



Rules and Regulations Objectives

Amended January 17, 2026



Executive Summary

The following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the ERA and are binding on ERA-sanctioned rides.

While the ERA assumes that most participants are responsible and caring, it is recognized that a highly competitive and demanding sport requires regulation. The ERA's concern in establishing rules and regulations is to ensure that competition occurs within standardized parameters considered fair and reasonably safe for equine and rider. The ERA services the requirements of the competitor by promulgating and establishing rules and regulations, recording and publishing results of events, and providing awards; but the competitor is totally responsible for self and mounts before, during, and after an endurance ride.

ERA Rules and Regulations provide minimum conditions and directives for managing and competing in ERA-sanctioned rides. Additional safety measures may be taken by any ride to provide greater safety for equine and rider. However, except in the event of emergency, these additional measures must be explained to the competitors and made available to them in written form at a pre-ride meeting. We not only feel it is necessary to regulate our sport, but also to penalize infractions and to provide mechanisms for addressing grievances and appealing decisions.

What is an Endurance Ride?

An endurance ride is a competition to test the speed and the endurance ability of a horse and the ability of a rider to pace that horse cross-country. For the purpose of this document the word *horse* is used and is meant to include any member of *Genus Equus*.

What is ERA?

Endurance Riders of Alberta (ERA) was originally founded in 1980 as West Yellowhead Endurance Riders. The club changed its name to Endurance Riders of Alberta in 1989. ERA is a sanctioning and record-keeping body for riders and horses competing in endurance events in Alberta.

After registering with ERA, all members receive a unique, lifelong identifying rider number that **must** be written on the ride result form issued at each ride. This number enables ERA to track each member's mileage. After a rider has completed 250 miles of ERA-sanctioned rides or ERA-approved rides (out of province), he or she will receive a certificate. Certificates are earned every 250 miles thereafter. Upon reaching 1,000 miles; the rider will receive a buckle; and a buckle, pendant or other mileage award at every 1,000 miles thereafter.

Members are also required to register their horses when they begin competing. Each horse also receives a unique, lifelong identifying number. These numbers **must** be used when filling out ride entry forms to ensure each member and his or her mount receives mileage and credits earned. Each horse will receive a plaque at 250 miles with space to attach mileage plaques of additional 250-mile completions. At 1,000 miles, and every 1,000 miles thereafter, the horse receives a blanket.

ERA also has year-end awards for; Open/Senior, Senior, Youth and Junior Divisions, top horses and top riders. ERA members are eligible for year-end awards; plaques, blankets and other horse awards.

Membership remains "not mandatory." A valid AEF or equivalent is required. A day fee of \$15.00 for non-members will apply. A one-time allowance is made for NEW riders; however, the AEF or equivalent is still required. ("one-time" refers to a new rider who has never done an endurance ride). This allowance applies only once in a lifetime and may be used in either a "fun ride" or in a regular sanctioned/ sponsored event.



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1 Ride Distance

An Endurance Ride must be at least 50 miles per day, up to a maximum distance of 150 miles in three days. Limited Distance Rides are of not less than 25 miles and not more than 35 miles. (See Rule 1.4). Limited Distance Rides may also be offered but must be sanctioned and held in conjunction with an ERA-sanctioned endurance ride and must be regulated by ERA.

- 1.1 Rides are sanctioned for a certain number of miles.
 - 1.1.1 Mileage over 50 miles must be a multiple of five, ending in 0 or 5, whichever is the nearest whole number to the actual ride mileage (e.g., 52.4 miles = 50, 52.5 miles = 55).
- 1.2 Rides that are sanctioned for more than one distance (such as a 50-mile and a 100-mile distance held over the same course at the same time) have the option of allowing riders to "elevate" from one ride into the other, subject to the following conditions:
 - 1.2.1 The rider may only elevate from a shorter distance into a longer distance.
 - 1.2.2 The rider may elevate only once.
 - 1.2.3 Upon elevating, the rider is no longer considered to be a starter or a finisher in the shorter ride.
 - 1.2.4 The rules on reduced Bonus Points for rides with fewer than eleven starters apply.
 - 1.2.5 Elevated rides must be indicated on the sanction application and advertised as such.
 - 1.2.6 The rider must state which mileage he or she will enter if a multiple mileage ride; e.g., 50 miles, 100 mile or 150 mile.
 - 1.2.7 A rider who elevates is eligible for completion only and will receive no placing.
 - 1.2.8 If the starting times are not the same, elevating riders must have the time limits of Rule 5 applied to their original ride's starting time.
- 1.3 The sanctioned ride mileage(s) cannot be changed later than six weeks before the ride; points and miles will be awarded according to the mileage for which the ride is sanctioned.
 - 1.3.1 The exception to this policy is the case where an emergency forces a last-minute trail change, in which case points and mileage are awarded according to the actual mileage reported to the ERA.
 - 1.3.2 A change in mileage and/or ride results certified by ERA may be mandated by the Protest and Grievance Committee or the Board of Directors.
- 1.4 Limited Distance Rides may be offered but must be sanctioned and held in conjunction with an ERA-sanctioned endurance ride and must be regulated by ERA Rules and Regulations, with the following conditions:
 - 1.4.1 Limited Distance rides must be at least 25 miles, but must not exceed 35 miles. Mileage must be a multiple of 5, ending in 0 or 5, whichever is the nearest whole number to the actual mileage (e.g. 27.4 = 25 miles, 27.5 = 30 miles)
 - 1.4.2 Horses must be at least 48 months old at the time of the ride.



