

CHAPTER 3 **PARTICIPATION**

The following rules apply to all endurance rides presented under the auspices of the Association. These rules are to be read in conjunction with all the other chapters contained in this textbook as they compliment each other as well as in conjunction with the FEI Rules.

THE RIDER

- 3.1.1 **Rider weigh limits. FEI Weights will be applicable.**
NERA will have only two Senior weight categories, namely Standard and Heavy weights. There will be no Senior Light weight division and all senior riders must ensure that they do qualify for the minimum weight. Weight limits pertaining to competition categories are as follows:-
- 3.1.1.1 Senior Standard Weight for all rides are 70 Kg for 1* and 2* rides and 75 kg for 3* and 4* rides.
Minimum weights to be announced in ride schedule.
- 3.1.1.3 Riders may carry weights in order to compete in the weight category.
- 3.1.1.4 There is no minimum weight for Child -, Junior & Young Riders riders; only for the purpose of statistics they may be weight.
- 3.1.1.5 Only senior riders in the standard and heavy weight categories qualify for the senior national team, honorary colours and for the NERA Ranking System.
- 3.1.1.6 Rider will be weighed with saddle and riding accessories but without bridle at Rides.
- 3.1.2 **Weigh loss during a ride.** No weight loss is allowed on equipment. A maximum weight loss of 2% is allowed during rides to accommodate rider dehydration. An official may weigh any rider at any time during a ride in order to ascertain whether rider weigh loss is within the set weight parameters. Any deviation from this rule will lead to disqualification should the rider's weight fall under the minimum weight and have more than a two percent weight loss.
- 3.1.3 **Carrying of extra weight.** A rider may add any extra weight to tack in order to compete in a higher weight category, by way of a weight bag or any other method which is approved by the Organizing Committee.
- 3.1.4 **Heavy weight rider competing in standard weight category**
Heavy weight riders are at liberty to compete in the standard weight category. Rules and regulations governing the standard weight category will apply in full. The intention to compete in the standard weight category must be noted on the entry form.
- 3.1.5 **Age limits for Child riders, Juniors and Seniors.** Age limits are as follows: Child riders are under the year in which they reach their 14th

birthday: Juniors from the year in which they reach their 14th birthday; Seniors from the year in which they reach their 18th birthday.

There are two further rider categories i e: novice riders (riders who have not completed 240 km at official pre-rides) and experienced riders (riders who have completed more than 240 kms)

All Child riders under the year in which they turn 12 years of age are to be accompanied by an experienced senior rider. It is advisable but not compulsory for novice riders to be accompanied by an experienced rider. As from 2007 NERA will only participate at NERA Rides in four categories, namely Child Riders (Under the year in which they turn 14 years), Junior & Young Riders (from the year in which they turn 14 until 21 years of age) & Senior Standard Weight and Senior Heavy weight riders (from the year in which the rider turns eighteen). The riders in the age bracket from the year in which they turn eighteen until 21 years of age may elect to participate as a young rider or as a senior rider but the rider must remember to adhere to the minimum FEI weight for that specific Senior ride. For Child - and Junior & Young riders there are no minimum weights. The NERA Ranking system will also be based on this age classification. The credits for the NERA Ranking system will be awarded for the age category in which the rider has enrolled for that specific ride.

NERA has no distance restriction for child- or junior & young- or senior riders.

3.1.6 **Only Young – and Senior riders may accompany child riders**

and novice riders. Children and novice riders may only be accompanied by experienced Senior and Young Riders (Refer 3.1.5). For this coupling the minimum age of the Young riders must be the year in which such a Young Riders turns 18 years of age.

