

AERA RULEBOOK ©

Amendments to AERA RULEBOOK applicable from 1 January 2018

[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 Definitions

Responsible Adult	An adult person who is appointed by a parent or legal guardian to provide support and supervision of an unaccompanied junior rider at an event.
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3 COMPLIANCE, JURISDICTION & MANAGEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

MANAGEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 3.8 In the situation where a DA member is alleged to have committed a *serious infringement* pursuant to Table 3, the DA shall, as a minimum, ensure a disciplinary process is conducted in accordance with the following principles for a fair hearing which requires:
- a) a fair and impartial hearing panel
 - b) the hearing to be held expeditiously, subject to prompt and complete submissions by the parties
 - c) the right of the accused to be represented by counsel at the accused's own expense **(subject to incorporations laws in respective states)**
 - d) the right of the accused to be fairly and promptly informed of the asserted rule infringement
 - e) the right of the accused to respond to the asserted rule infringement
 - f) the right of the accused to attend the hearing under all circumstances (excluding deliberations of the hearing panel)
 - g) the right of each party to present evidence
 - h) the right of each party to call and question witnesses (subject to the hearing panel's discretion to accept testimony by telephone or written submission)
 - i) a timely, written, reasoned decision, specifically including an explanation for any penalty
 - j) **the presence of a parent or legal guardian to support all junior members in addition to counsel as per 3.8 c).**

CHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS & RIDE CONTROLS

4 RIDE DEFINITIONS

Table 4 Definitions of ride types

Introductory ride	A single <i>ride</i> (including any elevation legs) between a distance of 1 km and 30 km (inclusive)
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5 STANDARD RIDE CONTROL

Table 6 Ride Distance

Ride	Minimum Total km	Maximum Total km	Minimum No of legs	Maximum No of legs	Maximum any leg km	Maximum Average leg km
Introductory	1 km	30km	1	2	30 km	15.0 km
Intermediate	40 km	60 km	1	3	42 km	30.0 km

6 VGIH CONTROL

Table 9 Ride Distance (Inclusive of elevation legs if any) & leg requirements for VGIH ride control (amendments)

Ride	Minimum Total km	Maximum Total km	Minimum No of legs	Maximum No of legs	Maximum any leg km	Maximum Average leg km
Introductory	1 km	30km	1	2	30 km	15.0 km
Intermediate	40 km	60 km	1	3	42 km	30.0 km

CHAPTER 3. RIDE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

12. AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

12.1 Every ROC shall:

- a) be an entity, incorporated in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia
- b) affiliate their event with the DA in which the ride base is located
- c) request affiliation in the manner and pay the affiliation fees as determined by the affiliating DA. A ROC may seek dual affiliation of their *event* with another DA and shall request affiliation in the manner and pay the dual affiliation fees (if any) as determined by the dual affiliating DA.

12.2 Upon confirmation of affiliation, the ROC is authorised to conduct the *event* in accordance with this Rulebook plus appropriate DA local rules (if any).

12.3 **In consideration of an endurance event being approved by and affiliated with a DA, the Ride Organising Committee will not refuse entry to any person who is a member of a DA, unless there is legal justification for so doing.**

12.4 **Where an endurance event venue or any part of the course is on private land, the Ride Organising Committee must ensure that no private property owner will refuse access to their property to any person who is a member of a DA unless there is a legal justification for so doing.**

12.5 **Any legal justification which is relied on by a Ride Organising Committee or a land owner to preclude any person from an endurance event in any way must be provided to the relevant DA management committee prior to the endurance event.**

14. APPOINTMENT OF RIDE OFFICIALS

14.1 A minimum of 12 weeks prior to their *event*, the ROC should appoint:

- a) a 'ride director' who is the primary point of contact for the *event*
- b) a 'ride secretary' who is responsible for the administrative aspects of the *event*
- c) an AERA accredited chief steward
- d) an AERA accredited head veterinarian
- e) a treatment vet who shall be experienced in the treatment of performance horses **and who will confirm their position on treating all horses attending the event**
- f) **the nearest equine hospital which will accept a horse from the event requiring**

treatment on an after-hours basis and their protocol for treating all horses attending the event

- g) sufficient number of other veterinarians for the expected number of entries pursuant to Clause 15
- h) a First Aid officer
- i) appropriate volunteers or community organisation to conduct any course checkpoints and provide communications to the ride base.

The head veterinarian may, depending on the expected number of entries also act as the treatment veterinarian.

15. VET TO HORSE RATIO

15.1 When identifying the number of veterinarians required for an *event*, the *ROC* shall include all expected entries in all *rides* being conducted at the *event*.

