

# ACTRA Rules & Regulations

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Website: [www.atlanticrider.ca](http://www.atlanticrider.ca)

The following rules are to be followed by distance riders and the management of the Atlantic Canada Trail Riding Association (ACTRA) at sanctioned rides. These have been developed and refined through the years and have been found to provide a sound basis for distance riding. ACTRA currently sanctions six different types of events. It is recommended that riders and/or ride managers read the Handbook which outlines information on general information and for each specific type of event.

It is impossible to anticipate and write rules to cover every situation that might arise at an ACTRA event. At times the underlying ACTRA philosophy of the rules must be used in order to accommodate acts of nature, vandalism or accidents. In dealing with such situations and in implementing and applying the existing rules, ACTRA relies on the good intentions of its membership to interpret the rules honestly, fairly and in the spirit with which they have been written. To help these situations, please remember the following:

1. ACTRA places the highest priority in the safety of horse, riders and volunteers.
2. All competitors should be treated in an equitable and impartial manner to provide a fair competition.
3. The event should be a pleasant, enjoyable experience for horse, rider and volunteers.

## 1 - General Overview

### **1.1 SANCTIONING**

- 1.1.1 All competitors in ACTRA sanctioned events must have proof of membership in their Provincial Equestrian Association.
- 1.1.2 Two different rides will not be sanctioned for the same day, unless they are located more than 100 miles apart.
- 1.1.3 Sanction fees are \$5.00 per starter for all rides. (Nov 2018 increase)
- 1.1.4 Managers of a sanctioned ride must be a current ACTRA member.
- 1.1.5 Ride season will end on October 5th. All results must be in to the statistician by October 12th. Any rides sanctioned after the 5th will go into next years results. (2025)
- 1.1.6 Rides must be sanctioned and posted on the website a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the ride. (Nov 2017)
- 1.1.7 Ride management should receive sanction kits no later than two weeks before the ride date. Verbal communication requesting a ride date must be confirmed with a written request within a week to the sanctioning person in order for that ride date to be approved.
- 1.1.8 Results and sanction fees are to be forwarded to the statistician and treasurer, respectively, within two weeks of the ride. The statistician will forward the ride results to the newsletter editor to be published in the ACTRA newsletter. The Statistician will accept the mileage for horse and rider that is put on the Master Score Sheet by the Ride Manager. It is the Ride Manager's responsibility to calculate the mileage properly. (Nov 2019)
- 1.1.9 Annual budget for up to \$200 provided for Sanctioning Director. Ride managers have two options for dispersal of sanction kits  
1) Sanction Director will print and mail required kits. 2) Ride managers can print off their own kits and request reimbursement. Expense reimbursement form on the website can be used. (2025)
- 1.1.10 Ride Managers can, at their discretion, charge a non-member participation fee. This additional fee will go directly to the ride managers.
- 1.2.1 Mileage must be accurately measured, not estimated.
- 1.2.2 Secure permission from all landowners for the crossing of any private land and the Dept of Natural Resources for any use of provincial trails.
- 1.2.3 ACTRA recommends a two-color flagging system. Flags are to be tied on the rider's right when they are travelling in the correct direction on the trail. One color is used for the base color with turns being marked with a secondary color flag tied to either the left or right of the main color flag to indicate the direction of the upcoming turn.

- 1.2.4 Any rider going off course, intentionally or otherwise, must return to the same point where they left in order for them to be considered for ride completion awards and mileage.
- 1.2.5 New ride managers are to have an experienced competitor help them plan a safe trail.
- 1.2.6 If a rider misses a section of prescribed trail as posted by Ride Management and this error is discovered within 48 hours post ride, the horse and rider mileage and placings are revoked. (Nov 2019)

### **1.3 JUDGES**

- 1.3.1 Judges must have a good working knowledge of horses under stress and they have the final authority on all questions pertaining to the safety and placing of horses. Judges must understand and agree to the use the standard ACTRA judging procedures and score sheets without modifications.
- 1.3.2 Any judge, vet, pulse and respiration (P & R) person, volunteer or ride staff officiating at a ride shall not be subject to indignities of any kind during the process of the ride; and it is the duty and obligation of ride management hosting the ride to see that this rule is enforced. Any problems with ride personnel will be reported to ride management and only ride management. Management will handle problems in a fair and diplomatic manner. ACTRA will support ride managers who chose to pull a competitors score sheet from a ride in the process of enforcing the above rules. Any competitor whose score sheet is pulled will not receive mileage, placing or points for that ride.
- 1.3.3 Any person may judge at any ACTRA ride if they have an immediate family member competing or has any monetary interest in any horse entered in the ride. Upon completion of the final exam and receiving a final score, the horse and rider will receive mileage credit only.
- 1.3.4 Ride management should make available some type of sanitary hand cleaner and recommend to judges that is be used between horse examinations.
- 1.3.5 Judges are asked to see that the score sheets are fully completed and signed.
- 1.3.6 Horses that receive veterinarian medical care while at a ride are disqualified from the ride and any medication or treatment shall be at the owner's expense.

### **1.4 HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

- 1.4.1 Horses showing evidence of contagious disease are ineligible to compete and shall be promptly removed from the ride grounds. Nursing mares and horses that have been nerved are ineligible to compete. It is recommended that mares in the last half of pregnancy not be entered.

### **1.5 AGE REQUIREMENTS**

- 1.5.1 All members of the equine family, be they ponies, horses, mules, etc are eligible to compete, provided they are 48 months or older at the time of the competition. The veterinarian or judge shall determine the age of unregistered equines.
- 1.5.2 Mounts must be a minimum of five years of age to compete in rides of more than 35 miles.

### **1.6 JUNIOR DIVISION**

- 1.6.1 A Junior is a rider who was 16 years of age or under as of the first day of November of that ride season (Nov1 to Oct 31).
- 1.6.2 A Senior sponsor must accompany Junior riders at all times during the ride. In the event that a Junior does not have a Senior at the beginning of the ride, ride management may assist in the selection of a sponsor from within the adults entered. A Senior rider may sponsor a maximum of two Junior riders per ride.
- 1.6.3 In the event of an emergency, between checks, that either competitor or the competitor's mount is unable to continue safely, the identified sponsor and Junior should stay together until another sponsor is found.
- 1.6.4 An ACTRA Junior member 14 years or older who has completed 500 miles or more in ACTRA sanctioned events, may apply in writing to the Board of Directors to ride un-sponsored and compete in the Senior division.
- 1.6.5 Such un-sponsored Junior riders must also have on file with ACTRA a letter by the parent or guardian, which consents to and requests the un-sponsored status.
- 1.6.6 Junior riders, sponsored or un-sponsored, may participate in ACTRA competitions only with the written consent of a parent or guardian on the signed entry form. This consent shall imply acceptance of all ACTRA rules, particularly the ability of a

sponsor to substitute another sponsor during a ride as allowed by ACTRA rules and regulations; and prior consent to any emergency medical treatment or aid.

1.6.7 Infraction of the ACTRA rules may result in either the sponsor and/or the Junior being disqualified.

1.6.8 Juniors are not permitted to ride stallions in ACTRA sanctioned events.

## **1.7 HELMETS**

1.7.1 ACTRA requires all riders to be wearing approved ASTM/SEI helmets while mounted.

## **1.8 RIDE PERSONNEL**

1.8.1 The minimum personnel required to run a ride will consist of a ride manager, a ride secretary, a timekeeper/starter, a writer for each judge or vet, a driver for each judge and their writer, pulse and respiration recorders and a driver with a horse trailer to be available for picking up any withdrawn horses.

## **1.9 EXAMINATION / JUDGING**

1.9.1 All ACTRA events have a required pre-ride exam. It is recommended that the examination area allow room to have horses trotted out in circles or figure eights in hand or lunging with a surface that is fairly hard and smooth.

1.9.2 A red ribbon must be worn in the tail of a known kicker and a yellow ribbon for a stallion.

1.9.3 A pre-ride briefing takes place after the completion of the examinations. Riders to be informed of the trail, ride times, hold times and horse parameters and any other information deemed important to the rider.

