

Equine Distance Riding Association (EDRA)

General Rules - 2021

1. Participants are responsible for knowing and following the rules governing EDRA events.
2. Distance Rides. These competitions are 25-100 miles in length and are reported in multiples of five-mile increments. Distances must be verified by GPS and submitted to EDRA at the time of ride endorsement or up to two weeks before the event. In the event of a course change due to safety concerns (Rule 7), GPS submittals are required within one week after the event.

Although the time allowed to complete a ride begins at the official ride start time established by the Ride Manager, participants may choose to leave within 30 minutes after the official start time. Maximum times to complete the ride include holds and are listed in Rule 5. REPORTED ride result times are MINUS the holds. For example: On a 50-mile ride the maximum time allowed to complete the event is 12 hours, including holds of (for example) 90 minutes. If a rider finishes within 12 hours and meets all veterinary and other event rules and requirements, the reported ride completion time is 10 hours, 30 minutes (12 hours minus 90 minutes of holds). Minimum ride times are not mandated. Miles, completions and points are accrued upon successful completion by an EDRA member and equine with an active EDRA Logbook and count toward the rider's and equine's lifetime miles and season awards. Placings are determined through Rule 20 d), Veterinary Oversight.

3. Test Your Mettle Relays. The same distance, maximum ride time and minimum ride time requirements outlined in Distance Rides apply to relays. Miles on relays may not always be reported in five-mile increments. For more details, see [Test Your Mettle Rules and Information, Appendix A.](#)

Points are not allocated for relay placings or completions. However, when the rider is an active EDRA member and/or the equine has an active EDRA Logbook, miles and completions from relays are recorded and reported on their record and count toward awards as outlined in the [Awards Description, Appendix E.](#)

Ride & Tie Events: When a Ride & Tie of 25 or more miles is held at an EDRA endorsed event, an equine with an active EDRA Logbook successfully completing the event will have miles and completions added to their lifetime record, which will also apply toward equine lifetime awards. Because multiple riders use the equine during a Ride & Tie, miles and completions are not applied toward the rider's lifetime record. For more details, see the [Awards Descriptions Appendix E.](#) Ride & Tie Association rules apply and may be found on the association's website at <http://www.rideandtie.org/rules/>.

4. Reciprocity Agreements. When EDRA and other distance riding organizations share common goals and establish a formal relationship through a reciprocity agreement, completions, miles and/or points from their collective distance competitions may be accepted by both organizations. Details for each active reciprocity agreement can be found in [Appendix J.](#)
5. Maximum Ride Times. Hours : Minutes, including veterinarian examination (aka vet check or vet exam) hold times are determined using a 4.16 mph average.

Ride Length (Miles)	Maximum Time (Hours : Minutes)
25	6:00
30	7:12
35	8:23
40	9:35
45	10:48
50	12:00
55	13:15
60	14:30
65	15:30
70	16:45
75	18:00
80	19:15
85	20:30
90	21:30
95	22:45
100	24:00

6. Stop Times. For 25-49 mile rides, the participant's ride time stops when the equine's heart rate meets criteria. The equine's heart rate must meet criteria within 30 minutes of crossing the finish line or the participant is eliminated from the competition. The Stop Time determines their finish position in the ride. For rides 50 miles or longer, participant's ride time stops and placing is determined when rider and equine cross the finish line, provided the equine's heart rate meets criteria within 30 minutes of crossing the finish line. All distances must pass the final veterinarian inspection within 60 minutes of finishing to earn a completion and/or a placing in the ride.

7. Course Requirements. Mileage for rides must be verified by electronic GPS sources within 5% of the requested endorsed distance. EDRA will provide technical support for verifying ride mileages.

Ride Managers may make changes in the course for emergencies and/or safety reasons. In the event the course is modified after the endorsement submittal (Rule 2), a new submittal is required. Any course change that takes place the day before, or the day of the event, requires dialog and consensus between the Ride Manager and Steward.

Additionally, rides may be cancelled by the Ride Manager and Steward, if at any point they collectively feel conditions become unsafe.

In the event course mileage no longer meets the 5% of endorsed distance requirement, the Ride Manager will notify participants of the mileage length and maximum ride time permitted, after GPS records are verified, as is required in Rule 2.

8. Completion Requirements. To achieve a completion from an endorsed ride, competitors must follow the designated course and equine participants must pass inspections by a designated

veterinarian before, during, and after the ride. Additionally, the pair must complete the course within the designated time allowed.