- d) For *events* utilising the Standard ride control there shall be:
 - i. a minimum of 2 veterinarians for the first 60 horses or part thereof, and
 - ii. an additional veterinarian for every additional 30 horses.
- e) For *events* utilising the VGIH ride control there shall be:
 - i. a minimum of 2 veterinarians for the first 30 horses or part thereof, and
 - ii. an additional veterinarian for every additional 30 horses.

15.2 Not all appointed veterinarians need to be available for the pre-ride veterinary inspections.

15.3 When more than 3 vets are required to meet the vet:horse ratio, the vet team will include at least 2 accredited vets.

15.4 For rides of 120 kms or more a separate additional treatment veterinarian is required to be present at the ride base.

16. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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 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).
- c) The *ROC* shall not accept an entry for any horse that is that is affected by 14.1 e) and 14.1 f) and not able to meet the requirements advertised in 16.5 b).

20. AWARDS

20.13 Where there is a tie for First Place in BC, then BC shall be awarded to the horse with the highest veterinary score. If the veterinary scores are equal then it shall be awarded to the horse with the highest time score. If the time scores are equal then it shall be awarded to the horse with the highest weight score. If the weight scores are equal then it shall be declared a tie and the division of the prize(s) shall be in accordance with **Clause 36.6**

21. AERA NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

POINTS COMPETITION

21.1 A points competition based on successful completions for all *endurance* and *marathon rides* within a calendar year. All horses and all riders are eligible to earn points, irrespective of their status (i.e. novice or endurance). Points are allocated as follows:

a) Points for successful completion.

The first six places in each riding division receive from 6 down to 1 point. All other finishers get 1 point. For rides of 160 km or more, completion points are increased by 50% (i.e.: first place in a 160 km *ride* receives 9 points). For equal placings the finishing points are added together for each placing filled as equal and then divided by the number of equal placings. For example: equal first - add 6 + 5 points, divide by 2 (i.e., 5.5 points each): equal second - add 4 + 3 points, divide by 2 (i.e., 3.5 points each).

b) Points for successful distance completed.

All *riders* are eligible for one additional distance point for every 10 km completed in excess of 80 km. That is: for 90 km add 1 point: for 100 km add 2 points, etc. Note that rides less than the 10 km increments (e.g. 86 km) do not attract additional points.

c) Points for the number of riders in the *riding division*.

Only the first six *riders* in each riding division get these additional points:

- iii. if 10 or more riders in riding division, add 1 point:
- iv. if 20 riders or more in riding division, add 2 points:
- v. If 30 riders or more in riding division, add 3 points, and so on.

d) The total points awarded shall be reduced to 75% of the standard calculated points if Clause 4.6 is applicable.

e) A rider in the Youth Division of an FEI Ride will not receive National Points/kilometers unless they are 18 years or older in the year of the ride and weigh a minimum of 73kgs, i.e. no national points/kilometers for Lightweights and Juniors. Note this rule does not apply if an AERA lightweight and AERA Junior Division is held at the same event.

CHAPTER 4. RIDE OFFICIALS

23. THE CHIEF STEWARD

23.2 The chief steward is responsible for the general control and conduct of the *event* from the opening of the ride base until the closure of the ride base and shall:

a) review the Risk Management Plan in conjunction with the ROC to ensure a safe environment at the ride base and on course for horses, riders, support personnel, ride

- officials and spectators
- b) ensure compliance with this Rulebook as well as local DA rules (if any)
- c) ensure that every horse entering a *ride* using a *logbook* is identified against the *logbook* identification page
- d) ensure that he or his delegate is in the vet ring when the vetting of horses is taking place
- e) oversee all *ride officials* and all ride administration operations to ensure that all appropriate paperwork is completed
- f) conduct a briefing immediately prior to the pre-ride vetting with the veterinary team and TPR stewards to determine and confirm the vet ring protocols and processes for the event
- g) maintain calm and order in the vet ring, the ride base and on the course at all times
- h) deal with any appeals, disputes or issues at the *event*
- i) **Ensure that when dealing with children in any appeals, disputes, horse treatments or issues at the event that the responsible adult or another adult appointed by the responsible adult is present.**

CHAPTER 5. RIDER RULES

26. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 26.3 Every rider is responsible and accountable, unless compelling circumstances (**eg junior riders**) dictate otherwise for the
- a) behaviour of their support personnel, and
 - b) behaviour of all persons in their camp,
 - c) appropriate containment of horse(s) and /or dog(s) in their camp, and
 - d) appropriate supervision of children in their camp.