1.9.4 All ACTRA events have at least one hold where horses are checked for their health and wellbeing.

1.9.5 Horses must complete the final exam at the end of the event before a completion will be awarded.

1.9.6 There is to be equal examination of all horses in every respect. Any area that is not possible to examine initially must be assumed to be in perfect condition at the pre ride exam. If the area is not able to be examined at the post ride exam, maximum deductions must be made in this category. If the animal allows a post ride examination of an area not examined initially, all deterioration will be scored against the animal as it was presumed to have started clean.

1.9.7 Trail horse to be determined by the judge of the ride as per her/his preference bearing in mind the horse's soundness, manners, attitude and suitability to the sport of distance riding. (Nov 2018)

## **1.10 DRUG / MEDICATION RULES**

1.10.1 Any type of tack is permitted unless deemed inhumane or unsafe by the judges. The use of electrolytes and/or fly spray is permitted.

1.10.2 No horse competing in any ACTRA sanctioned ride shall be given any illegal drug or medication for the purpose of altering the horse's performance within 72 hours prior to the ride.

1.10.3 An illegal drug is defined as any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, anti-inflammatory or analgesic or any medication that alters distribution of body fluids.

1.10.4 The finding of a drug or its by-products in the blood, urine or saliva of a horse will be used as evidence that such drug was illegally administered. Penalty for illegal drug use will be disqualification from and withdrawal of awards for that ride. The ACTRA Board of Directors will make the final decision as to imposition of any such penalties.

1.10.5 Also prohibited are salves, ointments, liniments, ice boots (except in endurance and limited distance rides), leg compresses, bandages or water that has been artificially heated or cooled (except in endurance or limited distance rides).

## **1.11 GENERAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

1.11.1 A source of water and toilet facilities should be available at the ride site. A first aid kit should be available and a vet on call.

1.11.2 Stock markers of various colors are used to number the horse's rumps, both sides.

1.11.3 Ride managers who wish to ride in their own event, need to appoint another person to be the ride manager for the day of the event.

1.11.4 Abuse of mounts or unsportsmanlike behavior by the rider and/or their family or crew will result in disqualification from the ride.

- 1.11.5 The ACTRA rulebook should be available at the ride site in the event of any questions or disputes regarding rules and/or judging procedures.
- 1.11.6 The use of hand held heart rate monitors at holds will be at the discretion of the ride manager. Competitors have the right to request a manual heart rate be taken and all final heart rates will be taken manually with a stethoscope.
- 1.11.7 All Master Scoresheets are to be posted for riders to view at award time.
- 1.11.8 First time ACTRA members joining at a fall ride (Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to end of ride season) get an extended membership into the following year.
- 1.11.9 ACTRA will subsidize veterinary costs for ACTRA sanctioned rides of CTR/IDR or ER/LD at the cost of \$200/day if the combo is held on the same day. All paperwork and sanctioning fees must be submitted within two weeks before ride is eligible for reimbursement. (Nov 2017)
- 1.11.10 When a tie is awarded the next placing is skipped. Example: tie for first place of two riders, next placing is third.
- 1.11.11 Electronic devices used at ACTRA Sanctioned rides are for personal use only and readings taken from these devices will not be considered by Ride Management in official scoring or to challenge a Ride Management's official results, including but not limited to GPS, cell phones and heart rate monitors. (Nov 2019)

## **1.12 GRIEVANCES**

- 1.12.1 Time allowed for reviewing score sheet/seek correction of any mechanical errors changed to 48 hours for statistical purposes. (Nov 2017)
- 1.12.2 All grievances must be made in writing not sooner than two days (to allow for a cooling off period) following a ride and not later than five days to the ACTRA chair with a copy to the Rules Director.
- 1.12.3 All grievances must include a \$10 processing fee.
- 1.12.4 Rules Director will Chair the Grievance Committee and appoint two others as their discretion per grievance. (Nov 2019)

## **1.13 TRAIL COURTESY**

- 1.13.1 A rider should never purposely block a trail to a faster rider. When possible the front rider should move over or stop and allow the rider behind to pass. The rider following will indicate passing on the right or left and not crowd the horses in front.
- 1.13.2 A rider should keep at least one horse's length behind another except when overtaking to pass.
- 1.13.3 Riders should not monopolize the only hose or water source.
- 1.13.4 No rider should in any way contaminate a common water source that is being used to water the horses.

## **1.14 HOOF BOOTS / LEG PROTECTION**

- 1.14.1 ACTRA accepts all types of sole protection in all sanctioned divisions. Attachment strap, keeper or gaiter may not extend above the pastern.
- 1.14.2 The judge may request to observe the covered area at any time during the ride.
- 1.14.3 A 5 point deduction per leg will be applied to horses wearing leg protection during Competitive Trail Rides and/or Introductory Distance Rides.
- 1.14.4 Horses wearing leg protection in Judged Pleasure Rides, Competitive Trail Rides and Introductory Distance Rides will not be considered for Trail Horse.

## 2 – COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDING RULES

Competitive trail riding (CTR) was founded on the principal that any competitive horse should have an equal chance when competing with any other competitive horse, regardless of age, sex or breed. In competitive trail riding, the scoring of the judges determines the horse that has deteriorated the least from the events initial exam to the events final exam.

ACTRA strives to give each horse an equal chance against all the others in the event. It encourages a broader cross section of people to get involved in this sport. If the judging system is properly used, the placing of horses will be unknown to riders and fellow competitors until the final award ceremony.

### **2.1 JUDGES**

- 2.1.1 ACTRA prefers the use of veterinarians for judges on CTRs but since this is not always possible, the use of experienced laypersons is quite acceptable. On multi-day CTRs, one judge must be a veterinarian.
- 2.1.2 Any judge may eliminate a horse from competition at any time if, in their opinion, to continue would endanger the health and safety of the animal. The reason for disqualification should be clearly explained to the rider and noted on their score sheet.
- 2.1.3 In the case of illness or injury to a rider, a substitute rider can be used to finish the ride so that the horse will be credited with the miles. The horse may not qualify for any ride placing in such case.

### **2.2 RIDE TIME**

- 2.2.1 Ride time is established by management and cannot be altered by judges. These times cannot be shortened, but if more or longer holds are planned, elapsed time may be increased.
- 2.2.2 Under unusual circumstances management may extend time if it is in the best interest of horse, rider, or driver safety, and fair competition.
- 2.2.3 CTR's are to be ridden at 6 MPH.
- 2.2.4 CTR's 20 minute hold time will include 10 minutes incorporated into the ride time and 10 minutes will be added to the ride time.
- 2.2.5 No adjustments should be made in any event times after the event has started and the first horse is on the course. Under unusual circumstances management may extend time if it is in the best interest of horse and rider and fair competition.
- 2.2.6 In the case of any deviation from the rules, ride management must make an application in writing to the Board of Directors for standing of mileage and points.
- 2.2.7 Competitors may complete the trail up to 15 minutes either side of the established ride time, without penalty. Time penalties are deducted for finishing over or under time are: 1 point per min on 1 day rides, 1 point per 2 minutes on 2 day rides and 1 point per 3 minutes on 3 day rides, to a maximum of 30 points.
- 2.2.8 If a horse accrues more than 30 minute time faults because it came into the finish too early or too late, the horse and rider are disqualified and are not awarded mileage for the ride (Nov 2018).

### **2.3 RIDE MILEAGE**

- 2.3.1 Management hosting their first CTR can have a minimum distance of 20 miles, after that a minimum of 25 miles is accepted.
- 2.3.2 On multi-day CTRs, at least one day must be 25 miles or more. The maximum length of a single day CTR is 40 miles.
- 2.3.3 Mileage markers made from Styrofoam or plastic plates should be placed on the trail as "miles to go", such as 20, 15, 10 as well as each of the last 5 miles to go.

