



Frequently Asked Questions *Horsemasters 2015*

Horsemasters (HMX) members are non-traditional participating members of USPC, and have been since their inception in 2000. Moving forward, HMX members will be non-traditional participating members of existing clubs/centers or be able to form new clubs. This allows for clearer structure for HMX members and leaders as well as opens up opportunities for all members. The integration of HMX to clubs is a choice for the Sponsors and club leaders to make.

MEMBERSHIP/CLUBS

- **If there are no groups, then how do HMX members integrate into clubs?**
 - Clubs and Centers can have both Traditional and Non Traditional Participating members so they could be all youth, all HMX or a mix of both. Current groups may choose to become their own club, fulfilling all the required criteria (fees, sponsors, officers, etc.), or stay as part of their local club, possibly with a committee chair, or Jt. DC assisting HMX members, as needed by the DC
 - HMX under regions will need to either form a club or join a local club as invited/permitted by the DC (DC's will not be required to include HMX within their membership)
- **What about centers?** Riding Centers are structured as before – they contract with USPC to include the program. Some are non-profit on their own, most are not; this would not change as the HMX members would be clients of the facility.
- **What about fees/dues?** All HMX members are now club or center members, regional members and national, paying fees in precisely the same way that youth members do.
 - Corporate member dues are no longer included in HMX membership dues, nor are HMX members required to be Corporate Members. HMX who wish to become corporate members must pay a separate fee.
- **Can traditional youth members become HMX members when they turn a certain age?** Traditional members who are 18 years old can switch to Non-Traditional HMX members. This would allow them the opportunity to be a sponsor of the club.
- **Who makes the choice of who can start a club?** This would be the same process as how clubs are formed today.
- **If a separate HMX club forms, can members (youth and/or HMX) have dual membership in both the original club and new club?** Yes, as long as both DC's and RS's if appropriate are in agreement and one club must be the club of record [national policy on Dual Membership by number #3001].
- **How do clubs record their willingness to accept traditional or non-traditional members?** The DC has the authority to make this decision.
- **How do groups transition?** Past group members who are to become club members will be transferred into the Pony Club that has accepted their membership. Groups who are becoming clubs will transition to the new status and group members will transfer membership to join the new club.
- **What is the process for a group to form a club?** Groups will follow the same protocol as current club formation, with the same requirements as per fees, sponsor requirements, etc. Current groups transitioning to become a club may choose from the following options:
 - **Reduced Fee of \$300.00:** will receive the full club library.
 - **Reduced fee of \$100.00:** will receive no club library.
- **What about regional groups?** Group members of current regional groups will be offered the same choices as other HMX members. They may choose to form their own club or have members join already established clubs that invite them. Discussion may occur with other options if necessary.

NEW CLUB POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- 'HMX' Clubs will be treated as a regular club and will be required to follow the same policies and requirements.
- Each club will be required to have DC, treasurer and secretary, with the same criteria.
- Officers will need to meet the same requirements, i.e., background check, youth protection training, concussion, heat and related illness, etc. A club may invite adult and/or youth members and as such leaders shall all need to fulfill the same requirements.

INTEGRATING INTO CLUB/REGION

- **Are clubs and regions required to include HMX in all events?** HMX members may be considered as one more group of membership. Just as upper level members don't attend Jr. Pony Club meetings, or as D members don't attend C camp, the HMX members will be invited to all-club/member events and will be able to host their own events.
- **Who now takes on the responsibilities of the liaison?** Each club/region determines leadership needs. It is recommended that a HMX committee chair or Jt. DC position is created to assist the DC or RS with activity planning for HMX members. This position would replace the former liaison.
- **Changes to the volunteer base:** As well as new volunteers brought in by HMX membership, you will have volunteers who want to work solely with the youth members, others who would prefer to work with the adults and a group who will choose to work with both adults and youth.

HMX DUES STRUCTURE

- HMX members will be charged the same fees as Pony Club youth members.
- Corporate membership is not a requirement for HMX.

