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ADMINISTRATION OF RIDE RULES

A1 AERA INC. RULES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

- 1.1 All members, riders, rider support crews, horse owners, ride committees, ride officials, volunteers and anyone else competing in - or involved with - any AERA Inc. affiliated ride are bound by, and must comply with:
 - a) the current AERA Inc. rules and procedures defined in this *Members Handbook*; plus
 - b) all additional or modified rules and procedures that may be instituted from time to time by the AERA Inc.; plus
 - c) when relevant, the AERA Inc. *Rules of the Australian Endurance Riders Association, Inc.* (the AERA Constitution); plus
 - d) when relevant, the appropriate *Division Rules of Association* (Division Constitution); plus
 - e) when relevant, appropriate FEI Regulations.
- 1.2 The AERA Inc. rules and procedures contained in this *Members Handbook* define ride standards and controls that must be followed when conducting affiliated endurance riding in Australia.
- 1.3 This Handbook also contains some 'Guidelines'. Guidelines are ride controls that are still being developed, and that may be varied at the discretion of the Division State Management Committees.
- 1.4 Changes to the Members Handbook will take effect from the 1st January in the year following their approval by the AERA Inc. The date of implementation for each set of rules is written at the top of every page.
- 1.5 Each Division State Management Committee may:
 - a) approve additional ride procedures for use in their Division, providing these do not conflict with, nor cancel, any AERA Inc. rule or procedure; and
 - b) may determine additional standards for rides shorter than 80 kilometres, subject to prior approval by the AERA Inc.

A2 AFFILIATED RIDE STANDARDS

- 2.1 A riding event affiliated through a Division State Management Committee can include one or more of the following types of ride:
 - a) an **endurance ride** (including an elevated ride) which is a competitive horse ride of at least 80 kilometres, where there are completion awards and points for successful riders in each riding section.
 - b) a **marathon ride** which is a competitive horse ride conducted as a single event, where 80 kilometres or more are ridden each day for three or more consecutive days.
 - c) a **mini-marathon ride** which is a noncompetitive horse ride conducted as a single event where less than 80kilometres are ridden each day for three or more consecutive days, and in accordance with the guidelines/rules as specified in this Handbook.
 - d) a **training ride** which is a noncompetitive training ride for both horses and riders that provides endurance training over a distance of less than 80 kilometres in one day. Rules specifically for affiliated training rides are contained in the **TRAINING RIDE RULES** section.
 - e) an **introductory ride** which is a noncompetitive ride for both horses and riders that provides an introduction to the sport of endurance over a distance of less than 40 kilometres. Guidelines specifically for affiliated introductory rides are contained in the **INTRODUCTORY RIDE GUIDELINES** section.
- 2.2 The winner of an affiliated endurance, elevated or marathon ride is the horse and rider that successfully completes the ride in the shortest time from either of the middleweight or heavyweight riding section.
- 2.3 The AERA Inc. does not allow prize money in AERA / FEI rides in Australia.

- 2.4. The value of any individual trophy presented in connection with an affiliated event must not exceed \$AUD2,500. If it is intended to give prizes of a greater value, this must be approved by the State Management Committee of the Division in which the event will occur and by the Executive of the AERA Inc.

A3 CONTROL OF RIDE

- 3.1 All affiliated rides are controlled by the Chief Steward and for horse welfare issues by the designated Head Veterinarian.
- 3.2 Where Ride Organisers, in complying with the relevant Risk Management Policy of their Division, apply safety procedures to any aspect of the ride, then riders, strappers, volunteers and visitors are required to observe these procedures or face disciplinary action by the Chief Steward or his or her nominee.
- 3.3 Ride and veterinary controls will commence when the horse is formally entered in the event and conclude when the Logbook or vet card of each horse has been signed off by the Head Veterinarian and released by the ride organising committee.
- 3.4 The Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian must consult with each other to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of each affiliated event.
- 3.5 Where a ride is affiliated with the FEI, the control of that ride is in accordance with the FEI Regulations that are current at the time, with the proviso that:
- Australian** riders and horses, which participate in such a ride, are also subject to the AERA Inc Rules relating to Novice Horse and Rider qualifications;
 - AERA Inc Rules relating to prize money will apply;
 - AERA Horse Welfare Rules will apply;
 - Early Warning System Rules will apply;
 - Any other horse welfare matter as determined by the AERA Inc. or the Division in which the ride occurs, will apply.

The Ground Jury of FEI Rides will appoint one of its members to be the responsible person for ensuring that Rule A3.5 is complied with.

A4 IDENTIFICATION OF HORSES AND RIDERS

- 4.1 All riders must use the designated rider identification. The identification must be worn and be clearly visible at all times and must accompany the horse to all vetting procedures.
- 4.2 All riders in training rides must be identified as training riders.
- 4.3 All novice riders and riders of novice horses must be identified as novices.
- 4.4 Stallions must be clearly identified at all times with (as a minimum) a blue tail ribbon.

A5 RIDING TIMES

- 5.1 The maximum riding time for an affiliated endurance, elevator and marathon_ride course and for each individual riding leg will be set by the ride committee. These times must not be less than a time based on an average speed of 10 kilometres per hour.
- 5.2 Minimum riding times apply to entrants in introductory, training and novice rides.

A6 RIDING LEG LENGTH

- 6.1 At all affiliated endurance and marathon rides:
- an average of the distances between standard veterinary checkpoints must not be greater than 40 kilometres; and
 - the maximum distance of any one leg must not exceed 50 kilometres.

A7 NATIONAL POINT SCORES

- 7.1 All novice and endurance horses, as well as novice and endurance riders are entitled to national points for successfully completing affiliated endurance and marathon rides.
- 7.2 Points are allocated as follows
- a) **Completion points** - the first six places in each riding section receive from 6 down to 1 point. All other finishers get 1 point. For rides of 160 kilometres or more, completion points are increased by 50% (i.e.: first place in a 160 kilometres ride receives 9 points).
 - b) **For equal placing** - finishing points are split when riders in the same riding section cross the finish line holding hands, 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).
 - c) **Additional distance points** - all riders are eligible for one additional distance point for every 10 kilometres in excess of 80 kilometres - that is;
 - for 90 kilometres add 1 point;
 - for 100 kilometres add 2, etc.
 - d) **Additional riding section points** - only the first six riders in each riding section get these additional points:
 - if 10 or more riders in riding section, add 1 point;
 - if 20 riders or more in riding section, add 2 points;
 - if 30 riders or more in riding section, add 3 points, etc.
 - e) A separate Register is to be kept for Harness Events. See Harness Guidelines.

A8 RIDE OFFICIALS

- 8.1 Ride officials are appointed by the ride committee to control and conduct each affiliated ride.
- 8.2 Ride officials include the Chief Steward, any other stewards acting on behalf of the Chief Steward, all veterinarians, all TPR stewards, plus all other appointed officials.
- 8.3 All ride officials must be permitted to carry out their designated duties unhindered.
- 8.4 Ride officials must not show any discrimination or favoritism toward, nor discrimination against any rider or horse or rider's support team, nor must any rider or rider's support team show any discrimination or favoritism toward or against any ride official.
- 8.5 Through the Chief Steward, any designated ride official has the right to refer any matter relating to the irregular running of an affiliated ride to their State Management Committee.

A9 THE CHIEF STEWARD

- 9.1 The Chief Steward is the person nominated by the ride committee to:
- a) be responsible for the general conduct, control and running of the ride from arrival of competitors at ride base until completion of the event;
 - b) ensure the ride base and course is safe for horses, competitors, officials, helpers and visitors;
 - c) ensure compliance with all AERA Inc. rules and procedures as well as procedures specific to the state;
 - d) in consultation with the Head Veterinarian, to organise and be responsible for the vetting area;
 - e) approve and oversee all ride officials and all ride administration operations;
 - f) ensure all appropriate paperwork is completed;

- g) deal with ride disputes;
 - h) The Chief Steward at an AERA affiliated endurance event has the right to exclude any competitor from further participation, if, in consultation with a First Aider or Medical Officer, it is believed that the rider is unfit to continue.
- 9.2 The Chief Steward must have knowledge of and be conversant with:
- a) all current AERA Inc. rules, procedures and guidelines as well as all additional state regulations (if any);
 - b) all forms, sheets and documents appropriate to administering a ride;
 - c) swabbing procedures; and
 - d) duties of all designated ride officials.
- The Chief Steward (or a person deputised by the Chief Steward) must be in the vetting ring at all times while vetting of horses is taking place.
- 9.3 It is the Chief Steward's responsibility to maintain calm and order in the vetting ring, at the ride base and on the riding course at all times.
- 9.4 The Chief Steward must ensure that every horse entering an affiliated ride using a Logbook is identified against the Logbook identification page.
- 9.5 At the completion of each ride the Chief Steward must complete a Chief Steward's report plus ensure all other appropriate forms and documents are completed.
- 9.6 An accredited Chief Steward must be used at all affiliated endurance rides.
- 9.7 To retain accreditation currency, each accredited Chief Steward should officiate at a minimum of one ride per year.

A10 TEMPERATURE, PULSE AND RESPIRATION STEWARDS (TPR'S)

- 10.1 TPR stewards at a ride are under the control of the Chief Steward.
- 10.2 TPR's are responsible to check (and if directed, record the results of) a horse's temperature, pulse and respiration according to parameters decided at a pre-ride meeting to determine vetting protocols which is held between the Head Veterinarian, Chief Steward and TPR Stewards.
- 10.3 The procedure for taking a horse's pulse 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, listen to the heart for up to 15 seconds so the rhythm of the pulse becomes obvious and to make allowances for a horse that may be temporarily excited;
 - c) Take the pulse reading over a full minute;
 - d) 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 may be unfair if included in the count. If this is the case the count is started again.
- 10.4 The TPR Steward must use a stopwatch to determine the pulse rate. The stopwatch is started at a pulse beat. The pulse count is commenced at the next pulse beat.
- 10.5 When a horse's pulse is elevated above maximum set for the ride:
- a) The TPR Steward will not indicate the results to anyone, nor record any results in the Logbook, but must request a veterinarian's verification of pulse rate through the Chief Steward;
 - b) The Chief Steward must then ask a veterinarian for an immediate re-count;

- c) The veterinarian will take an immediate re-count and confer with either the Chief Steward and/or TPR Steward;
 - d) If a veterinarian is not immediately available, the Chief Steward can confirm the pulse and confer with the TPR Steward and veterinarian;
 - e) If the pulse rate as taken by the veterinarian or Chief Steward is above that set for the riding leg, the horse is eliminated irrespective of any variation in count between TPR Steward and veterinarian. The pulse rate taken by the TPR Steward will be recorded in the Logbook;
 - f) If the pulse rate taken by the veterinarian is below that set for the riding leg the pulse rate recorded in the Logbook is at the discretion of the veterinarian, taking into account the time taken for the veterinarian to re-take the pulse rate.
- 10.6 All TPR's shall be accredited in accordance with current AERA Inc. requirements.
- 10.7 To retain accreditation currency, each TPR shall officiate at a minimum of one ride per year.

A11 RIDE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 11.1 A ride committee is authorised by the Division State Management Committee to prepare and conduct an affiliated event in accordance with the AERA Inc. rules, procedures and guidelines, plus all appropriate Division regulations.
- 11.2 A ride committee that wishes to affiliate an event must do so in writing to the Division State Management Committee Secretary. The manner of the affiliation request and any affiliation fee amount will be determined by each State Management Committee.
- 11.3 At all affiliated events the ride committee must:
- a) provide a riding course that is fair, safe and equal to all competitors;
 - b) plan for and provide a ride base and riding course(s) that are appropriate and safe to the needs of officials, riders, horses, helpers and the public;
 - c) provide ample water, toilets and parking at ride base and at all on-course veterinary check points;
 - d) ensure the vetting areas are of sufficient size to facilitate the vetting of horses, well lit if vetting at night, have smooth, level and firm surfaces that are free from influences that could unsettle horses;
 - e) ensure sufficient responsible, knowledgeable and (where required) accredited designated ride officials are placed in charge of the defined tasks (Chief Steward, Veterinary team, TPR Stewards, course coordinator, etc.);
 - f) provide a competent secretariat able to communicate well and with a sound knowledge of the ride administration and paperwork requirements at a ride;
 - g) appoint a person to conduct the pre-ride briefing which will include issues such as: course marking, hazards, access to water, minimum and maximum riding times, specific novice, training and introductory controls, check points, on-course vet checks (if any), etc. This should conclude no later than 30 minutes prior to ride start time;
 - h) provide a horse float and appropriate towing vehicle purely for the purpose of retrieving injured or withdrawn horses from the course;
 - i) design the course so vehicular access for the retrieval of horses and/or riders from the course is not difficult;
 - j) mark the riding track with frequently placed arrows, tapes and/or other markers visible to every rider and which will clearly indicate course direction;
 - k) clearly mark any hazards on the riding track by visible indicators, flashing lights or other suitable methods;
 - l) clearly indicate cumulative distance from ride base, preferably every 5 kilometres but minimally every 10 kilometres for each riding leg, using clear markers;

- m) for the purpose of watering horses, water that is easily accessible must be available on course at least every 10 kilometres, and if this water is in drums, these drums must be filled as necessary;
 - n) promote an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration between ride organisers, officials, horses, competitors, support teams and the public.
- 11.4 Common sense must prevail for safety reasons. If unplanned circumstances arise which would be detrimental to competing horses, riders, designated ride officials, helpers or members of the public, the ride committee, after consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian, may, at its discretion, either:
- a) change the course and/or change the maximum riding time after the event has commenced, in which case the change must be announced to all participants before the first riders commence the altered part of the course; or
 - b) cancel a ride either prior to or after commencement of the ride;
 - c) i. re-schedule the start time;
 - ii. suspend the ride by extending the hold time for a period sufficient to allow the relevant issues to be resolved, but for no longer than a maximum time of two hours.
 - d) reduce the total distance of the ride providing that the reduced distance complies with Rule A2.1 (excluding the Tom Quilty Gold Cup, National Championships and State Championships), and providing that all riders have, in the opinion of the Chief Steward, an equality of opportunity to complete the altered distance.
 - e) where the total distance of the ride has been shortened, no places will be given, but completion will be recognised.
- 11.5 At least one member of the ride committee who has a complete knowledge of where the ride course goes, where all checkpoints are and how to access the course, must remain at ride base, or be in constant contact with ride base in case of an emergency.
- 11.6 The ride committee will complete all appropriate paperwork (including ride results accurately entered onto a Master Ride Sheet) and submit them to the appropriate person on the State Management Committee (together with appropriate fees or charges) within 2 weeks of event completion.

A12 RIDE ORGANISER GUIDELINES FOR VET-GATE-INTO-HOLD

The following vet-gate-into-hold guidelines have been adopted to protect the welfare of the horse. It is important to ensure that vet-gate-into-hold vet checks are run in conjunction with shorter leg lengths. As the horse is presented to the vet in a much shorter time-frame than under normal vet check standards, the assessment of the metabolic status of the horse is considerably more difficult.

