

## **TRI-STATE REGION RATING GUIDE**

### ***PHILOSOPHY ABOUT TESTING***

Ratings are not for their own sake, and for this reason, instruction should not be conducted as a way of "teaching to the test." In the same vein, testings should not be undertaken so a member can compete at a certain level at a rally, or to qualify for championships.

A member should undertake a rating to confirm what has already been demonstrated in the normal course of instruction. The DC, instructor, and instructional coordinator should all be in agreement that the member is now that rating, and this will be confirmed by an outside, impartial qualified individual. **We strongly recommend the use of flowcharts or check sheets which reflect all of the level appropriate USPC standards be utilized at the club level as an aid to assist the DC in determining readiness to rate.**

### ***LOCAL RATINGS D1 through C2***

All new members should be tested within one month of joining for at least the D1 level. New members may only be tested through the D3 level should their previous skills indicate achievement in horsemanship and horse management through that level.

All members should have at least 1 month's notice that a testing will take place; 6 weeks would be even better. During the period before the testing, the candidates can add extra polish to their performance, which sometimes can weaken under pressure on testing day.

DCs and Instructional Coordinators are encouraged to use the Standards Flow Charts throughout the instructional year to ensure success in rating at the next level. These flow charts should be completed by a predetermined date before the rating announced to the membership by the DC. The DC shall have the authority to determine who may check off standards and at which levels within the club. Members should be notified of the rating no later than one month before it is scheduled.

Under no circumstances should a parent arrange a rating for their child or demand that a DC hold a testing. A Pony Club member should only be tested when they have satisfactorily mastered the standards for that level on the flow charts and the DC thinks that the member has the confidence and competence to pass the rating. The member should have access to a safe, sound and appropriate mount.

Suggested examiners for D1-C2 Tests: DCs, appropriately prepared Pony Clubbers and Examiners on the Regional Reference list for D1-C2 tests. All ratings at the D2-C2 level should (for obvious reasons) have out-of-club examiners but this is not required. Ratings should cover all sections of the standards for that level and may only test what is on the test. The test should be held when outdoor conditions are safe and appropriate for jumping cross-

country for that portion of the test. It is not required that the test be conducted in one day or even with one rater. If conditions merit the DC can arrange to test sections of the test at different times and if necessary with different raters.

Regional policy requires that all examiners for D3-C2 testings attend a Ratings and Standards Seminar at least every three years. Anyone who thinks they may be or know an appropriate or potential rater should contact the VRS of Ratings for the region and then if approved, that person will appear on the Regional Reference list. Similarly qualified out-of-Region examiners are also appropriate.

### **REGIONAL REFERENCE LIST** **FOR D1- C2 RATERS**

**This list will be updated as new raters become available.**

**D1-D2** –anyone the DC determines is qualified

According to the Regional Policy and according to the reaffirmation by the Regional Council at the Regional Meeting Feb. 23, 2008: **ALL RATERS FOR THE D3 AND ABOVE WILL HAVE ATTENDED A STANDARDS AND RATINGS SEMINAR OR CLINIC WITHIN THE PAST THREE YEARS.**

**D2-C2 (remember, though, that we are trying to encourage the C2 as a regional test)**

Ellen Fisher – National Examiner [efischer@bppef.org](mailto:efischer@bppef.org) 412- 217- 8290

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There are many others who are experienced raters in our region. These people only need to attend our **Standards and Ratings Clinic on May 24.** DC's need to encourage them to attend to become approved raters.

New, inexperienced raters who have or will have attended an S & R clinic should apprentice with one of the approved raters. They should contact approved raters and make their own arrangements for apprenticing. After apprenticing they need to have the approved rater contact Connie or me and report the results. Apprenticing can be completed before attending a Standards and Ratings Clinic.

### **REGIONAL RATINGS**

Now that the C3 test has become a National Test the Tri State region is attempting to offer the opportunity to its members to have a regional C2 testing. This experience should be viewed a stepping stone to the National Testing experience which will be encountered at the C3 examination. It is by no means mandatory that DCs offer this testing to their members but it is offered by the region as an opportunity and is strongly urged that DCs consider this as a positive occasion for those seeking the C2 rating.

Information will be available on this website omnibus and Tri State Yahoo Groups calendar for these Regional C2 testings.