

**DRASA VISION**

- to grow the sport of Competitive Trail Riding among all horse owners
- to encourage riders to improve horsemanship in a fun relaxed environment
- to encourage families to participate in the sport together
- to foster good horse and pace management skills in a long distance sport
- to encourage the development of horse/rider combinations and teamwork
- to expose riders who do not have a necessarily competitive breed of horse for endurance to a long distance riding sport that they can enjoy and be competitive in without doing a fast pace
- to offer a cost effective distance riding sport without compromising horse and rider safety and welfare

**DRASA RULES**

You, as a rider, are responsible to know the rules of DRASA and the ride you are participating in.

**1. Riders**

Minimum age for riders is 5 years for rides under 40 km's and 6 years for rides 40kms and over.

1.1. Open Riders: All riders over the age of 12 years (turn 12 in the year they compete)

1.2. Juniors Riders: Riders under 12 years of age must compete in the junior division. A Junior rider under 12 years of age must ride with an Open rider. All junior riders may participate in DRASA competition only with the written consent of a parent or guardian.

**2. Assigned numbers**

2.1. DRASA assigned numbers must be visibly worn by contestants at all times, beginning with the pre-ride exam.

2.2. A rider that uses a "Hit-Air vest" or similar device that inflates when the rider separates from the Equine during competition is allowed to wear their number underneath the device. They must put their rider number on the rear of the equine. When they remove the inflatable device, their number must be clearly visible.

2.3. Assigned Rider numbers will be issued on a bib from DRASA with membership affiliation and received Proof of Payment.

**3. Membership of DRASA**

3.1. **Single Event Members:** For non-members wishing to try out the sport, a single event membership option will be available in the Foothill, Koppie and Pleasure Divisions only.

These riders need to register on the DRASA membership page with all compulsory details as Single Event members and do not need to provide proof of Club or DRASA membership for one (1) event. They will just pay the ride entry and a day rider levy for insurance purposes. Single Event Members shall only have privileges for the duration of the ride where the

membership is purchased, and shall not be entitled to vote on matters of the DRASA organization, nor be eligible for points and mileage.

**3.2 Junior Members:** Junior members must be a member of a club affiliated to DRASA and must be paid up members of DRASA. Membership is valid for one year (January to December) and they will be allowed to participate in all rides under the auspices of DRASA with the payment of an entry fee as determined by the ride committee and subject to rules and regulations as set by DRASA. All junior members will only be allowed to join DRASA with the written consent of a parent or guardian. Junior members are not entitled to vote on matters of the DRASA organisation.

**3.3. Open Members:** Open members must be a member of a club affiliated to DRASA and must be paid up members of DRASA. Membership is valid for one year (January to December) and they will be allowed to participate in all rides under the auspices of DRASA with the payment of an entry fee as determined by the ride committee and subject to rules and regulations as set by DRASA. Open members are entitled to vote on all DRASA organization matters

**3.4. Clubs:** Any club can affiliate to DRASA to offer CTR as a sport within a Club. Criteria for affiliation will be set as: hosting one (1) event per annum, two (2) clinics per annum, having 2 judges trained by DRASA, nominating one member to stand on the club Exco who is affiliated to DRASA and acts as the DRASA representative and will thus represent the Club on the DRASA Provincial Council. The Club Affiliation documents with all attachments will have to be completed and submitted to the Provincial Council for approval. Clubs will have to apply for renewal each year.

**3.5.** The Ride Manager and Horsemanship Judges and Officials who do not ride will be given free membership of DRASA for a period of the year as they will be responsible for organising, judging and running the club DRASA membership, representing the club on the DRASA provincial Council and the Club DRASA ride. Affiliation is done as an Admin member on the DRASA website. These officials must also be activated as a member of an affiliated DRASA Club and will be prohibited from officiating at rides, clinic or meetings if not an active Admin member. Club membership fees and structure are determined by the Club Councils

#### **4. Rider Dress and Tack**

4.1. Riders must be dressed appropriately at all times.

4.2. Riders are not allowed to wear shorts whilst riding.

4.3. Designated Equestrian Rider helmets shall be worn at all times when the rider is mounted. Rider helmets shall be properly fastened when worn.

4.4. Boots or Shoes with a clearly defined heel must be worn if caged or safety stirrups are not used.

4.5. Spurs, whips and any form of whip or crop are not allowed. Any excessive use of force, whether a beating with reins or any form of branch, whip etc. will lead to disqualification.

4.6. All horse tack/equipment considered as Training aids, including but not restricted to the below, are prohibited, both on the course and during the Horsemanship Judging.

Draw reins/running reins, Side reins, Chambon, De Gouge, Market Harborough, Harbridge, Bungee reins, Neck stretchers or any home-made piece of equipment designed to mimic the action of the above mentioned training aids.

## 5. Participation in Events

5.1. Junior riders may only participate in a DRASA ride if an Adult rider (above the age of 18 years) accepts responsibility for them. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardian of the child rider to arrange for a suitable Adult rider to accompany the child. The Adult rider must be prepared to stay with the child for the full length of the course. Both the Adult rider and Junior rider will be disqualified if they are separated at any stage. A junior rider may only be handed over to another Adult rider when the original Adult rider retires or is disqualified, or if his/her horse is eliminated

5.1.1 On Course: If an Adult rider cannot accompany the junior Rider while on course they can hand the junior over to another Adult rider who is on course. If the junior rider is unable to continue while on course, the Adult rider is to remain with the junior until the child can be placed in the care of a responsible adult (i.e. parent, guardian or course official)

5.1.2. At a checkpoint: If the Adult rider cannot continue the parents or guardian may approach another experienced Adult rider to accompany the child

5.2. Open riders. A person can participate in this category from the beginning of the year in which he/she turns twelve (12) years of age. There are no weight division categories for Open Riders as the rider nominates his speed and distances to compete in based on the horse/rider combination and the fitness and suitability of both horse and rider

5.3. A Rider who has been disqualified from 3 consecutive rides or 4 rides in a 12 month period, due to exceeding the maximum speed, use of whips or crops, or the horse failing metabolic veterinary criteria, will be suspended from DRASA membership for 12 months.

