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## May 2014 VRPC News

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### New 2014 Horse Management Handbook

The new [2014 Horse Management Handbook](#) is now available! This version of the HM Handbook takes effect May 1st. For more info on rule changes, check out the [HM Summary Webinar](#).

### 2014 VRPC Calendar

The 2014 VRPC Calendar is available on [the VRPC website](#).

### Greetings from the RS

It's May and we are still talking about the awful weather! Thankfully the weather has been great on the weekends, allowing us to hold our Pony Club events!

Thank you to our friends at Difficult Run Pony Club for organizing and hosting our Horseless Rally. Pam Kadlubek and her crew did a terrific job of making this rally a fun learning experience for our kids. And, a big thanks to MOCPC for allowing us to use Glenwood Park for this event!

On the same day in early April, the region hosted a Show Jump Clinic at Turner Farm, with clinician Dan Kelly. We had a great turnout for the clinic with 23 kids participating. Thank you to our RIC, Vicki Fox for coordinating this effort.

Thank you to Jennifer Carpenter and her supporters at CWPC, for continuing to offer Polocrosse and Games clinics throughout April. These clinics have been a wonderful opportunity for members to prepare for participation in the multi-regional Polocrosse Rally, hosted by the Potomac Pony Club, June 7th. For more information on Games and Polocrosse opportunities, please contact Jennifer at [cwpcdc@gmail.com](mailto:cwpcdc@gmail.com).

We have so many wonderful activities coming in May and June, culminating with Championships in July in Lexington, Kentucky! I am so excited about the upcoming qualifying rallies - Show Jumping followed by Dressage. In June we will hold our Eventing Rally at Glenwood Park, along with a celebration of our 60th year as members of the United States Pony Clubs! We hope to see many Pony Club alums and families there!

As the rally season gears up, I ask that DCs and CAs please stay on top of memberships to ensure our rosters are correct and updated. We use the VRPC Roster to verify membership and certification for rallies, clinics and national testings.

I look forward to seeing you all in Manakin-Sabot, Virginia on Mother's Day weekend for Show Jump Rally!

### Wise Words From Moose Man...

***Ways to reduce your HM score***

by Brian Smith

Note that dates are subject to change. Please check back often for updates.

## May 2014 Calendar

### Sat May 3

H-B Certification Testing @  
Morningside Training Farm  
The Plains, VA

### Sat & Sun

#### May 10 & 11

Show Jumping Rally @ Deep Run  
Hunt Club  
Manakin-Sabot, VA

### Sun May 18

Combined Test @ Old Dominion  
Hounds, Windsor Lodge Farm  
Flint Hill, VA

### Sat & Sun

#### May 24 & 25

Dressage Rally @ Morven Park  
Equestrian Center  
Leesburg, VA

### Sat May 31

Cross Country Clinic @  
Gordonsdale XC Schooling  
Course  
Berryville, VA

## June 2014 Calendar

### Sat June 7

Multi Region Polocrosse Rally @  
Potomac Polo Field  
Boyd, MD

### Sat June 14

VRPC 60th Anniversary Celebration  
@ Glenwood Park Middleburg, VA

### Sat & Sun

#### June 14 & 15

Qualifying Eventing Rally @  
Glenwood Park  
Middleburg, VA

### Sat June 28

D-3 Eventing Rally @ Windsor Lodge  
Farm  
Flint Hill, VA

In Pony Club Horse Management, scoring is like playing golf... you want a low score.

### First things first: Read the discipline and the Horse Management rulebooks.

Knowing the rules is your best defense for avoiding points in the first place and getting them back in inquiries/protests. This is **ESPECIALLY true this year**

with the new HM Rulebook just having come out. Make sure the HM staff is up on the new rules. The rulebooks look kinda thick, but much of that is for officials, etc. and you can breeze thru most of it.

### Second: Know the inquiry and protest procedures. HM

**Rulebook HM 17.** Do not miss the inquiry period. You only have 30 minutes from when the scores are posted. Drop by the HM office on your way to the ring to see if scores will be posted soon. If you get a point and honestly feel you should not be getting the point, do not be afraid to inquire it. Chiefs **LOVE** to talk to competitors. Do not inquire every point. Chiefs do not love to talk **THAT** much. A goal of Pony Club and HM is to teach the members to not be afraid to talk to "authority figures". Go in with a smile on your face and a good attitude and explain your side. If there is not a rule about it, you should not be getting a point!



