

# CTR Rulebook

The main objective of Competitive Trail Riding is to work all the horses over an identical trail in the same length of time, thereby having a basis of fair comparison for determining the horse's soundness, behaviour and attitude. While this is not a race, judgment in timing and pacing is important; the winner usually being the one who rode their horse at a consistent pace throughout the ride, rather than 'hurrying up and waiting'. Judging is based upon each horse starting the ride with 300 points and being evaluated as follows: Soundness 60%, Condition 30%, Behavior and Attitude 10%.

## 1.0 COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDES

The term "Sanctioned Ride" means a ride officially sanctioned by the ERABC. Competitors, Ride Managers and judges must comply with all the Rules outlined herein in order that standard rules prevail on all sanctioned rides. Ride Rules must be strictly enforced. Sanctioning can be lifted if Rules and procedures are not followed.

### 1.1 Ride Classification

- A. **Level 1** - Consists of 12-19 miles at a maximum average speed of up to 5.0 mph.
- B. **Level 2** - 20-29 miles at a maximum average speed of up to 6.0 mph.
- C. **Level 3** - 30-50 miles at a maximum average speed of up to 7.0 mph.
- D. **Level 3 Two Day Ride** - Consists of a maximum of 50 miles per day for each day at a maximum average speed of up to 7.0 mph.

### 1.2 Scheduling of Rides

This will be done without conflicts with other ERABC rides, or in conjunction with them

### 1.3 Sanction Fees

This section would follow ERABC guidelines

## 2.0 RIDE OFFICIALS

### 2.1 Ride Manager

This person should be thoroughly familiar with the Ride Rules. They shall interpret the Rules to Ride Officials and process any complaints or protests. The Ride Manager has the overall responsibility for staging the Ride and enforcing the Rules.

### 2.2 Judges

A sanctioned ride must have at least one judge, who is a veterinarian experienced with horses or Long Distance Riding. The treatment of horses on the ride is not the responsibility of the veterinary judge. Ride Management should pre-arrange for a stand-by veterinarian for such purposes whenever possible. If it is anticipated that there will be more than 25 entries in a given Ride, it is recommended to have 2 judges. The judges acting together shall decide whether a horse may start a ride, when a horse must be withdrawn and any penalties or disqualifications.

If a "Best Conditioned Horse" Award is to be given, the veterinary judges shall decide on this award placement in the same way BC is given in an LD ride.

## **2.3 Official Timers**

Each Sanctioned Ride will provide timers who will have the responsibility to record the time of each horse during competition. The records kept by the timers will be turned over to the Ride Secretary at the conclusion of the Ride.

## **2.4 Judge's Recording Secretary**

It is the duty of the secretary to accurately record the findings of the judge.

## **2.5 Pulse & Respiration Teams**

Ride Management will ensure that adequate P&R Teams are in place.

## **2.6 Trail Master**

Ensures that the trail is well marked, timed, and safe. Each level of the Ride must be ridden and timed by the Trail Manager or designate, on horseback, to meet the guidelines as set out in Section 1.1 Ride Classification. The Trail Master or Ride Manager may use the mileage to calculate the ride time for straightforward and relatively flat rides, without timing on horseback.

## **3.0 STABLING, HANDLING & CARE**

### **3.1 Stabling**

All horses are to be kept in the area designated as the camp site for the duration of the event, except when being ridden or exercised. This rule can be waived by the Ride Manager, due to special circumstances. All stallions must be double tied when the rider is not in attendance.

### **3.2 Handling**

Riders who abuse their horses or engage in conduct unbecoming to a competitor will be asked to leave the Ride and will be dismissed from further consideration in judging.

### **3.3 Care**

- A. 1 Day Ride: No medication, ice, or drugs may be administered to any horse (except under the direction of the veterinary judge, and the horse is then disqualified). Leg and hoof protection, salt supplements, electrolytes, vitamins and fly sprays are permitted.
- B. 2 Day Ride: Starting after the Final Vet Check of the first day of competition, ice may only be used overnight and on subsequent nights after the Final Vet Check of each day.
- C. Horse & rider will be disqualified and barred from competition if said horse has been administered a stimulant, depressant, general pain killer, tranquilizer, drugs or local anesthetic. Drug testing may be carried out any time between the start of the Pre-Ride Vet Check up to the conclusion of the Post Ride Vet Check. Refusal to grant permission will result in disqualification.

## **4.0 RIDE EXAMINATION AND BRIEFING**

**4.1** Riders and horses shall check in at the prescribed time before the start of the Ride for Pre-Ride Vet Check by the judges.

