

## Rules for Endurance Trials

### ENDURANCE TRIALS

#### ET1 THE COMPETITION

ET1.1 Endurance Trial rides must be between 40 and 56 km (25-35 miles). Ride distances shorter than 20 miles may be offered as “fun rides”, although ERABC and Endurance Canada do not include these distances in mileage tracking.

ET 1.2 Distance will be rounded to the nearest whole number divisible by 5. For example, 38 and 42 km would be rounded to 40; 43 and 47 km would be rounded to 45.

ET 1.3. Endurance Trial competitors must be offered a specific briefing on the special features and requirements of Endurance Trial Rides.

ET 1.4. Riders must wear an approved helmet.

ET 1.5 **Junior riders** (15 years and under at Dec 31 the current year) must be accompanied by a sponsor rider (21 years or older) throughout the ride.

#### JUNIOR COMPETITORS

ET1.5.1. Junior competitors are classified as follows:

- a) J1 - junior competitors less than 14 years of age must be accompanied at all times by a competent adult sponsor throughout the competition.
- b) J2 - junior competitors 14 years of age to the end of the calendar year in which they reach 16 years of age may ride unaccompanied by a competent adult sponsor provided each of the following conditions are satisfied prior to the unaccompanied ride: (i) consent of J2's parent or guardian;  
(ii) consent of the applicable organizing committee; and  
(iii) successful completion of a minimum of three 40km and three 80km Endurance Canada/AERC sanctioned rides as a sponsored J1.
- c) J3 - junior competitors 16 year of age as of January 1st of the current calendar year to the end of the calendar year in which they reach 18 years of age are not required to ride accompanied by an adult sponsor and are not eligible for points in the Junior Division.

ET1.5.2. The sponsor of a J1 must be entered as a competitor in the event and sponsorship of a J1 must be documented on the junior entry form complete with the sponsor signature at the time sponsorship begins.

ET 1.5.3. An infraction of the sponsorship shall result in the disqualification of the sponsor and/or junior.

ET 1.5.4. Junior riders wishing to participate in an ERABC competition must have the written consent of a parent or guardian. This consent shall imply:

a) Acceptance of all ERABC regulations, particularly the ability of a junior to substitute a sponsor during a ride as allowed by ERABC regulations.

b) Prior consent to any emergency medical treatment or aid.

ET 1.5.5. Junior and sponsor must ride together at all times, including entering and leaving all vet checks simultaneously; the only exception being that at the finish line a junior may finish within the same minute or within the one minute on either side of the sponsor's finishing minute.

ET 1.5.6. Junior and/or sponsor normally may suspend their sponsorship agreement only at regular stated checks and then only with the knowledge and consent of ride management, and management's documentation of the change when it occurs.

ET 1.5.7. Sponsorships may change between checks only in the event that either competitor or either competitor's mount is unable to continue safely to a checkpoint.

ET 1.5.8. In the event of an emergency and in order to remain in competition, the junior who is in last place and whose preregistered sponsor is pulled, and there are no other qualified sponsors to follow, the junior may, with ride management and ride veterinarian approval, be sponsored by a qualified rider who is not entered in the competition, through the completion of the ride. The junior would receive last place junior points. This emergency sponsor will receive no credit for mileage or points. The junior may also be sponsored by an adult on foot from the last veterinary check with the approval of ride management.

## **ET2 VETERINARIANS**

The equines must be under the control of veterinarian(s) experienced with equines or endurance rides.

ET 2.1 The ride must employ at least one veterinarian whose services will be exclusive to that event pre-ride, during the ride, and post-ride. At least one ride veterinarian must be at the ride site for at least one hour after the last equine crosses the finish line or has returned to camp.

ET 2.2 Rules must be provided to the veterinarians prior to the ride.

ET 2.3 A veterinarian who is serving as a ride manager is prohibited from serving that same event as a veterinary control official.