## **2.4 PRE-RIDE EXAM**

- 2.4.1 The purpose of the pre-ride exam is to establish the condition of the horse before the ride, in order to have a basis for comparison with the post-ride exam. Horses with problems that may prevent them from safely competing can be identified and be excused from competition.
- 2.4.2 Competitors should declare blemishes or unsoundness to the judge at the pre-ride exam. These declarations should be verified and recorded along with the judge's findings.
- 2.4.3 Conditions for the pre-ride should be identical for all horses. The post-ride conditions should duplicate the pre-ride as nearly as is reasonable.
- 2.4.4 No horse shall begin the course until all horses have been examined.
- 2.4.5 It is recommended that where possible, circles in hand or longing be included while examining horses for lameness.
- 2.4.6 It will be ride managements decision as to whether riders will lunge their horses as part of the in-hand presentation.

## **2.5 PRE-RIDE BRIEFING**

- 2.5.1 A pre-ride briefing takes place after the completion of the examinations. Riders to be informed of the trail, ride times, hold times and horse parameters and any other information deemed important to the rider.
- 2.5.2 Judges should be prepared to discuss pulse and respiration limits and answer questions posed by riders.
- 2.5.3 ACTRA does not allow the use of pit crews on Competitive Trail Rides. Rider assistance is allowed (excluding on trail) unless Horsemanship is being offered. That is, the rider may have assistance before the ride, at the hold and after the ride. (Nov 2019)

## **2.6 RIDE START**

- 2.6.1 After the pre-ride briefing, the timer will start horses onto the trail at 30 to 60 second intervals.
- 2.6.2 Horses should leave at a trot under the judge's observation, unless otherwise instructed.
- 2.6.3 From this point on forward progress on the trail may be maintained only if the rider is mounted, with exceptions in the interest of safety or problems with shoeing.

## **2.7 TRAIL CHECKS**

- 2.7.1 Along the course of the ride, judges should observe all horses as often as possible to ensure that no horse is unduly stressed.
- 2.7.2 These check points are usually a "fly by" look by the judges, but it is the judge's prerogative to stop any horse at any time for further examination. Depending on findings, the horse in question may be permitted to continue, held for a period of time, or eliminated.
- 2.7.3 One judge may pull a horse from the ride; a consensus is not necessary.
- 2.7.4 Exam and any enforced rest time comes out of the original allotted time, no extra time will be given.

## **2.8 HOLDS**

- 2.8.1 Halfway through the ride, most likely at the lunch stop, all horses undergo a mandatory 20 min hold. The area should be large enough to accommodate quite a few horses at a time. The P&R teams do the entire job, leaving the judge free to observe horses and make decisions on questionable P&R recoveries.
- 2.8.2 Ten minutes after arriving at the halfway, the P&R team (usually 2 people) checks the horse's pulse and respiration. For accuracy, the pulse should be taken with a stethoscope, counted over 15 seconds and multiplied by 4. Any abnormal pulse should be reported to the judge.
- 2.8.3 A rider may call for pulse at any time before the required 10 minutes at the halfway hold. The hold will still be 20 minutes long. If a horse has failed this early pulse exam, it is subject to the same penalties as before, with P&R retaken in 10minutes. Horses whose 10 min pulse time has arrived will have priority for the P&R team's time, over those who have called for early pulse exams.

- 2.8.4 If the horse has not recovered to parameters set for the day, usually 60 for pulse and 40 for respiration, 5 points are deducted on the conditioning score sheet and P&R retaken in another 10 minutes. If the horse has recovered to the proper pulse and respiration level at the end of the 20 minutes hold, they can be allowed to continue. If they have not recovered to the 60 after the 20 minutes, they will be excused from the ride. If the judge elected to use other than 60 and 40 for parameters, due to weather, etc., riders must be advised at the pre-ride briefing. The recovery P&R is recorded on the rider's score sheet.
- 2.8.5 Inversion, (conditions where respiration is higher than pulse), merits careful evaluation when found at the end of 10 minutes. Some horses work at inverted values but a well-conditioned horse should rapidly return to proper ratios at rest. After 10 minutes, an elevated or rising reading may indicate a heat retention problem. This is most common in humid weather. It can also indicate a prelude to heat stroke and should be carefully monitored. Riders are encouraged to use natural water (not hoses) to bring down a horse's temperature and P&R rate. In suspected heat stroke problems, a rectal temperature is invaluable.
- 2.8.6 Respirations will not be mandatory criteria for eliminating a horse from a ride. Horses will still be held at the halfway and have 5 points deducted, if they are over the required respiration parameters.
- 2.8.7 The use of hand held heart monitors at all holds will be at the discretion of the Ride Manager. Competitors have the right to request a manual heart rate. All final heart rates will be taken manually with a stethoscope.
- 2.8.8 If any P&R person has an immediate family member's mount or any monetary interest in any mount in the ride, it is recommended that another P&R person do that horse at the halfway and final checks.
- 2.8.9 The judge should observe horses leaving the hold at a trot to check for soundness.

## **2.9 POST RIDE EXAM**

- 2.9.1 A mandatory P&R is taken 20 minutes after the horse crosses the finish line. The horse is then to go immediately, in order of finish, for their final trot out to evaluate lameness and mechanical fatigue categories.
- 2.9.2 The P&R teams go to the horse for this final pulse. The timing of this interval must be accurate and equal for all horses, as this reading will be used in the final scoring.
- 2.9.3 These P&Rs are taken for a minimum of 30 seconds, multiplied by 2 and taken with a stethoscope.
- 2.9.4 The post ride exam occurs one hour after crossing the finish line. It should duplicate the morning exam in location and technique. With the aid of pre-ride notes, horses are examined and deductions are made for deterioration. The horse is scored as it is being examined; when the horse leaves the exam area, all the deductions are already scored on the score sheet. No changes in scoring should be made after this point.

## **2.10 SCORING SYSTEM**

- 2.10.1 ACTRA has devised a numerical system for scoring conditioning on CTRs. Using an objective evaluation, each horse is judged against itself with points deducted for loss of condition. Deductions are limited to the number at which area is valued on the score sheet. Judges are respectfully reminded of the importance of the fatigue categories in determining the condition of a horse.
- 2.10.2 On CTRs, the following conditioning placings are acknowledged: juniors, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and seniors, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, trail horse placings: juniors 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, seniors 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 2.10.3 It is not mandatory for ride management to offer horsemanship on CTRs.
- 2.10.4 A separate crew should be available to do all the final calculations and deduct time penalties from the sheets. After placings and awards are determined, judges should sign the score sheets. The Master score sheet must be completed before judging sheets are given to the competitors.
- 2.10.5 Riders should check their sheets for calculation errors and notify management if any are found. Time allowed for reviewing score sheet/seek correction of any mechanical errors changed to 48 hours for statistical purposes. (Nov 2017)

## **3 - INTRODUCTORY DISTANCE RIDES**

Introductory Distance Riding (IDR) was founded on the principal that any competitive horse should have an equal chance when competing with any other competitive horse, regardless of age, sex or breed. In introductory distance trail riding, the scoring of the judges determines the horse that has deteriorated the least from the event initial exam to the event final exam.

ACTRA strives to give each horse an equal chance against all the others in the event. It encourages a broader cross section of people to get involved in this sport. If the judging system is properly used, the placing of horses will be unknown to riders and fellow competitors until the final award ceremony.

### **3.1 JUDGES**

- 3.1.1 ACTRA prefers the use of veterinarians for judges on IDR's but since this is not always possible, the use of experienced laypersons is quite acceptable.
- 3.1.2 Any judge may eliminate a horse from competition at any time if, in their opinion, to continue would endanger the health and safety of the animal. The reason for disqualification should be clearly explained to the rider and noted on their score sheet.
- 3.1.3 In the case of illness or injury to a rider, a substitute rider can be used to finish the ride so that the horse will be credited with the miles. The horse may not qualify for any ride placing in such case.

