

AERA RULEBOOK ©

Amendments to AERA RULEBOOK applicable from 1 January 2023

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

SECTION 1 - GENERAL RULES

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION, DEFINITIONS AND COMPLIANCE

Table 2 Definitions	
Riding time	<p>Total Riding Time The total amount of time expired between when the horse and rider commence the ride and when the horse and rider are timed in off the final leg of the ride less the cumulative <i>hold times</i> imposed after each leg.</p> <p>Individual Leg Riding Time That amount of time expired between the commencement and completion of the leg being dependent on the ride control being used and as determined in Tables 8 and 11 respectively.</p> <p>Minimum Riding Time The minimum time that a horse or rider must spend on the track – ie from leaving the departure gate/spot to being timed in off the track – to comply with rules 8.6, 29.2 and 47.4 (AERA MC Meeting 24/07/22)</p>
Social Ride	<p>A recreational trail, educational or <i>social ride</i> for DA members and non-members, hosted by a club, and affiliated by Divisions in the usual way, that is less than 20km and is not held in conjunction with on the same day as and at the same location as an affiliated endurance event. <i>Social rides</i> are non-competitive with no placings. Completion awards are not required. Distance completed is not entered in AERASpace and is not included in the National or State distance score. Horses are not subject to veterinary controls. Subject to a risk assessment, vets are not required to be in attendance at <i>social rides</i>. Where this is the case, arrangements should be made to have an on-call vet available to attend if required. <i>Social rides</i> must comply with Appendix 2: Supplementary Rules for <i>social rides</i> / Introductory Days / Clinics. (AERA MC Meeting 22/10/2022)</p>

CHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS & RIDE CONTROLS

8.6 For all *introductory, intermediate, micro-marathon* and *mini-marathon rides* there is a minimum *riding time* imposed, irrespective of whether the rider and/or horse are novice or endurance status. Irrespective of the ride control used, the minimum *riding time* as defined in Table 2 permitted for each individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr.
(AERA MC Meeting 24/07/22)

CHAPTER 3. RIDE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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16.5 BIOSECURITY

- a) Every Ride Organising Committee shall complete and implement a Biosecurity Plan, based on the current AERA Biosecurity statement, available to download from:
www.aera.asn.au

b) *The Biosecurity Plan must contain the following paragraph.
 'Certain invasive procedures may not be able to be carried out on some horses. Referral to **some** external hospital facilities for further diagnostic procedures and **treatment must be made in consultation with the responsible person. Immediate referral may not be an option for some unvaccinated horses originating from known Hendra High Risk areas, or at/from rides conducted in known Hendra high risk areas. Referral may not be an option for some horses on financial grounds.'***

- ~~b) The necessary biosecurity measures, which may include particular horse health requirements, shall be determined by the event Biosecurity officer in consultation with the Ride Organising Committee, the head veterinarian, the event treatment veterinarian, and must be advertised well prior to the event. The necessary measures will vary depending on:~~
- ~~i) the location of the event~~
 - ~~ii) the location of the property on which an attending horse is located prior to the event~~
 - ~~iii) the location of the property on which an attending horse will be travelling to after the event~~
 - ~~iv) any specific requirements of the event treatment veterinarian~~
 - ~~v) any specific requirements of the equine veterinary hospital nominated as per 14.1 e) and f).~~
- ~~e) The ROC shall not accept an entry for any horse that is affected by 14.1 e) and 14.1 f) and not able to meet the requirements advertised in 16.5 b)~~
- (AERA MC Meeting 24/07/2022)

CHAPTER 4. RIDE OFFICIALS

No changes

CHAPTER 5. RIDER RULES

27. 1 Table 13 indicates the minimum *rider* requirements to enter each type of *ride*.

Table 13 Minimum rider requirements to be read in conjunction with clause 27.2.			
Ride	Minimum rider age in Years ¹₂	Minimum Membership requirements	Minimum rider status ³
Introductory	4 ⁴	Day member	Novice
Intermediate	5	Day member	Novice
Micro-marathon	5	Day member	Novice
Mini-marathon	5	DA Intermediate member ⁵	Novice
Endurance <= 120 km	5	DA full riding member	Novice
Endurance > 120 km	8	DA full riding member	Endurance
Marathon	8	DA full riding member	Endurance

1. Age on the *day of the ride*.

2. There is no maximum age for riders.

3. Refer to Clause 28 for definitions.

4. Riders under 5 years of age **must** be accompanied by a minimum of 1 adult pedestrian.

5. Rider must have successfully completed a minimum of 2 *intermediate* rides.

(AERA MC Meeting 03/09/2022)