ET 2.4 Each equine will receive a substantive physical examination of metabolic and mechanical parameters before the ride, at a minimum of one veterinary control point located at or near the halfway point of the ride, and after the ride. All control points for limited distance rides must incorporate gate into hold criteria. Veterinary control points are mandatory during the course of all limited distance rides.

ET 2.5 The veterinarians' decisions regarding disqualification must be final and ride management must stand behind the veterinarians' decisions.

ET 2.6 A Ride Manager may not overrule a vet decision on a veterinary matter.

ET 2.7 Equines disqualified by the vets must not continue on. This practice by a rider is considered grounds for barring that rider from future rides.

ET 2.8 The rider/owner of an equine disqualified by a ride veterinarian should be notified immediately by that veterinarian or the ride manager.

ET 2.9 Management must be confident that there is complete understanding with the veterinarian(s) regarding pulse criteria, any other disqualification criteria, and particularly post-ride criteria for completion.

ET 2.10 The veterinarian shall determine the setting of veterinary parameters, including but not limited to pulse and respiration. Since the ambient weather conditions are of prime concern in the setting of parameters, these parameters should not be finalized more than 24 hours prior to ride start. It is recommended that pulse criteria be between 56 and 64.

ET 2.12 A veterinarian who will provide the required control must staff all veterinary control checkpoints. The type of checkpoint and duration of the hold will, in all cases, be designated by the head veterinarian (generally 45 minutes). It is recommended that all checkpoints be of the "gate into a hold" type.

### **ET3 EQUINES**

The ride must be open to any breed or type of equine.

ET 3.1 Equines must be at least 48 months old at the time of the ride.

ET 3.2 Age is determined from the actual date of birth. In cases of no papers on an equine, a ride veterinarian's opinion and discretion must prevail.

ET 3.3 Rides may limit the number of competitors provided that prior publicity states the limitation and that all spaces and vacancies are filled on a first come, first served basis.

ET 3.4 The ride manager or ride veterinarian may disqualify an equine that constitutes a clear danger to other equines and / or persons, at any time, from competition.

## **ET4 ENTRY**

Entry to a ride may be refused for cause.

ET 4.1 Cause is defined as a specific occurrence, substantiated by direct and corroborated evidence of, including but not limited to, one of the following:

- Non-payment of ride fees, such as insufficient funds cheque not made good.
- Abuse of an equine, such as drugging or continuing to ride after being pulled without the specific permission of a ride vet.
- Abusive harassment of ride personnel, other riders or crews, such as arguing with the veterinarians, breaking in line at vet gates, or deliberately blocking other riders on trail.
- Removing or altering trail markers.
- Cheating, such as deliberate short cuts or deliberately leaving timed holds early.

An equine determined to be unruly or dangerous may be denied entry

## **ET5 TIMING**

The ride must provide a specific amount of time (total completion time) which will include all stops and holds, and within which competitors must complete the ride to qualify for placing or completion.

ET 5.1 There may be no minimum time limit for completion. Completion time will typically be a total of 6 hours for a 40 km ride.

ET 5.2 Riding time is the time used by competitors to complete the course and reach criteria, excluding all hold times. This is the time used for ERABC/Endurance Canada ride results.

ET 5.3 At the finish, ride time of the competitor continues until a preset veterinary criteria of 60 heartbeats per minute or less is met. (Finishing time is recorded as the time at which the rider asks for and subsequently meets this preset criterion). There is no marked finish line on the course that is used to determine placing or completion time.

ET 5.4 Prior to successful completion of 120 km/75 miles of Endurance Trial or Endurance competition riders are restricted to a pace not to exceed 6.25 mph/10 kph. Subject to review by the Organizing Committee/Technical Delegate based on ambient conditions

## ET6 COMPLETION

Completion requires meeting all of the following criteria:

- a. All riders and mounts must be present and accounted for at the start of the ride.
- b. Properly entered in the ride
- c. Obeying all the rules
- d. Following the prescribed course, and doing multiple loops in the correct order
- e. Passing all control points
- f. Passing all veterinary requirements
- g. Finishing within the prescribed maximum time
- h. Not being disqualified
- i. Meeting criteria at post finish line check.
- j. Meeting any other criteria prescribed by ride management.
- k. Not having been paced or prompted by an un-entered, withdrawn, or otherwise unauthorized equine, vehicle or person other than another entrant. This does not preclude the ordinary support services of attendants or pit crews. A crew may accompany their rider down a public road in a support vehicle (unless there is a ride management prohibition against it) provided they do not push or haze the equine.

