

RULE BOOK 2026



**NORTH AMERICAN
TRAIL RIDE
CONFERENCE**

RULE BOOK 2026



Underlined text in the printed copy of this rule book represents linked text in the online version.

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 on the national website 30 days prior to implementation or as soon as is practical.

Changes from the previous Rule Book are annotated with a vertical “bar” in the left margin.

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P.O. Box 78, Adams, NE 68301

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FOREWORD

The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) had its inception in 1961. This organization has played an important part in making competitive trail riding one of the nation's most popular horse activities. Trail rides sanctioned by NATRC have been accomplished from the West Coast to the East Coast; in Alaska and Canada and to the southern borders of the United States.

NATRC has developed a philosophy of competitive trail riding with uniform judging being of paramount importance. Uniformity of rules aids management in conducting rides and makes it easier for judges to evaluate each horse on a more objective basis.

The philosophies of NATRC are:

1. To stimulate greater interest in the breeding and use of good horses possessed of stamina and hardiness and qualified to make good mounts for trail use.
2. To demonstrate the value of type and soundness in the proper selection of horses for competitive riding.
3. To learn and demonstrate the proper methods of training and conditioning horses for competitive riding.
4. To encourage good horsemanship as related to trail riding.
5. To demonstrate the best methods of caring for horses during and after long rides without the aid of artificial methods or stimulants.

NATRC does not discriminate against any animal because of breed, type or conformation as long as the animal performs satisfactorily. Type and conformation will be reflected in the performance of a given animal.

We welcome you to NATRC competitive trail riding. We assure you that participation in this sport and the association with your fellow trail riders will be a rich and satisfying experience. On behalf of the board of directors, I extend our sincere wishes for an enjoyable and successful season of trail riding.

Sarah J. Smith
NATRC Executive Director
P.O. Box 78
Adams, NE 68301
402-806-8708
Email: natrc@natrc.org

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SANCTION APPLICATION

Applications for ride sanctions may be obtained from:

NATRC, P.O. Box 78, Adams, NE 68301 or the

NATRC Website: www.natrc.org

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

A. Membership

1. Any person interested in the purposes of this organization may be eligible for membership upon proper application and payment of the required dues.
 - a. Yearly Membership
 - (1) Adult Competing Membership: Any person 18 years of age or over.
 - (2) Junior Competing Membership: Any person under the age of 18 as of the beginning of the ride year.
 - (3) Family Competing Membership: A household of one or two adults and children under the age of 18 as of the beginning of the ride year.
 - (4) Supporting Membership: Any person 18 years of age or over. A supporting member is only eligible for individual ride awards if non-member rider fee is paid at the ride, and is only eligible for year-end and mileage awards if adult competing membership fee difference is paid before the end of the ride year.
 - (5) Fan Membership: Any person of any age. An adult fan member is only eligible for individual ride awards if non-member rider fee is paid at the ride, and is only eligible for year-end and mileage awards if adult competing membership fee difference is paid before the end of the ride year. A junior fan may convert to a junior competing membership at no additional charge but must notify the NATRC office of this intent before the end of the ride year.
 - b. Lifetime Membership
 - (1) Single Lifetime Membership: Any person of any age.
 - (2) Family Lifetime Membership: A household of one or two adults at time membership is obtained and any children under the age of 18 as of January 1.
2. Each membership, except lifetime, shall be for a period of 12 months commencing January 1 each year regardless of the month in which payment of dues is received. All membership fees are due on January 1 each year.
3. Each adult competing, supporting and single lifetime membership is entitled to one vote. Each family competing and family lifetime membership is entitled to two votes.

ONLY ADULT COMPETING, FAMILY COMPETING, JUNIOR COMPETING AND LIFETIME MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR YEAR-END AND MILEAGE AWARDS. (SEE SECTION 9)

B. Regions

1. There are presently six regions. Others will be established as needed.
 - a. Region 1: All California counties north of and excluding San Bernardino, Kern, and San Luis Obispo; all Nevada counties with the exception of Clark. States of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, British Columbia and Yukon Territory.
 - b. Region 2: All California counties south of and including Kern, San Bernardino, and San Luis Obispo; Clark County, Nevada; and states of Arizona and Hawaii; and Mexico.
 - c. Region 3: Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories.
 - d. Region 4: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.
 - e. Region 5: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan (excluding the upper peninsula), Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Newfoundland, Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

- f. Region 6: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan (upper peninsula only) Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin; Manitoba and Nunavut Territories.
2. An NATRC membership includes membership in both the national and regional organizations. The purposes and objectives of the regional organizations shall be the same as those of NATRC.
3. Each region shall provide representation to NATRC to include two directors and an alternate to the NATRC Board of Directors.
4. For the purposes of year-end awards only, the state of Alaska will be designated Region 1A. See Section 10 regarding year-end awards for Region 1A.
5. If the domicile and residence of the horse/rider are in different regions, or if the rider desires to compete in one or more regions other than that of the domicile, the rider must inform the NATRC Executive Director in which region(s) the rider is competing at the time of the first ride in said region(s). A horse or a rider may compete for regional points in more than one region in any year if the rider pays membership dues for the additional region(s).

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SECTION 2 - SANCTIONED RIDES AND CLINICS

A. Rides

1. Sanctioning

- a. A competitive ride which has been officially sanctioned by the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) may consist of one or more divisions as provided for in Section 4.
- b. Only a sanctioned ride in good standing may claim to operate under this rule book.
- c. Sanctioned rides may reserve dates on the NATRC ride calendar.
- d. Ride year ends the second Sunday in November.
- e. In order that rule standardization will prevail on all sanctioned rides, competitors, chairs and judges must comply with all rules as outlined herein.
- f. Rule violations may cause loss of placings, points and mileage to the competitors.
- g. Failure to comply with established NATRC sanctioning guidelines up to 14 days prior to the ride date may cause denial or revocation of sanction. Further failure to comply with sanctioning guidelines or rules will cause a review of the ride by the sanction chair, executive committee, and representative from the judges committee. The review committee will render a judgement on allowing placings, points, and mileage.

2. Fees

- a. A sanction fee as determined by the board of directors will be submitted with each rider's application for sanction.
- b. Rider fees and notification that ride results are completed in the ride management system will be sent to the NATRC national office within seven (7) working days following the ride. All riders who officially start the ride shall be counted. The NATRC national office will download all scores and then record rider's points and mileage. The rider's fee will be established by the board of directors on an annual basis.

3. Insurance

- a. NATRC has negotiated ride insurance, which all sanctioned rides must have, even if such ride has other insurance. Each ride manager must make appropriate arrangements directly with the negotiated insurance company.
- b. Failure to have insurance application and full payment received by the office of the NATRC insurer forty-five (45) days prior to the ride may cause denial or revocation of sanction.
- c. All participants, personnel, and equine owners must sign an NATRC liability release form.

4. Ride Types

- a. Type AA: Consists of three consecutive days of riding.
Type AA is limited to Open Division only.
- b. Type A: Consists of two consecutive days of riding.
- c. Type B: Consists of one day of riding.

5. Scheduling

- a. Application and fee for sanction must be received in the NATRC office, postmarked at least sixty (60) days prior to the ride date, unless special arrangements are made with the sanction chair and executive committee.
- b. Rides scheduled for the same weekend shall be at least 250 miles apart in order to be sanctioned. A Leisure Division-only ride may be excepted.
- c. To maintain sanctioned ride status, a ride must be listed on the NATRC official web site (with the correct ride date) at least sixty (60) days prior to the ride.

B. Clinics

1. Sanctioning

- a. An NATRC clinic may consist of a publicity booth, demonstration, training seminar, or any such event (with or without equines) where NATRC is officially represented.

- b. Only NATRC sanctioned clinics may distribute NATRC literature, scorecards, and/or rule books.
 - c. Sanctioned clinics will use only experienced NATRC members for lectures, instructions, and/or demonstrations. Personnel will be identified in the sanction application.
2. Fees – See Clinic Sanction Application
 3. Insurance
 - a. NATRC event insurance is mandatory for all sanctioned clinics when equines are included.
 - b. Insurance application with full payment must be received in the office of the official NATRC insurer by the first of the month prior to the month that the clinic will be held.
 - c. All participants, personnel, and equine owners must sign an NATRC liability release form.
 - d. Booths and demonstrations requiring certificates of insurance must request such from the NATRC insurer thirty (30) days prior to the date required.
 4. Scheduling – See Clinic Sanction Application

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SECTION 3 - MANAGEMENT OF RIDES

