

# Test Your Mettle Relay Rules & Information

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## Test Your Mettle Relay: What is it?

- A race between teams of competitors in which each member of a team completes only part of the total distance to be covered.
- Team members are made up of rider and equine pairings that remain the same throughout the event.
- Total race distances are the same as a typical distance event (50 to 100 miles). With each team member riding a minimum of 25 miles.
- Only one equine/rider member is allowed on the course at a time.

### **METTLE: DEFINE IT**

1. *To face a demanding situation in a resilient manner*
2. *Vigor and strength of spirit or temperament*
3. *Staying quality: stamina*
4. *Quality of temperament or disposition*

## Rule details

- A team may be made up of 2-4 riders and their corresponding mounts.
- Riders are paired with the same equine throughout the relay. This pairing is referred to as a relay team member.
- An equine cannot be shared by multiple riders.
- All relay legs must be completed in the order prescribed by ride management.
- Each relay member must be assigned and must complete a minimum of 25-miles of the relay course. (Legs of the relay may not be in 5-mile increments, so it is important teams carefully review the order and total mileage to be ridden by each member to ensure compliance with this rule.)
- The order in which members plan to ride the course must be given to the ride manager prior to the start of the relay. This is referred to as the team's ride plan.
- A member may ride consecutive legs of the relay. However, by doing so, the relay member will be subject to holds prescribed by ride management and the head veterinarian.
- If a relay member does not ride consecutive legs of the relay, they are not subject to holds since the equine should have adequate recovery time while another relay member is on the course.
- The team must complete the total relay distance within the maximum allowed time (see distance rules for additional details on maximum allowed time).
- The rider out on the course must be in possession of and carry the relay "Token."
- The Token is exchanged between the member completing a leg of the relay and then given to the relay member next heading out onto the course. Exchanges take place in camp, in a location determined by ride management.
- All equines must pass a pre-ride veterinarian inspection, as well as an exam at the end of each of their relay legs in order for the team to be deemed eligible to continue on, and for having successfully completed the relay.
  - Veterinarian criteria is "capable of carrying on" (see distance rules for additional details).
- If an equine is not being ridden on consecutive legs, the next relay member is allowed on the course as soon as the equine coming off the course pulses down to criteria and the Token has been exchanged. The departing member may (but is not required to) start their leg prior to the exiting equine passing its veterinarian exam.
  - If an equine fails the veterinarian exam, or a member chooses to withdraw from competition, the team is disqualified from the relay competition.
- Placings are determined by the shortest total elapsed time for a team. The total elapsed time starts when ride management opens the trail up to relay competitors and ends when the last relay team member crosses the finish line, irrespective of whether or not a team was subject to hold times.

## When there is a pull or a relay member withdraws from competition

- If a rider's horse is pulled during the veterinary exam process or a relay member decides to withdraw from competition, the relay team is disqualified from the relay competition and will not receive a placing for the event. If this occurs while out on the course, the pulling relay member's equine must be examined by the veterinarian upon their arrival into camp, regardless of the reason for the pull or withdrawal.
- The records for the relay member whose equine is pulled from the competition will receive the appropriate pull code (see the general rules for the list of codes).
- The records for the relay member who withdraws from the completion will indicate it was the rider's option to withdraw, or RO.
- Remaining active relay members will not receive credit for having completed the relay. However, they may either withdraw from competition, or they may be eligible to accumulate lifetime miles toward lifetime awards for rider and/or equine, if the following conditions are met:
  - The rider must be an active EDRA member for rider lifetime miles and the equine ridden must have an active EDRA logbook for equine lifetime miles.
  - The rider/equine must successfully complete all legs of the relay as stipulated in their originally filed ride plan.
  - Remaining riders/equines are no longer required to abide by the handoff exchange requirements and may be out on the trail at the same time, although depending upon the remaining legs to be ridden, they may be subject to mandatory holds when riding consecutive legs.
  - Riders may choose to increase their mileage, if the member who has withdrawn or whose horse was pulled from the relay competition has remaining legs to ride and the active riders reassign the legs amongst themselves. A new ride plan must be provided to the ride manager and followed. If the individual(s) do not complete the new, higher mileage, they forfeit receiving lifetime mileage for the event.
  - Mileage will be recorded for actual miles ridden, which must be a minimum of 25-miles.
  - Although a non-EDRA member and/or an equine without an EDRA logbook would not receive lifetime mileage, by continuing on in the event, their record for the event will indicate the miles they completed.

## Recognition

- The top 3 teams with the shortest elapsed ride time on a relay will "Podium,"
  - 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are awarded at the event,
  - All others successfully completing the relay will be acknowledged with a completion award at the event.
- Teams meeting relay rule requirements will be deemed as having successfully completed a relay. Their miles from the relay will be included in their EDRA lifetime record.
- EDRA members who participate on teams with successful relay completions will be in the running for ride-season relay awards offered by the organization. (See the Awards Program for details).
- EDRA members who participate on teams with a member pull or withdrawal, are not eligible for relay placings or credit toward ride-season relay awards, but they may be eligible for EDRA lifetime mileage and EDRA lifetime awards. (See details on "when there is a pull or when a relay member withdraws from competition" to determine when these miles are recorded in the rider's and equine's records, and the Awards Program document for additional information on available lifetime awards.)
- When a team does not successfully complete a relay, but the remaining active members continue and earn lifetime miles, these miles are not used to determine placings in other ride-season awards. They are only counted toward lifetime mileage records and lifetime mileage awards.