- 12.1 The heart rate is to be set no higher than a maximum of 60 beats per minute, unless run in conjunction with an FEI ride as per Rule V9.
- 12.2 Rides of 119 kilometres or less should have a minimum of 3 legs if vet-gate-into-hold procedures are to be used. The last leg should be shorter in distance and of lesser intensity where possible.
- 12.3 Rides of 120 kilometres to less than 160kilometres should have a minimum of 4 legs if vet-gate-into-hold procedures are to be used. The last two legs should be shorter in distance and of lesser intensity, where possible.
- 12.4 Rides of 160 kilometres are to have a minimum of 5 legs if vet-gate-into-hold procedures are to be used. The last two legs should be shorter in distance and of lesser intensity, where possible.
- 12.5 The CRI is an optional addition to the metabolic profile.
- 12.6 If an examining veterinarian is not satisfied with the initial findings of a horse's condition, the veterinarian may request a re-examination of the horse on any examined parameter prior to the horse commencing the next leg. The horse must be presented to the same veterinarian at the advised time. The horse may be presented under saddle.

A13 RIDE ORGANISER GUIDELINES FOR VET-TO-HORSE RATIOS.

The veterinary team members will be selected after consultation between the head veterinarian and the ride organisers.

- 13.1 The following guidelines are to ensure horse welfare issues can always be dealt with, especially where horses are required to be treated during a ride.
- 13.2 For all rides with a standard 30 minute veterinary check there should be a minimum of two veterinarians for up to 60 horses. For each additional 30 horses, another veterinarian should be provided.
- 13.3 For vet-gate-into-hold rides, the recommended ratio is one veterinarian per 15 horses.
- 13.4 For rides of 120 kilometres or more, a separate additional treatment veterinarian is required, present at the ride base. **Note that these ratios do not necessarily apply to the pre-ride vet check.**
- 13.5 It is recommended that at all rides, the ride organizers request riders to pre-nominate at least 7 days prior to the ride. Failure to pre-nominate should incur late entry fees.
- 13.6 Contact with local veterinary clinic(s) (if they are not involved with the ride) should always be made, to notify them the ride is occurring. The local veterinary clinic should be familiarised with the treatment of endurance horses and if unable to provide adequate back up then additional treatment and/or on course veterinarians with sufficient resources should be arranged. The closest equine hospital facilities should also be identified.

TRAINING RIDES

A14 - GENERAL RULES

- 14.1 All AERA Inc. rules and procedures apply, except as provided within these Training Ride Rules and excluding the **RIDING SECTIONS** (R.7) rule.
- 14.2 Training rides are non-competitive - completion times, distance and placings are not recognised for points/distance scores, and there are no best -conditioned horse awards.
- 14.3 All horses competing in training rides shall comply with a minimum riding time determined by the ride committee in consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian. The minimum riding time shall be calculated by dividing the distance of the ride or leg by 14 kilometres/h or less.
- 14.4 All horses competing in training rides shall comply with a maximum heart rate criterion of 55 beats per minute or below on all legs of the ride.
- 14.5 A Novice Horse may enter only one training ride per day.
- 14.6 At all affiliated training rides, horses must comply with Rule H 3.2 (Horse age).
- 14.7 If a horse has been issued with a Logbook, that Logbook must be used when that horse is entered in an affiliated training ride.
- 14.8 Horse Welfare Rules, H2, must be observed.

A15 TRAINING RIDE RIDERS

- 15.1 Training rides are open to both novice and endurance riders.
- 15.2 There are no riding divisions for training riders. Riders do not need to weigh.
- 15.3 Novice riders must attend the pre-ride briefing or risk disqualification.
- 15.4 All riders entering training rides must be identified as training riders.
- 15.5 All riders must conduct themselves in accordance with the Member Conduct Rules M1 (Code of Conduct), M2 (Membership Rights and Responsibilities) and M3 (Guidelines for Right of Appeal Against a Ride Decision).
- 15.6 All riders must wear an equestrian standard helmet that complies with the Equestrian Standards in Australia, the U.S.A. or Europe, current at the time of manufacture.

A16 TRAINING RIDE DISTANCE

- 16.1 The ride distance will usually be between 40 kilometres and 60 kilometres per day. State Management Committees must sanction proposed rides over or under this distance.
- 16.2 Training rides of more than 41 kilometres in total distance must have a standard one hour veterinary check and hold, preferably halfway along the course.

A17 TRAINING RIDE CONTROLS

At all affiliated training rides, at least **one** of the following procedures must be used:

17.1 **Veterinary Check Point**

- a) Standard veterinary checks or vet-gate-into-timed hold checks midway through the ride and at the finish;
- b) These are conducted the same as for an 80 kilometres or more ride.

17.2 **Pace Rider**

- a) A pace rider is a person nominated by the ride committee who is an endurance rider, but not necessarily riding an endurance horse in that ride. The pace rider will be clearly identified at the pre-ride briefing;

- b) Novice riders and riders of novice horses in the training ride must not pass the pace rider. If there are a large number of entries, the ride committee may nominate two pace riders;
- c) If the pace rider is unable to continue for any reason he or she must (if on the course), delegate the function to another suitable rider and advise the Chief Steward by whatever means available, or, if at a veterinary checkpoint, advise the Chief Steward, or nominated person, who will appoint another pace rider for the remainder of the ride;
- d) In the absence (or withdrawal) of a suitable entrant to act as a Pace Rider, the Ride Committee will mark the training ride course with cumulative distance markers from the ride base, preferably at every 5 kilometres but minimally every 10 kilometres.

17.3 Heart-Rate-Gate

- a) At a heart-rate-gate the horses are stopped at a predetermined place along the course and the heart rate checked by a veterinarian or nominated person. If the required heart rate is not achieved within 30 minutes, the horse is disqualified. There may be a trot-by past the veterinarian to check for lameness.
- b) Time spent at a heart rate gate is considered riding time and is not deducted from total riding time.

17.4 Course Marking.

- a) In the absence or withdrawal of a suitable entrant to act as a pace rider, the ride committee will mark the training ride course with cumulative distance markers from the ride base, preferably every 5 kilometres, but minimally every 10 kilometres.

A18 TRAINING RIDE AWARDS

- 18.1 All successful training riders must receive a completion award.
- 18.2 Lucky draws for successful competitors are permissible.

ELEVATOR RIDE RULES

A19 GENERAL RULES

- 19.1 All AERA Inc. rules and procedures apply, except as provided within these **ELEVATOR RIDE RULES**.
- 19.2 Rides that are designated as elevator rides must be a minimum distance of 100 kilometres.
- 19.3 Riders must successfully complete 80 kilometres before they elect to elevate up to 100 kilometres or more.
- 19.4 All entrants in an elevator ride enter for the maximum available distance.
- 19.5 Novice horses may compete in elevator rides, providing that the total distance of the ride is not more than 120 kilometres.
- 19.6 Ride committees must charge the same entry fee for all competitors.
- 19.7 Ride committees must issue completion awards to riders who have successfully completed each riding leg of 80 kilometres or more.
- 19.8 The recognised winner of the event must complete the maximum available distance.
- 19.9 The winner of each riding section of the elevator ride is the first horse from each riding section to successfully complete the maximum available distance.
- 19.10 Riders and horses who successfully complete legs totaling 80 kilometres or more, but who chose not to elevate to the next or maximum available distance will be given recognition only for the distance successfully covered.
- 19.11 All national point score competition points are available to the riders and horses who complete the maximum available distance.
- 19.12 Competitors who elect to 'retire' from the elevated ride after successful completion of vetting at a designated elevation distance - and before completion of the maximum available distance - will have their Logbooks marked as 'Retired'. These competitors are entitled to awards for the distance successfully covered.

MARATHON RIDE RULES

A20 MARATHON RIDE DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION

- 20.1 A marathon ride is an affiliated endurance ride, conducted as a single event, where 80 kilometres or more are ridden each day for three or more consecutive days.
- 20.2 These **MARATHON RIDE RULES** are to be read in conjunction with all AERA Inc. rules and procedures.
- 20.3 Local rules can apply but they must not be in conflict with any of the AERA Inc. rules and procedures, and will need to be sanctioned by the State Management Committee where the ride is being held.
- 20.4 These **MARATHON RIDE RULES** will take precedence over other rules and procedures where there is a conflict or contradiction.

A21 MARATHON RIDE - GENERAL RULES

- 21.1 Novice horses and novice rider rules for distance restrictions apply.
- 21.2 Day one of the ride must be at least 80 kilometres in distance.
- 21.3 The total distance of the ride must average 80 kilometres or more for each riding day.
- 21.4 Each leg must be ridden in the correct order and within the time limits as set by the ride committee.
- 21.5 All successful horses are eligible for best managed horse awards.
- 21.6 Each competitor's riding time will be recorded daily. These times should be made available at the completion of each day. Final placings will be determined by the lowest total elapsed times over the complete course.
- 21.7 It is advisable to hold a rider's meeting at the completion of each day. Because veterinarians and the Chief Steward may be rostered over different days of the event, the names of these key personnel must be announced at this meeting.
- 21.8 The veterinary team may require lameness tests and general inspections of some or all horses prior to the start each day.
- 21.9 If the ride committee wishes to run individual events of 80 kilometres or more each day - without a commitment to successfully complete the entire marathon course - rules for marathon rides will not apply to those individual events.

A22 MARATHON RIDE - REST DAYS

- 22.1 Rides longer than three days may have rest days. Rest days must be announced before the ride commences. A rest day is defined as 24 hours rest.
- 22.2 Some circumstances (fire, flood, etc.) may require a change of rest days. Any alteration must be approved by a majority vote from riders still competing, in consultation with the designated ride officials and the ride committee.

A23 MARATHON RIDE - START TIMES AND REST PERIODS

- 23.1 The ride committee may elect to have a shot-gun start each day, or may allow riders to nominate their own departure times for any leg or legs of the event.
- 23.2 The maximum time horses are allowed on course each day must be announced prior to the commencement of that day but may be subject to change due to exceptional circumstances.
- 23.3 In the case of marathon rides with traveling ride bases, rest periods are at the discretion of the ride committees, subject to these rules.

A24 MARATHON RIDE - WEIGHING

- 24.1 All riders will be weighed at the pre-ride and at the completion of the ride. Random weighing will take place during the ride and will be at a minimum of 50% of the veterinary checks

A25 BEST MANAGED HORSE AWARD

- 25.1 A 'Best Managed Horse' award shall be made at marathon rides. The award should be judged from all horses that successfully complete.
- 25.2 It is preferable to hold this on the day following the completion of the ride.
- 25.3 All horses eligible for best managed awards must be presented for veterinary inspection.

MINI-MARATHON RIDE RULES

A26 MINI-Marathon Ride Definition and Interpretation

- 26.1 An affiliated ride, conducted as a single event where a maximum of 50 kilometres are ridden each day for three or more consecutive days, may be called a "Mini-Marathon.
- 24.2 These MINI-MARATHON RIDE RULES are to be read in conjunction with all AERA Inc. rules and procedures.
- 26.3 Local rules can apply but they must not be in conflict with any of the AERA Inc. rules and procedures, and will need to be sanctioned by the State Management Committee where the ride is being held.
- 26.4 These MINI-MARATHON RIDE RULES will take precedence over other rules and procedures where there is a conflict or contradiction.

A27 MINI- Marathon Ride - General Rules

- 27.1 A Mini-Marathon is a non-competitive event. No places are to be recognised. Points and Distance are not recorded for Division or National Points and Distance Awards.
- 27.2 Only horses which are a minimum of 5 years of age on the day of the ride, and which have all permanent teeth erupted and in wear, and which have been issued with an AERA Logbook are eligible to enter. Only horses that comply with H3 and have a Logbook may enter.
- 27.3 Early Warning System points will not accrue for horses and riders who vet out.
- 27.4 Only Division Riding Members who have previously completed at least two affiliated Training Rides are eligible to enter. Day Members are not eligible.
- 27.5 All riders are restricted to a pace as designated under the Training Ride Rules. (i.e. to be determined by the Ride Organisers, but no faster than 14kilometres/h.)
- 27.6 Day one of the ride must be at least 40 kilometres in distance.
- 27.7 The total distance of the ride must average 40 kilometres or more for each riding day.
- 27.8 Each leg must be ridden in the correct order and within the time limits as set by the ride committee.
- 27.9 All successful horses are eligible for best managed horse awards, if one is given.
- 27.10 Each competitor's riding time will be recorded daily. These times should be made available at the completion of each day.

It is advisable to hold a riders' meeting at the completion of each day, because veterinarians and the Chief Steward may be rostered over different days of the event. The names of these key personnel must be announced at this meeting.

The veterinary team may require lameness tests and general inspections of some or all horses prior to the start each day.

A28 MINI-Marathon Ride - Rest Days

- 28.1 Rides longer than three days may have rest days. Rest days must be announced before the ride commences. A rest day is defined as 24 hours rest.
- 28.2 Some circumstances (fire, flood, etc.) may require a change of rest days. Any alteration must be approved by a majority vote from riders still competing, in consultation with the designated ride officials and the ride committee.

A29 MINI-Marathon Ride - Start Times and Rest Periods

- 29.1 The ride committee may elect to have a shot-gun start each day, or may allow riders to nominate their own departure times for any leg or legs of the event.
- 29.2 The maximum time horses are allowed on course each day must be announced prior to the commencement of that day but may be subject to change due to exceptional circumstances.
- 29.3 In the case of mini-marathon rides with travelling ride bases, rest periods are at the discretion of the ride committees, subject to these rules.

HARNESSEVENT GUIDELINES

A30 HARNESSEVENT DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION

- 30.1 An affiliated harness event is one where two or four wheeled vehicles designed for single horse use only are used.
- 30.2 An affiliated harness event is a separate event from an affiliated ride.
- 30.3 A harness event can only be run if there is a suitable and safe track available that can accommodate harness vehicles.
- 30.4 All AERA Inc. rules and procedures apply, except as provided within these **HARNESSEVENT GUIDELINES**.
- 30.5 A harness event is run at the discretion of the ride committee and with specific affiliation approval of the State Management Committee.

A31 HARNESSEVENT HORSES

- 31.1 If for any reason the horse cannot complete the event, the crew shall be disqualified.
- 31.2 The horse can be withdraw from the ride in accordance with the **WITHDRAWN HORSES** (H.17) rule.

A32 NOVICE HARNESSEVENT HORSE

- 32.1 A qualified endurance horse entering its first harness event returns to novice horse status and must complete novice harness horse requirements.
- 32.2 A novice harness horse shall be a novice horse until the horse has successfully completed 240 kilometres of novice driving - excluding training drives - in accordance with the **NOVICE HORSE** (Rule H.5).

