

# 2024 PROPOSED RULE AND RULE APPENDICES CHANGES – February 16, 2023

*Changes shown in RED*

## 2024 PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

### #R1: EXTEND COMBINED WEIGHT CLASSES FOR ONE YEAR (2024 RIDE SEASON) (A ONE-YEAR ACTION)

#### SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

##### B. Classes

1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes are combined into an Adult class on a temporary basis for the 2024 ride year and will revert to 2022 rules unless extended by the National Board of Directors.

**Rationale:** Due to small Heavyweight and Lightweight classes in all regions, in all divisions (O/CP/N), at many rides, there is a lack of competition at events, and competition for year-end awards can be heavily biased by the competitors' class based on available points. Additionally, the ability of competitors to earn National Championships can be little more than a participation award. There are arguably performance reasons to have Heavyweight and Lightweight classes, but current competitor numbers do not justify both classes.

### #R2 APPENDICES CHANGES MAY BE MADE ADMINISTRATIVELY

#### INSIDE FRONT COVER

Except for emergency actions and editorial corrections to published rules, all proposed rule changes/additions must be presented to the NATRC™ membership on the national website at least 45 days prior to a vote of the NATRC Board of Directors.

*Changes to Rule Book Appendices may be made administratively, but 1) must be approved by the NATRC Board of Directors, and 2) changes must be posted in the Hoof Print and/or the national website 30 days prior to implementation or as soon as is practical.*

**Rationale:** Ride card changes, changes to the Drug Rule Appendices by the Veterinary Drug Committee, and other changes to the Rule Book Appendices seem to happen without following the formal Rule Book change process. While the Appendices are part of the Rule Book, they have been treated differently. Either these changes need to follow the official process used for the main part of the Rule Book, or we need to declare how Appendices changes are handled.

### #R3: NATIONAL LEISURE AWARDS

#### SECTION 9 - AWARDS

##### B. Annual Awards

1. General
  - c. Only the first 16 rides in Open Division, or 12 rides in Novice, or Competitive Pleasure Division officially started (See Section 5A2) in a ride year will count toward national awards. Type AA ride counts as 1½ rides; Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride
  - d. A horse/rider does not have to officially start 16 Open Division or 12 in Novice, or Competitive Pleasure Division rides in order to qualify.
  - h. All rides in Leisure Division in a ride year will count toward Leisure national awards.*
2. National Awards
  - t. **HIGH POINT LEISURE TEAM:** Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Leisure Class (i.e., Experienced, Adult, Junior), first through sixth place. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the ride day.  
Age of Horses
    - (1) Horses competing for High Point Leisure Team award must be at least 48 months of age.
      - (a) Registered horses are considered 48 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
      - (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by a licensed veterinarian.

**Rationale:** The Leisure Division is our largest group of competitors and should be recognized. Regarding a ride limit, Leisure horses are not stressed as Open or Novice/CP horses and should be able to do unlimited 8-12 mile rides if they are in condition.

### #R4: COMPLETION ONLY (CO) (RULE CLARIFICATION)

#### SECTION 6 - JUDGING

H. Completion Only: ~~A horse and rider, for the purpose of "Completion Only", are considered a team. "Completion Only" for one automatically constitutes "Completion Only" of the other.~~

1. A horse and rider, for the purpose of "Completion Only", are considered a team. "Completion Only" for one automatically constitutes "Completion Only" of the other.

2. A horse that checks out grade 3 lame (obviously consistently lame) or with other factors that that would limit its ability to continue at the end of a ride, will not place, but may receive completion points and mileage only at the discretion of the veterinary judge or Leisure judge.
3. A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes after the maximum time will not place but will receive completion points and mileage only.

**Rationale:** Distance Only is very well defined on page 4-4 (4.C.1 – 4.C.12). Conditions for disqualification are defined on page 6-3 (6.F. items 1-2). Completion Only should be well defined. Note: 5.J.4.b is the same as the new 6.H.3. This is intentional and while not ideal, it is felt needed in both locations.

### #R5: PLACINGS MUST BE ANNOUNCED (RULE CLARIFICATION)

#### SECTION 9 – AWARDS

##### A. Ride Awards

2. Each division shall include first through sixth placings-place in each horse class offered and in each horsemanship class offered. ~~with the exception of Leisure Division as noted below.~~
8. ~~Placings and Awards~~ awards based on NATRC scoring must be publicly presented ~~publicly and announced individually~~ at the immediate conclusion of the ride.

**Rationale:** Because the rule has been read in an unconventional way, and the practice could be repeated, it is felt a clarification is needed.

## 2024 PROPOSED RULE APPENDICES CHANGES

### #A1: ALLOW BASIC INJURY CARE DURING RIDE

#### Appendix B. Categories of Prohibited Substances

30. Topical agents, including ophthalmic, otic, dermal and wound ointments, ~~and~~ or liniments that contain any prohibited substance.  
~~31. Topically applied isopropyl alcohol.~~

#### Appendix C. Allowed Substances

12. Topical agents, including ophthalmic, otic, dermal and wound ointments, and liniments, if they do not contain any prohibited substance.  
 13. Topically applied isopropyl alcohol.

**Rationale:** NATRC encourages competitors to take the best care of their equines possible. Many minor scrapes could be treated without affecting the performance of the equine. Even small wounds can become infected. Encouraging competitors to either pull for minor injuries or requiring them to put their equines health at risk seems counter to our philosophy of taking the best care possible of our animals. These treatments still would need to be seen, and allowed, by the vet judge and the injuries themselves can lead to point deductions.

### #A2: ALLOW PREVENTATIVE ULCER TREATMENT DURING RIDE

#### Appendix A. Prohibited Substances

Omeprazole\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* (e.g. Gastroguard, Ulcerguard, Prilosec, Losec) administered in any amount higher than the preventative dose of 1mg/kg per day

#### Appendix B. Categories of Prohibited Substances

~~33. Acid neutralizers (e.g. Maalox, Neighlox).~~

#### Appendix C. Allowed Substances

12. Omeprazole (e.g. GastroGard®, UlcerGard®, Prilosec®, Losec®) administered at a preventative dose no higher than 1 mg/kg/day.  
 13. Acid neutralizers (e.g. Maalox, Neighlox).

**Rationale:** Equines that compete and travel extensively commonly have diagnosed or undiagnosed ulcers. Many consider treating these conditions as good care. Preventative level doses of the medications have also not been shown to enhance equine performance in equines beyond any issues caused by the ulcers themselves.