27.4 The presentation of a current DA membership card shall prima facie be proof of membership. If a rider cannot produce a current DA membership card for whatever reason, the ride secretary may validate the membership through AeraSpace. If no membership card is produced and the membership cannot be validated through AeraSpace for whatever reason, the rider cannot enter a ride requiring such membership. *At every ride, riders should show their current membership card to the ride secretary and must have their membership number recorded on the ride entry form.*

(AERA MC Meeting 27/11/2022)

29.2 A novice status *rider* is subject to a minimum *riding time* for each individual leg of every *ride*. The minimum *riding time* as defined in Table 2 is determined by the chief steward in consultation with the ROC and the head veterinarian.

- a) When the Standard *ride* control is used, the minimum *riding time* permitted for every individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr.
- b) When the VGIH *ride* control is used, the minimum *riding time* permitted for every individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr. For the sole purpose of calculating the minimum riding time pursuant to this clause, the riding time will be deemed to cease when the rider is timed in off the course.

(AERA MC Meeting 24/07/22)

40.5 Consequences of the REWS are:

- a) A *rider* accumulating 30 or more penalty points shall be notified in writing within a reasonable time by their DA of the potential consequences if their accumulated penalty points reach or exceed 45 and 60 points as imposed by Clauses 40.5(b) and 40.5(c) respectively.
- b) A *rider* accumulating 45 or more penalty points and who has been notified pursuant to Clause 40.5(a), shall be notified in writing as soon as possible by their DA and return the *rider* to novice status until the rider successfully completes two (2) *endurance rides* at novice status.
- c) A *rider* accumulating 60 or more penalty points and who has been notified pursuant to Clause 40.5(a), shall be required to show reasonable cause to their DA why they should not become ineligible to enter rides for a period of time as determined by the DA.
- d) *Where a rider exceeds two of the thresholds noted above as a consequence of penalty points imposed at one ride, the consequence shall be that associated with the higher EWS score.*

(AERA MC Meeting 03/09/2022)

42.1 All persons who are associated (directly or indirectly) with the sport of endurance in Australia, the AERA or a DA shall *comply with the principles outlined in the AERA Horse Welfare Position Statement (Appendix 3)* to ensure the health and well-being of every horse in their immediate care, custody and control at all times.

(AERA MC Meeting 03/09/2022)

CHAPTER 6. HORSE RULES

47.4 A novice horse is subject to a minimum *riding time* as defined in Table 2 for each individual leg of every ride. The minimum riding time is determined by the chief steward in consultation with the RIC and the head veterinarian.

- a) For both the Standard ride control is used, the minimum *riding time* permitted for every individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr.

- b) When the VGIH ride control is used, the minimum *riding time* permitted for every individual leg cannot be less than the resultant calculation of dividing the distance of the leg by 14 km/hr. For the sole purpose of calculating the minimum riding time pursuant to this clause, the riding time will be deemed to cease when the horse is timed in off the course.

(AERA MC Meeting 09/07/22)

52. REST ORDER

- 52.1 The head or treatment veterinarian may impose a 'rest order' on a horse, if in the opinion of the head or treatment veterinarian, the horse is injured and/or stressed and the imposition of a rest order is in the best interest of the horses' welfare. A horse does not necessarily need to receive *invasive treatment* for a rest order to be imposed on the horse.
- 52.2 A rest order may require that the horse is not permitted to compete in a ride for a defined period of time, up to a maximum of twelve months. The time period imposed should be sufficient for the horse to recover from its injury or stress and incorporate a period of time for the horse to re-commence training and regain fitness.
- 52.3 A rest order may require that the horse must compete at its next *ride* as a novice status horse.
- 52.4 A rest order may be imposed for the maximum 12-month period and the head veterinarian may write to the appropriate DA recommending that the horse should not be permitted to compete in the Sport. Such a recommendation would require a thorough explanation of the reasons why the horse should not be permitted to compete in the Sport.
- 52.5 When a rest order has been imposed on a horse, the chief steward shall:
- ensure that the length of the rest order is written in weeks in the appropriate place on the relevant page in the *logbook*
 - place a highly visible red sticker to the top of the relevant page in the *logbook* so that it is easily noticed when the horse enters subsequent rides
 - retain the *logbook* and forward it to the relevant DA appropriate to the *person responsible for the horse* at the *ride*
 - provide the *person responsible* with a copy of the AERA Form 4 Invasive Treatment – Veterinarian. The document may be photocopied at the Ride Secretaries office or scanned and emailed post ride.