- A. Ride Management
 - 1. Ride Chair: This position is the chief executive of the ride.
 - 2. Trailmaster(s): The trailmaster may be the same as the ride chair. This person is responsible for all the matters pertaining to the trail.
- B. Ride Officials
 - 1. Ride Secretary: The primary executive assistant who is responsible for all of the ride correspondence, records, bookkeeping and reports.
 - 2. Judges: A sanctioned ride, with the exception of Leisure Division (See Section 6 D), must have at least two judges, one horseman and one veterinarian. All judges, veterinarian and horseman, must be members in good standing and be approved by NATRC. (It should be noted that the treatment of ailing horses on a ride is not the responsibility of the veterinary judge. Ride management will prearrange for a standby veterinarian for such purpose.) In the event that management finds it necessary to select a person who is not an approved NATRC judge, a guest judge's application will be reviewed by the judges committee when accompanied by the appropriate membership fee submitted by management and only if at least two of the following reasons apply:
 - a. There are no NATRC approved judges in the applicant's own category (veterinarian or horseman) residing and available in the state where the ride is scheduled.
 - b. An unforeseen occurrence has caused the assigned judge to cancel within two weeks of the ride date.
 - c. At least three NATRC approved judges in the applicant's own category have refused the invitation to judge the ride in question.
 - 3. Official Timers: Each sanctioned ride will provide a timer and recorder for each division unless the ride is so arranged that one timer and recorder can adequately record the times for all divisions. The records kept by the timers are to be presented to the ride chair (See Section 5 J7).
 - 4. Judges Recording Secretary: There shall be a minimum of one secretary for each judge. It shall be the duty of the secretary to officially record the findings of the judges, weigh master, timers and P&R teams during the course of the ride. Secretaries shall refrain from discussing the judge's findings or opinions with competitors or other observers.
 - 5. Rules Interpreter:
 - a. The rules interpreter will not be a family member of the ride chair or judges. (Section 4 D1b) This person must be a member in good standing, approved by NATRC and thoroughly familiar with the NATRC rules.
 - (1) Ride management may use separate individuals for each division. Ride management should introduce the rules interpreter at all ride briefings.
 - (2) Ride management should avoid using the rules interpreter to perform other duties (for example, secretary, timer, etc.).
 - b. Upon request by a rider or ride official, the rules interpreter shall interpret the NATRC rules to management and judges and process any disputes concerning rule interpretations.
 - (1) In the event of a dispute, the rules interpreter will confer with both judges and ride management to enable them to arrive at a prompt decision.
 - (2) If agreement between judges and management is not forthcoming, then the rules interpreter, on behalf of NATRC, is authorized to make a ruling in order to settle the questions.
 - (3) Any such ruling must be reported in writing to NATRC.
 - c. If a rules interpreter sees a rule infraction in process, he or she must notify management and judges so corrective steps can be taken.
 - d. The rules interpreter will complete an efficiency report and mail it to the NATRC office within 72 hours.

6. Safety Personnel: One or more safety personnel designated by ride management will be available on the trail to assist any horse or rider in event of emergency. Safety personnel must be 18 years of age or over.
 7. P&R Timer(s): A sanctioned ride must have an individual at each P&R stop to record the arrival time of each rider.
 8. Stable Manager: If the horses are stabled in an area apart from the riders, such as in stalls in a shed row or barn, then a stable manager may be required to assure the safety of the horses overnight. Several people may split this duty so that each can get some sleep. Otherwise riders are responsible for monitoring their horses overnight.
- C. Trail Supervision:
1. Ride management must provide adequate trail supervision for the safety of the horses and riders.
 2. The course must be natural and native to the local terrain and the use of artificial or unsafe obstacles/trail is prohibited.
 3. Trail markings must be distinct and obvious to the riders. At least four points shall be marked on the trail to enable riders to orient themselves.
 4. Arrangements must be made for transporting the judges so they can adequately observe all horses and riders on the trail.
 5. Arrangements must be made for transporting the rules interpreter so he/she can adequately observe trail conditions and the conduct of the ride.

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SECTION 4 - DIVISIONS, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

A. Divisions

1. Open

- a. Age of Horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 60 months of age.
 - (1) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
 - (2) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and are in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.
- b. Mileage
 - (1) Mileage in this division is 80-90 miles for an AA ride, 50-60 miles for an A ride and 25-35 miles for a B ride.
 - (2) Mileage in this division shall be a minimum of 15 miles on any one day.
In steep and rugged terrain these distances may be shortened.
- c. Pace
 - (1) The average pace for a ride in this division shall be in the range of 4-6 miles per hour; and when determining the timing of the ride, management must consider, among other relevant factors: weather, terrain, season of the year and footing on the trail.
 - (2) "Riding time" used to compute the pace shall not include lunch and P&R stops.
- d. Classes
 - (1) This division will offer Adult and Junior Classes in horse as defined in Section 4 B.
 - (2) This division will offer identical classes in horsemanship as offered in horse.

2. Novice

- a. Age of Horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age. (60 months for national awards)
 - (1) Registered horses are considered 48 months of age as of actual foaling date on registration papers.
 - (2) Unregistered horses are considered of eligible age when the central and intermediate permanent incisors have erupted and are in wear as determined by the veterinary judge.
- b. Mileage
 - (1) Total mileage in this division is 30-40 miles for an A ride and 15-24 miles for a B ride.
 - (2) Mileage in this division shall not exceed 24 miles in one day or 40 miles in 2 days. (Exception to this rule shall be at the discretion of the sanction chair.)
In steep and rugged terrain these distances may be shortened.
- c. Pace
 - (1) The average pace for a ride in this division shall be in the range of 3.5-5 miles per hour; and when determining the timing of the ride, management must consider, among other relevant factors: weather, terrain, season of the year and footing on the trail.
 - (2) "Riding time" used to compute the pace shall not include lunch and P&R stops.
- d. Classes
 - (1) This division will offer Adult and Junior Classes in horse as defined in Section 4 B.
 - (2) This division will offer identical classes in horsemanship as offered in horse.
- e. Limitations
 - (1) Any horse and adult rider combination having earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation, in horse (regardless of class in Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice) or in Leisure Team, shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse

- Division. Four-year-old horses are exempt from this rule. A horse and rider combination that attains 250 points in horse during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horse awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horse Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- (2) Any horse and junior rider combination having earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation, in horse (regardless of class in Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice) or in Leisure Team, and rider having reached age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division. Four- year-old horses are exempt from this rule. An age eligible horse and rider combination that attains 250 points in horse during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horse awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horse Division for the remainder of that ride year.
 - (3) Any adult rider having earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation, in horsemanship (regardless of horse, or class in Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice) or in Leisure Team, shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division. A rider who attains 250 points in horsemanship during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horsemanship awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horsemanship Division for the remainder of that ride year.
 - (4) Any junior rider having earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation, in horsemanship (regardless of horse, or class in Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice) or in Leisure Team, and having reached the age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division. A rider who reaches age 14, attains 250 points in horsemanship during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horsemanship awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horsemanship Division for the remainder of that ride year.
 - (5) Horse and rider combinations having won a National Championship or placed 3rd or higher in the NATRC annual high point awards (excluding regional awards) in any class in Open or Competitive Pleasure in any previous year are ineligible to compete in the Novice Division.
 - (6) No accredited past or present NATRC horsemanship, veterinary or leisure judge shall compete for horse or horsemanship awards in the Novice Division.
 - (7) Any rider having attained 1,500 miles in competition or having won one or more National Championships, President's Cup, Jim Menefee Combined Horse and Horsemanship, Bev Tibbitts Grand Champion High Average Horse, or Polly Bridges High Average Horsemanship in any class in any previous year is ineligible to compete for horse or horsemanship awards in the Novice Division.
3. Competitive Pleasure
- a. Age of horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age. (60 months for national awards)
 - (1) Registered horses are considered 48 months of age as of actual foaling date on registration papers.
 - (2) Unregistered horses are considered of eligible age when the central and intermediate permanent incisors have erupted and are in wear as determined by the veterinary judge.
 - b. Mileage
 - (1) Daily and total mileage will adhere to criteria specified for Novice Division.
 - c. Pace
 - (1) The average pace for a ride in this division shall be in the range of 3.5-5 miles per hour; and when determining the timing of the ride, management must

consider, among other relevant factors: weather, terrain, season of the year and footing on the trail.

(2) "Riding time" used to compute the pace shall not include lunch and P&R stops.

d. Classes

(1) This division will offer Adult and Junior Classes in horse as defined in Section 4 B.

(2) This division will offer identical classes in horsemanship as offered in horse.

4. Leisure

a. Must be offered as a Type B ride.

b. Age of horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age.

(1) Registered horses are considered 48 months of age as of actual foaling date on registration papers.

(2) Unregistered horses are considered of eligible age when the central and intermediate permanent incisors have erupted and are in wear as determined by the judge.

c. Mileage in this division is 8-12 miles per day.

d. Pace

(1) The average pace for a ride in this division shall be in the range of 3-4.5 miles per hour; and when determining the timing of the ride, management must consider, among other relevant factors: weather, terrain, season of the year and footing on the trail.

(2) "Riding time" used to compute the pace shall not include P&R stop(s).

e. Classes

(1) This division will offer Experienced, Adult and Junior Classes as defined in Section 4 B, with the exception that Experienced teams are defined as:

(a) Any past or present NATRC judge (veterinary, horsemanship, leisure).

(b) Any NATRC rider with more than 250 points of any combination of Leisure Team and Open, Competitive Pleasure, Novice Horsemanship at the beginning of the ride year.

(c) Horse and rider combinations having won a National Championship or placed 3rd or higher in the NATRC annual high point awards (excluding regional awards) in any class in Open or Competitive Pleasure in any previous year.

(d) Any NATRC rider having attained 1,500 miles in competition or having won one or more National Championships, President's Cup, Jim Menefee Combined Horse and Horsemanship, Bev Tibbitts Grand Champion High Average Horse, or Polly Bridges High Average Horsemanship in any class in any previous year.

(2) Horse and rider will compete as a team, with their combined scores used to determine placing recognition.

(3) A Junior may compete in the Adult or Experienced Class.

(4) Any adult may compete in the Experienced Class.

5. Additional divisions may be added at the discretion of the board of directors.

B. Classes

1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes are combined into an Adult class on a permanent basis.