**4.2** A Pre-Ride Briefing should be done on the evening before the first day's Ride following the Pre-Ride Vet Checks, and a Ride Briefing for the second day's Ride should be done the evening before the second day's Ride.

## **5.0 ELIGIBILITY OF RIDERS**

**5.1** Ride Management may ride in their own competition providing that they have a competent replacement to work their position on the day of the event.

**5.2** All members in good standing and members not in good standing must have current year coverage by HCBC to participate.

## **6.0 ELIGIBILITY OF HORSES**

All horses entered in Level 1 must be a minimum of 4 years of age. All horse entered in Level 2 & 3 must be a minimum of 5 years of age. The actual age to be determined by birth date on registration papers or on unregistered horses, if they have a 'full mouth' as determined by a veterinary judge.

## **7.0 DIVISIONS**

Lightweight and Heavyweight riders may be weighed in with tack prior to the start of the Ride. If a rider's weight is subject to question after the start of the Ride, the rider will be required to re-weigh in with tack after the final 10-minute post-ride PR check. If this weight (with 4% loss allowed) changes the Weight Division of rider, a placing is not permitted but mileage will be allowed.

### **7.1 Lightweight Division**

Rider and tack (everything the horse carries) weighing less than 180 lbs.

### **7.2 Heavyweight Division**

Rider and tack weighing 180 lbs. or more.

Weight requirements must be maintained throughout the ride.

### **7.3 Junior Division**

Follow ERABC rules, with addition that Ride Manager can alter age to ride alone with a parent waiver.

## **8.0 TRAIL SUPERVISION AND CONDUCT**

**8.1** The course must be natural and native to the local terrain. The use of intentional artificial obstacles is prohibited.

**8.2** Trail markings must be distinct and obvious to riders. The use of survey ribbon and lime are commonly used. Mileage markers SHOULD be placed every 5 miles.

**8.3** The horse and rider may go at their own pace unless instructed otherwise by Ride Management or judges.

**8.4** No forward motion on the trail is allowed unless the rider is mounted, with the exception of encountering a hazard that puts the safety of the horse or rider at risk. Once the hazard has been negotiated then the rider must remount.

**8.5** From a properly identified point (use sign), exactly 2 miles from the finish, riders must maintain forward motion and not stop or dismount from this point to the Finish Line. Forward motion must be via the most direct route following the marked trail. Horses observed zigzagging, circling, back tracking or stopping within the final 2 miles will be disqualified. Riders should pace their horses so as not to arrive at this point excessively ahead of schedule.

**8.6** The same horse and rider must pass all control points and stay on the marked trail. Should the rider become lost, he/she must return via horseback to that point at which he/she left the marked trail and then complete the trail as indicated.

**8.7** First Aid kits must be available at all vet checks.

## **9.0 PROVISION OF FEED FOR HORSES**

**9.1** The use and choice of feed is at the discretion of the rider.

**9.2** The Ride notice should state whether feed will be available for purchase at the Ride Site.

## **10.0 TIMING AND PENALTY POINTS**

**10.1 Start** Competitors will be timed out at the start of each day with a minimum of 5-minute intervals per horse and rider. If there are 2 competitors riding together, there is a minimum 10-minute interval.

Three riding together gives a 15-minute minimum interval. Longer Intervals per competitor(s) is at the discretion of Ride Management. An accurate start time will be recorded for each rider by the timer.

### **10.2 Ride Time**

**A.** A grace period of 10 minutes on either side of the Optimum Ride Time (total of 20 minutes between minimum and maximum) will be allowed. If a rider finishes the day's Ride more than 10 minutes before optimum time two (2) penalty points for each minute early will be deducted. If a rider finishes the day's Ride more than 10 minutes after optimum time one (1) penalty point per minute late will be deducted. Horses finishing the day's Ride more than 30 minutes early or late (to a total of 40 minutes either side of the Optimum Ride Time) will be disqualified. Mileage will be allowed.

**B.** It is the riders' responsibility to ride according to the official time clock and for the rider to make the official timer aware of any unavoidable delays at Vet Checks, PR stops, etc.

**C.** Once the Optimum Ride Time has been established for each Level and barring any unplanned changes by nature, landowners or veterinarians, then the Ride Time is set. Once riders leave the Start Line for their Level, the Ride Time cannot be changed other than by an emergency (i.e. bridge out, flooded trail, heavy winds etc.) Ride Management must inform every rider and volunteer of changes.

