

Endurance Ride Etiquette Policy

The sport of endurance is a diverse mix of participants, both human and equine. For our sport to be relevant and inclusive of all entrants and to ensure we are encouraging, supportive and safe there must be a standard to which we all adhere.

A.E.R.A RULEBOOK		
Revised January 2016, Amended January 2018		
Rule 26	Rider Rules – Code of Conduct	
Rule 22	Ride Officials – Code of Conduct	
Rule 33	Riding the Course	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a fair and equitable opportunity is provided to everyone involved in the sport of endurance horse riding. It seeks to provide a benchmark for all members to use as a reference point. It seeks to initiate conversations within the sport and between riders as to what is acceptable and encouraged.

SCOPE

This policy applies to people attending Endurance events affiliated with AERA. This includes Officials, Ride Organisers, Volunteers, Participants and Family members.

COMMUNICATION

Information is provided in many formats to support conduct at rides. Riders and support personnel should be aware of:

- The AERA Rulebook
- Specific information provided by Ride Organisers about preparing for a ride and expectations at ride base, eg biosecurity requirements and tidying up your camp area
- Information provided at pre-ride talks, compulsory for all novice riders to attend and recommended for all others, includes leg lengths and novice time requirements, emergency contact numbers and track marking.

HORSES

- At all times, handlers should be in control of their horse to ensure that the behaviour of the horse does not impact on the safety of people and other horses
- A horse that may kick out at other horses must have a red ribbon attached to its tail
- A stallion must have a blue ribbon attached to its tail and its head.

RIDE BASE

- Follow instructions from camp boss or ride organisers regarding camp location.
- Riders should follow instructions regarding the use of stables and other yards on the grounds. Most often these facilities would have been pre-booked and reserved.
- Behaviour of persons in camp should be respectful of others' space.

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- Individual camp areas should be set up to support separation of horses and to ensure that access to water points and electricity points (if available) is not restricted for neighboring camps .
- Generators should be placed as such that they are not upsetting to other camps and horses.

VETTING

- All horses should be under control of a competent handler and well-mannered whilst in the vetting ring.
- Handlers and horses should enter and exit vetting area as per signed instructions.
- Handlers should follow all Chief Stewards instructions while in the vetting area.
- Take time to allow your horse to familiarise with the vetting area and any conditions that may be unfamiliar.

RIDE START, ON COURSE ETIQUETTE & DURING THE RIDE

- Rider numbers must be provided to Chief Steward prior to departure of base.
- Riders should take note of marshalling area and be mindful of other participants. Decide whether you are going out with the front runners or whether your horse will be more controlled by holding back and place you and your horse accordingly. Be aware of other horses that may be prancing and give yourself space from those to avoid collisions and being kicked.
- Riders should follow instructions from pre-ride briefing regarding direction of travel and departure instructions.
- When on track, riders should always request or notify riders on their intention to pass on track. Be aware of horses coming up behind you and be prepared to give space for passing.
- **Riders should be aware of the impact of headlamps on other riders, horses and officials and dim as required.**
- When on track, riders should always ride on the left-hand side of dual lane tracks, road verges and trails.
- Riders should follow instructions from SES and other volunteers in relation to road crossings.
- Riders are responsible for calling their numbers to checkpoints and ensuring numbers are recorded. Riders should be polite and courteous to volunteer workers.
- Water points should be used with regard to fellow riders and horses. Drinking water troughs should not be used for strapping horses. Be aware of other horses drinking; your horse rushing off may distract another horse from the water.
- Riders are requested to approach the Arrival gate at a safe speed, call numbers and wait for timeslip and /or logbook. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure they have required documentation prior to arrival at vetting area.

PRESENTATIONS & DEPARTURE OF RIDE BASE

- Ensure your logbook or daycard is signed by the Head Vet and Ride Secretary prior to the horse's departure. Ride Secretaries and Head Vets are busy and you may have to wait.
- Riders are encouraged to attend presentations to show respect to Ride Organisers and sponsors. If you are unable to attend presentations, please provide a stamped addressed envelope or money to cover cost for the return of your horse's log book.
- Riders should ensure that bibs and RFID tags are returned to the RO prior to departure.
- All camps should follow RO instructions regarding rubbish, hay and horse manure disposal.