3.1.7 **Child riders under the protection of a senior rider.** Child

Riders under the year in which they turn 12 years of age, may only participate in endurance rides, providing an experienced senior rider is prepared to accept the responsibility. (Refer 3.1.5). A senior rider for this definition will be an either a Young rider or a Senior rider in the age bracket from the year in which such a rider turns eighteen years of age. The experienced senior rider has to accompany the child rider throughout. Arrangements for acceptable senior accompaniment for a child rider are the responsibility of the parents or guardian. In order to accompany child riders, seniors have to be mounted and competitors at a specific endurance ride. The child riders and the senior have to remain together throughout the ride. Seniors accept the responsibility of care for the child rider for the duration of the ride whether it be for one or more days.

A senior may accompany a maximum of 3 child riders at club, but only 2 at national and international ride.

Separation of child rider and senior rider at any stage of the ride, will lead to disqualification of both riders. The senior rider and those under his/her guardianship, should at all times be within hearing and seeing distance from one another.

A child rider should only be handed over to another senior and experienced rider once his/her senior has withdrawn.

The following procedure is in place for instances where either senior or child rider is unable to continue with the ride:

En route: Another senior who is mounted, competing, experienced and responsible may accompany the child rider to the next checkpoint or halt (running stop) should the original senior be forced to retire. Time lost by the child rider will not be compensated. Withdrawal of the affected senior is compulsory.

The senior is to remain with the child rider should he/she experience problems until the child may be placed in the care of another non-competing responsible adult. (I. e.a parent, veterinarian, guardian or course official). A report is to be made to the time keeper or chief veterinarian at the next checkpoint. The child rider concerned has to withdraw. No time compensation will be made to the senior for time lost in this instance.

At the checkpoint: Should the senior fail to continue the parents or guardian may approach another experienced senior (refer 3.1.6) to accompany the child rider. The original departure time of the child rider will remain valid in such a case. No compensation will be made for time lost while the child rider has to await the departure of a senior.

Should the child rider be forced to retire the senior may continue at the allocated time, providing the child rider has been left in the care of parents, guardian or another responsible adult.

- 3.1.9 **Distances for which entered not to be altered.** The prescribed distance entered by the competitor shall remain valid. Riders may not increase or decrease distances once the ride has started. No stepladder system is in place in NERA rides. All competitors have to be entered for the ride. Riders not entered for the ride may not accompany the official riders.

- 3.1.10.1 **Checkpoint time rules under the Vet Gate system**
Halts are operated by establishing a Vet Gate that the competitors will cross when they decide that they are ready to pass the veterinary inspection. When riders are in sight of the Vet Gate, they must proceed directly to the Gate at a reasonable pace. The arrival time in the Vet Gate must be recorded and the horse must be presented within 20 minutes at 1* & 2* rides or 30 minutes at 3* & 4* rides after arrival to the veterinarian. During this period, the horse may be inspected more than once if the Veterinarian so decides and time allows. However, before the said 20 or 30 minute period has elapsed, the horse must have passed the pulse control or else be eliminated.

- 3.2 When a horse has passed the pulse control, it must be kept in a timed hold. Starting from the moment the horse is presented to the veterinarian. During the time hold, all the other aspects of the inspection, including walking and trotting the horse, will be carried out. Holding times are as par. 2.1.16
The Organizing Committee together with the veterinarian can decide to modify the length of timed holds according to extreme weather conditions

or other exceptional circumstances. Modifications must be announced to all competitors before the start of the phase concerned.