### **3.2 RIDE TIME**

- 3.2.1 Ride time is established by management and cannot be altered by judges. These times cannot be shortened, but if more or longer holds are planned, elapsed time may be increased.
- 3.2.2 Under unusual circumstances management may extend time if it is in the best interest of horse, rider, or driver safety, and fair competition.
- 3.2.3 IDR speed is either 4 or 5 miles/hour to be decided by ride management and announced at the time of sanctioning. (Nov 2017)
- 3.2.4 IDR's 20 minute hold time will include 10 minutes incorporated into the ride time and 10 minutes will be added to the ride time.
- 3.2.5 No adjustments should be made in any event times after the event has started and the first horse is on the course. Under unusual circumstances management may extend time if it is in the best interest of horse and rider and fair competition.
- 3.2.6 In the case of any deviation from the rules, ride management must make an application in writing to the Board of Directors for standing of mileage and points.
- 3.2.7 Contestants may complete the trail up to 15 minutes either side of the established ride time, without penalty. Time penalties are deducted for finishing over or under time are: 1 point per min to a maximum of 30 points.
- 3.2.8 If a horse accrues more than 30 minute time faults because it came into the finish too early or too late, the horse and rider are disqualified and are not awarded mileage for the ride (Nov 2018).

### **3.3 RIDE MILEAGE**

- 3.3.1 Management hosting an IDR can have a maximum distance of 20 miles and must be a minimum of 12 miles.
- 3.3.2 ACTRA does not allow multi-day IDRs.
- 3.3.3 Mileage markers made from Styrofoam or plastic plates should be placed on the trail as "miles to go", such as 20, 15, 10 as well as each of the last 5 miles to go.

### **3.4 PRE-RIDE EXAM**

- 3.4.1 The purpose of the pre-ride exam is to establish the condition of the horse before the ride, in order to have a basis for comparison with the post-ride exam. Horses with problems that may prevent them from safely competing can be identified and be excused from competition.
- 3.4.2 Competitors should declare blemishes or unsoundness to the judge at the pre-ride exam. These declarations should be verified and recorded along with the judge's findings.

- 3.4.3 Conditions for the pre-ride should be identical for all horses. The post-ride conditions should duplicate the pre-ride as nearly as is reasonable.
- 3.4.4 No horse shall begin the course until all horses have been examined.
- 3.4.5 It is recommended that where possible, circles in hand or lunging be included while examining horses for lameness.
- 3.4.6 It will be ride managements decision as to whether riders will lunge their horses as part of the in-hand presentation.

### **3.5 PRE-RIDE BRIEFING**

- 3.5.3 A pre-ride briefing takes place after the completion of the examinations. Riders to be informed of the trail, ride times, hold times and horse parameters and any other information deemed important to the rider.
- 3.5.4 Judges should be prepared to discuss pulse and respiration limits and answer questions posed by riders.
- 3.5.5 ACTRA does not allow the use of pit crews on Introductory Distance Rides. Rider assistance is allowed (excluding on trail) unless Horsemanship is being offered. That is, rider may have assistance before the ride, at the hold and after the ride. (Nov 2019)

### **3.6 RIDE START**

- 3.6.3 After the pre-ride briefing, the timer will start horses onto the trail at 30 to 60 second intervals.
- 3.6.4 Horses should leave at a trot under the judge's observation, unless otherwise instructed.
- 3.6.5 From this point on forward progress on the trail may be maintained only if the rider is mounted, with exceptions in the interest of safety or problems with shoeing.

### **3.7 TRAIL CHECKS**

- 3.7.3 Along the course of the ride, judges should observe all horses as often as possible to ensure that no horse is unduly stressed.
- 3.7.4 These check points are usually a "fly by" look by the judges, but it is the judge's prerogative to stop any horse at any time for further examination. Depending on findings, the horse in question may be permitted to continue, held for a period of time, or eliminated.
- 3.7.5 One judge may pull a horse from the ride; a consensus is not necessary.
- 3.7.6 Exam and any enforced rest time comes out of the original allotted time, no extra time will be given.

### **3.8 HOLDS**

- 3.8.3 Halfway through the ride, most likely at the lunch stop, all horses undergo a mandatory 20 min hold. The area should be large enough to accommodate quite a few horses at a time. The P&R teams do the entire job, leaving the judge free to observe horses and make decisions on questionable P&R recoveries.
- 3.8.4 Ten minutes after arriving at the halfway, the P&R team (usually 2 people) checks the horse's pulse and respiration. For accuracy, the pulse should be taken with a stethoscope, counted over 15 seconds and multiplied by 4. Any abnormal pulse should be reported to the judge.
- 3.8.5 A rider may call for pulse at any time before the required 10 minutes at the halfway hold. The hold will still be 20 minutes long. If a horse has failed this early pulse exam, it is subject to the same penalties as before, with P&R retaken in 10 minutes. Horses whose 10 min pulse time has arrived will have priority for the P&R team's time, over those who have called for early pulse exams.
- 3.8.6 If the horse has not recovered to parameters set for the day, usually 60 for pulse and 40 for respiration, 5 points are deducted on the conditioning score sheet and P&R retaken in another 10 minutes. If the horse has recovered to the proper pulse and respiration level at the end of the 20 minutes hold, they can be allowed to continue. If they have not recovered to the 60 after the 20 minutes, they will be excused from the ride. If the judge elected to use other than 60 and 40 for parameters, due to weather, etc., riders must be advised at the pre-ride briefing. The recovery P&R is recorded on the rider's score sheet.
- 3.8.7 Inversion, (conditions where respiration is higher than pulse), merits careful evaluation when found at the end of 10 minutes. Some horses work at inverted values but a well-conditioned horse should rapidly return to proper ratios at rest. After 10 minutes, an elevated or rising reading may indicate a heat retention problem. This is most common in humid weather. It can also indicate a prelude to heat stroke and should be carefully monitored.

Riders are encouraged to use natural water (not hoses) to bring down a horse's temperature and P&R rate. In suspected heat stroke problems, a rectal temperature is invaluable.

- 3.8.8 Respirations will not be mandatory criteria for eliminating a horse from a ride. Horses will still be held at the halfway and have 5 points deducted, if they are over the required respiration parameters.
- 3.8.9 The use of hand held heart monitors at all holds will be at the discretion of the Ride Manager. Competitors have the right to request a manual heart rate. All final heart rates will be taken manually with a stethoscope.
- 3.8.10 If any P&R person has an immediate family member's mount or any monetary interest in any mount in the ride, it is recommended that another P&R person do that horse at the halfway and final checks.
- 3.8.11 The judge should observe horses leaving the hold at a trot to check for soundness.

### **3.9 POST RIDE EXAM**

- 3.9.3 A mandatory P&R is taken 20 minutes after the horse crosses the finish line. The horse is then to go immediately, in order of finish, for their final trot out to evaluate lameness and mechanical fatigue categories.
- 3.9.4 The P&R teams go to the horse for this final pulse. The timing of this interval must be accurate and equal for all horses, as this reading will be used in the final scoring.
- 3.9.5 These P&Rs are taken for a minimum of 30 seconds, multiplied by 2 and taken with a stethoscope.
- 3.9.6 The post ride exam occurs one hour after crossing the finish line. It should duplicate the morning exam in location and technique. With the aid of pre-ride notes, horses are examined and deductions are made for deterioration. The horse is scored as it is being examined; when the horse leaves the exam area, all the deductions are already scored on the score sheet. No changes in scoring should be made after this point.
- 3.9.7 A separate crew should be available to do all the final calculations and deduct time penalties from the sheets. After placings and awards are determined, judges should sign the score sheets. The master score sheet must be completed before judging sheets are given to the competitors.

