

**AUSTRALIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

# **RULEBOOK**

**SECTION TWO**

# **COMPLEMENTARY COMPETITION RULES**



**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document, AERA Inc. Rulebook Section 2 Complementary Competition Rules, constitutes part of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Incorporated Rulebook.
- 1.2 This document will be amended from time to time in the manner determined by the Constitution of the Australian Endurance Riders Association Incorporated (hereinafter 'AERA').
- 1.3 This document shall be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to existing law or statutes and shall take precedence over other clauses in the AERA Rulebook should there be a conflict or contradiction. If this document is silent on a particular matter, then other relevant clauses in the AERA Rulebook relating to that matter shall prevail subject however, to the application of the legal principle of *lex specialis derogat legi generali* which provides that a specific provision should govern over a general provision.
- 1.4 The headings used for the various parts and Clauses of these Rules are for convenience only and shall not be deemed part of the substance of these Rules or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 1.5 Unless the contrary intention appears in this document:
- words importing a gender include every other gender and
  - words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular and
  - words appearing in *italics* in this document require the *italicised* word to be interpreted for that sentence with reference to the definition for the *italicised* word as provided in Table 2 of the AERA General Rules.

## 2. HARNESS DRIVES

- 2.1 The AERA Rulebook shall apply (where applicable) to all Harness drives except as provided within these Complementary Competition Rules.
- 2.2 A harness drive:
- utilises two or four wheeled vehicles designed for single horse use only.
  - is a separate event and not part of a *ride* as defined in Table 2 of the AERA General Rules.
  - is conducted only if there is a suitable and safe track available that can accommodate harness vehicles.
  - is conducted at the discretion of the ROC and must be approved by the DA pursuant to Clause 12 of the AERA General Rules.

### Harness Drive Definitions

- 2.3 Harness Drives are defined pursuant to Table 4 of the AERA General Rules with the exception that they shall be known as a 'drive' rather than a 'ride'. There are no driving divisions within a Harness drive.

### Harness Drive Controls

- 2.4 All Harness drives are subject to the same ride control requirements pursuant to Chapter 2 of the AERA General Rules with the exception that they will be known as 'drive controls' rather than 'ride controls'.

### Harness Crew Rules

- 2.5 The crew of a harness vehicle shall consist of one 'driver' and one 'co-driver' who shall both:
- Adhere to Clause 38.1(a) and (c) of the AERA General Rules with one crew member wearing the identification bib pursuant to Clause 38.1(b).
  - Satisfy the requirements of Clause 27 of the AERA General Rules and replace the word 'riding' with 'driving' where applicable and with the following exceptions:
    - The co-driver need only be a day member to participate in any drive.
    - For all drives the minimum age for the crew members shall be 16 years on the day of the ride.
  - Be capable of handling the horse in an emergency.
- 2.6 The 'driver' shall be responsible for driving the vehicle with the 'co-driver' assisting from time to time as required.
- 2.7 The 'driver' must complete the entire course otherwise the crew shall be eliminated. If the co-driver is unable to continue for any reason, he may be replaced whilst the vehicle is on course or between legs. The replacement co-driver must satisfy Clause 2.5 and must be similar in weight or heavier than the original co-driver.
- 2.8 All harness drivers are subject to the Rider requirements pursuant to Chapter 5 (where applicable) of the AERA General Rules.

- 2.9 Endurance rider status does not transfer to harness drives and vice versa. Qualifications, points and awards gained in harness events are not valid for riding events and vice versa.
- 2.10 Drivers need not be issued with a separate membership card. However, Division Registrars shall keep a record of novice and endurance drivers and issue membership cards reflecting their harness driver status.
- 2.11 Whenever the horse is harnessed to the vehicle, at least one crew member shall remain in the vehicle and be in charge of the horse and vehicle.
- 2.12 Drivers shall not deliberately interfere with or impede the forward motion of another vehicle.
- 2.13 The driver of a slower vehicle shall, when it is safe to do so, make way for a faster moving vehicle to overtake.

**Harness Horse Rules**

- 2.14 All Harness horses are subject to the Horse requirements pursuant to Chapter 6 (where applicable) of the AERA General Rules.
- 2.15 Endurance horse status does not transfer to harness drives and vice versa. Qualifications, points and awards gained in harness events are not valid for riding events and vice versa.

**Whips**

- 2.16 For safety purposes, a whip shall be carried on all vehicles, but can be used as a driving aid only.
- 2.17 The use of a whip for any purpose other than as a driving aid, or any other misuse of a whip whatsoever, shall result in elimination from the harness event

**Logbooks**

- 2.18 Separate Logbooks are not required for harness events. The appropriate page on the existing logbook is to be marked so as to show the horse is competing in a harness event. The horse is assumed to be at Novice harness status unless AeraSpace data proves otherwise.

