

Testing and Examiners Workshop,
April 30, 2016,
Windsor, NS

Minutes; Meeting started at 11:00 am.

Present: Alex Beaton, Julia Young, Jackie Allen, Claire Reeves, Inga Hansen, Erin McDermott, Kasey McDermott, Joecy Peters, Jessica Swinkels, Nicole MacHattie, Rebecca Johnson, Sarah Weatherbee, Correna Keddy, Alissa Cue, Jessica van Nostrand, Amy MacDonald, Michelle Maynard, Pam Bower, Valerie McDermott, Gay Hansen.

Regrets: Crystal Tattersall, Lisa Barteaux.

NSPC T&E web page:

The meeting started with an overview of the materials found under Testing and Education, on the NSPC Regional web page. A few items will be updated soon in preparation for the 2016 testing season. All Branch Test reps, Examiners and EITs are asked to refer to our web page for all forms and information.

Inactive NSPC Examiners:

There was discussion of having some former NSPC examiners return to active testing. Apparently several former examiners are back in our area after being away for a few years. We encourage any former NSPC examiner to contact the Regional Testing Committee if they are interested in returning to testing. Gay could arrange to run a mini workshop to make these examiners aware of current testing procedures. If you know of a former examiner, please invite them back!

Construction of Test Panels:

Some people wanted clarification of the various examiner-levels as outlined on our regional examiner list. How do Test Reps decide what examiner-levels are necessary for a test panel for branch testing?

Simply put, a test panel consists of a Chief Examiner and at least one other examiner – their numbers will be determined by the candidate/examiner ratio as outlined in *the Instructions for conducting a branch test* (NSPC web page). All NSPC B examiners and Senior C examiners can be the Chief examiner for all levels of branch testing. Other examiners (Senior and/or Junior) can work with these Chief Examiners to form the test panel. We recommend that if several C tests are scheduled, another Senior or Junior C examiner be included in the examiner panel.

For branch tests for D/D₁/D₂ level candidates, a Junior C or Senior D examiner can serve as Chief Examiner and other examiners (Sr and Jr) can make up the rest of the panel.

Some branches prefer to use senior examiners because of their extra experience but please keep in mind that our junior examiners are well qualified to test in a supporting role and need testing experience to move on into senior positions.

This information will be added to the Examiners list and to the Application for a Branch Test on the web page.

Kim Stewart is our new Regional Treasurer and her contact information is 902-897-7216 2505 Hwy 236, Old Barns, B6L 1K1 <krhstewart@eastlink.ca>

Mileage for 2016:

Currently, mileage for the NS Government is \$0.42/km. Our mileage paid to examiners in 2015 was \$0.44/km.

We decided to leave mileage paid to examiners in 2016 at \$0.44/km. (Rebecca Johnson/Alex Beaton) Motion carried.

Branch test dates:

All branches are asked to submit their test dates ASAP so they can be posted on the web page. Many dates are currently known and will be posted soon. The rest will be added as they are known.

Changes to CPC Testing Procedures and Testing Requirements:

Over the last few years there have been extensive revisions to these documents (available on the CPC web page). Everyone should discard their old working copies and download/print new ones for use in branch testing. New printed copies will be sent to each branch test rep and EIT. Examiners who wish to have a printed copy should let Gay know. An updated version of the Regional Testing Amendments will be included.

Testing Rubrics:

Alissa Cue reports that new rubrics to help with evaluating testing levels – D through D₂, will be available very soon on the CPC web page. These will be used as a pilot project in 2016 to evaluate their effectiveness. Examiners, please try them if you wish and give us feedback.

Test reps should ask examiners if they want copies to use for branch testing. Copies of new testing rubrics will also be provided to Branch test Reps with the new Testing Procedures.

Regional Testing Amendments:

An updated version will be posted soon on the NSPC webpage. Test Reps, please be aware that NS examiners require that D test candidates have gloves available for the stable management phase of testing and for riding as well. During stable management, candidates must wear gloves whenever they lead a horse.

Education:

- New reading requirements will accompany the new Testing Procedures. Branch test reps, Instructors and Examiners, please take note.

- Upper level members – Most branches do an excellent job educating their members and preparing them for testing through C or C₁ level. In years past we have tried to provide education opportunities for advanced members regionally, but because of distances and the work/school schedule of our older members attendance tends to be poor. We discussed various ways to educate and encourage our older members to move outside of their branch and seek training with outside clinicians and challenge themselves by competing at higher levels.

- We decided that better communication would be a good starting point. We can encourage our older members, their parents and coaches to look farther afield and think outside of their branch. This is especially necessary for our regional and national test candidates. A request for candidates to complete an “Intention to test” in September might help our members and their families start preparing earlier.

- Regional PC Camp (to be held July 26, 27, 28 in Windsor) is a possible venue for education sessions for our older members. The location is central and several of these members will be there as instructors. The evenings are open for sessions for these advanced members.

- We discussed planning an education day in the fall with sessions for DCs and parents to explain what Pony Club can offer their children and the increasing needs and costs to keep their children improving their skills. Understanding goal setting, long term planning and financial implications may be key to improving our outcomes at regional testing.

- Jackie Allen plans to organize an education camp for approximately 10 older members. Priority will be given to our regional/national test candidates and C₁ level members. This two-day camp will take place at Jackie’s farm in Falmouth. It will cover lunging, teaching, vet, first aid and conformation.

The NSPC Region will support this financially. (Alissa Cue/Correna Keddy) Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Gay Hansen
Nova Scotia Regional Pony Club
Testing and Education Committee Chairperson