### **3.10 SCORING SYSTEM**

- 3.10.3 ACTRA has devised a numerical system for scoring conditioning on IDRs. Using an objective evaluation, each horse is judged against itself with points deducted for loss of condition. Deductions are limited to the number at which area is valued on the score sheet. Judges are respectfully reminded of the importance of the fatigue categories in determining the condition of a horse.
- 3.10.4 On IDRs, the following conditioning placings are acknowledged: juniors, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and seniors, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, trail horse placings: juniors 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, seniors 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 3.10.5 It is not mandatory for ride management to offer horsemanship on IDRs.
- 3.10.6 Riders should check their sheets for calculation errors and notify management if any are found. Time allowed for reviewing score sheet/seek correction of any mechanical errors changed to 48 hours for statistical purposes. (Nov 2017)

## **4 JUDGED PLEASURE RIDES**

A Judged Pleasure Ride (JPR) is as the name implies. It is meant to be fun or a pleasure with a little competition thrown in. It is a great way to get a horse ready for competitive trail rides, to spend a relaxing afternoon with some friends riding the trails, to relax a spoiled or sour show horse, for schooling young horses to get used to going in company, or for people who do not have the time or interest to condition their horses for the longer distances.

### **4.4 JUDGES**

- 4.4.3 Depending on the amount of entries, one or two competent horse people can act as judges at Judged Pleasure Rides.
- 4.4.4 Veterinarian's are not required to judge a Judged Pleasure Ride.
- 4.4.5 The judge has the power to pull a horse for any reason, at any time.

## **4.5 RIDE TIME**

4.5.3 There is no time limit on a Judged Pleasure Ride.

## **4.6 RIDE MILEAGE**

4.6.3 Management hosting a Judged Pleasure Ride can have a minimum distance of 10 miles and a maximum distance of 20 miles.

## **4.7 PRE-RIDE EXAM**

4.7.3 Horses are to be presented in-hand for judging. Riders and horses will be judged on Horsemanship and Trail Horse.

4.7.4 The rider should stand in a position as not to obstruct the view of the judge at any time while keeping the animal under control.

4.7.5 A rider should follow instructions and present their horse in the manner requested by the judge.

4.7.6 When the horse is walked or trotted out, the horse should be moved in a straight line directly to and from the judge.

4.7.7 The rider should remain by the side of the horse adjacent to its head and never in the path of sight of the judge and their horse.

4.7.8 At the end of the preliminary examination, the rider may point out blemishes, scars or physical defects which they feel might be considered significant at some time later on in the ride.

4.7.9 Riders may request to ride for miles only from Ride Managers. Horses will still be inspected by the judges, but not scored for a final placing. This inspection is to ensure horses that are lame or ill are not allowed to participate.

4.7.10 A pre-ride briefing will be given before the rider presents their tacked up horse to the judge for inspection.

## **4.8 RIDE START**

4.8.3 Riders are to mount in front of the judge.

4.8.4 The timer will start horses onto the trail at 30-60 second intervals.

4.8.5 Riders may go out single, in pairs or groups.

## **4.9 HALFWAY HOLD**

4.9.3 There is a compulsory 30 minute hold for lunch halfway through the ride.

4.9.4 Pulse and respiration is mandatory at the lunch stop.

4.9.5 Pulse and respiration is taken 10 minutes after the arrival of the horse/rider. and if not within the parameters, taken again in another 10 minutes. If the horse's P&Rs are not within the parameters after the second 10-minute P&R check, the horse is pulled.

4.9.6 The pulse and respiration is not used in judging either Trail Horse or Horsemanship.

4.9.7 If any P&R person has an immediate family member's mount or any monetary interest in any mount in the ride, it is recommended that another P&R person do that horse at the halfway.

## **4.10 POST RIDE EXAM**

4.10.3 At the trail end the final individual inspection will be 30 minutes after crossing the finish line.

4.10.4 Horses are to be presented in the same condition as in the pre-ride exam.

## **4.11 SCORING SYSTEM**

4.11.3 Judges should record a reason for all deductions in the Horsemanship and Trail Horse categories.

4.11.4 Judged Pleasure Rides awards 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place in Horsemanship for both Junior and Senior.

4.11.5 Judged Pleasure Rides awards 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place in Trail Horse for both Junior and Senior.

4.11.6 Riders should check their sheets for calculation errors and notify management if any are found. Time allowed for reviewing score sheet/seek correction of any mechanical errors changed to 48 hours for statistical purposes. (Nov 2017)

## **5 ENDURANCE**

### **GENERAL RULES**

#### **5.4 The ride must be at least 50 miles in length per day, up to a maximum distance of 150 miles in three days.**

- 5.4.3 Rides are sanctioned for a certain number of miles.
- 5.4.4 Mileage over 50 must be a multiple of five, ending in a 0 or 5, whichever is the nearest whole number to the actual ride mileage (e.g., 52.4 miles = 50, 52.5 miles = 55).
- 5.4.5 An ACTRA endurance ride does not need to be sanctioned with AERC. Ride Management may dual sanction if they desire.
- 5.4.6 Endurance rides which are sanctioned for more than one distance (such as a 50 and a 100 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 restrictions: The rider may only elevate from a shorter distance into a longer distance; the rider may elevate only once; upon elevating, the rider is no longer considered to be a starter or a finisher in the shorter ride.
- 5.4.7 Elevator rides must be indicated on the sanction application and advertised as such.
- 5.4.8 The rider must state which mileage he will enter if a multiple mileage ride; e.g., 50 mile, 100 mile or 150 mile.
- 5.4.9 A rider who elevates is eligible for completion only.
- 5.4.10 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.
- 5.4.11 The sanctioned ride mileage(s) cannot be changed later than 30 days before the ride.
- 5.4.12 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.
- 5.4.13 A change in mileage and/or ride results certified by ACTRA may be mandated by a Protest.
- 5.4.14 If an Endurance Ride is AERC and ACTRA sanctioned, we will default to AERC rules.

#### **5.5 The equines must be under the control of control judge(s) experienced with equines or endurance rides.**

- 5.5.3 The ride must employ at least one control judge whose services will be exclusive to that event, pre-ride, during the ride, and post-ride (at least one control judge must be at the ride site for at least one hour after the last equine crosses the finish line or has returned to ride camp).
- 5.5.4 The most current version of the ACTRA Rules and Regulations must be provided to the control judges by the Ride Manager prior to the ride, and must be available for reference at the ride.
- 5.5.5 Control judges are veterinarians employed by ride management to monitor the equines and counsel riders and ride management on equine welfare as well as to uphold the ACTRA rules. Control judges are persons that have graduated with a Degree in Veterinary Medicine from an institution of recognized standing. A control judge will provide judgment as to an equine’s ability to remain in competition. Control judges are not to provide a diagnosis and will refer equines identified as requiring diagnostics to a veterinarian legally licensed to practice. A control judge who is also a veterinarian legally licensed to practice may perform concurrent duties outside the role of control judge such as providing a diagnosis and/or medical treatment.
- 5.5.6 A veterinarian who is serving as ride manager of an ACTRA sanctioned event is prohibited from serving that same event as a control judge.

- 5.5.7 Each equine will receive a substantive physical examination of metabolic and mechanical parameters before the ride, at control points within the ride and after the ride. All ACTRA sanctioned rides must use an ACTRA approved rider card for the control judge(s) to record the results of their examinations.
- 5.5.8 The control judges' decisions regarding disqualification must be final and ride management must stand behind the control judges' decisions.
- 5.5.9 A Ride Manager may not overrule a control judge's decision on a judging or veterinary matter.
- 5.5.10 Equines disqualified by the control judge must not continue on. This practice by a rider is considered grounds for barring that rider from future rides.
- 5.5.11 The rider/owner of an equine disqualified by a control judge should be notified immediately by that control judge or the ride manager.
- 5.5.12 Management must be confident that there is complete understanding with the control judge(s) regarding P&R criteria, any other disqualification criteria, and particularly post-ride criteria for completion.
- 5.5.13 The setting of judging parameters, including but not limited to pulse rate and respiration, shall be determined by the head control judge. Since the ambient conditions are of prime concern in the setting of parameters, these parameters should not be finalized more than 24 hours prior to ride start.
- 5.5.14 Any equine not meeting pulse rate criteria within 30 minutes of arrival at a control checkpoint other than the post-finish line control check will be disqualified.
- 5.5.15 All control checkpoints must be staffed by a control judge who will provide the required control. The type of checkpoint and duration of the hold will, in all cases, be designated by the head control judge. It is recommended that all checkpoints be of the "gate into a hold" type.