- 1.4.3 The ERA records mileage, not points, for members and horses registered with ERA completing Limited Distance rides.
- 1.4.4 Placements and Best Condition may be given.
- 1.4.5 Ride management may allow elevation of horses 60 months or older, from Limited Distance to the lowest full distance, but for completion only.
- 1.4.6 Limited Distance competitors must be offered a separate and specific briefing on the special features and requirements of Limited Distance rides.
- 1.4.7 Veterinary controls of the ride must include:
 - 1.4.7.1 A minimum of one vet check at, or near, the half-way point, with gate-into-hold criteria.
 - 1.4.7.2 At the finish, which for LD distances is the veterinary control checkpoint, not a finish line, the ride time of the competitor continues until pre-set veterinary recovery criteria are met. (Finishing time is recorded as the time pulse criteria is met.) The horse must recover to the pre-set veterinary recovery criteria within 30 minutes of the In-time recorded at any of the veterinary control checkpoints; the timing table.
- 1.4.8 A formula for completion time reflecting a slower rate of speed than endurance rides shall be used, namely seven hours for 25 miles (3.571 mph). (Appendix A)

2 Veterinary Control

The horses must be under the control of a veterinarian(s) experienced with horses and endurance rides.

- 2.1 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 horse crosses the finish line or has returned to ride camp).
 - 2.1.1 The ERA Ride Organizer's Handbook and Veterinary Handbook must be provided to the veterinarian before the ride.
 - 2.1.2 A veterinarian who is serving as ride manager of an ERA-sanctioned event is prohibited from serving that same event as a veterinary control official.
 - 2.1.3 Each horse will receive a substantive physical examination of metabolic and mechanical parameters before the ride, at control points within the ride, and after the ride.
 - 2.1.4 The veterinarians' decisions regarding disqualification must be final and ride management must stand behind the veterinarians' decisions.
 - 2.1.4.1 A ride manager may not overrule a vet decision on a veterinary matter.
 - 2.1.4.2 Horses disqualified by the vets must not continue on. Failing to desist is considered grounds for banning that rider from future rides.



- 2.1.4.3 The rider/owner of a horse disqualified by a ride veterinarian or ride manager should be notified immediately by that veterinarian or ride manager.
- 2.1.5 Management must be confident that there is complete understanding with the veterinarian(s) regarding pulse and respiration criteria, any other disqualification criteria, and particularly post-ride criteria for completion.
- 2.1.5.1 The setting of veterinary parameters, including, but not limited to pulse and respiration, shall be determined by the head veterinarian. Since the ambient conditions are of prime concern in the setting of parameters, these parameters should not be finalized more than 24 hours before the ride start.
- 2.1.6 All veterinary control checkpoints must be staffed by a veterinarian who will provide the required control. The second and/or third vet required, may be a College of Veterinary Medicine student, in their second to fourth year of study, who will be trained, and under the supervision of the Head Veterinarian, who will be responsible for all decisions regarding pulls or disqualifications throughout the ride. 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.
- 2.1.7 Horses that are treated at rides shall be reported on a form to be completed by the ride veterinarian and submitted with ride results.

3 Open to All Breeds

The ride must be open to any breed or type of horse as described in "*What is an Endurance Ride?*" on page 1.

- 3.1 The horses entered in distances of 50 or more miles must be at least 60 months of age at the time of the ride, with the exception of those entered in single day 100 mile rides. Horses entered in single day 100 mile distances must be at least 72 months of age at the time of the ride. 48 months for Limited Distance rides.
 - 3.1.1 Age is calculated from actual date of birth. Where there are no horse papers available, a ride veterinarian's opinion and discretion must prevail.
- 3.2 Ride organizers may limit the number of competitors provided that prior publicity stated the limitation and that all spaces and vacancies are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 3.3 Horses shall have a body condition score of no less than 3.0 and no greater than 8.0 to start an endurance ride. Control judges will use the National Farm Animal Care Council/Equine Canada Condition Scoring Guide in determining body condition score. Body condition scores will only be judged during the pre-ride veterinary examination.



4 Refusal of Entry and/or Disqualification During an Event

Entry to a ride and/or disqualification may not be refused except for cause.

4.1 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).
- Not wearing protective headgear, of a recognized equestrian/endurance standard, securely fastened with harness properly fitted and secured during competition
- Abuse of a horse, such as drugging or continuing to ride after being pulled without the specific permission of a ride vet.
- Abusive harassment of ride personnel; such as arguing with the veterinarians, crews, or other riders, breaking the line at vet gates, or deliberately blocking other riders on the trail.
- Removing or altering trail markers.
- Dangerous behavior exhibited by a horse. The ride manager or ride veterinarian may disqualify a horse that constitutes a clear danger to other horses and/or persons at any time from competition.
- Cheating, such as deliberate short-cuts or deliberately leaving timed holds early.

4.2 Cause might also be determined by the Board of Directors or one of the committees of the ERA.

5 Completion Time

The ride must provide a specific amount of time (total competition time) that will include all stops and holds, and within which competitors must complete the ride to qualify for placing or completion.

5.1 There may be no minimum time limit for completion.

5.2 Total competition time will be according to the following prescription: 12 hours for 50 miles, 18 hours for 75 miles, 24 hours for 100 miles, and other distances according to the chart in Appendix A.

