

# The United States Pony Clubs, Standards of Proficiency

C-3—A Dressage



## Heights of Fences D to A for Eventing Levels:

Level	Height
D-2	18"
D-3	2'3"
C-1	2'9"
C-2	3'0"
C-3	3'3"
B	3'7"
A	3'9"

## Heights of Fences for Show Jumping Levels:

Level	Height
C-3	3'7" - 1.10m
B	3'9" - 1.15m
A	3'11" - 1.20m

## Dressage Specialty Levels:

C-3 = First Level  
B = Second Level  
A = Third Level

## Explanation of H-HM/H/H-A Levels:

H-HM = Candidate who passes all requirements of the H-A test and is also an H-B member  
H = Candidate who passes all requirements of the H-A test and is also a C-3 member  
H-A = Candidate who passes all requirements of the H-A test and is also a B member

**The D Levels** introduce the fun and challenge of riding, establishes the foundation of safe habits, daily care of mount, and related equipment. The D level Horse Management focuses on acquiring the knowledge and skills related to care and ground handling of the mount. The D level members may also learn and be evaluated on riding independently on the flat with control and maintaining a reasonably secure position at the walk, trot, and canter. In addition, the D level members may choose to learn and be evaluated while riding their mounts over low fences. All D certificates are awarded at the club/center level.

**The C-1 and C-2 Levels** learn to become active horsemen, to care independently for their mount and tack, and to understand the reasons for what they are doing with the mount while either mounted or unmounted. The C-1 and C-2 levels focus on the advancement and evaluation of Horse Management skills. For riding, the C levels show the development toward a secure, independent position and increase control and confidence in all phases of riding, flat, and/or over fences. The C-1 and C-2 certificates are awarded at the club/center level.

**The H-B to A Certifications** require a greater depth of knowledge and proficiency as members become competent, all-around horsemen, who are active, contributing members, participating in a variety of Pony Club activities. They are thoughtful leaders who set an example for all. Each of the national level certifications has a minimum age requirement.

**The H-B Certification** emphasizes Horse Management knowledge and skills that demonstrate an increased awareness, education, and competence in the care and handling of horses and in teaching the same skills to others. It reflects the theory and study as well as the practical aspects of unmounted Horse Management. The depth of knowledge is comparable to a high school curriculum. The minimum age for the H-B certification is 13 years old.

**The H-HM/H/H-A Certification** requires the knowledge, experience, and maturity to evaluate and care for a mount's needs efficiently and in a variety of circumstances. This certification uses methods to competently ground train horses and to teach riding and horse care to others. It reflects the theory and study as well as the practical aspects of un-

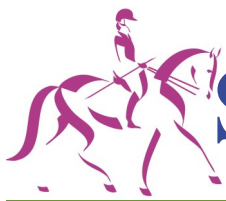
mounted Horse Management. The depth of knowledge is comparable to a college curriculum. The minimum age for the H-H-M/H/H-A certification is 16 years old.

**The C- 3 Certification** reflects a basis of competence in riding, ground schooling, and horse care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses. The certification has both demonstration and discussion components. It is the first of the riding certifications to evaluate a member's ability to transfer their riding skills from their own horse to an unknown horse. If the C-3 riding test is passed before the H-B, the member becomes a C+. The minimum age for the C-3 certification is 13 years old.

**The B Certification** requires further knowledge and proficiency in riding. The B is able to ride experienced mounts, both their own and others, with confidence and control. The B should be able to demonstrate and discuss riding and caring for another person's experienced mount and maintaining proper mental and physical condition without undoing any of the mount's education. The B understands the cause and explains, through supporting reasons, why the cause might exist. The minimum age for the B certification is 14 years old.

**The A Certification** is the highest riding certification. Riding with judgment, tact and effectiveness, the A is able to ride mounts at various levels of schooling, to train young mounts, and to retrain spoiled mounts. Discussing as a trainer, the A applies theory to practice to examine and evaluate the cause-effect relationships to support their reasons for the variety of training techniques demonstrated. The minimum age requirement to take the A certification is 16 years old.