## 6. Horses

6.1. Competition must be open to any members of the equine family. This includes horses, ponies and mules.

6.2. The Equine's life and soundness and comfort on ride day and preservation of its future usefulness are the primary concern of the Judges and of DRASA.

6.3. Minimum age of an equine to compete in any DRASA Event is 4 years for the Pleasure Division and 5 years for Trail and Summit Divisions. All ages of equines are determined as of the day of the event.

6.4. All equines that compete in DRASA events must have proof of vaccinations and be registered with DRASA.

6.5. Please see the Veterinary rules for all horses registered and competing under DRASA auspices

6.6. Horses vetted out from a Ride will have a 12 day rest period applied over and above the mandatory rest period as per below

6.7 The Mandatory Rest periods between events are as follows

0-90kms – rest period 18 days

Over 91kms - rest period 25 days

## 7. Types of DRASA events

When a horse has qualified for the highest Division/Distance, that horse can be entered and participate in ALL divisions below that. No horse may be entered or participate in divisions/distances above their qualification level.

Official DRASA events will be approved and sanctioned by the DRASA Provincial Councils, subject to the DRASA Service Level Agreement and loaded onto the National DRASA website for entry

**7.1 Foothills Division: All horses being led in this division are UNMOUNTED**

**7.1.1. Lead reign from Mounted Horse**

- 7.1.1.1 Age: Green horse: All ages  
Mounted lead horse: Minimum 4 years
- 7.1.1.2 Distances: Either 2 legs of 2.5 km = 5km  
or 2 legs of 5 km = 10km
- 7.1.1.3 Speed: Minimum of 2km/h  
Maximum of 7km/h
- 7.1.1.4 Multi day rides will also be offered in this division. Example: 10km – day 1 and another 10km day 2.
- 7.1.1.5 The horses vetted out for any reason shall have compulsory rest periods of 12 days imposed.
- 7.1.1.6 All horses participating in this division will be registered on the DRASA database.

**7.1.2 Lead reign- Dismounted Leader**

- 7.1.2.1 Age: Horse: All ages  
Handler: Minimum age 13 years  
Junior accompanied by senior
- 7.1.2.2 Distances: Either 2 legs of 2.5 km = 5km  
or 2 legs of 5 km = 10km
- 7.1.2.3 Speed: Minimum of 2km/h  
Maximum of 7km/h
- 7.1.2.4 Multi day rides will also be offered in this division. Example: 10km – day 1 and another 10km day 2.
- 7.1.2.5 The horses vetted out for any reason shall have compulsory rest periods of 12 days imposed.
- 7.1.2.6 All horses participating in this division will be registered on the DRASA database.

**7.2 Koppie Division. All horses being led in this division are MOUNTED**

**7.2.1 Dismounted in hand assisted riding / Mounted lead reign assisted riding**

- 7.2.1.1 Age: Rider: Minimum age 5 years  
Assistant: Senior
- 7.2.1.2 Distances: Either 2 legs of 2.5km = 5km  
or 2 legs of 5km = 10km
- 7.2.1.3 Speed: Minimum of 2km/h  
Maximum of 7km/h
- 7.2.1.4 Multi day rides will also be offered in this division. Example 10km – day 1 and another 10km day 2.
- 7.2.1.5 The horses vetted out for any reason shall have compulsory rest periods of 12 days imposed.
- 7.2.1.6 All horses participating in this division will be registered on the DRASA database.
- 7.2.1.7 In the case of mounted lead reign assistance:
  - 7.2.1.7.1 Assistance horse should also do formal Horsemanship judging and vet checks.

**7.2.2 Mounted assistance riding**

7.2.2.1 Age: Rider: Minimum age 5 years

Assistant: Senior

7.2.2.2 Distances: 2 legs of 2.5km = 5km  
2 legs of 5km = 10km  
2 legs of 10km = 20km

7.2.2.3 Speed: Minimum of 7km/h  
Maximum of 14km/h

7.2.2.4 Multi day rides will also be offered in this division. Example: 10km – day 1 and another 10km day 2.

7.2.2.5 The horses vetted out for any reason shall have compulsory rest periods of 12 days imposed.

7.2.2.6 All horses participating in this division will be registered on the DRASA database.

7.2.2.7 Assistance horse should also do formal Horsemanship judging and vet checks.

\* Koppie division allowed to cross roads with assistance from the organisers, but not allowed to travel on these roads.

\* Foothill division do same Trail Equitation as other riders.

**7.3. Pleasure:**

7.3.1. All horses of age 4 and above that have proof of vaccinations may enter for the Pleasure Division.

7.3.2. The aim of this level is to introduce the horse and rider to the sport and to concentrate on horsemanship and horse fitness and welfare concerns.

7.3.3. The combination must complete 3 rides without any elimination before they may advance to the Trail Division.

7.3.4. The distance in this division is limited to maximum 20kms per day in total to accommodate different horse breeds and family participation.