5.3 Riding time (Completion time) is the time used by the competitors to complete the course, excluding all hold time, and is the time used for ERA ride results.

5.4 There must be a pre-designated marked finish line perpendicular across the trail for endurance distances, excluding LD rides.



6 Completion Requirements

Completion of a ride requires all riders and mounts to meet the following ride criteria:

- i. all riders and mounts must be present and accounted for at post time. Any exception will be addressed by the Ride Manager.
- ii. properly entered in the ride
- iii. obey all the rules
- iv. follow the prescribed course, and do multiple loops in the correct order
- v. pass all control points
- vi. pass vet check requirements
- vii. finish within the prescribed maximum time
- viii. not being disqualified
- ix. meet criteria at post-finish-line check
- x. meet any other criteria prescribed by ride management
- xi. not having been paced or prompted by an un-entered, withdrawn, or otherwise unauthorized horse, vehicle, or a 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 horse.

6.1 A competitor must pass all veterinarian criteria for completion. A competitor who fails any of the other completion criteria will be pulled from 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.

6.2 The horse must recover to the pre-set veterinary recovery criteria within 30 minutes of arrival at any of the veterinary control checkpoints and at the finish line.

6.3 Each ERA-sanctioned ride must have a post-finish-line examination that the horse must pass for a successful completion. The criterion is to be announced before the ride.

6.3.1 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. A horse has not completed the ride until it 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 a horse 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 Veterinarians Handbook for more information.

6.3.2 All horses must stand for a mandatory post-ride evaluation within one hour of finishing. Riders may present their horses for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. Once a competing horse has passed the post-ride examination it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

6.3.3 The horse must reach a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient conditions. The maximum pulse criteria is 64 beats per minute, however, the ride veterinarian(s) may allow a higher pulse criteria in documented extreme weather conditions. Respiration should be evaluated on its own



merit. Ambient temperature and humidity, and their effect on the respiration rate, need to be recognized and considered.

- 6.3.4 The horse must be metabolically stable sufficient to demonstrate fitness to continue.
- 6.3.5 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 an equivalent gait, straight out and back, without prior flexion or palpation. It must be recognized that we are dealing with a risk sport with its inherent wear and tear. Veterinarians must also be flexible enough to evaluate a horse injured after completing the course, etc. This is posed as a minimum criterion not designed to disqualify legitimate stiffness and "leg weariness" but to discourage over usage between the last veterinary checkpoint and the finish line.
- 6.3.6 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 horse'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.
- 6.3.7 Evaluation of other monitoring parameters must indicate the horse is not in need of any medical treatment. One must bear in mind that pulse, respiration, and soundness are but three of the important parameters considered in the state of condition evaluation.
- 6.3.8 The horse may not have received medical treatment by a veterinarian or layman before the final examination. Any horse 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 horse and will be disallowed completion.

6.4 All riders who successfully complete the ride must receive a completion certificate.

6.4.1 All Juniors and Youth who successfully complete a ride must be given a prize.

7 Placement

Placements will be determined by the order of finish of those who have met the completion requirements, in their respective divisions.

7.1 ERA accepts ties. In the case of ties, the points to be awarded shall be the sum of the positions divided by the number of people who tied. There would never be more than 10 horses in the top ten unless the last place in the top 10 would bring the total in excess of 10 horses.



8 Points, Mileage and Divisions

The ERA will record points and mileage for ERA members and horses.

- 8.1 Points are calculated on the basis of actual finishing position regardless of whether other competitors are ERA members or not.
 - 8.1.1 Points accumulated by horses and riders in the Junior Division, Youth Division, and Open/Senior Division are separate, and are not added together.
 - 8.1.2 Miles accumulated by horses and riders in the Junior Division, Youth Division, and Open/Senior Division are separate, and may not be added together for year-end awards. The only circumstance where Junior and Youth Division miles are added to Open/Senior Division miles is in the rider's total lifetime miles, and a horse's total lifetime miles.
- 8.2 Members whose dues are not paid before the first ERA-sanctioned ride of the year will receive no points or miles for themselves or their registered horses for rides held before their membership is paid.
 - 8.2.1 Rider points cannot be recovered, but paid-up members may recover miles by payment of fees as per the Schedule of Fees found in Quick Links on the ERA website.
 - 8.2.2 Horses must be registered in order to receive points or mileage. Registration forms are available on the ERA website for members participating in a ride with an unregistered horse. It is each member's responsibility to register the horse, using the prescribed form.
 - 8.2.2.1 The member registering the horse for ERA purposes needs not be the registered owner of the horse. In the event of a dispute of ownership, proof of ownership will govern.
 - 8.2.2.2 Horse points cannot be recovered, but miles may be recovered by payment of fees as per the Schedule of Fees.
 - 8.2.2.3 Any horse that has not been registered by the day following the last ride of the ride season will not be eligible for miles in that ride year. Miles will be credited for the following year upon payment of appropriate fees in accordance with Rule 8.2.2.2.
 - 8.2.2.4 A horse owned, leased, rented or otherwise sponsored by a non-member will not be eligible for points but may recover ("buy back") mileage by payment of appropriate fees in accordance with Rule 8.2.2.2 upon purchase of a membership and registration of the horse with ERA.
 - 8.3 A new member can obtain mileage credit for miles ridden before the date of joining by paying the appropriate fees in accordance with Rule 8.2.1. Only ERA-sanctioned miles may be recovered.
 - 8.4 Career miles only may be obtained for ERA members and horses that participate in FEI rides or endurance rides in other provinces and foreign countries by payment of fees as per the Schedule of Fees.
 - 8.5 Points (Appendix B)
 - 8.5.1 The ERA has three divisions (Open/Senior, Youth and Junior) based on the age of the rider, independent of any ride management rules governing junior and senior riders.