ET 6.1 A competitor must pass all veterinary criteria for completion. A competitor who fails any of the other completion criteria should be pulled from top ten placing, but may be allowed a completion, if in the opinion of ride management, the violation was not intentional and did not result in making the course easier or shorter.

ET 6.2 Each ERABC sanctioned ride must have a post-finishing veterinary examination that the equine must pass for a successful completion, the criteria to be announced prior to the ride.

ET 6.3 The minimum criteria for the post finish line vet check are as follows. *Any ride may adopt more stringent criteria but these must be provided to competitors before the ride in written form.* The post-finish-line vet check is where the final criteria for completion must be met; an equine has not completed the ride until he/she has passed this check. The post -finish-line vet check also serves as a safety check to monitor for late-developing problems (so that they can be treated if necessary) as well as extending veterinary control over the last leg of the ride.

ET 6.4 Time for Final Examination. All equines must stand a mandatory post ride evaluation within 30 mins of finishing the course. Riders may present their equines for the final examination at a time of their choosing during this period unless directed otherwise by the ride veterinarians. An equine that does not meet the established criteria within the 30 min. period shall be disqualified. Once a completed horse has passed the post ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

ET 6.5 Time to Reach Pulse Criteria. The equine must meet a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient weather conditions within 30 minutes of arrival at all control points. Maximum pulse criteria upon completion of the course is **60 beats per minute**, and must be met within 15 minutes of arrival at the finish in order to receive time placement (1st, 2nd, 3rd ,etc), or within 30 minutes of arrival at the finish to receive mileage and completion only (after 30 minutes, the horse/rider are disqualified). Respiration should be evaluated on it's own merit. Ambient temperature and humidity effects need to be recognized and their effects considered.

ET 6.7 The equine must be metabolically stable, sufficient to demonstrate fitness to continue.

ET 6.8 There will be no gait aberration that is consistently observable under all circumstances that results in pain or threatens immediate athletic performance. This examination will be conducted at a trot, or equivalent gait, straight out and back, without prior flexion or palpation.

ET 6.9 Soreness, lacerations, and wounds on the limbs and body - including the mouth - must be noted on the veterinary examination card. Lesions that are aggravated to a degree that affects the equine's ability to continue may be a cause for failure to complete the ride. It must be recognized by veterinarians that lesions caused by tack and interference may be from mild to severe and need to be evaluated on their own merit.

ET 6.10 Evaluation of other monitoring parameters must indicate the equine is not in need of any medical treatment. It must be borne in mind that pulse, respiration, and soundness are but three of the important parameters considered in the state of condition evaluation

ET 6.11 The equine may not have received medical treatment by veterinarian or layman prior to the final examination. Any equine that a ride veterinarian advises should be treated for a metabolic or soundness problem, but treatment is refused by the rider or owner, shall be considered in the same light as a treated equine and will be disallowed a completion.

ET 6.12 All riders who successfully complete the ride must receive a completion award.

## **ET7. PLACEMENTS**

Placements shall be given, using the procedure described in 106.5, to those horses that pulse down within 15 minutes of arrival at the finish. Completion and mileage only shall be given to those horses that pulsed down from 16 to 30 minutes of arrival at the finish.

## **ET8. MILEAGE**

ERABC shall record mileage for members in Endurance Trial rides.

## ET9 RESULTS

Ride results list all finishing riders in order of finish. Riders who receive “completion only” will be listed after those who received time placement.

