

RALLY PREP CHECKLIST

Overview: 5 Important Things to Remember About Rallies

1. **RALLIES ARE ABOUT TEAMWORK.** This means cooperation, responsibility, helpfulness, preparation, and cheerfulness from every team member. Every team that wins a first-place rally ribbon does so because the team members worked together. Start thinking of yourself as a ‘team member’, not as an individual competitor, right from the beginning.

2. **THE KEY TO DOING WELL AND ENJOYING YOURSELF AT A RALLY IS PREPARATION.** Your goal is to begin the rally with the security of knowing that you have everything ready:

- ◆ all of the proper equipment, cleaned and organized
- ◆ the proper attire (ditto)
- ◆ a clear understanding of the Rally and Horse Management rules
- ◆ a sound pony
- ◆ enough practice on the rally riding skills to be confident and comfortable

If you start a rally with the feeling that you’re fully prepared, then your focus during the rally will be on riding, helping your teammates, and having fun – which is the whole idea!

3. **USE THE RALLY PREP CHECKLISTS.** The checklists help you remember what you need to do – and when you should do it. Successful rally prep relies upon **time management**. Don’t wait until the last minute to start preparing for the rally! Ask yourself, “What can I do NOW, rather than later?”

4. **BE ON TIME.** Don’t make your team members and parents wait for you. If possible plan to arrive when the rally opens. Doing everything on time is an important part of rally scoring. Work efficiently at the rally so that you can meet all of the rally deadlines. If you help your team stay on track and manage their time well, you will all be more relaxed.

5. **PLAN TO HAVE FUN!** Rallies aren’t all about winning – although it’s nice to get those ribbons! Rallies are really about learning to work with other people, about learning safety and proper care for your pony, about enjoying the excitement of competition, and about practicing your riding skills to applause and encouragement. Doing everything you can to be prepared for a rally will help make this happen.

AT LEAST 4 WEEKS BEFORE RALLY

- Talk to DC and/or Rally Chairman about your interest in attending this rally.**
- Is your mount sound and appropriate for rally?
- Do you meet age/rating requirements for that rally?
- Will you have a Designated Adult for rally?
- Can you care for your pony with little or no assistance for the duration of rally?
- Are you willing to take a turn as Stable Manager?
- Start conditioning pony.**
- Get current Coggins.**
- Make sure you have current study materials:**
- Rally Rulebook for specific discipline.
- Manual of Horsemanship specific to your rating level
- Horse Management Handbook

- ❑ **Start reading through the appropriate rulebooks.**

2 WEEKS BEFORE RALLY

- ❑ **Check requirements for correct rally attire and obtain anything you don't have:**
- ❑ **Do a tack safety check and make any necessary repairs.**
- ❑ **Check to make sure you have all necessary equipment for rally:**

Horse Equipment

- ❑ halter (clean, well fitted, leather or breakaway)
- ❑ round cotton lead line
- ❑ snaps for securing buckets

Grooming Kit – Check HM Handbook for required grooming kit equipment

Club jog out attire (Make a good first impression)

- ❑ club polo shirt
- ❑ khaki pants or shorts or skirt
- ❑ belt
- ❑ helmet
- ❑ gloves
- ❑ paddock boots
- ❑ USPC Pin

1 WEEK BEFORE RALLY

- ❑ **Check horse's shoes and feet and arrange any required farrier care.**
- ❑ **Make sure you have clean well-fitting shipping boots or shipping bandages.**
- ❑ **Attend team/club meeting to pick up and label team rally kits and equipment:**

Team Preparation

- ❑ **Check rally kits, clean, label and obtain needed supplies:**
- ❑ **Team copy of HM Handbook and rally rulebooks. Make sure they are up to date with annual newsletters.**
- ❑ **Make feed chart**
- ❑ **Make a stall card with the required information per HM Handbook.**
- ❑ **Team Captain should make sure everyone has current information:**
- ❑ schedules
- ❑ directions to rally
- ❑ **Trim pony and pull mane (if needed.).**
- ❑ **Make overnight reservations for hotels if necessary.**
- ❑ **Review specific discipline rulebook and HM Handbook.**

2 OR 3 DAYS BEFORE RALLY

- ❑ **Ride pony for last time before rally (to allow enough time to clean and load tack).**
- ❑ **Clean all tack thoroughly.**
- ❑ **Wash saddle pad.**

1 OR 2 DAYS BEFORE RALLY

- ❑ **Load all tack and equipment in trailer.**
- ❑ **Double-check equipment lists as you load!**

- ❑ **Make sure you have an extra set of paperwork required for Rally to carry with you.**

1 DAY BEFORE RALLY

- ❑ **Review rule books.**
- ❑ **Pack clothing and personal items:**

Casual Attire

- ❑ **Prepare horse feed.**
- ❑ enough feed for rally, portioned into paper bags and labeled per HM Handbook
- ❑ salt block
- ❑ hay, labeled for rally and enough for trailering
- ❑ **Wash/groom pony.**
- ❑ **Relax and get plenty of rest.**

DAY OF THE RALLY

- ❑ **Allow plenty of time to arrive at rally; plan to arrive at or before Check-In begins.**
- ❑ **Load any remaining tack, equipment, & personal items; double-check lists.**
- ❑ **Load pony and go! HAVE FUN!**