### **10.3 Mandatory Holds**

A 45-minute mandatory hold is standard for Levels 1&2, usually between 2 loops, or as Ride Manager sees fit. Level 3 standard mandatory hold is one hour. Hold times may be increased or more added at the discretion of the Ride Manager or the Vet. Riders will have their time recorded on arrival by the Timer and then must P&R and vet check during the mandatory hold time before resuming the ride.

## **11.0 SHOEING AND TACK**

**11.1** Horses may be bare foot, shod, shod with pads, fitted with Hoof Boots or glue-ons, bell boots or any combination of the above at the discretion of the rider. Leg protection is allowed. Judges may request to observe the areas covered by removable protection, and it must be removed during vet checks to allow vet to check for abrasions etc. It is recommended that the rider inform the vet at the beginning of the vet checks if the horse needs to wear any hoof protection for the trot out.

**11.2** Type of tack and riding equipment is at the discretion of the rider. Saddles must be worn. Running martingales are accepted. No other form of tie-down is allowed.

## **12.0 GENERAL RULES**

**12.1** Heart monitors are not allowed in competition.

**12.2** Bright visible ribbons must be tied in the manes and tails of all stallions. Bright visible ribbons must be tied in the tails of horses that may kick at other horses or people.

**12.3** ASTM approved equestrian protective head gear is mandatory for all riders while mounted or they will be disqualified.

**12.4** Veterinarian and farrier expenses incurred by competitors are the responsibility of the competitor and not Ride Management.

**12.5** Requesting a trot in to P&R check points is at the discretion of Vet or Ride Management.

## **13.0 PULSE AND RESPIRATION CHECKS**

**13.1** Horses arriving at a check point will be timed in first at the Timer and given 10 minutes recovery time. They will then go to P&R check where rates are taken and recorded. Riders are responsible for presenting their horses to the P&R crews on time. If a rider is purposely late or inadvertently late for the 10-minute P&R check (other than a delay due to line-up) they will be assessed a 10-point penalty.

**13.2** If a horse's pulse fails to meet the prescribed pulse criteria, the horse will be held a further 10 minutes and another P&R check taken.

The extra time held (over and above the initial 10 minutes) will be added to the competitors overall Ride Time. A horse that does not pass the original pulse criteria will be assessed a 10-point penalty.

For example: If you are held an extra 10 minutes, and your original Optimum Ride Time was 7 hours and 40 minutes, you would now have an Optimum Ride Time of 7 hours and 50 minutes. If a horse still has not recovered after this hold, he will be held another 10 minutes and rechecked. If the pulse has not recovered to the prescribed criteria at this time, the horse is disqualified.

Maximum time to pass P&R check would be 30 minutes including the initial 10-minute recovery and 2 extra holds of 10 minutes each. Only the P&R recordings resulting from the initial 10 minutes are used for scoring. A rider may request and receive an immediate PR recount at a check by a designated, qualified person. If there is more than a 2-point difference in the recount, the second count will be recorded. **All horses must be pulsed down within 30 minutes of arrival time or disqualified.**

**13.3** Parameters for holding horses for the purposes of P&R recovery can vary depending on weather conditions. These parameters will be set by the veterinary judge in conjunction with Ride Management. Common hold criteria are: pulse of 16 and respiration of 12 to 16, based on a 15 second count.

## **14.0 JUDGING**

### **14.1 Preliminary Judging**

If possible, the Pre-Ride Check will take place the evening before the Ride. At this time the riders are responsible for determining that the Scorecard accurately describes the horse being judged as to name, age, sex, color, breed and division of competition. Also, at that time the judges shall identify all marks and blemishes and make an evaluation of the horse's way of going. At this time, it is the riders responsibility to point out any existing marks or blemishes that the veterinarian judge may have overlooked. Any mark or blemish not recorded in the preliminary inspection can be scored against the horse if detected during the final judging. Horses displaying evidence of any infectious disease will be excused from competition and asked to leave the area of the Ride. All riders are required to care for their own mounts, except in the case of a sick horse or having your horse held during a rest break, with the exception of junior or handicapped riders.

### **14.2 Start of Competition**

Horse and rider shall be considered in competition from the moment of presenting the horse for the Pre-Ride Vet Check through to the Post-Ride Vet Check following the Ride.

