

Bayou City Pony Club Policies

The Bayou City Pony Club will operate according to (1) the by-laws of registered member clubs as published on the USPC website and (2) the following additional policies which are adopted/confirmed by the sponsors at the annual sponsors meeting.

Management of the Club

Dues and Fees: The annual local Club dues are \$9.00 per member. The annual Sponsors fee is \$1.00.

General Fund: Club income, including merchandise sales, fundraisers, general donations and Club and sponsor dues, is allocated to the general fund of the Club. This fund should not be drawn down below \$1000 in any given year.

Approval of Expenditures: The DC will not authorize expenditures from the approved club budget over \$100 without approval from one of the other officers.

Reimbursements: Expenses requiring reimbursement by Bayou City Pony Club are to be submitted in writing to the treasurer within the same calendar year as the expenditure of the funds.

NSF Charges: Any NSF charge caused by a member's check will be reimbursed by the member to the Club. Should the NSF charge not be paid, the member will not be eligible to participate in any Pony Club activity until the matter is resolved.

Subsidies:

All subsidies are contingent on funds availability.

Bayou City Pony Club will pay annual dues for USPC sustaining memberships for the DC and all Joint-DCs.

Bayou City Pony Club will pay first time ratings for Bayou City Pony Club members providing funds are available as determined by the Pony Club officers. If it is necessary for a child to take a rating level test a second time, it is the responsibility of the child's family to pay for any fees and expenses for the repeated rating.

Bayou City Pony Club will subsidize costs above \$5 per member for mounted instruction at scheduled meetings.

Bayou City Pony Club will subsidize, at the request of the member or prospective member, and at the discretion of the DC, the cost of membership for members for whom full cost is a barrier to membership. This subsidy is not available for renewing members who have not been active during the previous year.

Members who contribute (member or family) to Club fundraising activities are eligible, upon request, for a 50% subsidy of Rally fees when attending Regional rally.

The total such subsidies paid in any given year should not exceed fundraising income in the same year.

At such time as a Pony Club member resigns the club, all rights to subsidies are waived. However, any sibling of the resigning member, who remains a member, will retain his/her rights.

Membership:

In order to apply for membership, a prospective member must demonstrate to the DC or DC's qualified designee:

- The ability to approach a pony safely, put on a halter (with assistance if required), lead and turn properly.
- The ability to sit in the saddle independently at the walk.

Debts of any member must be cleared before renewal membership will be accepted for the following fiscal year.

Qualifying to Rate:

In order to qualify for a rating, Pony Club member must attend at least half of the Club's scheduled activities within the last 12 month period or for new members, at least half of the activities following the date of membership. Exceptions may be made for members attending college, at the DC's discretion.

To rate, a Member must receive permission from the DC. This permission is contingent upon

- Completion, submittal to, and approval by the DC (or DC's qualified designee) of the relevant Prep Guide
- Completion of a rating prep conducted by a Pony Clubber rated at least one level higher than the rating being attempted, as approved by, and under the supervision of the DC or DC's designee. This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the DC.
- Demonstration to DC or DC's designee of completion of ancillary requirements, such as letters or record book.
- Competence to meet the riding requirements of the rating, as determined by the DC or the DC's qualified designee.

After receiving a rating, members must attend at least three Pony Club activities to be eligible to rate up, unless an exception is made by the DC. Valid reasons for exceptions include a new member who has not yet rated up to his or her current true level. In no case will ratings be skipped, or multiple ratings taken on the same day by the same member.

Member in Good Standing

A Member in Good Standing of the Bayou City Pony Club shall be an individual within age guidelines, whose dues are paid in full, who has no outstanding debt to the Club, and who participates on a regular basis in activities of the Club. For members living

at a distance, such as those attending college, regular participation may be interpreted in the context of physical availability to participate. Inability to participate due to illness of the member or mount, or loss or lameness of mount, shall not by itself disqualify a member from good standing. For members temporarily or occasionally without access to an appropriate mount, regular participation in unmounted activities will be the basis for determining Good Standing.

Mounted Meeting Guidelines

Mounted meetings are usually held on the third Sunday of the month. In order to have a ride time reserved, each pony clubber wishing to ride must contact the Coordinator of Mounted Instruction no later the Wednesday preceding the mounted meeting to request a ride time. The Coordinator will then contact the member with his or her ride time by Friday preceding the mounted meeting.

Please be aware that once a ride time is assigned and you are notified, you may be responsible for the lesson fee whether you actually show up or not. The facility and contract with the instructors are all pre-arranged. Bayou City Pony Club may still be charged for your expenses. In event of illness or other emergency the Coordinator will attempt to re-contact others affected and juggle the schedule. If suitable adjustments are successful you may not be charged for the lesson but this cannot be guaranteed.

All ponies/horses, tack apparel, and rider must be SAFE and should strive to be clean. During your safety check your turnout will be judged and any problems will need to be addressed before you will be mounted.

Appropriate attire should be worn to all meetings. For a mounted meeting this includes breeches or jodhpurs with correct footwear, neatly-fitting shirt with sleeves, properly-fitting (snug) riding helmet, hair back (if long). It is not acceptable to ride in shorts or sleeveless tops.

You should strive to be on time for your session. Tardiness will cut into YOUR ride time, as the lessons will have to start without you and end on schedule.

All horses must travel with a copy of a current negative Coggins test. This is a state mandate, not just a Bayou City Pony Club rule. Horse property owners and managers have every right to ask to see them before they allow you to unload on their grounds. If you provide a current copy to the meeting Coordinator, the Coordinator will retain these and have them available at mounted meetings where the Coordinator is present.