

AUSTRALIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

# RULEBOOK

SECTION ONE

## GENERAL RULES



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION, DEFINITIONS &amp; COMPLIANCE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. INTRODUCTION .....	5
2. DEFINITIONS .....	5
3. COMPLIANCE, JURISDICTION & MANAGEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY MATTERS.....	8
<b>Chapter 2. DEFINITIONS &amp; RIDE CONTROLS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
4. RIDE DEFINITIONS.....	11
5. STANDARD RIDE CONTROL .....	12
6. VGIH RIDE CONTROL .....	14
7. OPTIONAL ELEVATION LEGS .....	16
8. MINIMUM & MAXIMUM RIDING TIMES, PACE RIDER & UNPLANNED CIRCUMSTANCES.....	17
9. SPECIFIC MICRO-MARATHON, MINI-MARATHON & MARATHON RIDE CONTROLS.....	18
10. APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS AT A RIDE .....	19
11. DUAL AFFILIATED AERA AND FEI RIDE CONTROLS .....	19
<b>Chapter 3. RIDE ORGANISING COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>20</b>
12. AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS .....	20
13. CODE OF CONDUCT .....	20
14. APPOINTMENT OF RIDE OFFICIALS .....	20
15. VET TO HORSE RATIO .....	21
16. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	21
17. COURSE REQUIREMENTS.....	22
18. RIDE BASE REQUIREMENTS .....	22
19. RIDE DAY REQUIREMENTS .....	23
20. AWARDS .....	23
21. AERA NATIONAL COMPETITIONS .....	25
<b>Chapter 4. RIDE OFFICIALS.....</b>	<b>26</b>
22. CODE OF CONDUCT .....	26
23. THE CHIEF STEWARD .....	26
24. TEMPERATURE AND PULSE RATE STEWARDS (TPRs).....	27
25. VETERINARY TEAM .....	27
<b>Chapter 5. RIDER RULES.....</b>	<b>28</b>
26. CODE OF CONDUCT .....	28
27. RIDER ELIGIBILITY .....	29
28. RIDER STATUS.....	30
29. NOVICE RIDER RESTRICTIONS & REQUIREMENTS .....	30
30. RIDER RIDING DIVISIONS .....	30
31. CELEBRITY RIDER .....	31
32. INTERNATIONAL RIDER .....	31
33. RIDING THE COURSE .....	31
34. WITHDRAWAL / NOT STARTED OF HORSE AND/OR RIDER.....	33
35. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE .....	34
36. COMPETITIVE AND EQUAL FINISHES.....	34
37. ONE RIDER ONE HORSE.....	35
38. RIDER ATTIRE .....	35
39. AMENDED RESULTS.....	35
40. RIDER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (REWS) .....	36
41. HUMAN ANTI-DOPING POLICY .....	37
<b>Chapter 6. HORSE RULES .....</b>	<b>37</b>
42. CODE OF CONDUCT ENSURING THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE.....	37
43. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HORSE AT A RIDE.....	38
44. HORSE VETERINARY CONTROL .....	38

45.	HORSE ELIGIBILITY .....	38
46.	HORSE STATUS .....	39
47.	NOVICE HORSE RESTRICTIONS .....	40
48.	ENDURANCE HORSE RESTRICTIONS .....	40
49.	ISSUING A LOGBOOK .....	41
50.	USE OF LOGBOOKS .....	42
51.	INVASIVE TREATMENT.....	42
52.	REST ORDER.....	43
53.	VETERINARY TREATMENT AND ASSOCIATED FEES.....	44
54.	HORSE CONTAINMENT .....	44
55.	HORSE BEHAVIOUR .....	44
56.	STALLIONS .....	44
57.	HORSE TACK.....	45
58.	WHISKERS TO STAY PUT .....	45
59.	HOOF PROTECTION .....	45
60.	ELIMINATED & WITHDRAWN HORSES.....	45
61.	HORSE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (HEWS) .....	45
62.	EQUINE ANTI-DOPING AND CONTROLLED MEDICATION RULES .....	46
63.	HORSE CATASTROPHE (DEATH) .....	47

**Chapter 7. VETERINARY CONTROLS & PROCEDURES .....48**

64.	INTRODUCTION.....	48
65.	PRE-RIDE VETERINARY INSPECTION .....	49
66.	END-OF-LEG VETERINARY INSPECTION .....	50
67.	ADDITIONAL VETERINARY CONTROLS.....	50
68.	VETERINARY DECISION MAKING .....	51

**INDEX OF TABLES**

TABLE 1	ACRONYMS.....	6
TABLE 2	DEFINITIONS.....	6
TABLE 3	MINIMUM PENALTIES FOR SERIOUS INFRINGEMENTS .....	10
TABLE 4	DEFINITION OF RIDE TYPES.....	11
TABLE 5	COMPETITIVE STATUS OF RIDES AND RELEVANT AWARDS REQUIRED .....	11
TABLE 6	RIDE DISTANCE (INCLUSIVE OF ELEVATION LEGS IF ANY) & LEG REQUIREMENTS FOR STANDARD RIDE CONTROL.....	12
TABLE 7	HEART RATE CRITERIA, MAXIMUM PRESENT TIMES AND HOLD TIMES FOR STANDARD RIDE CONTROL .....	13
TABLE 8	DEFINITION OF THE COMMENCEMENT AND CESSATION OF RIDING TIME, PRESENT TIME AND HOLD TIMES FOR STANDARD RIDE CONTROL .....	13
TABLE 9	RIDE DISTANCE (INCLUSIVE OF ELEVATION LEGS IF ANY) & LEG REQUIREMENTS FOR VGIH RIDE CONTROL.....	14
TABLE 10	HEART RATE CRITERIA, MAXIMUM PRESENT TIMES AND HOLD TIMES FOR VGIH RIDE CONTROL.....	15
TABLE 11	DEFINITION OF THE COMMENCEMENT AND CESSATION OF RIDING TIME, ACTUAL PRESENT TIME AND HOLD TIMES FOR VGIH RIDE CONTROL .....	15
TABLE 12	MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM HOLD TIMES FOR VGIH RIDE CONTROL .....	16
TABLE 13	MINIMUM RIDER REQUIREMENTS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH CLAUSE 27.2.....	29
TABLE 14	RIDER RIDING DIVISION CRITERIA .....	30
TABLE 15	RIDER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PENALTY POINTS .....	36
TABLE 16	MINIMUM HORSE AGE & DENTITION CRITERIA ON THE DAY OF THE RIDE .....	38
TABLE 17	MINIMUM HORSE STATUS CRITERIA ON THE DAY OF THE RIDE .....	39
TABLE 18	HORSE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PENALTY POINTS .....	45

APPENDICES

1	AERA Equine Catastrophe Notification Protocol.....	53
2	Supplementary Rules for <i>Social Rides</i> / Introductory Rides / Clinics .....	54
3	AERA Horse Welfare Position Statement.....	

## Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION, DEFINITIONS & COMPLIANCE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Sport of Equestrian Endurance Riding requires a single horse and rider combination to successfully complete a pre-determined course within a pre-determined time, thus the motto of the sport is 'To Complete is to Win'. At all times, the welfare of the horse shall be paramount.
- 1.2. The Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc. may also conduct other equine related activities from time to time. Rules relating to such other equine related activities are contained in Section 2 Complementary Competition Rules.
- 1.3. The Australian Endurance Riders Association Incorporated Rulebook (hereinafter 'Rulebook') comprises the following documents:
  - Section 1: General Rules (this document).
  - Section 2: Complementary Competition Rules.
  - Section 3: Veterinary Rules.
  - Section 4: Social Media Engagement Rules.
  - Section 5: Equine Anti-doping & Controlled Medication (EADCM) Rules.
  - Section 6: Risk Management Rules.
  - Section 7: AERA Forms as listed on the Forms page on the AERA website.
- 1.4. The Rulebook will be amended from time to time in the manner determined by the Constitution of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Incorporated (hereinafter 'AERA').
- 1.5. If this Section of the Rulebook is silent on a particular matter, then other relevant clauses in other Sections of the Rulebook relating to that matter shall prevail, subject however to the application of the legal principle of *lex specialis derogat legi generali* which provides that a specific provision should govern over a general provision.
- 1.6. The headings used for the various parts and Clauses of this document are for convenience only and shall not be deemed part of the substance of these Rules or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 1.7. Unless the contrary intention appears in this document:
  - a) words importing a gender include every other gender, and
  - b) words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular, and
  - c) words appearing in italics in this document require the italicised word to be interpreted for that sentence with reference to the definition for the italicised word as provided in Table 2.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

**Table 1 Acronyms**

AERA	Australian Endurance Riders Association Incorporated
BC	Best Conditioned
BM	Best Managed
DA	Division Association
EA	Equestrian Australia
FEI	Fédération Equestre Internationale
HEWS	Horse Early Warning System
REWS	Rider Early Warning System
ROC	Ride Organising Committee
TPR	Temperature and Pulse Rate steward

**Table 2 Definitions**

All-up riding weight	Includes the rider and all items to be carried by the horse (or intended to be carried) but shall <b>EXCLUDE</b> : a) the bridle (or equivalent) b) any leg or hoof protection worn (or intended to be worn) on the horse c) any water or liquid in any container d) any item carried (or intended to be carried) which was not, or will not, be carried for the entire duration of the leg.
Completion	The horse and rider have completed the relevant required distance of the <i>ride</i> and passed all required veterinary inspections.
Compulsory Represent Veterinary Inspection	A mandatory veterinary inspection imposed by the head veterinarian on all horses participating in the ride. The horse must pass the compulsory represent veterinary inspection in order to continue in the ride.
Day of the ride	The date on which Leg 1 of the <i>ride</i> commences. Where a <i>ride</i> begins at midnight, the <i>Day of the ride</i> will be deemed to be the date as at 12:00:01am.
EAD & CM	Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medications.
Endurance ride	As defined in Table 4.
Event	One or more individual <i>rides</i> conducted at the same venue, by the same <i>ROC</i> over one or more days.
Force majeure	Due to causes that are outside the control of the <i>ROC</i> (such as natural disasters) that could not be evaded through the exercise of due care.
Hold time	That period of time that must expire after <i>riding time</i> ceases after one leg and before <i>riding time</i> commences for the next leg.
Horse	Any member of the genus <i>EQUUS</i> including horse, mule, donkey, ass or zebra.
Intermediate ride	As defined in Table 4.
Introductory ride	As defined in Table 4.
Invasive treatment	Any action involving the puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of any instrument or any foreign material into the body of the horse but shall <b>EXCLUDE</b> : a) the use of permitted oral medications (refer EADCM Rules) by way of a dosing syringe (e.g. electrolytes and gastric ulceration medication) or b) the use of a thermometer to take temperature or c) the formal taking of blood pursuant to medication control procedures (refer EADCM Rules).
Leg	A defined course of a specified distance (dependent on the ride control being used) and as determined in Tables 6 and 9 respectively.
Line honours	The horse and rider combination that successfully completes the ride in the shortest elapsed <i>riding time</i> from any riding division in either an <i>endurance</i> or <i>marathon ride</i> .
List	The “FEI Equine Prohibited Substance List” (as amended from time to time).
Logbook	The book labelled ‘AERA Novice Logbook’ or ‘AERA Endurance Logbook’ printed by the AERA and issued by a DA for recording the performance and metabolic parameters of a single horse at a <i>ride</i> .
Marathon ride	As defined in Table 4.
Maximum Present time	The nominated maximum period of time in which a horse must be presented for a veterinary inspection after the horse is timed in off a leg.
Micro-marathon ride	As defined in Table 4.

# AERA RULEBOOK – SECTION 1 - GENERAL RULES©

Mini-marathon ride	As defined in Table 4.
Owner	Person or entity having a property interest in whole or in part of one or more horses.
Pace rider	A person nominated by the chief steward or ROC who is an endurance status rider, not necessarily riding an endurance status horse, and who cannot be passed by a novice rider or the rider of a novice horse.
Participant	Any person attending an <i>event</i> including, but not limited to, <i>riders</i> , <i>support personnel</i> , <i>ride officials</i> and <i>spectators</i> .
Person responsible for the horse	The <i>person responsible for the horse</i> at a ride is <i>prima facie</i> , the <i>rider</i> and the <i>trainer</i> of the horse, (jointly and severally), however <i>support personnel</i> and the <i>owner</i> of the horse may also be regarded as additional <i>persons responsible</i> if they were present at the event and/or made a relevant decision about the horse, and compelling circumstances warrant such an extension.
Pre-ride briefing	A meeting convened by the ROC to communicate information regarding the conduct of each <i>ride</i> to the relevant <i>riders</i> and their <i>support personnel</i> .
Prima facie	On the face of it. At first glance.
Responsible Adult	An adult person who is appointed by a parent or legal guardian to provide support and supervision of an unaccompanied junior rider at an event.
Retire	Only relevant for <i>elevator rides</i> . The horse and <i>rider</i> may elect to 'retire' at any elevation leg after the successful completion of the relevant minimum distance required by Table 6 or Table 9.
Ride	A single ride as defined in Table 4.
Ride official	Any person acting in any capacity associated with the conduct of a <i>ride</i> . A <i>ride official</i> specifically includes (but is not limited to) the chief steward(s), the TPR steward(s), members of the veterinary team, members of the ROC, volunteers such as time stewards, weigh stewards, database operators, scribes, checkpoint and course personnel.
Ride organising committee	An Incorporated Entity which is formally affiliated with the AERA or a DA to conduct an <i>event</i> in accordance with this Rulebook.
Rider	A person who has entered a <i>ride</i> at the <i>event</i> being conducted.
Riding time	<p><b>Total Riding Time</b> The total amount of time expired between when the horse and rider commence the ride and when the horse and rider are timed in off the final leg of the ride less the cumulative <i>hold times</i> imposed after each leg.</p> <p><b>Individual Leg Riding Time</b> That amount of time expired between the commencement and completion of the leg being dependent on the ride control being used and as determined in Tables 8 and 11 respectively.</p> <p><b>Minimum Riding Time</b> The minimum riding time that a horse or rider must spend on track – is from leaving the departure gate / spot to being timed in off the track – to comply with rules 8.6, 29.2 and 47.4.</p>
Serious infringement	Any infringement listed in Table 3.
Social Ride	A recreational trail, educational or <i>social ride</i> for DA members and non-members, hosted by a club, and affiliated by Divisions in the usual way, that is less than 20km and is not held on the same day as and at the same location as an affiliated endurance event. <i>Social rides</i> are non-competitive with no placings. Completion awards are not required. Distance completed is not entered in AERASpace and is not included in the National or State distance score. Horses are not subject to veterinary controls. Subject to a risk assessment, vets are not required to be in attendance at <i>social rides</i> . Where this is the case, arrangements should be made to have an on-call vet available to attend if required. <i>Social rides</i> must comply with Appendix 2: Supplementary Rules for <i>social rides</i> / Introductory Days / Clinics.

## AERA RULEBOOK – SECTION 1 - GENERAL RULES©

AERA ROLLEBOOK - CLAUSE 1 - GENERAL RULES				
Spectator	Any person present at an <i>event</i> who does not satisfy the definition of a <i>rider</i> , <i>support personnel</i> or <i>ride official</i> .			
Support personnel	Any person providing support to a <i>rider</i> and/or their horse at a <i>ride</i> , including but not limited to the <i>trainer</i> of the horse, grooms, private veterinarians, family and friends.			
Trainer	One or more natural persons who had primary care, custody and control of the horse in preparation for the <i>ride</i> being attended, including but not limited to, the oversight of the exercise, nutritional and veterinary program for the horse.			
Vet Card	A single use document labelled 'AERA Vet Card' printed by the AERA and issued by a DA for recording the performance and metabolic parameters of a single horse and only available for use in an <i>introductory</i> or <i>intermediate ride</i> .			
Veterinary control	A horse is deemed to be under <i>veterinary control</i> when the horse commences its pre-ride veterinary inspection, and remains under <i>veterinary control</i> until <b>all</b> the following have been satisfied: a) the horse is either eliminated from or successfully completes the <i>ride</i> b) the head veterinarian signs off the horse's <i>logbook</i> or vet card c) the ride secretary has signed and released the horse's <i>logbook</i> or vet card.			
Voting Panel	As defined in Clause 67.3.			
Winner	The horse and rider combination that successfully completes the ride in the shortest elapsed <i>riding time</i> from either of the middleweight or heavyweight riding divisions in either an <i>endurance</i> or <i>marathon ride</i> .			
Withdraw	A horse and rider may withdraw from a <i>ride</i> pursuant to Clause 34. A withdrawn horse and rider do not receive points nor distance in relation to the 3 national competitions, nor does the horse or rider attract points for the REWS or the HEWS if the horse successfully passes any required veterinary inspection prior to withdrawal.			
> Greater than	< Less than	= Equal to	>= Greater than or equal to	<= Less than or equal to

### 3. COMPLIANCE, JURISDICTION & MANAGEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 3.1 Every *Ride Organising Committee* (hereinafter '*ROC*') conducting a *ride* affiliated with the AERA or a Division Association (hereinafter '*DA*') will observe and abide with this Rulebook (as amended from time to time). Failure to abide with this Rulebook may result in future *ride* affiliation applications being refused by the DA.
- 3.2 Every *participant* at a *ride* affiliated with the AERA or a DA will observe and abide with this Rulebook (as amended from time to time). Failure to abide with this Rulebook may result in action being taken by the chief steward at the *event*, and/or action being taken by a DA where appropriate and jurisdiction permits.
- 3.3 It is the obligation of *riders*, *support personnel*, *ride officials*, *persons responsible* and any other person who is subject to this Rulebook to know the rules contained in this Rulebook, and lack of such knowledge does not relieve those persons from liabilities under this Rulebook.

#### JURISDICTION AT AN EVENT

- 3.4 The chief steward has jurisdiction at an event from the opening of the ride base until the closure of the ride base. The chief steward is responsible to ensure that the event is conducted in accordance with this Rulebook. All decisions made at an event by the chief steward are final, but subject to appeal pursuant to Clause 10.
- 3.5 The veterinary team has jurisdiction over a horse at an event whilst that horse is under *veterinary control*. All decisions made at an *event* by the head veterinarian are final, but subject to appeal pursuant to Clause 10.
- 3.6 Police or other emergency assistance may be sought by the chief steward or the *ROC* in any situation deemed necessary.

#### MANAGEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 3.7 Each DA shall establish a committee, panel or other body (hereinafter '*hearing panel*' for the purposes of this document) to hear, decide and where appropriate impose penalties for *serious infringements* pursuant to



Table 3 of this Rulebook by a member of their DA.

- 3.8 In the situation where a DA member is alleged to have committed a *serious infringement* pursuant to Table 3, the DA shall, as a minimum, ensure a disciplinary process is conducted in accordance with the following principles for a fair hearing which requires:
- a fair and impartial hearing panel
  - the hearing to be held expeditiously, subject to prompt and complete submissions by the parties
  - the right of the accused to be represented by counsel at the accused's own expense (subject to incorporation laws in respective states)
  - the right of the accused to be fairly and promptly informed of the asserted rule infringement
  - the right of the accused to respond to the asserted rule infringement
  - the right of the accused to attend the hearing under all circumstances (excluding deliberations of the hearing panel)
  - the right of each party to present evidence
  - the right of each party to call and question witnesses (subject to the hearing panel's discretion to accept testimony by telephone or written submission)
  - a timely, written, reasoned decision, specifically including an explanation for any penalty.
  - the presence of a parent or legal guardian to support all junior members in addition to counsel as per 3.8 c)

#### WAIVER OF A HEARING

- 3.9 The right to a hearing may be waived either expressly or by the accused's failure to respond within twenty-one (21) days of notification that such a breach is alleged. In such circumstances, a hearing shall still proceed on the evidence provided and the hearing panel shall issue a reasoned decision.

#### PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENTS

- 3.10 If a DA determines that a member has infringed this Rulebook, penalties imposed may include, but are not limited to:
- a direction to comply
  - non-recognition of results
  - imposition of a non-participation time period for a *rider, trainer, support personnel* and/or *horse*
  - imposition of novice status for a period of time for a *rider* and/or *horse*
  - imposition of a monetary fine on a *rider, trainer* or *support personnel* for the purposes of cost recovery
  - termination of DA membership
  - any other reasonable penalty as determined by the DA.

*Serious infringements* listed in Table 3 shall be subject to the minimum penalty specified in Table 3 unless compelling circumstances otherwise warrant.

**Table 3 Minimum penalties for serious infringements**

CLAUSE	OFFENCE	MINIMUM PENALTY
26.11	Violation of the Code of Conduct for the <i>rider</i> and their <i>support personnel</i> , and/or the <i>rider</i> misrepresents their age, identity or riding status.	<i>Rider</i> ineligible to participate for 6 months.
39.3	Failure to return or make good trophies and awards.	<i>Rider</i> & <i>horse</i> ineligible to participate until the request is satisfied.
41.3	Human anti-doping violation.	<i>Rider</i> ineligible to participate for 12 months.
42.2	Violation of the Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse.	<i>Person's responsible</i> ineligible to participate for 12 months.
43.8	Making a false Trainers Declaration.	<i>Trainer</i> ineligible to participate for 12 months.
49.10	Failing to assist in the investigation of an alleged incorrect naming of a horse and/or failing to return the logbook for correction.	<i>Person's responsible</i> & <i>horse</i> ineligible to participate until the request is satisfied.
50.8	Failing to assist in the investigation of an alleged misrepresentation of a horse and/or failing to return the logbook for correction.	<i>Rider, person's responsible</i> & <i>horse</i> ineligible to participate until the request is satisfied.
62	Horse anti-doping violation.	Refer to Section 5 EADCM Rules.

#### INTERACTION BETWEEN THE AERA AND A DA IN THE CASE OF A SERIOUS INFRINGEMENT BY A DA MEMBER

- 3.11 A DA member having been subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Clause 3.7, may, after the decision is handed down, request the AERA (in writing) that the AERA review the matter. The AERA at its absolute discretion may choose not to review the matter.
- 3.12 The AERA may request information from a DA with regard to the management of the disciplinary matter and the imposition of penalties or otherwise (including the reasons) on a member of a DA. Such information must be supplied by the DA within 60 days of the written request.
- 3.13 Should the AERA review a matter pursuant to Clause 3.13, and the AERA considers there was an inadequacy in the process or that the penalty imposed is disproportionate to the breach, the AERA may request the DA to either:
- a) review and remedy the processes of the disciplinary hearing(s), and/or
  - b) review the penalty imposed to consider whether the penalty is proportionate to the offence, and/or
  - c) recommend the DA nullify the original decision and the DA instigate a new hearing, and/or
  - d) appoint an AERA approved independent person to participate and facilitate any review requested above.

#### INTERDIVISION RECOGNITION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 3.14 Any penalty imposed by a DA on a member, rider or horse, shall be respected and enforced by all other DA's affiliated with the AERA.

#### LOCAL RULES

- 3.15 A DA may implement 'local' rules which are particular to that DA, but such local rule(s) shall not contravene, contradict, negate or restrict any rule contained in this Rulebook (as amended from time to time).

## Chapter 2. DEFINITIONS & RIDE CONTROLS

### 4. RIDE DEFINITIONS

4.1 Table 4 provides the definition of each type of *ride*.

**Table 4 Definition of ride types**

Social ride	A recreational trail, educational or <i>social ride</i> for DA members and non-members, hosted by a club, and affiliated by Divisions in the usual way, that is less than 20km and is not held in conjunction with an affiliated endurance event. <i>Social rides</i> are non-competitive with no placings. Completion awards are not required. Distance completed is not entered in AERASpace and is not included in the National or State distance score. Horses are not subject to veterinary controls. Subject to a risk assessment, vets are not required to be in attendance at <i>social rides</i> . Where this is the case, arrangements should be made to have an on-call vet available to attend if required. <i>Social rides</i> must comply with Appendix 2: Supplementary Rules for <i>social rides</i> / Introductory Days / Clinics.
Introductory ride <sup>1</sup>	A single <i>ride</i> (including any elevation legs) between a distance of 1 km and 30 km (inclusive).
Intermediate ride	A single <i>ride</i> (including any elevation legs) between a distance of 40 km and 60 km (inclusive).
Micro-marathon ride	A single <i>ride</i> where a minimum of 15 km and a maximum (including any elevation legs) of 25 km is ridden each day for 3 or more consecutive days.
Mini-marathon ride	A single <i>ride</i> where a minimum of 40 km and a maximum (including any elevation legs) of 50 km is ridden each day for 3 or more consecutive days.
Endurance ride	A single <i>ride</i> where a minimum (excluding any elevation legs) of at least 80 km is ridden.
Marathon ride	A single <i>ride</i> where a minimum (excluding any elevation legs) of 240 km is completed over at least 3 consecutive days.

1. An *introductory ride* and a *micro-marathon ride* shall commence and finish in daylight.

4.2 Table 5 provides the competitive or non-competitive status of each type of *ride* and the ROC's obligations in relation to awards for each type of *ride*.

**Table 5 Competitive status of rides and relevant awards required**

Ride	Competitive Status	AWARDS			
		Completion	Division Placing	Best Conditioned	Best Managed
Introductory	Non-competitive	Mandatory	Not permitted	Not permitted	Optional
Intermediate	Non-competitive	Mandatory	Not permitted	Not permitted	Optional
Micro-marathon	Non-competitive	Mandatory	Not permitted	Not permitted	Optional
Mini-marathon	Non-competitive	Mandatory	Not permitted	Not permitted	Optional
Endurance	Competitive	Mandatory	Optional	Mandatory	Optional
Marathon	Competitive	Mandatory	Optional	Optional	Mandatory

4.3 *Introductory, intermediate and endurance rides* will be completed within 24 hours of the commencement of the ride and are not permitted to have any individual *hold time* exceeding 1 hour unless a variation has been approved by a DA pursuant to Clause 4.5, or unplanned circumstances pursuant to Clauses 8.12 to Clause 8.21 necessitate an extension of *hold times*.

4.4 *Micro-marathon, mini-marathon and marathon rides* shall be conducted over a minimum of 3 consecutive days and are permitted to have individual *hold times* greater than 1 hour and are exempt from the application of Clause 4.6.

- 4.5 A ROC conducting a *ride* with *hold times* exceeding 1 hour (other than a *micro-marathon*, *mini-marathon* or *marathon ride*) must obtain prior written approval from the relevant DA.
- 4.6 A *ride* conducted pursuant to Clause 4.5 shall not be eligible as a qualifying *ride* for the purposes of novice horse rules, novice rider rules or the Tom Quilty Gold Cup. Successful horses and riders shall receive only 75% of the points that would normally be awarded for the National Points Competition and 100% of the distance for the National Distance Competition.

## 5. STANDARD RIDE CONTROL

5.1 When the Standard 30 Minute (hereinafter 'Standard') ride control is used, Table 6 provides the:

- minimum and maximum total ride distances permitted inclusive of elevations (if any)
- minimum and maximum number of legs permitted
- individual maximum leg distances
- maximum average leg distances over the total *ride*.

**Table 6 Ride distance (inclusive of elevation legs if any) & leg requirements for standard ride control**

Ride	Minimum Total Km	Maximum Total Km	Minimum No. of Legs	Maximum No. of Legs	Maximum Any Leg Km	Maximum Average Leg Km
Introductory	1 km	30 km	1	2	30 km	15.0 km <sup>1</sup>
Intermediate	40 km	60 km	1	3	42 km	30.0 km <sup>1</sup>
Micro-marathon	45 km	Riding days x 25	3	Riding days x 1	25 km	25.0 km
Mini-marathon	120 km	Riding days x 50	3	Riding days x 1	50 km	50.0 km
Endurance	80 km	Unlimited	2	Unlimited	50 km	42.5 km
Marathon	240 km	Unlimited	6	Unlimited	50 km	42.5 km

For all *rides*, the distance of the *ride* shall be published and credited to the nearest whole kilometre with no decimal points permitted. A convention of rounding down or rounding up decimal points shall apply where a distance of less than 0.5 km shall be rounded down and a distance of 0.5 km or more shall be rounded up. For example, an *endurance ride* with a total distance of 81.4 km shall be published and credited as 81 km and a ride with a total distance of 81.5 km shall be published and credited as an 82 km ride.

- Where the *ride* consists of more than 1 leg.

- 5.2 All horses shall present for their veterinary inspection before the expiration of their maximum *present time* as shown in Table 7 and the *rider* may be eliminated by the chief steward if the horse is not presented within that maximum *present time*.
- 5.3 For logistical reasons, the chief steward may impose a time period of up to 15 minutes, before which a horse may not be presented for its veterinary inspection. Such a time period shall be announced by the chief steward at the *pre-ride briefing*.
- 5.4 All horses must satisfy the heart rate criteria within the maximum *present time* as shown in Table 7. Horses have only one opportunity to meet the heart rate criteria within the maximum *present time* and horses that do not satisfy the heart rate criteria on presentation shall be eliminated. If the horse passes the veterinary inspection, the horse and rider shall not begin the next leg until the expiration of its *hold time* as shown in Table 7. A rider who begins the next leg prior to the expiration of their hold time may be eliminated by the chief steward depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

**Table 7 Heart rate criteria, maximum present times and hold times for standard ride control**

Veterinary Inspection	Maximum Heart Rate	Maximum Present Time	Hold Time
Pre-ride inspection	No maximum	Not applicable	Not applicable
First vet inspection	55 bpm or below	30 minutes	60 minutes <sup>1</sup>
All other vet inspections	60 bpm or below	30 minutes	60 minutes <sup>1</sup>
Introductory, intermediate, micro-marathon & mini-marathon rides	55 bpm or below on all legs	30 minutes	60 minutes <sup>2</sup>

1. A ride with a hold time greater than 1 hour will be subject to Clauses 4.5 and 4.6.

2. The hold time may exceed 1 hour for a *micro-marathon*, *mini-marathon* and *marathon* rides.

5.5 When the Standard ride control is used, Table 8 provides definitions for the commencement and cessation of *riding time*, *present time* and *hold times*.

**Table 8 Definition of the commencement and cessation of riding time, present time and hold times for standard ride control**

Leg	Riding Time		Present Time		Hold Time	
	Commences	Ceases	Commences	Ceases	Commences	Ceases
First Leg	Dependent on the chosen start method	When timed in off the leg	When timed in off the leg	30 minutes after commencement of the present time	When timed in off the leg	60 minutes after commencement of the hold time
Other Legs	When the hold time expires after the previous leg	When timed in off the leg	When timed in off the leg	30 minutes after commencement of the present time	When timed in off the leg	60 minutes after commencement of the hold time
Final Leg	When the hold time expires after the previous leg	When timed in off the leg	When timed in off the leg	30 minutes after commencement of the present time	Not applicable	Not Applicable

5.6 For the purpose of withdrawing pursuant to Clause 34, the horse and rider are deemed to be 'on course' at the expiration of the *hold time*, irrespective whether the horse and rider actually departed on course.

## 6. VGIH RIDE CONTROL

6.1 When the Vet-Gate-Into-Hold (hereinafter 'VGIH') ride control is used, Table 9 provides the:

- minimum and maximum total *ride* distances permitted inclusive of elevations (if any)
- minimum and maximum number of legs permitted
- individual maximum leg distances
- maximum average leg distances over the total *ride*.

**Table 9 Ride distance (inclusive of elevation legs if any) & leg requirements for VGIH ride control**

Ride	Minimum Total Km	Maximum Total Km	Minimum No. of Legs <sup>1</sup>	Maximum No. of Legs	Maximum Any Leg Km	Maximum Average Leg Km
Introductory	1 km	30 km	1	2	30 km	15.0 km <sup>2</sup>
Intermediate	40 km	60 km	1	2	42 km	30.0 km <sup>2</sup>
Micro-marathon	45 km	Riding days x 25	3	Riding days x 1	25 km	25.0 km
Mini-marathon	120 km	Riding days x 50	3	Riding days x 1	50 km	50.0 km
Endurance >= 80 km < 120km	80 km	119 km	2	4	50 km	40.0 km
Endurance >= 120 km < 160 km	120 km	159 km	3	5	50 km	40.0 km
Endurance >= 160 km	160 km	Unlimited	5	Unlimited	50 km	40.0 km
Marathon	240 km	Unlimited	6	Unlimited	50 km	42.5 km

For all *rides*, the distance of the ride shall be published and credited to the nearest whole kilometre with no decimal points permitted. A convention of rounding down or rounding up decimal points shall apply where a distance of less than 0.5 km shall be rounded down and a distance of 0.5 km or more shall be rounded up. For example, an *endurance ride* with a total distance of 81.4 km shall be published and credited as 81 km and a ride with a total distance of 81.5 km shall be published and credited as an 82 km ride.

When VGIH ride control is used:

- the final leg in an *endurance ride* should not be less than 15 km, and
- the final leg of any *ride* should (where possible) be shorter in distance and of lesser intensity than previous legs, and
- for any *ride* of 120 km or greater the last 2 legs should (where possible) be shorter in distance and of lesser intensity than the previous legs.

The minimum number of legs are subject to satisfying the maximum 'Any Leg' distance and the maximum 'Average Leg' distance requirements in the adjacent columns above.

- Where the *ride* consists of more than 1 leg.

6.2 All horses shall present for their veterinary inspection before the expiration of their maximum *present time* for that leg as shown in Table 10 and the *rider* may be eliminated by the chief steward if the horse is not presented within that maximum *present time*.

6.3 All horses must satisfy the heart rate criteria within the maximum *present time* as shown in Table 10. Horses have a maximum of 2 attempts to pass the heart rate criteria within the maximum *present time* on all legs except for the final leg and any represent when the horse is permitted only 1 attempt. Horses that do not satisfy the heart rate criteria within the maximum *present time* shall be eliminated. If the horse passes the veterinary inspection, the horse and rider shall not begin the next leg until the expiration of the *hold time* for that leg. A rider who begins the next leg prior to the expiration of their hold time may be eliminated by the chief steward depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

**Table 10 Heart rate criteria, maximum present times and hold times for VGIH ride control**

Vet Inspection	Maximum Heart Rate	Maximum Present Time	Maximum Hold Time
Pre-ride inspection	No maximum	Not applicable	Not applicable
Introductory, intermediate, micro-marathon and mini-marathon rides	55 bpm or below on all legs	30 minutes	60 minutes <sup>1</sup>
Endurance rides	60 bpm or below on all legs	30 minutes	60 minutes <sup>1</sup>
Marathon rides	60 bpm or below on all legs	30 minutes	Announced at pre-ride briefing <sup>2</sup>

1. A ride with a hold time greater than 1 hour will be subject to Clauses 4.5 and 4.6.

2. Maximum hold time may exceed 1 hour for a *marathon* ride.

6.4 When VGIH ride control is used, Table 11 provides definitions for the commencement and cessation of *riding time*, *present time* and *hold times*.

**Table 11 Definition of the commencement and cessation of riding time, actual present time and hold times for VGH ride control**

Leg	Riding Time for a leg		Actual Present Time for a leg		Hold Time for a leg	
	Commences	Ceases	Commences	Ceases	Commences	Ceases
First Leg	Dependent on the chosen start method	When the handler calls time and the horse subsequently passes the HR criteria within the maximum present time advised at the pre-ride briefing	When timed in off the leg	When the handler calls time and the horse subsequently passes the HR criteria within the maximum present time advised at the pre-ride briefing.	When the handler calls time and the horse subsequently passes the HR criteria within the maximum present time advised at the pre-ride briefing.	At the end of the hold time as advised at the pre-ride briefing.
Other Legs	When the hold time expires after the previous leg	When the handler calls time and the horse subsequently passes the HR criteria within the maximum present time advised at the pre-ride briefing	When timed in off the leg	When the handler calls time and the horse subsequently passes the HR criteria within the maximum present time advised at the pre-ride briefing.	When the handler calls time and the horse subsequently passes the HR criteria within the maximum present time advised at the pre-ride briefing.	At the end of the hold time as advised at the pre-ride briefing.
Final Leg	When the hold time expires after the previous leg	When timed in off the final leg	When timed in off the leg	When the handler calls time and the horse subsequently passes the HR criteria within the maximum present time advised at the pre-ride briefing.	Not applicable	Not applicable

6.5 For the purpose of withdrawing pursuant to Clause 34, the horse and rider are deemed to be 'on course' at the expiration of the *hold time*, irrespective whether the horse and rider actually departed on course.



- 6.6 *Hold times*, subject to the minimum and maximum as shown in Table 12, shall be decided by the head veterinarian in consultation with the chief steward and ROC and must be announced at the *pre-ride briefing*. Table 12 also provides a guide for calculating *hold times*.

**Table 12 Minimum and maximum hold times for VGIH ride control**

Minimum <i>hold time</i> for any individual hold	10 minutes
Maximum <i>hold time</i> for any individual hold	60 minutes

As a general **guide** to calculating the *hold times* for a ride:

Allow 1 minute for every kilometre of the *ride*. 160 km = 160 minutes  
 Divide the total minutes by the number of holds. 160 km with 5 legs = 4 holds.  
 Each hold = 40 minutes (160 minutes divided by 4 holds).

You should increase your *hold time* for the scenarios below however any individual hold time cannot exceed 60 minutes irrespective of the suggestions below:

Add 10 minutes if the hold will include a compulsory represent.  
 Add 10 minutes if the leg being completed is longer than 40 km.  
 Add 10 minutes if the leg being completed is considered difficult.

## 7. OPTIONAL ELEVATION LEGS

- 7.1 Any ride may include 1 or more optional elevation legs to be ridden pursuant to the minimum and maximum number of legs as required by Table 6 or Table 9, dependent on the ride control to be used.
- 7.2 All horses and riders entering a ride with 1 or more elevation legs are subject to all rider rules (Chapter 5) and all horse rules (Chapter 6) applicable to the maximum elevated distance available for the ride.
- 7.3 All riders entering a ride with 1 or more elevation legs, shall enter and pay the entry fee for the maximum elevated distance available.
- 7.4 A rider may elect to *retire* after the successful completion of the relevant minimum distance as required by Table 6 or Table 9 dependent on the ride control being used and any requested or compulsory represent veterinary inspections. Alternatively, the rider may elect to *retire* after the successful completion of any subsequent elevation legs and any requested or compulsory represent veterinary inspections, and the horse's *logbook* shall be notated as '*Retired*'.
- 7.5 In order to retire, the rider must notify the chief steward before the expiration of their *hold time*. If the rider subsequently wishes to *retire* but has failed to notify the chief steward before the expiration of their *hold time*, then the horse must be 'withdrawn' pursuant to Clause 34 and shall receive no recognition for the distance already completed.
- 7.6 To be eligible as the *winner* of the *ride*, the horse and rider must successfully complete the maximum elevated distance available.
- 7.7 ROC's shall issue completion awards to those riders who have:
- successfully completed the maximum elevated distance available, or
  - retired* after successfully completing the minimum (or greater) distance as required by Table 6 or Table 9 dependent on the ride control being used.

The value of the completion awards should reflect the varying distances successfully completed.

- 7.8 Only horses and riders which successfully completed the maximum elevated distance available shall receive recognition towards both the National Points Competition and the National Distance Competition for the maximum elevated distance. Horses and riders who *retire* shall only receive recognition on the National Distance Competition for the distance successfully completed.