7.3.5. The maximum and minimum speeds will be from 8km/h to 14km/h, for up to a 20km distance, and may be adjusted down according to conditions of the day and course.

7.3.6. Horse/ Rider combinations may choose to stay in this division as this is a good entry level sport for those who just enjoy a trail ride, improving horsemanship and a day out with the family.

7.3.7. All horses participating in this division will be registered on the DRASA database

7.3.8. Multiple day rides will also be offered in this division, example two maximum 20km rides on separate days.

7.3.9. A rider and horse registered as Single event members may compete in this division for One (1) ride only and thereafter they must register with a club and DRASA

7.3.10. All Pleasure Rides will be held over minimum two (2) legs

**7.4. Trail:**

7.4.1. All horses age 5 and above who have proof of vaccinations and have fulfilled the pleasure division criteria, OR if the rider can provide proof of the horse having completed one(1) distance ride of 40km (upload of page of passport), may enter for the Trail Division.

- 7.4.2. The distance in this division is limited to maximum 40kms per day in total to accommodate different horse breeds and families.
- 7.4.3. The maximum and minimum speeds will be from 8km/h to 16km/h for up to a 40km distance and may be adjusted down according to conditions of the day and course.
- 7.4.4. Multiple day rides will also be offered in this division, example two 40km rides on separate days.
- 7.4.5. The combination must complete 3 rides without any elimination before they may advance to the Summit Division.
- 7.4.6. All horses vetted out for any reason shall have compulsory rest periods of 12 days imposed over and above the mandatory rest periods
- 7.4.7. All horses participating in this division will be registered on the DRASA database
- 7.4.8. No rider and horse registered as Single event members may compete in this division.
- 7.3.9. All Trail Rides will be held over minimum two (2) legs

#### **7.5 Summit Division:**

- 7.5.1. All horses age 5 and above who have who have proof of vaccinations and have fulfilled the Trail division criteria, OR if the rider can provide proof of the horse having completed one(1) distance ride of 80km(upload of page of passport),**and** one(1) DRASA Trail Division ride of up to 40kms may enter the Summit Division.
- 7.5.2. The distance in this division is limited to maximum 80kms per day in total to accommodate different horse breeds and families.
- 7.5.3. The maximum and minimum speeds will be from 10km/h to 18km/h for up to an 80km distance and may be adjusted down according to conditions of the day and course.
- 7.5.4. Multiple day rides will also be offered in this division, example two 80km rides on separate days.
- 7.5.5. All horses vetted out for any reason shall have compulsory rest periods of 12 days imposed over and above the mandatory rest periods
- 7.5.6. All horses participating in this division will be registered on the DRASA database
- 7.5.8. No rider and horse registered as Single event members may compete in this division.
- 7.3.9. All Summit Rides will be held over minimum three (3) legs

## **8. Outline of the Sport**

There are three judging categories: Time, Veterinary and Horsemanship

### **8.1. Time.**

- 8.1.2 The horse and rider combination that completes the accurately measured distance at an average speed closest to their **nominated** speed, within the set

minimum and maximum speeds, receives the full amount of scores allocated to the time category.

- 8.1.3. The competitor enters as a horse and rider combination for a predetermined and accurately measured distance at a precisely nominated speed. For example: 10km/hour (4 hours riding time to complete 40 km) or 15 km/hour (2 hours and 40 minutes riding time to complete 40 km) etc. Speed is only in full numbers, no decimal points – example 7km/h NOT 7.5km/h
- 8.1.4. The rider then strategizes and paces his horse over the distance. The rider must take into account the terrain, climatic conditions and the horse's state of fitness. The rider manages the well-being of his horse throughout the ride, making sure that the horse is not over ridden, that the horse drinks sufficient water and that the rider adheres at all times to the ride rules.
- 8.1.5. The horse and rider combination, which completes the distance at a speed closest to their nominated speed, is the winner on time.
- 8.1.6. Scores will be deducted from the Time points depending on error between actual speed and nominated speed. Example: Nominated speed 10km/h. Actual speed on the day is 9km/h in each leg. The horse is awarded (100 minus 10) 90% of the time scores available.
- 8.1.7. All the entrant's particulars and scores are computed and stored for the entire event using computerised means and the averages calculated are weighted for importance of category.
- 8.1.8. As maximum speeds are set, any horse/rider combination whose overall speed is over the maximum speed by more than one (1) km/h is disqualified.
- 8.1.9. The score scoring will be allocated according to the nominated speed set by the combination and their adherence to that nominated speed
- 8.1.10. For Pleasure Rides the minimum speed that can be nominated is 8km/h and maximum speed is 14km/h
- 8.1.11. For Trail Rides the minimum speed that can be nominated is 8km/h and the maximum speed is 16km/h
- 8.1.12. For Summit Rides the minimum speed that can be nominated is 10km/h and the maximum speed is 18km/h
- 8.1.13. The maximum and minimum speeds may be adjusted down according to the conditions on the day as well as the course marked out (based on difficulty and horse welfare concerns)
- 8.1.14. A third of the total scores that can be accumulated in the event are allocated to the time section of the competition.
- 8.1.15. Speeds are nominated for the total ride – so 8km per hour for both legs. Speeds are calculated on each leg and penalties awarded per leg. Nominated speeds cannot be changed once event begins.

