

AERA RULEBOOK ©

Amendments to AERA RULEBOOK applicable from 1 January 2021

[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

No changes

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	
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 (July 2020)

6.3 All horses must satisfy the heart rate criteria within the maximum present time as shown in Table 10. Horses have a maximum of 2 attempts to pass the heart rate criteria within the maximum present time on all legs except for the final leg **and any represent**, when the horse is permitted only 1 attempt. Horses that do not satisfy the heart rate criteria within the maximum present time shall be eliminated. If the horse passes the veterinary inspection, the horse and rider shall not begin the next leg until the expiration of the hold time for that leg. A rider who begins the next leg prior to the expiration of their hold time may be eliminated by the chief steward depending upon the nature, severity and circumstances of the infringement. (March 2020)

CHAPTER 3. RIDE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

No changes

CHAPTER 4. RIDE OFFICIALS

No changes

CHAPTER 5. RIDER RULES

No changes

CHAPTER 6. HORSE RULES

45.2 Table 17 indicates the minimum horse status requirements for a *horse* to enter each *ridetype*.

Table 17 Minimum horse status criteria on the day of the ride		
Ride	Minimum Horse Status	Minimum Logbook requirement
Introductory	Novice status	Logbook if issued †
Intermediate	Novice status	Logbook if issued †
Micro-marathon	Novice status	Logbook if issued †
Mini-marathon	Novice status	Novice Horse Logbook
Endurance <= 120 km	Novice status	Novice Horse Logbook
Endurance > 120 km < 160 km	Endurance status	Endurance Horse Logbook
Endurance >= 160 km	Endurance status	Endurance Horse Logbook
Marathon	Endurance status	Endurance Horse Logbook

~~1. Refer to Clause 50.2 for exemption.~~

50. USE OF LOGBOOKS

- 50.1 A *logbook* shall only be used for the horse named and identified in the *logbook* and shall be used in all *rides* affiliated with the AERA or a DA. ~~with the exception permitted in Clause 50.2.~~
- 50.2 If a horse that has been issued with a *logbook*, that *logbook* must be used when that horse is entered in an affiliated *introductory*, *intermediate* or *micro-marathon ride*.

51. INVASIVE TREATMENT

- The principle indicator for the successful management of an endurance horse is the horse's successful completion of the ride and its subsequent recovery without the need for veterinary intervention, irrespective of the pace ridden. However, it is recognised that in some circumstances, not necessarily related to the speed at which the horse was ridden, a horse may require veterinary intervention to ensure its optimum recovery.
- 51.1 A horse under *veterinary control* shall not receive *invasive treatment* by any person other than a member of the veterinary team, who shall only administer medication appropriate for therapeutic purposes and shall advise the *persons responsible* regarding future compliance with the EADCM Rules.
- 51.2 The Code of Conduct Ensuring the Welfare of the Horse (Clause 42), requires that any horse suspected of requiring veterinary assistance shall be immediately presented to the veterinary team.
- 51.3 If *invasive treatment* is administered to a horse whilst under *veterinary control*:
- a) before the horse has completed the final veterinary inspection for the ride, the horse shall be eliminated by the head or treatment veterinarian.
 - b) after the horse has successfully completed the ride, the horse may be eliminated, if the head or treatment veterinarian consider the *invasive treatment* was necessary to ensure the immediate welfare of the horse.
- 51.4 The *person responsible* for a horse whilst under *veterinary control* that receives *invasive treatment* shall complete the appropriate AERA Form(s) as provided by the chief steward and return them to the chief steward before departing the ride base. Should the completed

AERA Forms(s) not be returned to the chief steward, the chief steward may retain the *logbook* and forward it to the relevant DA who shall not release the logbook until receipt of the completed appropriate forms. The *person responsible* for the horse shall also seek and heed advice from the treatment veterinarian as to the appropriate course of action to ensure the full recovery of the horse.

51.5 When a horse receives invasive treatment at a ride, the chief steward shall provide the person responsible with a copy of the AERA Form 4 Invasive Treatment – Veterinarian

51.6 The AERA shall maintain a ‘National Register of Invasive Treatments’. Each DA shall have access to and be required to monitor the ‘National Register of Invasive Treatments’. A DA may impose a sanction on a rider or horse if the DA considers it is appropriate.

THE TAKING OF BLOOD OR BLOOD PARAMETERS

51.7 A horse under *veterinary control* shall not have blood drawn or blood parameters measured by any means unless the horse has been selected for medication control under the EADCM Rules or is exempted by Clauses **51.8** or **51.9**.

For Research Purposes

51.8 An exemption to Clause **51.7** is available where the collection is done for research purposes and is conducted by a University or similar public institution and participation in the research is offered to all ride entrants. This is permitted provided:

- a) the Institution seeks and receives permission from the head veterinarian to conduct the blood sampling prior to the commencement of the pre-ride veterinary inspection, and
- b) access to the results or other information obtained from measuring blood parameters is withheld from the horse’s *rider, trainer* and *support personnel* whilst the horse is under *veterinary control*, and
- c) the collection of the blood is undertaken by a veterinarian who need not be a member of the veterinary team.

For Diagnostic Purposes

51.9 An exemption to Clause **51.7** is available where it may be appropriate that blood be taken to assist in the diagnosis of an underlying issue from a horse still under *veterinary control*. This is permitted provided:

- d) the head veterinarian agrees to the collection and the collection is supervised by a member of the veterinary team, and
- e) access to the results or other information obtained from measuring the blood parameters is withheld from the horse’s *rider, trainer* and *support personnel* whilst the horse is under *veterinary control*.

