

ERABC LIMITED DISTANCE RIDE RULES

- approved by Board of Directors on Feb. 2/02

The following AERC amended rules apply to ERABC limited distance rides only. For rides of 50 miles and over see AERC Endurance Ride Rules.

L1. Limited Distance rides must be at least 20 miles but not exceed 22.4 miles in length. (Note: In AERC, Limited Distance rides are at least 25 miles [minimum of 22.5 miles] but must not exceed 35 miles in length). ERABC sanctioning of a limited distance ride may be applied for using the ERABC form "Sanction and Insurance Application". Other distances may also be listed on the form as a co-sanction with AERC or other sanctioning bodies only. Ride distances shorter than 20 miles may be offered as "fun rides", although ERABC does not include these distances in mileage tracking. All distances offered are considered "ERABC rides" with respect to liability insurance (Club rides and/or insurance fee paid to ERABC).

L1.1 Mileage will be rounded to the nearest whole number (e.g. 22.4 = 22 miles, 20.5 = 21 miles.)

L1.2 All ERABC-sanctioned Limited Distance rides must be regulated by the ERABC Limited Distance Ride Rules. AERC has approved our interpretation of the rules for use with AERC limited distance rides (Re: placement and high vet score, B. McCrary, Feb. 4/02).

L1.3. Limited Distance competitors must be offered a separate and specific briefing on the special features and requirements of Limited Distance Rides.

L1.4 Junior riders (15 years and under at Dec 31 the previous year) must wear a helmet and be accompanied by a sponsor rider (21 years or older) throughout the ride. Senior riders are encouraged to wear helmets.

L2. The equines must be under the control of veterinarian(s) experienced with equines or endurance rides.

L2.1 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.

L2.1.1 The AERC Veterinarian's Handbook and the ERABC Limited Distance Ride Rules must be provided to the veterinarians prior to the ride.

L2.1.2 A veterinarian who is serving as a ride manager of an ERABC-sanctioned event is prohibited from serving that same event as a veterinary control official.

L2.1.3 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.

L2.1.4 The veterinarians' decisions regarding disqualification must be final and ride management must stand behind the veterinarians' decisions.

L2.1.4.1 A Ride Manager may not overrule a vet decision on a veterinary matter.

L2.1.4.2 Equines disqualified by the vets must not continue on. This practice by a rider is considered grounds for barring that rider from future rides.

L2.1.4.3 The rider/owner of an equine disqualified by a ride veterinarian should be notified immediately by that veterinarian or the ride manager.

L2.1.5 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.

L2.1.5.1 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.

L2.1.6 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. It is recommended that all checkpoints be of the "gate into a hold" type.

L3. The ride must be open to any breed or type of equine.

L3.1 Equines must be at least 48 months old at the time of the ride.

L3.1.1 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.

L3.2 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.

L3.3 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.

L4. Entry to a ride may be refused for cause.

L4.1 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

L5. 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.

L5.1 There may be no minimum time limit for completion.

L5.2 Completion time will typically be a total of 6 hours for an ERABC LD ride.

L5.3 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 ride results.

L5.4 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.

L6. 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.

L6.1 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.

L6.2 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.

L6.2.1 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. Because an equine at the finish line is not in actuality going on - and not going into the wilderness far from veterinary aid - the standards for completion need not be as strict as those on the trail, but they must meet the minimum standards below. See the Veterinarian's Handbook for more information.

L6.2.1.1 Time for Final Examination. All equines must stand a mandatory post ride evaluation *within one hour* 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 one-hour period shall be disqualified. Once a completed horse has passed the post ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

L6.2.1.2 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.

L6.2.1.3 The equine must be metabolically stable, sufficient to demonstrate fitness to continue.

L6.2.1.4 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.

L6.2.1.5 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.

L6.2.1.6 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

L6.2.1.7 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.

L6.3 All riders who successfully complete the ride must receive a completion award.

L7. Placements shall be given, using the procedure described in 5.3 and 5.4, 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.

L8. ERABC shall record mileage for members in Limited Distance rides. An award shall be given for annual high mileage to those riders that competed in limited distance rides exclusively in that ride season. Total cumulative mileage will also be recorded by ERABC for all limited distance and longer rides.

L8.1 A member's mileage will begin accumulating from the date their membership is paid. Mileage prior to payment for membership in a ride season cannot be recovered.

L8.2 Ride results list all finishing riders in order of finish. Riders who receive "completion only" will be listed after those who received time placement.

L8.3 ERABC has two divisions (Senior and Junior) based on the age of the rider, independent of any ride management rules governing junior and senior riders.

L9. An award or awards may be given for the horse(s) judged to have the highest vet score.

L9.1 The award does not have to be given.

L9.1.1 The veterinarian(s) may feel that none of the horses in contention for the award deserve to receive it.

L9.2 Ride management will use the ERABC point system developed for calculating high vet score. **See Appendix.**

L9.3 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 Limited Distance riders is determined using recovery time as described in rule 5.4.

L9.3.1 The Ride Veterinarian(s) assigned to judge limited distance horses will be the sole judge of the veterinary portion of the award by assigning grades on the score sheet.

L9.3.2 Ride management will do the calculations required to arrive at total vet score. .

L9.3.3 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).

APPENDIX – CALCULATION FOR HIGH VET SCORE AWARD – “A Deduction System”
Maximum Score possible = 200

To be based on Final (Post-ride) Check Only			
Letter grade on Score Sheet		Post-arrival Pulse recovery time	
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		
Post-ride CRI*			
Same ¹ before & after trotout	No deduction		
1 Beat/15s	-3		
2 beats/15s	-10		
3+ beats/15s (equivalent to 12+ bpm)	Not eligible		

*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.