**8. MINIMUM & MAXIMUM RIDING TIMES, PACE RIDER & UNPLANNED CIRCUMSTANCES****MAXIMUM RIDING TIMES**

- 8.1 The maximum *riding time* for a *ride* and for any individual leg, if imposed, shall be set by the chief steward in consultation with the head veterinarian and the ROC.
- 8.2 All maximum *riding times* imposed shall be communicated to the riders at the *pre-ride briefing* as a specific time of day (i.e. ride starts at 4 am, Leg 1 closes at 9 am, course closes at 2 pm).
- 8.3 The maximum *riding time* permitted for each individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 10 km/hr.
- 8.4 A rider who exceeds the maximum *riding time* may be eliminated by the chief steward. Any amendment to the maximum *riding time* shall be communicated immediately to all riders still in the ride, utilising the most efficient and effective technology available, but as a minimum, the chief steward shall ensure that all operating checkpoints and the departure gate personnel are notified.

**MINIMUM RIDING TIMES**

- 8.5 There are no minimum *riding times* for *endurance* and *marathon rides*, except where the rider or horse are subject to novice restrictions pursuant to Clause 29 or Clause 47 respectively.
- 8.6 For all *introductory*, *intermediate*, *micro-marathon* and *mini-marathon rides* there is a minimum *riding time* imposed, irrespective of whether the rider and/or horse are novice or endurance status. Irrespective of the ride control used, the minimum *riding time* as defined in Table 2 permitted for each individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr.

**PACE RIDER**

- 8.7 The use of a *pace rider* is an additional ride control available for *introductory* and *intermediate rides*.
- 8.8 If appointed, the *pace rider* must be clearly identified at the *pre-ride briefing* and be easily identifiable when on course.
- 8.9 Novice riders and riders of novice horses must not pass the *pace rider*, or they may be eliminated by the chief steward depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.
- 8.10 If the *pace rider* is unable to continue on course for any reason, he shall delegate the function to another suitable rider and advise the chief steward by whatever means available.
- 8.11 The *pace rider* is subject to Clause 8.6.

**UNPLANNED CIRCUMSTANCES**

- 8.12 An unplanned circumstance is any unforeseen incident which has the capacity to detrimentally impact on the welfare of horses, riders, ride officials, support personnel or spectators. An unplanned circumstance may include, but is not limited to fire, flood, storm, extreme heat and/or humidity. Depending on the nature and severity of the unplanned circumstances, the chief steward after consultation with the ROC and the head veterinarian, may act in accordance with either Clause 8.13 or Clause 8.14.
- 8.13 If the ride has not yet started, the chief steward may cancel the ride or delay the start of the ride.
- 8.14 If the ride has already started, the chief steward may:
  - a) cancel the ride, or
  - b) extend the maximum *riding time*, and/or
  - c) alter the course, and/or
  - d) reduce the distance of the ride, and/or
  - e) impose a temporary closure of part or all of the course and/or vet ring pursuant to Clause 8.17.
- 8.15 If Clause 8.14 (b), (c) or (d) is actioned, the change shall be communicated immediately to all riders still in the ride, utilising the most efficient and effective technology available, but as a minimum, the chief steward shall ensure that all operating checkpoints and the departure gate personnel are notified.

8.16 If Clause 8.14 (d) is actioned:

- a) the reduced distance must still comply with a minimum distance of Table 6 or Table 9 to qualify as a ride. For example, a 120 km ride could reduce to an 80 km ride.
- b) no BC, BM or place awards are to be given with only completions to be recognised.
- c) a reduction in total ride distance is not available for DA Championship or Tom Quilty Gold Cup rides.

#### TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COURSE AND/OR VET RING

8.17 The chief steward may temporarily close the course and/or the vet ring and in extreme circumstances evacuate all or part of the ride base.

8.18 When some or all of the course is temporarily closed, *riders* currently on course may choose to:

- a) take shelter on course until the hazard passes and then continue on the course as marked, or
- b) return to the ride base unassisted with a view to re-starting the leg they were riding if and when circumstances permit. In this instance the rider is not compensated for the kms ridden on the leg prior to returning to ride base, or
- c) withdraw on course pursuant to Clause 34.

8.19 Where the vet ring is temporarily closed, horses on the ride base waiting to present for a veterinary inspection should remain in their camp or alternative safe location until the vet ring closure is lifted.

The chief steward shall provide 30 minutes notice to all riders prior to the lifting of the relevant closure so as to enable horses to be prepared for vetting and/or departure on the next leg as the case may be.

8.20 When a ride has been subject to a closure period and there has been no reduction in ride distance, then place awards may be given along with BC and/or BM, but only if riders had already completed the ride and filled the placings prior to the ride closure being imposed by the chief steward.

8.21 *Prima facie*, any advantage or disadvantage to a rider as a consequence of the temporary closure of the course and/or vet ring shall be deemed *force majeure* and will not be subject to adjustment by the chief steward.

#### 9. SPECIFIC MICRO-MARATHON, MINI-MARATHON & MARATHON RIDE CONTROLS

9.1 This clause contains ride controls that are specific to *micro-marathon*, *mini-marathon* and *marathon rides* and shall take precedence over other clauses in this Rulebook should there be a conflict or contradiction. If this clause is silent on a particular matter, then other relevant clauses in this Rulebook relating to that matter shall prevail.

9.2 Each rider's *riding time* shall be recorded daily and made available to the riders at the completion of each day.

9.3 A riders' briefing shall be held at the completion of each day, where the course to be ridden, the course closure times and the names of key personnel on duty for the following day must be announced.

9.4 The veterinary team may require some or all horses to present for a veterinary inspection prior to the commencement of each day pursuant to Clause 66.1.

#### REST DAYS

9.5 *Micro-marathon*, *mini-marathon* or *marathon rides* of 4 days or more may include designated rest days of 24 hours which are only available once the first 3 consecutive riding days are completed. Each nominated rest day shall be announced at the initial *pre-ride briefing*. If unplanned circumstances arise, a change of rest days is permitted but it shall be approved by a majority vote from those *riders* still in the ride.

#### LEG START TIMES

9.6 The ROC may elect to nominate a combination of the options available in Clause 33.1 to start any leg of the *ride*. The method or methods chosen must be announced at the *pre-ride briefing*.

## 10. APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS AT A RIDE

### APPEALING A DECISION MADE BY THE VETERINARY TEAM

- 10.1 The elimination of a horse by a member of the veterinary team may be verbally appealed by either of the 2 persons accompanying the horse pursuant to Clauses 67.5 or Clause 67.6.

### APPEALING A DECISION MADE BY THE CHIEF STEWARD

- 10.2 The rider of a horse may verbally appeal to the chief steward for him to reconsider an earlier decision made by him, but such appeal should be within 30 minutes of the original decision which prompts the appeal.

### APPEALING A DECISION MADE BY OTHER RIDE OFFICIALS

- 10.3 The rider of a horse may verbally appeal to the chief steward to overturn an earlier decision made by a *ride official* (other than a veterinary decision) but such appeal should be within 30 minutes of the original decision which prompts the appeal.

### COMPLAINTS IN GENERAL

- 10.4 Any *rider* may verbally lodge a complaint to the chief steward in relation to the action of another *rider*, *support personnel* or *ride official*. Where possible, the complaint should be lodged within 1 hour of the incident initiating the complaint. The chief steward may subsequently require the complaint to be lodged in writing depending on the nature, severity and circumstances of the complaint. The chief steward shall investigate the complaint and take appropriate action (if necessary) as soon as possible but in all instances before the presentation ceremony. The chief steward shall communicate the outcome of his deliberations and/or actions to the complainant.

### COMPLAINTS RE PLACINGS

- 10.5 A *rider* may verbally appeal to the chief steward regarding the final placings as announced at the presentation ceremony, but such appeal shall be made within 30 minutes of the completion of the presentation ceremony.

### APPEALING THE DECISION OF AN APPEAL OR A COMPLAINT

- 10.6 Any *rider* may lodge a written appeal to the relevant DA regarding a decision made by the chief steward at a ride where they appealed a decision which was subsequently dismissed by the chief steward. The written appeal to the DA may only be lodged on the grounds that the chief steward erred in his interpretation or application of a specific clause of this Rulebook.

### COMPLAINT ABOUT THE BEHAVIOUR OF A RIDE OFFICIAL

- 10.7 Any *participant* at any *event* may lodge a written complaint to the relevant DA regarding the behaviour of a *ride official* at a *ride*. Where the *ride official* is a chief steward, TPR or veterinarian, the DA shall advise the AERA of the complaint and the subsequent outcome of any investigations and actions (if any) taken within 60 days of the outcome of the investigation.

## 11. DUAL AFFILIATED AERA AND FEI RIDE CONTROLS

- 11.1 FEI rides conducted in Australia below a 4 Star rating are required to be dual affiliated with the FEI and the relevant AERA DA appropriate to the location of the ride base.
- 11.2 The AERA ride(s) shall be conducted in accordance with the AERA Rulebook and the FEI ride(s) shall be conducted in accordance with applicable EA and FEI Rules and Regulations current at the time.
- 11.3 Every DA member and their horses participating in a dual affiliated FEI ride are subject to the applicable EA and FEI Rules and Regulations and this AERA Rulebook with reference to Clauses:
- a) 20.4 relating to cash prizes
  - b) 26 Rider Code of Conduct
  - c) 29 Novice rider restrictions
  - d) 40 Rider Early Warning System
  - e) 42 Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse

- f) 47 Novice horse restrictions
- g) 60 Horse Early Warning System.

- 11.4 The AERA chief steward shall liaise with the FEI Ground Jury President to ensure adherence to Clause 11.3.
- 11.5 The ROC, the veterinarians, the AERA chief steward and the FEI ride officials, whilst maintaining adherence to and the integrity of, their respective Rules and Regulations, shall cooperate as closely as possible to deliver a seamless harmonious event for all participants.
- 11.6 When FEI rides and AERA *rides* are conducted at the same *event*, the ROC may choose to conduct the AERA *rides* utilising the VGIH ride controls, and the AERA chief steward, in consultation with the head veterinarian and the ROC, may alter the heart rate criteria, *present times* and *hold times* for the AERA *rides* as shown in Table 10 to match the corresponding FEI parameters.
- 11.7 All horses currently registered with the FEI on the *day of a ride* must adhere to Article 815.3 of the FEI Endurance Rules relating to the Mandatory Rest for Horses. The rest period applies to both FEI and AERA affiliated *rides*. It shall be the responsibility of the *rider* to ensure that the horse will not violate Article 815.3. Failure to comply with FEI Endurance Article 815.3 whether intentionally or unintentionally, shall result in the horse and rider being eliminated retrospectively.

## Chapter 3. RIDE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

### 12. AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

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- 12.1 Every ROC shall:
- a) be an entity, incorporated in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia.
  - b) affiliate their event with the DA in which the ride base is located.
  - c) request affiliation in the manner and pay the affiliation fees as determined by the affiliating DA. A ROC may seek dual affiliation of their *event* with another DA and shall request affiliation in the manner and pay the dual affiliation fees (if any) as determined by the dual affiliating DA.
- 12.2 Upon confirmation of affiliation, the ROC is authorised to conduct the *event* in accordance with this Rulebook plus appropriate DA local rules (if any).
- 12.3 Inconsideration of an endurance event being approved by and affiliated with a DA, the Ride Organising Committee will not refuse entry to any person who is a member of a DA, unless there is legal justification for so doing.
- 12.4 Where an endurance event venue or any part of the course is on private land, the Ride Organising Committee must ensure that no private property owner will refuse access to their property to any person who is a member of a DA unless there is a legal justification for so doing.
- 12.5 Any legal justification which is relied on by a Ride Organising Committee or a landowner to preclude any person from an endurance event in any way must be provided to the relevant DA management committee prior to the endurance event.

### 13. CODE OF CONDUCT

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- 13.1 All members of the ROC shall conduct themselves at all times:
- a) in a courteous, respectful and professional manner, and shall expect reciprocal courtesy, respect and professionalism from other persons with whom they interact.
  - b) in a manner so as not to bring the Sport of Endurance into disrepute.
  - c) in accordance with the AERA Social Media Engagement Rules.

### 14. APPOINTMENT OF RIDE OFFICIALS

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- 14.1 A minimum of 12 weeks prior to their *event*, the ROC should appoint:
- a) a 'ride director' who is the primary point of contact for the *event*
  - b) a 'ride secretary' who is responsible for the administrative aspects of the *event*
  - c) an AERA accredited chief steward
  - d) an AERA accredited head veterinarian

- e) a treatment vet who shall be experienced in the treatment of performance horses and who will confirm their position on treating all horses attending the event
- f) the nearest equine hospital which will accept a horse from the event requiring treatment on an after-hours basis and their protocol for treating all horses attending the event
- g) sufficient number of other veterinarians for the expected number of entries pursuant to Clause 15
- h) a First Aid officer
- i) appropriate volunteers or community organisation to conduct any course checkpoints and provide communications to the ride base.

The head veterinarian may, depending on the expected number of entries also act as the treatment veterinarian.

14.2 A minimum of 4 weeks prior to their *event* the ROC should:

- a) liaise with the appointed head and treatment veterinarians to confirm:
  - i. the ride base facilities required to provide first aid treatment for a compromised or injured horse
  - ii. which veterinarian shall provide the fluids, drugs and consumables
  - iii. the nearest equine hospital which will accept a horse from the *event* requiring treatment on an after-hours basis.
- b) appoint a competent ride day secretariat with a sound knowledge of the ride administration function as well as database entry and the capability of communicating effectively with *riders* and *ride officials*.

14.3 A minimum of 2 weeks prior to their *event* the ROC should appoint a sufficient number of:

- a) TPR stewards for the expected number of entries.
- b) responsible volunteers for ride day tasks such as the arrival and departure gates, weighing, scribes etc.

## 15. VET TO HORSE RATIO

15.1 When identifying the number of veterinarians required for an *event*, the ROC shall include all expected entries in all *rides* being conducted at the *event*.

- a) For *events* utilising the Standard ride control there shall be:
  - i. a minimum of 2 veterinarians for the first 60 horses or part thereof, and
  - ii. an additional veterinarian for every additional 30 horses.
- b) For *events* utilising the VGIH ride control there shall be:
  - i. a minimum of 2 veterinarians for the first 30 horses or part thereof, and
  - ii. an additional veterinarian for every additional 30 horses.

15.2 Not all appointed veterinarians need to be available for the pre-ride veterinary inspections.

15.3 When more than 3 vets are required to meet the vet: horse ratio, the vet team will include at least 2 accredited vets.

## 16. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

16.1 The AERA Risk Management Rules require that every ROC complete a Risk Management Plan for their *event*.

16.2 All *participants* at an *event* shall comply with all aspects of the Risk Management Plan actioned by the ROC. The chief steward shall take appropriate action to remedy any non-compliance by *participants* which may include, but is not limited to, the elimination of a *rider* or a requirement for a *participant(s)* to vacate the ride base.

16.3 The Risk Management Plan shall include the following documentation, check lists and assessments to identify and quantify (where possible), the foreseeable risk that the ROC, the DA and AERA may be exposed to. These forms are available from the AERA website.

Form A - Risk Identification and Assessment:  
 Form B - Incident/Accident/Near Miss Report Form:  
 Form C - Incident Analysis Form:  
 Form D - Event Safety Checklist:  
 Form E - Register of Hazards on Course (each leg):

Form F - Register of Hazards at Ride Base:  
 Form G - Daily Event Safety Check list.  
 Risk Assessment Matrix.

**16.4 The Risk Management Plan requires:**

- a) regular inspections of high-risk areas during the *event*
- b) relevant experience of volunteers and other personnel acting in the capacity of a *ride official* or their adequate training and supervision in that role
- c) knowledge and understanding of the implemented safety procedures and guidelines by all event personnel
- d) reporting and recording of all incidents, near misses and unusual occurrences for future safety considerations
- e) signing of a waiver/ release form by all *riders*
- f) availability of trained first aid personnel and first aid kit during the *event*
- g) the ROC to impose safety restrictions as necessary on the course and at the ride base to ensure the safety of horses, riders, support personnel, ride officials and spectators with such restrictions including but not limited to, designated walk and/or trot zones and the temporary relocation of the finish line when a competitive finish is likely.

**16.5 BIOSECURITY**

- a) Every Ride Organising Committee shall complete and implement a Biosecurity Plan, based on the current AERA Biosecurity statement, available to download from: [www.aera.asn.au](http://www.aera.asn.au)
- b) The Biosecurity Plan must contain the following paragraph:  
 "Certain invasive procedures may not be able to be carried out on some horses. Referral to some external hospital facilities for further diagnostic procedures and treatment must be made in consultation with the responsible person. Immediate referral may not be an option for some unvaccinated horses originating from known Hendra high risk areas, or at / from rides conducted in known Hendra high risk areas. Referral may not be an option for some horses on financial grounds.

**17. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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**17.1 The ROC shall ensure that each individual leg and each individual course is:**

- a) in accordance with the requirements specified in Tables 4,6, and 9
- b) safe for horses, riders and ride officials
- c) designed so that vehicular access for the retrieval of horses and/or riders from the course is possible
- d) marked in accordance with the AERA National Course Marking policy using, where possible AERA course marking materials
- e) marked for any hazards using visible indicators, flashing lights or other suitable methods
- f) marked with cumulative distance markers from the start line, preferably every 5 km but as a minimum every 10 km for each leg.

**17.2 The ROC shall:**

- a) provide a horse float and appropriate towing vehicle solely for the purpose of retrieving horses and or *riders* from the course
- b) provide easily accessible horse water on course at least every 10 km, and refill containers as necessary where the water is provided in containers such as drums or tubs
- c) provide the first water point at between 3 and 5 km from the start of the leg for the second and subsequent legs.
- d) ensure that at least one member of the ROC remains at ride base or is always available to be contacted by ride base communications, who has a complete knowledge of the course, location of all checkpoints and the most appropriate access points to the course, in case of an emergency.

**18. RIDE BASE REQUIREMENTS**

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**18.1 The ROC shall provide:**

- a) a ride base appropriate and safe for the needs of horses, riders, support personnel, ride officials and spectators
- b) sufficient water, toilets and parking at the ride base and at all on-course (if any) veterinary inspection points
- c) a clearly designated vet ring, sufficient in size to facilitate the vetting of horses, free from external influences that could unsettle horses and which provides a trot up on a firm, flat, sufficiently illuminated



- surface
- d) a clearly designated common strapping area (where possible) and if appropriate for the event being conducted
- e) appropriate facilities (yards or stalls) at the ride base located in a quiet discrete area should a horse(s) require veterinary treatment.

## 19. RIDE DAY REQUIREMENTS

- 19.1 The ROC should request *riders* to pre-nominate at least 7 days prior to the *ride* with failure to pre-nominate requiring a late entry fee.
- 19.2 The ROC shall:
- a) promote an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration between the members of the ROC, *ride officials*, *riders* and their *support personnel*
  - b) liaise with the chief steward and head veterinarian prior to and during the event to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of their *event*
  - c) ensure that AERA Form 20 [Volunteers List] is fully and accurately completed
  - d) ensure that each *rider* is provided with a riding bib displaying a unique number and/or colour sequence
  - e) provide a different sequence of numbers and/or coloured bibs to distinguish riders in different *rides*.

### PRE-RIDE BRIEFING

- f) appoint a person to conduct the *pre-ride briefing* in conjunction with the chief steward and head veterinarian to cover issues such as, course marking, hazards, access to water, minimum and maximum *riding times*, specific novice instructions, check points, on-course vet inspections (if any), etc.
- g) conduct the *pre-ride briefing* at a time and place appropriate for all information to be communicated to the riders.

