

# VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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## STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DIRECTIVES & INSTRUCTIONS

(THESE DIRECTIVES & INSTRUCTIONS ARE BINDING AND NOT SUBJECT TO ALTERATION OF ANY KIND WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE WRITTEN AUTHORITY FROM THE STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.)

### REVISED AUGUST 2004

#### 1. PRINCIPLES:

- 1.1 Without taking anything away from any other rides that may be held in Victoria during any one year the '*Victorian State Championship*' shall be maintained as the **premier endurance ride** in Victoria.
- 1.2 Principles and ideals shall be inherent in the conduct of the State Championship. These are as follows:-
  - (a) The motto "To complete is to win" must be recognized by awarding all successful competitors a significant trophy.
  - (b) The highest degree of excellence in endurance riding shall be maintained.
  - (c) Persons and teams from other states are to be encouraged to compete in this event.
  - (d) The spirit of challenge for rider and horse in the Victorian bush should be maintained.

#### 2. THE RIDE:

- 2.1 The V.E.R.A. Inc State Championship is to be held annually over a distance of **not less than** 160 kms between the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and the 31<sup>st</sup> of October in each calendar year. The location to be decided by the V.E.R.A. Inc Management Committee after consideration of expressions of interest from interested parties.
- 2.2 In the event the V.E.R.A Inc. Management Committee does not receive what it considers to be a suitable expression of interest, or, when it is in the best interest of V.E.R.A. Inc., the Management Committee will form the State Championship Committee and conduct the event in accordance with these rules and conditions.
- 2.3 The State Championship Ride will be 'stand alone' event of at least 160kms with no provision for elevation or alteration of any kind. The ride is to be completed in a time not exceeding 24 hours from the time of commencement.
- 2.4 The ride, where possible and practicable, will rotate annually from each of the three regions/zones/areas of the State (Western, Central, and Gippsland). In the event that one of these regions is unable to form a Championship Committee or supply a suitable venue the event is to rotate to the next region.
- 2.5 The State Championship Committee may also run, in combination with the 160km event, the following events:

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- (a) A ride of not more than 120km( this ride can be an elevated event),
- (b) 120km Championship Harness Drive
- (c) Training Ride.

## **3. THE COMMITTEE:**

- 3.1 The State Championship Committee is to organise, promote and conduct the ride and shall be a Sub-Committee of V.E.R.A. Inc.
- 3.2 The State Championship Committee shall appoint a Ride Director who shall be responsible for the overall management of the ride. The Ride Director must have an intimate knowledge of the course, radio points, allotted facilities and must be conversant with Riding Rules, Procedures and Vetting Standards.
- 3.3 The V.E.R.A. Inc. Secretary shall be sent minutes of all State Championship Committee meetings within fourteen (14) days of such meetings.
- 3.4 The State Championship Committee is responsible for its own debts.

## **4. RIDING RULES, AFFILIATION AND DISPUTES**

- 4.1 The A.E.R.A. Inc. Riding Rules and Procedures current at the time of the ride shall apply as well as any current applicable V.E.R.A. Inc. rules and regulations.
- 4.2 Overall maximum elapsed time for competitors to complete the ride shall not exceed twenty-four hours. Riding time is to be nominated on the day.
- 4.3 There shall be a Disputes Committee consisting of at least three people who must have an intimate knowledge of all aspects relating to the conduct of the ride. It is mandatory that the Disputes Committee includes at least one member of the V.E.R.A. Inc. Management Committee, who shall not be a competitor in the ride.
- 4.4 The V.E.R.A. Inc. Management Committee is the final arbitrator of all disputes.

## **5. VETTING**

- 5.1 The A.E.R.A. Inc. Vetting Standards, Procedures and Guidelines applying at the time of the ride shall be adopted.
- 5.2 The Head Veterinarian for the ride should be one of the V.E.R.A. Inc. Honorary Veterinarians and shall be appointed and paid by V.E.R.A. Inc up to the amount of five hundred and fifty dollars (\$550.00). This amount will be reviewed annually and adjusted in line with the CPI. The Chief Steward will also be appointed by V.E.R.A. Inc. in consultation with the Ride Director.
- 5.3 There shall be sufficient veterinarians to provide a high level of supervision of competitors.

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- 5.4 It is recommended that two veterinarians carry out the assessment of the first three competitors to finish in each competitor division.
- 5.5 The Head Veterinarian and the Chief Steward will be responsible for welcoming the veterinarians and familiarising them with the course, the checkpoints and the ride base.
- 5.6 A clearly identified Chief Steward shall be present in the vetting area at all times during vetting.
- 5.7 During the ride, the right of appeal will be to the Head Veterinarian or to the Supervising Veterinarian at the checkpoint.
- 5.8 Random swabbing of horses shall be undertaken as determined by V.E.R.A. Inc.