52.6 Once imposed a rest order cannot be revoked

(AERA MC Meeting 27/11/2022)

58. WHISKERS TO STAY PUT

Horses are ineligible to participate in any event if their sensory hairs have been clipped and/or shaven or in any other way removed unless they have been removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the horse.

(AERA MC Meeting 06/02/2022)

Note that this is a new rule which will cause the numbering of all rules from hereon to change (plus1).

61.5 Consequences of the HEWS are:

- The *person responsible* for a horse that accumulates 30 or more penalty points shall be notified in writing within reasonable time by their DA of the possible consequences if the horse's accumulated penalty points reach or exceed 45 and 60 points as imposed by Clauses 60.5(b) and 60.5(c) respectively.

- b) The *person responsible* for a horse that accumulates 45 or more penalty points and who has been notified pursuant to Clause 60.5(a), shall be notified as soon as possible in writing by their DA returning the *horse* to novice status until the horse successfully completes two (2) *endurance rides* at novice status.
- c) The *person responsible* for a horse that accumulates 60 or more penalty points and who has been notified pursuant to Clause 60.5(a), shall be required to show reasonable cause to their DA why the horse should not become ineligible to enter rides for a period of time as determined by the DA.
- d) *Where a horse exceeds two of the thresholds noted above as a consequence of penalty points imposed at one ride, the consequence shall be that associated with the higher EWS score.*
(AERA MC Meeting 03/09/2022)

CHAPTER 7. VETERINARY CONTROLS & PROCEDURES

64.9 At each veterinary inspection:

- 64.9.1 each horse shall be presented unsaddled, without any tack, bandages, *kinesio tape*, hoods or leg protection.
- 64.9.2 horse rugs are to be removed when requested by the inspecting veterinarian.
- 64.9.3 hoof protection may not be altered during a veterinary inspection.
- 64.9.4 heart rate monitoring equipment must be removed from the horse and be de-activated when in the vet ring.
- 64.9.5 no form of horse feed is permitted in the vet ring.
- 64.9.6 no recording devices (audio or visual) are permitted in the vet ring without the prior permission of the chief steward in consultation with the head veterinarian.
- 64.9.7 no person is permitted in the vet ring other than ride officials performing their duties and the horse(s) undertaking a veterinary inspection, which may be accompanied by a maximum of 2 persons per horse unless the chief steward permits otherwise.
- 64.9.8 the chief steward may permit a companion horse to be present in the vet ring.
- 64.9.9 spectators are not permitted in the vet ring or the common strapping area without the prior permission of the chief steward.

(AERA MC Meeting 22/10/2022)

67.5 When a horse is eliminated by a sole veterinarian, the handler has the right to verbally appeal (through the chief steward) to the head veterinarian for a review of the decision provided that the horse has not left the designated vet ring *from the time* the initial decision was made. *The horse is not permitted to leave the vet ring until the appeal is decided.* The head veterinarian shall re-assess the horse and confirm or overturn the elimination and the decision shall be final.

(AERA MC Meeting 22/10/2022)

67.6 When a horse is eliminated by a voting panel, there is no appeal available, except when the horse *has had only one gait assessment* ~~was eliminated for irregular gait on the final leg of a ride and where the horse had only 1 trot up for the voting panel.~~ *This situation can only arise when a panel is utilised for the first gait assessment.* In such an instance, the handler has the right to verbally appeal (through the chief steward) for a second trot up and a second vote, *which must be in front of the same panel*, provided that the horse had not left the designated vet ring since the initial decision was announced. *The horse is not permitted to leave the vet ring until the appeal is decided*

~~The veterinarians that constitute the voting panel for an (appealed) second trot up shall be decided by the head veterinarian or his delegate. The outcome of the gait assessment second trot up shall confirm or overturn the elimination and the decision shall be final.~~

(AERA MC Meeting 22/10/2022)

SECTION 2 – COMPLEMENTARY COMPETITION RULES

No changes

SECTION 3 – VETERINARY RULES

No changes

SECTION 4 – SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT RULES

No changes

SECTION 5 – EQUINE ANTI-DOPING & CONTROLLED MEDICATION RULES

14.2 Public Disclosure

14.2.1 Neither the AERA or its Affiliates shall publicly identify *horses* or *persons responsible* whose *horses' samples* have resulted in *Adverse Analytical Findings*, or *persons responsible* and/or members of the *support personnel* who were alleged to have otherwise violated these Rules, until the earlier of completion of the administrative review and Notification described in Clauses 8.1.2 and 8.1.3 above or the start of the *provisional suspension* of the *person* alleged to have violated the EAD Rule. Once a violation of these EAD Rules has been established, it shall be *publicly reported* in an expeditious manner on the AERA website unless another mechanism for *publicly reporting* the information is warranted at the discretion of the AERA. **Public reporting shall be for a period of 12 months from the date of notification.** If the *person responsible* and/or member of the *support personnel* or the AERA makes information concerning an EAD Rule violation or alleged EAD Rule violation public prior to release of this information on the AERA website, the AERA may comment on such public information or otherwise *publicly report* the matter.

30.2 Public Disclosure

30.2.1 Neither the AERA or its Affiliates shall publicly identify *horses* or *persons responsible* whose *horses' Samples* have resulted in *Adverse Analytical Findings*, or *persons responsible* and/or members of the *support personnel* who were alleged to have otherwise violated these Rules, until the earlier of completion of the administrative review and Notification described in Clauses 24.1.2 and 24.1.3 or the start of the *provisional suspension* of the *person* alleged to have violated the ECM Rule. Once a violation of these ECM Rules has been established, it shall be *publicly reported* in an expeditious manner on the AERA website unless another mechanism for *publicly reporting* the information is warranted at the discretion of the AERA. **Public reporting shall be for a period of 12 months from the date of notification.** With regards to the Administrative Procedure set forth in Clause 25.3 above, publication shall occur on the acceptance of the Administrative Sanction. If the *person responsible* and/or member of the *support personnel* or an AERA affiliate or any such *person* makes information concerning a Rule violation or alleged ECM Rule violation public prior to release of this information on the AERA website, the AERA may comment on such public information or otherwise *publicly report* the matter.

19.1 The presence of a *controlled medication substance* and/or its *metabolites* or *markers* in a *horse's sample*.

19.1.1 It is each *person responsible's* personal duty to ensure that no *controlled medication substance* is present in the *horse's* body **while under veterinary control at an Event** without a valid appropriate AERA Form 6 and/or 7. *Persons responsible* are responsible for any *controlled medication substance* found to be present in their *horse's samples*, even though their *support personnel* will be considered additionally responsible under Clause 19.2 – 19.5 ECM Rules where the circumstances so warrant. It is not necessary that intent, fault, negligence or knowing *Use* be demonstrated in order to establish a Rule violation under Clause 19.1.

- 19.1.2 Sufficient proof of a Rule violation under Clause 19.1 is established by either of the following where there is no valid AERA Form 6 and/or 7:
- a) presence of a *controlled medication substance* and/or its *metabolites* or *markers* in the horse's *A Sample* where the *person responsible* waives analysis of the *B Sample* and the *B Sample* is not analysed; or
 - b) where the horse's *B Sample* is analysed and the analysis of the horse's *B Sample* confirms the presence of the *controlled medication substance* and/or its *metabolites* or *markers* found in the horse's *A Sample* while under veterinary control at an Event. An *adverse analytical finding* may be established by a positive blood or urine Sample.
- 19.1.3 Excepting those *controlled medication substances* for which a quantitative threshold is specifically identified in the *equine prohibited substances list* or where a valid AERA Form 6 or 7 has been submitted, the presence of any quantity of a *controlled medication substance* and/or its *metabolites* or *markers* in a horse's sample while under veterinary control at an Event shall constitute an ECM Rule violation.
- 19.1.4 As an exception to the general rule of Clause 19.1, the *equine prohibited substances list* or the *FEI standard for laboratories* may establish special criteria for the evaluation of *controlled medication substances* that can also be produced endogenously.

19.2 Use or attempted use of a controlled medication substance or a controlled medication method.

- 19.2.1 It is each *person responsible's* personal duty, along with members of their *support personnel*, to ensure that no *controlled medication substance* enters into the horse's body while under veterinary control at an Event without a valid AERA Form 6 and/or 7. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, fault, negligence or knowing *Use* on the part of the *person responsible*, and/or member of his *support personnel* (where applicable), be demonstrated in order to establish a Rule violation for *Use* of a *controlled medication substance* or a *controlled medication method*. However, in accordance with the definition of Attempt, it is necessary to show intent in order to establish an ECM Rule violation for Attempted *Use* of a *controlled medication substance* or a *controlled medication method*.
- 19.2.2 The success or failure of the *Use* or Attempted *Use* of a *controlled medication substance* or a *controlled medication method* is not material. It is sufficient that the *controlled medication substance* or *controlled medication method* was used or attempted to be used while under veterinary control at an Event without a valid AERA Form 6 and/or 7 for an ECM Rule violation to be committed.

(AERA MC Meeting 22/10/2022)

SECTION 6 – RISK MANAGEMENT RULES

No changes