

# SIERRA GOLD PONY CLUB POLICIES

## CLUB # 130210

CHAPTER OF UNITED STATES PONY CLUB  
Adopted – September 9, 2002

### **I. Mission Statement**

The United States Pony Club (USPC) is an organization dedicated to educating junior riders about riding and horse care. The use of the term "pony" describes all mounts, regardless of size, ridden by Pony Clubbers. USPC's primary purpose is best described in the following Pony Club mission statement:

***The mission of the United States Pony Clubs is to provide a program for youth that teaches riding, mounted sports, and the care of horses and ponies, thereby developing responsibility, moral judgment, leadership, and self-confidence.***

Pony Clubs format includes testing both mounted and unmounted knowledge and skill on rated levels and proficiency. As a club, Sierra Gold Pony Club (SGPC), is striving to expose its members to as many Pony club activities as possible. SGPC has offered its members a variety of activities and encourages everyone to participate in them. We have regular meetings, Regional Rallies, Eventing (Dressage, Stadium, and Cross Country), Games (competing on teams), Quiz (a "spelling bee" about horses, riding horsemanship and horse management) and Summer Camp (FUN!!!).

### **II. Membership**

As a member in SGPC, the following requirements must be met:

1. Minimum age for a new member is 8 years as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the membership year, (or younger at the discretion of the DC and/or Coordinator of Instruction), maximum age is 21.
2. Any prospective member and a parent must meet with the DC before joining the club.
3. As a member of SGPC, you are a representative of our club at all times. We expect each member to exhibit good horsemanship, sportsmanship and courtesy at all times.
4. SGPC's program is geared toward enriching the education of active and interested young equestrians but is not intended to be the sole source of riding instruction. Members are strongly encouraged to have regular lessons from professional riding instructors.

5. **PARENTS MUST BE INVOLVED IN SGPC ACTIVITIES.** Everyone must participate or make arrangements to fulfill their responsibilities. Parents are expected to attend at least 50% of the monthly Parent/Sponsor meetings. Failure to comply may result in non-renewal of membership for the following year.
6. SGPC has an equipment code as defined by USPC guidelines provided in the Horse Management Handbook. Members will use appropriate English tack, in good repair.
7. SGPC has a dress code for their mounted meetings. Members must wear appropriate footwear, a neat shirt (with sleeves) tucked in, a belt if belt loops are present, and a correctly fitted ASTM/SEI approved helmet at all times when mounted. Hair must be neat and pulled back out of the face. Jewelry is allowed in accordance with the USPC Horse Management Rulebook.
8. The Pony Clubber's horse must be healthy, appropriate to the job, properly shod or trimmed, and in good general condition. Your horse's comfort always comes first so he or she must be well groomed and tack cleaned.
9. **ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF SGPC.** Please notify the Coordinator of Instruction and/or designee 24 hours in advance if unable to attend. Failure to give any notice constitutes an unexcused absence. **Three unexcused absences are grounds for dismissal from SGPC.**
10. If a member's horse is unable to be at a mounted meeting, the member should come **unmounted but ready to ride.**
12. Pony Clubbers exemplify courtesy, therefore, **THEY DO NOT ARRIVE LATE FOR ANY INSTRUCTION.**
13. Each Pony Clubber is required to perform volunteer service each calendar year. This includes, but is not limited to: Horse Show and Rally duties, MEC workdays, fundraising and working our SGPC sponsored Horse Trial Fundraiser and other duties as required. **If the member cannot perform a duty, he must provide an appropriate replacement.**

### **III. Sponsors**

Sponsors are parents and other adults, 18 years or older, who have expressed an interest in the welfare of the club and who have paid the club's sponsor fee. **PONY CLUB IS A TEAM EFFORT.** Parents must participate throughout the year. Parent/sponsors must participate or provide an appropriate replacement to fulfill their responsibilities. Parents are expected to attend at least 50% of the monthly Parent/Sponsor meetings. Volunteer parent/sponsor service is MANDATORY for the following:

1. Assist at Rallies, Horse Shows, Clinics and other events sponsored by SGPC.
2. Assist at Murieta Equine Complex, (MEC), during the May and September shows.
3. Work at the Sierra Gold Pony Club Annual Fundraiser held at MEC.
4. Participate in special workdays that may occur throughout the year.
5. Participate in fundraising for SGPC, the Sierra Pacific Region, or the USPC.
6. Help the instructors during mounted meetings by moving jumps, holding horses, bringing water, etc.
7. Be on a committee to plan or assist at Rallies.
8. Plan to bring snacks to at least one mounted and one or more sponsors meetings during the year.
9. Make sure that the area we use is as clean as we found it and stay until all the work is done.