2. Riders 18 or older at the beginning of the ride year must compete in the Adult Class.

3. Junior

a. Age 8 through 17. The rider must be 8 years old to enter competition; thereafter the age of a junior shall be determined by whatever their age is as of the beginning of the ride year, and this age shall continue throughout that ride year. Riders must be able to care for their horse with minimal assistance. Riders 12 and under must ride

with an adult sponsor or a junior sponsor, 13 or older with more than 250 NATRC miles, with a limit of two per sponsor. The sponsor must also be a registered participant in an appropriate division. If the sponsor cannot continue, a sponsor on trail can be substituted with another appropriate competitor or DO rider.

- b. Juniors may compete in Open, Competitive Pleasure or Novice Division Adult classes. Juniors may compete in Leisure Division Adult or Experienced classes.
- c. Juniors (See Section 4 B3a) may not ride stallions.
4. Adult: (Leisure Division only) riders age 18 or over who do not meet the Junior criteria as defined in Section 4 B. There are no weight requirements.
5. Helmets
 - a. Juniors (age 17 and under) must wear an ASTM/SEI, Snell, or approved equal equestrian riding helmet at all times while mounted in camp or on the trail. This rule applies to a junior competing in any class or a junior visiting the NATRC camp.
 - b. It is strongly recommended that adults also wear a similarly approved helmet as stated in Section 4 B5a above.
- C. Distance Only (DO) (not in competition)
 1. Horses and/or riders participating DO for any reason will be judged in all ride activities as are other competitors but will be eligible for mileage only.
 2. Horses and/or riders participating DO must obey all NATRC rules (except those exemptions specified in paragraphs 3-9 below) and any ride rules. The DO horse/rider team must ride in an acceptable manner and not disrupt the ride for other competitors.
 3. Horses may participate with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots).
 4. A rider may ride DO in any class or division in horsemanship.
 5. A horse may participate DO in any class or division only if the rider also enters DO in horsemanship.
 6. In Leisure Division, horse and rider both must enter DO since they are scored and placed as a team.
 7. One-day option: only available if both horse and rider are riding DO.
 - a. The DO team has the option of riding 1 or 2 days of a Type A CTR. When choosing to ride 1 day only, the team must ride the first day, or at ride management's discretion, they may start the second day. A DO rider must notify ride management of their intent not to ride a second day after post ride examination, but before 8 p.m. To start on the second day, the second day's ride distance must also meet Type B ride minimum requirements.
 - b. The DO team will receive the standard mileage allotments for each day ridden. If the rider chooses to ride the second day, but does not complete that day, then no mileage will be awarded for either day.
 8. DO horses/riders will not count as a competitor in the class.
 9. Any person or horse excluded from competing in Section 4 D1b of the rules (family members or horses owned by family of judges or rules interpreters) may enter the ride DO.
 10. Any rider or horse-and-rider combination excluded from competing in the Novice Division in Section 4 A2e of the rules may enter the ride DO in the Novice Division.
 11. Any horse ineligible to compete for awards may enter DO if said ineligibility in the opinion of the veterinary judge does not constitute a physical abuse of the horse.
 12. DO must be declared prior to the official start of the ride.
- D. Eligibility of Riders
 1. All persons of minimum competitive age or older are eligible to compete in NATRC, except:
 - a. Any person designated in Section 3 with the exception of the ride secretary (i.e., ride chair, trailmasters, stable manager, judges, official timers, judges recording secretary, rules interpreter, safety personnel, P&R timer) shall not be eligible to ride

- a horse in competition on the sanctioned ride for which s/he serves in an official capacity.
- b. A member of the judges' or rules interpreter's immediate family, when entered in a division of a CTR in which said person is acting in an official capacity, must ride DO in both horse and horsemanship. Judges also include apprentice, provisional and emergency judges. Immediate family includes by blood, adoption or marriage (parents, siblings, grandchildren, grandparents, and in-laws) or any member of their household. In-laws include mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law, and son-in-law.
 - c. A horse owned by a judge, rules interpreter or their immediate family, when entered in a division of a CTR in which said person is acting in an official capacity, must participate DO in both horse and horsemanship. Judges also include apprentice, provisional and emergency judges. Immediate family includes by blood, adoption or marriage (parents, siblings, grandchildren, grandparents, and in-laws) or any member of their household. In-laws include mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law, and son-in-law.
 - d. Riders who are unable to properly care for their horses, themselves, or to ride the course without the assistance of others. (Minor handicaps may be dealt with at the judge's discretion per Section 5 D2c)
2. Riders must be properly entered as NATRC riders in any ride which has NATRC as well as other organizations sanctioning the ride.

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SECTION 5 - THE RIDE

- A. Administration
 - 1. The ride begins with registration and ends with completion of the presentation of awards.
 - 2. For the determination of rider fees, points, mileage and the number of starters, the horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride (official beginning).
 - 3. The horse and rider shall remain in the type, division, and class in which they officially started.
 - 4. The horse and rider shall remain in competition until such time as they are pulled, disqualified or their final veterinarian check is completed.
 - 5. If due to extenuating circumstances a rider finds it necessary to leave prior to the presentation of awards, that rider must advise both ride chair and appropriate division judges.
 - 6. In the event that awards are not presented by 9 p.m. on awards night, horse and rider will be permitted to leave the ride and awards will be mailed.
- B. Stabling
 - 1. All horses shall be kept in a designated area from preliminary check in until after the final examination.
 - 2. The stabling options used are at the discretion or requirements of CTR management and/or the CTR facility.
 - 3. The stabling options provided by CTR management and/or the CTR facility must be available to all competitors in a division.
 - 4. Stabling options **not allowed** during competition:
 - a. Hobbling of any kind
 - b. Portable panels that are not securely anchored to a trailer or a tree
 - c. Electric fencing
 - d. Staking out in any manner
 - e. Stallions in portable panels.
 - 5. Stallions: Stallions must be double tied whenever stabled (exceptions, see below). The primary and secondary rope will not be tied to the same tie spot.
 - a. Stallion double tying requirements are: The primary rope is tied in the normal manner, but the secondary restraint method must be secured around the stallion's neck and tied in the normal manner. If a rope around the neck is secured with a knot, it must be a bowline and run through the halter.
 - b. Other secondary restraint methods may be acceptable (check with horsemanship judge). Two halters are unacceptable.
 - c. Stallions may be stabled in pens/stalls when "stallion" pens/stalls are provided by the CTR facility.
 - d. Failure to comply constitutes a major rule violation. (See Section 6 F2d)
- C. Handling
 - 1. Riders shall be permitted to either longe or trot their horses in-hand for the circling phase of any in-hand inspection.
 - 2. On the first day, horses may be saddled prior to the official ride start at a time announced by management and/or judges. Horses may be called to start in-hand or mounted, at the judge's discretion.
 - 3. After a day's ride, riders may handle and care for their horses at their discretion, unless specific restricted hours were specified and announced by management and/or judges at the previous day's briefing prior to the start of the day's ride.
 - 4. Handling of horses at the start on subsequent ride days will be announced by management and/or judges.
 - 5. Use of hobbles on loose horses or staking out of horses is prohibited at all times.
 - 6. Entering the ride constitutes implied consent for drug testing.

7. Riders who abuse or drug their horses or engage in conduct unbecoming a competitive rider will be disqualified by ride chair and/or trailmaster or judges and asked to leave the ride and dismissed from further consideration in judging. A second dismissal in the same year will result in cancellation of all NATRC privileges for that year.
 8. Stallions must have a yellow ribbon attached to their tail at all times.
- D. Care
1. Under extenuating circumstances where the welfare of a horse is in jeopardy, a rider may attend to his horse during restricted hours. The judges must be informed of said handling and rider may be penalized or pulled as the case warrants.
 2. During the competition, all riders are required to care for their own mounts except in the following cases:
 - a. Attending to a sick horse.
 - b. Having a horse held during a rest break.
 - c. Handicapped riders needing assistance (permission at the judge's discretion). Other assistance in the care and grooming of mounts is prohibited.
 3. Feed
 - a. Riders are responsible for providing all feed for their horses unless management has indicated on ride information that feed will be available.
 - b. The use and choice of feed is at the discretion of the rider.
 - c. Feed may be provided by management to horses at lunch or other locations on the trail. The availability will be indicated on ride information.
- E. Hoof Protection/ Leg Protection
1. There are no shoeing restrictions.
 2. All types of hoof boots that provide sole protection are allowed. However, any attached strap, keeper, gaiter, or accessory must not extend above the pastern. Socks and wraps under hoof boots or any of their parts are allowed if they do not extend above the pastern. The judges may request to observe the area covered by the attached strap, keeper, gaiter, or accessory.
 3. Protective devices, such as bell boots, splint boots or wraps are not permissible on the legs of horses except as part of hoof sole protections as allowed under Section 5 E2. The leg is defined as all structures above and including the coronet.
 4. Horses in the Leisure Division may compete with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots).
- F. Tack
1. Riders must use a saddle and headgear with attached reins. The type of saddle, headgear with reins, and other equipment is at the discretion of the rider within the bounds of good horsemanship. However, no inhumane method of restraint is to be used.
 2. Trail gear desired by the competitor during the ride will be carried on the horse. No part of a rider's wearing apparel is considered trail gear.
- G. Pre-ride Check In
1. Riders must check in, weigh in and present horses at a time specified by management for preliminary examination by the judges.
 2. The riders are required to provide certificates as may be necessary to comply with local, state and federal health requirements for their horses.
- H. Meetings
1. A riders' meeting must be held each evening or prior to the start of the day's ride to brief the riders on the course, trail markings, trail safety, available water, judging, etc. All riders will be responsible for information given.
 2. Riders must be given maps and a schedule of estimated times and/or distances and elevations for various points on the ride. Each rider shall be responsible for his own time.
- I. Trail Conduct