A33 HARNESSEVENT DRIVE CREW

- 33.1 The crew of a harness vehicle shall consist of one driver and one co-driver who must wear an equestrian standard helmet that complies with the equestrian standard in Australia, the U.S.A. or Europe, current at the time of manufacture.
- 33.2 To enter endurance driving events, both crew members must hold current full driving membership. Day membership is allowable for training drives only.
- 33.3 Both crew members must be capable of handling the horse in an emergency.
- 33.4 One crew member shall wear the rider identification, which shall be clearly displayed at all times.
- 33.5 The minimum age for the driver and co-driver shall be 16 years
- 33.6 Drivers shall not be changed at any time once the event has commenced. This shall not preclude the co-driver from driving from time to time as required.
- 33.7 During the drive it is strongly recommended at least one person should remain in the vehicle at all times. This person shall be in charge of the horse and vehicle. In case of an emergency this sub-guideline will not apply.
- 33.8 The co-driver cannot be replaced while the vehicle is on course. If the co-driver is unable to continue, the Chief Steward may permit a co-driver replacement between riding legs. Any replacement co-driver must be a full driving member (or day member in the case of training drives) and must be at least a similar weight to the original co-driver.
- 33.9 If for any reason the driver or co-driver cannot complete any leg of the course, the crew shall be disqualified.
- 33.10 The crew can withdraw from the ride in accordance with the **WITHDRAWN HORSES** (Rule H.17).

- 33.11 Drivers shall not deliberately interfere with or impede the forward motion of another vehicle.
- 33.12 The driver of a slower vehicle shall - when it is safe to do so - make way for a faster moving vehicle to overtake.

A34 NOVICE HARNESS DRIVER

- 34.1 A harness driver shall be a novice driver until the driver has successfully completed two training drives followed by 240 kilometres of novice driving in accordance with the **NOVICE RIDER** (Rule R.3).
- 34.2 Where the driver is a qualified endurance rider who has not competed in a harness event, the driver shall compete as a novice driver and must complete novice requirements.
- 34.3 Minimum driving times shall apply.

A35 HARNESS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

- 35.1 Two or four wheeled vehicles may be used, provided:
- they are designed for use with one horse only; and
 - are in a safe operational condition.
- 35.2 All vehicles must conform to Australian Road Rules regarding use of said vehicles on public roads.
- 35.3 Australian Road Rules currently state:
- 'A person must not drive an animal-drawn vehicle at night, or in hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility, unless the vehicle is fitted with and displays:*
- a white light fitted at or towards the front of each side of the vehicle that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the front of the vehicle; and*
 - a red light fitted at or towards the rear of each side of the vehicle that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the rear of the vehicle; and*
 - a red reflector fitted at or towards the rear of each side of the vehicle that is:*
 - not more than 1.5 metres above ground level; and*
 - clearly visible for at least 50 metres from the rear of the vehicle when light is projected onto it by another vehicle's headlights on low beam.'*
- 35.4 A harness vehicle may not be replaced on course under any circumstances. A damaged vehicle may only be replaced by another vehicle at the ride base.
- 35.5 The Chief Steward must be notified of any intention to replace a vehicle. The replacement vehicle will be subject to inspection prior to being allowed on course.
- 35.6 The Chief Steward may exclude any vehicle at any time on the basis that the rig:
- is unsafe and represents a danger; and/or
 - does not comply with any regulations.
- 35.7 Spare equipment may be carried in the harness vehicle whilst on course.

A36 HARNESS DRIVE DISTANCES

- 36.1 The minimum distance of an affiliated harness event shall be 80 kilometres.
- 36.2 The maximum distance to be travelled by a qualified endurance harness horse at affiliated harness drives is to be set by the ride committee in consultation with an accredited veterinarian and an accredited Chief Steward, taking into consideration local conditions. The distance is to be approved by the relevant State Management Committee and nominated at the time of booking the drive, to a maximum of 160 kilometres in one day.

- 36.3 Harness events of less than 60 kilometres shall be permitted but they shall be non-competitive harness training drives with **TRAINING RIDE RULES** applying.

A37 WHIPS

- 37.1 For safety purposes whips shall be carried on all vehicles, but can be used as a driving aid only.
- 37.2 The use of a whip for any purpose other than as a driving aid, or any other misuse of a whip whatsoever, shall result in disqualification from the harness event and any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the State Management Committee.

A38 LOGBOOKS AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS

- 38.1 Separate Logbooks - marked as 'Harness Event Only' must be obtained and used for a horse entered in harness events.
- 38.2 Novice drivers and endurance drivers shall be issued with membership cards separate from their novice rider and endurance rider membership cards, but retaining the same membership number as their endurance rider membership card.
- 38.3 Qualifications and awards gained in harness events are not valid for affiliated endurance riding events and vice versa.

A39 PRE-RIDE BRIEFING

- 39.1 All crew shall attend the pre-ride briefing.
- 39.2 Where a harness event is to be run over the same course as a ridden event, the harness event shall be started after the start of the ridden event.
- 39.3 Staggered start times may be determined by a draw held at the pre-ride briefing should sufficient entries warrant.
- 39.4 Crews may elect to start behind the field but shall advise the Chief Steward of their intention to do so at the time of the draw.

A40 POINT SCORES AND DISTANCE AWARDS

- 40.1 Point scores and distances shall be kept as a separate Harness Event Register by each State Management Committee where harness events are held.
- 40.2 Annual awards shall be made for:
- a) Distance Harness Horse;
 - b) Distance Driver;
 - c) Point Harness Horse; and
 - d) Point Driver.

A41 DIVISION HARNESS CHAMPIONSHIP

- 41.1 The State Management Committee may conduct a Division State Championship Endurance Harness Drive, or allow a ride committee to do so.
- 41.2 Any State Championship Endurance Harness Drive can be over a distance of 120 kilometres.
- 41.3 To be eligible to enter in the State Harness Championship, all horses and crew members must have successfully completed two competitive (non-training) harness drives within the preceding 12 months.
- 41.4 Novice horses or drivers are not eligible to enter.

INTRODUCTORY RIDE GUIDELINES

A42 INTRODUCTORY RIDE DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION

- 42.1 An Introductory Ride is an event of less than 40 kilometres in distance.
- 42.2 The purpose of an Introductory Ride is to introduce riders to the sport of endurance and to allow them to experience how affiliated endurance events are conducted.
- 42.3 While other appropriate AERA Inc. rules and procedures may apply (as determined by the ride committee, Chief Steward and/or Head Veterinarian), these **INTRODUCTORY RIDE GUIDELINES** will take precedence.
- 42.4 State Division rules may apply. However, they must not conflict with these **INTRODUCTORY RIDE GUIDELINES**, nor other AERA Inc. rules and procedures and must be sanctioned by the State Management Committee in the Division in which the ride is being held.
- 42.5 Introductory rides are non-competitive. Only completions are recognised. Completion times, ride distance and placings are not recognised or published.
- 42.6 Riders must conduct themselves in accordance with the **MEMBER CONDUCT RULES**.

A43 INTRODUCTORY RIDE RIDERS

- 43.1 Introductory Rides are open to any rider.
- 43.2 All riders must wear an equestrian standard helmet that complies with the equestrian standard in Australia, the U.S.A. or Europe current at the time of manufacture.
- 43.3 Each rider must formally enter the event and have their name and other appropriate details recorded on an entry form.
- 43.4 Ride Organisers will determine the entry fee.
- 43.5 Whips and spurs are not permitted, nor any equipment that could be used for whipping a horse.

A44 INTRODUCTORY RIDE HORSES

- 44.1 Any breed of equine may compete in an introductory ride, provided that it is considered by the attending Veterinarian to be capable of traveling the distance of the ride.
- 44.2 All Introductory Ride horses must be at least 3 years or over on the day of the ride.

A45 INTRODUCTORY RIDE CONTROLS

- 45.1 Introductory rides must commence and be completed in daylight.
- 45.2 A veterinarian must check each horse entering an Introductory Ride before it is allowed to participate (as per **TRAINING RIDE RULES**).
- 45.3 A veterinarian may prevent a horse from participating if he/she considers the welfare of the horse might be jeopardised if it participates.
- 45.4 All Introductory Ride riders must attend a pre-ride briefing and will not be permitted to participate in the ride if they have not attended.
- 45.5 All horses competing in Introductory Rides shall comply with a minimum riding time determined by the ride committee in consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian. The minimum riding time shall be calculated by dividing the distance of the ride or leg by 14 kilometres/h or less.
- 45.6 At all Introductory Rides it is preferred that at least one of the following ride control procedures is used:
 - a) **Pace rider** in accordance with the **TRAINING RIDE RULES**; and/or
 - b) **Heart-Rate-Gate** in accordance with **TRAINING RIDE RULES**; and/or

c) **Standard Vet Check** in accordance with **TRAINING RIDE RULES**.

- 45.7 The riding course will be marked with frequently placed arrows, tapes and/or other markers - similar to the requirements of affiliated rides. Hazards on the course must be clearly marked.
- 45.8 Cumulative distance from ride base will be clearly indicated every 5 kilometres.
- 45.9 Every effort must be taken by the ride committee to ensure Introductory Ride participants are separated on the ride track from competitors in other affiliated events.
- 45.10 Suitable drinking water for horses must be available, easily accessible and clearly marked on course at a distance no greater than every 10 kilometres.
- 45.11 At the completion of the Ride, a veterinarian must check each horse.

A46 INTRODUCTORY RIDE AWARDS

- 46.1 All successful Introductory Ride participants will receive a completion award.
- 46.2 Lucky draws for successful competitors are permissible.

MEMBER CONDUCT RULES

M1 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1.1 The principles of fairness and a high standard of conduct must be upheld by all members, ride officials, committees, riders and support teams.
- 1.2 Members must recognise and respect not only their own rights and responsibilities but also must conduct themselves with due regard to the rights, dignity, safety and welfare of horses, other members, officials, management committees, ride committees and members of the public.
- 1.3 Members are to conduct themselves in a manner which maintains the reputation and orderly functioning of endurance riding as determined by the AERA Inc. Members Handbook.
- 1.4 Designated officials and all committees acting on behalf of members must carry out their duties in a professional and conscientious manner. This involves:
 - a) making official decisions and policies objectively and impartially; and
 - b) seeking to attain the highest possible standards of performance.
- 1.5 Members, officials and committees must observe all the AERA Inc. rules and guidelines together with any state-based regulations that are current from time to time.
- 1.6 There shall be no participation in affiliated events as either a rider, support team member, official or committee member whilst under the influence of alcohol or a prohibited drug.
- 1.7 All members, officials and committees acting on behalf of members are responsible for their actions and accountable for their consequences.
- 1.8 Non-compliance with the AERA Inc. rules, procedures and guidelines plus any relevant state regulations amounts to misconduct on the part of the member, official or committee person and may lead to disqualification and/or other disciplinary action being taken.

M2 MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Riding members pay their membership fee to the Division or zone in which they are resident.
- 2.2 Membership is granted on the understanding that if any member:
 - a) neglects or willfully refuses to comply with the AERA Inc. rules, procedures, guidelines, relevant constitutions or appropriate Division provisions; and/or
 - b) is guilty of conduct that in the opinion of the AERA Inc. or the member's State Management Committee, is unbecoming of a member; and/or
 - c) is abusive to a ride official, a member of a ride committee or a member of the State Management Committee; and/or
 - d) has abused, neglected, caused undue stress or taken any other action against a horse at an affiliated ride which is not in the best interests of the horse; and/or
 - e) acts contrary to the best interests of the AERA Inc. or their resident state or zone endurance association;he or she may be disciplined.
- 2.3 If any horse and/or rider is found to have been misrepresented in any affiliated ride, the horse and/or rider will be disqualified from that ride and/or the owner and/or the member responsible for the horse at that ride will be subject to suspension or other disciplinary action as determined by the State Management Committee.
- 2.4 Riders are responsible for the behavior of their support crew and friends. The Chief Steward may disqualify a rider from the ride if that rider's support crew or friends cause disruption detrimental to the running of the ride.
- 2.5 Any discipline-related decision to expel, suspend, or prohibit a member or horse made at a discipline hearing or appeal hearing shall have effect from the close of the hearing and shall have effect in all states.

- 2.6 Every member shall pay, upon request, all fines and penalties and other moneys that may be due from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the AERA Inc. *Members Handbook* as well as any additional regulations of their resident zone or state.

M3 GUIDELINES FOR RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST A RIDE DECISION

- 3.1 A member has the right to appeal a decision made by a ride official about him or her at a ride. Such appeal must be made in writing to the ride Chief Steward before the presentation ceremony for the event. The Chief Steward is required to make a decision before the commencement of the presentation ceremony.
- 3.2 A member has the right to appeal a decision regarding the placings after the presentations. An appeal must be lodged in writing to the Chief Steward or Ride Organiser within one hour of the notification of placings.
- 3.3 The Chief Steward must notify the State Management Committee Secretary in writing of any decision made.
- 3.4 A member may appeal a Chief Steward decision to their State Management Committee in accordance with state provisions.
- 3.5 A standard appeal fee may be charged at the discretion of the State Management Committee and must accompany any appeal application.

RIDER RULES

R1 MEMBERSHIP CARD

- 1.1 At every ride riders must show their current Membership Card to the ride secretary and have the membership number recorded on the official ride entry form.
- 1.2 A person who is unable to present a current Membership Card will not be allowed to enter an affiliated endurance ride. Intro rides are excluded from this rule.

R2 RIDER EQUIPMENT AND DRESS

- 2.1 Whips and spurs are not permitted, nor any equipment that could be deemed to be used for whipping a horse.
- 2.2 Equipment and dress must be appropriate and not detrimental to the image of endurance riding.
- 2.3 Attire worn by riders should be unrestricted with the proviso that competitors present a smart, healthy and athletic image. Protective clothing should be worn to guard against sunburn and shrubbery.
- 2.4 The AERA Inc. discourages the wearing of dangling earrings and loose jewelry, so as not to get caught on tack or shrubbery.
- 2.5 It is desirable for all competitors who are presenting at award ceremonies to be suitably attired for the occasion.
- 2.6 All riders at affiliated events must wear an equestrian standard helmet which complies with the equestrian standard in Australia, the U.S.A. or Europe current at the time of manufacture.
- 2.7 If flat heeled running shoes are worn, then safety stirrups should be used.

R3 NOVICE RIDER

- 3.1 A person is deemed to be a novice rider until the requirements of the following sub-rules have been complied with:
 - a) The person must successfully complete two affiliated training rides before entering an affiliated endurance ride as a novice rider. Logbook(s) or vet cards must be presented to prove completion.
 - b) The novice rider must then enter a sufficient number of affiliated endurance rides as a novice rider to successfully complete 240 kilometres at any time and in any riding section (excluding training rides). Logbook(s) must be presented to substantiate the distance completed.
- 3.2 When the requirements of the above rule have been complied with, the person will be issued with a standard Membership Card by the State Management Committee.
- 3.3 Pending receipt of the standard Membership Card the person may enter any affiliated endurance ride and is not required to enter as a novice rider, provided they show sufficient proof by presenting Logbooks as referred to above with their novice rider endorsed Membership Card.
- 3.4 A novice rider must not be entered in an affiliated endurance ride when the total distance of the ride is more than 120 kilometres to be ridden in one day.
- 3.5 Novice riders must attend the pre-ride briefing and will not be permitted to participate in the ride if they have not attended.
- 3.6 The minimum riding time for all novice riders in each leg of an endurance ride shall comply with one of the following:
 - a) shall comply with a minimum riding time determined by the ride committee in consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian. The minimum riding time shall be calculated by dividing the distance of the ride or leg by 14 km/h or less;

- b) shall ride behind a pace rider as defined in the **TRAINING RIDE RULES**. The pace rider shall not complete the distance of any riding leg in a time less than that as determined in R.3.6a) above.
- 3.7 A member subject to an appropriate section of the **RIDER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND SUSPENSION** (Rule R.13), must enter an affiliated endurance ride as a novice rider.