**Third: Watch each other's backs. Check the stable area before** you leave and at intervals during the day. Stall doors closed? Halters hung up? Stuff left out? Stalls clean? Water buckets clean and full? Muck left in a barrow? Yuck! Is your competitor number on the stall card?

### Fourth: Have a good attitude even if the going gets rough.

**Pull** together. Teamwork! Support each other, and help other teams that may be struggling. We love to see teamwork!

### Fifth: Do not be afraid to ask HM's opinion. If you get an

opinion that something is OK from an HM, you cannot be given

a point for it.

**Turnout** - Do not be late! Before turnout, run your hands all over every inch of your pony. This is what HM judges will do at turnout. If you do not feel any dirt, we will not either. Just before, pick feet, and wipe eyes, nose and dock. Read your section of the turnout sheet (HM Form Appendix D-5a, b, c as appropriate) and see what the requirements are for your rating level.

### Tackrooms - Sometimes

USPC Horse Management Required Equipment Check	
<small>Blue</small> <small>Blue</small>	<small>(worksheet)</small> Appendix D-2
<small>All items labeled correctly.</small> <small>Items checked on HM App D-1 "Stall (p. 8, Safety)"</small> <small>Items checked at Turnout Inspection &amp; Safety Checks.</small> <small>Items for the clean barn will be given on the 1st.</small>	
Team/Rider Name:	Numbers: <input type="text"/>

**Sun June 29**  
 Champs Prep Picnic  
 Location TBD

**July 2014  
 Calendar**

**Mon July 14 thru  
 Fri July 18**  
 USPC Championships  
 Kentucky Horse Park  
 Lexington, KY

**Sat July 19 thru  
 Mon July 21**  
 USPC Festival  
 Kentucky Horse Park  
 Lexington, KY

**August 2014  
 Calendar**

**Sun Aug 3**  
 MOCPC Combined Test @ Glenwood  
 Park  
 Middleburg, VA

**Fri Aug 8 thru  
 Sun Aug 10**  
 USPC National Testing C-3 thru A  
 Glenwood Park  
 Middleburg, VA

**Sat & Sun  
 Aug 30 & 31**  
 LHPC Horse Trials @  
 Oatlands Plantation  
 Leesburg, VA

**Show Jumping Rally Primer**

Are you signed up for Show Jumping Rally May 10-11 at Deep Run Hunt Club in Richmond, VA? If so, make sure you read Karen Nutt & Amy Brown's excellent article in this newsletter's April edition. You can download all of the prior newsletters from [the VRPC website](#).

**ODHPC Combined Test May 18th**

Old Dominion Hounds Pony Club Combined Test is scheduled for

they will be a **work** in progress, but we hope there does not come to be a pattern of messiness. Tidy up before you head to lunch or leave the grounds. Empty your garbage can at night.

**Required Equipment** - Do NOT trust mom to check the kits. Mom will not be given the points. You will! Does everything in all the kits have to be labeled? Hint... check in the new rulebook!