8.5.2 ERA computes points separately for the Open/Senior, Youth and Junior Division, based on the following formula (one point per mile, plus bonus points per mile for Top Ten, equal total points per mile): For rides 70 miles and under in distance.

POINTS PER MILE OPEN/SENIOR & YOUTH

Place	11+	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.0
2	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.0	
3	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.0		
4	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.0			
5	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0				
6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0					
7	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0						
8	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0							
9	1.2	1.1	1.0								
10	1.1	1.0									
11+	1.0										

POINTS PER MILE JUNIOR

Place	6+	5	4	3	2	1
1	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.0
2	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.0	
3	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.0		
4	1.4	1.2	1.0			
5	1.2	1.0				

8.5.2.1 Where there are fewer than 11 starters in a division, all bonus points are reduced by the above methods, for that division. See Appendix B.

8.5.2.2 Members completing sanctioned one-day rides of 75 to 95 miles receive 1.25 times and 100 or more miles receive 2 times the number of points listed above. See Appendix B.

8.5.3 Horse points will be awarded to horses on the same basis as for riders under Rule 8.5.2 according to their respective divisions.

8.6 ERA recognizes and awards at year end: top-point horse, top-point rider, top mileage horse, top mileage rider, (50 miles and up, no LDs), best-conditioned award, and the top-point five horses and riders in all three divisions – Open/Senior, Youth and Junior separately. As well, High Point Senior Rider, High Mileage Senior Rider, and one Limited Distance Champion to the horse and rider team with the greatest Limited Distance mileage,



9 Best Condition

An award will be available for the horses, in Open/Senior, Youth and Junior Divisions, judged to be in the Best Condition.

The examination is usually performed one hour after the finish but may be at such other time as the head vet and management may specify.

9.1 The award does not have to be given.

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

9.2 Use of the ERA Best Condition System is optional with ride management.

9.2.1 Ride organizers have the option of giving other Best Condition awards besides the ERA Best Condition Award if they wish.

9.2.2 The ERA recognizes only one Best Condition award for each division, in each sanctioned distance at any one ride.

9.3 Under the ERA system all of the first ten finishing horses are eligible for consideration, within the Open/Senior, Youth and Junior Divisions respectively.

9.3.1 The ride veterinarian(s) will be the sole judge of the veterinary portion of the award.

9.3.2 Ride management determines the weight and time portion of the award.

9.3.3 Procedure in the event of a tie (Best Condition score): the horse, among those tied, with the highest veterinary score will be the winner. If there is still a tie, the horse, among those still tied, that finished ahead of the other(s) will be the winner.

9.4 ERA recognizes one top Best Condition horse in each Division; Junior, Youth, and Open/Senior for each season, according to the following system:

9.4.1 Each member-owned horse receiving a Best Condition Award at a ride will receive one point per mile of sanctioned ride length (in the Best Condition point system, these points do not go into the overall point system).

9.4.1.1 If there are fewer than ten starting horses, the points are reduced by 10% for each starter fewer than ten; that is, if there are nine starters, the points are reduced by 10%, for eight starters, by 20%, and so forth. However, if there is only one starting horse, no Best Condition points shall be awarded.



10 Junior, Youth and Novice Riders

10.1 Junior Division

ERA recognizes Junior riders as a separate sanctioned division of ERA described as the Junior Division. All junior riders will be entered in the Junior Division, in both Endurance and Limited Distance rides. ERA Rules and Regulations, including those pertaining to completion, awards, points, mileage, and best condition, both at individual rides and at year-end awards, shall apply to the Junior Division using the same criteria as that of the Open/Senior Division.

All junior riders in both Endurance and Limited Distance rides, whether they are ERA members or not, must be accompanied by a competent adult (18 years or older) sponsor throughout the competition. Junior and sponsor must ride together at all times, including entering and leaving all vet checks at the same time; the only exception being that at the finish a Junior may finish within the same minute or within the one minute on either side of the sponsor's finishing minute.

- 10.1.1 A junior is a rider who was under the age of 16 as of January 1 of each calendar year.
- 10.1.2 All juniors, sponsored or unsponsored, must wear an approved horse safety helmet.
- 10.1.3 Junior riders may participate in ERA competitions only with the written consent of a parent or guardian. This consent shall imply:
 - 10.1.3.1 Acceptance of all ERA rules, particularly the ability of a junior to substitute a sponsor during a ride as allowed by ERA rules and regulations; and,
 - 10.1.3.2 Prior consent to any emergency medical treatment or aid.
 - 10.1.3.3 If a junior's horse is pulled, the parent or sponsor must name an adult who is in camp to be responsible for the junior before they (parent/guardian) go back on trail. Ride Management must be informed of transfer of responsibility.
 - 10.1.3.4 If a veterinarian recommends treatment of a junior's horse, even if treatment is refused, either the designated guardian or parent/owner must be in camp with the junior to care for the horse. There must be a record of refusal signed on the vet card by vet and parent/owner or designated guardian.
- 10.1.4 A Junior ERA member 14 years or older, who has completed 500 miles or more in the ERA rider mileage program, may ride without a sponsor but will compete in the youth division.
 - 10.1.4.1 This unsponsored young rider must have on file in the ERA office a letter by parent or guardian that consents to and requests unsponsored status.
 - 10.1.4.2 The ERA office will then provide a letter for this unsponsored young rider verifying 500 miles in ERA rider mileage program. The letter must be presented to ride management at check-in or earlier.
 - 10.1.4.3 Management may choose not to honor the "unsponsored young rider" concept and require all persons less than 16 years of age to have sponsors.