R4 ENDURANCE RIDER

- 4.1 An endurance rider is a member who has successfully completed 240 kilometres as a novice rider and been issued a standard Membership Card and who has not been reduced to novice status by any provision of a rule.

R5 RIDING DIVISIONS

- 5.1 Riders must enter and compete in one riding division only, according to the following criteria:

Riding Division	Criteria
Heavyweight	All-up riding weight of 91 kg and over at the pre-ride weigh-in
Middleweight	All-up riding weight of 73 kg and over at the pre-ride weigh-in
Lightweight	All-up riding weight of less than 73 kg at the pre-ride weigh-in
Junior	Junior - Riders who are 17 years or under in the year of the ride.

- 5.2 'All-up riding weight' must include all riding gear (excluding bridle).
- 5.3 Junior riders must enter the Junior section only.
- 5.4 Riders under 10 years of age must be supervised by an adult rider at all times
- 5.5 Heavyweight and Middleweight riders must maintain the minimum weight for their riding division. No allowance for weight loss below the minimum will be made.
- 5.6 A rider in the Youth Division of an FEI Ride will not receive National Points/kilometres unless they are 18 years or older in the year of the ride and weigh a minimum of 73kgs i.e. no points/kilometres for Lightweights and Juniors. **Note: this rule does not apply if an AERA Lightweight and AERA Junior division is held at the same event.**
- 5.7 Ride committees must make arrangements for all riders to weigh in at pre ride, and at the completion of the ride, and at random throughout the ride where appropriate. A record of all weigh-ins must be recorded.

R6 CELEBRITY RIDER

- 6.1 A celebrity rider is a rider who might not be an endurance rider, but who enters a ride only to help promote the sport of endurance. The conditions of entry for celebrity riders into national and state affiliated endurance events are as follows:
- If the celebrity is not a qualified endurance rider then he/she shall ride in the company of a qualified endurance rider at all times during the ride;
 - The qualified endurance rider shall be responsible for the welfare of the celebrity's horse;
 - The celebrity shall ride a qualified endurance horse;
 - The celebrity must be approved as a celebrity by the relevant State Management Committee;
 - The celebrity shall only complete up to a maximum of one leg of the ride.

R7 INTERNATIONAL RIDERS

- 7.1 International Riders competing in any Australian Endurance Ride/Event must:
- a) Provide proof of membership of their National Federation (NF);
 - b) Ride under AERA Novice rules unless they can provide proof of successful completion of not less than 240 kilometres in endurance competition;
 - c) Pay a day membership for each event to cover them for Public Liability Insurance, or provide proof of current riding membership of a State Division of the AERA.
- 7.2 International Riders who compete in Australian FEI Rides must also:
- a) Present a Letter of No Objection (LNO) from their NF;
 - b) Meet any qualification criteria set by the AERA from time to time.
- 7.3 Without limiting any other provision of these rules, an International rider shall be entitled to compete in an unlimited number of endurance events.

R8 COURSE AS MARKED

- 8.1 If an error is made in following the course as marked, the horse and rider must return - without outside assistance - to the point where they left the course and then complete the course as marked, unless the rider chooses to withdraw from the ride in accordance with the WITHDRAWN HORSE (Rule H.17).

R9 TIED FINISHES

- 9.1 If riders want to be counted as a tied finish, they must cross the finish line holding hands.
- 9.2 Riders who hold hands while crossing the finishing line are then equal for that place and any places that would have been filled had there not been a tie.
- 9.3 Riders must decide between themselves the distribution of trophies (if any).
- 9.4 Ride committees must recognise tied finishes.

R10 OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

- 10.1 Riders and horses must not have any outside assistance whilst competing, other than:
- a) at end-of-leg checkpoints where their support crew may care for them;
 - b) the replacement or repair of lost or loose horse shoes;
 - c) other assistance that is deemed by the Chief Steward to be within the bounds of common sense.

R11 PRESENTING ON TIME

- 11.1 It is the responsibility of every rider to present themselves and their horse at the correct times, or risk disqualification by the Chief Steward.
- 11.2 To ensure that a veterinary check or departure time is not missed, the chief time steward will announce 'official' time at the pre-ride briefing.

R12 VETERINARY APPEALS

- 12.1 In the case of a prospective disqualification of the horse by a ride veterinarian, the rider or the responsible member has the right of immediate appeal to the Head Veterinarian - via the Chief Steward - prior to any further veterinary examination and before the horse leaves the vetting area.

R13 RIDER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND SUSPENSIONS

- 13.1 Refer to **Horse Early Warning System and Suspensions** (Rule H.17) for information about the early warning system for horses.
- 13.2 If a rider accumulates 30 or more non-completion penalty points, the Division Horse Welfare Officer will determine whether the rider or horse needs to be cautioned in writing.
- 13.3 Any rider whose horse vets out with a pulse rate of 70 beats per minute or more, over three consecutive affiliated rides which does not contain a successful completion for that rider, will be notified in writing and restricted to novice status for a period of time determined by the rider's State Management Committee. Further non-completions whilst under this novice status may invoke rider suspension for a period of time determined by the State Management Committee.
- 13.4 Any rider having been cautioned in writing, who then accumulates more than 45 but less than 60 penalty points must enter all affiliated endurance rides under novice rider status until two novice rides are completed successfully.
- 13.5 Any rider, having been cautioned in writing, who then accumulates 60 penalty points or more, will be asked to show cause to their State Management Committee why they should not be suspended.
- 13.6 Any rider or owner whose horse is known to progress to laminitis, renal failure, hepatopathies, CNS related disturbance, will be asked to show cause to the State Management Committee why they should not be suspended.
- 13.7 Any rider or owner whose horse vets out on gait at three consecutive affiliated endurance rides that do not contain a successful completion will be asked to show cause as to why they should not be suspended.
- 13.8 Non-completion points are reduced by:
 - a) 6 points on the anniversary of each penalty;
 - b) 6 points in rides up to 90kilometres;
 - c) 10 points in rides of 91 – 159kilometres;
 - d) 12 points in rides of 160kilometres and above.

HORSE RULES

H1 ELIGIBLE EQUINES

Any breed of equine may compete in an affiliated event, providing that it is considered by the veterinary team to be capable of traveling the distance of the ride.

H2 HORSE WELFARE

- 2.1 The AERA Inc. adopts the following horse welfare Code of Conduct to promote the well-being of horses:
- a) The needs of the horse are paramount;
 - b) The well-being of the horse is above the demands of riders, owners, sponsors, breeders, ride organisers and officials;
 - c) All veterinary inspections and treatments must ensure the health and welfare of the horse;
 - d) The highest standards of nutrition, health, sanitation, and safety shall be encouraged and maintained at all times;
 - e) Adequate provision must be made for ventilation, feeding, watering and the maintenance of a healthy environment during transportation;
 - f) Emphasis should be placed on education in equestrian practice and health;
 - g) In the interest of the horse, the fitness and competence of the rider shall be regarded as essential;
 - h) All horse training and riding methods must take into account the horse as a living entity and will not include any technique considered by the AERA Inc. to be abusive;
 - i) The AERA Inc. will maintain adequate controls in order that all persons and bodies under the jurisdiction of the AERA Inc. respect the health and welfare of the horse;
 - j) National and international rules regarding the health and welfare of the horse must be adhered to;
 - k) The rules of the AERA Inc. will be continually reviewed to ensure such horse welfare ensues.

H3 HORSE AGE

- 3.1 At all affiliated endurance and marathon rides, novice and endurance horses must show a full mouth of permanent teeth erupted and with permanent incisors in wear and the horse must be no less than five years of age on the day of the ride. The horse's age is calculated from the day of its birth. In the absence of an official/registered birth date, the horse must show a full mouth of teeth with permanent corner incisors in wear.
- 3.2 At all affiliated training rides horses must show a full mouth of permanent teeth erupted (but the corner incisors need not be in wear) and the horse must be no less than four and a half years of age on the day of the ride.
- 3.3 A horse must be six years of age before it can start in a 160 kilometre AERA endurance event.

H4 LOGBOOKS

- 4.1 Novice horses are issued with a *Novice Horse Logbook*. When the horse reaches Endurance status, the Logbook will be upgraded to an *Endurance Horse Logbook*.
- 4.2 If no Logbook (Novice or Endurance) is presented the horse cannot be entered in affiliated endurance ride.

- 4.3 If a horse has been issued with a Logbook, that Logbook must be used when that horse is entered in an affiliated endurance or training ride.
- 4.4 a) Information, excepting entry details, about a horse competing at an affiliated ride can only be entered onto the page of the Logbook designated for that ride, by a ride veterinarian or nominated ride official.
- b) Any required alterations to rectify incorrect information already entered into a Logbook can only be made by the Head Veterinarian or nominated ride official who must sign the change. The incorrect information should be crossed out so that it still readable and the correct information placed alongside.
- c) No information already entered into a Logbook can be altered using white-out or a similar substance.
- 4.5 Any AERA Logbook for either a Novice or Endurance status horse must have a current Owner/ Agent label to be eligible to enter an affiliated endurance ride.

H5 NOVICE HORSE AND THE NOVICE HORSE LOGBOOK

- 5.1 A horse is a novice horse until all the following requirements have been complied with:
- a) A *Novice Horse Logbook* must be registered for that horse, which must be presented when the horse is entered as a novice horse at an affiliated endurance ride - except in the case of the **THIRTEEN MONTH** (H.8) rule.
- b) At least 3 affiliated endurance rides in any riding division must be successfully completed - excluding training rides.
- c) A minimum period of 90 days must elapse commencing from the date the horse successfully completes its first affiliated endurance ride.
- 5.2 A novice horse must not be entered in an affiliated endurance ride when the total distance of the ride is more than 120 kilometre.
- 5.3 A novice horse may only enter a maximum of four affiliated endurance rides of between 80 and 120 kilometres inclusive in any 90 day period, retrospective from the date of the ride to be entered.
- 5.4 All novice horses in each leg of an affiliated ride shall comply with one of the following:
- a) shall comply with a minimum riding time determined by the ride committee in consultation with the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian. The minimum riding time shall be calculated by dividing the distance of the ride or leg by 14 kilometres/h or less.
- b) shall ride behind a pace rider as defined in the **TRAINING RIDE RULES**. The pace rider shall not complete the distance of any riding leg in a time less than that as determined in rule H.5.4a).
- 5.5 That for Vet-Gate-Into-Hold times, Novice Horse "time" shall be taken as time taken on course. Present times must not be included in this calculation.

H6 ENDURANCE HORSE AND ENDURANCE HORSE LOGBOOK

- 6.1 A horse that has complied with the **NOVICE HORSE AND THE NOVICE HORSE LOGBOOK** (Rule H.5) will be eligible to apply to have the Logbook upgraded to an Endurance Horse Logbook. The Novice Horse Logbook(s) must be presented to substantiate compliance with Rule H.5.
- 6.2 Every horse issued with an Endurance Horse Logbook must be identified by a microchip implant plus certified veterinary identification of same which must include a legible brand, the details of which will be recorded in the Endurance Horse Logbook for that horse. If a prohibited substance is administered during this procedure, the appropriate withholding period must be observed.
- 6.3 A microchipped horse must have the certified identification completed in case of microchip reader or microchip failure.

- 6.4 An endurance horse can only enter an affiliated endurance ride if it has a current AERA registration label in its Logbook.

H7 ISSUING OF NEW OR REPLACEMENT LOGBOOKS

- 7.1 All applications for new Logbooks must be accompanied by an identification form, either veterinary or in the case of Novice Horses can be an owner completed form.
- 7.2 No blank Logbooks will be issued directly to members.
- 7.3 The Division designated Logbook official will ensure that no new, replacement or upgraded Logbook is issued without an up-to-date Ownership/Agent label attached to the inside of the back cover of the Logbook.
- 7.4 a) If the horse is known to be registered with a breed society or association, the registered name of that horse must be used when applying for an AERA Logbook;
- b) If a Division Registrar becomes aware that a horse registered with a breed association has been issued with a Logbook in a name different from its registered name, the Registrar must require the member responsible for that horse to return the Logbook so that the name of the horse is changed and the database is adjusted accordingly;
- i) Each Division may charge a fee for this, depending on the circumstances;
- ii) Failure to comply immediately with this requirement will result in suspension of the horse from any affiliated events until this requirement is adhered to.
- 7.5 All novice horse and endurance horse Logbooks being used at rides must have the appropriate horse identification sections filled out in detail before the horse enters the veterinary area.
- 7.6 The application procedure for a Novice Horse Logbook and for a newly qualified horse Endurance Horse Logbook will be as determined by the AERA Inc. from time to time and will be advertised in each Division's newsletter.
- 7.7 Division Logbook Registrars must only issue or transfer Logbooks to owners/agents who are current members (either riding or non riding) of their Division.
- 7.8 When a Logbook is lost or misplaced, the application for a replacement book must be accompanied by a Statutory Declaration and approved by the Division State Management Co Committee.

H8 THIRTEEN MONTH RULE

- 8.1 When a qualified Endurance Horse has not successfully completed one affiliated endurance ride in the preceding 13 months, that horse must be entered as a Novice Horse until it does so. Ride details and results will be entered in that horse's Endurance Horse Logbook. Horses entered under this rule must comply with all Novice Horse rules.

H9 HEART RATE REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 All horses must comply with the following heart rate requirements at standard veterinary checks:

Vet check	Requirement
Pre-ride check	no stated maximum
First vet check	55 beats per minute, or below
All other vet checks	60 beats per minute, or below
Training rides	55 beats per minute, or below on all legs of the ride

- 9.2 If an on-course heart-rate-gate examination is to take place, the Head Veterinarian and Chief Steward in consultation will determine the heart rate (to a maximum of 60 beats per minute)

and any hold time applicable, prior to the pre-ride briefing. All riders must be notified of these details during the pre-ride briefing.

- 9.3 If FEI Gate-Into-Hold veterinary procedures are to be used, the heart rate requirements must be indicated in a ride schedule which is prepared and provided to all riders before the ride starts. (Also, refer to Rule V9, A.E.R.A. Vet Gate Into Hold / FEI Rides, regarding heart rates.)

H10 HORSE BEHAVIOUR

- 10.1 While on the ride base or the riding course, horses must behave in a manner not dangerous to other horses, competitors, ride officials or members of the public.
- 10.2 Horses must be well behaved at each veterinary inspection to allow required veterinary parameters to be taken.
- 10.3 If repeated displays of horse bad behaviour are evidenced the horse may risk disqualification by the Chief Steward or Head Veterinarian.

H11 STALLIONS

- 11.1 Riders and handlers of stallions entered in all affiliated events must be eighteen years of age or older.
- 11.2 It is recommended that stallions be under control with a suitable bit or hackamore (not including a halter), when outside their yards, being led at ride bases, when being ridden and ridden as part of an endurance event
- 11.3 Stallions must be identified at all times with (as a minimum) a blue tail ribbon.