## 8.2. Veterinary

- 8.2.1. The horse that exhibits the best Veterinary condition and scoring based on accredited Veterinary measurements throughout the ride is the winner in the Vet judging section
- 8.2.2. A third of the total scores that can be accumulated in the event are allocated to the Veterinary section of the competition.
- 8.2.3. In the event of a tie for Veterinary scores to the award of Best Veterinary score in the divisions, the horse with the best CRI at the final veterinary check will be declared the winner.
- 8.2.4. The Vets decision on elimination of a horse for veterinary reasons is FINAL and rest periods will be enforced from competition. All treatment of the horse is for the Rider/Owners account

## 8.3. Horsemanship

- 8.3.1. The rider that exercises the best horsemanship throughout the entire ride is declared the winner in this category.
- 8.3.2. A third of the total scores that can be accumulated in the event are allocated to the Horsemanship section of the competition.
- 8.3.3. All horsemanship judging criteria and scoring is the responsibility of the Judges Panel and all changes to such must go through the Panel and to Council for agreement.
- 8.3.4. All queries/complaints regarding scoring will be addressed by the rider to the Senior Judge on the day of the event. The judges present at the ride will convene a discussion and a majority ruling will be obtained that day. If the rider is still not satisfied any further complaint will be only entertained via the formal complaints process to be taken to the Chief Horsemanship Judge to be further discussed and agreed on by the Judges Panel and DRASA Council

## 8.4. Accumulation of Points

- 8.4.1. Throughout the ride scores are accumulated in the three categories:
- 8.4.2. The scores for the three categories are then totalled.
- 8.4.3. The horse and rider combination to obtain the highest total number of Points in the three categories is declared the overall winner of the day in that Division.
- 8.4.4. These points then count towards the total for the overall championship at the end of the season, Team Selections and overall winners of multi day Rides.
- 8.4.5. In order to come in line for prizes the winning riders must be at the prize giving ceremony.
- 8.4.6. There are awards for each category i.e. time, veterinary, and horsemanship.
- 8.4.7. There is also a team award for the team of 4 riders that accumulates the highest number of points in the three categories. The points of the three highest scoring team members are taken into account to determine the winning team.

## 8.5. Scoring Rules

### 8.5.1. 1) **Horsemanship:** Max score = 100 HSP (HSP = Horsemanship Score Percentage)

The Score sheet is as below:

Pre ride HS total scoring out of 30 (Tack and equipment 10, mount/dismount 5, Aids/Seat 10 and Grooming/lesions 5)

Trail Equitation total scoring out of 10 (5 for each leg)

Stabling/Containment total score out of 5

Final in Hand inspection total score 5

If the rider is awarded 18 and 8 and 8 and 4 and 4 and 4 then the rider has a total of 46 out of 60

$$\text{Calculation: } ((18+8+8+4+4+4) / (30+5+10+5+5+5)) \times 100 = 77 \text{ HSP}$$

To convert that to the HMS Points the conversion is as follows:

$$\text{Distance ridden (example 40kms)} \times (77/100) = 30.8 \text{ HMSP}$$

### 8.5.2. **Vet Max Score** = 100 VSP (VS = Veterinary Score Percentage)

Vet Judge at Pre ride and at each leg

The Vet score for each leg is out of 10 each

The scores are added up for pre ride vetting and each leg. If the rider is awarded 9, 7, and 5 then the rider has a total of 21 out of 30

$$\text{Calculation: } ((9+7+5) / (10+10+10)) \times 100 = 70 \text{ VSP}$$

To convert that to the Vet Points the conversion is as follows:

$$\text{Distance ridden (example 40kms)} \times (70/100) = 28.0 \text{ VP}$$

### 8.5.3. **Time Score** = 100 TSP (TSP= Time Score Percentage)

Time points accumulated on each leg.

Example: Rider chooses 15 km/hr and rides 14.5km/hr and 16km/hr respectively on each leg. Error 1st leg is 0.5km/hr and error on 2nd leg is 1.0km/hr

The total error would be 0.5 + 1.0 = 1.5.

We then take what % is 1.5 of 15 away from the 100 TSP = 90 TSP

$$\text{Calculation: } 15 - 14.5 = 0.5$$

$$16 - 15 = 1.0$$

$$\text{Total error} = 0.5 + 1.0 = 1.5$$

$$1.5 \text{ of } 15\text{km/hr} = (1.5 / 15) \times 100 = 10\%$$

$$\text{Total error} = (100 - 10) = 90 \text{ TSP}$$

To convert that to the Time Points the conversion is as follows:

$$\text{Distance ridden (example 40kms)} \times (90/100) = 36.0 \text{ TP}$$

### 8.5.4. **Overall Score** = 300 OSP (OSP = Overall Score Percentage)

For the Day Total Score would be

HSP 77

VSP 70

TSP 90

$$\text{Calculation: } 77+70+90 = 237 \text{ OSP (out of 300)}$$

### 8.5.5. **Accumulated Points** = 40 AP (AP=Accumulated Points)

These are used for Lifetime Awards and Year end Awards and Division winners for Riders at Nationals

Example: If the ride was 20km + 20km, max points for the ride would be 40

We then take the % of 237 out of 300 and subtract that from 40

$$\text{Calculation: } (237 / 300) \times 100 = 79\%$$

$$40 \times (79/100) = 32 \text{ AP}$$

The important principle for the Time Score is to understand that EACH leg is a full ride as far as time scoring is concerned. You cannot catch up or slowdown in the next leg to make your error less. The error for the first leg is already set and an error for the second leg will just get added to it.

**Scores vs Points**  
How they affect you!

**DRASA**  
DRESSAGE RACING AND SUMMIT

**SCORES**

Scores are a percentage out of 100

You are scored out of a 100 for Horsemanship, and out of a 100 for vetting and out of a 100 for Time.

