

## USPC CHAPERONES FOR INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

1. Familiarize yourself, as much as possible in advance of the trip, with customs and culture of the country to which you are traveling.
2. Before departure, make sure that you have copies of the Indemnity/Release and medical release forms for each team member. Any team member bringing prescribed medication, must notify the chaperone. Be aware of any routine prescriptions and dosages for team members. In the case of younger children, keep medications and passports with you.
3. When all team members are gathered together, go over the Code of Conduct to which they have already agreed to adhere so there are no misunderstandings. Where applicable (i.e., Inter-pacific Exchange Rally), discuss with the coach a mutually satisfactory approach to working together and then explain this to the children. When the coach is not actively coaching, he/she may assume the role of secondary chaperone. The chaperone should not assume he/she is a secondary coach. The children must be clear on lines of authority.
4. In most cases, patterns of non-competitive activity will not be clear until arrival in the host country. Have some early discussion with chaperones from other countries. It will be easier if more are on the same wavelength. However, should other chaperones be prepared to allow more latitude than you are comfortable with, stick to your instincts. These children are your responsibility. Plan together for a curfew, ground rules, etc., and then enforce this. Set a positive tone and let them know that you are glad to be part of their team. Responsibility should rest with the team members to follow the rules and guidelines set forth. Impress upon them that you must know their whereabouts during leisure time. They go nowhere, alone or in a group, without your prior knowledge and approval. This is not unduly restrictive but simply good, common sense. Discuss proper rest and food. Remind them you are all guests in another country which must be respected. Strange foods should be accepted gracefully and gratefully. Emphasize that this team represents not just their Pony Club or their Region, but their country. It is an enormous privilege.
5. Hold an informal meeting before bedtime each day in order to review the day. Emphasize participating. Make sure everyone knows the itinerary for the next day. Give praise for jobs well done and encouragement for upcoming competitions. Please remember, "It is not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game." USPC promotes good sportsmanship.
6. The policy of the USPC Board of Governors is that Pony Clubbers' use of alcohol and other substances that can affect judgment, health, and safety is emphatically forbidden for the duration of any USPC sponsored activity. All adults attending USPC functions are expected to exercise discretion and responsibility. Responsible adults must refrain from using alcohol or other substances that may adversely affect their judgment at any time that they are acting, or may be called upon to act, in a responsible position. Chaperones are specifically "on duty" at all times and must refrain from using alcohol or other substances for the duration of the activity. Adult use of tobacco must conform to local laws and applicable safety regulations and should show concern for the present health and future health habits of Pony Clubbers.
7. The chaperone must remain with the team throughout the international visit.
8. Keep your sense of humor! Be flexible. Let the Pony Clubbers have fun and get to know those from other countries. All this is possible within the framework of the rules which you have set together. Remember, to gain respect, you must first give it.

I have read and agree to abide by the above duties of a chaperone.

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Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date