H12 RIDING EQUIPMENT

- 12.1 Equipment and materials used on the horse must be appropriate, well made and of a quality that will not irritate the skin or hide of the horse. Saddles, bridles, riding halters and breastplates must be well fitting and of good quality.
- 12.2 Appropriate horse head gear must be in place and used throughout an affiliated ride to ensure the horse is controllable at all times.

H13 ADEQUATE SHOEING

- 13.1 Horses may be ridden with or without shoes, but in all cases the shoes and hooves must be in a suitable condition for the competition. Horses that are shod at the start of the ride may cross the finish line without one or more shoes, or may have a lost horseshoe replaced on course in accordance with the outside assistance, (Rule R10). Boots and pads are allowed.
- 13.2 A lost shoe may be replaced after the veterinary examination provided the horse is re-presented to the veterinarian before continuing the course.

H14 REMOVING A HORSE FROM THE RIDE BASE

- 14.1 Once under the control of the veterinarian every horse shall remain on the ride base, except while competing in, or exercising prior to the event, and must not be removed until the veterinarian releases the horse by signing off the horse's Logbook or vet card and until the horse's Logbook or vet card is released by the ride organising committee.
- 14.2 At the discretion of the Head Veterinarian, any horse may be required to represent for a veterinary examination in the period of 1-2 hours after each horse finishes its ride.

H15 BEST CONDITIONED HORSE

- 15.1 In order to maintain the aims and philosophies of endurance riding, all ride committees shall include the best conditioned horse award in their endurance_program – excluding marathon rides. The Best Conditioned Evaluation Sheet shall be used to determine these awards.
- 15.2 The best conditioned horse/s will be chosen from the first five successful completions in the riding sections specified by the ride committee.
- 15.3 In the event of a tie in Best Conditioned points for any Division, the Best Conditioned will be awarded to the horse with the best vetscore.
- 15.4 The designated veterinarian must be present and must inspect each eligible horse before and during its workout.
- 15.5 This inspection is to assess the post-ride condition of the horse including the ability to move willingly and freely. When determining the best conditioned horse, the veterinary team shall use the Best Conditioned Horse Evaluation sheet.
- 15.6 For rides of less than 160 kilometres it may be left to the discretion of the veterinary team and the Chief Steward whether horses are paraded under saddle or trotted out on a loose lead.
- 15.7 For rides of 160 kilometres or over (held over one or two days), horses must be paraded under saddle. It is preferable to hold this on the day following the completion of the event.
- 15.8 Horses that are found to be lame during the best conditioned horse inspection, or which require veterinary attention before, during the event, or until the best conditioned horse evaluation is completed will not be considered for best conditioned horse award.
- 15.9 Horses which have received invasive treatment in the time between the completion of the ride and the best conditioned workout will not be considered for best conditioned horse award
- 15.10 For calculation of Best Conditioned Horse awards the rider weights recorded on the Best Conditioned Horse Evaluation Sheet will be the all-up weight recorded at the completion of the last riding leg, except the maximum rider weight allowed for each weight division shall be:
 - a) Junior – no upper limit;
 - b) Lightweight – 72.9 kg;
 - c) Middleweight – 90.9 kg;
 - d) Heavyweight – no upper limit.

H16 BEST MANAGED HORSE AWARD

- 16.1 This award is made at the discretion of the ride committee. The award is primarily designed for marathon events to replace the Best Conditioned Horse award, although it can be also be used at an endurance event.
- 16.2 This award (when it is made) is made to the rider, not to the horse. It is an award made by the Head Veterinarian (or other designated person) who must be present at the final presentation.
- 16.3 All successful completers of the designated event are eligible for consideration for the award.
- 16.4 In the selection of the best managed horse the following should be considered:
 - a) the final vet-check condition of the horse;
 - b) the time taken to complete the course;
 - c) the horse's heart-rate and respiration-rate recoveries during the ride;
 - d) the weight carried by the horse;
 - e) the relative or total absence of problems encountered during the ride;
 - f) the success with which the rider overcame 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.

H17 WITHDRAWN HORSE

- 17.1 From the time the horse comes under the control of the veterinary team at the pre-ride veterinary check, a horse may only be withdrawn by the rider in accordance with the following:
- For any reason after the pre-ride veterinary check and before the start of the ride. The Logbook (marked by the veterinarian) and Master Ride Sheet will indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn';
 - While on-course by the rider notifying a steward, checkpoint, or another rider of their decision. The horse must then be taken back to the ride base and within 30 minutes of arrival be presented for veterinary inspection. If the horse fails the veterinary inspection for any reason, the Logbook and Master Ride Sheet will be entered up accordingly. If the horse passes the veterinary inspection, the Logbook and Master Ride Sheet will indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn'.
 - After successful completion of the 30 minute veterinary check and before it is due to leave on the next stage of the course. The Logbook (marked by the veterinarian) and Master Ride Sheet will indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn';
 - After successful completion of the gate-into-hold inspection and any required representations, before it is due to leave on the next stage of the course. The Logbook (marked by the veterinarian) and Master Ride Sheet will indicate the horse as 'withdrawn'.
- 17.2 A horse cannot be withdrawn for any reason:
- during the period the horse is timed into a veterinary checkpoint and the 30 minute veterinary inspection; or
 - during the period the horse is waiting to present at a gate-into-hold veterinary inspection;
 - during the period the horse is waiting to present at any re-presentation veterinary inspection.
- 17.3 Once the Logbook of a withdrawn horse has been signed off by the Head Veterinarian, the notice to withdraw from the ride cannot be retracted.

H18 HORSE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND SUSPENSIONS

- 18.1 Refer to Rider Early Warning System and Suspensions (R.13) rule for information about the early warning system for riders.
- 18.2 Each State Management Committee (on behalf of the AERA Inc.) will maintain records of each rider and horse successful completions and non-completions at all affiliated endurance rides within their State. Non-completions will attract penalty points as detailed below:

Reason for non completion	Points
Vet out pulse under 66 bpm	10
Vet out pulse 66 bpm or over	15
Vet out non invasive metabolic	10
Vet out mild metabolic	15
Vet out severe metabolic	30
Vet out lame - first	6
Vet out lame <i>horse</i> – second consecutive	12
Vet out lame <i>horse</i> – third consecutive	18
Vet out other – back	6
Vet out gall or injury	4

Note: A rider will only attract consecutive points for lameness, if riding the horse that vets out lame consecutively.

- 18.3 Horses withdrawn in accordance with the **Withdrawn Horses** (H.16) rule as well as out-of-riding-time non-completion which pass the veterinary inspection do not attract non-completion penalty points.
- 18.4 Non-completion penalty points are reduced by:
- 6 points on the anniversary of each penalty and
 - 6 points in rides up to 90kilometres
 - 10 points in rides of 91 – 159kilometres
 - 12 points in rides of 160kilometres and above.
- 18.5 Metabolic disorders as described above are defined as:
- a) 10 points – mild metabolic disorders that do not require invasive treatment;
 - b) 15 points – mild metabolic disorders such as Ty-Up (Exertional Rhabdomyolysis), other mild muscle conditions, Synchronous Diaphragmatic Flutter (Thumps), mild heat distress, very mild GIT conditions;
 - c) 30 points – more severe metabolic disorders – include Exhaustive Horse Syndrome (fatigue related), Endotoxaemia, the more severe GIT crises ie. Diarrhoea, colitis, impactions, paralytic ileus, hyper/hypomotility colics, moderate to severe heat stroke.
- 18.6 If a horse accumulates 30 or more non-completion penalty points, the Division Horse Welfare Officer will determine whether the rider or horse, through the owner or connections, needs to be cautioned in writing.
- 18.7 Any horse (through owner or connections) that vets out with a pulse rate of 70 bpm or more over three consecutive affiliated rides will be notified in writing and restricted to novice status for a period of time determined by the rider's State Management Committee.
- 18.8 Any horse (through owner or connections) having been cautioned in writing, who then accumulated more than 45 but less than 60 penalty points must enter all affiliated endurance rides under novice rider and/or novice horse status until two novice rides are completed successfully, unless in breach of Rule H18.7 above.
- 18.9 Any horse (through owner or connections) having been cautioned in writing, who then accumulates 60 penalty points or more, will be asked to show cause to their State Management Committee why the horse should not be suspended (in additions to any suspension as in Rule H18.7 above).
- 18.10 Horses (through owner or connections), that are known to progress to laminitis, renal failure, hepatopathies, CNS related disturbance will be asked to show cause why the horse should not be suspended (in addition to any suspension as in Rule H18.7 above).
- 18.11 Horses (through owner or connections) that vet out on gait at three consecutive rides will be asked to show cause to the State Management Committee why the horse should not be suspended (in addition to any suspension as in Rule H18.7 above).
- 18.12 A horse suspended by a State Management Committee will be deemed suspended by all other State Management Committees once they are notified of the suspension.

H19 DISQUALIFIED HORSES

- 19.1 Disqualified horses will not be allowed to continue on any part of the ride course. If necessary police assistance can be summoned to enforce this rule.

H20 CATASTROPHES

- 20.1 Catastrophes include (but are not limited to) horse deaths, severe injury to horse and/or rider and other comparable occurrences at, or as a result of, an affiliated ride.

- 20.2 The ride committee secretary or any other ride committee official shall inform the state President or Secretary in writing within 24 hours of the catastrophe occurring. The state Secretary or President shall notify the AERA Inc. Secretary or President within 48 hours of the catastrophe.
- 20.3 A full and comprehensive report (including weight carried, riding times and veterinary parameters) is to be forwarded by the ride committee and officiating veterinarian to the State Management Committee within 28 days of such catastrophe occurring.
- 20.4 In the case of a horse death it is the responsibility of the rider to supply all documentation required by the State Management Committee. This will include the horse's Logbook. The completed report plus any additional information is to be forwarded to the AERA Inc. Secretary within 90 days of the death.

H21 VETERINARY FEES

- 21.1 All fees for veterinary care of individual horses, during or after any ride are to be paid by the person responsible for the horse.
- 21.2 In cases where urgent blood samples and autopsies associated with horse deaths at rides are required, such fees may be paid by the State Management Committee. If this is the case, the State Management Committee will recover these costs from the relevant owner or rider, who will not be permitted to compete again until such fees are reimbursed.

H22 REST ORDER

- 22.1 The Head Veterinarian at a ride may impose a rest order on a horse, if in the opinion of that veterinarian the horse is injured and/or stressed and/or in need of protection from further abuse, or the life, health or welfare of the horse may be jeopardised if it continued to compete.
- 22.2 The rest order can be that:
- a) the horse is not permitted to compete at future affiliated rides for a period of time sufficient for that horse to recover from its injury or stress (up to a maximum of twelve months); and/or
 - b) the horse must compete at its next affiliated ride as a novice horse; or
 - c) a recommendation to the appropriate State Management Committee that the horse should not compete in future endurance rides.
- 22.3 When a Rest Order has been issued to a horse, the Chief Steward of the Ride must:
- 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) fix a highly visible red sticker to the top of the relevant page in the Logbook so that it is easily noticeable when the horse enters subsequent rides.
- 22.4 The rider/owner/responsible member of any horse that breaches a rest order will face disciplinary action. The horse and rider will be disqualified from the ride where the breach has occurred.

H23 DE-NERVED HORSES

- 23.1 A horse that is known to be, or found to be, temporarily or permanently de-nerved it will be prohibited from entering affiliated events for life.
- 23.2 A person who enters a horse, at any affiliated ride, which is known to be - or found to be - temporarily or permanently de-nerved will be suspended for a minimum period of 12 months.

H24 INVASIVE TREATMENT

- 24.1 Invasive treatment is defined as any diagnosis or treatment of a horse which involves the puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of any instrument or foreign material into the body (except that the use of oral electrolytes by way of syringe, or the use of a thermometer to take temperatures is exempted from this rule).
- 24.2 Invasive treatment of a horse by a rider or other non-veterinary person is prohibited from the time of pre-ride examination to the return of signed Logbooks.
- 24.3 Invasive treatment required because of a metabolic condition or injury must be conducted under the supervision of the Head Veterinarian.
- 24.4 The collection of blood for diagnostic purposes by a veterinarian requires prior permission from the Head Veterinarian.
- 24.5 The rider and/or responsible member of a horse which has received invasive treatment must complete the relevant sections of the Invasive Treatment form. Failure to do so will risk suspension.
- 24.6 Any horse requiring invasive treatment due to a metabolic condition during or as a result of the event, may be eliminated, depending on the nature of the treatment and severity of the episode. The event being defined as from the pre-ride veterinary check until 2 hours after the end of the ride vet check for that horse. At that time, at the discretion of the head veterinarian, a further vet check may be undertaken.

VETERINARY PROCEDURES

V1 RIDE ADMINISTRATION (VETERINARY)

- 1.1 For horse welfare purposes, every horse at an affiliated event must be under the control of one or more AERA accredited veterinarians, one of whom will be designated the Head Veterinarian. The Head Veterinarian's decision is final on matters of horse health and welfare.
- 1.2 There are two variations on end-of-riding-leg veterinary procedures that may be used at an affiliated event:
 - (a) the 'standard' AERA Inc. half-hour veterinary check whereby a horse must present for veterinary examination within 30 minutes of its arrival off a leg of the ride, and then, if successfully completing this veterinary examination, it will be allowed to begin the next leg no sooner than one hour after arrival off the previous leg, when the time for this leg will begin whether the horse has left on track or not.

Where the standard vet check applies, the Chief Steward, after consultation with the Ride Organiser, shall determine that each rider must ensure that their horse is presented to the vet ring either:

 - (i) 30 minutes after crossing the finish line at the end of each riding leg, or;
 - (ii) within 30 minutes after crossing the finish line at the end of each riding leg, but not before such time after crossing the finish line as determined by the Chief Steward in consultation with the Ride Organisers.

or
 - (b) vet-gate-into-timed-hold.
- 1.3 Only healthy, sound, unimpaired horses, free of pain and which are considered 'fit to continue' are permitted to commence, continue in the ride or are deemed to have successfully completed the ride.
- 1.4 Horses judged unfit to continue are automatically removed from the ride. The Logbook is to be endorsed with the appropriate reason(s).
- 1.5 The veterinarian should advise competitors of the state of health of their horse and provide warnings or specific advice as to immediate management of the horse when appropriate. Failure of a competitor to heed professional advice is to be acted upon by the State Management Committee.
- 1.6 Any horse entered in an affiliated event can be examined by the veterinarian officials at any point during the ride. Decisions as to the eligibility of a horse to continue can be made following such examination.
- 1.7 Any condition that the veterinarian finds likely to endanger the horse's health or welfare, or to create pain as the result of its continued participation in the ride can result in the horse's removal from the ride.
- 1.8 At the discretion of the Head Veterinarian, any horse may be required to represent for a veterinary examination in the period of 1-2 hours after each horse finishes its ride.