## ET10 CONFLICT RESOLUTION

### General Explanations

When violations have not been determined and/or redressed during the course of a competition by means of the ordinary application of ERABC Rules and Regulations, or other improprieties are alleged which have occurred outside a competition, the protest procedure shall be utilized.

The provisions of this section apply to any ERABC sanctioned ride for the following persons: owner, rider, agent, trainer, crew member, ride manager, ride management personnel, veterinarian, any member of the family of the above, individual ERABC member, or any person who violates ERABC Rules and Regulations. Violations and Penalties will be determined by the, ERABC BoD

All involved parties will be informed in writing (mail or email) of the determination of the Board within one week of the Board rendering its decision, including all penalties levied.

### 2. ERABC Director and/or Policy, Procedure & Rules Committee assistance.

When the competitor/management interaction fails, and/or the infraction is alleged more than 48 hours after the ride date, then an ERABC Regional or At-Large Director must be contacted and this director should attempt to resolve the matter

If no resolution is reached within 10 days after the ride date, a charge may be continued only if a protest is filed with the ERABC BoD.

### Formal Protest Procedures

A protest is a properly documented complaint by an ERABC member alleging an infraction of an ERABC rule or failure to apply a rule properly. A protest will not be deemed properly initiated unless the requirements of L10.1, L10.2, and L10.3 are met. Prior utilization of the Informal Protest Procedure is neither a pre-condition nor a bar to initiation of a formal protest on **the same grounds.**

ET10.1 Such protest must be:

- a. in writing.
- b. signed by the protestor.
- c. accompanied by personal testimony, sworn statements, or other evidence supporting the protest. Evidence consists of physical evidence including written records, statements of

principals and firsthand witnesses. Hearsay evidence will be accepted, but may be given lesser weight than first-hand evidence.

d. accompanied by a \$100 cheque (which is refunded if the protest is upheld) payable to the ERABC, and

e. sent to the ERABC BoD, with a postmark no later than the 10th day after the ride date; or if an alleged infraction does not come to light until ride results are posted, then the postmark of the protest must be within 30 days of the ride results being officially posted

ET10.2 Such protest must contain:

- a. the full name and address of the party allegedly in violation,
- b. the ride name, location, date, and manager,
- c. a complete and definite statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation,
- d. clear reference, by number, to each ERABC rule or regulation allegedly violated.

ET 10.3 Upon receipt of a properly initiated protest, the Protest and Grievance Committee must immediately provide a copy of the protest and all supporting evidence to the accused, and notify the accuser that the protest has been initiated. From the postmark date of the announcement the accused and accuser have 14 days (postmark) to send materials refuting/substantiating the charges, to the Protest and Grievance Committee. The P&G Committee must reach a decision, and report it to the ERABC and the accused and the accuser, in writing, no later than 30 days after the accusation was announced to the accused. This decision must indicate actions to be taken, including but not limited to: amendment of ride results, assessment of penalties, and restitution of awards.

ET 10.6 General. All time limitations of the protest procedure may be extended at the discretion of the President of the ERABC. At any point in the procedure, if the accusing party elects to drop charges, that accusing party shall promptly notify the ERABC Secretary of this decision in writing.

### **ET11. Violations and Penalties**

When assigning penalties, the Protest and Grievance Committee and the Board will take into consideration such things as severity of the infractions, intentional infractions, repeated infractions, and multiple infractions.

ET 11.1 Individual violations. Violations include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Infraction(s) of ERABC Rules and Regulations.
- b. Acting, or inciting any other to act, in a manner contrary to the rules of the ERABC, or in a manner considered otherwise illegal or un-sportsmanlike.
- c. Physical assault upon a person and/or cruelty to an equine.
- d. Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the ERABC.

