SECTION I: General Regulations

Article 1 – Competitor Eligibility:

1. ELIGIBILITY: Each team shall consist of no less than four nor more than five riders, all of whom must be members in good standing in Pony Club.

2. WALK-TROT: All members of walk-trot teams must be 9 years of age or less as of January 1 of the year in which they participate in any Games competition. See Section II, Chapter 3, Walk Trot Division, for Special Rules for Competition for this division.

3. JUNIOR TEAM: All members of a junior team must be 12 years of age or less as of January 1 of the year in which they participate in any official Games Competition (and for Championships, at least 10 years of age and a D-2 rating).

4. SENIOR TEAM: All members of a senior team must be 15 years of age or less (but no younger than 10) as of January 1 in the year in which they will participate in any official Games Competition. (For Championships, all members of a senior team must have at least a D-3 rating.)

5. ADVANCED TEAM: All members of an advanced team must be between 13 and 18 years of age as of January 1 in the year in which they will participate in any official Games Competition. (For Championships, all members of an advanced team must have at least a C-1 rating.)

6. AGE LIMITATION: If any member of a team exceeds the age limitation as specified in these rules, or if a Junior team member is not a minimum of 10 years of age, or if any team members of any division are in any other way ineligible for competition, the team will be disqualified.

The “standard” ages for the divisions are viewed in this manner:

Junior: Ages 10-12
Senior: Ages 13-15
Advanced: Ages 16-18

Any junior player may “play up” on to a senior-level team, and any senior age player may “play up” on to an advanced-level team. In each case, players must meet the minimum rating requirement for the level at which they are riding. In no instance may a player “play down” a level.

7. ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS: A junior may compete as a member of a senior team, but at least one member of the senior team must be between the ages of 13 and 15. A senior may compete as a member of an advanced team, but at least one member of the advanced team must be between the ages of 16 and 18. Walk-trot competitors may not compete in any other division. Juniors may not compete in the advanced division. If a competitor competes at a higher level, (e.g., if a junior competes as a senior), that competitor may not again compete in his/her own division until the following calendar year, and then only if he/she meets the eligibility requirements in that year. A Regional Supervisor may request an exception to this from the Games Chair for unforeseen and reasonable circumstances (e.g., a junior played up as a senior at the qualifying rally; that team is unable to attend Championships, and the junior is needed to fill or make a junior team for Championships.)

Article 2 – Eligibility of Mount: Each team shall be authorized one equine (which term includes: burros, donkeys, horses, miniature horses, mules and ponies) per rider on the team. (Note: Hereafter the word ‘pony’ shall be used to designate an equine.) The judging committee shall disqualify any pony, that, because of its appearance or the sound it makes, causes other ponies to “spook,” thereby creating a hazard for other competitors, from further competition. Ponies must be serviceably sound and well shod, or with their feet properly dressed and trimmed. Ponies must be groomed and well trimmed and they must be familiar with the Games being played. Manes and tails must not be braided. The Judging Committee shall disqualify any pony that is, in its opinion, lame, unruly or otherwise unsuitable for competition. In this case the Judging Committee’s decision is final and may not be refuted.

Article 3 – Teams and Team Captains:

A. TEAMS: Each club entering a regional Games rally may field walk-trot, junior, senior and advanced teams. The junior, senior and advanced teams having the highest scores at the regional Games rally shall represent the region at the Championships. In the event of a tie for first place, the teams shall have a run-off using a spare game. In case the winning team or teams are unable to attend the Championship Games, the second placing teams may represent the region.

B. TEAM CAPTAIN: One member of each team shall be designated as team captain. The team captain shall have full responsibility of directing the team’s activities: arriving at the arena on time, sequence, seeing to it that the last rider in a game is wearing the white hat band or cover, overseeing and correcting safety and equipment check procedures, etc. The captain is also responsible for presenting allowable inquiries and protests concerning horse management, mathematical errors and scoring irregularities to the proper official.

Article 4 – Weight Limitations: The following weight limitations apply to riders dressed and ready to ride:

- Any rider over 117 pounds in weight may not ride a pony 12.2 hands or under.
- Any rider over 150 pounds in weight may not ride a pony 13.2 hands or under.
- Any rider over 190 pounds in weight may not ride a pony 14.2 hands or under.

Article 5 – Dress: Jodhpurs and jodhpur boots, with garters or elastic boot straps, are recommended for Games; however, breeches and tall boots are acceptable. Belts are optional with jodhpurs or breeches. Shirts must be all white and have long or