## Other information on relays

- Relay entry fees are at ride manager's discretion and may be team-based, not member-based (e.g., it is possible on a 100-mile relay, some teams may have four members, while others two or three members). Relay teams should contact the ride manager in advance of entry to ensure they understand a manager's relay pricing policy.
- During the course of the relay, and with agreement between the ride manager and EDRA Steward, the route of the relay course may be modified to address a safety issue and fulfill the total ride distance requirement.
- Hold times will be announced in advance of the relay start and apply for relay members riding consecutive legs.

## EXAMPLE SCENARIOS

### Ride Layout

- Mettle Relay Distance: 100 miles
  - ORANGE leg = 25 miles
  - PINK leg = 14 miles
  - YELLOW leg = 11 miles
- Ride manager informs participants that the order of the legs is ORANGE, PINK, YELLOW, ORANGE, PINK, YELLOW (6 legs)
- All veterinarian exams are in camp

### Team Members

- Layne, an EDRA member, is riding Harley, a mule with an EDRA logbook – they are experienced and fit, having successfully completed a one-day 100-mile distance ride approximately six weeks earlier.
- Jenny, an EDRA member, is riding Mickey, a horse without an EDRA logbook – Jenny has many distance miles under her belt, but Mickey is a younger horse, new to the sport and this is his first competitive distance event.
- Michelle, not an EDRA member, is riding Sampson a horse owned by Jenny, with an EDRA logbook – Michelle has never participated in a distance event, but her friend, Jenny, has encouraged her to try the sport and Sampson is an experienced distance equine with many years of successful 50-mile completions.
- Stan, an EDRA member, is riding Blaze, a horse with an EDRA logbook – Stan and Blaze have many distance miles under their belt.

In order to ensure each equine/rider relay member successfully completes a minimum of 25 miles, the four relay team members plan to ride the legs of the relay in the order listed below. They have submitted their ride plan to the ride manager.

1. Layne rides the first, 25-mile leg
2. Jenny rides the second, 14-mile leg
3. Michelle rides the third, 11-mile leg
4. Stan rides the fourth, 25-mile leg
5. Michelle rides the fifth, 14-mile leg
6. Jenny rides the sixth, 11-mile leg

### A couple possible outcomes

Scenario 1: The members successfully complete the relay as planned and finish in the shortest elapsed time, coming in first place. They achieve a successful relay completion, which is logged into the season relay award standings for Layne/Harley and Stan/Blaze. Additionally, Layne and Harley are credited with completing 25-miles on their lifetime mileage records, as are Jenny, Sampson, Stan and Blaze. Michelle/Sampson and Jenny/Micky are not eligible for relay award standings because either the horse does not have a logbook or the rider is not an EDRA member. Micky and Michelle do not accumulate lifetime mileage because they are either not an EDRA member or do not have an EDRA issued logbook.

Scenario 2: Layne successfully completes the first leg of the relay. During the second leg of the relay, Jenny dismounts to walk with Mickey up a short rocky incline, not far from ride camp. Jenny twists her ankle which swells and causes intense pain. She hobbles back to camp and withdraws from competition. The team is disqualified and the remaining members must determine if they will continue on, in order for the EDRA members/equines to accumulate lifetime miles.

After discussing, the remaining members decide to ride their remaining legs as originally filed in their ride plan:

- Michelle rides the third, 11-mile leg
- Stan rides the fourth, 25-mile leg
- Michelle rides the fifth, 14-mile leg

Layne/Harley and Stan/Blaze are credited with 25 lifetime miles. Michelle will not receive lifetime miles because she is not an EDRA member, but Sampson's lifetime record will be credited with 25 miles from the event.

## Appendix A

Scenario 3: Layne successfully completes the first leg of the relay. During the second leg of the relay, Jenny dismounts to walk with Mickey up a short rocky incline, not far from ride camp. Jenny twists her ankle which swells and causes intense pain. She hobbles back to camp and withdraws from competition. The team is disqualified and the remaining members must determine if they will continue on, in order for the EDRA members to accumulate lifetime miles.

After discussing, the remaining members decide to reassign the remaining legs as follows:

- Michelle/Sampson to ride the third leg, 11-miles,
- Stan/Blaze to ride the fourth leg, 25-miles,
- Michelle/Sampson to ride the fifth leg, 14-miles, and
- Layne/Harley to ride the sixth leg, 11-miles.

They submit the revised ride plan to ride management.

The remainder of their ride is uneventful and all goes well. Stan/Blaze are credited with 25 lifetime miles. Layne/Harley are credited with 36 lifetime miles. Michelle will receive not credit because she is not an EDRA member, but Sampson is credited with 25 lifetime miles.

Scenario 4: This scenario is the same as Scenario 2, except that Michelle wants to stay with her injured friend, Jenny. As a consequence, Michelle also withdraws from the relay competition. Although her horse never went out on the course, it must be examined by the vet at the time of her decision to withdraw.

After discussing, Layne decides the one 25-mile loop is all she wants to ride and Stan decides to ride his 25-mile leg, as had been filed in the team's original ride plan. Layne/Harley and Stan/Blaze are all credited with 25 lifetime miles.