**NOTE:** *Achieving a certification does not necessarily qualify the Pony Club member for competition in any horse sport, discipline, or activity. Further study and preparation for a particular activity, including working as a team member, is necessary.*



## THE C-3 STANDARD

### Riding Expectations

The candidate demonstrates an independent seat and progresses toward an independent hand with coordinated use of aids throughout the execution of USEF First Level movements and tests, riding over cavaletti/ground poles, and in the open. The candidate should show correct alignment, posture, and mechanics in sitting trot and canter, while maintaining a steady, elastic rein contact. The candidate should show effective aids to achieve active, energetic strides with suppleness, impulsion, balance, and thoroughness appropriate to USEF First Level. The candidate discusses and evaluates their own and switch rides in the context of the Training Scale and demonstrates an awareness of the relationship between their position on the mount's way of going and performance. The level of riding is in accordance with the USEF First Level directives. These expectations are applied to each block of the test.

### Presentation of Horse and Rider

- Attire to be correct for Dressage Rulebook. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC policy 0800.A) must be worn during turnout, riding and longeing. No inappropriate jewelry.
- Candidate should demonstrate effective presentation and control while standing facing and slightly to the side of, rather than directly in front of, the mount. The candidate will hold the reins, one in each hand, close to the bit. Thumbs should not be hooked into bit rings.
- Mount should be well-groomed, reflecting daily care, including ears, nose, eyes, dock, sheath or udder, mane and tail (no dandruff).
- Tack to be safe, clean, metal polished, reflecting consistent daily care. Horse must be presented in a snaffle bridle per current USEF rules for First/Second level.
- Discuss the purpose and correct fit of mount's equipment.

### Riding on the Flat

- Demonstrate warm-up, including movements from First Level tests. Trot work should progress from rising to sitting with the exception of a 20-meter circle which allows the horse to stretch forward and downward.
- Ride at all gaits without stirrups with a secure and independent seat.
- Discuss warm-up including: rhythm/tempo, suppleness/relaxation, contact/connection, impulsion, appropriate bend, balance, thoroughness, and straightness.

### Riding on the Flat—Test Ride

- Ride a USEF Dressage Test, either First Level Test 3 (current version) or Second Level Test of choice.
- Rider should demonstrate the directives of USEF First Level.
- Ride schooling figures to include:

- ◇ medium walk and free walk
- ◇ lengthen and shorten stride in trot and canter
- ◇ straight lines at each gait
- ◇ 10 and 20-meter circles at working trot sitting
- ◇ 15 and 20-meter canter circles
- ◇ change of canter leads through trot
- ◇ shallow loop in counter canter
- ◇ shoulder fore in walk or trot
- ◇ leg yields at walk and trot
- ◇ halt with immobility for 3 seconds (from the trot)
- ◇ 20-meter circle at the rising trot which allows the horse to stretch forward and downward
- Discuss performance according to the Training Scale.
- Discuss quality of transitions and quality and correctness of movements.
- Discuss mount's acceptance of aids, whether impulsion (thrust) in lengthening was shown.
- Discuss knowledge of aids for reinback.
- Discuss how to develop lateral suppleness, including bending exercises and lateral movements.
- Rider shows development of position, with correct alignment and symmetry.
- Rider shows development of independent and effective aids.

### Riding on the Flat—Switch Ride

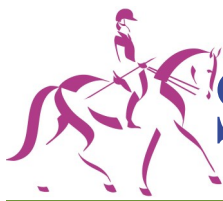
- Demonstrate ability to ride an unfamiliar mount creating active, energetic strides in correct tempo and showing acceptance of aids. Ride according to Riding Expectations, demonstrating confidence and control.
- Discuss performance using the directives of First level and the Training Scale, including ways in which the mount differed from own mount.

### Training

- Discuss performance with Examiner according to the Training Scale.
- Discuss quality of transitions and quality and correctness of movements.
- Discuss mount's acceptance of aids, whether impulsion (thrust) in lengthening was shown.
- Discuss how to develop lateral suppleness including bending exercises and lateral movements.
- Riders may be asked to repeat movements previously shown.