### EARLY DEPARTURE AND COLLECTION OF LOGBOOKS

- 19.3 *Riders* and their *support personnel* should where possible, remain for the presentation ceremony to support and acknowledge the ROC and their sponsors. If a *logbook*, vet card or completion award is required prior to the presentation ceremony, patience will be required whilst the ride secretariat actions the request.
- 19.4 If the *logbook* or vet card has already been signed by the head veterinarian, the ride secretary may, when their workload permits, sign and release the *logbook* or vet card.
- 19.5 If the *logbook* or vet card is yet to be signed by the head veterinarian, the ride secretariat should, when their workload permits, release the *logbook* or vet card (unsigned by the ride secretary) to the person seeking early release, who must present it to the chief steward, who will then liaise with the head veterinarian to have the *logbook* or vet card signed. Once signed, the person shall return the *logbook* or vet card to the ride secretariat who will have the ride secretary sign and release the *logbook* or vet card when their workload permits.
- 19.6 The head veterinarian, when being requested to sign a *logbook* or vet card for the release of a horse prior to the presentation ceremony, may decline the request, depending upon the time elapsed since the horse had withdrawn, completed or been eliminated from the ride. The head veterinarian may also request to sight the horse before signing the *logbook*. The head veterinarian shall not sign off a horse's *logbook* or vet card if there are any doubts about the horse's welfare.

### POST RIDE REQUIREMENTS

- 19.7 After the completion of the event, the ROC shall ensure that within:
- a) 48 hours, the Volunteers List has been entered into AeraSpace for the *event*
  - b) 72 hours, the AeraSpace data for the *event* has been uploaded to the AeraSpace website
  - c) 14 days, all appropriate paperwork and fees are submitted to the appropriate DA.

## 20. AWARDS

### SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION AWARD

- 20.1 In all *rides*, all successful *riders* must receive a completion award with additional lucky draws permissible.
- 20.2 The *winner* of an *endurance* or *marathon ride* is the horse and *rider* combination from either of the

middleweight or heavyweight riding divisions that successfully completes the *ride* in the shortest elapsed *riding time*.

- 20.3 *Line honours* goes to the first horse and *rider* combination from any riding division to successfully complete an *endurance* or *marathon ride*. *Line honours* may be acknowledged but the value of any trophy(s) and award(s) shall be of lesser value than the trophy(s) and award(s) provided to the *winner* of the *ride*.
- 20.4 Cash prize money is not permitted, and the total value of all prizes and/or trophies awarded to an individual *rider* must not exceed AU\$5,000 unless prior written approval has been obtained from the relevant DA and the AERA.
- 20.5 *Introductory, intermediate, micro-marathon* and *mini-marathon rides* are non-competitive with only completions being recognised. Completion times, place positions, *BC* or *line honours* are not to be recognised at the presentation ceremony.

#### BEST CONDITIONED HORSE AWARD

- 20.6 The ROC shall present a Best Conditioned (hereinafter 'BC') award for each riding division in every *endurance ride*. For a *marathon ride*, a single Best Managed (hereinafter 'BM') award shall be presented in addition to, or in place of, the BC awards.
- 20.7 The first five successful *riders* in each riding division shall be eligible to present for BC. However, for *endurance rides* of 120 km or less, where a *rider* is more than 1.5 hours behind the first successful horse in their riding division, the chief steward may elect not to invite the *rider* to present for BC judging.
- 20.8 A *rider* may choose not to present their horse for BC and is therefore ineligible for BC. The rider shall notify the chief steward immediately upon deciding not to present.
- 20.9 A horse which receives *invasive treatment* after the commencement of the horse's pre-ride veterinary examination and before the judging of BC shall be ineligible for BC.
- 20.10 The Best Conditioned horse shall be determined using the calculation methodology as provided by AeraSpace. A scoring sheet can be printed from AeraSpace to record the vet scores which must be manually entered into AeraSpace.
- 20.11 A designated veterinarian(s) shall be present and inspect each eligible horse. The veterinarian(s) shall complete the veterinary score section as required on the AERA Best Conditioned Evaluation Sheet. This inspection is to assess the post-ride metabolic condition of the horse and the ability of the horse to move willingly and freely. Horses that are judged with an irregular gait by the designated veterinarian(s) during the BC horse inspection shall be ineligible for BC.
- 20.12 For rides less than 160 km it is at the discretion of the designated veterinarian as to whether the eligible horses are presented under saddle or in hand. For rides of 160 km or more, after a gait examination in hand, horses shall be presented under saddle and BC should, where possible be held on the day following the completion of the *ride*.  
Where BC is to be judged under saddle, the horse shall be ineligible unless the horse is ridden by the rider who rode the horse in the ride and must carry in the BC workout the minimum weight required for the riding division.
- 20.13 Where there is a tie for First Place in BC, then BC shall be awarded to the horse with the highest veterinary score. If the veterinary scores are equal, then it shall be awarded to the horse with the highest time score. If the time scores are equal then it shall be awarded to the horse with the highest weight score. If the weight scores are equal, then it shall be declared a tie and the division of the prize(s) shall be in accordance with Clause 36.6.
- 20.14 For the purpose of calculating the BC score, the *rider* weights to be used are the all-up weight recorded at the completion of the last leg but subject to the following maximum weights for each riding division:  
  
Junior – no upper limit  
Lightweight – 72.9 kg  
Middleweight – 90.9 kg  
Heavyweight – no upper limit.



## BEST MANAGED HORSE AWARD

- 20.15 The ROC shall present a BM award for a *marathon ride*, and may present a BM award for *introductory, intermediate, micro-marathon, mini-marathon* and *endurance rides*.
- 20.16 The BM award shall be judged by the head veterinarian and/or his delegate.
- 20.17 All *riders* who successfully complete the designated *ride* are eligible for consideration for the BM award.
- 20.18 In the selection of the BM award the following should be considered.
- a) the condition of the horse at the final veterinary inspection, and
  - b) the time taken to complete the course, and
  - c) the horse's heart-rate recoveries during the ride, and
  - d) the weight carried by the horse, and
  - e) the relative or total absence of problems encountered during the ride, and
  - f) the success with which the rider overcame any problems during the ride, and
  - g) the skills displayed during the ride that made the ride the least strain on the horse and/or most promoted the horse's welfare to endure the ride.

## 21. AERA NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The AERA conducts 3 competitions on a National basis for each calendar year being:

- a) A Points competition for *endurance* and *marathon rides*.
- b) A Distance competition for *endurance* and *marathon rides*.
- c) An Intermediate competition for *intermediate rides*.

### POINTS COMPETITION

- 21.1 A point's competition based on successful completions for all *endurance* and *marathon rides* within a calendar year. All horses and all riders are eligible to earn points, irrespective of their status (i.e. novice or endurance). Points are allocated as follows:

- a) Points for successful completion.

The first six places in each riding division receive from 6 down to 1 point. All other finishers get 1 point. For rides of 160 km or more, completion points are increased by 50% (i.e.: first place in a 160 km *ride* receives 9 points).

For equal placings the finishing points are added together for each placing filled as equal and then divided by the number of equal placings.

For example: equal first - add 6 + 5 points, divide by 2 (i.e., 5.5 points each): equal second - add 4 + 3 points, divide by 2 (i.e., 3.5 points each).

- b) Points for successful distance completed.

All *riders* are eligible for one additional distance point for every 10 km completed in excess of 80 km.

That is: for 90 km add 1 point: for 100 km add 2 points, etc.

Note that rides less than the 10 km increments (e.g. 86 km) do not attract additional points.

- c) Points for the number of riders in the *riding division*.

Only the first six *riders* in each riding division get these additional points:

- i. if 10 or more riders in riding division, add 1 point:
- ii. if 20 riders or more in riding division, add 2 points:
- iii. If 30 riders or more in riding division, add 3 points, and so on.

- d) The total points awarded shall be reduced to 75% of the standard calculated points if Clause 4.6 is applicable.

- e) A rider in the Youth Division of an FEI Ride will not receive National Points/kilometers unless they are 18 years or older in the year of the ride and weigh a minimum of 73kgs i.e.no national points/kilometers for Lightweights and Juniors. Note this rule does not apply if an AERA lightweight and AERA Junior Division is held at the same event.

## DISTANCE COMPETITION

- 21.2 A distance competition based on successfully completed kilometres for all *endurance* and *marathon rides* within a calendar year. All horses and all riders are eligible to earn points, irrespective of their status (i.e. novice or endurance). Kilometres are allocated on a 1 for 1 basis for every kilometre successfully completed.

## INTERMEDIATE COMPETITION

- 21.3 A competition based on successful kilometres, final heart rate and overall veterinary score in all *intermediate rides* within a calendar year. All horses and all riders are eligible to earn points, irrespective of their status (i.e. novice or endurance) provided the *rider* is a riding member of a DA and the horse ridden is issued with and utilises a *logbook*. Points are allocated as follows:
- a) Distance: one point per successful km.
  - b) Heart rate: one point for each beat under 55 bpm.
  - c) Points relating to the 'overall result' as scored in the *logbook* will be awarded as follows: A=3 points, B=2 points, C=0 points.

## Chapter 4. RIDE OFFICIALS

### 22. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 22.1 All *ride officials* shall conduct themselves at all times:
- a) in a courteous, respectful and professional manner, and shall expect reciprocal courtesy, respect and professionalism from other persons with whom they interact, and
  - b) in a manner so as not to bring the Sport of Endurance into disrepute, and
  - c) in accordance with the AERA Social Media Engagement Rules.
- 22.2 All *ride officials* must be mindful of the possibility of real and perceived conflicts of interest. A substantial appearance of a conflict of interest exists whenever others may reasonably infer from the given circumstances that a conflict exists. As a minimum, *ride officials* shall refrain from making official decisions involving their relatives, close friends, or horses in which they have an interest. An alternative competent *ride official* should be nominated to temporarily fulfil the activity in such circumstances.

### 23. THE CHIEF STEWARD

- 23.1 A current AERA accredited chief steward shall be appointed by the ROC, preferably a minimum of 12 weeks prior to the *event* pursuant to Clause 14.1.
- 23.2 The chief steward is responsible for the general control and conduct of the *event* from the opening of the ride base until the closure of the ride base and shall:
- a) review the Risk Management Plan in conjunction with the ROC to ensure a safe environment at the ride base and on course for horses, riders, support personnel, ride officials and spectators.
  - b) ensure compliance with this Rulebook as well as local DA rules (if any).
  - c) ensure that every horse entering a *ride* using a *logbook* is identified against the *logbook* identification page.
  - d) ensure that he or his delegate is in the vet ring when the vetting of horses is taking place.
  - e) oversee all *ride officials* and all ride administration operations to ensure that all appropriate paperwork is completed.
  - f) conduct a briefing immediately prior to the pre-ride vetting with the veterinary team and TPR stewards to determine and confirm the vet ring protocols and processes for the event.
  - g) maintain calm and order in the vet ring, the ride base and on the course at all times.
  - h) deal with any appeals, disputes or issues at the *event*.
  - i) Ensure that when dealing with children in any appeals, disputes, horse treatments or issues at the event that the responsible adult or another adult appointed by the responsible adult is present.
- 23.3 Where a clause in this Rulebook contains a specific consequence for an infringement, the chief steward shall enforce the stated consequence with specific regard to the use of the words 'shall', 'must', 'will' or 'may' as used in reference to the consequence. The words 'shall', 'must' or 'will' does not permit the chief steward to apply any discretion. The word 'may' permits the chief steward to apply his discretion depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.
- 23.4 Where a clause in this Rulebook does not contain a specific consequence for an infringement, the chief

steward shall take appropriate action as required to remedy the infringement. The chief steward may eliminate the horse and *rider* depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

- 23.5 At the completion of each *event*, the chief steward must ensure that the following are completed and returned to the DA within 14 days of the event:
- a) any required forms and Incident reports, and
  - b) a chief steward's report as determined by the appropriate DA.
- 23.6 The ROC may appoint additional AERA accredited chief stewards to be known as 'assisting chief stewards', who shall assist the principle chief steward appointed pursuant to Clause 14.1. Any decision made by an assisting chief steward which involves the elimination of a *rider* in a *ride* must first be confirmed by the principle chief steward.
- 23.7 A chief steward shall be accredited in accordance with the prevailing AERA Chief Steward Accreditation Policy as amended from time to time.

## **24. TEMPERATURE AND PULSE RATE STEWARDS (TPRs)**

- 24.1 A sufficient number of accredited AERA TPR stewards shall be appointed by the ROC, preferably a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event pursuant to Clause 14.3.
- 24.2 All TPR stewards at a ride are under the control and direction of the chief steward.
- 24.3 TPRs are responsible to check and if directed, record a horse's pulse rate and temperature according to parameters decided at the pre-ride briefing between the head veterinarian, chief steward and TPR stewards.
- 24.4 The procedure for taking a horse's pulse rate is:
- a) approach the horse in a non-threatening manner and de-sensitise the chest area over the heart by rubbing with the back of the hand before applying the stethoscope.
  - b) before beginning to take the pulse rate, listen to the heart for up to 15 seconds so the rhythm of the pulse becomes obvious.
  - c) TPRs are required to take the pulse rate over a full minute.
- 24.5 Occasionally it may be necessary to take into account other factors not associated with the horse being examined that may cause a temporary elevation and/or aberration to the pulse and which would be unfair if included in the count. If this is the case, the count is started again
- 24.6 The TPR steward must use a digital stopwatch or similar digital device to determine the pulse rate. The timing device is started at a pulse beat. The pulse count is commenced at the next pulse beat.
- 24.7 When a horse's pulse rate is above the maximum permitted for that leg:
- a) the TPR steward will not indicate the result to the handler or *support personnel*, nor record any result in the *logbook*, but must request a veterinarian's verification of the pulse rate through the chief steward. The handler may reserve the right not to move the horse for the verification of the pulse.
  - b) the chief steward shall request a veterinarian to perform an immediate re-count of the pulse rate. If a veterinarian is not immediately available, the chief steward may perform an independent re-count, however, a veterinarian is still required to ultimately verify the pulse rate.
  - c) if the pulse rate taken by the veterinarian is above the maximum set for that leg, the horse is eliminated irrespective of any variation in count between the TPR steward, chief steward and the veterinarian, and the pulse rate taken by the veterinarian will be recorded in the *logbook*.
  - d) if the pulse rate taken by the veterinarian is below the maximum set for that leg, the counts taken by the TPR and the Chief steward (if taken) shall be relayed to the veterinarian and the veterinarian has the discretion to make the final decision on the count to be recorded in the *logbook*.
- 24.8 A TPR shall be accredited in accordance with the prevailing AERA TPR Accreditation Procedure as amended from time to time.

## **25. VETERINARY TEAM**

- 25.1 A sufficient number of veterinarians as required by Clause 15, shall be appointed by the ROC, preferably a minimum of 12 weeks prior to the *event* pursuant to Clause 14.1.

25.2 The veterinary team shall comprise as a minimum:

- a) one AERA accredited veterinarian who shall be designated the head veterinarian and who controls all aspects of horse welfare. Whenever a horse is on course, the head veterinarian shall be at the ride base (or be readily contactable and be within a 15 minute commute of the ride base).
- b) one designated 'treatment' veterinarian who is responsible to provide first aid treatment to any compromised or injured horse(s) and ensure that fluids, drugs and consumables are available at the ride base. Whenever a horse is on course, the treatment veterinarian shall be at the ride base (or be readily contactable and be within a 15-minute commute of the ride base).
- c) a sufficient number of other accredited or non-accredited veterinarians as required by Clause 15.

25.3 The veterinary team is responsible to protect the welfare of the horses participating in a ride through the implementation of the Veterinary Controls & Procedures provided in Chapter 7 of this Rulebook and as provided by Section 3 Veterinary Rules.

25.4 A Veterinarian shall be accredited in accordance with the prevailing AERA Veterinarian Accreditation Policy as amended from time to time.

## Chapter 5. RIDER RULES

### 26. CODE OF CONDUCT

26.1 Every *participant* is under the control of the chief steward whenever they are present on the ride base or on course.

26.2 Every *rider* and their *support personnel* shall conduct themselves at all times:

- a) in a courteous, respectful and professional manner, and shall expect reciprocal courtesy, respect and professionalism from other persons with whom they interact, and
- b) in a manner so as not to bring the Sport of Endurance into disrepute, and
- c) in accordance with the AERA Social Media Engagement Rules.

26.3 Every rider is responsible and accountable, unless compelling circumstances (eg junior riders) dictate otherwise for the

- a) behaviour of their support personnel, and
- b) behaviour of all persons in their camp,
- c) appropriate containment of horse(s) and /or dog(s) in their camp, and
- d) appropriate supervision of children in their camp.

26.4 Horses must be contained pursuant to Clause 54.

26.5 Dogs must be secured in a structure or on a leash at all times that is attached to a solid structure or a responsible human handler when at an endurance event.

26.6 Any child under the age of eighteen years of age must be adequately supervised appropriate to their age and maturity. Bicycles, footballs and toys are to be kept well away from horses, horse yards and the vet ring. It is recommended that juniors wear a helmet when handling a horse, particularly when in the vet ring with a horse.

26.7 Every rider is deemed *prima facie* the person responsible for the horse they ride.

26.8 Attendance at the *pre-ride briefing* is recommended for all *riders* and is mandatory for novice *riders*. Non-attendance at the *pre-ride briefing* is not an excuse for failure to comply with a specific ride requirement communicated at the *pre-ride briefing*.

26.9 The chief steward may eliminate a *rider* for an infringement of Clause 26.2 or Clause 26.3 by the *rider* or their *support personnel* depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

26.10 The chief steward may eliminate a *rider* if he reasonably suspects that the *rider* is under the influence of any substance, or who is suffering from any medical condition, which may endanger the *rider's* personal welfare and/or the welfare of other *participants*. The *rider* must first be offered the option to withdraw pursuant to Clause 34.

26.11 It shall be considered a *serious infringement* should:

- a) a *rider* or their *support personnel* violate Clause 26.2, or
- b) a *rider* misrepresents their age, identity or riding status.

## 27. RIDER ELIGIBILITY

27.1 Table 13 indicates the minimum *rider* requirements to enter each type of *ride*.

**Table 13 Minimum rider requirements to be read in conjunction with clause 27.2.**

Ride	Minimum rider age in Years <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	Minimum Membership requirements	Minimum rider status <sup>3</sup>
Introductory	4 <sup>4</sup>	Day member	Novice
Intermediate	5	Day member	Novice
Micro-marathon	5	Day member	Novice
Mini-marathon	5	DA Intermediate member <sup>5</sup>	Novice
Endurance <= 120 km	5	DA full riding member	Novice
Endurance > 120 km	8	DA full riding member	Endurance
Marathon	8	DA full riding member	Endurance

1. Age on the *day of the ride*.
2. There is no maximum age for riders.
3. Refer to Clause 28 for definitions.
4. Riders under 5 years of age **must** be accompanied by a minimum of 1 adult pedestrian.
5. Rider must have successfully completed a minimum of 2 *intermediate* rides.

27.2 *Riders* are subject to the following minimum age requirements on the *day of the ride*.

- a) To ride unaccompanied by an adult – 12 years.
- b) To ride in the Tom Quilty Gold Cup – 12 years.
- c) To ride a stallion – 18 years.

## DA MEMBERSHIP

27.3 Where membership of a DA is required to enter a ride, the rider shall be a member of the DA where the riders' principal place of residence is located. An exemption exists for riders whose principal place of residence is located in the region known as the Northern Rivers Zone of New South Wales as defined and determined by the AERA. Riders in the Northern Rivers Zone may choose to join either the Queensland Endurance Riders Association Inc. or the NSW Endurance Riders Association Inc.

