



HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Endurance Trials

Rules 2024

Section 7

7
ENDURANCE RULES

Endurance Trials: Section 7

7.0 (a) General Rules

1. Endurance Trial rides must be between 40 and 56 km.
2. Ride distances shorter than 32 km may be offered as “fun rides”, although
3. Endurance Riders Association of BC (ERABC) and Endurance Canada do not include these distances in mileage tracking.
4. Mileage 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.
5. Endurance Trial competitors must be offered a specific briefing on the special features and requirements of Endurance Trial Rides.
6. Riders must wear an approved protective headgear with safety harness securely fastened.
7. 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

7.0 (b) Entries

1. The ride must be open to any breed or type of equine.
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.
3. Equines must be at least 48 months old at the time of the ride.
4. 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.

Cause for Refused Entries

Entry to a ride may be refused for cause. Cause is defined as a specific occurrence, substantiated by direct and corroborated evidence of, including but not limited to, one of the following:

1. Non-payment of ride fees (NSF cheques not paid)
2. Abuse of an equine, such as drugging or continuing to ride after being pulled without the specific permission of a ride vet.
3. 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.
4. Removing or altering trail markers.
5. Cheating, such as deliberate short cuts or deliberately leaving timed holds early.
6. 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

7.0 (c) Timing

1. 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
2. There may be no minimum time limit for completion. Completion time will typically be a total of 6 hours for a 40 km ride.

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7.0 (c) Timing

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/Endurance Canada ride results.
4. At the finish, ride time of the competitor continues until a pre-set veterinary criterion 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 pre-set criterion). There is no marked finish line on the course that is used to determine placing or completion time.

7.0 (d) Mileage

1. ERABC shall record mileage for members in Endurance Trial rides.
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

7.0 (e) Placements

1. Placements shall be given to those horses that pulse down within 15 minutes of arrival at the finish.
2. Completion and mileage only shall be given to those horses that pulsed down from 16 to 30 minutes of arrival at the finish.

7.0 (f) Completion

1. Completion requires meeting all of the following criteria:
 - All riders and mounts must be present and accounted for at the start of the ride.
 - Properly entered in the ride.
 - Obeying all the rules.
 - Following the prescribed course, and doing multiple loops in the correct order.
 - Passing all control points.
 - Passing all veterinary requirements.
 - Finishing within the prescribed maximum time
 - Meeting criteria at post finish line check.
 - Meeting any other criteria prescribed by ride management.
 - 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.
 - 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.

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7.0 (f) Completion

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 its own merit. Ambient temperature and humidity effects need to be recognized and their effects considered.
- The equine must be metabolically stable, sufficient to demonstrate fitness to continue.
- 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.
- 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.

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7.0 (f) Completion

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

7.0 (g) Awards

1. An award or awards may be given for the horse(s) judged to have the highest vet score.
2. The veterinarian(s) may feel that none of the horses in contention for the award deserve to receive it.
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 Endurance Trial riders is determined using recovery time.
4. 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.
5. Ride management will use the ERABC point system developed for calculating high vet score. See Appendix.
6. 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).

7.0 (h) Veterinarians

1. The equines must be under the control of veterinarian(s) experienced with equines or endurance rides.
2. 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.
3. Rules must be provided to the veterinarians prior to the ride.
4. A veterinarian who is serving as a ride manager is prohibited from serving that same event as a veterinary control official.
5. 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

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7.0 (h) Veterinarians

6. Endurance Trial rides must incorporate gate into hold criteria. Veterinary control points are mandatory during the course of all limited distance rides.
7. The veterinarians' decisions regarding disqualification must be final and ride management must stand behind the veterinarians' decisions.
8. A Ride Manager may not overrule a vet decision on a veterinary matter. Equines disqualified by the vets must not continue on. This practice by a rider is considered grounds for barring that rider from future rides.
9. The rider/owner of an equine disqualified by a ride veterinarian should be notified immediately by that veterinarian or the ride manager.
10. 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.
11. 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.
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.

7.0 (i) Endurance Trial Appendix

Cardiac Recovery Index (CRI) 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.

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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

¹ Or lower after, e.g. 13/12 – receives same score as 13/13