## **5.6 The ride must be open to any breed or type of equine.**

- 5.6.3 The equines entered in the full distances must be at least 60 months old at the time of the ride.
- 5.6.4 Age is figured from actual date of birth. In cases of no papers on an equine, a control judge's opinion and discretion must prevail.
- 5.6.5 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.
- 5.6.6 An equine which constitutes a clear danger to other equines and/or persons may be disqualified at any time from competition, by the ride manager or control judge.

## **5.7 Entry to a ride may be refused for cause, however:**

- 5.7.3 Entry may not be denied if to do so would violate civil rights laws.
- 5.7.4 Entry may not be denied if the sole purpose is to intentionally provide an unfair competitive advantage to one rider over another.

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

- 5.8.3 There may be no minimum time limit for completion.
- 5.8.4 Maximum competition time will be according to the following prescription: 12 hours for 50 miles, 24 hours for 100 miles, and other distances to be according to the chart in Appendix A. In the case of 2 day 100's, 3 day 150's and similar events, the total completion time allowed is based on daily mileage.
- 5.8.5 Riding time is the time used by the competitors to complete the course, excluding all hold times, and is the time used for ACTRA ride results.
- 5.8.6 There must be a pre-designated marked finish line perpendicular across the trail.

5.8.7 All riders must be notified in writing of cut-off times no later than the pre-ride meeting.

**5.9 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 control check 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 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 equine.
- 5.9.3 A competitor must pass all judging 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.
- 5.9.4 Each ACTRA sanctioned ride must have a post-finish line control check, which the equine must pass for a successful completion. The post-finish-line control check is where the final criteria for completion must be met; an equine has not completed the ride until it has passed this check. The post-finish-line control 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 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.
- 5.9.5 The minimum criteria for the post-finish-line control check are as follows. The head control judge of any ride may adopt more stringent criteria, including the final pulse rate criteria, as part of the setting of the judging parameters under Rule 5.2.11. Additionally, the ride manager may increase the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate by up to 30 minutes after crossing the finish line if circumstances dictate a need for additional time to reach the final control check. Notice of any change in the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate criterion and notice of any other more stringent criteria for the post-finish line control check must be provided to competitors by written notice posted in a conspicuous location at the ride camp at least 12 hours prior to the start of the ride and shall also be presented by the ride manager or head control judge at any pre-ride briefing or meeting.
- 5.9.6 Each equine must pass the post-ride control check within one hour of crossing the finish line. If the ride manager has set a maximum time to meet the final pulse rate criterion shorter than one hour from finish, each equine is required to pass the final pulse rate criterion alone within that shorter time period but shall have the full hour from finish to pass other completion criteria. After meeting the final pulse criterion, riders may present their equines for the final examination for other completion criteria at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. An equine that does not meet the established pulse and completion criteria shall be disqualified. Once a competing equine has passed the post-ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

- 5.9.7 The equine must reach a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient conditions. The maximum final pulse criterion is 64 beats per minute; however, the control judge(s) may allow a higher final pulse criterion in documented extreme weather conditions. Respiration should be evaluated on its own merit. Ambient temperature and humidity effects need to be recognized and their effects on respiration rate are considered.”
- 5.9.8 The equine must be metabolically stable, sufficient to demonstrate fitness to continue.
- 5.9.9 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. Control judges must also be flexible enough to evaluate the equine injured after completing the course, etc. This is posed as a very minimum criterion not designed to disqualify legitimate stiffness and “leg weariness” but to discourage over usage between the last control checkpoint and the finish line.
- 5.9.10 Soreness, lacerations, and wounds on the limbs and body—including the mouth—must be noted on the rider 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 control judges that lesions caused by tack and interference may be from mild to severe and need to be evaluated on their own merit.
- 5.9.11 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 rate, respiration and soundness are but three of the important parameters considered in the state of condition evaluation.
- 5.9.12 The equine may not have received prohibited treatment as defined in Rule 13 by a veterinarian or layman prior to the final examination.
- 5.9.13 All riders who successfully complete the ride must receive a completion award.

#### **5.10 Placements will be determined by the order of finish of those who have met the completion requirements.**

- 5.10.3 ACTRA accepts ties. When a tie is awarded the next placing is skipped. Example: tie for 1st place of two riders, next placing is third.
- 5.10.4 Scoring points for Endurance will be allotted as 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, etc. Completion placings after 10th place will get one point.
- 5.10.5 Riders should check their sheets for calculation errors and notify management if any are found. Time allowed for reviewing score sheet/seek correction of any mechanical errors changed to 48 hours for statistical purposes. (Nov 2017)

#### **5.11 An award will be available for the equine judged to be in the Best Condition.**

- 5.11.3 The award does not have to be given.
- 5.11.4 The control judge(s) may feel that none of the equines in contention for the award deserve to receive it.
- 5.11.5 Use of the AERC Best Condition System is to be used by ride management. See Appendix “A”.
- 5.11.6 Only equines selected as Best Condition using this system (with Best Condition forms returned along with the ride results) are recognized by ACTRA.
- 5.11.7 Rides have the option of giving other best conditions besides the ACTRA Best Condition if they wish.
- 5.11.8 ACTRA recognizes only one Best Condition equine at any one ride.
- 5.11.9 Under ACTRA, all of the first ten completing equines are eligible for consideration, whether ridden by Junior, Featherweight, Lightweight, and Middleweight or Heavyweight riders.
- 5.11.10 The control judge(s) will be the sole judge of the equine scoring portion of the award.
- 5.11.11 Ride management determines the weight and time portion of the awards.
- 5.11.12 Procedure in the event of a tie (best condition score), the equine among those tied with the highest equine scoring section will be the winner. If there is still a tie, the equine among those still tied that finished ahead of the other(s) will be the winner.

**5.12 All Junior riders in both full and Limited Distance rides must follow ACTRA rules regarding sponsorship. Junior and Sponsor must ride together at all times, including entering and leaving all control 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.**

- 5.12.3 The sponsor must be duly entered as a competitor in the event and sponsorship must be documented on the Junior entry form complete with sponsor signature, at the time sponsorship begins.
- 5.12.4 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.
- 5.12.5 Sponsorships may change between checks only in the event that either competitor or either competitor's mount is unable to continue safely to a checkpoint.
- 5.12.6 In the event of an emergency and in order to remain in competition, the Junior who is in last place and whose preregistered sponsor is pulled, and there are no other qualified sponsors to follow, the Junior may be sponsored by an un-entered qualified rider through the completion of the ride, with ride management and control judge approval. He would receive last place junior points. This emergency sponsor will receive no credit for mileage or points. The Junior may also be sponsored by an adult on foot from the last control check with the approval of ride management.
- 5.12.7 Infraction of the sponsorship shall result in either the sponsor and/or the Junior being disqualified.

**5.13 While the welfare of an equine participating in an endurance ride is the primary responsibility of the rider, it is also the responsibility of everyone participating in an endurance ride whether as a rider, crew member, ride official, control judge or spectator to protect the welfare of equines at the ride.**

- 5.13.3 No one participating in an endurance ride shall abuse an equine present at a ride. Abuse of an equine includes but is not limited to:
  - Beating, striking, excessively whipping, or otherwise inflicting cruelty upon an equine.
  - Recklessly overriding an equine or riding in a manner likely to cause harm or injury.
  - Failing to provide adequate care or otherwise neglecting an equine.
  - Conduct towards an equine which is prejudicial to the sport of endurance riding and puts the sport in a negative light.

**5.14 It is the duty of everyone participating in an endurance ride whether as a rider, crew member, ride official, ride volunteer, control judge or spectator to act in a manner which does not disrupt the ride or reflect poorly on the sport of endurance riding.**

- 5.14.3 No one participating in an endurance ride shall engage in abusive behavior towards any other participant or member of the public at an endurance ride. Abusive behavior towards people includes but is not limited to:
  - Verbal abuse.
  - Physical assault.
  - Causing or threatening injury.
  - Unreasonably endangering the safety or life of others or their horses.
  - Damaging or trespassing on property.
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - Conduct prejudicial to the endurance ride or to the sport of endurance riding.