27.4 Validation of membership through AERASpace records shall prima facie be proof of membership. A DA Membership card will still be accepted as proof of membership. If the membership cannot be validated through AeraSpace for whatever reason, or by presentation of a current DA Membership card the rider cannot enter a ride requiring membership.

## RIDE ENTRY

27.5 No *rider* shall be permitted to enter a *ride* unless the *rider*:

- a) satisfies all the minimum requirements pursuant to Table 13 and Clause 27.2 for the relevant ride
- b) completes and signs the relevant ride entry form and pays the appropriate ride entry fees
- c) is not subject to a sanction imposed by a DA preventing participation.

27.6 A ride entry shall not be accepted unless the appropriate 'Trainers Declaration' for the horse is completed on the ride entry form or accompanies the ride entry form pursuant to Clause 43.5.

## JUNIOR RIDERS

27.7 If the *rider* has or will attain the age of 17 years or less in the year of the *ride*, then the following must also be

satisfied:

- a) a responsible adult (not necessarily a member of a DA) must sign the ride entry form, who will be present at the ride base and is prepared to act as a representative for the *rider* (if required) during the course of the *ride*.
- b) a parent or legal guardian of the *rider* must complete the 'Junior Permission & Waiver Declaration' on the ride entry form or attach a completed AERA Form 36 to the ride entry form.

## RIDER WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

27.8 A rider with special needs will be allowed to participate in an event provided that:

- i. they do so in accordance with the Rider Rules (Chapter 5)
- ii. they have consulted with the Ride Organising Committee and the Chief Steward to ensure that any special provisions, if necessary, can and have been made to ensure their safe participation in the event.
- iii. any additional risk associated with their participation must be documented as a separate entry in the event Risk Management Plan.

## 28. RIDER STATUS

28.1 Every *rider* is deemed to be of novice *rider* status unless the *rider* has satisfied the requirements to progress to endurance *rider* status pursuant to Clause 29.3.

## 29. NOVICE RIDER RESTRICTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

29.1 A novice status *rider* shall:

- a) attend the *pre-ride briefing* or they may be eliminated by the chief steward before the start of the *ride*.
- b) not enter a *marathon ride* of any distance.
- c) successfully complete a minimum of two (2) *intermediate rides* before they are permitted to:
  - i. enter an *endurance ride* where the total distance of the *ride* is no longer than 120 km
  - ii. enter a *mini-marathon ride*.

29.2 A novice status *rider* is subject to a minimum *riding time* for each individual leg of every *ride*. The minimum *riding time* as determined in Table 2 is determined by the chief steward in consultation with the ROC and the head veterinarian.

- a) When the Standard *ride* control is used, the minimum *riding time* permitted for every individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr.
- b) When the VGIH *ride* control is used, the minimum *riding time* permitted for every individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr. For the sole purpose of calculating the minimum riding time pursuant to this clause, the riding time will be deemed to cease when the rider is timed in off the course.

29.3 To progress from novice *rider* status to endurance *rider* status, the *rider* shall:

- a) Successfully complete two (2) *intermediate rides* as required in Clause 29.1 (c), and
- b) Successfully complete three (3) *endurance rides* in any riding division, and
- c) When a) and b) have been satisfied, rider status will be automatically upgraded to 'endurance' on the AERA Space database.

## 30. RIDER RIDING DIVISIONS

30.1 There are no rider riding divisions in introductory, intermediate, micro-marathon or mini-marathon rides.

30.2 For *endurance* and *marathon rides*, *riders* shall enter and compete in one riding division only according to Table 14.

**Table 14 Rider riding division criteria**

Riding division	Criteria
Heavyweight	All-up riding weight of 91 kg or greater
Middleweight	All-up riding weight of 73 kg or greater



Lightweight	No minimum weight
Junior	<i>Riders</i> who attain the age of 17 years or less in the year of the <i>ride</i> .
Junior <i>riders</i> shall only enter the junior division and there are no weight restrictions for junior <i>riders</i> .	

30.3 All *riders* in all riding divisions shall be weighed as follows to determine their *all-up riding weight*:

- a) at the pre-ride weigh to confirm their riding division, and
- b) at the completion of the last leg of the ride.

30.4 Lightweight & junior *riders* shall only be required to weigh pursuant to Clause 30.3.

30.5 Middleweight & heavyweight *riders* shall maintain the minimum weight for their respective riding division throughout the *ride* and may be randomly weighed during the *ride* as determined by the chief steward. A *rider* whose *all-up riding weight* falls below the minimum required for their respective riding division shall be eliminated by the chief steward.

30.6 Middleweight & heavyweight *riders* who can make their minimum weight requirement without their saddle may do so except as required by Clause 30.3.

### 31. CELEBRITY RIDER

31.1 A celebrity *rider* is a person who enters a ride at the request of the ROC to promote the sport of endurance. Their participation must be approved by the relevant DA.

31.2 For a celebrity *rider* to enter a ride they shall:

- a) complete the appropriate ride entry form(s) as required by the DA
- b) only be permitted to attempt one leg of the ride
- c) be subject to Clause 29 irrespective of their riding status
- d) ride a horse of endurance status
- e) be accompanied by an adult full riding member with endurance status at all times whilst on course

### 32. INTERNATIONAL RIDER

32.1 An International *rider* is a *rider* who is:

- a) visiting Australia and not permanently residing in Australia
- b) a current member of a National Endurance Federation/ Organisation (AERA equivalent) in their home nation
- c) not a current adult or junior full riding member of a DA

32.2 To enter an AERA *ride*, the International *rider* shall:

- a) provide proof of current membership of their National Endurance Federation/ Organisation, and not be subject to a current sanction by that organisation
- b) be deemed a novice status *rider* subject to Clause 29, unless they provide proof of the successful completion of not less than 240 km in *endurance rides* in their home nation
- c) pay a day membership for each *ride* they enter
- d) be entitled to compete in an unlimited number of rides for a maximum period of 4 months from the date of the first ride entered.

32.3 To compete in an FEI *ride* in Australia affiliated with the AERA pursuant to Clause 11, the International *rider* shall satisfy the applicable EA and FEI requirements for such participation.

### 33. RIDING THE COURSE

33.1 The ROC may nominate 1 of 3 following alternative methods to start a *ride*.

- a) 'Shotgun' start.

A 'shotgun' start is a single common start time applicable to all *riders* in the *ride*, irrespective whether the *rider* is ready to depart on course or not.

- b) 'Grouped' start.

A 'grouped' start involves 2 or more 'groups' of *riders* starting the course at pre-determined intervals with the *riding time* beginning for each 'group' at the nominated start time for each group, irrespective whether the *rider* is ready to depart on course or not.

c) 'Individual' starts.

'Individual' start times require each *rider* to be individually timed out at the start of the *ride* with their *riding time* commencing when they are timed out.

It is recommended that the 'grouped' and 'individual' start methods only be used when electronic timing hardware is being utilised.

33.2 Irrespective of the start method chosen in 33.1, no *rider* shall commence riding the course until their applicable start time has elapsed, and all *riders* shall commence the *ride* within 15 minutes of their applicable start time, or they may be eliminated by the chief steward.

33.3 *Riders* must ride the course as marked within the maximum permitted riding time.

#### ERRORS FOLLOWING THE COURSE

33.4 If a *rider* makes an error in following the course as marked, the rider may:

- a) correct the error by riding the portion(s) of the course not previously ridden pursuant to clauses 33.7 to 33.8 inclusive or
- b) withdraw from the ride in accordance with Clause 34.

33.5 A *rider* who fails to correct their error and who chooses not to withdraw shall be eliminated by the chief steward for 'Failure to ride the course as marked'.

33.6 If an error on course has been corrected, the horse and rider are eligible for placings, points and awards as if they had correctly ridden the course as marked in the first instance.

#### CORRECTING AN ERROR FOLLOWING THE COURSE

33.7 Errors made when riding the course will vary in nature and circumstances. The chief steward shall assess each individual case and shall consider the most appropriate manner to remedy the error. The chief steward shall however ensure that in all circumstances:

- a) the unriden portion(s) of the course are ridden except as permitted by Clause 33.8.
- b) the horse and rider must return unassisted to the point where they first left the course as marked except as permitted by Clause 33.8. When returning to the point of error, the horse and rider may take the most direct route available.
- c) the riding time taken to correct the error shall be added to the total riding time. The time taken to return to/from the point where the error occurred shall be included in the total riding time.
- d) no allowances are permitted for any additional kms ridden whilst off course.
- e) no portion of the course may be substituted for another portion of the course except as permitted by Clause 33.8.
- f) the head veterinarian is consulted to assess horse welfare aspects of the additional distance to be ridden. If deemed necessary by the head veterinarian an additional veterinary inspection (in part or in full) may be required at a stage of the ride as deemed necessary by the head veterinarian.

33.8 Where unplanned circumstances prevent access to a portion of the course which is required to be ridden to correct an error, the chief steward may substitute another portion of the course of equivalent distance and similar terrain. In this circumstance, the distance to be ridden to correct the error shall include an estimate of the distance to/from the point where the error first occurred, had the portion of the course (where the error occurred) been available to be ridden.

33.9 Any rider who ignores safety restrictions imposed by the ROC pursuant to Clause 16 may be eliminated by the chief steward depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

#### PUBLIC ROADS

33.10 Australian Law regards horses as a vehicle and riders are subject to the same road rules as apply to other drivers and are also subject to the same penalties for road traffic offenses as other drivers. Where the course traverses on a public road, all riders shall obey the road rules. A rider who fails to obey the road



rules or any other requirement imposed by the ROC pursuant to their Risk Management policy may be eliminated by the chief steward depending on the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

## COURSE ETIQUETTE

- 33.11 Riders shall abide to the 'Policy for Course Etiquette' or they may be eliminated by the chief steward depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

## 34. WITHDRAWAL / NOT STARTED OF HORSE AND/OR RIDER

- 34.1 A horse and/or *rider* may withdraw from a ride or be deemed to have "not started" the ride by notifying the chief steward in the following circumstances:

- a) After completion of the ride entry and before pre-ride veterinary examination.

**The horse is not required to present for a veterinary inspection and the *logbook* shall indicate the horse as 'Not started prior to pre-ride vetting'. Any refund of the ride entry fee, in full or in part, is at the discretion of the ROC.**

- b) After the successful completion of the pre-ride veterinary inspection and before the official start time of the *ride*.

- i. **The horse is not required to present for a further veterinary inspection and the *logbook* shall indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn prior to ride start'.**
- ii. **Under exceptional circumstances, where "Withdrawn prior to ride start" is not appropriate, as determined by the Chief Steward, for example if a rider falls ill and is unable to start the ride, the *logbook* shall indicate "Not started prior to ride start".**

- c) After the successful completion of a veterinary inspection and any requested or compulsory represent veterinary inspections, and before the expiration of the *riders hold time* for the completed leg.

**The horse is not required to present for a further veterinary inspection and the *logbook* shall indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn'.**

- d) After the successful completion of a veterinary inspection and any requested or compulsory represent veterinary inspections, but after the expiration of the *rider's hold time* for the completed leg, irrespective whether the horse and rider had actually left the ride base on the next leg.

**The horse shall be required to present for a further veterinary inspection and if the horse fails the veterinary inspection for any reason, the *logbook* will be notated accordingly. If the horse passes the veterinary inspection, the *logbook* shall indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn', except where Clause 34.1(f)(ii) applies.**

- e) A rider may withdraw on course and return to the ride base in the most direct route available. The rider shall notify the chief steward directly or via checkpoint personnel or other ride officials of their decision to withdraw and if they require a rescue float to return the horse and *rider* to the ride base. When a *rider* requests a rescue float, the *rider* is obliged to 'cancel' the rescue float should they subsequently decide to continue in the ride. A *rider* may be eliminated by the chief steward for failing to "cancel" a requested rescue float.

**Every horse withdrawn on course is required to present to the arrival gate or veterinary hospital as specified by the chief steward and is required to present for a veterinary inspection within the standard *present time* for the ride. If the withdrawn horse fails the veterinary inspection for any reason, the *logbook* will be notated accordingly. If the withdrawn horse passes the veterinary inspection, the *logbook* shall indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn on Course'.**

## MICRO MARATHON, MINI-MARATHON, MARATHON OR ANY RIDE WITH A HOLD TIME GREATER THAN 1 HOUR

- f) For *micro-marathon*, *mini-marathon*, *marathon* and any other *ride* where the *hold time* for a leg is permitted to be greater than one hour:
- i. the *hold time* shall be 'deemed' to be one hour for the purpose of Clauses 34.1(c) and 34.1(d).
  - ii. a rider who wishes to withdraw a horse pursuant to Clause 34.1 (d) must present the horse for a further veterinary inspection. In such an instance, the *logbook* shall indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn' irrespective of the outcome of the veterinary inspection, unless the horse receives *invasive treatment*

and the treatment veterinarian considers the *invasive treatment* was necessary to ensure the immediate welfare of the horse. In such an instance, the logbook will be entered as 'Vet Out – Metabolics'.

34.2 A rider may not withdraw his horse when any of the following circumstances exist:

- a) during the period where the horse has been timed in off a leg and before the horse is presented for its veterinary inspection.
- b) the horse has yet to complete a requested or compulsory represent veterinary inspection.
- c) the maximum riding time permitted for the ride has elapsed.

34.3 Once the *logbook* of a withdrawn horse has been signed or initialled by a member of the veterinary team, the notice to withdraw from the ride cannot be retracted.

## 35. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

35.1 *Riders* and horses must not receive any assistance whilst on course other than:

- a) a responsible adult(s) may (as a pedestrian) accompany a horse and rider in an *introductory or micro-marathon ride*.
- b) assistance provided by the ROC at designated checkpoints for both riders and horses such as water, carrots or sweets
- c) the replacement or repair of lost or damaged hoof protection, tack or clothing
- d) any other assistance as deemed appropriate and approved by the chief steward.

35.2 Whilst the *ride* is in progress, *support personnel* are not permitted on the course or at course checkpoints, except for rendering assistance as permitted by Clause 35.1 (a), (c) and (d) and then, only if permission has been given by the chief steward beforehand.

35.3 *Support personnel*, if on course pursuant to Clause 35.1, shall not follow, precede or accompany the horse and *rider* on any part of the course or on any immediately adjacent access track, nor provide any form of assistance other than that authorised by the chief steward in relation to Clause 35.1 (a), (c) and (d).

35.4 The *rider* shall not accept any form of assistance when on course, whether solicited or not, with the objective of giving them or their horse an advantage, other than such assistance as permitted in Clause 35.1.

35.5 Should the *support personnel* infringe Clauses 35.2 or 35.3, or the *rider* infringe Clause 35.4, the chief steward may eliminate the *rider* depending on the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.

## 36. COMPETITIVE AND EQUAL FINISHES

### COMPETITIVE FINISH

36.1 On the final leg of a ride, the chief steward may, for safety reasons, temporarily relocate the arrival gate for the purpose of a competitive finish and this shall be known as the 'competitive arrival gate'. When a 'competitive arrival gate' is used, the following shall apply:

- a) it must be announced at the pre-ride briefing and be easily identifiable on course by the riders.
- b) the 'competitive arrival gate' is only used for determining the first 3 placings in each division. All other riders must continue to the standard arrival gate at a safe pace.
- c) the 'competitive arrival gate' shall be as close as possible to the standard arrival gate whilst providing a sufficiently straight distance for the riders to slow their horses after crossing the 'competitive arrival gate'.
- d) two (2) designated ride officials with access to the official time shall be present to judge the placings.

36.2 Riders involved in a competitive finish shall:

- a) return to the 'competitive arrival gate' and collect a manual arrival slip from the stewards, and then
- b) proceed directly to the standard arrival gate for the purpose of weighing only, and then
- c) present their horse for vetting within the designated *present time* which shall commence from the time they crossed the 'competitive arrival gate'.

36.3 Stewards managing the 'competitive arrival gate' shall:

- a) issue a manual arrival slip to each rider involved in the competitive finish, and
- b) notify the standard arrival gate stewards and the appropriate ride officials of the official placings and

times.

## EQUAL FINISHES

- 36.4 If 2 or more *riders* wish to be recorded as equal, they must cross the arrival gate holding hands. If this is not possible, all *riders* involved must, in company together, verbally advise the timekeeper when they cross the arrival gate that they wish to be recorded as equal.
- 36.5 When electronic timing is used, if 2 or more *riders* wish to be recorded as equal, they must, in company together, notify the Ride Secretariat within 1 hour of completing the ride. The amendment shall only be permitted if the electronic timing records indicate that the riders completed the last leg within 30 seconds of each other.
- 36.6 ROCs shall recognise equal finishes but are not required to provide duplicate trophies or awards. *Riders* who finish equal must decide the distribution of trophies and awards (if any) between themselves.
- 36.7 Equal finishers fill the place positions equivalent to the number of equal finishers.

## 37. ONE RIDER ONE HORSE

- 37.1 The sport requires a single combination of one horse and one rider to complete a designated course within a designated time. The withdrawal or elimination of either the horse or the rider, eliminates the combination.
- 37.2 A *rider* is not permitted to *ride* one horse whilst simultaneously leading another unriden horse in a *ride*, however, assistance in retrieving escaped or loose horse(s) is permitted and encouraged.

## 38. RIDER ATTIRE

- 38.1 *Riders* shall wear:
- a) appropriate clothing which presents a smart and professional image for the sport of endurance at all times whilst riding on course, presenting a horse for a veterinary inspection or BC and at the presentation ceremony.
  - b) the allocated rider bib as the outer most item of clothing. The bib must be clearly visible at all times and shall be worn by the person trotting the horse at all veterinary inspections.
  - c) A fastened protective equestrian helmet (when mounted) in accordance with the current international equestrian competition standards.
- 38.2 *Riders* are recommended to utilise caged safety stirrups if flat heeled riding shoes with a heel less than 1cm in depth are being worn.
- 38.3 The use of personal GPS units on course are permitted but shall have no relevance in relation to the distance travelled or purported to have been travelled by the *rider* or the *ROC*.

## ELECTRONIC TIMING

- 38.4 When electronic timing is used, *riders* shall carry the allocated recording device on their person at all times when riding on course thus enabling them to be timed in and out on each leg. The recording device must also be presented for each veterinary inspection with the exception of the pre-ride veterinary inspection.
- 38.5 It shall be considered an infringement if the recording device is not presented as required in Clause 38.4. In such an instance, the appropriate time shall be recorded manually by the steward(s) and a manual time slip issued. The chief steward may impose a 10-minute time penalty on the rider (for each infringement) depending the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.
- 38.6 Any time penalties are to be added to the final riding time for the rider should they successfully complete the ride.

## 39. AMENDED RESULTS

- 39.1 If the ride results are amended subsequent to the presentation ceremony for any reason, and as a consequence a *rider* has been incorrectly issued trophies and/or awards, the *rider* shall return all incorrectly issued trophies and/or awards to the ROC within 28 days of receiving written notification of the amendment.
- 39.2 If, for any reason, a *rider* does not return such trophies and/or awards, then the ROC may request the rider

to pay the replacement cost of the relevant trophies and awards. Such request by the ROC shall be in writing providing verification of the costs and the *rider* shall pay the sum demanded to the ROC within 28 days of receiving the written request.

- 39.3 It shall be a *serious infringement* of this Rulebook if the *rider* fails to return trophies and awards pursuant to Clause 39.1 and fails to reimburse the ROC the replacement cost of the trophies and awards after having been requested to do so pursuant to Clause 39.2.

#### 40. RIDER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (REWS)

- 40.1 Every *rider* in every *endurance*, *marathon*, *mini marathon* and *intermediate ride* is subject to the Rider Early Warning System (REWS). The *rider* attracts penalty points as per Table 15.