**Feedrooms - Close the feed room door!**

USPC HORSE MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK & RULES FOR RALLIES		
*All items labeled correctly. **Items checked on HM App. D-7 "Use Up & Suck" ***Items checked on Constant Contact & Safety Checks. No scores for these items will be given on the day. - Judges: If a score on the application for a specific competition, record that score; otherwise, attribute 0 to the item as a whole.		
Team/Rider Name: _____		Judge(s): _____
Numbers: _____		
<b>Grooming Kits</b>	<b>Human First Aid Kit</b>	<b>Equine First Aid Kit</b>
per person <input type="checkbox"/> Rider Numbers <input type="checkbox"/> Head Pick <input type="checkbox"/> Curry Comb (rubber or plastic, capable of cleaning brushes) <input type="checkbox"/> Gandy Brush (feet included) <input type="checkbox"/> Body Brush (soft bristles) <input type="checkbox"/> Rub Rag <input type="checkbox"/> Wet Wipes or 2 Sponges (labeled "Dock & Face") <input type="checkbox"/> Saddle Soap <input type="checkbox"/> Sponges <input type="checkbox"/> Wash Bucket (labeled "Wash Only")	per team * all priced up to date 1 extra Medical Aids with blank USPC Medical Card Band-Aids Triple Antibiotic Cream, exp? 3 Pair Synthetic Protective Gloves Sunscreen Bug Spray (human) <b>Tack Room Equipment</b> per team Team/Individual Identification (labeled at entrance) Flashlight (hung by entrance) Charged Fire Extinguisher Type A or ABC (hung by entrance) Notice Board Trash Container USPC HM Handbook & Rules for Rallies - Part 1, all Appendices & Newsletter (current & complete) Complete Rulebook, all Appendices & Newsletter (current & complete) Boot Hooks (if all boots are used) Tack Cleaning Kit per team Ordinary Bar Soap Tack Oil or Conditioner Saddle Soap or Leather Cleaner Malt Polish Tack Sponges Cleaning Cloths Pel Cleaning Hoop Drying Basket for Sponges Boot Polishing Kit (if leather boots are used)	per team, with reserve all priced up to date current Petroleum Jelly Digital Thermometer (or Veterinary Thermometer) (hang & Clip) Liniment or Body Wash Iodophor Alcohol Antiseptic or Antiseptical or Antiseptic Scrub Topical Antibiotic or Antimicrobial or Antibiotic Agent, exp? 4* Sterile Wound Dressing 1 roll Gauze (2" min. width) 2 Plastic Sheets Adhesive/Cohesive Bandages 1 1/2 roll 1/2" Absorbent Cotton Bandage Rollers (capsule of cutting bandage) 1 roll Adhesive Tape (1" minimum width) 4 Leg Bandages with appropriate padding for 4 Stable Wraps <b>Extra Equipment</b> per team saddle pads or all team members 2 extra Lead Ropes, one with Chain Strap Halter(s) (adjustable) Complete (Bridles) with Bits (optional) Pair(s) Strip-up Leathers & Irons 3 Rubber Bands & Leather Ties for Peacock Irons (if Peacock Irons are used) <b>Cleaning Equipment</b> per team Mallet or Fork or Shovel Rake or Broom Manure Bucket or Wheelbarrow <b>Extra Polycrosses Equipment</b> per team For Polycrosses Only Schemmover Pliers Sissors Jacks (capable of cutting rope) Leather Punch Thumbtacks Dust Tape 2 Pony Club Pins
<b>Individual Equipment</b>	<b>Feeding Equipment</b>	<b>Utility Kit</b>
per competitor <input type="checkbox"/> Rider Numbers <input type="checkbox"/> Saddle Racks <input type="checkbox"/> Saddle Racks (one per bridle) <input type="checkbox"/> Boot Traces for all leather boots (exp & ties) <input type="checkbox"/> Stall Card <input type="checkbox"/> Water Bucket(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Brass/Alloy Halter <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Rope <input type="checkbox"/> **Any necessary tack & attire	per team, unless noted Tack Room/Tables Only <input type="checkbox"/> per team, unless noted <input type="checkbox"/> Feed Charts * <input type="checkbox"/> Feed Misters (one package made or home or soap-like) <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Feed Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Duty Feed Tins <input type="checkbox"/> Top Off Bucket <input type="checkbox"/> (Wet & salt water able at night, store in tack or feed room (dry, labeled)) <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Block (one on Feed Chart if none salt is used)	per team Hammer Nails Schemmover Pliers Sissors Jacks (capable of cutting rope) Leather Punch Thumbtacks Dust Tape 2 Pony Club Pins
Comments: _____ M-18-14-1 - Rev. Jan 2017 2013 - USPC Horse Management Handbook & Rules for Rallies - 81 Maximum Points: 30 Total Points: _____		

[Horse Management Forms & Information can be found on the USPC website at [www.ponyclub.org/?page=HMForms](http://www.ponyclub.org/?page=HMForms)]

**Preparing for Dressage by Allison Spivey**

One of the most crucial decisions in preparing for a successful show or rally is to be sure that you have chosen the correct test for you and your horse. It is easy to be lured into being optimistic about where you and your horse will be two months from now, but a horse show/rally can be much more fun and relaxing when you are riding at a level that is well within your comfort zone.