## **6 LIMITED DISTANCE**

ACTRA ride managers may elect to host rides sanctioned for less than 50 miles. These rides are designated as “Limited Distance Rides.” Limited Distance rides are subject to ACTRA general rules with the following exceptions and/or additions:

### **6.L1 Limited Distance rides must be at least 25 miles but not exceed 35 miles in length. These rides must be sanctioned into the Limited Distance Program.**

- 6.L1.1 Mileage must be a multiple of 5, ending in 0 or 5, whichever is the nearest whole number to the actual ride mileage (e.g. 22.4 = 20 miles, 22.5 = 25 miles.)
- 6.L1.2 Limited Distance rides which are sanctioned for more than one distance (such as a 25 and a 35 held over the same course at the same time) have the option of allowing a rider to “elevate” from one ride distance into the other, subject to the following restrictions: The rider may only elevate from a shorter distance to a longer distance; the rider may only elevate once; upon elevating, the rider is no longer considered a starter or a finisher in the shorter ride.
- 6.L1.3 Elevator rides must be indicated on the sanction application and advertised as such.
- 6.L1.4 The rider must state which distance he will enter, if a multiple mileage ride; e.g. 25 mile, 30 mile, or 35 mile.
- 6.L1.5 A rider who elevates is eligible for completion only.
- 6.L1.6 If starting times are not the same, elevating riders must have the time limits of Rule 5 applied to their original ride’s starting time.
- 6.L1.7 A Limited Distance rider may elevate to the lowest Endurance distance (in sanctioned elevator rides) for completion only, if the equine is 60 months old or older.
- 6.L1.8 A rider may not elevate from any ride sanctioned for less than 25 miles.
- 6.L1.9 In order for a rider to elevate, the equine he is riding must meet the age requirements for the distance he is elevating into as stated in rules L2.1 and #3.
- 6.L1.10 The sanctioned ride mileage(s) cannot be changed later than 60 days before the ride: points and miles will be awarded according to the mileage for which the ride is sanctioned (see Rule 16).
- 6.L1.11 An exception to the 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 ACTRA.
- 6.L1.12 A change in mileage and/or ride results certified by ACTRA may be mandated by the Protest and Grievance Committee or the Board.
- 6.L1.13 Limited Distance rides must be regulated by the ACTRA Ride Rules.
- 6.L1.14 Limited Distance competitors must be offered a separate and specific briefing on the special features and requirements of Limited Distance Rides.

### **6.L2 The ride must be open to any breed or type of equine.**

- 6.L2.1 Equines must be at least 48 months old at the time of the ride.
- 6.L2.2 Age is figured from actual date of birth. In cases of no papers on an equine, a control judge’s opinion and discretion must prevail.

### **6.L3 The ride must provide a specific amount of time (total competition time) which will include all stops and holds, and within which competitors must complete the ride to qualify for placing or completion.**

- 6L3.1 There may be no minimum time for completion.
- 6L3.2 Course completion time, which is the maximum time competitors are allowed to complete the specified course from start to finish, will be according to the Limited distance chart in Appendix A.
- 6L3.3 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 ACTRA ride results.

6L3.4 At the finish, ride time of the competitor continues until a pre-set judging 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 pre-set criteria.)

**6.L4 Completion requires meeting all of the criteria used for endurance rides with the following exception of maximum pulse criteria upon completion of the course.**

6L4.1 All equines must stand a mandatory post-ride evaluation within one hour of crossing the marked finish line. Riders may present their equines for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the one hour period. An equine that does not meet the established criteria within one hour of arrival time shall be disqualified. Once a completed equine has passed the post-ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

6L4.2 The equine must meet a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient 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 30 minutes arrival at the finish line. Respiration should be evaluated on it's own merit. Ambient temperature and humidity effects need to be recognized and their effects considered.

**6.L5 If placements are given, they must be determined using the procedure described in L3.3 and L3.4. The ride results will be posted in this order, but no points for placement or for completion will be awarded.**

6.L5.1 Ride results list all completing riders in order of finish.

6.L5.2 ACTRA has two divisions (Senior and Junior) based on the age of the rider, independent of any ride management rules governing junior and senior riders.

6.L5.3 Riders should check their sheets for calculation errors and notify management if any are found. Time allowed for reviewing score sheet/seek correction of any mechanical errors changed to 48 hours for statistical purposes. (Nov 2017)

**6.L6 An award will be available for the horse judged to be in the Best Condition.**

6.L6.1 The award does not have to be given.

6.L6.2 The control judge(s) may feel that none of the horses in contention for the award deserve to receive it.

6.L6.3 The same best condition judging system used in the endurance category at any given ACTRA sanctioned ride must be used in the limited distance category at that ride. See Appendix "A".

6.L6.4 Only horses selected as Best Condition using this system (with Best Condition forms returned along with the results) are recognized by ACTRA.

6.L6.5 Rides have the option of giving other Best Conditions besides the ACTRA Best Condition if they wish.

6.L6.6 ACTRA recognizes only one Best Condition horse at any one ride.

6.L6.7 Under ACTRA, all of the first ten completing horses are eligible for consideration, whether ridden by a junior, featherweight, lightweight, middleweight or heavyweight rider. Keep in mind that the order of finish for Limited Distance riders is determined using recovery time as described in rule L3.4.

## Appendix A Maximum Ride Times

### Limited Distance

Hours : Minutes

Time rider must be off the marked course including all holds and checks

<u>Ride Length, Miles</u>	<u>Maximum Time:</u>
25	6:00
30	7:15
35	8:30

### Endurance

Hours : Minutes

Including All Holds and Checks

<u>Ride Length, Miles</u>	<u>Maximum Time:</u>
50	12:00
55	13:15
60	14:30
65	15:30
70	16:45
75	18:00
80	19:15
85	20:30
90	21:30
95	22:45
100	24:00
105	25:15
110	26:30
115	27:30
120	28:45
125	30:00
130	31:15
135	32:30
140	33:30
145	34:45

## 7. INTRO ENDURANCE RIDE

ACTRA Ride Managers may elect to host rides which are sanctioned for less than 22.5 miles. These rides are designated "Intro/Fun Rides". Intro Endurance Rides must be included on the sanctioning form and held in conjunction with an ACTRA Limited Distance or Endurance Ride or an ACTRA Endurance Clinic.

- 7.1 Ride Managers have flexibility with Intro Endurance Rides to make them a better tool for education (ex: riding with mentors and longer time limits). The time limit for each ride is at the discretion of the ride manager. (2025)
- 7.2 No placing or best condition will be awarded.
- 7.3 At least one control checkpoint of some kind is required during Intro Endurance Rides sanctioned for 10 miles or more. For example "pulse and go". This does not preclude the preride or post ride exam.
- 7.4 All Intro Endurance Rides must have a pre ride and post ride exam completed by a control judge. These exams are to have the same requirements as any other ACTRA sanctioned distance ride.
- 7.5 Riders may not elevate from an Intro Endurance Ride.
- 7.6 No points are awarded for the equine or owner.
- 7.7 Miles are awarded for the equine and rider upon completion requirements. Ride results (without placings) will be reported to ACTRA and will be published. (2025)

