



Parent Rally Guide

Rallies

Pony Club competitions are called Rallies. They differ from a typical horse show in that they are team versus individual competitions and at mounted (with horse) rallies the competitors are judged on riding and on the care of their mounts throughout the rally (Horse Management Judging).

Rally teams are 3-4 members with mounted rallies having an unmounted team member who serves as the team Stable Manager. In some cases a Club or Center does not have enough members to fill a short team (3 members) and in these situations the member(s) are entered to scramble, which means they are placed with members from other Clubs or Centers to make a mixed team of 3 or 4. Team members are expected to work together and help, support, and encourage each other and other teams.

Most of the Rallies in the Old Dominion Region are qualifying Rallies and are held at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. The exception to this are the "D" Rallies held at different locations in the region and meant to be a more laid back, smaller setting as a way to introduce our younger, less experienced members to the rally concept.

Rising Star Division - This is a division that we have at Quiz and Dressage Rallies. This division is for D1 and D2 members who are 1 years of age or less and who have had no previous rally experience. Competition is team competition with each team being required to have a "C" level pony club member who serves as their advisor. The team advisor can provide Rising Stars with any assistance that they may need to safely care for their horse/pony and to have a successful and positive rally experience.

"D" Rally - Held in each of the 3 zones, this rally is geared to the "D" level member and has the three phases of Eventing. These rallies are smaller, more laid back, typically with older and higher level pony club members serving as organizers, judges or other rally "officials".

What can you and your child do to prepare for rally?

- Make sure that your child has the proper rulebook(s) and is familiar with the rules of that discipline.
- Make sure your child has copy of the Horse Management Rulebook and is familiar with these rules.
- Make sure your child attends any and all rally prep sessions.
- Make sure that your child has all of the proper equipment and that the equipment is in good condition and all tack is "rally clean".

Old Dominion Region Parent Rally Guide

- Make sure that your child knows what equipment he/she is to bring to rally for the team tack room and required equipment.
- Assist your child in learning how to organize their packing for rally since they are packing for their horse as well as themselves. Using the required equipment list found in the HM Handbook is a good checklist to work from. (Page 81 of the HM Rulebook).
- Make hotel reservations well in advance of the rally date.
- Check trailer and towing vehicle prior to hauling to the rally.
- Sign up for a volunteer job when the team rally entry is sent in.

What to expect at rally:

Upon arrival at the rally site you will be directed to the stabling area. You are able to assist in unloading the horse and all of the equipment. It is a good idea for you to walk the horse while your child gets the stall prepared for the horse and gets fresh water hung in the stall. You are only allowed to unload equipment and carry it into the barn but cannot assist in setting up the horse's stall or the team tack stall. You are expected to move your truck and trailer to the designated parking area as soon as everything is unloaded. If your trailer will be used for a team tack room then be sure that you know where the trailer is to be parked.

Barns will be closed to all but competitors and rally officials at a specified time. The hours that barns open and close for each day of the rally will be made known at the briefing.

Unauthorized assistance - Parents are not allowed to provide any assistance to the Pony Club team members during a rally. This includes any discussion of rally business or events, help in setting up the tack room, assistance in tacking or care of the mount. You may not offer criticism, or instruction. To attempt to offer assistance to any competitor could be considered unauthorized assistance and may result in penalty points for the competitor or the team. The only time that you can provide assistance is to catch a loose horse, help a competitor after a fall, hand a piece of dropped equipment back to a mounted competitor and the likes.

You will not be allowed in the barn area at all except for certain designated "visiting hours". There is a designated Neutral Zone where you and your child may meet during the rally. You may offer encouragement to all team members in the form of "Have a good ride" type communications.

You may feel "separation anxiety" or be concerned about your child or equine

Old Dominion Region Parent Rally Guide

during a rally. Please be assured that there are many adults around keeping an eye on both in the barn area. Volunteer for one or more of the jobs and learn more about the discipline, Pony Club, and rallies. You and your Pony Club member will have a great time at rally.

Competitors are allowed time to set up horse stalls and to set up their team tack stall which is where all members of the team will store their tack and all of the needed grooming equipment and stall mucking equipment. Tack stalls are to be neat, clean and workman like. HM Judges will be making notations throughout the rally on the condition of the team tack stalls, the care of horses (do they always have fresh water topped off in buckets, do they have hay, salt) and the barn aisle areas around all team stalls for neatness.

Old Dominion Region Parent Rally Guide

Briefing - There will be an official briefing during which all of the specifics regarding the rally will be shared with competitors. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this briefing.

Volunteer briefing - Usually there is a short volunteer meeting right after the competitor briefing at which time assignments and specifics for volunteers will be shared. This is a good time to ask any questions that you might have concerning your assigned volunteer job.

Jogs - It is required that there be a soundness jog at every rally prior to the first rides. This usually follows the overall briefing. Parents are invited to observe the jogs from a respectful distance.

USPC Championships

Specific Championships qualifying criteria are listed in each rally entry information. They can be found in the respective discipline rulebook using this url: <http://www.ponyclub.org/?page=rulebooks>

Team Selection Team selection will be made on the basis of final score placing factoring all scores into the total with the top 4 being placed on the first team and moving down the list from there. Members must commit by the deadline, as stated by the RS, or will lose their place on the team, in which case the RS will go to the next placed rally participant. Accepting a position on a regional team in any discipline commits that member to that discipline team and thereafter ineligible to qualify in any other discipline. Those who commit to participating as a member of a Regional Championship team must be prepared to bear all associated costs.