<b>Table 15 Rider early warning system penalty points</b>	
<b>Reason for Non-Completion</b>	<b>Penalty Points</b>
Vet out pulse less than 66 bpm	10
Vet out pulse 66 bpm or over	20
Vet out lame	6
Vet out lame at a 2nd consecutive ride	12
Vet out lame at a 3rd and any consecutive rides	18
Vet out metabolic - non-invasive	10
Vet out metabolic - moderate	20
Vet out metabolic - severe	30
Vet out other – back	6
Vet out gall or injury	4
Disqualification – finishing quicker than novice time by less than 5 minutes	10
Disqualification – finishing quicker than novice time by 5 minutes or greater	30

- 40.2 On the first 12-month anniversary of an individual penalty being imposed, 6 points are credited to the *rider*. Additional credits occur for the successful completion of *endurance*, *marathon*, *mini marathon* and *intermediate rides* as follows:
- 4 points for rides from 40km and up to 59km
  - 6 points for rides 60km and up to 79km
  - 8 points for rides from 80 km up to 90 km
  - 10 points for rides from 91 km up to 120 km
  - 12 points for rides from 121 km up to 159km.
  - 15 points for rides of 160km and above.
- 40.3 A *rider's* accumulated penalty points shall never fall below zero, even with the application of credit points. When the accumulated penalty points fall to zero any unused credit points are forfeited.
- 40.4 The REWS is maintained within the AeraSpace database but managed by DA's.
- 40.5 Consequences of the REWS are:
- A *rider* accumulating 30 or more penalty points shall be notified in writing within a reasonable time by their DA of the potential consequences if their accumulated penalty points reach or exceed 45 and 60 points as imposed by Clauses 40.5(b) and 40.5(c) respectively.
  - A *rider* accumulating 45 or more penalty points and who has been notified pursuant to Clause 40.5(a), shall be notified in writing as soon as possible by their DA and return the *rider* to novice status until the rider successfully completes two (2) *endurance rides* at novice status.
  - A *rider* accumulating 60 or more penalty points and who has been notified pursuant to Clause 40.5(a), shall be required to show reasonable cause to their DA why they should not become ineligible to enter rides for a period of time as determined by the DA.

- d) Where a rider exceeds two of the thresholds noted above as a consequence of penalty points imposed at one ride, the consequence shall be that associated with the higher EWS score.

#### 41. HUMAN ANTI-DOPING POLICY

- 41.1 The AERA supports the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) in pursuing pure performance in sport to protect our sporting integrity through the elimination of doping. ASADA deters the use of banned doping practices in sport through education, testing, advocacy and coordination of Australia's anti-doping program. ASADA is the organisation with prime responsibility for implementation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code in Australia. WADA serves as the independent international body responsible for coordinating and monitoring the global fight against doping in sport.
- 41.2 All *riders* participating in a *ride* affiliated with the AERA or a DA, shall compete free from prohibited substances as defined by the WADA Prohibited List as amended from time to time. The WADA Prohibited List of substances is available at <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/resources/science-medicine/prohibited-list> or by visiting the WADA website at <https://www.wada-ama.org/en>
- 41.3 It shall be a *serious infringement* of this Rulebook should a *rider* be found guilty of doping by an ASADA related investigation, or otherwise found to be under the influence of a prohibited substance by a competent authority.

### Chapter 6. HORSE RULES

#### 42. CODE OF CONDUCT ENSURING THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

- 42.1 All persons who are associated (directly or indirectly) with the sport of endurance in Australia, the AERA or a DA shall comply with the principles outlined in the AERA Horse Welfare Position Statement (Appendix 3) to ensure the health and well-being of every horse in their immediate care, custody and control at all times.
- 42.2 Veterinary inspection if blood is visible on a horse:  
If blood is visible on a horse whilst under veterinary control, the horse must be examined by a ride veterinarian. If the visible blood is directly caused by tack, the tack must be modified safely for horse and rider, to the satisfaction of the head veterinarian, before the horse can be allowed to continue in the ride.
- 42.3 It shall be a *serious infringement* of the Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse, if at an *event*, any *rider, trainer or support personnel*, irrespective whether the horse is under *veterinary control* or not:
- avoids or delays (or attempts to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance, if they should have reasonably suspected that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially comprised.
  - seeks (or attempts to seek) the early release of a horse's *logbook* or vet card in order to avoid or delay (or attempt to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance, if they should have reasonably suspected, that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially comprised.
  - refuses invasive treatment for a horse after the head and treatment veterinarians at a *ride* indicate that the immediate welfare of a horse is compromised and requires invasive treatment.
  - fails to inform a ride official or a veterinarian of the presence of visible blood on a horse, regardless of whether it is still visible, where it is reasonable to believe the blood should have been noticed.

**43. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HORSE AT A RIDE**

- 43.1 *Prima facie*, the *rider* and the *trainer* of the horse are jointly and severally deemed *persons responsible for the horse*.
- 43.2 Junior *riders* and junior *trainers* shall remain a *person responsible for the horse*, unless compelling circumstances warrant otherwise.
- 43.3 The *persons responsible* for the horse, are deemed responsible under this Rulebook:
- to have legal responsibility for the horse at the ride.
  - for the condition, fitness, management and welfare of the horse.
  - for any act performed to the horse, by them self or by any other person with access to the horse, and is responsible while riding or exercising the horse. The *persons responsible* are not relieved from such responsibility as a result of a horse being unsupervised in its yard or stable.
  - to ensure the horse is free from Banned or Prohibited Substances pursuant to Section 5 EADCM Rules.
- 43.4 All horses entering a ride base are subject to the biosecurity requirements of the ROC and DA irrespective of whether or not the horse will be entered in a ride.

**TRAINER OF THE HORSE**

- 43.5 Every horse in every *ride*, shall require a 'trainer's declaration' for the horse, which may be completed on the ride entry form or attached separately to the ride entry form using AERA Form 35 Trainers Declaration.
- 43.6 For *introductory*, *intermediate*, *micro-marathon* and *mini-marathon rides*, the *trainer* of the horse does not need to be a full riding adult or junior member of a DA.
- 43.7 For *endurance* and *marathon rides*, the *trainer* of the horse must be a full riding adult or junior member of a DA.
- 43.8 It shall be a *serious infringement* of this Rulebook for a person to lodge a false 'trainers declaration'.
- 43.9 Where the *rider* is not the *trainer* of the horse, the *rider* shall make reasonable enquiry of the *trainer* of the horse to satisfy themselves that the horse will compete free of any Banned or Prohibited Substances pursuant to Section 5 EADCM Rules.

**44. HORSE VETERINARY CONTROL**

- 44.1 Whilst a horse is subject to *veterinary control* it shall remain on the ride base, except while exercising prior to the *ride* or competing in the *ride* and must not be removed at any other time from the ride base without the permission of the head veterinarian and the chief steward.
- 44.2 The head veterinarian shall not sign off a horse's *logbook* or vet card if they have any doubts about the horse's welfare.

**45. HORSE ELIGIBILITY**

- 45.1 Table 16 indicates the minimum age & dentition requirements for a *horse* to enter each *ride* type.

<b>Table 16 Minimum horse age &amp; dentition criteria on the day of the ride</b>		
To enter any <i>ride</i> , the horse shall satisfy both the minimum age <u>and</u> the dentition criteria for that <i>ride</i> . Failure to satisfy both criteria shall render the horse ineligible to enter that particular <i>ride</i> .		
<b>Ride</b>	<b>Minimum Age <sup>1 2</sup></b>	<b>Minimum Dentition criteria <sup>1</sup></b>
Introductory	3 ½ years	Must show the central incisor teeth erupted and in full wear with the middle incisors erupted but need not be in wear.
Intermediate	4 ½ years	Must show a full mouth of permanent teeth erupted but the corner incisors need not be in wear.
Micro-marathon	4 ½ years	
Mini-marathon	5 years	



Endurance <= 120 km	5 years	Must show a full mouth of permanent teeth erupted and the permanent incisors are in wear.
Endurance > 120 km < 160 km	5 years	
Endurance >= 160 km	6 years	
Marathon	5 years	

1. For *introductory, intermediate and micro-marathon rides*, where no *logbook* has been issued for the horse, the date of birth shall be that date verbally advised by the handler. For horses that have been issued with a *logbook*, the date of birth shall be the date of birth recorded in the *logbook*. The head veterinarian's determination of the dentition of a horse shall be final.
2. There is no maximum age for a horse to enter a *ride* providing the head veterinarian considers that the horse is capable of travelling the distance of the *ride* being entered without comprising the welfare of the horse.

45.2 Table 17 indicates the minimum horse status requirements for a *horse* to enter each *ridetype*.

<b>Table 17 Minimum horse status criteria on the day of the ride</b>		
<b>Ride</b>	<b>Minimum Horse Status</b>	<b>Minimum Logbook requirement</b>
Introductory	Novice status	<i>Logbook</i> if issued
Intermediate	Novice status	<i>Logbook</i> if issued
Micro-marathon	Novice status	<i>Logbook</i> if issued
Mini-marathon	Novice status	Novice Horse <i>Logbook</i>
Endurance <= 120 km	Novice status	Novice Horse <i>Logbook</i>
Endurance > 120 km < 160 km	Endurance status	Endurance Horse <i>Logbook</i>
Endurance >= 160 km	Endurance status	Endurance Horse <i>Logbook</i>
Marathon	Endurance status	Endurance Horse <i>Logbook</i>

45.3 No *horse* shall be permitted to enter a *ride* unless the horse:

- a) satisfies the relevant biosecurity requirements and documentation as required by the relevant DA
- b) satisfies the relevant minimum requirements pursuant to Table 16 and Table 17 for the ride being entered
- c) is not subject to a sanction imposed by a DA preventing participation
- d) is considered by the head veterinarian to be capable of travelling the distance of the ride without compromising the welfare of the horse
- e) satisfies the requirements of Clause 11.7 relating to FEI registered horses and Mandatory Rest Periods.

45.4 Acceptance of the minimum age & dentition of a horse at one *ride* does not necessarily entitle the horse to be accepted at a subsequent *ride*

#### 45.5 HORSES FROM OVERSEAS

- a) Horses arriving from overseas for the purpose of participating in a single AERA affiliated endurance event (eg TQGC), are not required to have an AERA logbook but must show adherence to AERA rules on age, dentition and appropriate ride history for the ride entered. The horse's full ride history must be provided to the Ride Secretary before entry to the ride. A day card must be used to record the horse's veterinary parameters on the day of the ride.
- b) Horses arriving from overseas may only enter two AERA affiliated endurance events without an AERA logbook. All AERA rules must be adhered to in applying for and gaining a logbook, including relevant requirements on age, dentition and riding history.

## 46. HORSE STATUS

46.1 Every horse is deemed to be of novice horse status unless the horse has satisfied the requirements to

progress to endurance horse status as per Clause 46.3 and has been issued with an endurance horse *logbook* pursuant to Clause 46.4.

- 46.2 A horse may compete indefinitely at novice horse status subject to Clause 47.
- 46.3 To progress from novice status to endurance status, the horse shall have been issued with a novice horse *logbook*, and utilising that novice horse *logbook*, successfully completed a minimum of 3 *endurance rides* in any riding division.
- 46.4 When a horse satisfies the requirements of Clause 46.3, a current riding or non-riding member of a DA may apply to their DA, to progress the status of the horse from novice to endurance. The application for an endurance horse *logbook* shall be lodged on the appropriate form as determined from time to time by the AERA and be accompanied with payment for:
- any processing fee as determined from time to time by the DA, and
  - an endurance horse registration fee as determined from time to time by the AERA.
- 46.5 The application shall not be processed by the DA unless and until:
- the requirements of Clause 46.3 have been satisfied, and
  - the application is accompanied by the appropriate novice horse *logbook*, and
  - a minimum of 90 days has elapsed from the date of the horses first successfully completed *endurance ride*, and
  - the horse has been identified by a microchip implant, and
  - a complete veterinary identification (including any legible brands at the time of the veterinary inspection) has been completed and lodged with the DA.

#### 47. NOVICE HORSE RESTRICTIONS

- 47.1 A novice horse which has not been issued with a novice horse *logbook* may only enter *introductory*, *intermediate* or *micro-marathon* rides. A novice horse entering an *endurance ride* or *mini-marathon ride* must have and utilise its novice horse *logbook*.
- 47.2 A novice horse shall not enter an *endurance ride* where the total distance of the *ride* is longer than 120 km.
- 47.3 A novice horse may only enter:
- one or more *ride/s* on any particular day up to a total distance of 120 kms
  - a maximum of 2 *endurance or mini-marathon rides* in any 22-day period
  - a maximum of 4 *endurance or mini-marathon rides* in any 90-day period

The time period(s) are calculated retrospectively from the *day of the ride* to be entered.

- 47.4 A novice horse is subject to a minimum *riding time* as defined in Table 2 for each individual leg of every ride. The minimum riding time is determined by the chief steward in consultation with the RIC and the head veterinarian.
- For both the Standard ride control is used, the minimum *riding time* permitted for every individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr.
  - When the VGIH ride control is used, the minimum *riding time* permitted for every individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr. For the sole purpose of calculating the minimum riding time pursuant to this clause, the riding time will be deemed to cease when the horse is timed in off the course.

#### 48. ENDURANCE HORSE RESTRICTIONS

- 48.1 A horse of endurance status shall only be permitted to enter an *endurance ride* if it has a current endurance horse registration label in the *logbook*.

#### 13 MONTH RULE

- 48.2 If a horse of endurance status has not successfully completed one *endurance ride* in the preceding 13 month period, calculated retrospectively from the *day of the ride* to be entered, then that horse shall be deemed to have returned to novice horse status and must enter all *rides* pursuant to Clause 47 until the horse successfully completes one *endurance ride*. This is known as the 13 Month Rule.



## 49. ISSUING A LOGBOOK

- 49.1 An AERA *logbook* is issued primarily for the purpose of protecting the horses' welfare and recording the horses' performance in AERA affiliated *rides*. The person or entity recorded in the *logbook* as the 'owner' of the horse has not been required to prove legal ownership when the *logbook* was issued, and likewise for subsequent transfers of ownership. The *logbook* is not proof of legal ownership and AERA records will not be relevant in any ownership dispute.

### INITIAL LOGBOOK FOR A HORSE

- 49.2 The initial AERA novice horse *logbook* application shall:
- a) be lodged by a current member of a DA
  - b) be lodged on the appropriate applicable form as determined from time to time by the AERA
  - c) be lodged with an AERA horse identification form completed by the applicant or a veterinarian
  - d) have all forms completed fully and accurately and accompanied by the appropriate DA fees
  - e) nominate the name of the horse as registered with a breed society (if appropriate)
  - f) nominate the name of the current *owner* of the horse.
- 49.3 The *logbook* application shall not be processed by the DA if the:
- a) requirements of Clause 49.2 have not been fully and adequately satisfied
  - b) AERA horse identification form provides insufficient details so as to clearly identify the horse.

### SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT LOGBOOKS

- 49.4 When all pages in a *logbook* have been used, an application for the second or subsequent *logbook* shall be:
- a) lodged by a current member of a DA
  - b) lodged on the appropriate form as determined from time to time by the AERA
  - c) accompanied by the appropriate DA fees
  - d) accompanied by the most recently completed *logbook* or a complete copy of that *logbook*.

### LOST / MISPLACED / WILLFULLY WITHHELD LOGBOOKS

- 49.5 Should a *logbook* be lost, misplaced or willfully withheld by any person, an application to replace the *logbook* may be:
- a) lodged by a current member of a DA
  - b) lodged on the appropriate form as determined from time to time by the AERA
  - c) accompanied by the appropriate DA fee
  - d) accompanied with a duly completed Statutory Declaration detailing the reasons and circumstances for the request.
- 49.6 The *logbook* application shall not be processed by the DA if the requirements of Clause 49.5 have not been fully and adequately satisfied.
- 49.7 Where a replacement *logbook* has been issued pursuant to Clause 49.5, should the lost, misplaced or willfully withheld *logbook* subsequently be found, it shall be returned to the DA to have the unused pages cancelled and then returned to the *owner* of the horse.

### INCORRECT NAMING OF HORSES

- 49.8 If a DA has reasonable grounds to suspect that a horse which is registered with a breed society or breed association has been issued with a *logbook* in a name other than the horses registered name with such breed society or breed association, then the DA shall contact the *owner* of the horse as notated in the *logbook* and request their assistance and co-operation to confirm or reject the suspicion. The requested assistance may include providing access to the horse for a visual inspection.
- 49.9 If a DA is satisfied that a horse has in fact been issued with a *logbook* in the incorrect name, then the DA shall require the *owner* of the horse to return the *logbook* to the DA, where upon, the *logbook* and all database records shall be amended to reflect the correctly registered name of the horse. The DA may require the *owner* of the horse to pay all costs associated with the investigation and subsequent amendment of the *logbook* and database.

- 49.10 It shall be a *serious infringement* of this Rulebook, should an *owner* of a horse refuse or fail to render sufficient assistance as required by Clause 49.8 and/or fails to return the *logbook* as required by Clause 49.9.

## 50. USE OF LOGBOOKS

- 50.1 A *logbook* shall only be used for the horse named and identified in the *logbook* and shall be used in all *rides* affiliated with the AERA or a DA.
- 50.2 If a horse that has been issued with a *logbook*, that *logbook* must be used when that horse is entered in an affiliated *introductory*, *intermediate* or *micro-marathon ride*.
- 50.3 It shall be an infringement of this Rulebook to use a *logbook* in a ride not affiliated with the AERA or a DA. Such use shall:
- invalidate the *logbook* for future use at *rides* affiliated with the AERA or a DA and
  - a DA shall not issue a replacement *logbook* until a period of 6 months has elapsed from the date of the infringement.
- 50.4 Information, except entry details, can only be entered onto the page of the *logbook* designated for that *ride*, by a *ride* veterinarian, chief steward or other nominated *ride official*.
- 50.5 Any required alterations to rectify incorrect *ride* information in a *logbook* can only be made by the *ride* veterinarian, chief steward or other nominated *ride official*. The incorrect information should be crossed out yet be still readable and the correct information placed alongside and initialled by the person making the change. No information shall be altered using correction fluid or a similar substance.

## MISREPRESENTATION OF A HORSE

- 50.6 If a DA has reasonable grounds to suspect that a horse which has entered a *ride* had been misrepresented in any context, including but not limited to, the use of a *logbook* that had been issued to a different horse, then the DA shall contact the *persons responsible* for the horse at the *ride* in question and request their assistance and co-operation to confirm or dismiss the suspicion. The requested assistance may include providing access to the horse for an inspection.
- 50.7 If a DA is satisfied that a horse has in fact been misrepresented at a *ride*, then the DA shall:
- eliminate the *rider* and the horse from the *ride*
  - require the *persons responsible* to return the *logbook* and the DA shall have the *logbook* and the database amended to appropriately reflect the correct identity of the horse
- 50.8 It shall be a *serious infringement* of this Rulebook, if a *rider* and/or *persons responsible* for the horse refuse or fail to render sufficient assistance as required by Clause 50.6 or fails to return the *logbook* as required by Clause 50.7.

## 51. INVASIVE TREATMENT

The principle indicator for the successful management of an endurance horse is the horse's successful completion of the ride and its subsequent recovery without the need for veterinary intervention, irrespective of the pace ridden. However, it is recognised that in some circumstances, not necessarily related to the speed at which the horse was ridden, a horse may require veterinary intervention to ensure its optimum recovery.