These get added up to out of 300 for your Ride score

So everyone competes against each other out of 300 on an equal footing no matter the divisions or distance they ride in HMS criteria, Vet criteria, Time criteria and Overall Score.

These scores are used to decide who is the most competitive combination in each criteria of CTR and who has the overall consistent highest score for the day or event (if multi day the scores for each day get added up so will be out of 200 for 2 days or 300 for 3 days)

**POINTS**

Points are a weighting of your score based on your distance ridden

We need to acknowledge rider horse combinations who ride the at the highest level of their divisions - (20kms in Pleasure, 40kms in Trail and 80km in Summit)

We are a distance sport and as such have to acknowledge the difficulty of riding the longer distance within the divisions due to the extra training, feed, tack and rider skill and strategy and encourage riders to move to the highest distance of their chosen division.

Maximum points a rider can therefore earn is:

- 10 points for 10km
- 20 points for 20km
- 30 points for 30km
- 40 points for 40km etc.

Points are used to determine the winners overall in each division (year-end awards). They are also used to determine Team selections and qualifications.

## 9. Rides/Events

9.1. Veterinarian. For horse welfare reasons, a ride with more than 30 riders cannot take place without two (2) Veterinarians present.

9.2. Measurement of Kilometres. Distances should be measured accurately, not estimated.

9.3. Watering Areas. There should be adequate watering places on the trail, at least every 5 to 7 km's.

9.4. Trail Markings.

9.4.1. Materials should be able to withstand wind and rain.

9.4.2. Directional Arrows and mileage markers should be waterproof if possible.

9.4.3. Arrows should always be used at any junction of trails and should be followed within 100 m or less with a confidence marker to assure riders that they have turned correctly.

9.4.4. At a point where there are any side trails showing either side of the main trail, a marker in sight ahead should be used to assure riders that they should stay on the main trail or lime spread across the entrance to the side trail to prevent riders turning in.

9.4.5. Try to keep markings on the LEFT side of the trail in the direction to be ridden.

- 9.4.6. When the trail is being used with equines going in both directions, markings should be on BOTH sides of the trail and the Trail must be wide enough and safe enough to facilitate passing in two directions.
- 9.5. Minimum Distance: Differs for levels of participation
- 9.6. Time Penalties for finishing under or over time are deducted.
- 9.7. Overtime Disqualification for more than one-half hour over the allotted time for the ride as set by ride management (30 minutes slower than the minimum speed set for any leg is a Disqualification and the scores and kilometres obtained in previous legs are NOT awarded).
- 9.8. Complaints that come to the fore during an Event: Any member, participant, official or spectator may lodge a complaint during an event in accordance with the procedure below:
- 9.8.1 Complaints shall be lodged with the Ride Master in writing
- 9.8.2. Complaints can be lodged at any time during the event and not more than 30 minutes after the results have been announced.
- 9.8.3. The Ride Master will call the complainant, the accused and the Ride Committee (all officials at the Ride) in to investigate the matter asking for witnesses. If the complaint is of a serious enough nature to be decided at a disciplinary hearing the complaint shall be forwarded in writing to the DRASA National office to be handled within 30 days
- 9.8.4. If the complaint can be handled at the event then the committee of officials will vote on the resolving of the complaint with the Ride Manager having the final vote in case of a tie and will inform the member immediately.
- 9.8.5. The complaint and the final decision must be reported on the Ride Managers Report to DRASA National within 3 days of the event

## **10. Ride Personnel**

- 10.1. Ride Manager.
- 10.1.1. The Ride Manager carries out the duties of putting on a ride and functions as the enforcer of the rules and guidelines.
- 10.1.2. The Ride Manager is responsible for discussing rule interpretations and clarifications with all affected parties.
- 10.1.3. The Ride Manager must file a report to DRASA after each ride.
- 10.1.4. The Ride Manager may not Judge a Ride, but may be the Timer, or Starter.
- 10.2. Recorders.
- 10.2.1. If Recorders are necessary they shall record the findings of the judges on the DRASA Score Sheets and should be available for assistance at time of final scoring.
- 10.3. Farrier.
- 10.3.1. It is recommended that a Farrier be available for the entire ride, or at selected times such as prior to the ride start.
- 10.3.2. If no farrier is available, the contestants should be so notified in advance of the ride.
- 10.3.3. All shoeing expenses shall be paid by the rider
- 10.4. Starter

- 10.4.1. Starter shall call the equines to the starting line in order of their departure.
  - 10.4.2. Permission to change starting order must be obtained from Ride Management.
  - 10.4.3. Riders of Stallions may choose to start at the end of the starting order.
  - 10.4.4. Ride Management may decree that Junior Riders under 12 years of age, accompanied by their Adult Riders, must start at the end of the starting order.
- 10.5. Timekeeper.
- 10.5.1. Timekeeper and Starter may be the same person or the duties may be divided.
  - 10.5.2. The timekeeper must keep an accurate record of start and finish time of each contestant and calculate anytime penalties, if incurred, for recording on contestants score sheets.
  - 10.5.3. Any official, unscheduled holds on the trail shall be timed by a ride official and credited to the Contestant(s).
  - 10.5.4. Timing will be done on the timing system and not manual
- 10.6. Pulse Monitor. (NOT mandatory)
- 10.6.1. The PM must take the Equines Pulse with a handheld HRM at the entrance to the Vetting area.
  - 10.6.2. The Heart Rate/Pulse will be viewed by the Rider and PM and then recorded on the Vet card.
  - 10.6.3. If the rider queries the Heart Rate displayed it may be taken once more only.
  - 10.6.4. Both Heart Rates must be noted on the Vet Card.
  - 10.6.5. If the Heart Rate is 60bpm or below, the equine and rider may proceed to the Vet for veterinary judging.
  - 10.6.6. If the HR is above 60bpm the vet must IMMEDIATELY be informed and although the equine is disqualified due to high pulse the Veterinarian must examine the equine
- 10.7. Vets.
- 10.7.1. One must be at every event. A Treatment vet may be on call for 1 star rides
  - 10.7.2. Any event where rider numbers exceed 30 riders must have 1 more line vet.
  - 10.7.3. Any treatment disqualifies an equine immediately.
  - 10.7.4. Any treatment of an equine by either line veterinary or treatment veterinarian shall be at owner's expense
- 10.8. Ride Secretary
- 10.8.1. The Ride Secretary sends out entry forms, receives, and acknowledges entries when applicable, is responsible for initial information entered on the score sheets (names of riders equines, etc.), sees that judges have all pertinent information and equipment and supervises correct tallying of scores and subsequent placing of equines
- 10.9. Horsemanship Judges
- 10.9.1. At least two (2) Horsemanship judges with appropriate experience and training are required for Trail Judges and Venue Judges.
  - 10.9.2. Absolute independent judging will be maintained in appearance and fact.
  - 10.9.3. The Judges shall have final authority on all questions of scoring and safety of the horse/rider combination.