V2 VETERINARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY

- 2.1 The primary responsibility of the veterinarian is to protect the life, health and welfare of all entered horses. In this context the veterinarian shall examine each horse during an affiliated event to:
 - a) decide whether or not it is fit or unfit to continue without compromising its health and welfare; and
 - b) determine its eligibility to continue in the ride in regard to specific veterinary requirements of the AERA Inc. rules.

- 2.2 The exact location of an injury causing lameness is a decision that may or may not be made after the primary duties of attending to the ride have been served.
- 2.3 Any horse that is believed 'not fit to continue' will be deemed to have failed veterinary examination.
- 2.4 The veterinarian must mark each horse's Logbook with:
- outcomes of examinations and notes of pre-existing conditions;
 - the reasons for any decision to fail a horse's veterinarian examination;
 - any horse fitness, health or welfare issues that need to be reviewed later in the event.
- 2.5 The Head Veterinarian may delegate to TPR stewards or veterinary students from any Australian university facility the authority to collect specific TPR data on his or her behalf.
- 2.6 The veterinarian must report any worrying circumstances that need surveillance (but which permits a horse to remain in the event) to the Chief Steward. Such concerns must be expressed as soon as practicable to the rider of the horse.
- 2.7 The veterinarian has the authority to:
- collect any fluid or tissue from any horse entered in an affiliated event with the view to establishing a diagnosis of the horse's physical state or to subjecting such fluid/s or tissue/s to laboratory examination for prohibited drugs;
 - conduct an autopsy on any horse entered in an affiliated ride that has died during the event or within eight hours after the event, or will order and arrange such autopsy by a veterinary pathologist;
 - place a rest order on a horse in compliance with the **REST ORDER** (Rule H.22); and
 - decide the heart rate requirements and hold times for all gate-into-hold checkpoints, subject to rule A.12.1 requirements.
- 2.8 The Head Veterinarian and the Chief Steward have joint authority to decide the site, size and demarcation of the vetting area and the conduct of personnel and animals within these areas so as to ensure that adequate and quiet examination of each horse is achievable.
- 2.9 If the veterinarian cannot convince himself or herself that the horse is fit to continue, such horse may be eliminated from the ride.
- 2.10 The veterinarian will not sign off a Logbook while he or she has any doubts about the horse's condition.
- 2.11 If the head veterinarian deems that a horse is compromised sufficiently that it requires invasive treatment, the member responsible for that horse must comply with directives from the head veterinarian to have the horse treated. Failure to comply will be reported to the Chief Steward who will refer the matter to the State Management Committee for disciplinary action.

V3 PRE-RIDE EXAMINATION

- 3.1 At the pre-ride examination the veterinarian will:
- Record the resting heart rate, the respiratory rate, gut sounds and the rectal temperature of each horse entered in the affiliated ride; (Recording these parameters may be delegated.)
 - Examine the dentition of each horse entered in the ride and permit only those horses to compete which comply with required horse age as defined in the HORSE RULES and TRAINING RIDE RULES. The import of advanced old age is left to the discretion of the Head Veterinarian;
 - 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) in a way likely to jeopardise its (or other horses) safety, may be refused permission to participate in the ride. Horses with sight impairment may be granted permission to start with the intention that they demonstrate their ability to successfully complete the ride.

- 3.2 At the pre-ride examination each horse will also be examined for:
- metabolic condition and stability;
 - soreness, abrasions, rubs or galls on the withers, back, loins, ribs, girth, chest, shoulders and mouth;
 - leg injuries, hoof conditions and lower leg dermatitis or bruises, cuts or abnormalities;
 - 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;
 - adequate shoeing and/or condition of hooves;
 - any signs of recognisable contagious disease.
- 3.3 Each horse will be examined unsaddled, without bandages, leg boots or rugs, led on a loose lead at the walk and/or trot and/or canter if necessary, in a pattern that includes out and back, but may include turns to the left and/or right, circles and/or triangles, to establish normal gait and soundness. The pattern chosen by the Head Veterinarian must be used by the entire veterinary team and applied to each competitor in a consistent manner.
- 3.4 Except for the initial commencement, all horses must walk, trot and canter, as ordered by the veterinarian, on a loose lead without being chased, hunted or threatened by the handler and/or outsiders. The veterinarian must be satisfied that every horse has been allowed to display its natural gaits. The penalty for infringement of this rule can be removal from the ride on the grounds of 'failure to lead'. Under unusual circumstances that require further inspection, a veterinarian retains the right to inspect a horse ridden.

V4 END OF RIDING-LEG VETERINARY EXAMINATIONS

- 4.1 At each standard veterinary check, each rider must ensure their horse is presented for veterinary examination 30 minutes after crossing the finish line at the end of each riding leg, or they will risk disqualification.
- 4.2 At each end of riding-leg veterinary examination the veterinarian has the responsibility to determine whether each horse is fit to continue, in accordance with each of the following:
- Determine and record in the Logbook the heart rate (taken over a full minute), and if necessary the respiratory rate and temperature. Failure to achieve prescribed heart rates automatically removes the horse from the ride. The Logbook is to be endorsed 'Vetted out - heart rate';
 - Determine the metabolic condition of each horse and record all parameters in the relevant sections of the horse's Logbook. Horses judged to be metabolically unstable or showing insufficient recovery and therefore judged unfit to continue are automatically removed from the ride. The Logbook is to be endorsed 'Vetted Out - Metabolic Instability', 'Vetted Out - Insufficient Recovery', 'Vetted Out - Pain' or other appropriate finding;
 - Examine all horses as in rules V.3.2 through V.3.4.
- 4.3 A veterinarian may require any horse to represent for another veterinary examination at any specified time prior to allowing the horse to commence the next leg of the event. Failure to comply with the direction of the veterinarian will result in disqualification.

V5 EARLY VETTING

- 5.1 Where standard vetting applies, the Chief Steward, after consultation with the Ride Organiser, shall determine that each rider must ensure that their horse is presented for vetting; either
- 30 minutes after crossing the finishing line at the end of each riding leg, or;
 - within 30 minutes after crossing the finish line at the end of each riding leg, but not before such time after crossing the finishing line as determined by the Chief Steward after consultation with the Ride Organiser.

- 5.2 The Chief Steward must announce whether (a) or (b) shall apply prior to the commencement of the ride.

V6. ON-COURSE EXAMINATION

- 6.1 As required (or when appropriate) veterinarians have the authority to conduct an on-course examination of horses. This may include:
- a 'trot-by' lameness examination of horses as they proceed past a point;
 - a gate-into-hold, heart-rate-gate (or similar) examination.

V7 TROT-BY LAMENESS EXAMINATION ON COURSE

- 7.1 A visual 'trot by' examination may be conducted by the veterinarian at any point in the ride.
- 7.2 Horses judged to be lame at a 'trot by' examination are automatically 'Vetted Out - Lame'.

V8 A.E.R.A. VET GATE INTO HOLD EXAMINATION

- 8.1 At a vet-gate-into-hold examination the veterinarian has the following duties:
- To conduct a veterinarian examination of all competing horses at each designated gate-into-hold checkpoint and/or at the finish of the ride;
 - To determine the metabolic condition of each horse and record all parameters in the relevant section of the horse's Logbook;
 - Examine all horses as in rules V.3.2 through V.3.4. A cardiac recovery index test may be conducted and interpreted.
- 8.2 A horse is only permitted to continue if all of the following exist:
- the heart rate is at or below the determined maximum;
 - the horse is not lame;
 - the horse is clinically in a stable physical and physiological state; and
 - the horse is assessed as being fit to continue without compromise to its health or welfare.
- 8.3 Horses judged to be metabolically unstable, showing insufficient recovery, or are not fit to continue are automatically vetted out of the ride and the Logbook endorsed appropriately: 'Vetted out - insufficient recovery', 'Vetted out - metabolic instability', 'Vetted out - pain', or other appropriate finding.
- 8.4 Following successful completion of the veterinarian examination, each horse must be held at the checkpoint for a period of time which is referred to as the 'hold time'.
- 8.5 Hold times are to be decided by the Head Veterinarian, the Chief Steward and a representative of the ride committee prior to the pre-ride briefing. Hold times must be announced to all riders at the pre-ride briefing.
- 8.6 Hold-times at any one vet-gate-into-hold checkpoint may vary from a minimum of ten minutes to a maximum of sixty minutes. In all affiliated rides of 80 kilometres or longer, the total hold time for the entire ride must be sixty minutes or more.
- 8.7 At all hold-times of twenty minutes or less, horses may be presented saddled.
- 8.8 When a horse is timed into a vet-gate-into-hold checkpoint it has thirty minutes within which to present to a veterinarian or be eliminated from the ride. All time accrued before successfully presenting for examination is riding time. Hold time commences when the rider indicates to the appropriate steward that his or her horse is ready for veterinarian examination.
- 8.9 If veterinary examination is successful the rider and horse may continue on course at the completion of their hold time.
- 8.10 If the horse's heart rate exceeds the maximum heart rate set for that ride, the horse must re-present within thirty minutes of its arrival time.

- 8.11 A re-present penalty time may be set at the discretion of the Head Veterinarian. During this time the horse is still within riding time.
- 8.12 Horses which do not meet the heart rate criteria within thirty minutes of arrival at the checkpoint are eliminated.
- 8.13 A veterinarian may order any horse which has passed the heart rate criteria (but which is in doubt in any respect of the remaining veterinary examination) to re-present to that veterinarian before the expiry of the hold time. Failure to re-present means automatic elimination. The Logbook is to be endorsed accordingly.
- 8.14 In a ride of 100klm or more, at the discretion of the head veterinarian, all horses may be subject to a compulsory re-presentation inspection by the veterinary team at one or more of the holds, at a specified before the expiry of the hold time. At the re-present inspection all parameters will be examined and recorded, and a horse must pass this inspection before proceeding. All riders will be notified of this re-presentation examination at the pre-ride talk.
- 8.15 Ride time will cease as the horse and rider cross the finish line at the end of the ride. The final veterinary examination will be the same procedure as for the sectional checks, except that there is no represent and must take place at any time within thirty minutes of finish time.

V9 A.E.R.A. VET GATE INTO HOLD/F.E.I. RIDES

- 9.1 When an AERA Vet Gate Into Hold ride is held in conjunction with an FEI ride, the Organising Committee has the option for the AERA ride to be conducted under prevailing FEI criteria for heartrate and present times.

V10 LAMENESS

- 10.1 A horse is judged to be lame when, in accordance with rules V.3.3 and V.3.4, it displays, at the trot, a consistent in-coordination of gait or indication of pain. A horse may run out a total of three times, once in front of any member of the veterinary team for that ride, then twice in front of the Head Veterinarian. If a decision cannot be made of lame versus not lame then the horse will be deemed to be fit to continue. If there is only one officiating veterinarian, a maximum of two run outs is permitted.
- 10.2 At all affiliated rides the head vet may choose, for the final adjudication on lameness to be made by silent independent vote by three of the ride veterinarians, which shall include the Head Veterinarian where possible. The majority will decide the outcome. The votes, (pass or fail) are to be written down and handed to a senior official in the vet ring who will relay the overall result only, either pass or fail, to the rider and examining veterinarian. Voting slips are to be destroyed immediately by the official and the individual votes are not to be disclosed.

V11 HEART RATE AND HEART SOUNDS

- 11.1 Heart rate is the major essential criterion of fitness in an endurance ride and every effort should be directed towards its accurate determination. The heart rate should be accurately counted over sixty seconds and appropriate actions then taken. If the reading is influenced by excitement or disturbance, a further reading should be taken.
- 11.2 The heart rate must be taken before any other measurement or observation and in such an atmosphere that its measurement reflects exercise effects on the horse.
- 11.3 Allowance for an anxious or nervous horse should be allowed by permitting their mate to remain close by. This is appreciated by the rider and promotes the spirit of cooperation between veterinarian and rider necessary to protect the horse.
- 11.4 Irregular sounds, missing beats, extra beats, muffled sounds, thumping sounds, valvular murmurs, etc. are to be assessed in a total clinical judgement of the horse's fitness to continue, gained from visual inspection, gait, previous performance and other cardinal signs.
- 11.5 Abnormal heart sounds or abnormal rhythms may be grounds for elimination of a horse from a ride.

- 11.6 Pain often elevates heart rate and/or maintains it above the fitness level. High heart rate may be due to the presence of persistent pain and does not necessarily mean physiological unfitness. Body temperature is closely associated with heart rate. Hypothermic horses invariably have elevated heart rates.
- 11.7 Always look for a cause of a high heart rate.

V12 RECTAL TEMPERATURE

- 12.1 This cardinal sign, while it needs to be known, has significance related to microbial infection, heart rate, respiratory rate, ambient temperature and humidity as well as immediately prior exertion. It needs to be interpreted in this light.
- 12.2 Horses with a resting rectal or final vet check temperature of 40.0° Celsius or higher are usually not fit to endure nor complete a ride. A completion horse whose rectal temperature is high will usually fail the heart rate test.

V13 GAIT ABNORMALITIES AND / OR INJURIES

- 13.1 Gait abnormalities or injuries that do not remove a horse from the ride should be noted, especially when detected at the pre-ride examination. Their presence and extent should be noted on the Logbook or card. This allows veterinarians at subsequent checks to be informed of the horse's earlier gait and thus be in a better position to make a judgement on the current gait.
- 13.2 In gait abnormality cases where a conflict of opinions exists, the Head Veterinarian's decision is to be sought and is final.
- 13.3 Any action taken in respect to a gait abnormality and/or injury is determined by any deterioration or improvement that has occurred since the previous vet check. If any noted gait abnormality or injury has not deteriorated, the horse will be deemed fit to continue.

V14 DEHYDRATION

- 14.1 A number of assessments are available, such as: decreased sweating, dry or sticky gums (decreased salivation), vertical wrinkles in the neck skin, shoulder skin or cheeks when the horse turns, lack of recoil when the skin is elevated.
- 14.2 When checking for decreased skin elasticity by the pinch test, the point of the shoulder is more reliable than the neck.

V15 VETERINARIAN DECISION MAKING

- 15.1 Diagnostic procedures such as the use of hoof pincers, long applied flexion of a joint, continued pressure on a tendon or ligament, on a back muscle or rib, sharp point stimulation of back areas, etc. are to be avoided in the decision making process.
- 15.2 At all affiliated rides the Head Vet may choose for the final adjudication on the horse's fitness to continue to be made by silent independent vote by three of the ride veterinarians, which shall include the Head Veterinarian whenever possible. The majority will decide the outcome. The votes, (pass or fail) are to be written down and handed to a senior official in the vet ring who will relay the overall result only, either pass or fail, to the rider and examining veterinarian. Voting slips are to be destroyed immediately by the official and the individual votes are not to be disclosed.

V16 EUTHANASIA AND HORSE DEATHS OCCURRING AT ENDURANCE RIDES

- 16.1 If euthanasia or a horse death is likely, the Chief Steward must be informed and consulted.
- 16.2 If euthanasia is to be performed, the treating veterinarian should – wherever possible – have a second veterinarian consult on the case - ideally the Head Veterinarian. In the event that this

is not possible, an accredited veterinarian or an associate veterinarian may be consulted, depending on the make up and number of the veterinary team.