9. **Completion Only.** EDRA rides award placings to participants that have successfully completed the designated course. Note: "Completion Only" will be awarded (no placing) if the Ride Manager and Steward jointly determine that for a specific reason (documented in the Steward's Ride report), the rider completed the equivalent course, but not in the designated manner.
10. **Best in Class.** All EDRA rides must provide judging for Best in Class (BC). If no equines are deemed to be eligible, the veterinarian responsible for judging may elect to not award BC. The judging is typically performed by the Head Veterinarian, unless specifically delegated to another veterinarian. E.g., if a family member of the Head Veterinarian is competing in the event, the Head Veterinarian is required to delegate the responsibility to another ride veterinarian, unless no other veterinarian is available. The purpose of this delegation is to prevent any suspicion of a potential conflict of interest. The BC judging process is covered under Veterinary Oversight, Rule 20 e).
11. **Points per Mile.** Points for eligible competitions are earned as follows:
 - 25 - 49 mile events accumulate 1.0 point per mile
 - 50 - 74 mile events accumulate 1.5 points per mile
 - 75 - 99 mile events accumulate 2.0 points per mile
 - 100-mile events accumulate 2.5 points per mile
12. **Bonus Points.** Additional points are awarded for top ten finishers (vertical axis) using the multipliers for the pertinent number of starters (horizontal axis) on the chart below:

NUMBER OF STARTERS	11+	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1 st place	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.0
2 nd place	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.0	
3 rd place	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0		
4 th place	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0			
5 th place	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0				
6 th place	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0					
7 th place	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0						
8 th place	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0							
9 th place	1.2	1.1	1.0								
10 th place	1.1	1.0									
11 th place or higher	1.0										

13. **Membership.** Annual or lifetime dues must be paid to the EDRA Treasurer/Membership Secretary in full, prior to accumulating ride miles or points for the ride season and are not eligible for refund. The membership year and ride season follow the calendar year and run from January 1 through December 31. Miles, completions and/or points are not accumulated retroactively. For 2021, online registration and associated dues are \$77.50 for an adult, \$26.00 for a corresponding spouse or domestic partner, and \$10.50 per youth. Payment by check is \$75.00 for an adult, \$25.00 for a corresponding spouse or domestic partner, and \$10.00 per youth. Lifetime memberships are

\$750.00 for an adult and \$1,000.00 for a couple or family. Dues pricing may be changed upon resolution of the Board of Directors.

14. Weight Classes. Upon joining or renewing their EDRA membership, or prior to the first ride in a calendar year, adult riders have the option to declare a weight classification (I, II, III defined below) and are eligible for year-end weight class awards. Weight includes rider and tack.

- Weight Class I: up to 170 lbs.
- Weight Class II: 171-200 lbs.
- Weight Class III: 201+ lbs.

15. Youth Riders. Participants who are 17 years and younger (under age 18) as of January 1st in the year in which they are riding, are classified as a Youth Rider and must be accompanied by adult rider(s) during the event and EDRA's [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, Appendix H](#), must be followed.

16. Welfare of the Rider. EDRA is committed to the health and well-being of its athletes – rider safety is far more important than any competitive outcome.

Riders are required to wear a helmet at all times when mounted at the ride site or on the course.

Additionally, because head trauma may adversely affect decision-making, the Ride Manager and Steward have the authority to issue a Rider Option pull if they believe a rider may have sustained a concussion. The process to be used in making the decision is addressed in [Appendix G, Concussion Protocol](#). At the determination of the Ride Manager and Steward, a refund of ride entry may be awarded.

17. Logbooks. In order to collect and record mileage and points for equines, each equine owned by an EDRA member will be issued a Logbook upon request. Without a Logbook, the equine is not eligible for applicable awards. See [Logbook Protocols, Appendix B](#).

18. Equine Age Requirements. Equine participants must be a minimum of five years old (60 months) to enter 25-74 mile events and seven years (84 months) or older to participate in 75-100 miles events.

19. Welfare of the Equine.

- a) All equines will be presented to a ride veterinarian prior to the ride as well as at veterinary exams (aka vet checks or vet exams) during and upon completion of the ride, or at any time the rider decides to withdraw from the ride. The equine will be evaluated using metabolic and mechanical criteria (see below). Information will be recorded on ride exam cards during the course of the event and upon completion, summarized in the equine's EDRA Logbooks, if applicable.
- b) All rides will include mandatory vet checks with hold times determined by the Ride Manager and Head Veterinarian, taking into account course difficulty, weather and other factors.
- c) A recommended pulse criterion is 60 beats per minute (bpm) reached within 30 minutes at all holds and upon completion. At the discretion of the Head Veterinarian up to 64 bpm is allowed at an event.
- d) Equines must be presented to a veterinarian for completion exams within 60 minutes of the finish time.
- e) Evaluation of metabolic factors may include but is not limited to pulse, respiration, cardiac recovery, and temperature.