### 5. THE COURSE

- 5.1 The State Championship shall be held on a course, which permits the requirements and guidelines for conducting the event to be met.
- 5.2 The course shall be no less than 160kms in length and as close to that distance as is practical. The length of each leg shall be measured and the distances made known to competitors.
- 5.3 The course shall be free of dangerous hazards, sufficiently challenging to produce a fastest time of at least ten hours, and not so difficult as to prevent slower horses completing within the maximum time.
- 5.4 The course shall be marked in accordance with the Codes of Practice as accepted in Victoria. The marking of the course shall be by way of frequently placed, and clearly visible, arrows. These are to be highlighted by reflector tape when used in the dark and in open grassland by way of flashing lights.
- 5.5 Any unavoidable hazards shall be clearly marked by visible indicators, such as flashing lights or glow tubes.
- 5.6 The course must be in at least four legs with veterinary checks at the end of each leg. A.E.R.A. Inc. recommends 5 legs with Vet Gate into Hold veterinary checks at the end of each leg.
- 5.7 Good quality water for horses must be available at regular intervals along the course.
- 5.8 It is preferable that the start and finish coincide with the ride base.
- 5.9 The more demanding part of the course shall not be near the end.

### 6. FACILITIES

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- 6.1 The ride base shall be of sufficient size to allow competitors and their horses to camp in comfort and safety.
- 6.2 Facilities at the ride base must include hygienic toilets and sufficient areas for horse yards.

## 7. START, FINISH AND CHECK POINTS

- 7.1 The start of the ride shall be in a large open area with no hazards and the majority of the first leg of the course must be such that horses can pass each other in safety.
- 7.2 The finish of the ride shall be so located that horses and spectators are in no danger should there be a galloping finish. There should be no hazards in the final kilometer of the ride.
- 7.3 The vetting areas shall be sufficient in size to facilitate the vetting of horses, be well lit at night, have smooth, level and firm surfaces and be free from influences that could unsettle horses.
- 7.4 There shall be ample water at all vet checkpoints.

## 8. SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 8.1 There shall be stewards at key locations along the course who are in contact by radio, or other means, with other check points, veterinary check points and the ride base. The stewards shall record the number of each passing competitor and relay this information to the ride base(s) to inform the ride organisers and strappers of the progress of competitors and any on-course requirements.
- 8.2 The progress of competitors through checkpoints shall be displayed in a manner, which is readily accessible to strappers and spectators.
- 8.3 On-course stewards shall have local knowledge of the course and of distances from their location to check points in both directions.
- 8.4 At least one vehicle with a horse float shall be available during the time competitors are on the course to enable recovery of any horses and riders withdrawing from the event on-course.
- 8.5 There must be access to all tracks for treatment of horses and riders.

## 9. COMPETITORS

- 9.1 All competitors shall be financial members of a Division of A.E.R.A. Inc.
- 9.2 Qualifications for entry shall be determined by V.E.R.A. Inc.
- 9.3 The ride shall have four divisions for competitors as defined in the A.E.R.A. Inc. Riding Rules and shall include Heavyweight, Middleweight, Lightweight and Junior.

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## 10. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- 10.1 All successful competitors shall receive a Completion award supplied by the State Championship Committee and in conjunction, V.E.R.A. Inc. will award each successful competitor with a '100 miler' medallion.
- 10.2 A Best Conditioned Horse award may be made either for Heavy/Middleweight and Lightweight/Junior or for each Division and shall be judged on the morning following completion of the ride.
- 10.3 Rugs shall be awarded to the first five horses to successfully complete the ride. These rugs shall be of good quality and shall state "Victorian State Championship 160km Top Five" and the year. These rugs are to be supplied by the State Championship Committee.
- 10.4 All trophies and awards shall be of a quality befitting a Championship ride.
- 10.5 In the 80km and training rides completion trophies only are to be awarded.
- 10.6 Trophies and awards for the Championship Harness drive are to be awarded in a similar manner to the State Championship ride.

## 11. SPONSORSHIP

- 11.1 The State Championship Committee may seek sponsorship and other financial support with the aim of keeping entry fees at an acceptable level.
- 11.2 The State Championship Committee shall not enter into an agreement with a sponsor of any other body that compromises, in any way, the guidelines and principles stated in this document, those of V.E.R.A. Inc. or the sport in general.