1. The horse and rider may go at their own pace on the designated trail unless instructed otherwise by the management, judges, or their representatives. Riders must be allowed to rest their horses, if they wish, at the point where they are asked for mandatory forward motion.
 2. Horse and rider missing any portion of the designated trail, thereby receiving an advantage preventing comparative evaluation, shall be disqualified or assessed penalty points. If in the opinion of the judges and management no advantage was gained, no action need be taken.
 3. Horse and rider missing a P&R or judged obstacle shall lose points equal to or more than the most points lost by any competitor in their division.
 4. Riders must remain in the saddle when the horse is in forward motion over the course but may dismount and rest themselves and the horse anytime, provided they do not advance. At any location designated by the trailmaster, ride chair, or judges as hazardous, riders may be instructed to dismount and proceed on foot for a specified distance.
 5. Forward Motion Point
 - a. From a properly identified forward motion point (posted sign), riders must maintain forward motion and not stop or dismount from this point to the finish line except in extenuating circumstances dictated by good horsemanship and/or sportsmanship. Forward motion must be via the most direct route, without stopping, following the marked trail. Any deviation may result in penalty assessment or disqualification unless dictated by good horsemanship and/or sportsmanship.
 - b. No one shall interfere with the rider's forward progress and/or pacing except when necessary for the safety of the horse/rider.
 - c. For Novice, Competitive Pleasure, and Open Divisions, the forward motion point should be approximately two (2) miles from the finish each day.
 - d. For the Leisure Division, the forward motion point should be approximately one (1) mile from the finish.
- J. Timing and Time Penalty Points
1. Start
 - a. The order in which riders start is at the discretion of management.
 - b. Horses shall be started at timed intervals.
 - c. An accurate time to the nearest minute will be recorded for each horse by the official timers.
 2. Time
 - a. The precise time allowed for completing the course is determined by the trailmaster and publicly announced to all riders prior to the start of the ride.
 - b. The public announcement of the time allotted shall constitute the basis for establishing the maximum time for completing each day's ride.
 - c. Thirty minutes shall lapse between the minimum and maximum time.
 - d. Any changes in time allotments necessary to adjust for extenuating circumstances must be announced to all riders at the same point on the trail.
 - e. Catastrophic circumstances or uncontrollable acts of God causing disruption of completion of time schedules will be adjudicated by management in consultation with judges and rules interpreter. Rides failing to meet the minimum mileage requirement criteria may be disallowed by the board of directors. (See Section 4 A 1b, A 2b, A 3b and A 4c for minimum mileage requirements).
 - f. Riding time cannot be taken away from a day's ride once it has started unless the trail is adjusted accordingly
 3. Early Arrivals
 - a. A horse completing the day's ride in less than the minimum time and within 30 minutes prior to the minimum time shall be penalized one point per minute for each

- minute before the minimum time. Rider or Leisure Division team will also be faulted. The number of penalty points for rider or Leisure Division team will be at the judge's discretion.
- b. A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes early shall be disqualified.
4. Late Arrivals
 - a. A horse completing the day's ride exceeding the maximum time and within 30 minutes subsequent to the maximum time shall be penalized one point per minute for each minute exceeding the maximum time. Rider or Leisure Division team will also be faulted. The number of penalty points for rider or Leisure Division team will be at the judge's discretion.
 - b. A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes after the maximum time will receive completion points and mileage only.
 5. Lunch Stop
 - a. If the elapsed minimum time including P&Rs is 6 hours or more, a lunch stop is required.
 - b. When the elapsed minimum time including P&Rs is less than 6 hours, a lunch stop is at the discretion of management.
 - c. Horses shall be timed in at the lunch stop, remain as long as specified by management, which time shall be at least 45 minutes, and be timed out.
 6. Additional Time Penalties
 - a. Due to special problems created by terrain, trespassing privileges, etc., ride management may establish minimum and maximum times for arriving at a specified point on the trail.
 - b. Time penalty points may be assessed at the rate of one point per minute for an early and/or late arrival. Rider will also be faulted.
 7. Announcement of Time Penalty Points
 - a. Timers must inform ride chair, who must in turn inform riders who were early/late of the number of minutes early/late. Barring unforeseen circumstances, ideally this shall be accomplished within 2 hours of completion of each day's event, and no later than prior to awards presentation.
 - b. Ride chair will then advise the horsemanship judge(s) and veterinary judge(s).
 - c. Veterinary judge(s) will assess time penalty points (See Section 5 J3, 4, 6).
 8. P&R Time
 - a. Normal time at P&R stops shall be included in the total riding time for that day.
 - b. In the event that a horse is held for additional recovery time at a P&R stop, the hold time (10 or 20 minutes) must be added to the rider's minimum and maximum ride time.
 9. Official Delays: If horses are delayed by ride chair, trailmaster, or judges, the time lost will be credited to the rider's maximum ride time. The minimum time is unaffected.
 10. In the case of an emergency/extenuating circumstance where a competitor's assistance is required, ride management and/or judges may agree to credit part or all of time lost to the assisting competitor's maximum time.

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SECTION 6 - JUDGING

- A. Procedures: The judges may act together and discuss individual entrants throughout the course of the ride.
1. Preliminary Exam
 - a. There must be a preliminary examination of all horses before the official start (See Section 5 A2).
 - b. The judges are responsible for determining that the scorecard accurately describes the horse being judged as to: name, age, sex, color, breed, division and class of competition.
 - c. The judges shall identify pertinent marks and blemishes prior to the start of the ride as well as make an evaluation of the horse's soundness.
 - d. Any horse who is obviously lame prior to the start of the ride will not be allowed to start.
 - e. Judges must evaluate the health of each horse. Horses displaying evidence of any infectious disease shall be excused from the ride at the time of check in and asked to leave the area of the ride.
 2. Start of Competition
 - a. For the purposes of scoring maneuvering trail/behavior, soundness and horsemanship, the horse and rider shall be considered in competition from the moment that the horse is presented to the judges for preliminary examination.
 - b. For the purposes of scoring condition, the horse shall be considered in competition from the moment the first day's ride officially starts (See Section 5 A2).
 3. Evening Examination: After completion of a day's ride, the horsemanship and veterinary judges will conduct an examination of all entrants.
 4. Morning Examination: Prior to the start of the second and subsequent days of a multi-day ride, there will be an examination of all horses by the veterinary judge. The manner of examination is at the discretion of the judges.
 5. Final Examination: There must be a final examination (including condition, soundness, and maneuvering trail/behavior) of all horses by the veterinary and horsemanship judges after the completion of the final day's ride.
 6. Working Horses Other Than On the Trail: Ring work (the working of horses in a confined area under saddle) shall not be considered criteria for judging competitive horses.
 7. Obstacles: Judging obstacles must be natural and native to the local terrain, and the use of artificial or unsafe obstacles is prohibited.
- B. Veterinary Judging: Judges shall not discriminate against any animal due to conformation or type as long as the animal performs satisfactorily. Horses are to be evaluated on the following three criteria: condition, soundness and maneuvering trail/behavior. Leisure Division does not have to adhere to these scoring categories.
1. Condition 40%: The evaluation of condition shall include, but not be limited to, the following: pulse and respiration (P&R) recovery, indicators of hydration status (skin tenting, mucous membrane, capillary refill, and jugular refill), bowel sounds, muscle tone, anal tone, and movement, attitude and willingness. Other parameters to evaluate may include CRI (cardiac recovery index), muscle soreness, muscle cramping, coordination, urine color, respiration character, sweat, salivation, eating and drinking, etc.
 - a. Pre-ride P&R: A pre-ride P&R shall be optional at the discretion of judges and management. This recording will not be scored.
 - b. There will be a minimum of two P&R recovery readings taken during each day's ride. The planned number of P&Rs for the day's ride will be announced by management to riders. Unannounced P&R stops may be added but minimum and maximum ride time must be adjusted.

- c. Incoming P&Rs shall be optional at the discretion of judges and management, but will not be scored.
 - d. The recovery/outgoing P&R will be taken 10 minutes after arrival at the P&R stop.
 - (1) This will be scored, unless a recheck is requested.
 - (2) A rider may immediately request a recheck of their horse's outgoing pulse or respiration (or both). If this recheck is requested, it will be taken by a different P&R person or team. Only one recheck shall be permitted. The pulse and/or respiration count from the recheck will apply.
 - e. P&R scoring will be according to the judges committee guidelines.
 - f. If a horse has not met both recovery criteria simultaneously after two 10-minute holds (a total of 30 minutes of recovery time including the initial P&R), the horse shall be pulled.
2. Soundness 45%: The evaluation of soundness shall include, but not be limited to, the following: lameness (as per the American Association of Equine Practitioners', AAEP, guidelines), heat, filling & pain, tender withers, back or loin, cinch sores, rubs (including areas covered by any attached strap, keeper, or gaiter), curbs, splints, ringbone, spavin, sidebone, etc. Way of going will be evaluated as a part of soundness. The evaluation of way of going shall include, but not be limited to, the following: forging, interfering, scalping, over-reaching, continuous stumbling, etc. AAEP guidelines:
- a. Grade 1: Lameness is difficult to observe and is not consistently apparent, regardless of circumstance (e.g., under saddle, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.).
 - b. Grade 2: Lameness is difficult to observe at a walk or when trotting in a straight line, but consistently apparent under certain circumstance (e.g., weight carrying, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.).
 - c. Grade 3: Lameness is consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.
 - d. Grade 4: Lameness is obvious at a walk.
 - e. Grade 5: Lameness produces minimal weight bearing in motion and/or rest or a complete inability to move.
3. Maneuvering Trail/Behavior 15%: The evaluation of maneuvering trail/behavior shall include, but not be limited to, the following: disposition, response to rider, kicking, head tossing, prancing, standing for examination and mounting, buddying up, trail wise, etc.
- C. Horsemanship Judging: Riders are to be evaluated on grooming (of the horse), in-hand presentation, tack & equipment, trail equitation, trail care, trail safety & courtesy, and stabling. These criteria are divided into percentage categories for scoring relative value. Leisure Division does not have to adhere to these scoring categories.
- 1. 20%:
 - a. Grooming: The evaluation of grooming shall include, but not be limited to, the following: brushing, dirt, sweat marks, foreign matter, external parasites; feet and shoeing.
 - b. In-Hand Presentation: The evaluation of in-hand presentation shall include, but not be limited to, the following: control of horse, safety, turning, lead rope, response to directions, consideration of others.
 - c. Tack and Equipment: The evaluation of tack and equipment shall include, but not be limited to, the following: cleanliness, proper fit, adjustment, repair; adjustment, proper fit of any attached strap, keeper, or gaiter; trail gear placement and security.
 - 2. 50%:
 - a. Trail Equitation: The evaluation of trail equitation shall include, but not be limited to, the following: balance/lightness, body and leg position, control, hands, and aids to horse on ascending, descending and level terrain; mounting, dismounting and obstacles; control, timing, lightness, etc.
 - 3. 30%:

- a. Trail Care: The evaluation of trail care shall include, but not be limited to, the following: cinch, saddle, blanket and pad; feet; tie and safety; water stops; rating of horse; cooling out.
 - b. Trail Safety and Courtesy: The evaluation of trail safety and courtesy shall include, but not be limited to, the following: crowding, riding in a bunch, response to directions, consideration of others; potential danger to horse, self, others.
 - c. Stabling: The evaluation of stabling shall include, but not be limited to, the following: feed and water, container security; blanket; tie (height, length, quick release knot and security); safety, choice of location, tack and gear placement; horse care.
- D. Leisure Division. Horses will be evaluated on maneuvering trail/behavior. Riders will be evaluated on equitation and partnership with the horse. Safety may be scored.
1. A veterinary judge is not required.
 2. There will be a minimum of one P&R recovery reading taken during the day's ride.
 3. Judges must be sourced from the approved Leisure Division Judges List.
 4. Overnight stabling will be evaluated for safety and must comply with NATRC stabling rules. This will not be scored.
 5. Horses in the Leisure Division may compete with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots).
 6. There will be a maximum of five observations per ride.
- E. Penalty Points
1. Time penalty points will be assessed for time violations (See Section 5 J7).
 2. Other penalty points may be assessed by the judges for rule infractions which do not merit disqualification (See Section 6 F).
 3. Ride chair must inform riders and all judges of any penalty points. Barring unforeseen circumstances, ideally this shall be accomplished on the same day, and prior to ride awards presentation.
 4. Horses and riders shall be scored as if no penalty points were accrued. Both types of penalty points shall be added together and then be deducted from the horse's or rider's subtotal score prior to placing.
 5. Faulting the rider's horsemanship for rule infractions is at the judge's discretion.
- F. Disqualification
1. A horse and rider, for the purpose of disqualification, are considered a team. Disqualification of one automatically constitutes the disqualification of the other.
 2. Judges, the trailmaster, or the ride chair have the authority to disqualify competitors for the following reasons:
 - a. Riders who abuse their horses.
 - b. Riders who drug their horses, use prohibited medication, or refuse drug testing.
 - c. Riders who engage in conduct unbecoming a competitive rider.
 - d. Major violations of the rules.
 - e. Entrants completing the day's ride more than 30 minutes before the minimum time.
 - f. Unruly horses, such as those difficult to examine or judge.
 - g. Any competitor who is excessively early or late so as to interfere with judging or operation of the ride.
 - h. Openly abusive language or behavior toward management, judges, ride personnel or other competitors, during or after competition, by the competitor or any person associated with the competitor, be they family or friend. Said competitor may be penalized or disqualified as the case warrants.
 3. The rider must be informed by the ride chair of any disqualification action prior to awards. If the disqualification occurs during or following awards, the rider must be notified in writing by the ride chair of the disqualification within seven (7) days of the ride.

G. Pull Criteria

1. A horse or rider may be pulled from competition for reasons other than those stated for disqualification.
2. A horse and rider, for the purpose of pulling, are considered a team. The pulling of one automatically constitutes the pulling of the other.
3. Judges, the trailmaster or the ride chair have the authority to pull a horse or rider for the following reasons:
 - a. The horse or rider exceeds acceptable mechanical, metabolic, or mental parameters.
 - b. Rider option.
 - c. A horse requiring treatment by a veterinarian or rider that prevents comparative evaluation during the course of the competition.
4. The P&R Captain has the authority to pull a horse at a P&R stop for failure to meet pulse and respiration criteria as specified by the veterinary judge.
5. A pulled equine or rider may not re-enter the competition for any reason.

H. Completion Only:

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.

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SECTION 7 - PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND TREATMENTS

- A. General Provisions:
1. Purpose: The purpose of this rule against the use of prohibited substances or prohibited treatments in equines during NATRC rides is both to protect the equines from harm and to ensure fair competition. Equines should compete under their natural abilities without the influence of any drug, medication or veterinary treatment.
 2. Prohibited substances or prohibited treatments as defined in this rule shall not be administered to or used in an equine competing in an NATRC ride. No equine in which a prohibited substance or its metabolite is present shall compete, regardless of when the prohibited substance was administered to it.
 3. For the purposes of this rule, competition begins at the time of the initial presentation for the preliminary veterinary exam. Competition ends when an equine has been pulled, disqualified, or has successfully passed the final veterinary exam.
- B. Prohibited Substances: (For the Appendices referred to in this Section, see the [NATRC web site](#).)
1. The products identified in Appendix A to this rule are prohibited substances.
 2. A substance which is not identified by name in B1 above is a prohibited substance if it falls within the categories identified in Appendix B to this rule.
 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, the products or categories of substances identified in Appendix C to this rule are not prohibited substances.
 4. If a substance is not identifiable as a prohibited substance under B1 or B2 above or is not specifically allowed under B3 above, it is a prohibited substance if it is (a) either an exogenous substance or an endogenous substance administered in abnormal amounts, and is (b) potentially harmful to the equine or is performance enhancing.
 5. NATRC recognizes that trace amounts may be detected of some substances which are commonly used for treating equines and which are considered not to influence horses during competition when present under certain threshold levels. NATRC also recognizes that trace amounts may also be detected of substances which have no legitimate use in equines but which are present at extremely low levels from unintentional and unavoidable exposure to environmental contamination. Accordingly, notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, the following specific substances only are not prohibited substances if detected in concentrations below the threshold amount corresponding to the substance in the table shown in Appendix D to this rule.
 6. General guidelines for the length of time selected substances remain in an equine's system are set out in Appendix E to this rule. These detection time guidelines are advisory only and are not a part of this rule governing prohibited substances. The detection time for a prohibited substance varies with the size and health of the equine, the method of administration, dosage, the testing method and the detection limits used by the testing laboratory, among other factors. Accordingly, these detection time guidelines shall not affect the determination of whether or not there has been a violation of this rule. Reliance on these detection time guidelines does not guarantee compliance with this rule.
- C. Prohibited Treatments:
1. The treatments or procedures identified in Appendix F to this rule are prohibited treatments if administered to an equine while in competition.
 2. Prohibited treatments while an equine is in competition shall also include any diagnostic procedures involving the use of a needle, syringe or other device or instrument except for a stethoscope, heart rate monitor, rectal or skin temperature thermometer, or syringe for the oral administration of permitted substances. Drawing blood or measuring blood parameters by any means including, but not limited to, transdermal methods from an equine while it is competing is a prohibited treatment unless it is done for diagnostic or research purposes and access to results or other information from measuring blood

- parameters is withheld from the equine's rider and/or owner from the time the ride starts until after the equine has finished competing in the ride. The intention to draw blood or measure blood parameters by any means from an equine for diagnostic or research purposes must be declared in writing to the ride management and veterinary judge at the time of the equine's preliminary veterinary examination so that there is no misinterpretation during competition of the purpose for using the needle and syringe necessary for drawing blood or instruments needed to measure blood parameters.
3. The following veterinary procedures are considered prohibited treatments even if performed prior to time the treated equine is competing:
 - a. Shockwave therapy is a prohibited treatment unless performed more than seven (7) days prior to the time the treated equine is competing.
 - b. Surgical or chemical neurectomy, whenever it is performed, is a prohibited treatment. No equine which has been the subject of a neurectomy at any time shall compete.
 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, the treatments or procedures identified in Appendix G to this rule are not prohibited treatments even if administered to an equine while in competition.
- D. Revision of Appendices: The appendices will be periodically updated by NATRC.
- E. Violations and Enforcement Procedures:
1. Any rider/owner violating these rules at an NATRC ride shall forfeit any completion or placing for the ride. NATRC may impose additional penalties for violation of these rules on any person responsible for the violation. Normally, the rider and owner shall be considered the persons responsible for the custody and care at a ride. Accordingly, the rider and owner shall avoid liability for additional penalties for violation of this rule only by showing by clear and convincing evidence that:
 - a. some other person outside of the rider or owner's control was responsible for the violation, and,
 - b. the rider or owner bore no fault for the violation.
 2. Every rider or other person in control of an equine at an NATRC ride shall upon request by an NATRC approved veterinarian or governmental testing representative permit a specimen of urine, saliva, blood or other substance to be collected from the equine for testing. Refusing to allow or cooperate with testing for prohibited substances at a ride shall be considered to be the same as the administration or use of a prohibited substance and shall be grounds for immediate disqualification from the event as well as the imposition of additional penalties by NATRC.
 3. NATRC shall with the advice of the veterinary drug committee establish and publish procedures for the testing for prohibited substances.
 - a. Upon receipt by the veterinary drug committee of a laboratory report showing the presence of a substance which may be a prohibited substance under this rule, the veterinary drug committee shall investigate and determine if there is a violation.
 - b. The veterinary drug committee will submit the report and all pertinent information regarding the results to the executive director.
 - c. The executive director will then submit the report of the veterinary drug committee to the protest committee. The chair of the veterinary drug committee will be a member of that protest committee.

