

QUEENSLAND ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 The State Championship Ride will be the Premier Ride in Queensland and will be run annually for the Queensland Endurance Riders Association Inc. (QERA).
- 1.2 Certain principles and ideals are inherent in the conduct of this ride, and are defined as follows:
 - Elite horse and rider combinations from within the State, and from each of the zones should be encouraged to attend.
 - Those horse and rider combinations who have fulfilled the current qualification criteria, and who may not be regarded as elite horse/rider combinations should be encouraged to compete, embodying the motto “To complete is to Win.”
 - The traditional amateur nature of the sport must be preserved in the State Championship Ride.
 - The spirit of challenge for horse and rider in the Queensland bush is to be maintained.
 - The spirit of sportsmanship and the welfare of the horse is paramount and is to be the aim of this challenge for horse and rider.

2. RIDING RULES

The AERA Inc. Riding Rules, Procedures for Rides and Veterinary Procedures will apply. Where applicable QERA Inc. Riding Rules, Ride Organisers Procedures and course marking guidelines will apply.

3. THE COURSE

- 3.1 The course shall be no less than 160kkm in length. The length of each leg shall be measured and the distance made known to competitors. It is desirable that the length of each leg not exceed 40kkm.
- 3.2 There will be a minimum of five legs.
- 3.3 The course must be free of dangerous hazards and suitable to produce an average riding time of about 15 hours (for 160kkm).
- 3.4 Clean, accessible drinking water for horses must be made available on course, preferably every 10kkm.
- 3.5 Standard QERA markers or similar will be used to mark the course.
- 3.6 The finish of the ride should, if possible, be at the ride base.
- 3.7 There must be stewards at key locations along the course who are in contact with each other, and the ride base by radio. There should be at least two radio checks on each leg. These radio stewards must record the numbers of each passing rider and relay to the checkpoints for general/strapper information.

4. FACILITIES

- 4.1 The ride base must be of sufficient size to allow competitors and their horses to camp in comfort and safety.
- 4.2 Facilities should include toilets, hot showers, yards for horses or adequate space for yards to be erected.
- 4.3 Present or close by, there should be laundry facilities, shops, hotel, public phones, garage, hall or marquee suitable for meeting and catering requirements.

5. START-FINISH AND CHECKPOINTS

- 5.1 The start of the ride should be an open area with no hazards. The first several kilometres of the course should be such that horses can pass in safety.
- 5.2 The finish should be so located that horses are in no danger should riders choose to be competitive. There should be no hazards or sharp turns within the final kilometre.
- 5.3 Checkpoints must be easily accessible by road with ample space for vetting areas and parking for strappers and spectators.
- 5.4 Vetting areas must be smooth and level with no dips, mounds or ploughed areas.
- 5.5 There must be ample water easily available at checkpoints.

6. VETTING

- 6.1 The AERA Inc. Veterinary Procedures will apply.
- 6.2 QERA Inc. State Management Committee (SMC) in consultation with the Ride Organising Committee, will appoint the Head Veterinarian, the Chief Steward and where decided, the On Course Veterinarian.
- 6.3 There must be sufficient experienced Veterinarians and TPR stewards to accommodate the number of horses entered.
- 6.4 The Chief Steward will be responsible for familiarising other Veterinarians and TPR stewards with the checkpoints and other procedures as required.
- 6.5 Random swabbing of horses may be performed.

7. THE COMMITTEE

- 7.1 A member of the Ride Organising Committee (ROC) will be nominated as the Ride Director (RD). The RD will be responsible for co-ordinating and planning the committee functions and responsibilities. The RD must have intimate knowledge of the course, location of radio checkpoints, layout of the ride base and vetting areas. The RD must be conversant with (as must all the ROC) the Riding Rules, Procedures for Rides, these guidelines and Veterinary Procedures. The RD will liaise with the Chief Steward prior to and during the ride.
- 7.2 The Chief Steward will be responsible for the overall control of the ride on the day, and will liaise with the Head Veterinarian and Ride Director to attain a satisfactory result.
- 7.3 The Chief Steward or a vetting steward must be in the vetting ring (whilst it is operating) at all times.
- 7.4 There shall be a disputes committee. This committee will consist of three or more people, the chairperson will be the Chief Steward. The disputes

committee will consist of one QERA SMC person (who is not riding) and one or more members of the ROC.

7.5 The Secretary of the ROC must keep the QERA SMC informed at all times of pre-ride planning. This could be in the form of a monthly report.

7.6 The SMC shall be available at all times to provide assistance, information and support.

8. THE RIDE

8.1 Qualification for entry to the ride is determined by the QERA Inc. SMC and may be altered from time to time.

8.2 Overall elapsed time, as will elapsed riding time be determined from time to time by the QERA SMC in consultation with the ROC.

8.3 If staggered starts are necessary, the division of riders must not be arbitrary, but should, if possible, be by rider's choice.

8.4 Entry fees will be set by the ROC after consultation with the QERA SMC.

8.5 There will be a minimum of two Best Conditioned horse awards.

9. TROPHIES

9.1 The winner will be the person from the Middle or Heavyweight (or equivalent) division who successfully completes the ride in the fastest time and passes the veterinary inspection. Division winners will be the first rider in that division using the same criteria.

9.2 Trophies awarded to Division winners and placegetters must be of sufficient quality to signify the importance of such an event.

9.3 Completion trophies awarded must be sufficient quality to signify the importance of such an event.

9.4 Best Conditioned awards may be awarded thus:

- a) two awards, middle/heavyweight, lightweight/junior.
- b) Separate award for each division.

Two awards are made annually in the form of sculptured bronze horses (or equivalent), paid for by QERA. If the ROC wishes to give an award for each division, those awards must be of equal quality to these trophies..

10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF QERA Inc.

10.1 Supplying of sterling silver badges (or equivalent) for all successful completions.

10.2 Where necessary, assist with the sponsorship and supply of kersey rugs (or equivalent) to the winning horses of each division.

10.3 Supply the trophy/award for the winning horse/rider combination.

10.4 Ensure the perpetual trophies are available and engraved.

10.5 Expenses associated with the Head Veterinarian and On Course Veterinarian (where one is appointed) are met by QERA Inc. However, it is the responsibility of the ROC to provide a vehicle (4WD) and driver to facilitate the On Course Veterinarian.