The first thing that I ask myself is, "what movements do I do well right now?" This is a critical first question. A horse show is only going to be busier and more distracting than when you ride at home. Both you and your horse may also be more stressed than your normally are. You can relieve some of that stress by showing at a level that you can do well, even on your worst days. This often means showing the level below the movements you are currently schooling at home. For example, if I am starting to work on shoulder-in, but my leg yields are



Sunday May 18th, at Windsor Lodge Farm, 51 Windsor Lodge Lane, Flint Hill, Va. 22627 starting at 9.00 am.

Divisions include regular and jumping derby combined tests at Poles on the Ground (Leadline), first timers, elementary, beginner novice and novice levels and dressage test of choice. Great show for green horses and riders or anyone wanting to have a relaxed fun time with their horse.

Closing date is Saturday May 10th. Entry form and information can be downloaded from [Old Dominion Pony Club](#) go to horse show tab. Questions to [horsenhound1@msn.com](mailto:horsenhound1@msn.com). or call Sheila 540-675-1650 10am-5pm.

## VRPC in the Ether

Do you have a FaceBook account? If so, please "Like" our FaceBook page ([www.facebook.com/VirginiaRegion](http://www.facebook.com/VirginiaRegion)). We post rally photos, notices of store discounts, alumni happenings, news items and much more on our FaceBook page.

Do you Tweet? If so, please "Follow Us" on Twitter (@vrponyclub). We're just starting to develop our Twitter feed. We'll be tweeting more once our rally season begins in earnest.

Do you know what you can find on our website? We maintain a healthy classified section of horses and ponies for sale or lease, trailers, stall availability, and tack. Our calendar contains all of our activities with invitations and other documents attached in each calendar entry. The "Our Region" section contains a list of contact information for all Officers and clubs/centers. There's lots more too so check it out at [www.vrponyclub.org](http://www.vrponyclub.org).

always good; I will show at First Level instead of Second Level. Once I have determined which movements my horse and I do well consistently, I then ask myself can I do all of the movements of the test while maintaining the objective of the test.

The purpose of each test is listed at the top of the test sheet. For example, Training Level Test 2's purpose reads: "to confirm that the horse is supple and moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit." This means that throughout the entire test your horse should maintain this, and it will be reflected in every test movement as well as in the collective marks. Each test's purpose gets increasingly difficult as both the level, and the sequence of the test increases. Therefore, generally Test 3 of a level is going to be more difficult than Test 1, but sometimes, different movements in each test will better show your horse.

Once you have confirmed that you can not only successfully complete the movements of a test, but can maintain that test's purpose, it is time to decide which tests you are going to ride. However, the one exception to this is when you are trying to qualify for a championship.



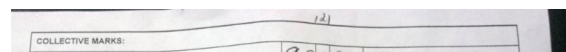
Generally, there is either a specific test, or a specific set of tests that you need to ride in order to qualify. But, if you get to choose your test, pick the tests that show your horse's best movements or minimize your horse's weaknesses. For example, Training Level Test 3 has long canters down the long side (and across the diagonal to X). If I have a horse that tends to build the size of its canter as I go down the long side, I may choose to ride Training Level Test 2, which has a transition on the long side, versus Training Level Test 3 that has a long canter that can make my horse harder to package.

The last thing I do before I finalize my entry is to ride through each test that I am planning on showing from start to finish. This helps make sure that it suits my horse as well as I think it does, and that there are no surprises about movements coming up too quickly. This can also serve as a basis for further preparations for the horse show.

I very rarely ride a test more than once or twice in its entirety prior to a show. Instead, I break down the test, piece by piece. For example, I make sure that I know exactly, how big a 20 m circle is and where in the arena I need to touch when making it. I will practice this figure at many different points in the arena, not just where it is required in the show ring. In addition to making accurate figures it is important to have transitions precisely at a letter. This also takes practice.