- f) Evaluation of mechanical factors includes but is not limited to gait analysis and body observation. Gait analysis will be conducted at a trot or equivalent, straight out and back. Gait aberrations such as consistent shortness of stride, stiffness, as well as consistent observable lameness at any gait are reasons for elimination from the event. Body evaluation consists of but is not limited to examination for wounds or observable consistent pain and sensitivity anywhere on the limbs and body. The degree and nature of such factors should be noted on the vet card. If a veterinarian determines such factors are serious enough to limit the equine's ability to carry on without further damage, this will result in elimination from the event and the appropriate pull code (Rule 20. f) will be designated on the participant's ride card.
- g) An equine must be judged to be metabolically and physically sound and demonstrate ability to carry on.
- h) Any equine judged as unable to carry on will be eliminated. If treatment is required, this must be done under the supervision of a veterinarian, noted in the Logbook and vet card, and at the rider's expense.
- i) In the event of medical treatment or an equine fatality, a report by the treating veterinarian will be turned into EDRA with ride results.
- j) Any equine that presents clear danger to other equines and/or humans may be disqualified or forbidden to enter the event and asked to leave the ride site premises.

20. Veterinary Oversight.

- a) All EDRA rides will have a designated Head Veterinarian. The following criteria and responsibilities apply to this position:
 - The individual is a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM, or
 - Has been a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM and left practice in good standing (e.g., is no longer actively practicing and/or may be retired), or
 - Passed either the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (November, 2000 and later) or the National Board Examination and Clinical Competency Examination (pre-November 2000), or the Educational Commission on Foreign Veterinary Graduates (other countries), and
 - Has participated as a ride veterinarian at a minimum of three 50-mile or longer distance competitions, with at least two of those experiences at an EDRA event. If compliance with this requirement would impose an undue hardship, a veterinarian with non-EDRA experience may be appointed as Head Veterinarian provided the veterinarian attests to the Ride Manager that they have reviewed and will adhere to the EDRA rules.
 - Is responsible for setting final criteria for ride (hold times and pulse criteria).
 - Is responsible for providing guidance to other ride veterinarians to help ensure judging consistency.
 - Is responsible for Best in Class examinations unless specifically designated to another veterinarian. (The Head Veterinarian shall delegate the responsibility to another ride veterinarian if a family member is participating, unless no other veterinarian is available.)
 - Is responsible for overseeing and conducting random drug sampling, if needed.
- b) EDRA rides will have a designated treatment veterinarian on site from the time of pre-ride examinations until two hours after the last rider has returned to camp off the course. This veterinarian must be licensed to practice within the state in which the event takes place and will provide and be able to administer fluids, IV supplies, and drugs most likely to be utilized at a distance riding event. A Ride Manager may petition the EDRA Board of Directors for an exemption to this rule by submitting an alternate plan.

- c) EDRA rides may have additional ride veterinarians, as determined by the Ride Manager. A ride veterinarian:
- Is a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM, or
 - Has been a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM and left practice in good standing (e.g., is no longer actively practicing and/or may be retired), or
 - Passed either the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (November, 2000 and later) or the National Board Examination and Clinical Competency Examination (pre-November 2000), or the Educational Commission on Foreign Veterinary Graduates (other countries).
- d) EDRA rides will have established pulse criteria as well as “ability to carry on” criteria (see details in Welfare of the Equine, Rule 19. Placings in distances between 25-49 miles will be according to the time taken to reach the established pulse criteria after crossing the finish line. The equine’s heart rate must meet criteria within 30 minutes of crossing the finish line or the participant is eliminated from the competition. For distances 50 miles and more, placings are determined according to when the equine and rider cross the finish line. In these instances, equines have 30 minutes to reach pulse criteria or they will be eliminated from the event. All distances must pass the final veterinarian inspection within 60 minutes of finishing to earn a completion and/or a placing in the ride. Ties are not recognized.
- e) The Head Veterinarian or his/her designee is responsible for conducting Best in Class examinations following the [Best in Class Judging Protocol, Appendix I](#).
- f) When eliminated due to a metabolic or mechanical issue with the equine, pull codes will be noted on the vet card and signed by a ride veterinarian. Pull code options are as follows (see details in Welfare of the Equine, Rule 19):
- Lameness/gait aberration
 - Metabolic
 - Body Condition
 - Overtime
 - Rider Option (when the equine is deemed it has the “ability to carry on,” but the rider chooses not to continue in the competition)

