



RIDE CALENDAR POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

The Victorian Endurance Riders Association (VERA) is committed to supporting the running of Endurance Rides in Victoria. It will do this by encouraging affiliated organisations to run endurance events.

PURPOSE

To provide the State Management Committee (SMC) of VERA with guidelines to assist in the preparation of a ride calendar that supports Ride Organisers, is balanced, and provides VERA members with equal opportunity to participate.

The policy aims to support the SMC to approve affiliated endurance rides for Ride Organisers that will attract participants and maximise profitability of the event.

This policy is applicable to all Endurance Events requesting affiliation with VERA Inc., including FEI events.

POLICY

The VERA Ride Calendar Policy for setting the annual ride calendar will support the following principles:

- Ride Organisers applying for a ride date on the VERA calendar
- Providing a balanced ride calendar on a geographical basis to support equality of opportunity for riders to attend events
- Protection of major endurance ride events including the Tom Quilty Gold Cup National Championship, the VERA State Championships, and any other major endurance ride as applicable
- Established Ride Organisers being afforded priority to maintain consistent event dates
- Event applications to be considered and approved in a timely manner

RESPONSIBILITIES

VERA SMC members are responsible for implementing this policy to create the VERA ride calendar from ride applications.

- Consideration and approval of Ride Applications
- Consideration of Endurance Ride distances and interactions with other rides from an intrastate, interstate, national and FEI perspective
- Priority will be given to the running of the Victorian State Championship event

The Ride Calendar Coordinator is responsible for:

- Liaison with Ride Organisers to encourage Ride Applications to be submitted for inclusion on the Ride Calendar
- Submission of Ride Applications to the VERA SMC upon receipt
- Providing official notification of acceptance of a Ride Application to the Ride Organiser

PROCEDURES

1. Ride Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received (including FEI).
2. Endurance Events will be run every three weeks, where possible, within the designated endurance season.
3. The VERA Ride Calendar will ideally rotate around the state, supporting geographic equalization where possible.
4. There will only be one Endurance Event Scheduled for each weekend.
5. Priority will be given to Ride Organisers with an established endurance ride event to maintain that event.
6. High profile premier Endurance Event such as the Tom Quilty Gold Cup and the VERA State Championship, will be given priority consideration on the ride calendar.
7. 160km events will not be held within 4 weeks of each other, with consideration where possible of interstate events in SA and NSW (see Dual Affiliation section) and FEI events.
8. The VERA ride calendar will consider neighbouring state calendars (SA and NSW as per Dual Affiliation Section) to coordinate ride dates.
9. The VERA SMC will have the right to approve or refuse a ride application in the overall best interests of the VERA membership, the sport of endurance riding and horse welfare.
10. Ride Calendar applications can only be considered when made on the appropriate form and submitted with the appropriate Ride Application fee being paid.
11. First time Ride Organisers will be restricted to one ride in their first year and will only be able to run Endurance Distances of 80km, with up to any combination of three introductory and intermediate ride distances.
12. Ride Organisers will be notified in writing of approval of their ride application.
13. Ride Applications must be received in line with AERA Rules for confirmation of Appointment of Ride officials.
14. Should a Ride Organiser seek amendments to the distance's original applied for, such changes must be requested in a timely manner and at least no later than the week prior to the VERA SMC meeting scheduled immediately before the applicable ride.



DUAL AFFILIATION

VERA Inc. will consider dual affiliation requests from SA and NSW Endurance Events if the event is within 300km of the Victorian State border.

- SA and NSW Endurance Events requesting dual affiliation with VERA Inc. must contact the VERA Inc. SMC secretary or VERA Inc. Calendar Coordinator by email or post.
- Requests for Dual Affiliation must be received at least 8 weeks prior to the event date.
- Dual Affiliation requests must meet the calendar procedures as listed above.

VERA Inc. affiliated Endurance Events may apply to neighbouring states for dual affiliation according to that State's dual affiliation process.

The Tom Quilty Gold Cup National Championship will be dual affiliated with VERA Inc. This decision was made by the VERA Inc. membership at the 2016 AGM. This acknowledges the importance of this event and supports the participation of the VERA Inc. membership to compete at this event and be acknowledged by the state in the Annual Awards.