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SECTION 8 - COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS, AND DRUG VIOLATIONS

- A. Informal Concerns, Inquiries, and/or Suggestions
 1. Most concerns, inquiries, and/or suggestions are questions of a general nature and are most appropriately directed to ride management, judges, regional board members or the NATRC Executive Director. They should be handled diplomatically and informatively on a case-by-case basis. This can usually be done at the ride where a question arises and without triggering a “formal process”.
 2. Concerns, inquiries, and/or suggestions that cannot be answered satisfactorily in this manner may be referred to the executive director for possible referral to the appropriate NATRC committee.
- B. Letters of Concern
 1. Letters of concern addressing issues, other than those which are appropriately handled as either complaints or protest per Section 8, may be submitted by any member, competitor, judge, ride management or ride official.
 2. A letter of concern must be in writing, signed by the author, and mailed to the executive director.
 3. The executive director shall inform the involved parties. These individuals may reply to the executive director within twenty-one (21) days with any information that they deem relevant regarding the concern.
 4. The executive director will then forward the information received to the chair of the committee he/she deems most appropriate to receive the letter of concern. Copies shall be sent to the president. The committee to which the letter of concern has been referred shall render a written conclusion in a timely manner and forward that conclusion to the executive director. The executive director, or the committee chair as assigned by the executive director, shall then notify all affected parties of that conclusion. A copy of the notification will be sent to the executive director.
- C. Complaints
 1. Complaints not involving a formal protest may be made by any competitor, their agent, or parent of a junior competitor against the operation of the ride, misconduct of the ride committees, committee members, competitors, judges, other officers or agents of a ride.
 2. A complaint must be in writing, signed by the complainant and mailed (postmarked) to the executive director not later than ten (10) days following the conclusion of the ride.
 3. The executive director shall send a copy of the complaint to the ride personnel involved. The ride personnel will have twenty-one (21) days in which to reply to the executive director who shall forward the information received to the chair of the committee he/she deems most appropriate to receive the complaint. Copies shall be sent to the president and the chair of the sanction committee. The committee to which the complaint has been referred shall have fourteen (14) days to render a written judgment on the complaint and forward it to the executive director, who shall thereupon use this written judgment and promptly notify all affected parties and all persons receiving copies of the complaint as set forth above.
- D. Protests
 1. A protest may be made against any NATRC ride for violation of any of the rules pertaining to such a ride that could affect the awards. Such protest may be initiated by a competitor or an agent or parent of a junior competitor.
 2. The protest committee shall consist of one member of the board of directors of NATRC, one NATRC judge in good standing and one competitor member in good standing and the president as an ex-officio member.
 3. A protest must be in writing, signed by the person initiating the protest and be

accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00 (cash, certified check or money order), be mailed (postmarked) to the executive director not later than ten (10) days following the conclusion of the ride.

4. The executive director shall send copies of the protest to the protest chair, NATRC president, ride chair, ride judges, rules interpreter and any other involved official or competitor. These people will have fourteen (14) days in which to respond to the executive director. The executive director shall send copies of all replies to the protest committee. The protest committee shall review all information pertinent to the protest.
 5. The protest committee shall render a written judgment to the executive director within fourteen (14) days of receipt of all information. Within ten (10) days of receipt of the written judgment by the executive director, he/she shall use this written judgment to notify the parties to the protest.
 6. The decision may be appealed by any affected party. The appeal shall be in writing, signed by the person initiating the appeal, be accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00 (cash, certified check or money order), and be mailed (postmarked) to the executive director not later than ten (10) days after receipt of the protest committee's decision. The national board of directors shall hear the appeal. The decision of the board is final. If the appeal is allowed, the \$50.00 shall be returned to the party making the appeal. If the appeal is disallowed, the \$50.00 shall be retained by NATRC. The fee for an appeal, which has been filed, processed but then withdrawn, will not be refunded.
 7. If the protest is allowed, the \$50.00 shall be returned to the party making the protest. If the protest is disallowed, the \$50.00 shall be retained by NATRC. The fee for a protest, which has been filed, processed, then withdrawn, will not be refunded.
 8. A judge's decision shall be incontestable unless an infraction of the rules has occurred.
- E. Drug Violations: Any violation of the prohibited substances and treatments (Section 7) shall automatically be reviewed by the protest committee.

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SECTION 9 - AWARDS

- A. Ride Awards
1. A sanctioned ride having an Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Division will offer Adult and Junior Classes in horse and horsemanship.
 2. Each division shall include first through sixth placings in each horse class offered and in each horsemanship class offered.
 3. Horse and horsemanship scores for Leisure Division will be added together to determine placing of teams for Experienced, Adult and Junior Classes. Leisure Division will include first through sixth place in each class offered.
 4. The horses with the highest scores from the Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Divisions shall be the recipients of the Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Sweepstakes Awards.
 5. In situations in which less than a full class starts the ride, all placings will be at the discretion of the judges, (i.e., if there is no horse or rider deserving of first place award, no first place need be awarded, etc.).
 6. No tie placings will be awarded (i.e., any ties must be broken by the judges).
 7. A ride may offer awards in addition to those based on NATRC scoring, but must not be in lieu of those based on NATRC scoring.
 8. Placings and awards based on NATRC scoring must be publicly presented and announced individually at the immediate conclusion of the ride.
 9. Registration certificate or copy thereof must be checked by management for a registered horse to be eligible for a breed award.
- B. Annual Awards
1. General
 - a. Ride Types:
 - Type AA: Consists of three consecutive days of riding.
Limited to Open Division only.
 - Type A: Consists of two consecutive days of riding.
 - Type B: Consists of one day of riding.
 - b. DO participants are eligible for mileage only. DO participants are not counted as starters in a ride. Participating as DO does not count as a ride for horse or rider (for annual awards).
 - c. Only the first 16 rides in Open Division or 12 rides in Novice and 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 Novice or Competitive Pleasure Division rides in order to qualify.
 - e. Ride year ends the second Sunday in November.
 - f. Horses receiving annual awards must be ridden by riders who have a current competing membership at the end of the ride year.
 - g. Riders receiving annual awards must have a current competing membership at the end of the ride year.
 - h. All rides in Leisure Division in a ride year will count toward Leisure national awards.
 - i. A non-member or a non-competing member joining NATRC as a competing member at any time during the ride year in which s/he has competed in a ride will start to accumulate points from the first ride ridden in that year. (For exceptions see Section 9 B2a(3), B2c(5), B2e(5), B2g(5).)
 - j. Points are based on the table in Section 9 C.
 - k. In order to qualify for annual national awards, the competing horse or rider must have completed at least three rides of any ride type in their designated region(s).

See Section 10 for Region 1A requirements. In order to qualify for annual regional awards, the competing horse or rider must be a member of that region and have completed at least three rides of any ride type in that region.

2. National Awards

- a. PRESIDENT'S CUP (National Sweepstakes Champion): This award will be presented annually to the overall high point horse in the Open Division.
- (1) Only the first 16 rides officially started will count. 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.
 - (2) The horse must be officially started in at least one out-of-region and three out-of-state rides of any ride type.
 - (3) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
 - (4) In the event of a tie in points at the end of the year, the winner shall be the horse which has won first place on the greatest number of rides. If the tie persists then the greatest number of seconds will be used. Each placing shall then be used in turn until the tie is broken.
- b. JIM MENEFFEE MEMORIAL (Combined Horse & Horsemanship):
- (1) This award is presented to the Open Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship.
 - (2) Only the first 16 rides officially started will count. 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.
- c. BEV TIBBITTS GRAND CHAMPION (High Average) AWARD: This award is presented to the Open Division horse with the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.
- (1) Horses competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. 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.
 - (2) Only the first 16 rides officially started will count. Type AA ride counts as 1½ rides; Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride.
 - (3) Only rides officially started in the same Open Class will count.
 - (4) Every ride which the horse officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the same Open Class.
 - (5) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
 - (6) The horse must be officially started in at least two out-of-state rides of any ride type, two out-of-region rides of any ride type, or one out-of-state and one out-of-region ride of any ride type.
 - (7) In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the horse which has won first place on the greatest number of rides.
 - (8) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual horse's score by the highest Open score (sweepstakes) on that ride. The average score of each horse shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.
- d. POLLY BRIDGES MEMORIAL (High Average Horsemanship): This award is presented to the Open Division rider who has the highest average horsemanship score rather than the highest number of points.