#### **IV. Dues and Refund Policy**

Since there are times when a Pony Clubber must make a decision to leave Pony Club, it is necessary for SGPC to define its refund policy. The annual dues for SGPC are:

**\$ 230.00 - New Members**  
**220.00 - Renewing Members**  
**200.00 - Per Additional Child**

Our year begins January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.

1. If a Pony Clubber is leaving Pony Club for some reason other than being asked to leave Sierra Gold, there is a possibility\*\*, (see below), of a refund.
2. The National (USPC) dues of \$70.00 for a Renewing Member and \$80.00 for a New Member (which includes a \$10.00 one-time USPC New Member Initiation Fee) are non-refundable. They are, however, transferable if the Pony Clubber is transferring to another club.
3. The Regional, (Sierra Pacific), dues of \$30.00 are non-refundable and are transferable if the Pony Clubber is transferring within the Region.
4. The Club, (SGPC), dues are \$120.00. Included in this amount are:

The Sponsor's Fee	-\$20.00/Pony Clubber
Club Fee	- 50.00
Trainer Fee	- 50.00 (due by February 15 <sup>th</sup> )

\*\*The Club/Sponsor Fee can be pro-rated for the 12 months of membership. If a Pony Clubber decides to leave after 3 months of membership, the amount of pro-ration would be \$5.83/month or \$52.47 refund. The trainer fee can be refunded in full on or before April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. After that, the trainer fee is forfeited.

The DC will bring it to the Sponsor's for final vote before making a decision on refunds for each individual case.

#### **V. Member in Good Standing**

In order to be recognized as a member in good standing, members will be current on payment of dues and fees. Pony clubbers are also expected to participate in Regional and Club fundraising activities as approved by the Club.

Attendance is critical to the success of SGPC. For a Pony Clubber, (C2 and below), to be in "good standing", they are expected to attend a minimum of 70% of regularly scheduled mounted and unmounted meetings which are normally held on Tuesday afternoon/evenings, the first and third weeks of each month. C3's and above are expected to attend 50% of these meetings. The exceptions usually fall in November and December. Extenuating circumstances may be taken under advisement by "The Board".

#### **VI. Participation in Rallies.**

Pony Clubbers must be members in good standing in order to be considered for a rally team. The Coordinator of Instruction and Rally Coordinator will select teams and pick the Horse Management person and the Captains.

#### **VII. Ratings**

SGPC provides a standard of proficiency rating program. Ratings are offered at least twice a year, once in spring and once in fall. Pony Clubbers must be members in good standing in order to rate. A completed prep guide and intent to rate must be turned in for approval to the Coordinator of Instruction / DC four weeks before the rating, unless other arrangements are made. If a member elects to rate with another pony club, (C-2 and below), Sierra Gold is not responsible for any expense incurred.

#### **VIII. Officers**

The elected officers of Sierra Gold Pony Club are the Treasurer and the Secretary. The sponsors vote and propose a DC and Jt-DC(s) for election by the USPC Board of Governors. The officers shall perform the duties and enforce the policies prescribed by the Bylaws of USPC, and the Sierra Pacific Region. The DC and Jt-DC(s) shall also be Corporate Members of USPC.

#### **IX. Trailering Policy**

Since Pony Club parents are responsible for transporting the member's mount to the mounted activities, access to an appropriate trailer and towing rig is necessary. If a rider relies upon another person for trailering, the following are guidelines to follow:

1. EXPENSE: The owner/rider should share trailer expenses at a reasonable and equitable rate, i.e., sharing gas and other expenses. Owning and maintaining a trailer is an expensive endeavor. Reimburse accordingly. The club will set rates at each January Sponsor's meeting.
2. LIABILITY: All liability for any driving mishaps falls directly on the insurance of the auto owners.
3. RESPONSIBILITY: The owner/rider of the horse has certain responsibilities. The owner/rider must secure their own ride. The DC or Jt-DC is not responsible for providing the owner/rider a trailer ride. The owner/rider should ensure that the horse is in good physical condition, is trained to load, unload and travel safely, and is suitably clothed with protective headgear, halter, wraps, leg bandages or shipping boots, tail wraps, and blanket if necessary.

It is the responsibility of the owner/rider to let the owner/driver know if the horse has any trailer vices, i.e. needs to be on a certain side of the trailer, is a scrambler, kicks other horses in the trailer, rushes in and out of the trailer, etc.

If the owner/rider's horse incurs damage, the owner/rider is responsible for the damage.

4. PASSENGERS: The owner/rider must accompany the horse and be responsible for loading and unloading the horse, and storing the tack and equipment.
5. CLEAN-UP: The owner/rider must arrange a mutually convenient time with the owner/driver of the rig for clean up. The manure, hay and bedding will be cleaned way immediately after use.