21. Drug Rules. Drugs and Medications for Equines: For details on medications which may not be used during competitions, please see [Appendix C, Drug and Medication Rule](#), and [Appendix D, Drug Sampling Protocol](#), which describes how the random drug testing process will be handled at EDRA events. The Head Veterinarian is responsible for overseeing and conducting the protocol.
22. Ride Stewards (Steward). The Ride Steward Coordinator will assign an EDRA Steward to each EDRA endorsed ride to address and manage conflicts which arise, support and advise the Ride Manager on other rules-related issues that may arise.
23. Ride Entry Refusal. Ride Managers may refuse entry with due cause. If this action is taken, it must be reported to the Steward and included in the Steward’s ride report.
24. Sportsmanship. Individuals at an EDRA event shall demonstrate ethical and sportsmanlike behavior, whether rider, volunteer, rider crew, observer.
25. Discipline. Appropriate behavior that promotes safety, fairness and good sportsmanship is expected at EDRA events. The Steward, Ride Manager and fellow EDRA members are expected to support other riders in exhibiting these qualities. As a guide, please see [Discipline Matrix, Appendix F](#).

26. Conflict Resolution. EDRA Conflict Resolution procedures are based on the founding principle that conflicts are best dealt with in a constructive, direct manner. In the event of a conflict, aggrieved parties must make every effort to achieve resolution with one another. If no resolution is reached after initial conversations between the parties, the following procedures shall be initiated:

- The principal parties (those directly involved) shall meet with the Ride Manager and Steward and attempt to resolve the issue at the ride. If one party refuses to meet, they will be banned from attending or participating in an EDRA event for six-months. If the conflict emerges after the ride, the principal party shall contact the Steward appointed to that ride within seven days to schedule a meeting for conflict resolution. The Steward will contact involved parties to set up a meeting for resolution. Again, refusal to attend will result in a six-month suspension.
- If no resolution is reached, principal parties may file their complaint with the Conflict Resolution committee. The Conflict Resolution committee will consider the complaint and the response and determine culpability and consequences. Filing a complaint with the Conflict Resolution committee must be accompanied by a \$100 filing fee which will be reimbursed if the principal party's complaint is upheld.
- Principle parties must initiate a solution through the Conflict Resolution committee within 14 days of the meeting with the Steward.

27. Awards Program. The intent of EDRA's Award Program is to recognize and celebrate achievements requiring significant effort by both rider and equine while encouraging the humane treatment of equine participants and supporting their longevity in our sport. EDRA promotes the competitive aspects of distance riding and defines "compete" as an ardent desire to succeed. We recognize and support members who may have a wide variety of competitive goals – whether they prepare their equine partner to out-perform other participants, or enable their equine partner to complete distances – ride-after-ride, year-after-year. A number of awards follow a calendar year cycle (January 1 through December 31), but some cover lifetime achievements for the rider and equine. For information on the various aspects of recognition, see [Awards Descriptions, Appendix E.](#)

28. Mentor Program. The EDRA Mentor Program is designed to provide riders of all levels the opportunity to teach and learn from others' experiences. The EDRA Mentor program will:

- Connect members with limited or no distance riding experience to an experienced mentor
- Connect members who want to participate in the Mentor program with mentors or mentees
- Recruit mentors

29. Service Program. The EDRA Service Program is designed to maximize educational opportunities for members, and provide service to the distance riding community.

- EDRA members are strongly encouraged to participate in some type of service experience during the ride season.
- Riders with limited or no distance riding experience should contact the Service Coordinator to assist them in selecting their first service experience. EDRA members are asked to report their service experiences to the EDRA Service Coordinator for recognition and educational purposes.

Opportunities at rides

- Manage a ride
- Help mark/maintain trail
- Help unmark trail
- Work at finish line (e.g., timer, ride secretary)

- Work in pulse box (taking pulse)
- Scribe for vet
- Help with mapping trail before ride
- Assist Ride Manager

Other Opportunities

- Serve on an EDRA Committee
- Organize, present, or assist with an educational clinic
- Mentor other EDRA members through the mentor program
- Write an educational article for the website
- Make an educational webinar for the website
- Provide other ideas for member volunteers
- Connect members with limited or no distance riding experience to an experienced mentor
- Connect members who want to participate in the Mentor program with mentors or mentees
- Recruit mentors