- 16.3 The following procedures must precede euthanasia:
- a) an accurate written record must be made of the clinical signs and parameters that led to the decision to euthanase;
 - b) an accurate written record must be made of the clinical signs and parameters that led to the decision to euthanase;
 - c) written consent to carry out euthanasia must be obtained from the owner or person responsible for the horse;
 - d) pre-euthanasia blood samples must be collected;
 - e) a suitable place designated for euthanasia, post mortem and disposal must be determined.
- 16.4 In the event of an equine death, the veterinarian shall conduct an autopsy including the following procedures:
- a) all observations at the autopsy must be accurately recorded;
 - b) samples should be taken in formalin of skeletal muscle, heart muscle, adrenal gland, liver, kidney, and lung;
 - c) blood samples should be collected if possible and submitted to a recognised laboratory for histopathology, haematology and metabolic profile ;
 - d) catastrophe report must be completed.
- 16.5 The post mortem examination should divide cases into two main categories:
- a) Accidental-type death due to trauma or some pre-existing problem that has reappeared under exercise conditions;
 - b) 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.
- 16.6 A copy of each veterinarian report relating to the euthanasia and/or death, together with all information concerning the sequence of events, Logbook or vet card results and laboratory results, etc., must be sent to AERA Inc. via the State Management Committee and to the honorary veterinarian advising the AERA Inc.
- 16.7 The veterinarian shall pass all fees for the treatment, euthanasia and post mortem to the owner.

V17 DE-NERVED HORSES

- 17.1 If the veterinarian determines that a horse has been de-nerved either temporarily or permanently, an order shall be made to immediately withdraw the horse from the ride and report the matter to the Chief Steward.

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES RULES

P1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In these rules:

- a) **prohibited substance** means any substance (or any isomer, metabolite and/or analogue produced from the substance), as defined by Equestrian Australia that is a stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anaesthetic, psychotropic (mood and/or behaviour altering) substance, or any other substance which might affect the performance of a horse and/or which might interfere with or mask any prohibited substance testing;
- b) **competition** means any class of affiliated event sanctioned and run under the AERA Inc. rules, procedures and guidelines and includes all time from when the horse is formally entered in the event and until the horse's logbook is finally signed off by the veterinarian and released by the ride organizing committee.
- c) **State Management Committee** means the State Management Committee of the Division where the rider and/or responsible person are members;
- d) The **responsible member** means one or more of the rider, trainer, owner or connections of a horse who have responsibility for that horse at an affiliated event. Any responsible member must be a current member of a Division and have attained 18 years of age.
- e) **horse** means an equine;
- f) **discipline** means any actions taken by the State Management Committee as a consequence of a violation of these rules.

1.2 No prohibited substance (including a drug and/or medication) as defined by the Equestrian Australia rules is to be administered, given or applied in any manner to a horse in the time before, during or after an affiliated event if that substance might be present in the horse, might be detectable in any blood or urine sample taken from the horse or might have any effect on the performance of the horse at any time during the event.

1.3 For the purposes of these rules, prohibited substance may include, but is not limited to, substances acting on the:

- a) nervous system;
- b) cardiovascular system;
- c) respiratory system;
- d) digestive system;
- e) urinary system;
- f) reproductive system;
- g) musculoskeletal system;
- h) skin, (for example, hypersensitising agents);
- i) blood system;
- j) immune system, other than those in licensed vaccines;
- k) endocrine system, endocrine secretions and their synthetic counterparts;

and including:

- l) vitamins administered by injection;
- m) antipyretics, analgesics and anti-inflammatory substances;
- n) cytotoxic substances; and
- o) masking substances that could mask a prohibited substance.

1.4 Refer to **Appendix 1** for further information regarding Prohibited Substances.

1.5 It is the duty of every rider and/or responsible member to present and maintain their horse at affiliated events free of prohibited substances as defined in these rules.

1.6 Every person who seeks advice concerning the interpretation and application of these rules (including the application of these rules to particular substances) should not rely solely upon interpretations or advice by private or ride veterinarians, ride officials, ride personnel, or other

persons, but should obtain verification of such interpretations or advice from the State Management Committee.

- 1.7 Under these rules, any rider and/or responsible member who is uncertain of the status of a horse in their care, in any given situation, is advised to withdraw that horse from competition.
- 1.8 Any violation of these rules by a rider, responsible member and/or other connection of a horse will lead to disciplinary action being taken by the State Management Committee, and/or Equestrian Australia and/or the FEI.

P2 EXEMPT SUBSTANCES

- 2.1 A number of substances that may naturally occur in a horse are not considered to be prohibited substances when at or below certain levels. It is the responsibility of the Responsible Member to ensure that horses are presented at AERA and FEI events drug-free.
- 2.2 Omeprazole, prescribed and administered under the control of a veterinarian, at the recommended doses for treatment and prevention of gastric ulceration is exempt from the provisions of these prohibited substance rules.

P3 STATE DIVISION-BASED DRUG STEWARD

- 3.1 The State Management Committee in each state division may appoint one or more Drug Steward officials who will be accredited by Equestrian Australia. The State Division-Based Drug Steward will obtain swabbing kits from the AERA Medication Control Person.
- 3.2 The functions and responsibilities of the Drug Steward shall be clearly defined in a Division-based *Prohibited Substance Procedure* developed by each State Management Committee, but functions and responsibilities shall not include the taking of blood, nor the performing of examinations and/or other tests on horses.
- 3.3 Before any appointed Drug Steward is able to carry out designated duties, he or she must be provided with appropriate training and be accredited under the provisions of the Division-based *Prohibited Substance Procedure*. Issues to be covered in the *Prohibited Substance Procedure* are included as **Appendix 2**.

P4 RESPONSIBLE MEMBER

- 4.1 The responsible member (in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary) is responsible and accountable under these rules:
 - a) for the physical condition of the horse once it arrives at the affiliated event ride base - whether or not the horse has yet been officially entered;
 - b) to guard and protect the horse prior to and at competition;
 - c) to prevent the administration by anyone of (or exposure to) any prohibited substance to the horse; and
 - d) to know all of the provisions of these rules and all other rules and of the AERA Inc. and/or any additional Division rules which impact on competition, as well as the penalty provisions of said rules.
- 4.2 For purposes of rule P.4.1, 'substantial evidence' means clear and positive evidence which establishes that the rider and/or responsible member was, in fact, not responsible or accountable for the condition of the horse in their care.
- 4.3 The responsible member is normally the rider. However, in some circumstances another member (the owner, trainer or other connection of the horse) may be the designated responsible member instead of the rider.
- 4.4 A horse may have more than one designated responsible member.
- 4.5 The owner and/or rider of the horse (if different from the responsible member) acknowledge that the responsible member represents the owner and/or rider of the horse regarding the horse being trained, managed, prepared, entered, competed or withdrawn from the affiliated

- event for any reason and for any act performed on any horse under the care and custody of the responsible member.
- 4.6 If the responsible member is the rider, then he or she must also sign the 'Responsible Member Declaration' on the *Ride Entry Form*.
- 4.7 If the responsible member is a different person to the rider, then the responsible member must sign the 'Responsible Member Declaration' on the *Ride Entry Form*, whether the responsible member is the trainer, owner, agent, coach and/or any other form of connection to the horse.
- 4.8 Where the rider is a Junior member, the parent or legal guardian signing the nomination form on behalf of the rider must nominate a responsible member.
- 4.9 If the rider and/or responsible member is prevented from performing his/her duties under these rules, he/she must immediately notify the competition secretary, and, at the same time a substitute member must be appointed by the rider and/or responsible member and such substitute must place his/her name on the 'Responsible Member Declaration' section of the *Ride Entry Form*.
- 4.10 Any substitution of responsible member does not relieve the rider and/or responsible member of his/her responsibility and accountability under these rules. However, the substitute is equally responsible and accountable for the condition of any horse under their care.

P5 EXAMINATION

- 5.1 Examination means a physical examination and/or a procedure to take a sample from the horse for the purpose of testing for a prohibited substance and may include physical examination, urine tests, blood tests and/or any other test or procedure at the discretion of the appointed veterinarian and which is necessary to enforce these rules.
- 5.2 Examination other than the collection of urine samples may only be by a licensed veterinarian.
- 5.3 A rider and/or responsible member must submit their horse for examination at the request of the Chief Steward, Head Veterinarian or Drug Steward.
- 5.4 For the purposes of these rules, examination may include any or all horses in a single division or in all divisions, any horse entered or any horse withdrawn or vetted-out.
- 5.5 Every horse selected for examination:
- is required to be identified immediately prior to the examination using the identification page of its AERA Horse Logbook;
 - must be left in the control of the examining personnel until the examining veterinarian or the Drug Steward releases the horse; and
 - must be accompanied at all times by the rider and/or responsible member.
- 5.6 The rider and/or responsible member of a horse chosen for examination must:
- immediately take the horse to the veterinarian and/or Drug Steward(s) at the location designated for examination;
 - make the horse freely available for examination;
 - cooperate with and assist the veterinarian and/or Drug Steward(s) in the examination process, including the prompt procuring of any requested sample
 - and including (but not limited to) removing equipment from the horse, leaving it quietly at the designated location and avoiding any distractions to the horse;
 - witness the complete examination process and/or sign any required documentation associated with the examination; and
 - display polite attitude and actions toward the veterinarian and/or Drug Steward(s).
- 5.7 In consultation with the examining veterinarian, the horse may be fed, watered and any other needs met.
- 5.8 Refusal to submit the horse for examination, failing to cooperate with the veterinarian and/or Drug Steward(s), schooling, lengthy cooling out, exercising, bandaging and/or any other delays to the examination are a violation of these rules.

P6 TAKING SAMPLES

- 6.1 If a decision is taken to sample a horse under the provisions of these rules, the sampling procedures must be in accordance with the current sample-taking procedures endorsed by Equestrian Australia.
- 6.2 It is the responsibility of each sampling veterinarian and Drug Steward(s):
 - a) to obtain copies of the appropriate sampling procedure documents and ensure its provisions are adhered to when samples are taken; and
 - b) in consultation with the Division Honorary Veterinarian, include those processes in the Division-based *Prohibited Substance Procedure* to ensure samples are properly taken, secured, stored ready for dispatch, then dispatched quickly to the drug testing laboratory for analysis.
- 6.3 All samples taken must be placed in an approved Australian Jockey Club (or equivalent) sample kit that must be complete and unbreached prior to use.

P7 ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

- 7.1 All samples taken from a horse to comply with these rules must be analysed for prohibited substances using the Equestrian Australia approved drug testing laboratory.
- 7.2 The codified findings of any test results shall be *prima facie* evidence upon which the State Management Committee may determine that the horse from which the sample was taken was exposed to a prohibited substance.
- 7.3 This test result evidence will be considered by the State Management Committee in determining whether a violation under these rules was committed.

P8 HEARING FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE PENALTY

- 8.1 The Hearing for a positive test for Prohibited Substance at FEI events will be administered in accordance with Equestrian Australia Procedures, Guidelines and Penalties.
- 8.2 When positive evidence is received from a drug testing laboratory indicating a prohibited substance is present in a sample taken from a horse attending an AERA event, hearing(s) will be convened by the State Management Committee to consider available evidence and fix any appropriate penalties. The hearing(s) shall be conducted in accordance with the Division's *Rules of Association* (Constitution) and shall include any right of appeal under the provisions of those *Rules of Association*.
- 8.3 Any horse that has been entered in an affiliated event and which is found to have been administered a prohibited substance in any way will be subject to a penalty assessed by the State Management Committee in accordance with the table in **Appendix 1**. The State Management Committee may vary this suspension and/or expulsion if exceptional circumstances prevail.
- 8.4 Any rider, responsible member and/or any other connection of the horse subject to these rules who actually administers, attempts to administer, instructs, aids, conspires with another to administer, or employs anyone who administers or attempts to administer a prohibited substance to a horse, which might affect the performance of that horse at an affiliated event will be subject to possible discipline by the State Management Committee.
- 8.5 No person responsible or accountable for the condition of the horse will be penalized, nor any horse barred from competition until after the conclusion of any hearing(s) convened to deal with the matter.
- 8.6 If the State Management Committee hearing makes a finding that the horse was exposed to a prohibited substance while at an affiliated event:
 - a) the rider, responsible member and/or any other connection will be suspended from membership and/or expelled from all competition; and
 - b) any penalties placed on the horse will be imposed at the discretion of the State Management Committee in consultation with the Division Honorary Veterinarian.
- 8.7 If, prior to or at the hearing, the State Management Committee (as the charging party) determines that one or more members not previously charged should also be charged, then,

upon application by the State Management Committee, the Committee may, in its discretion, continue or adjourn the hearing, in whole or in part, to permit a new or amended charge to be issued (unless the member(s) to be charged waive notice).

- 8.8 In the event the hearing concludes a violation of these rules has occurred and disciplinary action is to be taken, any trophies awarded to the rider and horse and all points and awards gained at the affiliated event at which the violation occurred and any competition thereafter will be withdrawn and/or must be returned. Any trophies, points or awards thus forfeited will be re-distributed.

P9 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 9.1 Confidentiality is of paramount importance, both in the examining process and any subsequent discussions with and between the rider and/or responsible member, other connections of the horse, examining veterinarian, Honorary Veterinarian, Drug Steward and the State Management Committee.
- 9.2 All parties concerned must undertake to ensure that confidentiality is preserved and that information about examination and/or prohibited substance testing outcomes is not released until all hearings (and/or appeals) are completed.
- 9.3 While the particulars of any hearing convened in respect to the use of a prohibited substance are confidential, all decisions made (together with a summary of the evidence used to determine the decisions) shall be written down and retained by the Division secretary as evidence of the hearing.
- 9.4 When a penalty is applied to a horse and/or to a member as a consequence of a breach of these Rules, a written statement about the penalty decision shall be placed in the Division newsletter. Publication of any penalty decision action must be handled in a sensitive manner. The secretaries of all other Divisions, as well as the AERA Inc. secretary will also be notified of the decision.

P10 ADMINISTRATION OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES PROCESS

- 10.1 To provide funds for implementing these Rules, each State Management Committee may institute a levy on riding members in their Division. If the State Management Committee decides to implement such levy, Division members must be notified beforehand.
- 10.2 In the event a properly convened hearing concludes a violation of these rules has occurred and disciplinary action is taken, any costs (including the cost of laboratory testing) incurred in administering these rules will be charged to the member(s) found responsible.
- 10.3 To conform with these rules, each ride committee putting on a ride may be asked by the Head Veterinarian to set aside suitable and convenient facilities for the examination of horses.
- 10.4 Ride committees putting on a ride must cooperate with and exhibit polite attitude and actions toward the examining veterinarian and/or Drug Steward(s).
- 10.5 Each State Management Committee shall have overall responsibility for implementation and administration of these rules in the Division.