FINANCES OF CLUBS

- **What about HMX bank accounts?**
 - Groups that will integrate into a club will have their funds integrated into club or center funds. Clubs will designate specific budget line items for HMX. All HMX expenses and income are to be included in the club budget.
 - Groups that become clubs will have their own bank account and treasurer.
- **Will HMX Clubs have their own EIN?** HMX clubs will be formed in the same way that new clubs are formed.

COMPETITIONS/RALLIES

- **Will regions be required to have HMX divisions? Regions are purposefully given a lot of leeway in setting up their regional rallies. Will this be a qualified rally requirement?** Members are serviced by the region – whether youth or HMX. If a region does not have sufficient interest or resources to hold a HMX division, they will not have to (just as a region may not have resources to hold a rally of any type). If, however, the HMX members of a region wanted to hold a separate rally because it doesn't fit with the traditional members, they should be encouraged to do so and full support offered.
- **Can HMX compete against/with youth members, or is a separate division required - (PX for example).** Separate HMX divisions would be preferable at this point, although a region could choose to offer a division for mixed teams if desired. If a discipline needed HMX members to have enough teams, then this would be a benefit to all participants.
- **What about games and quiz?**
 - **Games:** Presently the qualifying age divisions for championships are:
 - Junior - age 14 or less
 - Senior - age 18 or less
 - Advanced ages 18 – 24
 - Local non-qualifying rallies may offer other divisions.
 - **Quiz:** HMX do not currently have divisions at Quiz Championships.

Frequently Asked Questions - continued

Horsemasters 2015

- **Championships requirements:** In 2015 HMX members will be required to qualify for championships, with the same certification requirements, as youth members. They will be able to compete as an individual. It is hoped that as numbers increase, HMX will be able to compete in teams.
 - **Championships divisions:** HMX will compete in their own division.
 - **Stabling:** HMX competitors will be stabled together
 - **Parent/child competition:** Since HMX will be competing in separate divisions, they may compete in the same discipline. It must be understood that all rules for unauthorized assistance still apply.

CERTIFICATIONS

- **In 2015, what certifications will be available to HMX members?**
 - D1 – C2 levels for the Traditional track
 - D1 – C2 levels for the Dressage track
 - Other tracks (western and hunter seat equitation) are being developed during 2015 and will be released as soon as they are available.
- **What about all the paperwork?** HMX currently have separate certification sheets. In the future Instruction will be creating sheets that have youth and HMX requirements side-by-side in order to reduce paperwork and to allow for all levels to be updated at the same time.
- **Are there plans to allow HMX to test at the upper levels?** Yes. An exact timeline for this will be released during 2015, but upper level testing will not be ready before January 2016.
- **What happens to those who had certifications already (past youth members)?** An alumni certification will always be recognized, but it has not yet been determined how to treat past certifications moving forward.
- **What about members who received the bronze, and silver awards?** The Bronze and Silver awards do not equate to the Certifications, as they were skill based, not level based. It was possible to earn Bronze and Silver for bandaging and turn out/tack, but only their Bronze for conditioning and stable management. It does not equate to a level of proficiency for all skills required on a D1 – C2 level Standard. The Bronze/Silver awards were more like special badges for HMX. Their accomplishments are still recognized at having earned the Bronze/Silver Awards, but there is nothing that equates to them any longer.

REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Who does the RS go to when there are issues or questions?** VPR
- **Can HMX members become council members?** Yes as either a DC or Jt. DC, or as specified by a region as a Regional Council Member.
- **Can a HMX be a regional officer?** Yes they may. This could potentially add to the regions' pool of possible volunteers, in addition to allowing our HMX a stronger voice within their region.

TIMELINE FOR ADOPTION

2015 will be a TRANSITION year

March 1: Allow current, late renewal and new members to join existing clubs or centers

May 1: New clubs/centers could be formed for the sole purpose of accepting only HMX Members

August 31: Existing Groups would need to declare their intent to either form new club or transfer into existing club/center

November 30: Existing Groups must be closed and members join/transfer club/center OR formation process in-progress for approval of new club/center

New Club Start-up Fee Discounts (two options for current HMX groups only – new clubs will have to complete full start-up process & pay regular start-up fee)

- Clubs wishing to receive a club library will receive a 25% discount – will pay \$300
- Clubs wishing to form without receiving library will receive a 75% discount – will pay \$100