Be sure you know exactly when you should start preparing for transition. For example, some horses will instantly do a downward transition while others will need three or four half halts before the transition happens. You may need to do the transition several times to get the timing exactly correct.

About two weeks prior



to the competition I will have a dress rehearsal. I practice the exact warm up I will do at the horse show and then ride the test in its entirety (while being videotaped) . Running the dress rehearsal allows me to make sure my warm up is adequate for preparing for the test (that its not too short or too long), ensures that I have memorized the test well in advance (this makes show day much less stressful), and makes sure that the test is well prepared and that there are no additional trouble spots.

COLLECTIVE MARKS:			
GAITS (freedom and regularity)	9.0	1	9.0
IMPULSION (desire to move forward, elasticity of the steps, suppleness of the back, engagement of the hindquarters)	6.5	2	13.0
SUBMISSION (attention and confidence, lightness and ease of movements, acceptance of the bridle, lightness of the forehand)	8.0	2	16.0
RIDER'S position and seat	7.0	1	7.0
RIDER'S correct and effective use of the aids	8.0	1	8.0
HARMONY between rider and horse	8.0	1	8.0
FURTHER REMARKS:			183.0
Subtotal:			183.0
Errors:			( )
Total Points:			183.0
			(Max: 240)

*Great job!  
work on cauter  
traces. to stay  
connected.*

Lastly, by watching the video of the dress rehearsal you can see the test through the judge's eyes. Following all of these steps in choosing and perfecting your dressage tests will help make for a smooth and successful show day.

## VRPC Turns 60!

We're inviting all VRPC alumni and USPC alumni who now live in Virginia to join us during our Eventing Rally to celebrate our 60th birthday! We'll enjoy celebrating with our current families and alumni, friends and supporters. Come join the fun, bring your friends and family and prospective members. If you'd like to help with the organization, please contact RS, Carolyn Lorenzen at [cslorenzen@aol.com](mailto:cslorenzen@aol.com).



If you can't join us on June 14<sup>th</sup>, we hope you'll join us on FaceBook (VirginiaRegion) or Twitter (@vrponyclub) and use our website (vrponyclub.org) to stay in touch.

## Blue Ridge Hunt Pony Club Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By Anne Williams



On April 24th, BRHPC and USPC turned 60. Our club welcomed members, alumni, friends and volunteers to a celebration of our anniversary on Saturday, April 26th at the Farnley Farm.

Guests ate lunch on tables set on the porch and on the front lawn of the house overlooking a breathtaking view of Clarke County. The tables were decorated with cut flowers from Farnley, horse and pony figurines, and a recipe of the infamous "Pony Club Cake" was placed at each setting. Iona Pillion baked the cake for the occasion as well. We are so very grateful to Mrs. Ables for providing the perfect venue for this event.

After a few words were spoken by DC Anne Williams thanking those in attendance, present members were given navy blue bags embroidered with the BRHPC logo and their name. Many photographs, both current and of pony club events of the past, were displayed on poster boards and cork boards. Three different BRHPC banners (including the one we use at rallies today) were hung as decorations.

It was a perfect day to relax and reminisce!

### **Cross Country Clinic May 31**

The VRPC is hosting a Cross-Country (XC) Clinic at Gordonsdale in Berryville, Virginia on Saturday, May 31. The XC Clinic format will be groups of four to six riders divided by competition level and experience for approximately 1 1/2 hour schooling sessions for Beginner Novice, Novice and Training levels.

Our clinician is Alyssa Peterson, Graduate A, from Marlborough Pony Club. Alyssa is an Advanced Level Eventer based out of Sharon White's Last Frontier Farm. Alyssa was a member of the 2009 Area II CCI\*\* NAYRC Silver Medal Team. If necessary, based on number of participants, we will add a clinician. The clinic fee is \$40 per rider/mount combination per session.

We regret that we are not able to do a Dressage fix-a-test this year.

To sign up for the XC Clinic, please contact Vicki Fox,

vfoxfamily@aol.com with your name, certification, and eventing level. Please include a copy of your coggins. Checks made payable to VRPC can be mailed to Vicki at 14140 Griffin Farm Lane, Leesburg, VA 20176 or you may pay online through the VRPC website.

