

WILLAMETTE VALLEY PONY CLUB

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

Pony Club is a world wide, voluntary youth organization, founded eighty-five years ago to:

- Encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all kinds of sports connected with horses and riding.
- To provide instruction in riding and horsemanship, and to instill in members the proper care of their animals.
- To promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline.

Willamette Valley Pony Club is committed to providing a safe and fair environment for all members. Our first priority is the welfare of our Members and we are committed to providing an environment, which will allow participants to perform to their best ability, free from bullying and intimidation.

Willamette Valley Pony Club also has a duty to care for volunteers working with young people on behalf of the organization. The contribution of parents in this work is highly appreciated. As riding is a high-risk sport we appeal to parents to help us by observing the following rules:

- At all Pony Club activities, the District Commissioner is the person in charge. In his/her absence the Joint DC is in charge and may enlist the help of the Treasurer or Secretary if needed. If neither can attend, the District Commissioner will appoint an official representative who will be responsible for the activity.
- Only helmets **ASTM -SEI** approved are allowed for Pony Club activities. Helmets must be worn with chinstrap correctly fastened at all times when mounted. The helmet should fit the head firmly but comfortably. If a helmet suffers a severe blow, then it should be discarded and replaced.
- Body protectors must be worn for all cross country.
- Please check all tack for safety and fit regularly, paying particular attention to stitching and places where the leather is in regular contact with metal parts. Also, please check the length of the girth – there should be at least two spare holes above and one spare hole below on each side of the buckles. These are always checked at rallies and before club rides as a matter of course, but if found to be ill fitting or unsafe it may be that the member will not be able to ride.
- Parents are always welcome at all Pony Club activities but please stay 20 meters back while riding is in progress. Please do not distract and confuse your child by talking to them or attracting their attention in any way while they are in the care of their instructor. If a parent cannot attend a mounted or unmounted session please designate an adult who will be present, to be responsible for your child in the event of an accident.
- All points of discussion, queries, problems and suggestions should be brought directly to the District Commissioner. Instructors are briefed to refer parents to the District Commissioner, Joint DC, or acting official under all circumstances.
- At the end of a riding session all riders will dismount, run up their stirrups and await their instructor's directions. No one will ride after this time. This includes siblings and friends, etc.
- Only paid up members of the Pony Club, Instructors or nominated helpers may ride at Pony Club activities.

- At the finish of a rally (or finish time at camp), parents will assume responsibility of their children promptly as they are then officially the parent's responsibility. Pony Club history has shown this is one of the high-risk times for members and their ponies/horses.
- If you bring unmounted siblings, friends or relatives to a rally or club ride please ensure that they are properly supervised and where appropriate understand the above rules of safety.
- Be a role model for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, with officials and organizers.
- Encourage your child to abide by the rules of Pony Club. Teach your child that honest endeavor is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship.
- Always recognize the value and importance of the volunteers who provide sporting/recreational opportunities for your child. Do not publicly question the judgment or honesty of judges, stewards, instructors or other officials.
- Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive and bullying behavior in all its forms.

Parents Code of Conduct

1. I/We will respect the rules and procedures set down in USPC, the Oregon Region, and Willamette Valley Pony Club
2. I/We will respect club members, club officials, instructors, all officials and members throughout the USPC organization. I/We will encourage my child to treat other participants, instructors, volunteers, and officials with respect.
3. I/We will respect the officials and their authority during rallies, team or individual training, camp, competitions and at all Pony Club activities.
4. I/We will never demonstrate threatening or abusive behavior or use foul language.
5. I/We will respect and encourage my child to respect the rights and needs of all animals.

Names: (Parents/Guardians)

Signed:

Member's name:

Date: