

AERA RULEBOOK ©

Amendments to AERA RULEBOOK applicable from 1 January 2022

[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

2. DEFINITIONS

Table 2 – one definition added for *Social Rides*

Table 2 Definitions	
Social Ride	A recreational trail, educational or social ride 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 an affiliated endurance event. Social rides 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 social rides. Where this is the case, arrangements should be made to have an on-call vet available to attend if required. Social rides must comply with Appendix 2: Supplementary Rules for social rides / Introductory Days / Clinics.

CHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS & RIDE CONTROLS

4. RIDE DEFINITIONS

4.1 Table 4 provides the definition of each type of ride.

Table 4 Definition of ride types	
Social ride	A recreational trail, educational or social ride 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 an affiliated endurance event. Social rides 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 social rides. Where this is the case, arrangements should be made to have an on-call vet available to attend if required. Social rides must comply with Appendix 2: Supplementary Rules for social rides / Introductory Days / Clinics.
Introductory ride ¹	A single <i>ride</i> (including any elevation legs) between a distance of 1 km and 30 km (inclusive).
Intermediate ride	A single <i>ride</i> (including any elevation legs) between a distance of 40 km and 60 km (inclusive).
Micro-marathon ride	A single <i>ride</i> where a minimum of 15 km and a maximum (including any elevation legs) of 25 km is ridden each day for 3 or more consecutive days.

Mini-marathon ride	A single <i>ride</i> where a minimum of 40 km and a maximum (including any elevation legs) of 50 km is ridden each day for 3 or more consecutive days.
Endurance ride	A single <i>ride</i> where a minimum (excluding any elevation legs) of at least 80 km is ridden.
Marathon ride	A single <i>ride</i> where a minimum (excluding any elevation legs) of 240 km is completed over at least 3 consecutive days.

1. An *introductory ride* and a *micro-marathon ride* shall commence and finish in daylight.
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CHAPTER 3. RIDE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

No changes

CHAPTER 4. RIDE OFFICIALS

No changes

CHAPTER 5. RIDER RULES

27.2 *Riders* are subject to the following minimum age requirements on the *day of the ride*.

- a) To ride unaccompanied by an adult – 12 years.
- b) To ride in the Tom Quilty Gold Cup – 12 years.
- c) To ride a stallion – 18 years.

RIDER WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

27.8 A rider with special needs will be allowed to participate in an event provided that:

- i. they do so in accordance with the Rider Rules (Chapter 5)
- ii. they have consulted with the Ride Organising Committee and the Chief Steward to ensure that any special provisions, if necessary, can and have been made to ensure their safe participation in the event.
- iii. any additional risk associated with their participation must be documented as a separate entry in the event Risk Management Plan.

34. WITHDRAWAL / NOT STARTED OF HORSE AND/OR RIDER

34.1 A horse and/or *rider* may withdraw **from a ride or be deemed to have “not started” the ride** by notifying the chief steward in the following circumstances:

- a) After completion of the ride entry and before pre-ride veterinary examination.

The horse is not required to present for a veterinary inspection and the *logbook* shall indicate the horse as ‘Not started prior to pre-ride vetting’. Any refund of the ride entry fee, in full or in part, is at the discretion of the ROC.

- b) After the successful completion of the pre-ride veterinary inspection and before the official start time of the *ride*.
 - i. **The horse is not required to present for a further veterinary inspection and the *logbook* shall indicate the horse as ‘Withdrawn prior to ride start’.**
 - ii. **Under exceptional circumstances, where “Withdrawn prior to ride start” is not appropriate, as determined by the Chief Steward, for**

example if a rider falls ill and is unable to start the ride, the logbook shall indicate “Not started prior to ride start”.

- c) After the successful completion of a veterinary inspection and any requested or compulsory represent veterinary inspections, and before the expiration of the *riders hold time* for the completed leg.

The horse is not required to present for a further veterinary inspection and the logbook shall indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn'.

- d) After the successful completion of a veterinary inspection and any requested or compulsory represent veterinary inspections, but after the expiration of the *rider's hold time* for the completed leg, irrespective whether the horse and rider had actually left the ride base on the next leg.

The horse shall be required to present for a further veterinary inspection and if the horse fails the veterinary inspection for any reason, the logbook will be notated accordingly. If the horse passes the veterinary inspection, the logbook shall indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn', except where Clause 34.1(f)(ii) applies.

- e) A rider may withdraw on course and return to the ride base in the most direct route available. The rider shall notify the chief steward directly or via checkpoint personnel or other ride officials of their decision to withdraw and if they require a rescue float to return the horse and *rider* to the ride base. When a *rider* requests a rescue float, the *rider* is obliged to 'cancel' the rescue float should they subsequently decide to continue in the ride. A *rider* may be eliminated by the chief steward for failing to “cancel” a requested rescue float.

Every horse withdrawn on course is required to present to the arrival gate or veterinary hospital as specified by the chief steward and is required to present for a veterinary inspection within the standard *present time* for the ride. If the withdrawn horse fails the veterinary inspection for any reason, the logbook will be notated accordingly. If the withdrawn horse passes the veterinary inspection, the logbook shall indicate the horse as 'Withdrawn on Course'.

CHAPTER 6. HORSE RULES

42. CODE OF CONDUCT ENSURING THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

- 42.1 All persons who are associated (directly or indirectly) with the sport of endurance in Australia, the AERA or a DA shall ensure the health and well-being of every horse in their immediate care, custody and control at all times. They shall ensure the horses' welfare shall be absolutely paramount at all times and never subordinate to competitive or commercial interests at any time and shall adhere and abide to the following general principles:

Management:

Adopt the highest standards of horse husbandry in relation to general health, nutrition, sanitation and safety of the horse at all times.

Training:

Horses must be trained commensurate to their age, physical capabilities and maturity. Training and riding techniques must not be abusive.

Transportation:

Vehicles should be regularly maintained, safe and well ventilated and protect horses from

injury. Journeys should be planned, and permit horses regular rest stops with access to feed and water.

Competition:

The horse shall not be ridden at a pace greater than its preparation, training and maturity would dictate and shall be free of all Banned Substances and Prohibited Substances pursuant to Section 5 EADCM Rules.

Veterinary Treatment:

Veterinary treatment shall be provided as required to ensure the welfare of the horse.

- 42.2 **Veterinary inspection if blood is visible on a horse:**
If blood is visible on a horse whilst under veterinary control, the horse must be examined by a ride veterinarian. If the visible blood is directly caused by tack, the tack must be modified safely for horse and rider, to the satisfaction of the head veterinarian, before the horse can be allowed to continue in the ride.
- 42.3 It shall be a *serious infringement* of the Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse, if at an event, any rider, trainer or support personnel, irrespective whether the horse is under *veterinary control* or not:
- a) avoids or delays (or attempts to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance, if they should have reasonably suspected that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially comprised.
 - b) seeks (or attempts to seek) the early release of a horses' *logbook* or vet card in order to avoid or delay (or attempt to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance, if they should have reasonably suspected, that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially comprised.
 - c) refuses invasive treatment for a horse after the head and treatment veterinarians at a *ride* indicate that the immediate welfare of a horse is compromised and requires invasive treatment.
 - d) fails to inform a ride official or a veterinarian of the presence of visible blood on a horse, regardless of whether it is still visible, where it is reasonable to believe the blood should have been noticed.

54. HORSE CONTAINMENT

- 54.1 The *person responsible for a horse* has a duty of care to all other persons to ensure their horse(s) are contained at all times. A competent responsible person must supervise horse(s) at all times when horse(s) are in the horse yard.
- 54.2 The preferred method of horse containment are metal yards, substantially fixed to a solid object such as a horse float, truck or permanent fence or appropriately pegged into the ground. Alternatively, electric fencing is permitted, but shall as a minimum, have 2 strands of tape, preferably white and a minimum of 1cm wide, with the top tape to be 1.2 to 1.4 metres above the ground. The posts used should be of substantial material (for example, steel pickets) and installed so that the tape does not sag. The fence shall be energized at all times the horse is in the yard.
- 54.3 Only one horse is permitted per enclosure.
- 54.4 Ground tethering or the hobbling of horses is not permitted.

CHAPTER 7. VETERINARY CONTROLS & PROCEDURES

No changes

Appendices

Appendix 2 Supplementary Rules for social rides / Introductory Days / Clinics

Endurance clubs around the country regularly run 'Introduction to Endurance' days as a means of interesting more people in endurance riding.

Such events often take the form of some education for an hour or so, followed by a vetting demonstration and, often, followed by a short 'mock' endurance ride.

Where a ride is part of the event, in order to ensure clubs operate such events safely and attract public liability insurance cover, the following things must be done.

1. The club must submit an event affiliation request to its Division (state) in the usual way. Once approved the event can proceed. The event must be listed on the Division and National endurance calendar.
2. The usual risk assessment must be conducted by the club and identified hazards managed in the usual ways.
3. One of the possible outcomes of the risk assessment for such events, provided they are less than 20k in length, is that it is not necessary for a vet to be present at the event. Where this is the case, the club must inform local vet(s) the event is on and confirm that veterinary treatment is available should it be required.
4. The payment of day membership by those in attendance is not required by AERA. It is the practice of AERA not to charge Divisions for day membership (insurance) for such events. However, people who ride on the day must complete and provide a day membership form in the usual way.
5. In the event of any incidents or injuries occurring at the event, the usual AERA paperwork needs to be done and provided to the Division along with the report referred to below.
6. The club must provide a written report to its Division on the day.

SECTION 2 – COMPLEMENTARY COMPETITION RULES

Pre-ride Briefing

- 2.26** Where a harness drive is to be conducted over the same course as a ridden ride, the start time of the harness drive will be determined by the Chief Steward in consultation with the Ride Organising Committee.

SECTION 3 – VETERINARY RULES

No changes

SECTION 4 – SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT RULES

No changes

SECTION 5 – EQUINE ANTI-DOPING & CONTROLLED MEDICATION RULES

No changes

SECTION 6 – RISK MANAGEMENT RULES

No changes

Appendices