Awards

Awards are focused on the team experience. Everyone will leave the rally with at least two ribbons. Ribbons are awarded for Overall Teams 1st- # of teams entered, which is a compilation of total riding and horse management scores at mounted rallies or all phases at Quiz rally. Horse Management ribbons will be awarded 1st- # of teams entered for Horse Management scores only. There are some individual ribbons awarded at each rally for high point in each division or class. There are perpetual trophies given at the Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing Rally. Each of these perpetual trophies were donated by a supporter of the Old Dominion Region. The trophy is kept on display in a trophy case located on the concourse of the indoor arena at the Virginia Horse Center with the recipient name for each year engraved on the trophy and a "keeper trophy" presented to the recipient. Perpetual trophies are:

Dressage: The Susan Baizley Perpetual Trophy -Presented each year to the ODR competitor who exhibits a high degree of proficiency in riding and horse management for his/her rating level, as well as good sportsmanship. Donated by Susan Baizley, an ODR supporter and Dressage enthusiast, in an effort to promote interest in the sport of Dressage. .

The Claytor Perpetual Quadrille Trophy- donated by Alice Buchanan in honor of Kim Claytor, the founder of the first Hunt Pony Club Quadrille team. This trophy is awarded to the Quadrille team with the best Overall Score, including Horse Management.

Eventing: The Bierman Challenge Cup for Excellence in Eventing – Donated by Frank Beirman former Operations Manager of the VHC and long time supporter of pony club, this perpetual trophy is awarded each year to the Training Level Competitor who completes the cross country course with no jumping or time penalties, coming closest to the optimal time with no signs of a stressed mount and an acceptable

Old Dominion Region Parent Rally Guide

recovery rate as indication of the mounts overall condition. If there should be no Training Level Competitors this trophy will be awarded to the Novice Level competitor who meets these criteria.

The Dorothy Renfro Horse Management Trophy – This trophy was donated to the region by Chris Vance, Caroline Spangler and Beverly Renfro in loving memory of Dorothy B. Renfro, the founding Regional Supervisor of the Old Dominion Region. The trophy is awarded at the Old Dominion Region Qualifying Eventing Rally to the Stable Manager of the team placing first in Horse Management.

Show Jumping:

Dancing Weather Memorial Equitation Trophy - This trophy is **awarded** each year at the Old Dominion Region Show Jumping Rally to the rider in the qualifying divisions who exhibits outstanding skills in position (equitation), control and horsemanship. This trophy was generously donated by the Paul Reistrup family in loving memory of Dancing Weather, their beloved show jumper who took Gordon and Catherine to many pony club Show Jumping Rallies and Championships.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to the success of a rally. Volunteers are used to fill the many jobs that must be completed to keep a rally running forward to completion in an organized and efficient manner. Parents and other adults that do not have an "official" rally job are expected to sign up to fill one or more of the jobs that are listed in the rally entry packet. The rally entry packet specifies the expected number of Volunteers per team or per individual competitor entered to scramble. Not all volunteers need to be horse "savvy" with many of the jobs requiring common sense and the ability to follow simple directions.

If for any reason a person is unable to fill their Volunteer job it is that person's responsibility to make this known to the Rally Volunteer Coordinator and to get someone to fill that job in their place.

Following are some, but not all, of the typical jobs that need to be filled at a rally:

JOB	RALLY	NOTES
Announcer	Dressage, Eventing, Show Jumping	
Scorer & Assistant	All Rallies Quiz has a scorer in each Classroom & Barn	Ability to use calculator or electronic scoring program
Runners	All	Pick up score sheets from Judges and bring to rally scorers
Scribes	All except Quiz	Sits with the judge and writes comments of the judge or scores; Also used by HM Judges during the Formal Turnout inspections.
Gate Keeper/Ring Steward	All Mounted Rallies	1 needed at each competition riding area. Very important to keeping the rally moving on time. This person will send a rider into the ring and make sure the next rider is present and ready to ride. They open and close gates for the riders.
Warm up Steward	All Rallies except Quiz	Similar to the Gate Keeper. Tells competitors when it is time to leave warm up and move to competition ring.
Jump/Ring Crew	Dressage, Eventing, Games, Show Jumping	Responsible for making changes to the ring as may be indicated - remove jumps, raise height of fences, add or take away games equipment, shorten/lengthen Dressage arena
Time Keepers	All Rallies	Ability to operate a stop watch; Different elements of what is being timed depending on the discipline. Usually have 2 timers.
Line/Lane Judges	Games	Watches their respective lane/line to make sure handoffs are proper and that competitor does not cross into other competitors area,

Old Dominion Region Parent Rally Guide

		who crosses finish line first.
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**Rally
Volunteer
Continued**

JOB	RALLY	NOTES
Jump Judges	"D" Rally; Eventing Rally	Stationed on cross country course to observe a fence or fences to be sure that rider clears fence w/o refusal or fall.
Mega Room Table Monitor	Quiz	Do not have to be knowledgeable on the subject of the table; Read instructions to competitors. Do not judge.
Room Steward	Quiz	Assists in maintaining the decorum necessary for a fair Quiz competition in the assigned phase
Stations Table Judge	Quiz	The Table Judges do not necessarily need to be knowledgeable in the area in which they are officiating. The Table Judge will read the instructions and point level of its station at the beginning of each round. They do not have the authority to judge the correctness of answers but instead will grade the answers against an answer key. A Table Judge will not officiate in any area in which any member of his/her family is competing.

Jobs

HAPPY RALLYING

Don't hesitate to ask your DC, Center Administrator or a more experienced pony club member and family if you have questions. Remember, we were all "green" once.