### Riding in the Open

- Ride in the open in a manner to build confidence of mount, showing ability to direct its energy toward a positive experience.
- Choose 1-2 exercises in the open to benefit mount's training or condition. Discuss choice of exercises.
- Critique ride and discuss importance of riding in the open for the Dressage horse.



# The United States Pony Clubs, Standards of Proficiency

C-3—A Dressage



## Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Discuss purpose of ground poles and cavaletti in the training and warm-up of the horse and rider.
- Discuss the use and benefits of raised cavaletti and cavaletti on a curved/bending line.
- Set 1-2 cavaletti exercises. Explain the choice of exercises to include spacing and placement of cavaletti.
- Ride own mount through chosen 1-2 cavaletti or ground pole exercises at the walk and trot, showing improvement in the mount's balance and suppleness.
- Discuss performance, including success of exercises chosen to improve mount's balance and suppleness.

## Longeing

- Supervision is required in the testing of longeing.
- Demonstrate proper fit and use of equipment, including snaffle bit (attached to bridle or cavesson), saddle or surcingle, and side reins or training equipment found in the H-B—A Manual.
- Longe own mount, demonstrating safe longeing techniques. Longeing should reflect "riding horse from the ground" with effectiveness of voice, body position, and equipment.
- Demonstrate the walk, trot and/or canter on a 15-20 meter circle, establishing rhythmic, balanced, and energetic gaits with smooth transitions, and a consistent tempo.
- A Candidate who currently holds a certification at his/her same level on a different track must demonstrate longeing for Dressage (lateral move).

## Bandaging

- Present a shipping and stable bandage. Discuss purpose and dangers involved with shipping and stable bandages.
- Apply a hoof abscess bandage under supervision.

## THE B STANDARD

### Riding Expectations

**The candidate demonstrates an independent seat and hand throughout the execution of USEF Second Level movements, over ground poles and/or cavaletti, and with confidence in the open. Candidates should show correct alignment, stability, and elasticity in their position, and be able to stay centered in lateral movements while demonstrating appropriate angle and bend. The candidate shall ride with the collection and throughness appropriate to USEF Second Level, with the horse reliably on the bit and moving in an uphill tendency. The candidate should demonstrate all of the components of the Training Scale and, through the correct application of the rider's aids, be able to demonstrate a greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, throughness, balance, and self-carriage. The candidate should be confident in identifying and assessing evasions/resistances on their own and switch mount and maintain the qualities of the Training Scale. The candidate discusses and evaluates all rides within the framework of the Training Scale. The candidate should**

**show a clear awareness of their position and mechanics on all mounts. The level of riding is in accordance with the USEF Second Level directives. These expectations are applied to each block of the test.**

## Riding on the Flat

- Demonstrate warm-up for work on the flat, including movements from Second Level tests.
- Demonstrate accurate and smooth transitions, correct use of aids, regularity of gaits, lengthening and shortening of frame, balance, self-carriage, and collection appropriate to level. Trot work should progress from rising to sitting.
- Ride at all gaits without stirrups with a secure and independent seat.
- Discuss reasons for and results of warm-up of mount.
- Discuss warm-up including: rhythm/tempo, suppleness/relaxation, contact/connection, impulsion, balance, engagement, collection, and throughness.

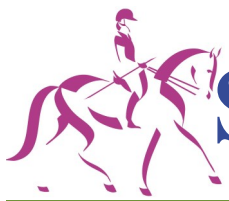
## Riding on the Flat—Test Ride

- Ride a USEF Dressage test, either Second Level, Test 3 (current version), or Third Level Test of choice. (Second Level test must be presented in a snaffle; Third Level test may be presented in a snaffle or double bridle.)
- Rider should demonstrate the directives of USEF Second Level.
- Ride schooling figures to include:
  - ◇ medium and free walks
  - ◇ collected and medium trot and canter
  - ◇ 10 meter circles at the trot and canter
  - ◇ simple change of lead (through the walk)
  - ◇ counter canter
  - ◇ half-turn on the haunches from the walk
  - ◇ shoulder fore
  - ◇ leg yield
  - ◇ shoulder in, haunches in (travers),
  - ◇ halt with immobility for 5 seconds from the trot
  - ◇ reinback three to four steps
- Evaluate and discuss performance according to the Training Scale, including strong and weak points and level of training of the mount being ridden.
- Rider shows position with correct alignment and symmetry.
- Rider shows independent and effective aids.