## 8. RIDE 'N TIE

- 8.0 The Ride N' Tie is a unique type of ACTRA ride that uses one horse and two people as a team. ACTRA adopted the following AERC rules for Ride N' Tie. Riders and management considering hosting a Ride N' Tie are encouraged to read the "General Overview" chapter in this handbook as well as consult the AERC website for more information regarding Ride N' Tie rides.
- 8.1 Each team must consist of two people and one horse (mule, donkey, pony, etc.). The horse must be at least 5 years old. No pregnant or lactating mares will be allowed to compete.
- 8.2 No foreign substance or medication may be given or administered to any horse on the day of competition or within 72 hours of the event. This includes ointments or solutions for topical use that contain local anesthetics. Medication administered the two weeks prior to the race must be declared in writing and given to the veterinarian conducting the pre-ride examinations. These rules protect the animals and provide fair and equal conditions for competition. Drug testing personnel may take blood and/or urine samples on the day of the competition. Violations of this drug and medication policy will necessitate disqualification and returning of any awards.
- 8.3 Pre-race examinations of horses will be conducted without exception. Riders must wear a helmet at all times while mounted.
- 8.4 The horse must be presented to the veterinarians for a mandatory post-ride veterinary examination within one hour of finishing. The horse must pass this examination to be eligible for completion.
- 8.5 Abuse of the horse will not be tolerated. All decisions of the veterinarian committee regarding the health and safety of the horse are final.
- 8.6 "Hand ties", (the tying of the horse to any person other than a team member) may be allowed at the Race Director's discretion. Any decision to allow hand ties will be announced at the pre-ride briefing.
- 8.7 After each lap, each team will be required to tie its horse from rider to runner and runner to rider. Violation of this rule can result in disqualification and overall placement in the ride.
- 8.8 No person other than team members and designated race officials may handle a team's animal on the trail during the race. Designated pit crew members may work with the horse. Only contestants may take a horse through the vet checks during the race. Violations of this rule will result in a team being disqualified.
- 8.9 Teams must stay on the marked trail. Significant shortcuts taken on the trail, whether unintentional or otherwise could possibly still result in disqualification pending a review of any complaints by the Race Committee. It is not permissible for both members of a team to use their horse at the same time for forward movement. Tailing (meaning the rider dismounts,

grips the horse's tail and allows the horse to pull her/him) is allowed but it is not permissible for one team member to ride while another tails.

- 8.10 The riders shall be responsible for their horse's behavior during the event. If, at the discretion of the race management, any animal becomes unruly or jeopardizes the safety of the other competitors, the team may be disqualified from the event. Any report of the infraction of any of the above rules will make the team subject to disqualification by the Race Director.

## 9 OTHER

### 9.1 MEETINGS

- 9.1.1 The Spring ACTRA Meeting will be the fourth Saturday of April and given if a holiday conflict arises the BOD can change to before or after the holiday.
- 9.1.2 The Fall ACTRA General Meeting (AGM) will be on the second Saturday of November.
- 9.1.3 The location of the General Meetings will be the responsibility of the Chair or their delegate.
- 9.1.4 Individual memberships in ACTRA are \$25.00 (increase Nov 2018 for membership fees)
- 9.1.5 Family memberships in ACTRA are as follows: First member \$25.00, second member \$20, each subsequent member \$15.00. Definition of Family is: two adults and up to two children living in the same household.

### 9.2 ACTRA AWARD ELIGIBILITY

- 9.2.1 Any person may ride in an ACTRA ride, but only ACTRA members and ACTRA registered mounts are eligible for year-end awards. Miles will be accumulated for horses that are registered with ACTRA and riders who are members of ACTRA
- 9.2.2 Ride season ends on October 5th. All results must be in to the statistician by October 12th. Any rides sanctioned after the 5th will go into the next years results. (2025)
- 9.2.3 Horses ridden by Junior riders are eligible for Year End Breed Awards.

### 9.3 MEMBER MILEAGE CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.3.1 All sanctioned competition miles are eligible for mileage accumulation awards.
- 9.3.2 Members joining ACTRA in their second year of competition are able to receive credit for miles accumulated in the previous year. To receive credit for the previous year, members need to make written application to the statistician.
- 9.3.3 To qualify for mileage awards; 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000, etc., horses and riders must actually have covered a minimum of those miles.
- 9.3.4 Members of ACTRA receive a jacket for every 1000-mile increment earned. ACTRA's financial contribution of a Mileage Jacket is \$80.00.
- 9.3.5 ACTRA members may accumulate miles from other recognized trail riding associations provided that members submit their outside miles to the statistician before November 7<sup>th</sup> of each year; accompanied by a \$10 fee per each non-ACTRA sanctioned event they and/or their mount participated in and provided that their total lifetime mileage contains at least 50% ACTRA miles. (fee increase Nov 2018)
- 9.3.6 ACTRA mileage will be credited only to horses and riders who have completed an entire ride, be it a multi-day ride or single day ride. **A completion has to be given by the Judge.**
- 9.3.7 Renewing ACTRA members must renew their ACTRA membership prior to attending a sanctioned ACTRA ride. Any mileage accrued, while not being a ACTRA member in good standing, will not be allocated to their mileage total for that season.

### 9.4 MOUNT MILEAGE CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.4.1 Only ACTRA registered horses are eligible for Year End Awards.
- 9.4.2 Mount registration is a \$25 once-in-a-lifetime fee and a copy of the horse's registration paper is required to be included. It is the owner's responsibility to include a copy of the registration paper and the horse will be otherwise assumed to be a

grade if not included. In return, owners will receive a certificate of registration with ACTRA and a registered mount number to be used on future entry forms.

9.4.3 Transfer of a mount registration requires a \$2 administration fee.

9.4.4 ACTRA registered mounts receive a blanket for every 1000 miles accumulated in competition. ACTRA's financial contribution of a Mileage Blanket is \$80.00.

## 9.5 POINT SYSTEM

9.5.1 All ACTRA sanctioned CTRs have the approval of the International Arabian Horse Association, and points can count towards merit awards, but it is the horse owner's responsibility to have ride management fill in the proper paperwork.

### 9.5.2 POINT SYSTEM FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

1 <sup>st</sup>	--	7 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	--	6 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	--	5 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	--	4 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	--	3 points
6 <sup>th</sup>	--	2 points
Completion		1 point

9.5.3 Horsemanship as above except no point for completion.

9.5.4 Competitors must be eligible for placings in order to receive the 1 point for completion.

9.5.5 Scoring points for ER/LD for year ends to be allotted as 11 for first, 10 for second, etc. Competitors completing after tenth will receive 1 point. (Nov 2015)

## 9.6 BREED AWARDS

9.6.1 Breed awards are awarded on a highest accumulated point's basis using CTR conditioning points only.

9.6.2 There must be at least three horses of any given breed in order for awards to be given out. If there are not at least three, then that breed goes into the "other" category, which is not the same as the "grade" category.

9.6.3 The categories with trophies receive year-end awards regardless of the number of horses of that breed. Horses ridden by junior riders are eligible for year-end breed awards as well.

Morgan - Champion (trophy) & Reserve  
Part bred Morgan - Champion (trophy) & Reserve  
Arabian - Champion (trophy) & Reserve  
Part bred Arabian - Champion & Reserve  
Grade - Champion (trophy) & Reserve  
Appaloosa - Champion (trophy) & Reserve  
Quarter Horse - Champion (trophy) & Reserve  
Other Breeds - Champion & Reserve

## 9.7 YEAR END CERTIFICATES

9.7.1 ACTRA awards year-end certificates for champion and reserve for the following categories, if at least two rides were hosted of each type to qualify;

CTRs	Junior & Senior conditioning
	Junior & Senior trail horse
	Junior & Senior horsemanship
IDRs	Junior & Senior conditioning

	Junior & Senior trail horse
	Junior & Senior horsemanship
JPRs	Junior & Senior trail horse
	Junior & Senior horsemanship
Endurance	Champion & Reserve & Best Condition
Limited Distance	Champion & Reserve & Best Condition

- 9.7.2 At least 50% of the hosted CTRs and/or IDRs have to offer horsemanship for the horsemanship category to be awarded.
- 9.7.3 ACTRA to provide a yearend award for the best condition in ER/LD rides using AERC scoring system which is as follows: any horse receiving a best condition award for a ride shall receive 1 point per mile of sanctioned ride length. If there are fewer than 10 starting equines, the points are reduced by 10% for each starter fewer than 10 (i.e. if there are 9 starters the points are reduced by 10%; 8 starters by 20%; etc.) However, if there is only one starting equine, no best condition award shall be awarded. (Nov 2018)