### **14.3 Final Inspection**

At one hour after the final Time In reported on the Pulse and Respiration Card, the rider must present their horse to the veterinarian for inspection. Order of presentation is given on a numbered card which the rider receives when their final Time In is recorded on the P&R Card. Failure to be ready to present to the vet at

one hour in order of presentation will result in a 10-point penalty with additional 10-point penalties for each subsequent 10-minute lapse of time in which the horse is late. If your presentation number is 5 and your one-hour time is at 2:00 pm and you are at the vet at 2:00 pm, and the rider with a presentation number of 4 is vetting or still in line to vet then you will NOT receive penalty points. But if the vet is ready to vet your horse at 2:00 pm and you are NOT in the vetting area then you will receive a 10-point penalty. Horses do not need to stand in a line in order of presentation but do need to be in the vetting area for their time. In the event of a long line at the vet, you may leave the vetting area, but it is the riders responsibility to keep track of the flow of horses being vetted in order to be back in time. The competitor must be made aware, by the veterinary judge, of any injuries, lameness, and soreness at the Post-Ride Check. A "runner" may trot lame horses so that the rider may observe the horse's movement.

#### **14.4 Evaluation Criteria:** Soundness (A), Condition(B), Behavior & Attitude(C)

##### **14.4.A Soundness 60%**

###### **1. Lameness & Stiffness**

The judge will evaluate a horse's way of going during the Ride to determine changes in gait resulting from an inability to adapt to the stress placed on the tendons, muscles, ligaments, bones and joints.

A horse with a Grade 3 or greater lameness will not be allowed to start a Sanctioned Ride.

Horses exhibiting a Grade 1 or 2 lameness will be allowed to compete at the discretion of the veterinary judge. Horses with any grade of lameness will be penalized according to the point deduction structure on the Scorecard, regardless of whether they started the ride with a grade of lameness. Lameness is evaluated at the pre-ride, mid-ride and post-ride checks and all penalties are cumulative. On completion, horses judged to have lameness greater than Grade 2 will not be eligible for placing or mileage.

###### **2. Heat & Swelling**

The areas of the joints and tendons, which are of particular importance, can indicate inflammation. Stocking up or swelling associated with subcutaneous tissue, need not be considered detrimental when found after an overnight layover and which regresses shortly after resuming activity. However when stocking up occurs during the Ride or does not regress after resuming activity, it should be significant.

###### **3. Muscle Soreness**

With particular reference to the muscles of the back.

###### **4. Saddle & Cinch Sores**

Those which develop during the ride or those previously present which progress in severity.

##### **14.4.B Condition 30%**

###### **1. Visual 13%**

Evidence to carry on. Fit to continue. This should include an evaluation of depression, desire to eat and drink, and exhaustion such as muscle spasm, azoturia, colic, abnormal heart sounds and dehydration.

###### **2. Pulse & Respiration 17%**

Rate of recovery of P&R is a definite indication of the condition and performance of the horse.

A 10-minute recovery period will be allowed before P&R rates are taken during and after the ride.

Fifteen (15) second readings will be taken and recorded.

(Readings are not to be multiplied by four to give a per minute reading).

Penalty point scoring will be assessed according to the P&R chart. Crews properly briefed and trained are used at the P&R stops to quickly and efficiently handle the horses as they come through. Stethoscopes are mandatory when P&R crews are taking the pulse.

### **14.4.C Behaviour & Attitude 10%**

The horse should stand reasonably quiet for any examination the judge deems necessary. Unruly horses such as those too difficult to be examined are subject to removal from competition. Any horse that presents a hazard to other riders on the trail shall be disqualified. Points may be deducted for Bad Behavior.

### **14.5 Examination Procedure**

**A.** The examination and inspection procedures are at the discretion of the judges, except for the use of mechanical hoof testers which are not allowed.

**B.** All levels shall have at least three P&R/Vet checks; pre-ride, mandatory hold during ride, post-ride:

**Level 1,** Pre-Ride P&R/Vet Check, mandatory hold P&R/Vet Check, P&R at the Finish Line and a Post Ride Vet Check one hour after crossing the Finish Line

**Level 2,** Pre-Ride P&R/Vet Check, mandatory hold P&R/Vet Check, P&R at the Finish Line and a Post Ride Vet Check one hour after crossing the Finish Line.

**Level 3,** Pre-Ride P&R/Vet Check, mandatory hold P&R/ Vet Check , P&R at the Finish Line and Post Ride Vet Check one hour after crossing the Finish Line. Vet or RM may add more P&R/Vet checks

**C.** When riders arrive at a Check Point, they will be timed in and allowed 10 minutes to water and rest the horse. A P&R crew will then take the horse's pulse and respiration and if the horse is within the parameters set by the judges, the horse may be presented to the judges. The veterinary judge will check and record the horse's hydration, capillary refill, mucous membranes, gut sounds, behavior and attitude. Horse/rider will stay the required time, check with ride timer and then proceed on the Ride.