- 51.1 A horse under *veterinary control* shall not receive *invasive treatment* by any person other than a member of the veterinary team, who shall only administer medication appropriate for therapeutic purposes and shall advise the *persons responsible* regarding future compliance with the EADCM Rules.
- 51.2 The Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse (Clause 42), requires that any horse suspected of requiring veterinary assistance shall be immediately presented to the veterinary team.
- 51.3 If *invasive treatment* is administered to a horse whilst under *veterinary control*:
- before the horse has completed the final veterinary inspection for the ride, the horse shall be eliminated by the head or treatment veterinarian.
  - after the horse has successfully completed the ride, the horse may be eliminated, if the head or

treatment veterinarian consider the *invasive treatment* was necessary to ensure the immediate welfare of the horse.

- 51.4 The *person responsible* for a horse whilst under *veterinary control* that receives *invasive treatment* shall complete the appropriate AERA Form(s) as provided by the chief steward and return them to the chief steward before departing the ride base. Should the completed AERA Form(s) not be returned to the chief steward, the chief steward may retain the *logbook* and forward it to the relevant DA who shall not release the logbook until receipt of the completed appropriate forms. The *person responsible* for the horse shall also seek and heed advice from the treatment veterinarian as to the appropriate course of action to ensure the full recovery of the horse.
- 51.5 When a horse received invasive treatment at a ride, the Chief Steward shall provide the person responsible with a copy of the AERA Form 4 Invasive Treatment – Veterinarian.
- 51.6 The AERA shall maintain a “National Register of Invasive Treatments”. Each DA shall have access to and be required to monitor the ‘National Register of Invasive Treatments’. A DA may impose a sanction on a rider or horse if the DA considers it is appropriate.

#### THE TAKING OF BLOOD OR BLOOD PARAMETERS

- 51.7 A horse under *veterinary control* shall not have blood drawn or blood parameters measured by any means unless the horse has been selected for medication control under the EADCM Rules or is exempted by Clauses 51.8 or 51.9.

##### For Research Purposes

- 51.8 An exemption to Clause 51.7 is available where the collection is done for research purposes and is conducted by a University or similar public institution and participation in the research is offered to all ride entrants. This is permitted provided:
- a) the Institution seeks and receives permission from the head veterinarian to conduct the blood sampling prior to the commencement of the pre-ride veterinary inspection, and
  - b) access to the results or other information obtained from measuring blood parameters is withheld from the horse's *rider, trainer and support personnel* whilst the horse is under *veterinary control*, and
  - c) the collection of the blood is undertaken by a veterinarian who need not be a member of the veterinary team.

##### For Diagnostic Purposes

- 51.9 An exemption to Clause 51.7 is available where it may be appropriate that blood be taken to assist in the diagnosis of an underlying issue from a horse still under *veterinary control*. This is permitted provided:
- a) the head veterinarian agrees to the collection and the collection is supervised by a member of the veterinary team, and
  - b) access to the results or other information obtained from measuring the blood parameters is withheld from the horse's *rider, trainer and support personnel* whilst the horse is under *veterinary control*.
- 51.10 Where a horse under *veterinary control* is subject to *invasive treatment* pursuant to Clause 51.8 or 51.9, the requirement to complete AERA Form(s) pursuant to clause 51.4 is waived.

#### 52. REST ORDER

- 52.1 The head or treatment veterinarian may impose a ‘rest order’ on a horse, if in the opinion of the head or treatment veterinarian, the horse is injured and/or stressed and the imposition of a rest order is in the best interest of the horses’ welfare. A horse does not necessarily need to receive *invasive treatment* for a rest order to be imposed on the horse.
- 52.2 A rest order may require that the horse is not permitted to compete in a ride for a defined period of time, up to a maximum of twelve months. The time period imposed should be sufficient for the horse to recover from its injury or stress and incorporate a period of time for the horse to re-commence training and regain fitness.
- 52.3 A rest order may require that the horse must compete at its next *ride* as a novice status horse.
- 52.4 A rest order may be imposed for the maximum 12-month period and the head veterinarian may write to the

appropriate DA recommending that the horse should not be permitted to compete in the Sport. Such a recommendation would require a thorough explanation of the reasons why the horse should not be permitted to compete in the Sport.

52.5 When a rest order has been imposed on a horse, the chief steward shall:

- a) ensure that the length of the rest order is written in weeks in the appropriate place on the relevant page in the *logbook*
- b) place a highly visible red sticker to the top of the relevant page in the *logbook* so that it is easily noticed when the horse enters subsequent rides
- c) retain the *logbook* and forward it to the relevant DA appropriate to the *person responsible for the horse at the ride*
- d) provide the *person responsible* with a copy of the AERA Form 4 Invasive Treatment – Veterinarian. The document may be photocopied at the Ride Secretaries office or scanned and emailed post ride.

52.6 Once imposed a rest order cannot be revoked.

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**53. VETERINARY TREATMENT AND ASSOCIATED FEES**

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- 53.1 Veterinary fees for the treatment of a horse at an event are the responsibility of the *person responsible* for the horse and shall be paid prior to the horse departing the ride base unless satisfactory arrangements have been made with the treating veterinarian.
- 53.2 If the veterinary fees have not been paid in full and no satisfactory arrangement has been agreed by the treating veterinarian, the chief steward shall retain the horse's *logbook* and forward it to the appropriate DA Horse Welfare Officer, who shall not release the *logbook* until the veterinarian confirms that all outstanding veterinary fees have been paid in full.
- 53.3 Veterinary fees relating to treatment administered to a horse whilst under *veterinary control* should account for fluids, drugs and consumables used with no labour component. Individuals who request optional veterinary treatment or assistance after the conclusion of the ride are responsible to negotiate fees directly with the veterinarian.

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**54. HORSE CONTAINMENT**

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- 54.1 The *person responsible for a horse* has a duty of care to all other persons to ensure their horse(s) are contained at all times. A competent responsible person must supervise horse(s) at all times when horse(s) are in the horse yard.
- 54.2 The preferred method of horse containment are metal yards, substantially fixed to a solid object such as a horse float, truck or permanent fence or appropriately pegged into the ground. Alternatively, electric fencing is permitted, but shall as a minimum, have 2 strands of tape, preferably white and a minimum of 1cm wide, with the top tape to be 1.2 to 1.4 metres above the ground. The posts used should be of substantial material (for example, steel pickets) and installed so that the tape does not sag. The fence shall be energized at all times the horse is in the yard.
- 54.3 Only one horse is permitted per enclosure.
- 54.4 Ground tethering or the hobbling of horses is not permitted.

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**55. HORSE BEHAVIOUR**

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- 55.1 The *person responsible for a horse* has a duty of care to all other persons to ensure their horse acts in a manner which is not dangerous to other people or other horses whether at the ride base or on course. A horse, acting in a manner dangerous to other persons or horses may be eliminated by the head veterinarian or the chief steward depending on the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement.
- 55.2 Any horse which does not permit all the required veterinary parameters to be observed may be eliminated by the head veterinarian or the chief steward.
- 55.3 Any horse which is known to be or is suspected of being a “kicker” shall be clearly identified at all times when outside their yard by the placement of a red tail ribbon being a minimum length of 30cm and a minimum width of approximately 2cm.

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**56. STALLIONS**

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- 56.1 Both the *rider* and the handler of a stallion shall be a minimum of eighteen years of age on the *day of the ride*.
- 56.2 Stallions must be clearly identified at all times when outside their yard by the placement of a blue ribbon of a minimum length of 30cm and a minimum width of approximately 2cm on both the tail and the head tack or mane of the stallion.

## 57. HORSE TACK

- 57.1 It is the responsibility of the *rider* to ensure that their riding tack is 'fit for the purpose', safe and that all tack and material placed on a horse fits appropriately and does not cause harm or injury to the horse.
- 57.2 Spurs, crops, whips, standing martingales and ear plugs are not permitted. Compression hoods and blinkers are permitted but any method of restricting the forward vision of a horse is not permitted.
- 57.3 It is prohibited to whip a horse on any occasion.
- 57.4 The tack utilised on the head of a horse shall be appropriate to ensure the horse is controllable at all times by the use of reins.

## 58. WHISKERS TO STAY PUT

Horses are ineligible to participate in any event if their sensory hairs have been clipped and/or shaven or in any other way removed unless they have been removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the horse.

## 59. HOOF PROTECTION

- 59.1 Horses may compete with or without hoof protection. The head veterinarian must consider whether the shoes, boots, pads or bare hooves are in a condition suitable for the distance and terrain of the *ride* being entered and may eliminate the horse if the condition or protection of hooves is considered inadequate.
- 59.2 Lost or damaged hoof protection may be replaced on course pursuant to Clause 35.
- 59.3 Lost or damaged hoof protection may be replaced at ride base prior to a veterinary inspection, however there is no allowance in relation to your maximum *present time*. Alternatively, the lost or damaged hoof protection may be replaced after the veterinary inspection and before beginning the next leg.
- 59.4 Hoof protection cannot be changed during an individual veterinary inspection. Shoes or boots cannot be removed or added between repeat trot ups.

## 60. ELIMINATED & WITHDRAWN HORSES

- 60.1 Any horse eliminated by the chief steward or the veterinary team, or withdrawn by the rider, shall not be permitted to continue on any part of the course.
- 60.2 Any horse eliminated on course by the chief steward shall upon return to the ride base, undergo a standard end of leg veterinary inspection pursuant to Clause 65.1. Irrespective of the outcome of the end of leg veterinary inspection, the on-course elimination will prevail.

## 61. HORSE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (HEWS)

- 61.1 Every horse in every *endurance*, *marathon*, *mini marathon* and *Intermediate ride* is subject to the Horse Early Warning System (HEWS). The horse attracts penalty points as per Table 18

<b>Table 18 Horse early warning system penalty points</b>	
<b>Reason for Non-Completion</b>	<b>Penalty Points</b>
Vet out pulse less than 66 bpm	10
Vet out pulse 66 bpm or over	20
Vet out lame	6
Vet out lame at a 2nd consecutive ride	12

Vet out lame at a 3 <sup>rd</sup> and any consecutive rides	18
Vet out metabolic - non-invasive	10
Vet out metabolic - moderate	20
Vet out metabolic - severe	30
Vet out other – back	6
Vet out gall or injury	4
Disqualification – finishing quicker than novice time by less than 5 minutes	10
Disqualification – finishing quicker than novice time by 5 minutes or greater	30

61.2 On the first 12-month anniversary of an individual penalty being imposed, points are credited to the horse as below. Additional credits occur for the successful completion of *endurance*, *marathon*, *mini marathon* and *intermediate rides* as follows:

- 61.2.1 4 points for rides 40km and up to 59km
- 61.2.2 6 points for rides 60km and up to 79km
- 61.2.3 8 points for rides 80 km up to 90 km.
- 61.2.4 10 points for rides 91 km up to 120 km.
- 61.2.5 12 points for rides 121 km and up to 159km.
- 61.2.6 15 points for rides of 160km and above.

61.3 A horse's accumulated penalty points will never fall below zero, even with the application of credit points. When the accumulated penalty points fall to zero any unused credit points are forfeited.

61.4 The HEWS is maintained within the AeraSpace database but managed by DA's.

61.5 Consequences of the HEWS are:

- a) The *person responsible* for a horse that accumulates 30 or more penalty points shall be notified in writing within reasonable time by their DA of the possible consequences if the horse's accumulated penalty points reach or exceed 45 and 60 points as imposed by Clauses 61.5(b) and 61.5(c) respectively.
- b) The *person responsible* for a horse that accumulates 45 or more penalty points and who has been notified pursuant to Clause 61.5(a), shall be notified as soon as possible in writing by their DA returning the *horse* to novice status until the horse successfully completes two (2) *endurance rides* at novice status.
- c) The *person responsible* for a horse that accumulates 60 or more penalty points and who has been notified pursuant to Clause 61.5(a), shall be required to show reasonable cause to their DA why the horse should not become ineligible to enter rides for a period of time as determined by the DA.
- d) Where a horse exceeds two of the thresholds noted above as a consequence of penalty points imposed at one ride, the consequence shall be that associated with the higher EWS score.

## 62 EQUINE ANTI-DOPING AND CONTROLLED MEDICATION RULES

62.1 The AERA Equine Anti-Doping & Controlled Medication Rules (hereinafter *EADCM* Rules) are contained in Section 5 EADCM Rules and form part of this Rulebook and shall be read in conjunction with this Rulebook.

62.2 The *EADCM* Rules reference the following FEI protocols (as amended from time to time):

- 62.2.1 Medication Control Personnel (MCP) who are accredited by EA and are engaged for the collection of samples.
- 62.2.2 FEI approved Laboratories which must be used for the analysis of samples.
- 62.2.3 The "FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List" (hereinafter the "*List*") provides the list of prohibited substances and prohibited methods.

No person should infer that a rule or Clause contained in any FEI General Regulations, FEI Endurance



Rules, FEI Veterinary Regulations or any other FEI document or policy negates or prevails over any rule(s) contained in this Rulebook.

- 62.3 Any person who seeks advice concerning the interpretation and application of the *EADCM* Rules (including the application of those rules to particular substances) should not rely solely upon interpretations or advice provided by manufacturers, veterinarians, *ride officials*, or any other person(s). Any *person responsible* who is uncertain of the status of a horse in their care, in any given situation, is advised to withdraw that horse from the *ride*.

### 63 HORSE CATASTROPHE (DEATH)

- 63.1 A horse catastrophe occurs when a horse dies or is euthanised:
- 63.1.1 at an endurance event or
  - 63.1.2 subsequent to an endurance event at which the injury or metabolic condition initially manifested.
- 63.2 If euthanasia or a horse death is likely, the treating veterinarian shall inform the chief steward.
- 63.3 If euthanasia is to be performed, the treating veterinarian shall, when possible, have a second veterinarian consult on the case, ideally the head veterinarian or another member of the veterinary team.
- 63.4 Prior to the horse being euthanised the following must be undertaken:
- 63.4.1 identify a suitable place for the euthanasia, possible necropsy and disposal to be performed.
  - 63.4.2 AERA Form 22 Equine Catastrophe – Consent to Euthanise must be obtained from the *person responsible* for the horse.
  - 63.4.3 section 4 of AERA Form 23 Equine Catastrophe – Veterinarian Report must be completed recording the clinical signs and parameters that led to the decision to euthanise.
- 63.5 Where a horse catastrophe occurs:
- 63.5.1 The chief steward shall verbally notify both the relevant DA President or Secretary and the AERA President or Secretary within 48 hours of the horse's death.
  - 63.5.2 Where the catastrophe occurs subsequent to the ride (ie not at the ride base) and as a result of events at the ride, the responsible person shall notify the Chief Steward within 48 hours of the horse's death. The Chief Steward shall then verbally notify both the relevant DA President or Secretary and the AERA President or Secretary within 48 hours of receiving the notification from the responsible person.
  - 63.5.3 Thereafter the procedure shall be as described in Appendix 1 to these Rules.

### NECROPSY

- 63.6 In the situation of a horse death, in principle, a necropsy should be conducted. However, prior to any necropsy being performed, the veterinarian shall consider whether the death is:
- 63.6.1 accidental type death due to trauma or some pre-existing problem that has reappeared under exercise conditions:
  - 63.6.2 metabolic type death. These are the cases about which we know little and gross pathology may be quite normal. In these cases, thorough collection of samples for histopathology is most important.
- 63.7 Should the circumstances assessed in Clause 63.6 dictate that a necropsy should be considered, then the treating veterinarian shall undertake a risk assessment to establish whether the procedure can be conducted without presenting an unacceptable risk to health of humans and other animals. In particular, the risk of zoonotic disease must be assessed.
- 63.8 If the risk assessment indicates that an unacceptable risk is present, the necropsy must not be conducted and the veterinarian shall ensure that the balance of AERA Form 23 Equine Catastrophe – Veterinarian Report is completed as comprehensively as possible.
- 63.9 Where the risk assessment indicates that a necropsy is able to be conducted, the following procedures shall be followed:
- 63.9.1 pre-euthanasia blood samples should be collected if possible and submitted to a



- recognised laboratory for haematology and metabolic profile.
- 63.9.2 all observations at the necropsy must be accurately recorded.
- 63.9.3 samples should be taken from target organs as appropriate to the circumstances and submitted to a recognised laboratory for histopathology.
- 63.9.4 the balance of AERA Form 23 Equine Catastrophe – Veterinarian Report is completed as comprehensively as possible.

63.10 The veterinarian shall invoice all fees relating to:

- 63.10.1 the initial treatment and euthanasia to the *person responsible* for the horse.
- 63.10.2 the necropsy to the AERA. The AERA may recover the cost of the necropsy from the *person responsible* for the horse should the necropsy reveal the presence of banned or prohibited substances pursuant to Section 5 EADCM Rules which were not related to the euthanasia nor to any Invasive Treatment administered by the veterinary team.

63.11 The chief steward shall ensure that:

- 63.11.1 The treating veterinarian(s) and the *person responsible* for the horse are provided with AERA Form 21 Equine Catastrophe – Explanatory Notes prior to the act of euthanasia.
- 63.11.2 AERA Form 22 Equine Catastrophe – Consent to Euthanise (if appropriate) is completed by the *person responsible for the horse* prior to euthanasia and retained by the chief steward.
- 63.11.3 AERA Form 23 Equine Catastrophe – Veterinarian Report is completed by the treating veterinarian and retained by the chief steward.
- 63.11.4 AERA Form 24 Equine Catastrophe – Chief Steward Report is completed.
- 63.11.5 Either AERA Form 2 Invasive Treatment – Rider Report – Non Metabolic or AERA Form 3 Invasive Treatment – Rider Report – Metabolic is completed as appropriate and retained by the chief steward.
- 63.11.6 The Chief Steward, in consultation with the Head Vet and Treatment Vet, must determine whether a change to the database record is required in the case of a horse catastrophe following a recorded status of completion.

## Chapter 7. VETERINARY CONTROLS & PROCEDURES

### 64 INTRODUCTION

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- 64.1 Veterinarians, being both *ride officials* and professionals, shall place particular emphasis on the Code of Conduct for *ride officials* as notated in Clause 22 and in particular the potential for a real or perceived conflict of interest.
- 64.2 Veterinarians are to assess every horse without fear or bias, ensuring that any horse that fails to satisfy the veterinary inspection parameters is protected by being eliminated from the *ride*.
- 64.3 Only sound, healthy, unimpaired horses are to be permitted to commence, continue in, or successfully complete a *ride*.
- 64.4 Should a veterinarian suspect that a horse has been temporarily or permanently de-nerved, the veterinarian shall eliminate that horse immediately from the *ride* and advise the chief steward.
- 64.5 The ROC in consultation with the head veterinarian and the chief steward shall nominate a *ride* control to be used throughout each *ride* at an *event*. There are 2 alternative *ride* controls available:
  - 64.5.1 The Standard Ride Control (Clause 5).
  - 64.5.2 The VGIH Ride Control (Clause 6).
- 64.6 Every horse in every *ride*, shall be required to undergo a pre-ride veterinary inspection and a veterinary inspection at the completion of each and every leg, utilising the nominated ride control in clause 63.5.
- 64.7 Every horse in every *ride* shall be examined by a member of the veterinary team at the pre-ride veterinary inspection and at all subsequent end-of-leg veterinary inspections to determine the horse's eligibility to commence, continue in, or successfully complete the *ride*. At each veterinary inspection, the veterinarian shall record in each horses' *logbook* or vet card:

- 64.7.1 The outcome of the examination parameters and a notation of any pre-existing conditions:
- 64.7.2 Any potential horse welfare issues that need to be monitored during the *ride* and provide a warning and/or specific advice as to the immediate management of the horse if appropriate.
- 64.7.3 The reason(s) to eliminate a horse, such as gait, pulse, metabolics. A veterinarian is not required to provide any diagnosis for irregular gait or any other observance which has contributed to the decision to eliminate the horse.