51.10 Where a horse under *veterinary control* is subject to *invasive treatment* pursuant to Clause **51.8** or **51.9**, the requirement to complete AERA Form(s) pursuant to clause 51.4 is waived.

57. HORSE TACK

57.1 It is the responsibility of the *rider* to ensure that their riding tack is ‘fit for the purpose’, safe and that all tack and material placed on a horse fits appropriately and does not **cause harm or injury to irritate the skin** of the horse.

57.2 Spurs, crops, whips, standing martingales and **ear plugs** are not permitted.

Compression hoods and blinkers are permitted but any method of restricting the forward vision of the horse is not permitted.

57.3 It is prohibited to whip a horse on any occasion.

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.

62 HORSE CATASTROPHE (DEATH)

62.1 A horse catastrophe occurs when a horse dies or is euthanised:

62.1.1 at an endurance event, or

62.1.2 Subsequent to an endurance event at which the injury or metabolic condition initially manifested.

62.2 If euthanasia or a horse death is likely, the treating veterinarian shall inform the chief steward.

62.3 If euthanasia is to be performed, the treating veterinarian shall, when possible, have a second veterinarian consult on the case, ideally the head veterinarian or another member of the veterinary team.

62.4 Prior to the horse being euthanised the following must be undertaken:

62.4.1 identify a suitable place for the euthanasia, possible necropsy and disposal to be performed.

62.4.2 AERA Form 22 Equine Catastrophe – Consent to Euthanise must be obtained from the *person responsible* for the horse.

62.4.3 section 4 of AERA Form 23 Equine Catastrophe – Veterinarian Report must be completed recording the clinical signs and parameters that led to the decision to euthanise.

62.5 Where a horse catastrophe occurs,

62.5.1 The chief steward shall verbally notify both the relevant DA President or Secretary and the AERA President or Secretary within 48 hours of the horse's death.

62.5.2 **Where the catastrophe occurs subsequent to the ride (ie not at the ride base) and as a result of events at the ride, the responsible person shall notify the Chief Steward within 48 hours of the horse's death. The Chief Steward shall then verbally notify both the relevant DA President or Secretary and the AERA President or Secretary within 48 hours of receiving the notification from the responsible person.**

62.5.3 **Thereafter the procedure shall be as described in Appendix 1 to these Rules.**

CHAPTER 7. VETERINARY CONTROLS & PROCEDURES

63.9 At each veterinary inspection:

63.9.1 each horse shall be presented unsaddled, without any tack, bandages, **hoods** or leg protection.

63.9.2 horse rugs are to be removed when requested by the inspecting veterinarian.

63.9.3 hoof protection may not be altered during a veterinary inspection.

63.9.4 heart rate monitoring equipment must be removed from the horse and be de-activated when in the vet ring.

63.9.5 no form of horse feed is permitted in the vet ring.

63.9.6 no recording devices (audio or visual) are permitted in the vet ring

without the prior permission of the chief steward in consultation with the head veterinarian.

63.9.7 no person is permitted in the vet ring other than ride officials performing their duties and the horse(s) undertaking a veterinary inspection, which may be accompanied by a maximum of 2 persons per horse unless the chief steward permits otherwise.

63.9.8 the chief steward may permit a companion horse to be present in the vet ring.

63.9.9 spectators are not permitted in the vet ring or the common strapping area without the prior permission of the chief steward.

67.12 At an individual veterinary inspection (excluding any appeal):

67.12.1 **When a decision is made by a single vet**, the horse may be trotted up a maximum of 3 times after which a decision must be made by the **line** veterinarian pursuant to Clause 64.2 or 65.2 respectively. **When a panel is used, the line veterinarian may allow a maximum of two trot ups before requesting panel. A panel member may request an additional trot up in accordance with clause 67.3.3. As a minimum, the final trot up should be witnessed by the head veterinarian.**

67.12.2 when panel voting is being utilised, the decision of the panel is final but may be subject to appeal pursuant to Clause 67.6.

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

No changes

SECTION 6 – RISK MANAGEMENT RULES

No changes

Appendices to the AERA Rulebook

Appendix 1 AERA Equine Catastrophe Protocol

Upon receipt of a notification of an equine catastrophe per Rule 62.5, the AERA President/Secretary shall notify, within 48 hours, the AERA Management Committee of the full details as provided by the Chief Steward. The AERA's Horse Welfare Sub-committee will then be responsible for the management of the equine catastrophe investigation and reporting process.

The DA in which the catastrophe occurs shall provide to the AERA Horse Welfare Sub-committee, through the AERA Secretary, a detailed progress report on the catastrophe investigation no more than 28 days after the catastrophe occurs. This progress report shall include:

- Investigations completed to date
- Any associated reports (Invasive Treatment, Chief Steward, Treatment Vet, etc.)
- Any eye witness statements where appropriate

- Actions taken by the DA
- Outstanding items/investigations yet to be completed

The AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee, through the AERA Secretary, will provide a preliminary report to the AERA Management Committee on findings from the progress report within 28 days of receipt of the report from the DA.

The DA shall provide to the AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee, through the AERA Secretary, a final report once its investigation is complete that includes:

- Full details of the equine catastrophe
- All relevant documentation
- DA actions taken
- A summary from the DA Horse Welfare Officer.

The final report shall be reviewed by the AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee with the aim of identifying any horse welfare issues and/or rule breaches that arise. The AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee may undertake further investigation into the equine catastrophe if deemed necessary to provide clarification or any missing information.

The AERA Horse Welfare Sub-Committee will report back on its findings to AERA and, through the AERA Secretary, to the notifying DA within 28 days of receiving the final report from the DA. Where appropriate, its report will contain recommendations for remedial actions aimed at preventing future equine misadventure.