10.1.4.4 A junior competing in the Youth Division will have separate Youth Division points and mileage in regards to year end awards; they cannot be added to the Junior Division, points or mileage.

10.1.5 The sponsor must be a competent adult (18 years or older) and must be duly entered as a competitor in the event and sponsorship must be documented on the junior's entry form complete with sponsor's signature, at the time sponsorship begins.

10.1.6 Junior and/or sponsor normally may suspend their sponsorship agreement only at regular stated checks and then only with the knowledge and consent of ride management, and management's documentation of the change when it occurs.

10.1.6.1 Sponsorships may change between checks only in the event that either competitor or competitor's mount is unable to continue safely to a checkpoint.

10.1.6.2 In the event that a junior's sponsor is pulled from competition and there are no other qualified sponsors to follow, the junior may be allowed to continue with a volunteer rider through the completion of the ride with ride management's approval. The volunteer rider must be an ERA member in good standing and the volunteer's horse must be approved by the ride veterinarian. The junior would receive last placing and relevant points. The volunteer rider receives no mileage credit or points.

10.1.7 Infraction of the sponsorship shall result in either the sponsor and/or the junior being disqualified.

10.1.8 ERA points must be submitted and recorded per the above regulations independent of ride management's local ride rules governing Junior, Youth and Open/Senior Division riders.

10.1.9 All juniors entered in FEI events in Alberta, sanctioned by ERA, will be awarded points and miles for year-end standings in the Junior Division. All the following Junior Rules and Regulations from 10.1 to 10.3 will apply for these events except 10.3.

10.2 Youth Division

ERA recognizes youth riders as a separate sanctioned division of ERA described as the Youth Division. All youth riders will be entered in the Youth Division, in both Endurance and Limited Distance rides. ERA Rules and Regulations, including those pertaining to completion, awards, points, mileage, and best condition, both at individual rides and at year-end awards, shall apply to the Youth Division using the same criteria as that of the Senior Division.

10.2.1 Youth being from the date they leave Junior Division up to 21 years of age. A Youth is a rider who is under the age of 22 as of January 1 of each year.

10.2.2 The Endurance Riders of Alberta Youth Scholarship – The Vision of the Endurance Riders of Alberta Youth Scholarship is to recognize and honor the dedication, consistency, horsemanship, promotion of equestrian sports, and sportsmanship that young riders demonstrate during their equestrian careers. See Appendix C for Youth Scholarship Information and Application.

10.3 Novice Riders

All miles classed as Novice, specifically 20 or less, which are offered at an ERA sanctioned event, will be recognized as "Miles Only" for accumulated miles to an ERA member that is guiding new people to the sport of Endurance, or only if the person riding is a first year rider and member of ERA. Prizes or placing will not apply.

11 Ride Sanction Applications

Sanction requests for all rides including but not limited to established rides, new rides, rides with date and/or length changes, special qualification rides with qualifications other than Rule 3, and special event rides, which are a series of rides totaling more than 150 miles and three days, must be received by the ERA Sanctioning Committee for approval at least six weeks before the actual ride date. In the event of a cancelled ride the Board of Directors may approve the sanctioning of a replacement ride waiving the six weeks notice.

- 11.1 A deposit is required with each ride sanctioned or re-sanctioned, but not sponsored by ERA, as per the Schedule of Fees. If the ride is cancelled by ride management, the full fee will be retained by ERA. If sanctioning is not approved or is withdrawn, a percentage will be returned to the applicant, as per the Schedule of Fees. If the ride proceeds, a percentage will be applied to the "per rider" sanction fee as per the Schedule of Fees.
- 11.2 The ERA ride season runs from October 16th through to October 15th.
- 11.3 The starting time of the ride must be included on the sanctioning application.
- 11.4 Rescheduling rides in an emergency is up to the discretion of the ERA Board of Directors.
- 11.5 Ride managers wishing to put on more than four events in one season must first demonstrate the quality of four events (including sufficient number of competitors) to the satisfaction of the Sanctioning Committee.
- 11.6 ERA does not sanction rides offering prize money.
- 11.7 The ERA Sanctioning Committee may withhold or remove sanctioning before or during the competition if a ride does not meet ERA standards including, but not limited to, ERA Rules and Regulations and measures dealing with horse and rider safety.
- 11.8 Trail Markings; Endurance rides sanctioned by Endurance Riders of Alberta offering a distance of 160 kilometers or 100 miles and or; at any time the possibility arises whereas riders will be required to ride in the dark, ride management must clearly mark the trail with glow sticks and or reflectors, making sure all corners, intersections and areas of questionable vision are marked.
- 11.9 ERA offers sanctioned and sponsored events under the terms currently in use but for sanctioned only rides, increases the drug testing fee to \$10 per rider instead of the standard drug fee. Ride managers must submit a financial statement at the end of the year to the ERA Board of Directors. This financial statement will determine future eligibility for casino funds.