Closing date for registration will be May 22nd and priority for the clinic will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Check out the invitation email for details!

## Champs Questions & Answers

### Q. What is "Champs" or "Championships"?

**A.** Think of it as a really BIG Rally with competitors from all over the country representing their regional pony clubs (versus regional rallies where they represent our home pony clubs). Members compete in seven of the current Pony Club disciplines (Dressage, Eventing, Mounted Games, Polocrosse, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, and Quiz). The Virginia Region gets to send one team for each discipline at each level. We haven't sent a Polocrosse team in recent history, but it looks like we might this year! Just like a regional rally, teams are scored on their own success as well as Horse Management.

### Q. What is "Festival"?

**A.** Typically held every three years, the Pony Club Festival is a week-long celebration of Pony Club that brings more than 4000 Pony Club members (and their families) from across the country. This year marks 60 years of Pony Club Excellence. Its purpose is to provide a National Championships competition combined with a unique educational learning experience. Please go the Pony Club Festival 2014 page (<http://www.ponyclub.org/?page=Festival>) to view and register for all the activities planned for Festival. Registration for Education opens May 1 and is NOT done through the region or your club. You should register early for the Festival activities as they can fill up quickly.

### Q. Where are Championships held?

**A.** Typically, every third year, Championships is held with the Pony Club "Festival" at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. 2014 is a Festival year so Champs will be in Lexington, Kentucky. On the "off" years, Champs East is typically held in Lexington, Virginia. Also, this year being held at the same time as Champs is the Adequan/FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (for details/schedule see <http://www.youngriders.org/>).



### Q. Who can compete?

**A.** Those wishing to compete at Championships will "qualify" in your home region's qualifying rallies. Check out the USPC website for qualifying information. You'll find qualifying details in each discipline's Rulebook and/or Annual Newsletter and in the USPC Gold Book. The Gold Book outlines all the basic qualifying information.



**Q. When is Championships?**

**A.** This year (2014) Championships is held Monday, July 14 - Friday, July 18. Festival runs July 19 - 21.

**Q. What is the "Gold Book"?**

**A.** The "Gold Book" is a publication put out by the National Pony Club Office with details regarding Championships.  
A link to the Gold Book can be found on the VRPC website.

**Q. What do I need to do to "Qualify" for Championships?**

**A.** The competitor must meet the following in order to compete at Championships:

- \* Correct discipline age as of January 1, 2014 and correct certification as of closing date of qualifying rally. Entrant must have competed in the qualifying rally at the certification required for that discipline and division.
- \* To be eligible to compete in Championships, all competitors must be in compliance with Club Member in Good Standing and Regional Active Participation Policies.
- \* B/H-A/A competitors (C-3 and up for Tet) are invited to compete with the permission of the RS.

**Q. How do I get on a Virginia Region team for Championships?**

**A.** There are several things you must do to be considered for a spot on a VRPC Team for Championships:

- \* First, you must meet the qualifying requirements set forth by USPC.
- \* Second, you must compete in a qualifying rally in the Virginia Region in the discipline you wish to compete in at Championships.
- \* Third, complete your "Intent to Compete" form on [the VRPC website](#) and be sure to turn in all of your entry paperwork by the VA Region closing date (6/16/14 for all disciplines except dressage quadrille).
- \* Finally, you can check your qualification on the VRPC website. Your "place" in which you qualify at the Regional Rally determines your placement on a VRPC team. For example, if you qualified 5th in your discipline and division, behind four other people, you will have to wait to see if those four others intend to compete at Championships. Competitors that placed higher than you, get right of first refusal for the spots on the teams. All is not lost if they decide to compete however! There is a chance that you could be placed on a scramble team, or that we might be able to petition to take an additional team. As it is we get one team, per discipline, per division. In recent VRPC history, everyone that wanted to compete at Championships and qualified was able to complete.