- (1) Riders competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. 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.
 - (2) Only the first 16 rides officially started will count. Type AA ride counts as 1½ rides; Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride.
 - (3) Only rides officially started in the same Open Class will count.
 - (4) Every ride which the rider officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is ridden in the same Open Class.
 - (5) The rider must officially start in at least two out-of-state rides of any ride type, two out-of-region rides of any ride type, or one out-of-state and one out-of-region ride of any ride type.
 - (6) In the event of a tie in the high average horsemanship scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the rider who won first place on the greatest number of rides of any ride type.
 - (7) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual rider's score by the highest Open score on that ride. The average score of each rider shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.
- e. JUNIOR GRAND CHAMPION (Junior High Average Horse): This award is presented to the Open Division horse ridden by a junior which has the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.
- (1) Horses competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. 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.
 - (2) Only the first 16 rides officially started will count. Type AA ride counts as 1½ rides; Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride.
 - (3) Only Open Junior Class rides officially started will count.
 - (4) Every ride which the horse officially starts in Open Junior during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing.
 - (5) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited
 - (6) The horse must be officially started in at least two out-of-state rides of any ride type, two out-of-region rides of any ride type, or one out-of-state and one out-of-region ride of any ride type.
 - (7) In the event of a tie in the high average horse scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the horse which has won first place on the greatest number of rides of any ride type.
 - (8) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual horse's score by the highest Open score (sweepstakes) on that ride. The average score of each horse shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.
- f. JUNIOR HIGH AVERAGE HORSEMANSHIP: This award is presented to the Open Division Junior rider who has the highest average horsemanship score rather than the highest number of points.
- (1) Riders competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. 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.

- (2) Only the first 16 rides officially started will count. Type AA ride counts as 1½ rides; Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride.
 - (3) Every ride which the rider officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is ridden in the declared class.
 - (4) The rider must officially start in at least two out-of-state rides of any ride type, two out-of-region rides of any ride type, or one out-of-state and one out-of-region ride of any ride type.
 - (5) In the event of a tie in the junior high average horsemanship scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the rider who won first place on the greatest number of rides of any ride type.
 - (6) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual rider's score by the highest Open score on that ride. The average score of each rider shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.
- g. **COMPETITIVE PLEASURE GRAND CHAMPION (High Average) HORSE AWARD:** This award is presented to the Competitive Pleasure Division horse with the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.
- (1) Horses competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. 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.
 - (2) Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride.
 - (3) Only rides officially started in the same Competitive Pleasure Class will count.
 - (4) Every ride which the horse officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the same Competitive Pleasure Class.
 - (5) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
 - (6) The horse must be officially started in at least two out-of-state rides of any ride type, two out-of-region rides of any ride type, or one out-of-state and one out-of-region ride of any ride type.
 - (7) In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the horse which has won first place on the greatest number of rides.
 - (8) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual horse's score by the highest Competitive Pleasure score on that ride. The average score of each horse shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.
- h. **COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HIGH AVERAGE HORSEMANSHIP:** This award is presented to the Competitive Pleasure Division rider who has the highest average horsemanship score rather than the highest number of points.
- (1) Riders competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. 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.
 - (2) Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride.
 - (3) Only rides officially started in the same Competitive Pleasure Class will count.
 - (4) Every ride which the rider officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is ridden in the same Competitive Pleasure Class.

- (5) The rider must officially start in at least two out-of-state rides of any ride type, two out-of-region rides of any ride type, or one out-of-state and one out-of-region ride of any ride type.
 - (6) In the event of a tie in the high average horsemanship scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the rider who won first place on the greatest number of rides of any ride type.
 - (7) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual rider's score by the highest Competitive Pleasure score on that ride. The average score of each rider shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.
- i. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: In the Open Division Adult Class, a horse shall be declared a National Champion when all the following requirements are met within the first 16 rides officially started in the same year. For ride count, points, and first or second placings, Type AA ride counts as 1½; Type A ride counts as 1; Type B ride counts as ½. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
 - (1) Awarded first and second placings that are the equivalent of two A ride firsts or one first and two second A ride placings (i.e., Two B ride firsts equal one A ride first).
 - (2) Awarded the first or second A ride equivalent placing in any two states or two regions, or is awarded a national placing in HIGH POINT OPEN HORSE (Section 9 B2l).
 - (3) Accumulated 75 points.
 - j. JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: In the Open Division Junior Class, a horse shall be declared a Junior National Champion when all the following requirements are met within the first 16 rides officially started in the same year. For ride count, points, and first or second placings, Type AA ride counts as 1½; Type A ride counts as 1; Type B ride counts as ½. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
 - (1) Awarded first and second placings that are the equivalent of two A ride firsts or one first and two second A ride placings (i.e., Two B ride firsts equal one A ride first).
 - (2) Awarded the first or second A ride equivalent placing in any two states or two regions, or is awarded a national placing in HIGH POINT OPEN HORSE (Section 9 B2l).
 - (3) Accumulated 60 points.
 - k. COMPETITIVE PLEASURE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: In the Competitive Pleasure Division Adult and Junior Classes, a horse shall be declared a National Champion when all the following requirements are met within the first 12 rides officially started in the same year. For ride count, points, and first or second placings, Type A ride counts as 1; Type B ride counts as ½. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
 - (1) Awarded first and second placings that are the equivalent of two A ride firsts or one first and two second A ride placings (i.e., Two B ride firsts equal one A ride first).
 - (2) Awarded the first or second A ride equivalent placing in any two states or two regions, or is awarded a national placing in HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSE (Section 9 B2n).
 - (3) Accumulated 75 points (60 points for Juniors).
 - (4) Horses competing for a National Championship Competitive Pleasure award must be at least 60 months of age.

- (a) Registered horses are considered 60 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 are in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.
- l. HIGH POINT OPEN HORSE: Points shall be credited to horses for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Open Class, (i.e., Adult, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 16 rides officially started will count. 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.
 - m. HIGH POINT OPEN HORSEMANSHIP: Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Class, (i.e., Adult, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 16 rides officially started will count. 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.
 - n. HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSE: Points shall be credited to horses for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Competitive Pleasure Class (i.e., Adult, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. 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.

Age of Horses

- (1) Horses competing for High Point Competitive Pleasure Horse awards must be at least 60 months of age.
 - (a) Registered horses are considered 60 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 are in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.
- o. HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSEMANSHIP: Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Competitive Pleasure Class (i.e., Adult, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. 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.
- p. HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE TEAM: This award is presented to the Competitive Pleasure Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. 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.

Age of Horses

- (1) Horses competing for High Point Competitive Pleasure Team award must be at least 60 months of age.
 - (a) Registered horses are considered 60 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 the veterinary judge.

- q. HIGH POINT NOVICE HORSE: Points shall be credited to horses for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Novice Class (i.e., Adult, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. 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.
- Age of Horses
- (1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Horse awards must be at least 60 months of age.
 - (a) Registered horses are considered 60 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 the veterinary judge.
- r. HIGH POINT NOVICE HORSEMANSHIP: Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Novice Class (i.e., Adult, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. 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.
- s. HIGH POINT NOVICE TEAM: This award is presented to the Novice Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. 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.
- Age of Horses
- (1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Team award must be at least 60 months of age.
 - (a) Registered horses are considered 60 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 the veterinary judge.
- 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.
3. Regional Awards
- a. Team Awards
 - (1) These regional awards are given for combined horse and horsemanship.
 - (2) All points for rides in which the same horse and rider combination competed, will be added together and the placings determined by the most points.
 - (3) Leisure Division does not qualify for nationally sponsored team awards.
 - b. Regional Championships
 - (1) These awards are given for horse and for horsemanship in all divisions and classes (See Section 4), first through sixth place.

(2) Will be awarded annually on the basis of points awarded *within the designated region* of the horse and rider (See Section 1 B5).

(3) Leisure Division is only eligible for regional combination awards.

C. Point Distribution

1. Points shall be based on the number of starters in a class according to the Points Distribution Table.
2. DO participants are not counted as starters in a ride. DO horses and riders receive no points.
3. Disqualified or pulled horse and rider receive no points.
4. The Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Sweepstakes winners will receive the highest points possible based on the number of starters in the largest class of their respective division.
5. The Sweepstakes winner will receive points, in addition to other points won for horse, as follows: 3 points for a Type AA ride, 2 points for a Type A, 1 point for a Type B.
6. Points earned in one class will not be added to points earned in another class by the same horse or rider.

POINTS DISTRIBUTION TABLE

TYPE AA RIDE							TYPE A RIDE						
Number of starters							Number of starters						
PLACE	6	5	4	3	2	1	PLACE	6	5	4	3	2	1
1 st	24	21	18	15	12	9	1 st	16	14	12	10	8	6
2 nd	21	18	15	12	9		2 nd	14	12	10	8	6	
3 rd	18	15	12	9			3 rd	12	10	8	6		
4 th	15	12	9				4 th	10	8	6			
5 th	12	9					5 th	8	6				
6 th	9						6 th	6					
C**	6	6	6	6	6	6	C**	4	4	4	4	4	4

TYPE B RIDE							TYPE B RIDE – Leisure Division						
Number of starters							Number of starters						
PLACE	6	5	4	3	2	1	PLACE	6	5	4	3	2	1
1 st	8	7	6	5	4	3	1 st	6	5	4	3	2	1
2 nd	7	6	5	4	3		2 nd	5	4	3	2	1	
3 rd	6	5	4	3			3 rd	4	3	2	1		
4 th	5	4	3				4 th	3	2	1			
5 th	4	3					5 th	2	1				
6 th	3						6 th	1					
C**	2	2	2	2	2	2	C**	½	½	½	½	½	½

**C = Completion points awarded for both horse and horsemanship; for team in Leisure Division.

D. Cumulative Mileage Awards:

1. Mileage will count as defined in this mileage table:

DIVISION	AA	A	B
Open	90	60	30
Competitive Pleasure	n/a	40	20
Novice	n/a	40	20
Leisure	n/a	n/a	10

2. 1000-Mile Horse: This award is presented to horses completing 1000 miles.
 - a. Riders may, in writing and accompanied with a \$15.00 fee, request verification by the NATRC office of Novice Division mileage prior to 1984.
 - b. Mileage is retroactive, subject to rider's membership verification.