- 11.10 The rider or person participating in a sanctioned/sponsored event must NOT be currently suspended or expelled from the club. The ride managers and the sanctioning director are required to ensure this policy is maintained.
- 11.11 There is a minimum sanctioning fee for rides sanctioned, but not sponsored by ERA, as per the Schedule of Fees found in Quick Links on the ERA website.

12 Ride Results

Ride results must be submitted within 30 days with the applicable fees to the appropriate Board Member as per instruction.

13 Drug Policy

The integrity of any endurance competition requires that the horse is not influenced by any drug, medication or treatment. Endurance horses must compete entirely on their natural ability. The purpose of this rule against the use of Prohibited Substances or Controlled Treatments in equines during endurance rides is both to protect the equines from harm and to ensure fair competition. ERA prohibits from competition, horses that contain evidence of the administration of abnormal substances, or of normal substances in abnormal amounts (exogenously administered compounds even if normally found endogenously). Since the complete effects of such administration cannot be known, fairness and safety require the prohibition of such practices.

- 13.1 Prohibited Substances, or Prohibited Treatments FEI 2024 Equine Prohibited Substance List (inside.fei.org) as defined in this rule shall not be administered to or used in an equine competing in an endurance ride. No equine in which a Prohibited Substance or its metabolite is present shall compete in an endurance ride. (Exception: Pergolide mesylate administered exclusively for the purpose of treating Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID/Equine Cushing's Disease))
- 13.2 ERA-sanctioned rides are subject to drug testing by the ERA or governmental agencies. Riders and owners of horses entered in ERA-sanctioned events grant authority for their horses to be tested by virtue of their entry into the ride.
 - 13.2.1 Refusing to allow or cooperate with testing for Prohibited Substances at an endurance ride shall be considered to be the same as the administration or use of a Prohibited Substance and shall be grounds for immediate disqualification from the event as well as the imposition of additional penalties.
- 13.3 For purposes of this rule, an equine shall be considered to be competing in an endurance ride from the time it passes its pre-ride control check until the time it either has been pulled during a ride or is examined for its post-ride control check after finishing a ride. If the equine stands for best condition judging, it will be considered to be still competing until the end of the best condition judging. Each day of a multiple day ride shall be considered a separate ride for purposes of this rule, except that the same equine competing on consecutive days shall be considered to be competing during the entire time between the rides on those days.



13.4 Upon receipt of a laboratory report from an approved laboratory showing the presence of a substance that may be a Prohibited Substance in a test sample from an equine competing in an endurance ride, the ERA President shall appoint a Protest and Grievance Committee comprised of BOD members with no Conflict of Interest. The ERA President, on behalf of the BOD, shall immediately file a protest with the Protest and Grievance Committee and forward to them, the laboratory report and related matters. The identity of the rider/owner will only be made known to the Protest and Grievance Committee, and will not be shared with the BOD in its entirety, the membership of the ERA, or the public. The filing of a protest by the ERA President under this rule shall not be subject to the deadlines otherwise applicable to filing protests.

13.5 Riders/owners may elect to accept the initial blood test as positive for a Prohibited Substance, and waive further testing. If further testing is completed on the test sample a.) riders/owners do not accept initial test as positive b.) riders/owners file an Appeal; the riders/owners will be liable for all charges for confirmatory and/or quantitative testing if these tests are deemed necessary by the Protest and Grievance Committee.

13.6 Any equine and rider/owner violating this rule at an endurance ride shall forfeit any completion or placing for the ride, and are obligated to return any prizes received as a result of completion or placing. Ride results will show a DQ by the BOD.

13.7 The Protest and Grievance Committee will judge each case on its own merit, and may impose additional penalties for violation of this rule on any person responsible for the violation.

13.8 Normally, the rider of the equine and its owner shall be considered the persons responsible for its custody and care at a ride. Accordingly the rider of the equine and its owner shall avoid liability for additional penalties for violation of this rule only by showing by clear and convincing evidence that: (a) some other person outside of the rider or owner's control was responsible for the violation and (b) the rider or owner bore no fault for the violation.

13.9 Horses selected for random drug testing at rides shall be reported on a form to be completed by the ride veterinarian drawing the blood sample, witnessed by the person responsible for the horse (over the age of 18 years of age) and submitted to the Sanctioning Director by Ride Management.

14 Multiple Entry Restriction

No horse and/or rider may enter any ERA-sanctioned ride more than once, or enter more than one ride held concurrently at an ERA-sanctioned event.



15 Protests

When violations have not been determined and/or addressed during the course of a competition by means of the ordinary application of ERA Rules and Regulations, or other improprieties are alleged that have occurred outside a competition, the protest procedure shall be utilized.

The provisions of this section apply to any ERA-sanctioned ride for the following persons: owner, rider, agent, trainer, crew member, ride manager, ride management personnel, veterinarian, any member of the family of the above, individual ERA member, or any person who violates ERA Rules and Regulations. Violation and penalties will be determined by the ERA Protest and Grievance Committee, on the basis of a protest filed with it. Appeals of the Protest and Grievance Committee's decisions must be made to the Board of Directors.

Whenever the Protest and Grievance Committee or the full Board of Directors handles a case, that body must send a report of its decision to the ERA Office as well as to the accused and accuser in the case. The Office will keep an ERA record of Protest and Penalties. On the basis of this report, the ERA mileage director will correct ride results, if that is called for, to correspond with the judgment.

15.1 Informal Protest Procedure

Resolution of alleged infractions affecting ride results and awards that have not been satisfactorily addressed in the course of a competition may not require a formal protest.