- 10.9.4 .Veterinarians shall have the final authority on the welfare of the horse and the Fit to Continue decisions
- 10.9.5. Judges MUST understand and AGREE to use the standard DRASA judging procedures and score sheets without modification.

## **11. Examination and Judging Procedures**

**11.1. Pre-Ride Examinations.** The pre-ride examinations will be used to determine the FITNESS OF THAT EQUINE TO START THE RIDE and the Horsemanship of the Rider.

- 11.1.2. Vet Judging. All horses are subjected to a veterinary examination before departure (Pre Check) and 20 minutes after the return from each leg of the ride (First Leg, Second Leg, Third Leg etc.). Once passed the Veterinary check each horse gets a 30 minute rest period before resuming the next leg
- 11.1.3. CRI Pulse Rate, Habitus, Gut Sounds, Hydration, Capillary Refill, Lesions Lameness and Body Condition will be taken pre-ride as a fit to start criteria.
- 11.1.4. The Veterinary score will be scored using an overall score only and will be completed by the Vet.
- 11.1.5. Depending on the number of equines entered and the circumstances existing at the particular ride site, this may take place the afternoon preceding the ride or at first light in the morning prior to the ride.
- 11.1.6. An examination area for the judges must allow room to have the equines trotted. The surface should be fairly hard and smooth.
- 11.1.7. If, upon examination, it is the vets determination that an equine Is UNSOUND OR UNFIT for the stress of the ride, or to allow the equine to start the ride would be inhumane or dangerous to equine or rider, the equine will not be allowed to start.
- 11.1.8. Once the equine has been passed by the vets to start the ride and all criteria have been completed on the Vet Card, the horse and rider will have the Rider number marked on the rear of the horse.
- 11.1.9. The rider may proceed to camp and tack horse up to present to the Horsemanship judge. The rider and horse must present in full kit as they would be on the course. It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure that they report to the Horsemanship judge. If the rider does not report to the Horsemanship Judge they will NOT be allowed to start the ride. The Horsemanship Judgeing may, on the discretion of the Ride Manager, happen prior to Pre Ride Vetting (for example on the Friday evening before vets arrive and be advertised as such on the Ride Program). The Vets have FINAL say if the horse may start the ride even if Horsemanship vetting has taken place
- 11.1.10. The Horse and Rider will be judged on the following and marked for each criteria for excellent and below according to the Horsemanship criteria.
- 11.1.10.1. Tack & Equipment (10 points total) Tack must be properly fitted, in good repair, clean and appropriate to distance riding conditions. Existing lesions will be noted and discussed. Please note that bareback riding is not allowed, and bridle-less riding may be allowed, on discretion of horsemanship judges and ride master, but some form of restraint (neck strap

and/or halter) must be used on the horse when on course. This is in the event of the rider being dismounted (voluntarily or not) and the horse need to be caught and or led.

11.1.10.2. Mount/Dismount (5 points total) Horses should stand quietly for mounting and not “step out” until asked to do so by the rider. Rider should check to make sure the girth is tight before mounting. The horsemanship judge will want to see that you have done this immediately before you mount. A “fresh” horse that is under complete control of the rider will receive little or no deductions but a horse that “circles” when the rider attempts to mount or displays any unsafe behaviour (biting, bucking, kicking, rearing, etc.) or is out of control will receive substantial penalty points. Horse must stand quietly for Rider to dismount and rider must loosen girth and run up stirrups (if possible).

11.1.10.2. Aids/Seat (10 points total) Good position of the hands and legs, clear empathetic use of hands and legs for transition changes, Obedience of horse to aids and transitions, correct posting diagonal and control and balance of the horse

11.1.10.3. Grooming (5 points total) Feet should be clean and in good condition, should be properly trimmed, deductions for loose or missing shoes. Horses must be clean. Should not have any sweat marks or stains. Mane and tail free of tangles.

## **11.2. Horsemanship judging – Trail Equitation (5 points total per leg of ride)**

11.2.1. The Course Judge/judges will be positioned on the course at some form of natural obstacle – examples: a water crossing, a hill, a decline, a straight well cleared canter track, a watering point etc.