## Riding on the Flat—Switch Ride

- Demonstrate ability to ride unfamiliar mount showing confidence and control while demonstrating Riding Expectations and elements of the Training Scale appropriate to the level of the horse.
- Discuss performance using the directives of Second Level and the Training Scale.





# The United States Pony Clubs, Standards of Proficiency

C-3—A Dressage



## Training

- Discuss how rider's position affects the biomechanics of the mount's movements.
- Discuss how to put the mount "on the aids." Discuss the terms connection, throughness, engagement, and collection.
- Discuss the difference between medium and lengthening within the gaits, and lateral and longitudinal suppleness.

## Riding in the Open

- Ride in the open in a manner to build confidence of mount, showing ability to direct its energy toward a positive experience. Show exercises (using varied terrain if available) to improve the mount's mental and physical development.
- Critique ride and discuss exercises chosen and their effects.

## Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Discuss the use of cavaletti to improve collected and medium gaits.
- Set 2-3 cavaletti exercises. Explain choice of exercises to include spacing and placement of cavaletti. Discuss choice as to when cavaletti exercises will be performed (in test warm up or in training period) in the context of what works best for own mount.
- Ride own mount through chosen cavaletti or ground pole exercises at the walk and trot (canter optional), improving the balance, suppleness, elasticity and strength needed for collected and medium gaits.
- Discuss performance, including success of exercises chosen.

## Longeing

- Discuss how to teach a mount to longe.
- Discuss benefits of longeing the mount. Discuss safety precautions that should be considered when longeing.
- Discuss benefits of and safety precautions for longeing a rider. Demonstrate proper fit and use of equipment, including snaffle bit (attached to bridle or cavesson), saddle or surcingle, and side reins or training equipment found in the H-B—A Manual.
- Longe own mount, demonstrating safe longeing techniques. Longeing should reflect "riding horse from the ground" with effectiveness of voice, body position, and equipment.
- Demonstrate the walk, trot and canter on a 20 meter circle, establishing rhythmic, balanced, and energetic gaits, and improvement in lateral and longitudinal suppleness.
- A Candidate who currently holds a certification at his/her same level on a different track must demonstrate Dressage longeing (lateral move).

## Bandaging

- Present a stable and a tail bandage (shipping or grooming).
- Present one of the following bandages: ice, poultice, sweat. Discuss materials used and dangers of chosen bandage.

## THE A STANDARD

### Riding Expectations

**The candidate demonstrates an independent seat and hand, showing the ability to ride with increased engagement and clear, well-defined transitions between collected, medium, and extended gaits as required at the USEF Third Level. Riding with tact, confidence, and security, the candidate should ride reliably on the bit, demonstrating a greater degree of self-carriage, straightness, throughness, suppleness, balance, and bend. Utilizing an extensive "tool box" of schooling techniques, the candidate must accurately assess and advance the training of a wide variety of mounts at various stages of training, demonstrating a confident, consistent, and effective performance on each. All rides should be discussed in the context of the Training Scale, USEF directives, current training/weaknesses/strengths of the mount and plans for improvement. Cavaletti and riding in the open should be used to enhance mount's gaits, impulsion, straightness, and/or collection. The candidate must show self-awareness of how their aids, independence, position, connection, and elasticity affect the mechanics of required movements and either positively or negatively affect the horse's quality of gaits, movement, and performance. The level of riding is in accordance with the USEF Third Level directives. These expectations are applied to each block of the test.**

### Riding on the Flat

- Demonstrate efficient warm-up appropriate for the level, including movements from Third Level tests. Perform exercises to improve each mount's rhythm, engagement, energy, elasticity/relaxation, connection (on the aids with correct contact), impulsion, straightness, and collection.
- Ride at all gaits without stirrups with a secure and independent seat.
- Discuss reasons for and results of warm-up of ridden mount.
- Discuss warm-up including: rhythm/tempo, suppleness/relaxation, contact/connection, impulsion, balance, engagement, collection, and throughness.