27. RIDER ELLIGIBILITY

27.1 Table 13 Minimum Rider Requirement to be read in conjunction with clause 27.2 (amendment)

Ride	Minimum <i>rider</i> age in years	Minimum Membership requirements	Minimum <i>rider</i> status
Introductory	4	Day member	Novice

27.7 JUNIOR RIDERS

Note that clause c) has been removed

38. RIDER ATTIRE

38.1 *Riders* shall wear

- a) appropriate clothing which presents a smart and professional image for the sport of endurance at all times whilst riding on course, presenting a horse for a veterinary inspection or BC and at the presentation ceremony
- b) the allocated rider bib as the outer most item of clothing. The bib must be clearly visible at all times and shall be worn by the person trotting the horse at all veterinary inspections
- c) **A fastened protective equestrian helmet (when mounted) in accordance with the current international equestrian competition standards.**

40. RIDER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (REWS)

- 40.1 Every *rider* in every *endurance, marathon, mini marathon and intermediate ride* is subject to the Rider Early Warning System (REWS). The *rider* attracts penalty points as per Table 15.

Table 15 Rider early warning system penalty points	
Reason for Non-Completion	Penalty Points
Vet out pulse less than 66 bpm	10
Vet out pulse 66 bpm or over	20
Vet out lame	6
Vet out lame at a 2nd consecutive ride	12
Vet out lame at a 3rd consecutive ride	18
Vet out metabolic - non-invasive	10
Vet out metabolic - moderate	20
Vet out metabolic - severe	30
Vet out other – back	6
Vet out gall or injury	4
Disqualification – finishing quicker than novice time by less than 5 minutes	10
Disqualification – finishing quicker than novice time by 5 minutes or greater	30

- 40.2 On the first 12 month anniversary of an individual penalty being imposed, 6 points are credited to the *rider*. Additional credits occur for the successful completion of *intermediate, endurance, marathon and mini marathon rides* as follows:
- a) 4 points for rides from 40km and up to 59km
 - b) 6 points for rides 60km and up to 79km
 - c) 8 points for rides from 80 km up to 90 km
 - d) 10 points for rides from 91 km up to 120 km
 - e) 12 points for rides from 121 km up to 159km
 - f) 15 points for rides of 160km and above.

CHAPTER 6. HORSE RULES

45. HORSE ELLIGIBILITY

45.5 HORSES FROM OVERSEAS

- a) horses arriving from overseas for the purpose of participating in a single AERA affiliated endurance event (eg TQGC) are not required to have an AERA logbook but must show adherence to AERA rules on age, dentition and appropriate ride history for the ride entered. The horse's full ride history must be provided to the Ride Secretary before entry to the ride. A day card must be used to record the horse's veterinary parameters on the day of the ride.

- b) horses arriving from overseas may only enter two AERA affiliated endurance events without an AERA logbook. All AERA rules must be adhered to in applying for and gaining a logbook, including relevant requirements on age, dentition and riding history.

57. HORSE TACK

- 57.4 The tack utilised on the head of a horse shall be appropriate to ensure the horse is controllable at all times **by the use of reins.**

60. HORSE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (HEWS)

- 60.1 Every horse in every endurance, marathon, **mini marathon and intermediate** ride is subject to the Horse Early Warning System (HEWS). The horse attracts penalty points as per Table 18.

Table 18 Horse early warning system penalty points	
Reason for Non-Completion	Penalty Points
Vet out pulse less than 66 bpm	10
Vet out pulse 66 bpm or over	20
Vet out lame	6
Vet out lame at a 2nd consecutive ride	12
Vet out lame at a 3rd consecutive ride	18
Vet out metabolic - non-invasive	10
Vet out metabolic - moderate	20
Vet out metabolic - severe	30
Vet out other – back	6
Vet out gall or injury	4
Disqualification – finishing quicker than novice time by less than 5 minutes	10
Disqualification – finishing quicker than novice time by 5 minutes or greater	30

- 60.2 On the first anniversary of an individual penalty being imposed, 6 points are credited to the horse. Additional credits occur for the successful completion of *endurance*, *marathon*, **mini marathon and intermediate** rides as follows:

- a) **4 points for rides 40km and up to 59km**
- b) **6 points for rides 60km and up to 79km**
- c) **6 points for rides 80 km up to 90 km**
- d) **10 points for rides 91 km up to 120 km**
- e) **12 points for rides 121 km and up to 159k**
- f) **15 points for rides of 160km and above.**

CHAPTER 7. VETERINARY CONTROLS & PROCEDURES

No changes

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

13. APPEALS

13.1 Decisions Subject to Appeal

Decisions made under these EAD rules may be appealed as set forth below in Clause 13.3 and 13.4. Such decisions shall remain in effect while under appeal unless the appellate body orders otherwise.

