

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING CANDIDATES, PARENTS, AND CLUB MEMBERS FOR RATINGS

1. **Use instructors that teach to the PC standard (HM knowledge & mounted instruction).**
PC instruction can be an asset to competition, but competition is not the goal of the USPC.

2. **As a club - review standards with Parents, Pony Clubbers, and Instructor (s).**
Instructional program to use the progression of education based on USPC standards
Progression:
 - **“D” Level:** Foundation of safe habits and knowledge and a secure position

 - **“C” Level:**
 - **Riding:** Secure position + coordinated aids to make adjustments to the horse
Classical Dressage and Riding theory (rhythm + balance + contact from rider to horse = increased control, independent seat, increased security (not from the reins but from a secure position).
 - **Horsemanagement knowledge & skills** to learn to independently care for own mount.
 - The ability for the Pony Clubber to **understand** what they are doing and why they are doing it under saddle and on the ground – to problem solve Riding and Horsemanagement situations.

 - **“B” Level:** Active horseman – interested in acquiring further knowledge and proficiency in riding and horse care.

3. ***SUGGESTED TIMETABLE LEADING UP TO A RATING***
 - A. **Local PC set rating dates on the calendar** (also consult Regional / National calendar)

 - B. **Before the rating date – candidates send the DC letter of intent to rate**
 - **9 months** before a regional or national rating - letter to DC and RS
 - **6 months** before a local rating – letter to DC
 - Gives candidates and parents time to plan and prepare properly for the next rating

 - C. **6 to 8 weeks before the rating – have a review of the candidate (s) by a “PC” instructor**

 - D. **4 weeks before the rating**
 - Have candidates turn in **filled in** flowcharts and/or prep guide to the DC
 - Consider having a **mock rating** to get tack cleaned and kids prepared for the rating format. This mock rating helps many candidates realize their strong and weak areas.

Letter of Intent to Rate – (Suggestion)

(to be filled out by the candidate with assistance and discussion with and from the Parents)

Name: _____

Pony Club: _____

Current Rating: _____

Desired Rating: _____

Desired date of the rating: _____

(Please consult the local, regional and/or National USPC calendars)

How are you (the candidate) planning to prepare for your next rating?

Mounted Plan:

- # of times per month I ride (outside of lessons): _____
- I feel my weakest riding areas are: _____
- I feel my strongest riding areas are: _____
- # of Dressage lessons I take per month: _____
- # of Jumping lessons I take per month: _____
- My instructor(s) for regular lessons is/are: _____
- Clinics: Amount in the next 6 months: _____
What kind of clinics: _____
Clinicians - who?: _____

Horsemanagement Plan:

- I feel my weakest HM areas are: _____
- I feel my strongest HM areas are: _____
- I plan on studying _____ per month or _____ per semester
- I need assistance from my club or the region with these HM areas: _____

When I am ready to get my HM evaluated, I will contact the DC _____ (please initial)

When I am ready to get my riding skills evaluated, I will contact the DC _____ (please initial)

Signature of Candidate

Signature of Parent / Guardian