64.8 Detailed instructions on each parameter to be assessed for each horse at a veterinary inspection and how to score each parameter are provided in Section 3 Veterinary Rules.

64.9 At each veterinary inspection:

- 64.9.1 each horse shall be presented unsaddled, without any tack, bandages, kinesio tape, hoods or leg protection.
- 64.9.2 horse rugs are to be removed when requested by the inspecting veterinarian.
- 64.9.3 hoof protection may not be altered during a veterinary inspection.
- 64.9.4 heart rate monitoring equipment must be removed from the horse and be de-activated when in the vet ring.
- 64.9.5 no form of horse feed is permitted in the vet ring.
- 64.9.6 no recording devices (audio or visual) are permitted in the vet ring without the prior permission of the chief steward in consultation with the head veterinarian.
- 64.9.7 no person is permitted in the vet ring other than ride officials performing their duties and the horse(s) undertaking a veterinary inspection, which may be accompanied by a maximum of 2 persons per horse unless the chief steward permits otherwise.
- 64.9.8 the chief steward may permit a companion horse to be present in the vet ring.
- 64.9.9 spectators are not permitted in the vet ring or the common strapping area without the prior permission of the chief steward.

## 65 PRE-RIDE VETERINARY INSPECTION

65.1 The examining veterinarian shall:

- 65.1.1 observe, determine and notate all the parameters shown on the horse's *logbook* page or vet card. The head veterinarian may delegate the authority to collect the heart rate and temperature to accredited TPR stewards or to suitably qualified veterinary students from any Australian University facility.
- 65.1.2 examine the dentition of each horse entered in the ride and permit only those horses to start which comply with the minimum horse age requirements per Table 16.
- 65.1.3 examine both eyes for sight impairment by the blink reflex and any other appropriate assessment. Any horse thought to be visually impaired (in either one or both eyes) that is likely to jeopardise its (or other horses) safety, may be refused permission to start the *ride*.
- 65.1.4 examine each horse for:
  - 65.1.4.1 any signs of recognisable contagious disease:
  - 65.1.4.2 metabolic condition and stability including gut sounds:
  - 65.1.4.3 soreness, abrasions, rubs or galls on the withers, back, loins, ribs, girth, chest, shoulders and mouth:
  - 65.1.4.4 leg injuries, hoof conditions and lower leg dermatitis or bruises, cuts or abnormalities:
  - 65.1.4.5 general and/or specific signs of impaired health or incapacity to complete the *ride*, for example: dehydration, profuse sweating, muscle tremor spasm or cramp, glazed and/or glassy eyes, 'spaced-out' expression, colic, mild abdominal pain, unwillingness to move freely or signs of more serious physiological impairment:
  - 65.1.4.6 adequate hoof protection and/or condition of hooves pursuant to Clause 58.
  - 65.1.4.7 gait.

65.2 At the completion of the pre-ride veterinary inspection, the examining veterinarian shall decide whether the horse:

- 65.2.1 has passed, or
- 65.2.2 has passed but is required to undergo a further requested re-present veterinary inspection before the start of the *ride*, or

- 65.2.3 has failed, or
- 65.2.4 has failed and is required to present to the treatment veterinarian for observation and/or possible treatment.

#### DIFFERENT RIDES ON CONSECUTIVE DAYS

65.3 Where the same horse is competing in different rides on consecutive days, the head veterinarian may:

- 65.3.1 require each horse to undergo a full pre-ride veterinary examination for the following days ride after the horse completes the current days ride, or
- 65.3.2 accept the final leg vetting parameters from the current days ride as the pre-ride veterinary parameters for the following days ride, with the proviso, that the head veterinarian may require any horse to undergo a partial or full pre-ride veterinary inspection for the following days ride should the final leg vetting parameters from the current days ride so warrant.

#### 66 END-OF-LEG VETERINARY INSPECTION

66.1 The examining veterinarian shall:

- 66.1.1 observe, determine and notate all the parameters shown on the horse's *logbook* page or vet card. The head veterinarian may delegate the authority to collect the heart rate and temperature to accredited TPR stewards or to suitably qualified veterinary students from any Australian University facility. At the end-of-leg veterinary inspections, the horse's respiratory rate and temperature is collected at the discretion of the head veterinarian
- 66.1.2 eliminate a horse with a heart rate in excess of the maximum permitted. The *logbook* is to be notated "Vetted out - heart rate".
- 66.1.3 observe and determine the metabolic profile of the horse. Horses deemed to be metabolically unstable or showing insufficient metabolic recovery are to be eliminated from the *ride*. A horse with the clinical signs of synchronous diaphragmatic flutter ("thumps") shall be eliminated for metabolic reasons. The *logbook* is to be endorsed "Vetted out – Metabolics" or other appropriate finding, and
- 66.1.4 examine the horse for:
  - 66.1.4.1 soreness, abrasions, rubs or galls on the withers, back, loins, ribs, girth, chest, shoulders and mouth:
  - 66.1.4.2 leg injuries, hoof conditions and lower leg dermatitis or bruises, cuts or abnormalities:
  - 66.1.4.3 specific signs of impaired health or incapacity to complete the *ride*, for example: dehydration, profuse sweating, muscle tremor spasm or cramp, glazed and/or glassy eyes, 'spaced-out' expression, colic, mild abdominal pain, unwillingness to move freely or signs of more serious physiological impairment:
  - 66.1.4.4 gait.

66.2 At the completion of each end-of-leg veterinary inspection, the examining veterinarian shall decide whether the horse:

- 66.2.1 has passed, or
- 66.2.2 has passed but is required to undergo a further requested re-present veterinary inspection before the horse is due out on the next leg. This option is not available when the horse has just completed the last leg of the *ride*, or
- 66.2.3 has failed, or
- 66.2.4 has failed and is required to present to the treatment veterinarian for observation and/or possible treatment.

66.3 Once a horse has passed the final veterinary inspection, the completion status shall not be changed for veterinary reasons unless pursuant to Clause 51.3(b).

#### 67 ADDITIONAL VETERINARY CONTROLS

##### REQUESTED RE-PRESENTS

67.1 A member of the veterinary team may require a horse to re-present for another veterinary inspection before the horse begins the *ride* per Clause 64.2(b) or before the horse's due time out on the next leg per Clause 65.2(b). At a requested re-present all parameters shall be examined pursuant to Clause 65 unless the head veterinarian permits otherwise.

##### COMPULSORY RE-PRESENTS

- 67.2 At the discretion of the head veterinarian, for a *ride* of 120 km or more, all horses may be subject to a compulsory re-present at the completion of one or more legs. Each horse shall be required to re-present before their *hold time* expires. At a compulsory represent all parameters shall be examined as per Clause 65. The head veterinarian shall announce at pre-ride briefing whether any compulsory re-presents will be conducted and if so, after which leg(s).
- 67.3 Horses shall not present for a compulsory re-present more than 15 minutes before the expiration of the horses *hold time*.
- 67.4 Failure to present a horse for any re-present before the expiration of the horses *hold time* shall result in the horse being eliminated from the *ride*, irrespective whether the horse passes the veterinary re-inspection or not.

#### POST RIDE RE-PRESENTS

- 67.5 At the discretion of the head veterinarian, any horse may be required to represent for a veterinary inspection up to 2 hours after the horse has completed the *ride*. The status of the horse's completion at the end of the *ride* cannot be altered for any veterinary reason unless pursuant to Clause 51.3 (b).

#### RANDOM VETERINARY INSPECTIONS

- 67.6 Any member of the veterinary team may request any horse under *veterinary control* to undergo a random veterinary inspection at any point in time irrespective whether the horse is at the ride base or on course. The horse shall be eliminated from the *ride* if it fails the random veterinary inspection.

#### ON COURSE VETERINARY INSPECTIONS

- 67.7 The head veterinarian may appoint 1 or more members of the veterinary team to conduct on-course inspections of horses, which may include:
- 67.7.1 A 'trot by' gait inspection whereby the horses are stopped at a predetermined place along the course and are trotted past a veterinarian:
  - 67.7.2 A 'heart-rate-gate' inspection whereby the horses are stopped at a predetermined place along the course and the heart rate is checked by a veterinarian. If the horse fails to satisfy the maximum heart rate criteria within 30 minutes, the horse is eliminated. Where a 'heart-rate-gate' is to be used, the use of the heart-rate-gate and the approximate location and maximum permitted heart rate shall be announced at the pre-ride briefing.
- 67.8 Any horse eliminated pursuant to Clause 66.7 shall be floated back to the ride base and must undergo a standard end of leg veterinary inspection pursuant to Clause 65.1. Irrespective of the outcome of the end of leg veterinary inspection, the on-course elimination will prevail.

### 68 VETERINARY DECISION MAKING

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#### ELIMINATING A HORSE

- 68.1 The veterinarian shall examine the horse presented without fear or bias and shall eliminate any horse in any *ride* that fails to satisfy the veterinary inspection parameters.
- 68.2 Diagnostic procedures such as the use of hoof pincers, flexion of a joint, deep palpation or continued pressure on a tendon, ligament, back muscle or rib or the sharp point stimulation of back areas are prohibited in the decision-making process.

#### VETERINARY VOTING PANEL

- 68.3 The head veterinarian may choose to implement a veterinary voting panel (hereinafter "voting panel") for the purpose of assessing a horse at any or all veterinary inspections for any or all matters including (but not limited to) gait, metabolic profile, injury, soreness, abrasions, rubs or galls. The voting panel shall:
- 68.3.1 Comprise 3 members of the veterinary team, 1 of which (where possible) shall be the head veterinarian.
  - 68.3.2 Whilst the horse is being examined, there shall be no communication either verbally or visually between members of the voting panel until the result of the vote has been disclosed by the chief steward.

- 68.3.3 The veterinarians shall record their votes (pass or fail) on voting slips and hand them to the chief steward. Any member of the voting panel may call for an additional examination (e.g. another trot up) prior to voting.
- 68.3.4 The majority vote will decide the outcome.
- 68.3.5 The chief steward shall announce the result only (pass or fail), to the handler and the examining veterinarian as well as use an appropriate hand gesture (thumbs up or thumbs down) to communicate the result to *spectators*. The chief steward shall not disclose any other information regarding the vote and the voting slips are to be discreetly destroyed by the chief steward.

68.4 Where circumstances require, the voting panel may (temporarily) be reduced to 2 members. In such an instance, the decision must be unanimous. A split decision will be deemed a pass.

#### APPEALING A VETERINARY DECISION

- 68.5 When a horse is eliminated by a sole veterinarian, the handler has the right to verbally appeal (through the chief steward) to the head veterinarian for a review of the decision provided that the horse has not left the designated vet ring from the time initial decision was made. The horse is not permitted to leave the vet ring until the appeal is decided. The head veterinarian shall re-assess the horse and confirm or overturn the elimination and the decision shall be final.
- 68.6 When a horse is eliminated by a voting panel, there is no appeal available, except when the horse has had only one gait assessment. This situation can only arise when a panel is utilised for the first gait assessment. In such an instance, the handler has the right to verbally appeal (through the chief steward) for a second trot up and a second vote, which must be in front of the same panel, provided that the horse had not left the designated vet ring since the initial decision was announced. The horse is not permitted to leave the vet ring until the appeal is decided. The outcome of the gait assessment shall confirm or overturn the elimination and the decision shall be final

#### GAIT ASSESSMENT

- 68.7 A horse shall be eliminated which displays an irregularity of gait exhibited as, but not limited to, a consistent, head bob, hip hike or shortened stride or, an irregularity of gait that threatens the immediate ability of the horse to safely perform athletically.
- 68.8 The trot up shall be a total of 80 metres in distance on a firm, flat, sufficiently illuminated surface, using a pattern of either out and back or a triangle. The chosen pattern shall be used by the entire veterinary team and applied to each horse in a consistent manner. No horse shall be trotted up other than in the designated vet ring except where Clause 66.6 or Clause 66.7 is invoked.
- 68.9 A horse may not trot up in a bit unless permitted by the head veterinarian. The handler must walk or trot the horse at the pace as instructed by the veterinarian. The horse must be walked or trotted on a loose lead and be permitted to display its natural gait and head carriage. When commencing the trot, the handler may provide a cue or command to the horse, but the horse shall not be chased, hunted or threatened by any person at any stage. Should there be an infringement of this Clause, the chief steward, inspecting veterinarian or the head veterinarian may nullify the trot up, and the horse shall be required to trot up again.
- 68.10 When the inspecting or head veterinarian is of the opinion that, for the welfare of the horse, the trot up should not continue, the veterinarian shall hail the handler to stop, and the handler shall walk the horse back to the veterinarian.
- 68.11 When trotting up a horse, the examining vet(s) will make no allowance in relation to the horses gait due to the horse missing a shoe, boot or wearing some form of (temporary) hoof protection.
- 68.12 At an individual veterinary inspection (excluding any appeal):
  - 68.12.1 When a decision is made by a single vet, the horse may be trotted up a maximum of 3 times after which a decision must be made by the line veterinarian pursuant to Clause 64.2 or 65.2 respectively. When a panel is used, the line veterinarian may allow a maximum of two trot ups before requesting a panel. A panel member may request an additional trot up in accordance with clause 67.3.3.
  - 68.12.2 when panel voting is being utilised, the decision of the panel is final but may be subject to appeal pursuant to Clause 67.6.
- 68.13 If a horse is unable to complete the gait assessment due to a reluctance or failure to trot, and consequently

the veterinarian(s) are unable to decide whether the gait of the horse is irregular, then the horse will be eliminated.

68.14 Veterinarians are not required to provide a diagnosis of an irregular gait.

## Appendices to the AERA Rulebook

### Appendix 1 AERA Equine Catastrophe Protocol

Upon receipt of a notification of an equine catastrophe per Rule 62.5, the AERA President/Secretary shall notify, within 48 hours, the AERA Management Committee of the full details as provided by the Chief Steward. The AERA's Horse Welfare Sub-committee will then be responsible for the management of the equine catastrophe investigation and reporting process.

The DA in which the catastrophe occurs shall provide to the AERA Horse Welfare Sub-committee, through the AERA Secretary, a detailed progress report on the catastrophe investigation no more than 28 days after the catastrophe occurs. This progress report shall include:

- Investigations completed to date
- Any associated reports (Invasive Treatment, Chief Steward, Treatment Vet, etc.)
- Any eye witness statements where appropriate
- Actions taken by the DA
- Outstanding items/investigations yet to be completed

The AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee, through the AERA Secretary, will provide a preliminary report to the AERA Management Committee on findings from the progress report within 28 days of receipt of the report from the DA.

The DA shall provide to the AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee, through the AERA Secretary, a final report once its investigation is complete that includes:

- Full details of the equine catastrophe
- All relevant documentation
- DA actions taken
- A summary from the DA Horse Welfare Officer.

The final report shall be reviewed by the AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee with the aim of identifying any horse welfare issues and/or rule breaches that arise. The AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee may undertake further investigation into the equine catastrophe if deemed necessary to provide clarification or any missing information.

The AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee will report back on its findings to AERA and, through the AERA Secretary, to the notifying DA within 28 days of receiving the final report from the DA. Where appropriate, its report will contain recommendations for remedial actions aimed at preventing future equine misadventure.

The management of equine catastrophes at an event can be and usually is a stressful and challenging event for all involved, including the treating vet(s). Members of the AERA National Vet Panel are available to support vets who are involved in equine catastrophes. Where a DA believes this would be appropriate, a DA official should make contact with the AERA National Vet Panel Liaison to arrange such support.



**Appendix 2 Supplementary Rules for *social rides* / Introductory Days / Clinics**

Endurance clubs around the country regularly run 'Introduction to Endurance' days as a means of interesting more people in endurance riding.

Such events often take the form of some education for an hour or so, followed by a vetting demonstration and, often, followed by a short 'mock' endurance ride.

Where a ride is part of the event, in order to ensure clubs operate such events safely and attract public liability insurance cover, the following things must be done.

1. The club must submit an event affiliation request to its Division (state) in the usual way. Once approved the event can proceed. The event must be listed on the Division and National endurance calendar.
2. The usual risk assessment must be conducted by the club and identified hazards managed in the usual ways.
3. One of the possible outcomes of the risk assessment for such events, provided they are less than 20k in length, is that it is not necessary for a vet to be present at the event. Where this is the case, the club must inform local vet(s) the event is on and confirm that veterinary treatment is available should it be required.
4. The payment of day membership by those in attendance is not required by AERA. It is the practice of AERA not to charge Divisions for day membership (insurance) for such events. However, people who ride on the day must complete and provide a day membership form in the usual way.
5. In the event of any incidents or injuries occurring at the event, the usual AERA paperwork needs to be done and provided to the Division along with the report referred to below.
6. The club must provide a written report to its Division on the day.

### **Appendix 3 AERA Horse Welfare Position Statement**

The Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc. (AERA) requires all persons involved with the sport of endurance to acknowledge and accept that, at all times, the welfare of the horse must be absolutely paramount. The welfare of the horse must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial interests.

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#### **General Welfare**

1. The highest standards of horse husbandry and management must be adopted in relation to general health, nutrition, hydration, housing, sanitation and safety.
2. Endurance riding requires horses to perform at a high level for extended periods of time, requiring superior levels of fitness. Horses must be trained, and ridden in competition, commensurate to their age, physical capabilities, pregnancy status and maturity. Training and riding techniques must not be abusive or cause fear.
3. Foot care, shoeing, tack and any other equine equipment used must be of a high standard, designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury. The use of whips or spurs is expressly forbidden.
4. Vehicles and trailers used to transport horses should be regularly maintained, safe, well ventilated and protect horses from injury. Horses must be fully protected against injuries and transport related health risks.
5. Journeys should be planned and, for longer journeys where circumstances allow, horses should be permitted regular rest stops with access to feed and water.

#### **Competition**

1. Participation in competition must be restricted to fit horses and riders of proven competence. Horses must be allowed suitable rest period between training and competitions. Additional rest periods should be allowed following travelling.
2. No horse deemed unfit to compete may enter or continue to compete in competition. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.
3. Riders will avail themselves of appropriate training and education to ensure their riding techniques and fitness are of a level that is empathetic and supportive to the horse and does not cause injury or impede the horse.

#### **Doping and Medication**

1. Any action or intent of doping and illicit use of medication constitute a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated.
2. After any veterinary treatment sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before training and entry into competition.

#### **Events**

1. Endurance courses must be designed with the safety of the horse in mind and with adequate water points available.
2. Endurance rides must not be staged in extreme weather conditions that may compromise the welfare or safety of the horse. Where such conditions arise during a ride, consideration must be given to suspending or cancelling the ride or providing alternative track options.

#### **Humane Treatment of Horses**

1. Veterinary treatment must be provided at rides, as required, to safeguard the health and well-being of the horse.
2. If a horse is injured or exhausted during competition the rider must stop competing and a veterinary evaluation must be performed.

3. Delays (or attempts to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance where it should have been reasonably suspected that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially compromised will not be tolerated.
4. Refusal of invasive treatment for a horse after the veterinarian at a ride indicates that the immediate welfare of a horse is compromised and requires invasive treatment whether it is pre, post or during the vetting process, will not be tolerated.
5. Wherever necessary, horses must be transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for assessment and therapy if unavailable, or unsuitable to be provided, at a ride base.
6. Injured or sick horses must be given full supportive treatment before being transported.
7. If injuries are sufficiently severe a horse may need to be euthanised on humane grounds by a veterinarian, as soon as possible, with the sole aim of minimising suffering.
8. Horses must be treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from competition.

### **Education**

1. The AERA urges all persons who are associated with the sport of equine endurance riding in Australia to attain the highest possible levels of education relevant to the care, management and riding of the horse.