AERA RULEBOOK ©
Amendments to AERA RULEBOOK applicable from 1 January 2020

[NOTE: where part of a rule is amended, the full rule is included with changes identified in blue]

SECTION 1 - GENERAL RULES
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION, DEFINITIONS AND COMPLIANCE

No changes

CHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS & RIDE CONTROLS

No changes

CHAPTER 3. RIDE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

15. VET TO HORSE RATIO

15.1.1 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.

15.4 For rides of 120 kms or more in one day, a separate additional treatment veterinarian is required to be present at the ride base.

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 AUD5,000 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.

CHAPTER 4. RIDE OFFICIALS

No changes

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 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:
   d) a rider or their support personnel violate Clause 26.2, or
   e) a rider misrepresents their age, identity or riding status.
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 The presentation of a current DA membership card shall *prima facie* be proof of membership. If a rider cannot produce a current DA membership card for whatever reason, the ride secretary may validate the membership through AeraSpace. If no membership card is produced and the membership cannot be validated through AeraSpace for whatever reason, the rider cannot enter a ride requiring such membership.

At every ride, riders should show their current membership card to the ride secretary and must have their membership number recorded on the ride entry form.

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.

28.2 A rider may compete indefinitely at novice rider status until they apply to upgrade pursuant to Clause 29.

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 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 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) Apply to their respective DA to have their rider status upgraded from novice to endurance status.

29.4 When a rider has satisfied Clause 29.3 they may apply to their respective DA to have their rider status upgraded from novice to endurance status.
CHAPTER 6. HORSE RULES
No changes

CHAPTER 7. VETERINARY CONTROLS & PROCEDURES
No changes

SECTION 2 – COMPLEMENTARY COMPETITION RULES
No changes

SECTION 3 – VETERINARY RULES
No changes

SECTION 4 – SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT RULES
No changes

SECTION 5 – EQUINE ANTI-DOPING & CONTROLLED MEDICATION RULES
No changes

SECTION 6 – RISK MANAGEMENT RULES
No changes