ET 11.2 Individual penalties. If found guilty, the party will be subject to such penalty as the Protest and Grievance Committee, or the Board, may determine, including but not limited to (more than one penalty may be applied to an infraction):

- a. Send a letter to the accused that may contain a warning without further penalty.
- b. Censure. A censure penalty makes the reprimand public information and serves to warn the guilty party that further violations will subject the defendant to heavier penalties.
- c. Forfeiture of completion and/or placement in a competition and/ or forfeiture of any awards or prizes won in connection with the offense committed.
- d. Suspension of such person for any period from competing. A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified in the decision from: holding or exercising any office in the ERABC; participating in any way whatsoever in any ERABC sanctioned ride.
- e. Suspension from membership in the ERABC.

ET 11.3 Ride Violations. A sanctioned ride is subject to penalty for, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Failure to conduct a ride in accordance with ERABC Rules and Regulations.
- b. Failure of a ride to pay its indebtedness in the ERABC or to report ride results within 30 days of ride date.
- c. Failure to honor agreements with any ride officials or employees.
- d. Knowingly permitting a suspended person to participate in any manner.
- e. Permitting acts that are contrary to the rules of the ERABC.

ET 11.4 Ride Penalties. A sanctioned ride found guilty of a violation will be subject to such penalties as the Protest and Grievance Committee, or the Board, may determine, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Censure. A censure penalty makes the reprimand public information and serves to warn the ride and its management that further infractions will subject the ride and its management to heavier penalties.
- b. Fine(s).
- c. Suspension for any period from the privilege of being sanctioned. This may be applied to the ride and/or ride management.

## **ET12 . AWARDS**

An award or awards may be given for the horse(s) judged to have the highest vet score.

ET 12.1 The award does not have to be given.

ET 12.2 The veterinarian(s) may feel that none of the horses in contention for the award deserve to receive it.

ET 12.3 Ride management will use the ERABC point system developed for calculating high vet score. **See Appendix.**

ET 12.4 Under the ERABC system, all horses that finish within the 15-minute optimal pulse-down time are eligible for consideration for high vet score(s), whether ridden by junior or senior riders. Keep in mind that the order of finish for Endurance Trial riders is determined using recovery time as described in rule 105.3.

ET 12.5 The Ride Veterinarian(s) assigned to judge Endurance Trial horses will be the sole judge of the veterinary portion of the award by assigning grades on the score sheet.

ET 12.6 Ride management will do the calculations required to arrive at total vet score. .

ET 12.7 Procedure in the event of a tie (for high vet score): the rider among those tied with the highest weight (rider and tack) will break the tie. If there is still a tie, the equine among those still tied that finished ahead of the other(s) will break the tie. Ride management has the option of providing more than one high vet score award (e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 1st Senior and 1st Junior).

**ENDURANCE TRIAL APPENDIX**

\*CRI – Cardiac Recovery Index – This is an accepted exercise for use in assessing your horse’s stress level and is conducted as follows: Horse’s pulse is taken, and the time is noted (for example, pulse = 60 at 2:15 pm). The horse is trotted out 125 feet and back. One minute after the initial pulse taking (2:16 pm), the pulse is re-checked. Ideally, the pulse should be the same (or lower); increases over 4 bpm may be considered an indication that your horse is under some degree of stress. 1 Or lower after, e.g. 13/12 – receives same score as 13/13

<b>APPENDIX – CALCULATION FOR HIGH VET SCORE AWARD – “A Deduction System” Maximum Score possible = 200 To be based on Final (Post-ride) Check Only</b>			
<b>Letter grade on Score Sheet</b>		<b>Post-arrival Pulse recovery time</b>	
A+, A =	No deduction	0 to 15 min	No deduction
A- =	-1	16+ mins	Not eligible
B+ =		-2	
B =		-3	
B- =		-4	
C+ =		-5	
C =		-6	
C- =		-7	
D+ or lower =		-8	
Lameness or metabolic issue		Not eligible	
<b>Post-ride CRI*</b>			
Same before & after trotout		No deduction	
1 Beat/15s		-3	
2 beats/15s		-10	
3+ beats/15s (equivalent to 12+ bpm)		Not eligible	