11.2.2. Riders and horses will be judged based on the following observable criteria: Does the rider aid the horse over and through difficult terrain? How does the rider cue the horse? Is the rider allowing the horse to follow other horses too closely creating an unsafe situation? Is the rider over controlling? How is the rider’s seat at the specific gaits observed? Does the rider allow the horse to barge into others on the trail or at water points? Does the rider approach water points/obstacles unsafely? Does the rider give the horse an opportunity to drink? Is the rider displaying trail courtesy?

## **11.3. Horsemanship Judging –stabling (5 points total)**

11.3.1. The Horsemanship Judge will observe the manner in which your horse is contained overnight or during the ride at rest stops etc.

11.3.2. Scoring will be based on the following criteria: Area should be clean and comfortable, Containment is safe and horse friendly, Hay and fresh water (full bucket) available where the horse can easily reach it, Horse is blanketed if the weather is inclement, Horse has access to shade, Horse has good area for lying down overnight etc.

## **11.4. Horsemanship Judging – Final In Hand (5 points total)**

11.4.1. This judging will take place after the final vetting at the end of the ride, once the horse has been passed by the Vets.

- 11.4.2. Scoring will be based on the following criteria: Horse should stand quietly and willingly accept examination of feet and body, horse should be clean (no sweat marks etc.) and well groomed with clean feet, horse should lead easily on a free rein, handler should follow correct guidelines for safety while leading and handling horse, handler should be courteous to all officials, volunteers and peers, no new lesions from tack, bit, boots, saddle etc.
- 11.5. All horsemanship judging processes, scoring criteria and standardised tests and obstacles are decided, finalised, documented and published from the Chief Horsemanship Judge in conjunction with the Judges Panel. This will be approved by Council and Riders will abide by the Judges decisions.

## **12. Pre-Ride Briefing**

- 12.1. The pre-ride briefing and its timing is a concern of Management and must take place between completion of pre ride exams and starting time.
- 12.2. The briefing is to inform the riders of such things as trail marking symbols and colours, rules and regulations, starting order, exact ride length, difficult sections of trail, vet rules, vet hold timesheet.
- 12.3. All questions should be answered at this time and it is the time to introduce the judges, vets and ride management who may contribute to the briefing.

## **13. Trail Conduct**

- 13.1. Any rider going off course, intentionally or otherwise, must return to the same point where he left the trail to continue, or such rider will be disqualified.
- 13.2. If a rider becomes lost, he must return to the point at which he left the trail to resume the ride, or such rider will be disqualified
- 13.3. There is no compensation for lost time. It is the responsibility of the rider to stay on the correct trail.
- 13.4. In the case of a lost shoe, a rider may dismount and walk an equine with a shoe missing to the nearest area where the farrier can reach him.
- 13.5. Riders may dismount to cross a dangerous/hazardous obstacle on the trail.
- 13.6. Riders may start and finish all legs of ride dismounted: i.e. lead the horse over start and finish line
- 13.7. Riders should be courteous and warn other riders when passing is necessary. Safety, courtesy, and Good Sportsmanship are involved. This includes the equine passing and the equine being passed. A rider should not pass in an unsafe area; the slower equine on the trail always yields to the faster equine.
- 13.8. A RED RIBBON must be worn on the tail of a known KICKER.
- 13.9. A YELLOW RIBBON must be worn on the tail of all STALLIONS.
- 13.10. Riders should avoid riding in large groups because it makes it very difficult for the judges to see each individual equine.
- 13.11. Equines should be trained to drink from either a bucket or a natural watering area and should be constantly afforded the opportunity to drink throughout the ride. Equines should be kept moving after drinking.

13.12. Sponges will not be allowed in water troughs or buckets on the course. Please use a scoop.

13.13. Trail courtesy should extend to water stops under all circumstances.

13.14. An Equine which constitutes clear danger to other equines and /or persons can be disqualified at any time from competition. From arrival on the premises through to the final exam, by agreement of two of the following: the Ride Manager, Vet or Trail Judge. The equine can be asked to leave the premises by the Ride Manager's discretion.

#### **14. The Start/Finish**

14.1. Riders may draw for starting position OR the ride may start in the order of the rider's assigned numbers OR the riders may enter their names onto a list to join group starts or leave within the Trail open window times. This will be a ride management decision.

14.2. Riding time for each loop starts when the time keeper/starter gives the signal allowing the rider to depart, and stops when the horse arrives at the check point.

14.3. Time is stopped either when the nose of the horse crosses the finish line, or, if transponders are used, when the rider's transponder is read by the system.

14.4. Riders (or helpers) shall collect a time card from the time keepers after arrival.

14.5. The Trail will be opened in the morning for a time period of one (1) hour for riders to start. If the rider has not been vetted and done pre ride horsemanship judging they will NOT be allowed to start.

14.6. Time is computed from the time the equine leaves the starting line (the location of which shall be determined by ride management).

14.7. The time nominated by rider for completion, without penalty, will have been recorded established prior to the start of ride. Each rider should know the rate at which his equine travels. Pushing the equine at the beginning or at the end of the ride and/or holding the equine back to kill time often puts undue stress on the animal.

14.8. No lack of forward motion will be allowed within 3km of the finish line. A board/marker will demarcate the 3km zone and any rider ceasing forward motion in that zone will be disqualified.

14.9 Horse AND rider must keep moving forward at a normal walking pace (between 4 -6 km/h) when approaching the finish line. (Rider is not allowed to move so slowly the horse and rider are nearly stationary, or weave or do serpentines to the finish line to make up time).

14.9.1 A score penalty will be deducted from the overall score of 5 percentage marks for every meter the rider and horse is not moving forward at a normal walking pace.