**Q. Can I qualify without participating in a rally?**

**A.** Every member must compete in a qualifying rally to attend Championships except B/H-A/A members (C-3 and up for Tetrathlon). If a member cannot attend a Virginia Region qualifying rally, they may request an exception from Virginia Region to attend another region's qualifying rally. Their DC/CA should request the exception from the RS via email, explaining the circumstances of the request. Members must have a valid reason for not attending the VRPC qualifying rally. (All must also satisfy any discipline specific requirements. For example, they must have qualifying affidavits for Eventing.) In the Virginia Region, the Championships team placement uses the following rubric:

1. VRPC members that qualified at a VRPC qualifying rally are chosen first.
2. Next, team members are added from qualifiers placing at any other region's qualifying rally.
3. Finally, team members are added from members who are not



required and choose not to attend any qualifying rally.

**Q. Are age and certification requirements negotiable?**

**A.** Each discipline has different requirements for eligibility. You can look at the "Gold Book" for the complete list broken out by discipline. The member must be the age listed as of January 1, 2014 and the certification as of the closing date of the qualifying rally. That said, the DC/CA has the ability to request an exception/exemption to the rule. If he/she believes (and the RS agrees) that the member/horse combination is safe and experienced to compete in that discipline at that level, a discipline appropriate exemption/exception form must be completed and sent by the RS to the Chair of the appropriate USPC Discipline Committee. Exceptions are infrequently requested and not encouraged. Age/certification exemptions will only be requested when the difference is minor and explainable.

**Q. Do I need to book a hotel room in Lexington, Kentucky?**

**A.** The VRPC has booked a block of rooms in Kentucky. Once you complete your Intent to Compete form, you will be instructed on how to complete your room reservation.

**Q. How much does it cost to go to Championships?**

**A.** Each Discipline has a different "fee". The fee paid to the Virginia Region, covers the USPC entry fee (including stabling and tack room), USPC Championship pin and USPC Championship T-shirt, VRPC admin costs, VRPC Championships Prep Day, VRPC Pizza Party while at Championships, VRPC trading pins, and coaching fees (where applicable). The fees DO NOT INCLUDE VRPC polo shirts (strongly recommended if you haven't been to champs in previous years), stall bedding, transportation, lodging, meals, horse feed, or USEA and USEF membership (required for some levels of Eventing). The coaching fees are based on an anticipated number of VRPC participants. This year's fees are listed on the Information Sheet on the VRPC website.



**Q. What is "Champs Prep Day"?**

**A.** "Champs Prep Day" is an unmounted event to familiarize competitors and their parents with Championships and their teammates. It's an opportunity to get to know others in the region and transform from our individual pony clubs into one Virginia Region Team! "Prep Day" is MANDATORY! It may only be waived with DC/CA & RS

permission. This year's Prep Day is Sunday, June 29th from 10am - 1pm.

**Q. Can my horse hitch a ride in another trailer?**

**A.** VRPC is working to get a commercial transport for horse trailering. Please use the Intent to Compete Form to indicate your interest in this option. If you'd like to hitch a ride for you or your horse, let us know and we can see what we can do!

**Q. What do we wear?**

**A.** VRPC prides itself on well turned out members as well as mounts: no booty shorts, bare midriffs or tube tops allowed! Barn and riding attire is dictated by each discipline and/or horse management. Please

consult your rulebooks for appropriate barn & riding attire. Sometimes jackets are waived, but don't count on it! Several white polo shirts are always good to have. Be prepared for all sorts of scenarios - rain, wind, heat, etc. Your VRPC polo shirts will be worn during horse inspections, opening ceremonies, and maybe awards ceremony depending on what your team decides.

**Q. What do we wear for jogs?**

**A.** This is an important topic! All Virginia Region members will dress in khaki pants and a clean, tucked-in VRPC polo shirt with a belt and clean paddock boots for jogs. We ask girls with long hair to wear their hair tied back or under their helmet. You should also always have a dressage whip in hand! Gloves look nice but are not required. Our region looks professional at jogs!



That's all for now!

**Sincerely,**

Carolyn Lorenzen, RS  
The Virginia Region Pony Clubs

## The Pony Club Pizza!

Check out USPC blog for members! It covers a wide range of topics, special events and special opportunities for members. Stop by the USPC blog site [USPC Blog The Pony Club Pizza](#).

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