**Harness Vehicles and Equipment**

- 2.19 Only two or four wheeled vehicles may be used, provided they are designed for use with one horse only and are in a safe operational condition.
- 2.20 All harness vehicles must conform to Australian Road Rules regarding the use of said vehicles on public roads which currently state:  
  
*'A person must not drive an animal-drawn vehicle at night, or in hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility, unless the vehicle is fitted with and displays: a white light fitted at or towards the front of each side of the vehicle that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the front of the vehicle; and a red light fitted at or towards the rear of each side of the vehicle that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the rear of the vehicle; and a red reflector fitted at or towards the rear of each side of the vehicle that is: not more than 1.5 metres above ground level; and clearly visible for at least 50 metres from the rear of the vehicle when light is projected onto it by another vehicle's headlights on low beam.'*
- 2.21 The chief steward shall exclude a harness vehicle at any time of the drive if he considers that the vehicle is unsafe and represents a danger, and / or does not comply with any requirements pursuant to Clause 2.20.
- 2.22 Spare equipment may be carried in the harness vehicle whilst on course.

**Substitute vehicle**

- 2.23 A harness vehicle may be substituted if damaged. The chief steward must be notified of any intention to substitute a vehicle however, a damaged vehicle may only be replaced by another vehicle at the ride base and cannot be replaced on course under any circumstances.
- 2.24 The replacement vehicle will be subject to inspection by the chief steward prior to being allowed on course.

**Pre-ride Briefing**

- 2.25 All crew shall attend the pre-ride briefing.
- 2.26 Where a harness ride is to be conducted over the same course as a ridden ride, the harness ride shall be started a minimum of 15 minutes after the start of the ridden event.
- 2.27 Staggered start times may be determined by a draw held at the pre-ride briefing should sufficient entries warrant.
- 2.28 Crews may elect to start behind the field but shall advise the chief steward of their intention to do so at the time of the draw.

**Point Scores and Distance Awards**

- 2.29 Point scores and distances shall be kept as a separate Harness Point Score & Distance Register by each Division Association. When a minimum of 5 drives are held in a calendar year in a Division, the Division Association shall award:

Distance Harness Horse;  
 Distance Driver;  
 Points Harness Horse; and  
 Points Driver.

#### **Division Harness Championship**

- 2.30 A Division Association may conduct a Division Harness Championship Drive over a minimum distance of 120 kms.
- 2.31 To be eligible to enter in the Division Harness Championship Drive, all horses and crew members must have successfully completed two Endurance or Marathon harness drives within the preceding 12 months. Novice horses or drivers are not eligible to enter.

### **3. RIDE & TIE**

- 3.1 A Ride & Tie event:
- is a competitive event consisting of two persons (who are current full riding members of a Division Association) and one horse, with riders taking turns in riding.
  - is a separate event and not part of a *ride* as defined in Table 2 of the General Rules.
  - is conducted only if there is a suitable and safe track available that can accommodate tied horses.
  - is conducted at the discretion of the ROC and must be approved by the DA pursuant to Clause 12 of the AERA General Rules.

#### **Ride & Tie Definitions**

- 3.2 Ride & Ties are defined pursuant to Table 4 of the AERA General Rules with the exception that they shall be known as a 'Ride & Tie' rather than a 'ride'. There are no riding divisions within a Ride & Tie event.
- 3.3 An artificial tie is anything that does not exist along the course for all participants to tie to. For example, a participant cannot carry a metal stake and hammer with them and create an "artificial tie" as they go. Trees, fences, roots, bushes etc. are all allowable ties since all participants can use them.
- 3.4 A "hand tie" is when support personnel hold the horse for the team. Some rides may allow hand ties along the course near the start due to excited horses or unsafe tie conditions. Usually the support personnel are not allowed to go beyond a certain point on the course.

#### **Ride & Tie Controls**

- 3.5 All Ride & Ties are subject to the same ride control requirements pursuant to Chapter 2 of the AERA General Rules with the exception that they will be known as 'ride & tie controls' rather than 'ride controls'.

#### **Ride & Tie Horse Rules**

- 3.6 All horses are subject to the Horse requirements pursuant to Chapter 6 (where applicable) of the AERA General Rules.
- 3.7 Artificial ties are illegal. Hand ties may be allowed at the chief steward's discretion. Any decision to allow hand ties will be announced at the pre-ride briefing.
- 3.8 Each team must tie its horse and switch from rider to runner and runner to rider at least two (2) times during the event. Teams may tie as many times as they desire anywhere along the course as long as the ties do not obstruct the course or are not made in designated "No Tie Areas." A required tie will occur at each veterinary inspection. If a runner on a team has not been overtaken by his partner before the next veterinary inspection, then the runner must wait at the veterinary inspection for his partner to arrive in order to meet the required vet inspection tie.
- 3.9 With the exception of securing a loose horse, no person other than the team members and designated ride officials may handle a team's horse on the course during the ride. Designated team support personnel may work with the horse at a designated veterinary inspection. Only a team member may present a horse at each veterinary inspection.
- 3.10 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 him/her) is allowed but it is not permissible for one team member to ride while another tails.
- 3.11 No pacing by an un-entered horse or runner is allowed.
- 3.12 Teams must pass and report to all checkpoints positioned on the marked course. Competitors inadvertently off course must return to the point at which they left the marked course and complete the course correctly.
- 3.13 The riding time for the team will cease when both human team mates and their horse have crossed the finish line.