13.2 Disqualification

Disqualification from events and forfeiture of prizes under rule 10 shall not be entitled to appeal unless the adverse analytical finding is disproven.

13.3 Appeals from *decisions* regarding EAD Rule Violations, Consequences, and Provisional Suspensions

The following *decisions* may be appealed within fourteen (14) days from Notice of the *decision* exclusively as provided in this Clause 13.3:

- a) a *decision* that an EAD Rule violation was committed;
- b) a *decision* imposing consequences for an EAD Rule violation;
- c) a *decision* that no EAD Rule violation was committed;
- d) a *decision* that an EAD Rule violation proceeding cannot go forward for procedural reasons (including, for example, exceeding the Statute of Limitations);
- e) a *decision* under Clause 11.8.2 (Violation of the Prohibition of Participation during Ineligibility);
- f) a *decision* that the DA lacks jurisdiction to rule on an alleged EAD Rule violation or its consequences;
- g) a *decision* by the AERA not to bring forward an *Adverse Analytical Finding* or an *Atypical Finding* as an anti-doping violation, or a *decision* not to go forward with an anti-doping violation; and
- h) a *decision* to impose a *provisional suspension* as a result of a Preliminary Hearing or otherwise, in violation of Clause 8.4; the only *person* that may appeal from a *provisional suspension* is the AERA or the *person* upon whom or upon whose *horse* the *provisional suspension* is imposed.

13.4 Appellant Body

A decision listed in Rule 13.3 may be appealed to the relevant DA which shall appoint an Appeals Committee of a minimum of 2 persons pursuant to the relevant DA Constitution to hear the appeal.

26. AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- 26.1 For cases other than those prosecuted under the Administrative Procedure, a violation of these ECM Rules in connection with a Test in a given Competition automatically leads to the *disqualification* of the result of the *person responsible* and *horse* combination obtained in that Competition with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any related prizes. Where applicable, consequences to teams are detailed in [Clause 27](#). Even if a Sanction is reduced or eliminated under Clause 28 below, such reduction or eliminated shall under no circumstances eliminate the automatic *disqualification* of Individual Results mandated by this Clause.

29. APPEALS

29.1 Decisions Subject to Appeal

Decisions made under these EAD rules may be appealed as set forth below in Clause 29.3 and 29.4. Such decisions shall remain in effect while under appeal unless the appellate body orders otherwise.

29.2 Disqualification

29.2.1 Disqualification from events and forfeiture of prizes under rule 26 shall not be entitled to appeal unless the adverse analytical finding is disproven.

29.2.2 Disqualification from events and forfeiture of prizes under Rule 25.3.3 shall not be entitled to an appeal once an Administrative Procedure is applied.

29.3 Appeals from *decisions* regarding EAD Rule Violations, Consequences, and *Provisional Suspensions*

The following *decisions* may be appealed within fourteen (14) days from Notice of the *decision* exclusively as provided in this Clause [29.3](#):

- a) a *decision* that an EAD Rule violation was committed;
- b) a *decision* imposing consequences for an EAD Rule violation;
- c) a *decision* that no EAD Rule violation was committed;
- d) a *decision* that an EAD Rule violation proceeding cannot go forward for procedural reasons (including, for example, exceeding the Statute of Limitations);
- e) a *decision* under Clause 27.9.2 (Violation of the Prohibition of Participation during Ineligibility);
- f) a *decision* that the DA lacks jurisdiction to rule on an alleged EAD Rule violation or its consequences;
- g) a *decision* by the AERA not to bring forward an *Adverse Analytical Finding* or an *Atypical Finding* as an anti-doping violation, or a *decision* not to go forward with an anti-doping violation; and
- h) a *decision* to impose a *provisional suspension* as a result of a Preliminary Hearing or otherwise, in violation of Clause 24.4; the only *person* that may appeal from a *provisional suspension* is [the AERA](#) or the *person* upon whom or upon whose *horse* the *provisional suspension* is imposed.

29.4 Appellant Body

A decision listed in Rule 29.3 may be appealed to the relevant DA which shall appoint an Appeals Committee of a minimum of 2 persons pursuant to the relevant DA Constitution to hear the appeal.

SECTION 6 – RISK MANAGEMENT RULES

No changes