P11 WITHHOLDING PERIOD

- 11.1 Any guidelines given by a knowledgeable person regarding withholding periods for prohibited substances administered to horses are only current at the time of the advice. Drug testing laboratories routinely (and without prior notice) develop new tests and refine existing tests to make them more sensitive. As new and more sensitive procedures are implemented, withholding time guidelines may become obsolete.
- 11.2 The response of individual horses to any substance given may vary, so reliance on any advice does not necessarily guarantee compliance with these rules.
- 11.3 Owners or other connections should consult with the drug manufacturer and/or knowledgeable veterinarians for up-to-date information and specific advice concerning the therapeutic use of

a drug or medication and its likely withholding period. Any guidelines will be given with the assumption that the drug or medication is used for therapeutic use only and is administered at a therapeutic dose consistent with the manufacturer or dispensing veterinarian recommendations.

- 11.4 Not-with-standing any advice given, it is the responsibility of the rider, owner, responsible member and/or other connection to conform with these rules and therefore to discuss with their veterinarian all the implications of any treatment administered.
- 11.5 Recommendations from knowledgeable persons, if followed, will minimise the chances of a positive prohibited substance test result. However, all riders, responsible members or other connections are cautioned that any provided guidelines are only general.
- 11.6 Reliance on any advice from knowledgeable persons will not serve as a defence to a violation of these rules in the event of a positive drug test result.

P12 VETERINARIAN RESPONSIBILITY

- 12.1 When dealing with illness or injury to a horse in competition, the veterinarian should prescribe or administer whatever drug or medication is indicated for therapeutic purposes.
- 12.2 Whenever prescribing or administering a substance, the veterinarian must give the rider or responsible member proper advice regarding compliance with these rules.
- 12.3 It is the responsibility of the rider and/or responsible member to get appropriate advice from the treating veterinarian and to heed this advice.
- 12.4 No veterinarian is to be party to the administration of a drug or medication to a horse for the non-therapeutic purpose of affecting its performance.

P13 NATURAL, HERBAL OR OTHER PRODUCTS

- 13.1 THE RIDER, RESPONSIBLE MEMBER, ATTENDING VETERINARIANS AND/OR OTHER CONNECTIONS OF A HORSE IN COMPETITION ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES AND OTHER PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND AND ABOUT WHICH THE INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, BECAUSE THE PRODUCT MAY CONTAIN ONE OR MORE PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES.**
- 13.2 People who administer a so-called 'herbal' or 'natural' product to a horse to affect its performance in either a calming (tranquilizing) manner, an energizing (stimulant) manner, or a psychotropic (mood and/or behaviour altering) manner, or for any other purpose, are advised such action violates these rules.
- 13.3 People who have been reassured by claims that the plant origin of its ingredients cause it to be permitted by these rules, as well as being undetectable by drug tests, might have been misled. If the product in question is effective as claimed by manufacturers, its use in a horse entered in competition is clearly a violation of these rules. Even if such product is ineffective, its use constitutes unsportsmanlike conduct, in that its intent is to achieve unfair advantage and/or dishonest gain.
- 13.4 The use of herbal and/or natural products in a horse entered in competition may result in a positive prohibited substance test result. The plant origin of any ingredient does not preclude its containing a pharmacologically potent and readily detectable forbidden substance – for example, cocaine, heroin and marijuana all come from plants.
- 13.5 Although the use of some of these products, in the past, may not have resulted in a positive drug test result, this may change as drug testing laboratories develop new screening tests.
- 13.6 For the above reasons, the AERA Inc. strongly cautions against the use of all so-called herbal and natural products.

P14 HUMAN ANTI-DOPING POLICY

14.1 All members must comply with the Equestrian Australia Human Anti-Doping Policy as current from time to time. If there are any concerns about human medications, they can be clarified by visiting the Australian Sports Anti Doping Authority website www.asada.gov.au or by contacting 13000 27232. The policies can be found on the EA website at www.efanational.com or by contacting:

Equestrian Australia
PO Box 673
Sydney Markets, NSW, 2129
Telephone: (02) 8762 7777

APPENDIX 1. LIST OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

It is the responsibility of the Member Responsible and/or the Rider to present their horse(s) at AERA and FEI events drug-free.

A list of the current Prohibited Substances is available from the Equestrian Australia website: www.efanational.com.au or by contacting:

Equestrian Australia
PO Box 673
Sydney Markets, NSW, 2129
Telephone: (02) 8762 7777

APPENDIX 2. CONTENTS OF THE DIVISION-BASED PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE PROCEDURE

Sampling procedure will be implemented in accordance with Equestrian Australia Policies and Procedures. Issues in the Procedure should minimally include (but are not limited to):

Swabbing

1. Acquisition of swab kits.
2. Maintenance and storage of swab kits prior to use.
3. The function of the veterinarian in the sampling process.
4. Procedure for selecting horse(s) for swabbing.
5. Making and keeping the horse ready for sampling.
6. Taking sample (urine and blood).
7. Sealing of sample.
8. Completion of paperwork.
9. Storage and security of sample.
10. Transfer of sample to analysing laboratory.
11. Dealing with the results of analysis.
12. The rights of the Responsible Member.
13. Dispute resolution.

Drug Steward

1. Definition of duties, responsibilities and obligations of Drug Steward.
2. Selection of Drug Steward candidates.
3. Method of training and accreditation of Drug Stewards.
4. Maintenance of accreditation.
5. Confidentiality.

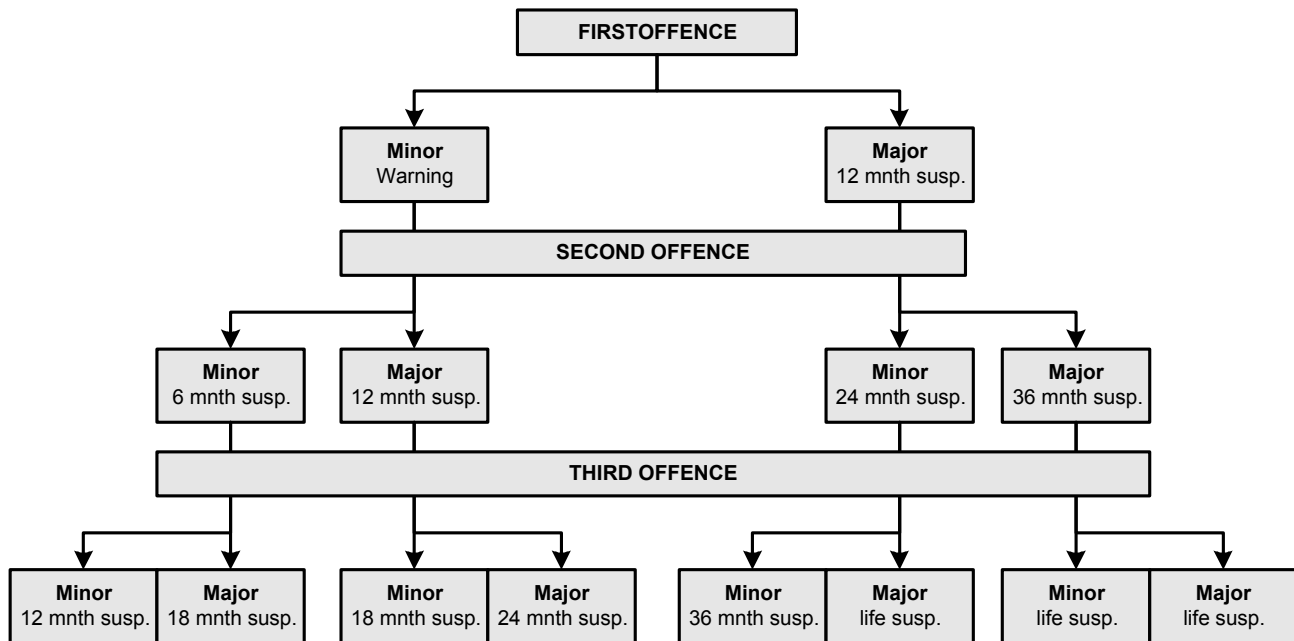
APPENDIX 3. APPLICABLE PENALTIES

The following table should be used as a guideline by State Management Committees when determining a penalty under the provisions of rule P.8.2. The offence level and the penalties that apply are at the discretion of the State Management Committee.

Definitions

'Minor' offences are those which relate to detected levels greater than a no-effect level, but less than the therapeutic level.

'Major' offences are those which relate to detected levels greater than a therapeutic level.



Any offence after the third offence will result in life suspension.

DUTY of CARE with regard to HORSE CONTAINMENT at RIDES

Duty of Care with regard to horse containment at events is the responsibility of the person or persons in charge of the horse.

Ride organizers do their best to provide a ride base that is of sufficient size and design to conduct endurance events safely.

It is advisable for ride organizers to control how and where riders set up their camps. They should be set out in lines with 'roadways' left for easy access and exit. Horse yards will then alternate with vehicles and camps in rows, thus making it less likely for escaped horses to run through the yards of other horses and thus creating a mob of galloping, escaped horses, an extremely dangerous situation.

- ❖ The ideal ride base is of sufficient size to adequately cater for the anticipated number of horses. Pre-nomination by riders is appreciated. It needs to be completely fenced with gates that can be kept closed, especially at night.
- ❖ Horse yards are preferred to be of metal construction, substantially fixed to a solid object such as a horse trailer or truck or permanent fence. There are many designs available commercially, which are light to carry and easily put in place.
- ❖ Electric fencing is allowed and needs to meet the following requirements. Two strands of tape are to be used, preferably white and not string type, with the top tape to be 1.2 to 1.4 metres above the ground. The posts used should be of substantial material (steel pickets) and installed so that the tape does not sag. The fence needs to be energized at all times the horse is using it.
- ❖ Ground tethering or hobbling of horses is not allowed.
- ❖ It is advisable to have a competent person supervising your horse while you are attending the pre-ride talk.

DUTY of CARE with regard to DOGS at RIDES

- ❖ Dogs must be restrained at all times. Loose dogs risk impoundment and a fine.

GUIDELINES FOR SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN AT RIDES

This is a family oriented sport and families are welcome. However, parents will be held responsible for their children's behaviour at all times. Bicycles, footballs and toys are to be kept well away from horses.

1. At all affiliated events, all children under the age of eighteen (whether members or not) are the responsibility of their parent/guardian/caregiver or an adult who has been designated by the parent/guardian/caregiver to fulfill this role. Such adult supervisors have the responsibility to ensure that their supervision is appropriate to the age and maturity of the child concerned.
2. If the child under the age of eighteen is riding in an affiliated event, the following are strongly recommended:
 - a. children under the age of 12 years should be accompanied by a designated adult for the entire time in which the child is riding in the event;
 - b. children between the ages of 12 and 17(inclusive), should be supervised by their designated parent/guardian/caregiver or responsible adult to a level appropriate to their competence and maturity.
3. Any person who is a voluntary worker at an affiliated event or who is employed by the Ride Organisers of the affiliated event, is required to declare to the ride organisers if they have been convicted of a serious sex offence or if they have been identified as a "Prohibited person" under child protection legislation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest is defined as any relationship that could influence or be perceived to influence a person's objectivity when in acting in an official capacity.

Endurance riding is a relatively small community. It is not uncommon for officials to be called on to make decisions on behalf of their State Divisions or the AERA, in relation to issues involving their friends, relatives or business acquaintances.

Officials must be mindful of the possibility of real and perceived conflicts of interest in such situations. 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, officials must refrain from making official decisions involving their relatives, close friends, or horses in which they have an interest. Alternative officials should be called on to assist in such circumstances.

An official must declare to the ride organising committee or other appropriate person connected with the organisation of the event, a potential or real conflict of interest as soon as they become aware of its existence. This may be prior to the event, or during the event in the case of situations that arise while the event is in progress.

GUIDE to REST ORDERS

The issue of a rest order is purely a device to ensure that a horse has time to recover and obtain sufficient fitness prior to the next start. It is not in any way a form of disciplinary action.

It is acknowledged that in general, persons responsible for the horse, have the same concerns as the ride administration with respect to care of the horse and that the reason for the horse needing an exclusion from competition may be due to circumstances beyond their control.

The time restriction detailed on the rest order should take into account the time taken for the horse to recover from the condition(s) of concern and also the time taken to resume training in preparation for the next ride. The time to resume training is longer for conditions necessitating prolonged recovery.

In all cases it is advisable that the Head Vet, in consultation with the treating veterinarian talk to the rider to obtain a clear picture of the conditions surrounding the horse's demise. It is ideal that the reasons for the rest order be discussed with the rider.

Rest orders should not generally be given for lameness because a diagnosis and therefore prognosis may not be made.

Rest orders should not be given for mild tying-up, when to go back into regular work is part of the management regime.

A horse with any metabolic condition such as colic, tying-up, or the thumps, that requires invasive therapy should get a rest order of one to three months, allowing time for rest before the horse returns to training and then competition. The option should be available for a rest order of six to twelve months for horses with severe problems that have required intensive care.

It is difficult to have rest orders linked to treatment levels due to the high degree of variability between cases.

The Logbook of a horse placed on a Rest Order may be retained by the Chief Steward of the ride, and then held by the Division Horse Welfare Officer (or other designated official) until the period of the Rest Order has expired.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR VETERINARIANS AT ENDURANCE RIDES.

- 1.** The primary role of a veterinarian at an endurance ride is to protect the welfare of the horses under their care. In particular, that compromised horses or horses that may become compromised by further competition are protected by elimination from the event. Compromised horses are defined as those that show abnormal signs in metabolic parameters, excessive pulse, consistent abnormal gait or lameness and soft tissue or traumatic injuries.
- 2.** Those horses that are recognized as compromised shall receive immediate veterinary attention and be regularly monitored thereafter until their condition is stable and satisfactory.
- 3.** Officiating Veterinarians will be familiar with the diseases of competitive, athletic endurance horses and be able to institute immediate, appropriate therapy to a level recognized as satisfactory by their peers.
- 4.** Officiating Veterinarians acknowledge a responsibility to the sport in that they are subject to the rules of the National Association and National and International Federations.
- 5.** Officiating Veterinarians will implement the Veterinary Rules with regard to the inclusion or elimination of a horse without fear, favour or bias.
- 6.** In the adjudication on a horse's ability to compete or suitability for Best Conditioned Horse, Veterinarians will conduct a thorough examination of the horse and accurately record the findings according to the procedures laid down in the rules.
- 7.** Officiating Veterinarians will comply with the instructions of the Head Veterinarian or the President of the Veterinary Commission.
- 8.** The Head Veterinarian or the President of the Veterinary Commission will co-operate with the Chief Steward, Technical Delegate and President of the Ground Jury, where appropriate.
- 9.** Officiating Veterinarians will conduct themselves professionally at all times so as not to bring their profession, their colleagues or the sport into disrepute.
- 10.** Accredited and Associate Endurance Veterinarians will maintain ongoing education in the medicine and diseases of competitive horses; promote scientific studies on equine health; and the dissemination of knowledge within the sport.

Guide to Calculating Hold Times for VET- GATE-INTO-HOLD Rides

A general guide is one minute of hold time for every kilometer of the ride. The time is divided equally between the holds, with a minimum of 40 minutes per hold, and the following additions.

Add 10 minutes if there is a compulsory represent at the end of that hold.

Add 10 minutes if the leg is considered tough, for instance due to elevation or terrain.

Add 10 minutes if the leg is 40 kilometres or longer.

The holds should be longer after the longer legs and towards the end of the ride.

NOTES