that Ds are allowed to use converters on pelham or pessoa bits. A single rein may be attached on the first or second ring of a Pessoa type bit. If a third or lower ring is used, a second rein **MUST** be attached higher (to snaffle ring) so that the snaffle action can be in effect.
- **Ds are NOT timed on their courses!**

Remember to read Part V through VIII in the Horse Management Handbook and Section V - D Level Eventing in the Eventing Rulebook!