**D.** On a Two-Day competition, horses will be soundness checked following the first day's Ride starting one hour after competition. A mounted or in-hand morning soundness check will be done before competitors are timed out for the second day's Ride. Horses will be presented for final Vet Check starting one hour after completion of the second day's Ride. A competitor is officially out of competition following this final inspection.

**E.** Judges should act together and discuss individual horses throughout the course of the Ride. All judges will evaluate all horses on soundness, condition, behavior and attitude. Final decisions should be reached jointly. Judges should not discriminate against any horse due to conformation or type.

## **15.0 AWARDS**

### **15.1 Trail Ride Awards**

Each rider **SHALL** receive an award for completing the ride, the type of award is up to Ride Management. Awards **MAY** be given for placement in each Division and Level offered i.e. Lightweight, Heavyweight and Junior.

Other awards may be given for:

- Grand Champion for the horse with the highest score
- Reserve Champion for the horse with the second highest score
- Best Conditioned for the horse best fit to continue
- High Point Breed Awards, such as:
  - Purebred Arabian, Partbred Arabian, Quarter Horse, Morgan, Morab, Appaloosa, Gaited Horses, Grade
- Others: Youngest Rider, Oldest Rider, Horsemanship, Hard Luck Awards

To break a tie in the placings, the closest optimal finish time will be used. Ties will eliminate placings, i.e. a tie for first place would eliminate second place. If an error in the Awards Presentation is discovered, the Ride Management must notify all affected parties.

## **15.2 Annual Awards (may be given)**

All recipients of perpetual awards must sign for their awards and understand that they are responsible to return the award at the following year's AGM and that if an award is lost, they are responsible to replace it.

### **A. High-Point Overall Perpetual Award (may be given)**

This award is presented based on the total scores of rides completed throughout the season.

### **B. Mileage Perpetual Award (may be given)**

An overall High Mileage award is based on the accumulated miles ridden (in one season) by members in sanctioned Competitive Trail Rides.

### **C. Life Time Mileage Awards (may be given)**

Life time mileage awards are based on accumulated miles ridden by members in sanctioned Competitive Trail Rides, schooling rides, and pleasure rides, out-of-Province CTRs; and sanctioned Endurance Rides. Riders must be members before entering a sanctioned event for mileage to be recognized. Rider mileage may be accumulated on more than one horse ridden and is maintained by ERABC on a permanent record. Riders are responsible for contacting the Points and Mileage Caretaker if there is a change in their surname. In the event of changes to structure, lifetime mileage will be grandfathered into the new structure by some means.

Life time mileage awards are presented for 100, 250, 500, 1000, and 1500 miles and continuing. Mileage for qualifying rides will be recorded by the Ride Manager on Ride Results Forms and incorporated into annual mileage counts. Claims for Endurance miles and out-of-province CTRs must be supported by a copy of the completed Score Card. All mileage records must be sent to the Points and Mileage Caretaker to be included in the annual award calculations.

### **D. Annual Breed Perpetual Awards (may be given)**

Breed Awards in the following breeds are awarded to the High Point horse in each breed category. Calculations are based the same formula used in the High Point Divisional. All horses (except Grade Horses) must be registered to be eligible.

Breeds: Purebred Arabian, Partbred Arabian (Note: must be a registered Half Arabian), Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Morgan, Morab (Note: Morab registered horses must choose between the the Annual Breed Award category of Morab or Partbred Arabian, horse is only eligible for one category and not both.)

Gaited Breed (Peruvian Paso, Paso Fino, Tennessee Walker, Fjord, Icelandic, Missouri Fox Trotter) and Grade (any unregistered horse).

### **E. Rookie of the Year Perpetual Award (may be given)**

### **F. Young Horse of the Year Perpetual Award (may be given)**

## **15.3 Eligibility**

Competitors must be paid up members. The Ride must be a Sanctioned Ride.

Disqualified rides do not count (except where a competitor has completed, but been disqualified for time penalties, in which case mileage only will be recorded).

### **15.3.A Membership**

To be a member in good standing, the current year membership fees must be paid in full.

**16.0 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE** see ERABC Handbook

**17.0 RISK MANAGEMENT** see ERABC Handbook