14.9.2 If an unplanned dismount takes place within the 3km zone, the rider must be allowed to mount his/her horse.

#### **15. Veterinary Checks and Vet hold periods.**

15.1. When the rider and horse cross the finish line (for any leg of the ride) they will receive a time card. The time card shows their average speed on that leg (and cumulative average speed if second on any subsequent leg of multi leg ride). This also shows when the rider has to present the horse to the Vets for the vet check.

15.2. The rider has 20 minutes to cool down, feed, water and groom the horse in order to present with a pulse below 60bpm.

15.3. It is the sole responsibility of the rider to ensure that the horse is presented within the required twenty (20) minutes after arrival at the check point. Horses that are not presented within the period of twenty minutes after arrival will be disqualified. The horse must still be presented to the vet and will NOT be allowed to leave the venue without being vetted.

15.4. Riders shall submit both the vet card/logbook and the time slip when the horses are presented for the veterinary examination. If no time card is available, the steward/pulse monitor at the vet gate must note down the time the rider presented to the veterinary queue if there is one. Riders presenting horses to the vet line after the 20 minute limit will be disqualified. In this case the horse still needs to be evaluated by the Vet

15.5. The Pulse Monitor(if present)will take the pulse of the horse with a hand held Heart Rate Monitor and record the pulse in the designated place block on the Vet card.

15.6. The rider and horse then move into a waiting area, from where they will be called by the veterinarians to present the horse.

15.7. After the horse is examined by the veterinarian, and if he/she is satisfied that the horse is fit to continue with the ride, the veterinarian will complete and sign the vet card, and will also sign the time card.

15.8. The rider shall depart fifty minutes after arrival at the check point.

15.9. Any time longer than 50 minutes will be regarded as riding time.

15.10. If the horse fails the Vet exam the rider and horse are eliminated and will be subject to compulsory rest periods according to the Veterinary Rules

15.11. All horses failing the vet exam will be DQ and will have all kilometers and scores reset to zero

15.12. If the horse passes the vet exam but the rider decides to not continue for any reason, the rider and horse will not be eligible for any awards and all scoring criteria will be reset to zero, however the kilometres completed successfully will be retained on the horses and riders records. The Horse and Rider then MUST present to the Horsemanship Judge for final Horsemanship scoring.

15.13 ALL horses must be presented for FINAL vetting even if withdrawn on course on if they decide not to start a leg of the ride.

15.14. All horses are subjected to compulsory rest periods between events. See Veterinary Rules. Horses vetted out from a Ride will have a 12 day rest period applied over and above the mandatory rest period

15.15. All horse and rider combinations who are vetted out of three consecutive rides with Metabolic reasons will be suspended (both horse and rider) for a period of 12 months

## **16. Release Inspections**

16.1. All horses shall, after completion of a ride, and before they are allowed to leave the venue, be presented to the vet for a release inspection. The release inspection must be done in the time period of no less than two (2) hours from finishing the last vet check of their ride.

16.2. If the vet is of the opinion that the horse is fit to travel, he shall complete a release card which the rider shall present to the Ride Secretary to receive passport and paperwork back before leaving the venue.

## **17. Ride and Year end Awards**

### **17.1. Ride Awards**

Top Vet Points per Division for Junior and Open Riders  
 Top Time Points per Division for Junior and Open rider  
 Top Horsemanship Points per Division for Junior and Open Rider  
 Top Overall Points per Division for Junior and Open Rider  
 Ride Management may also award top scores (out of 300) or Top Vet (out of 100), Time (out of 100) and Horsemanship (out of 100) Scores per Distance at their discretion. These do not count towards Annual awards or Qualifications and are not official awards  
 Winning Team based on overall Points (best 3 Points of 4 man team)

### 17.2. Year End Awards

The DRASA Competitive year concludes with the National Championships over 3 days .  
 Winner of Vet Points per Division for Junior and Open Riders for the competitive year  
 Winner of Time Points per Divisions for Junior and Open rider for the competitive year  
 Winner of Horsemanship Points per Division for junior and Open Rider for the competitive year  
 Winner of Overall Points per Division for Junior and Open Rider for the competitive year  
 Awards are calculated by using the 4 days best Points for the competitive year -1 multiday and 2 single day rides. A rider can therefore only come into contention for a year-end award if they have met the criteria of having ridden 3 complete events, of which 1 is a multi-day.  
 Top Horse and Rider combination kilometers award  
 Breed awards may be presented  
 Highpoint Award for horse/rider combination with highest Points of all divisions amongst all age groups for the competitive year  
 Decade Team awards for all horse/rider combinations competing at least one event per year for ten years

### 17.3. National Championships

The National Championships will be held mid-year  
 Provincial Teams of minimum 3 horse/rider combinations will be chosen before Nationals of the year based on the Selection Criteria as set down in the **PROVINCIAL DISCIPLINE COLOUR SELECTION CRITERIA.**

To qualify for participation in the National Championships:

Horse and Rider combination must successfully complete a minimum of 4 days of rides (two days which must be back to back) in the Division/Age Group they wish to enter at the Championships in the competitive year ending 1 month before the Nationals. The Rider and Horse combination must complete 4 days of rides, of which 2 days must be back to back and one of those days is at the highest division distance and one day may be at a lesser distance.

Example : To qualify to enter any Trail Division rides at Nationals : the combination must have successfully completed 2 days in Trail Division plus 2 days back to back where one day must be in the Trail Division and the other day could be in another division.

The reason for this multi day combination qualification is because Nationals are a 3 day Multi-Day Ride and riders must be proficient in safely and successfully getting horse through the multi day rides before attempting Nationals