The following procedures are suggested as ways in which this might be done, but are not deemed complete until and unless agreed upon adjustments to ride results and awards are carried out, and competitors have been notified of the terms of the resolution.

15.1.1 Competitor/Management Resolution

15.1.1.1 On-site resolution

The alleged infraction is resolved while competitors are still present. Good faith in negotiation between management and competitors, including thorough knowledge of ERA rules, should allow these resolutions in all but a few cases.

15.1.1.2 Off-site resolution

When an infraction is alleged within 48 hours after the ride is completed, but after people have left the ride site, competitor and management should attempt to resolve the matter by phone, within the 48-hour period.

15.1.2 ERA Director and/or Rules Committee Assistance

15.1.2.1 When the competitor/management interaction fails, and/or the infraction is alleged more than 48 hours after the ride date, then an ERA Director must be contacted and this Director should attempt to resolve the matter in consultation with the Rules Committee.

15.1.2.1 If no resolution is reached within 14 days after the ride date, a charge may be continued only if a protest is filed. Whenever a Director finds a case to be particularly complicated and/or an apparent infraction would require imposition of a penalty other than the normal penalties involved in the application of competition rules, which Director should recommend that the offended party file a protest with the Protest and Grievance Committee, if that party wishes to pursue the charge.

15.2 Formal Protest Procedure

A protest is a properly documented complaint by an ERA member alleging an infraction of an ERA rule or failure to apply a rule properly. A protest will not be deemed properly initiated unless the requirements of 15.2.1, 15.2.2, and 15.2.3 are met. Prior utilization of Rule 15.1. Informal Protest Procedure is neither a pre-condition nor a bar to initiation of a formal protest on the same grounds.

15.2.1. Such protest must be:

- in writing.
- signed by the protester.
- accompanied by personal testimony, sworn statements, or evidence supporting the protest.
- Evidence consists of physical evidence including written records, statements of principals and first-hand witnesses. Hearsay evidence will be accepted, but may be given lesser weight than first-hand evidence.
- accompanied by a cheque (which is refunded if the protest or appeal is upheld) payable to the ERA as per the Schedule of Fees.
- sent to the Protest and Grievance Committee, with a postmark no later than the 14th day after the ride date; or if an alleged infraction does not come to light until ride results are printed in the official publication the ERA is currently using, then the postmark of the protest must be within 30 days of the mailing of the official publication. In the case of alleged drug violations, the protest must be submitted within 14 days of receipt of the lab or government agency report.

15.2.2 Such protest must contain:

- the full name and address of the party allegedly in violation.
- the ride name, location, date, and manager.
- a complete and definite statement of the acts that constitute the alleged violation.
- clear reference, by number, to each ERA rule or regulation allegedly violated.

15.2.3 Upon receipt of a properly initiated protest, the Protest and Grievance Committee must immediately provide a copy of the protest and all supporting evidence to the accused, and notify the accuser that the protest has been initiated. From the postmark date of the announcement the accused and accuser have 14 days (postmark) to send materials refuting/substantiating the charges, to the Protest and Grievance Committee. The Protest and Grievance Committee must reach a decision, and report it to the ERA Board of Directors, the accused and the accuser, in writing, no later than 30 days after the accusation was announced to the accused. This decision must indicate actions to be taken, including but not limited to: amendment of ride results, assessment of penalties, and restitution of awards.



15.3 Appeals

Should an appeal from the Protest and Grievance Committee's decision be sought, it must be done within 14 days (postmark) after the Protest and Grievance Committee's notification of its decision. This appeal must be addressed to the Board of Directors and sent to the ERA Office. The appeal must:

- a. have the written support of two Directors.
- b. explicitly delineate whether the appeal is from the guilty or innocent verdict of the Protest and Grievance Committee, or from the penalty assigned.

If conditions a. and b. are met, the ERA Office shall immediately notify the accused, accuser, and the ERA Board of Directors of this appeal. At this juncture, accused, accuser, and the Protest and Grievance Committee may submit additional testimony or evidence to the ERA Office, but this material must be postmarked no later than 14 days after the postmark of the appeal notification.

Thirty days after the original appeal notification, all relevant materials shall be distributed by the ERA Office to the Board of Directors. These shall include all materials used by the Protest and Grievance Committee in its decision, its written report, and any additional information provided since the appeal was announced.

Board directors shall post their comments no later than the 10th day after the ERA posting of materials to the Board of Directors. All comments shall be distributed to the Board of Directors along with ballots for a vote. Board directors must post their ballots no later than the 10th day after the ERA Office posted the ballots to the Board directors. Successful appeals require a simple majority of the Board of Directors membership.

If appeal from a penalty is successful, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall assess a new penalty that must have the Board of Director's approval (simple majority vote of the Board). There is no appeal of the Board of Director's decision.

15.4 Time limitations

All time limitations of the protest procedure may be extended at the discretion of the President of the ERA. At any point in the procedure, if the accusing party elects to drop charges, that accusing party shall promptly notify the ERA Office of this decision in writing.

16 Penalty Schedule

Violations and Penalties

When assigning penalties, the Protest and Grievance Committee and the Board of Directors will take into consideration such things as severity of the infractions, intentional infractions, repeated infractions, and multiple infractions.

16.1 Individual Violations

Violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Infraction(s) of ERA Rules and Regulations.



- b. Acting, or inciting any other to act, in a manner contrary to the rules of the ERA, or in a manner considered otherwise illegal or unsportsmanlike.
- c. Physical assault upon a person and/or cruelty to a horse.
- d. Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the ERA.