### Riding on the Flat—Test Ride

- Ride a USEF Dressage test at Third Level Test 3 (current version) or above.
- Rider should demonstrate the directives of USEF Third Level.



- Ride schooling figures to include:
  - ◇ free, medium and extended walk
  - ◇ collected, medium, and extended trot
  - ◇ collected, medium and extended canter
  - ◇ 10-meter trot and canter circles
  - ◇ 20-meter circle at canter with clear release of reins 4-5 strides.
  - ◇ shoulder-in, travers (haunches in), renvers (haunches out) in trot
  - ◇ half pass at the trot and canter
  - ◇ half-turn on the haunches
  - ◇ counter canter
  - ◇ flying changes
  - ◇ halt from the collected trot
  - ◇ reinback 4 steps
  - ◇ movements from higher levels may be used for gymnastic value at the discretion of the candidate
- Critique ride according to the Training Scale, including strong and weak points and level of training of the mount being ridden.
- Rider shows position with correct alignment and symmetry.
- Rider shows independent and effective aids.

## Training the Schooled Horse

- Ride one or more assigned mounts: critique ride, according to the Training Scale, evaluating level of training of mount. At least one switch mount should be schooled to Second Level or above.
- Perform exercises to improve each mount's rhythm, engagement, energy, elasticity/relaxation, connection (on the aids with correct contact), impulsion, straightness, and collection.
- Assess and address evasions of all mounts and demonstrate/discuss short term and long term training plans to correct them.
- Demonstrate/discuss short term and long term training plans for each mount, including specific dressage figures and movements, use of cavaletti and work in the open.

## Training the Green Horse

- School an unfamiliar mount(s) trained to Second Level or above. Demonstrate setting and achievement of training goals within the ride. Critique ride(s), according to the Training Scale.
- Candidate must bring a less experienced horse (minimum of Training Level to be added to a "switch pool" in order to demonstrate training of a green horse. Candidates will warm up the green horses they provide (in front of the examiners) before the switch. Cavaletti may be used in the warm-up phase for the green horse, at the discretion of candidate.

- Assess and address evasions of all mounts and demonstrate/discuss short term and long term training plans to correct them.
- Demonstrate/discuss short term and long term training plans for each mount, including specific dressage figures and movements, use of cavaletti and work in the open.
- Candidate should demonstrate the correct fit of the double bridle. Discuss the application and use of the double bridle.
- Candidate may choose to demonstrate the use of the double bridle at their discretion on their own mount. Candidates should be prepared to use the double bridle on a switch horse.

## Riding in the Open

- Ride in the open in a manner to build confidence of mount, showing ability to direct its energy toward a positive experience. Show exercises (using varied terrain if available) to improve the mount's mental and physical development.
- Critique ride and discuss exercises chosen and their effects.
- Discuss the introduction of work in the open to a young horse.

## Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Discuss purpose of ground poles and cavaletti in the training of young and experienced horses.
- Set 2-4 cavaletti exercises. Explain the choice of exercises to include spacing and placement of cavaletti. Discuss choice as to when cavaletti exercises will be performed (in test warm up or in training period) in the context of what works best for own mount.
- Ride own mount through chosen cavaletti or ground pole exercises at the walk and trot (canter optional), improving the balance, suppleness, elasticity and strength needed for collected and extended gaits. Cavaletti should be integrated with movements as part of the gymnastic phase of the ride.
- Discuss performance, including success of exercises chosen, integration into work, effect on mount's mental and physical development, and progression of training in relation to the Training Scale.

## Information for Candidates

### Requirements for Candidates

- Be a Member in Good Standing as verified by your Regional Supervisor.
- Be at least 13 years of age by January 1st of the certification year for the H-B and C-3; 14 years of age for the H-B, and 16 years of age for the H-HM/H/H-A and A.
- Must have competed in one mounted rally (stable manager acceptable) any time prior to applying for an H-B or C-3 certification.
- H-HM/H/H-A only: candidate holds a current First Aid certification.
- Adhere to the USPC Code of Conduct at all times.

