



NAMIBIA ENDURANCE RIDE ASSOCIATION

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"TO FINISH IS TO WIN"

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NERA NEWS UPDATE:

Dear NERA Member,

2017, 2018 and 2019 can be described as very turbulent years in the history of NERA. The NERA Councils at the time had to negotiate the association through "rough and turbulent waters". Many a time politics nearly stopped the momentum of the association but at the 2019 AGM held in Windhoek on 30/11/2019, NERA members rose up and showed unity and strength and made a very brave decision. As you all might know by now our members voted overwhelmingly on the 2019 AGM held in Windhoek on 30/11/2019 in favour for NERA to dis-affiliate from FEI and NAMEF completely with immediate effect.

Although we as NERA might be the first endurance association to do so in the Southern African region we start to see the changes coming in endurance communities in many areas of the world. What might look like a bleak and uncertain future today may actually open doors and opportunities to the NERA rider that will never be possible under the FEI/ NAMEF rule. We might experience a few obstacles and issues in the near future but if we remain united as an association there is no reason why we cannot overcome them.

The implementation of the decision will not bring drastic changes to the current systems in place at club level for the majority of NERA members but important to remember is the following:

1. NERA will remain an independent registered sports association under the Sports Council of Namibia.
2. NERA will be governed by the elected council of 2 representatives per club.
3. NERA will remain the only association for endurance riding in Namibia.
4. Please note that Duneside club will not be represented on the NERA Council. They themselves chose to affiliate directly under NAMEF as from 2020.
5. Duneside club members will not have access to the NERA timekeeping, rider and horse data and ride results- uploads. Duneside club is free to establish their own FEI approved system at own cost. Duneside club is not a recognised NERA club.
6. Any rider interested to further their FEI career is free to affiliate with Duneside/ NAMEF from 2020 onwards.

7. NERA will not host any FEI rides in the foreseeable future.
8. NERA and or any member of NERA will also not being held responsible to pay any FEI or NAMEF related fees since we as association are no more affiliated to them.
9. NERA will still do its utmost best to organize and host the international Walvisbay ride in 2020 and beyond but only as a NERA ride and not an FEI ride.
10. NERA council will seek for competition opportunities within Southern Africa and the world at large among non FEI endurance partners to ensure international competition for the NERA rider in all the existing weight classes. It is very important for NERA to uphold the heavyweight, child and no weight categories together with the FEI recognized standard and young rider categories.
11. Members must please be prepared to not have international competition within 2020 while the council will work on the process to let this happen. Once we are ready to compete again, mainly against, South Africa, teams selection will be done as normal.
12. NERA will host all rides under the FEI Endurance rules 9th Edition effective 1 January 2019 for 2019, rule system. The welfare of the horse and the riders is still of paramount importance to NERA. We do not want to slack the existing set of rules to provide opportunity to jeopardize our record as an organization that takes care of our beloved animals at all times.
13. Please ignore NAMEF communication directed directly to your mailbox. If in doubt please ask your club representative for advice and information.
14. A complete annexure with the 2020 NERA fees will be added to this newsletter.

It is time for us as NERA to go back to our roots and to experience the joy of endurance riding as a sport and to encourage family participation. We need to bring back the smiles, laughter and enjoyment to our sport at club ride level. Politics is now hopefully gone from our sport thus please use 2020 to re- energize endurance riding.

Merry Christmas to each and every NERA member. May God protect and bless the family time.

2020 here we come!!!

Thank You



Jan Meeser
President Namibia Endurance Ride Association