16.2 Individual Penalties

If found guilty, the party will be subject to such penalty as the Protest and Grievance Committee, or the Board of Directors, may determine, including, but not limited to (more than one penalty may be applied to an infraction):

- a. Censure. A censure penalty makes the reprimand public information and serves to warn the guilty party that further violations will subject the defendant to heavier penalties.
- b. Forfeiture of completion and/or placement in a competition and/or forfeiture of any awards or prizes won in connection with the offence committed.
- c. Suspension of such person for any period from competing. A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified in the decision from: holding or exercising any office in the ERA; participating in any way whatsoever in any ERA-sanctioned ride.
- d. Suspension from membership in the ERA.

16.3 Ride Violations

A sanctioned ride is subject to penalty for, including but not limited to, the following:

- a. Failure to conduct a ride in accordance with ERA Rules and Regulations.
- b. Failure of a ride to pay its indebtedness to the ERA or to report ride results within 30 days of ride date.
- c. Failure to honor agreements with any ride officials or employees.
- d. Knowingly permitting a suspended person to participate in any manner.
- e. Permitting acts which are contrary to the rules of the ERA.

16.4 Ride Penalties

A sanctioned ride found guilty of a violation will be subject to such penalties as the Protest and Grievance Committee, or the Board of Directors, may determine, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Censure. A censure penalty makes the reprimand public information and serves to warn the ride and its management that further infractions will subject the ride and its management to heavier penalties.
- b. Fine(s).
- c. Suspension for any period from the privilege of being sanctioned. This may be applied to the ride and/or ride management.



ERA OBJECTIVES

These are the Objects that govern the Society.

- a) To promote amateur athletics for both adults and youths in the form of endurance riding in the province of Alberta.
- b) To establish a minimum standard for such competitions.
- c) To ensure that all competitions are humanely run so as to avoid cruelty and suffering to horses.
- d) To coordinate endurance riding within the province of Alberta.
- e) To compile a list of qualified veterinarians, lay judges, pulse and respiration technicians and technical advisors who are familiar with endurance riding.
- f) To aid in the development, preparation and selection of qualified Alberta representatives for national and international competitions.
- g) To promote endurance riding through education.
- h) To cooperate with the Alberta Equestrian Federation and Equestrian Canada in the education and promotion of endurance riding.

APPENDIX A - RIDE TIMES

Limited Distance	25 miles	30 miles	35 miles
Maximum ride time (HH:MM) <i>(Including all holds and checks)</i>	7:00	8:25	9:45

Endurance	Miles									
	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95
Maximum ride time (HH:MM) <i>(Including all holds and checks)</i>	12:00	13:15	14:30	15:30	16:45	18:00	19:15	20:30	21:30	22:45

Endurance (continued)	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	150
Maximum ride time (HH:MM) <i>(Including all holds and checks)</i>	24:00	25:15	26:30	27:30	28:45	30:00	31:15	32:30	33:30	34:45	36:00

APPENDIX B - Points for Common Ride Lengths

Open/Senior & Youth - points per mile

50 Miles (1 x points x miles)

75 - 95 Miles (1.25 x points x miles)

100 Miles (1.5 x points x miles)

Place	Number of Starters										
	11+	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1	450	435	420	405	390	360	330	300	270	225	150
2	375	360	345	330	315	285	255	225	195	150	
3	330	315	300	285	270	240	210	180	150		
4	300	285	270	255	240	210	180	150			
5	270	255	240	225	210	180	150				
6	240	225	210	195	180	150					
7	210	195	180	165	150						
8	195	180	165	150							
9	180	165	150								
10	165	150									
11+	150										

Place	Number of Starters										
	11+	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.0
2	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.0	
3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0		
4	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0			
5	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0				
6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0					
7	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0						
8	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0							
9	1.2	1.1	1.0								
10	1.1	1.0									
11+	1.0										

50 Miles

Place	Number of Starters						
	6+	5	4	3	2	1	
1	150	140	130	110	90	50	
2	110	100	90	70	50		
3	90	80	70	50			
4	70	60	50				
5	60	50					
6+	50						

Junior - points per mile

50 Miles (1 x points x miles)

Place	Number of Starters					
	6+	5	4	3	2	1
1	150	140	130	110	90	50
2	110	100	90	70	50	
3	90	80	70	50		
4	70	60	50			
5	60	50				
6+	50					

75 - 95 Miles

(1.25 x points x miles)

Place	Number of Starters					
	6+	5	4	3	2	1
1	281.25	262.50	243.75	206.25	168.75	93.75
2	206.25	187.50	168.75	131.25	93.75	
3	168.75	150.00	168.75	93.75		
4	131.25	112.50	93.75			
5	112.50	93.75				
6+	93.75					

100 Miles

(1.5 x points x miles)

Place	Number of Starters					
	6+	5	4	3	2	1
1	450	420	390	330	270	150
2	330	300	270	210	150	
3	270	240	210	150		
4	210	180	150			
5	180	150				
6+	150					

Points per mile - Junior

Place	Number of Starters					
	6+	5	4	3	2	1
1	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.0
2	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.0	
3	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.0		
4	1.4	1.2	1.0			
5	1.2	1.0				
6+	1.0					

Appendix C. Youth Scholarship Information and Application

Please refer to the ERA website for more information: [Forms – Endurance Riders Of Alberta](#)