### Application Process

There is no waiting period between the H-B/C-3 through A certifications. All applications are required to be submitted by the application deadline.

Candidates may take the H-B or C-3 certification in whichever order they choose but must successfully complete all sections of the H-B and C-3 before taking the B certification.

Candidates may take the A and H-A test in any order.

An H-B member may take the H-HM/H/H-A certification without completing any national level riding certifications.

The National Testing Committee determines certification dates and locations in response to Regional requests. Candidates may apply for the date of their choice.

Information on testing dates, sites, and equipment needed may be obtained from: DC, CA, RS, USPC website or National Office.

All National Level Testing applications are filled out and submitted online with payment through the USPC website at [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org).

### Application Deadlines

See National Level Testing Calendar on USPC website at [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org).

Late applications (subject to a late fee) will be considered on a case by case basis by the National Office and National Testing Committee.

### Candidate Preparation

Candidates should do outside reading and independent study in an effort to expand knowledge and understanding of all aspects of horsemastership. For the appropriate testing level, this in-depth study should develop sophistication in riding, maturity in training a mount or rider, and flexibility to adapt to horsemastership techniques that vary according to geographic

area.

It is recommended that a candidate participate in a regional or inter-regional prep appropriate to the intended certification level. The participation does not indicate readiness to test nor assumes the standard has been met for any portion of the intended level. Preps offer practical experience in all requirements and offer an understanding of the level evaluated. Further independent study to cover areas not done at a prep is also beneficial.

*Verification of completion* of a First Aid course must be sent to [testing@ponyclub.org](mailto:testing@ponyclub.org) or mailed to the National Office 30 days prior to the test date.

The candidate's attitude and maturity is considered throughout the certification. Respect for other people and handling of the mount(s) are a direct reflection of the candidate's maturity level.

### Mounted Attire

**C-3 Dressage, Show Jumping, and Eventing,** refer to discipline rulebook for competition attire. Must also wear Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0800.A) must be worn during turnout, riding, and longeing. No inappropriate jewelry.

**B and A Dressage, Show Jumping, and Eventing- Rider** in safe, neat, clean attire: long hair neatly up or back in a hairnet, gloves optional, collared shirt with sleeves (e.g., polo style, turtleneck, dress shirt, or ratcatcher) and tucked in, breeches, belt (if belt loops), tall boots. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0800.A) must be worn during turnout, riding, and longeing. No inappropriate jewelry.

### General Testing Attire

**H-B and H-HM/H/H-A:** Member in safe, neat and clean attire: long hair neatly tied back, ball cap or sun hat permitted, gloves optional when working with horses, collared shirt with sleeves and tucked in, breeches, long pants, or shorts (mid-thigh or longer, no jeans, leggings, or pajama pants), belt (if belt loops), tall boots, paddock boots, or work style boots covering the ankle, Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet. No inappropriate jewelry,

*Presentation, Longeing, and Teaching Attire:* Member should dress in riding attire: breeches, belt (if belt loops), tall boots or paddock boots with smooth leather half chaps, a collared shirt, gloves, watch, a whip (longeing and presentation only), and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0800.A) must be worn during turnout, riding, and longeing.

### Presentation of the Mount for Turnout

Standards for turnout are indicated in the Standards of Proficiency and on each appropriate test sheet. Please refer, as well, to the Horse Management Handbook.

### Equipment

For the national level riding certifications, any saddlery and biting equipment must comply with the Horse Management General Rule on Saddlery and Biting and with the appropriate USPC discipline rules for Saddlery and Biting. Any discipline rule change following publication of the current Horse Management Handbook will supersede these rules.

### Appropriate Horse

USPC's commitment to safety for all horses and riders is paramount during a certification at any level.

Candidates may bring their own, borrowed, leased or rented mount(s) to a certification and retest. Organizers and regional personnel are not responsible for supplying riding mounts for certifications or retests. Candidates may bring more than one mount to use at a certification. The care of each mount at a certification is solely the candidate's responsibility.