- c. A fee equal to the amount of annual membership dues plus \$5.00 research fee for each year of retroactive non-member mileage must be paid before mileage will be credited.
- d. Mileage buckles, blankets, pendants or bolos may be purchased through the NATRC office.
- 3. Rider: Mileage chevrons in increments of 250 miles will be awarded to riders.
 - a. Mileage is retroactive, subject to rider's membership verification.
 - b. A fee equal to the amount of annual membership dues plus \$5.00 research fee for each year of retroactive non-member mileage must be paid before mileage will be credited.
 - c. Any number of horses may have been ridden - mileage is credited to the rider.
- 4. Mileage medallions will be awarded to horses and riders achieving levels of mileage as follows:
 - a. 4,000 Miles - Bronze
 - b. 7,000 Miles - Silver
 - c. 10,000 Miles - Gold
 - d. 15,000 Miles - Diamond
 - e. 20,000 Miles - Double Diamond

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SECTION 10 - REGION 1A AWARDS

- A. General
 - 1. This section deals with all specific requirements, definitions, and limitations for Region 1A year-end awards only.
 - 2. All other rules apply.
- B. Annual/Year-end Awards
 - 1. General: In order to qualify for annual awards for Region 1A, the competing horse or rider must have completed at least one ride during the current ride year.
 - 2. National Awards
 - a. National Championship: In the Open Division Adult and Junior Classes, a horse shall be declared a National Champion when both of the following requirements are met within any consecutive three-year period in which rides are held
 - (1) Awarded one first place.
 - (2) Accumulated 36 points.
 - (a) When the entire Open Division at any given ride has ten or fewer competitors, points will be established after merging all horses in all classes into one combined class. Then scores for each horse will be ranked from highest to lowest, and points will be awarded based on the horse's placing in this combined class. In the case of tie scores, equal points will be awarded to the tie scores. Points will be based on the number of starters (See Table Section 9 C).
 - (b) If the rider is no longer age-eligible, points earned as a Junior during the applicable 3-year period can be applied to the new Adult class.
 - (c) When the entire Open Division at any given ride has eleven or more competitors, points will be awarded according to placings in each class, based on the number of starters (See Table Section 9 C).
 - b. National Championship: In the Competitive Pleasure Division in Adult and Junior Classes, a horse shall be declared a National Champion when both of the following requirements are met within any consecutive three-year period in which rides are held.
 - (1) Awarded one first place.
 - (2) Accumulated 36 points.
 - (a) When the entire Competitive Pleasure Division at any given ride has ten or fewer competitors, points will be established after merging all horses in all classes into one combined class. Then scores for each horse will be ranked from highest to lowest, and points will be awarded based on the horse's placing in this combined class. In the case of tie scores, equal points will be awarded to the tie scores. Points will be based on the number of starters (See Table Section 9 C).
 - (b) If the rider is no longer age-eligible, points acquired as a Junior during the applicable 3-year period can be applied to the new Adult class.
 - (c) When the entire Competitive Pleasure Division at any given ride has eleven or more competitors, points will be awarded according to placings in each class, based on the number of starters (See Table Section 9 C).
 - 3. Regional Awards
 - a. Regional awards are given for combined horse and rider team.
 - b. All points for rides in which the same horse and rider combination competed, will be added together and the placings determined by the most points.
 - c. Regional championships in all divisions and classes (See Section 4) first through sixth place, will be awarded annually on the basis of points awarded within the designated region of the horse and rider (See Section 1 B5).

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Appendix - A
 Horsemanship Scorecard 10/15/20 - Front


HORSEMANSHIP SCORECARD NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE										2018 Revision 10/15/20	
TACK & EQUIPMENT: Check Equipment, Taps, Ties Gear Placement & Security			GROOMING: Check Overall Health, External Parasites, Feet & Hooves			IN-HAND PRESENTATION: Check Overall Appearance of Class, Responses to Directions, Teamwork (TV)			IN-HAND PRESENTATION: Check Overall Appearance of Class, Responses to Directions, Teamwork (TV)		
TRAIL EQUIPMENT: Check Tack Trays, Release & Locking of Bridles, Girths & Lead Ropes, Combs, Hobbles & Saddle Holes, Mounting & Dismounting, Blankets, Coats, Tying, Poles, Teamwork (TV)			TRAIL SAFETY & COURTESY: Check Riders on a Ranch, Response to Obstacles, Potential Danger to Horses, Self & Others, Consideration of Others			STABLING: Horse Care, Safety, Feed & Water Containers, Hoop Height, Length, Duck-Rubber Hoof & Security, Stalls, Tack & Gear Storage, Choice of Stabling Location			TRAIL CARE: Check Locks, Brakes, Post, Ties, Water Stops, Tie & Safety, Feeding & Tying, Grouping Out		
Rider #	Horse Name	Event	Age	Ride Name	Date	Score	Priority Point Deductions:	Score	Place	Score	Place
001-002	TYPE: AA, A, B1, B2, BN, Open, CP, Nrv, CLASS Ind Lvl Jr			Wm Jurgens							

Judges VERIFY the accuracy of DO#1, DO#2, and appropriate TYPE, DIV and CLASS | Competitors REVIEW ADDITION AND REPORT ERRORS TO MANAGEMENT

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SURFACE ASSESSMENT	SOUNDNESS	MANEUVERING TRAIL / BEHAVIOR
<p>Note: Findings are to be noted, discussed, but not scored. Serious findings are to be noted and scored. Serious findings are to be noted and scored. Serious findings are to be noted and scored.</p> <p>Mane: Observe for roughness or other signs.</p> <p>Hooves: Observe for roughness, staining or cracks.</p> <p>Back: Note if hair is not held across the top of the back and observe for any reaction.</p> <p>Legs: Observe for redness and/or swelling. This is not a hands-on evaluation.</p>	<p>Classify as in hand, dress-and-back test as check and check out. Do not observe any type of movement but make a note if the equine ability to start in hand or in position for observation is disrupted on the straight track, and the same or worse at dress out. If more disrupted, record as more compromised only or pull to learn regarding the individual's ability.</p> <p>Lameness Guidelines</p> <p>Lameness is difficult to observe and to not consistently appear regardless of circumstances (e.g. carrier walk, trotting, cantering, hard surfaces, etc.)</p> <p>Lameness is difficult to observe at a walk or when working in a straight line, but consistently apparent in circles, hard surfaces, etc.)</p> <p>Lameness is consistently observable at a trot and/or all circumstances. Do not allow to start the test if observed during ride. The equine should be pulled if observed at trot check. Correction Only rule for ground at the discretion of the judge.</p> <p>Lameness is observed at a walk.</p> <p>Lameness involves severe weight bearing in motion and/or at rest, or a complete inability to move.</p>	<p>Examine the area to be judged: side or handle or DISQUALIFY</p> <p>Mane: Heavy, Damaged</p> <p>Hooves: Dirty, Damaged</p> <p>Back: Dirty, Damaged</p> <p>Legs: Dirty, Damaged</p>
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PULSE & RESPIRATION	
Pulse	Respiration
Beats: 30-40	Stroves: 10-15
12 or less: -3	16 or more: +3
14: -2	14-17: +3
16: +2	18-21: +2
18: +1	22-25: +1
17 or higher: -3	26 or higher: +3

The initial riding PMU is scored as above. These numbers are based on a 10 second count.

Hold: If the equine fails 17 or higher after pulse and respiration, the equine will be held for an additional 10 minutes for safety. Another riding equine may be substituted for the equine held. If the equine fails 17 or higher, the equine will be held for another 30 minutes. If all equines are checked after this first hold. Refer to chart above to score the holds.

Pull if not recovered: Question 17 on both pulse and respiration after two holds beyond the second PMU (total of 38 minutes of recovery time including the total PMU).

SOUNDNESS	RIDER'S EQUITATION & COMMUNICATION	SAFETY & COURTESY
<p>OK to Start or Continue</p> <p>OK to Start or Continue</p> <p>OK to Start or Continue</p> <p>Lameness is consistently observable at a trot and/or all circumstances. Do not allow to start the test if observed during ride. The equine should be pulled if observed at trot check. Correction Only rule for ground at the discretion of the judge.</p> <p>Lameness is observed at a walk.</p> <p>Lameness involves severe weight bearing in motion and/or at rest, or a complete inability to move.</p>	<p>Rider's ability to follow the judge's instructions and communicate with the equine.</p> <p>Observe equine and communication skills through observation or performance tests on the trail.</p> <p>Should good balance and alignment of seat, soft seat, proper hands and leg positions, good timing, and effective hands and aids on according, proceeding and level terrain.</p> <p>When negotiating obstacles, evaluate the rider's observed control, timing and aims to ensure the equine's performance and teamwork.</p>	<p>Rider may earn up to 5 points for overall attention to the safety and timing during the ride.</p> <p>Class higher scores for maintaining a proper distance between the equine and the judge, and being a model when parking on the trail for meeting at an obstacle. Beyond good trail etiquette.</p>

TIME PENALTY DEDUCTIONS Outside of Window
Early Late Score
1-10: -2
11-20: -3
21-30: -4
31-40: -5

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Mission

The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) promotes horsemanship and horse care as they apply to the sport of distance riding by offering a variety of challenging and educational experiences designed to strengthen horse and rider partnerships.



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