For national level riding certifications, it is the responsibility of the candidate and his/ her parent(s) or guardian(s) to bring appropriate mount(s) to the certification. Properly conditioned mounts must be capable of the skills required by the certification level, to include standing for turnout evaluation, bandaging, and longeing.

For the riding sections, the mount(s) must be capable of completing the flat and jumping phases at the heights indicated at the appropriate levels. In addition, the mount(s) must also be available and suitable for change of riders during the appropriate section of the certification.

Failure to follow these guidelines will make it difficult for the candidate to meet the standards.

There are no candidate mount requirements for either the H-B or the H-HM/H/H-A certifications. Horses or ponies are provided for demonstration and evaluation.

### Information on Conducting a Certification

The testing shall be a constructive working session. The candidate shall be required to demonstrate and maintain adequate ability in performance and knowledge for the level and skill being evaluated.

The schedule will be determined by the National Examiners assigned to the test, who will consult with the Organizer on test site logistics.

Oral testing and/or demonstration are required for all parts of the horse management phase. Written tests are not allowed.

However, at the discretion of the Examiners, candidates may use their own writing and/or drawing to convey their answers during the questioning and/or discussion periods of the certification.

The Organizer must be present throughout the certification day(s). In addition, an Impartial Observer (I.O.) must be present throughout the certification. For consistency, it is preferable the I.O. be the same person throughout the duration (days) of the certification. The I.O. is neither involved in the testing program, involved with any candidate, nor related to any candidates in the testing, and is at least 25 years old.

### Retest Information

Candidates must have the recommendation of the original National Examiner panel. Those testing during the current year have until December 1st of the following year to complete their first retest attempt.

*If eligible to retest:* once the National Office has received your test sheets, your application will automatically populate in [My Tests](#). You will then have to complete the online retest application and submit a fee.

Retest of mounted, longeing, or teaching (H-B & H-HM/H/H-A) may take place no sooner than 30 days after the original test. Retest of "knowledge" blocks (H-B & H-HM/H/H-A) may take place no sooner than 1 week after the original test.

Check USPC retest procedures for more information on specific certification retest details.

### National Examiners

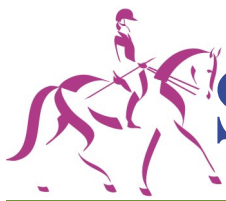
Please review the USPC National Examiners' Handbook for specific information about the criteria, selection, and expectations of Examiners.

The Chair(s) of the National Testing Committee determines and organizes the National Examiner panel for each national level certification.

The panel is comprised of no fewer than two National Examiners, with one individual (PIP) who acts as a leader for the panel in regards to testing matters.

National Examiners are selected with care and are completely knowledgeable of the Standards of Proficiency at the level(s) and skills they are testing, as well as the level(s) and skills above and below the one(s) they are evaluating. Each National Examiner is chosen only after a period of apprenticeship and with recommendations of other Examiners, USPC leaders, and/or equestrian professionals. They must attend regular seminars and participate in continuing education opportunities. They receive peer evaluations as well as feedback shared by candidates, organizers, and officials.





# Standards of Proficiency

*C-3—A Dressage*



## Responsibilities and Authorities

For national level certifications, the host RS is responsible for the overall conduct of the certification within their region. The actual oversight of the certification is the Organizer's responsibility. This may be in coordination or cooperation within the Region or between neighboring Regions.

Any special certification requests, including exceptions or exemptions, must be submitted to the USPC National Office,

Attention: Testing Coordinator at [testing@ponyclub.org](mailto:testing@ponyclub.org). The Testing Coordinator forwards the requests to the National Testing Chair(s) for recommendations. The Vice President of Instruction is the final approval authority.

The USPC Board of Governors approves the Standards of Proficiency and designates the USPC Vice President of Instruction (VPI) as responsible for both the Standards of Proficiency and the general USPC certifications program management.

*The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., develops character, leadership, confidence and a sense of community in youth through a program that teaches the care of horses and ponies, riding and mounted sports.*

## Pony Club

© 2019 The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.

4041 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

(859)254-7669 ~ [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org)

Copying permitted for internal use only by members and volunteers of The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.