- 3.2.10 **Veterinary checks unsaddled with halter.** At all vet checks the horse is to be presented with no saddle and only on a halter. This does not apply at halts (running stops) and/or for re-examinations ten minutes before departure at open gate system where the horse may be presented saddled or unsaddled
- Tack inspection.** The officials of the ride is expected to examine Tack used by riders continuously during a ride. The use of any ill fitting or potentially dangerous tack should be reported to the chief veterinarian immediately. Riders will be requested to adjust or remove any tack which may cause injury or discomfort to the horse.
- 3.2.11 **Rider plus one groom at veterinary check.** The rider and one assistant are permitted at the veterinary check. A valid reason for the riders' absence has to be provided.
- 3.2.12 **Care of veterinary card.** Veterinary cards are issued to riders upon entry. This card has to remain with the officials for the entire duration of the ride and afterwards.
- 3.2.13 **Care of time card.** On arrival at a checkpoint riders receive a time card. The veterinarian's signature on the time card is the authority to continue the ride. There after the time card is handed to the time keeper or the starter before departure time. Failure to comply with this rule could lead to disqualification.
- 3.2.14 **Veterinary cards during rides.** The veterinarian card need not be on the rider's person during rides. Loss of the card will not lead to disqualification. However the horse will not be considered for the best conditioned horse award.
- 3.2.15 **No compensation for time lost.** Compensation for time lost will not be made when a rider is delayed, or he/she delays departure for any reason whatsoever. Child riders accompanied by a senior will not be compensated for time lost under the same circumstances. The same applies should the child rider cause the delay. It is the riders own responsibility to departure on time.
- 3.2.16 **No extra time for opening gates.** For the opening of gates or removal of obstacles no extra time will be allowed.
- 3.2.17 **Prescribed route to be followed.** Riders have to follow the prescribed route and report to controllers. Any deviation which benefits the competitor will lead to disqualification.
- 3.2.18 **Correction when incorrect route is followed.** Should a rider deviate from the route he/she has to return to the point of error without any outside assistance at all and continue on the correct route. Time lost in this case will not be compensated.
- 3.2.19 **Riders or horses may not be transported during a ride.** At no stage during a ride may a horse or rider be loaded on to any mode of transport unless they have withdrawn or been disqualified.
- 3.2.20 **Stop when requested to do so.** Failure to stop when requested by a course veterinarian or course official will lead to disqualification.

- 3.2.21 **No vehicles on course to accompany a rider.** In case of an emergency or a rider with a medical disability the Organising Committee may grant permission for a rider to be accompanied by a vehicle on condition that an official has to accompany the vehicle to prevent unauthorised assistance, otherwise no vehicle may accompany a horse on course. The exception to this rule is where the Organising Committee has put it clearly in the ride schedule or in the case of club rides that grooming and vehicles will be allowed on the course. In this case grooming and / vehicles will only be allowed as per the said ride schedule and / or invitation under penalty of disqualification as per discretion of the Organizing Committee.
- 3.2.22 **Riders may not be accompanied.** Assistants may only groom horses at prescribed points and are not allowed to accompany the rider en route. Only in cases of emergency when prior permission has been obtained from the Organizing Committee may this be done or if it had been arranged as per ride schedule and / - invitation.
- 3.2.23 **Littering and smoking prohibited.** Littering is prohibited at all times. Smoking whilst leading a horse, or at a veterinary check will be considered bad horsemanship. Smoking en route could lead to disqualification.
- 3.2.24 **Numbers to be clearly visible.** The rider is solely responsible to ensure that his/her number is visible at all times. The day number of the rider must be written clearly on both sides of the horse's rump. Child riders under the year in which they turn 12 will wear alphabetical numbers and child riders from the year in which they turn 12 , junior & young riders and senior riders will wear numerical number.
- 3.2.25 **Wearing honorary numbers during rides.** Numbers presented to riders who earned one, two and three-star honorary colours remain their property. These numbers are to be used by riders at pre-rides until such time that they have to forfeit honorary colours.
- 3.2.26 **Rider neatness.** In all circumstances riders should be neatly and appropriately attired. To wear club, national or honorary colours to prize giving is encouraged.
- 3.2.27 **Wearing head protection, luminous strips and safety Stirrups.** The wearing of hard hats is compulsory. At rides which take place after dark, all riders have to affix luminous strips to the front and back of their headgear. Strip dimensions: minimum 15mm wide and 100mm long. Riding with safety stirrups is compulsory or a shoe with a heel. Riding whips and spurs are prohibited.
- 3.2.28 **Riders to start and finish mounted.** Riders have to be mounted at the start and finish of the ride. The finish at the last leg of that specific rider must be mounted. However they may dismount at any stage during the ride and lead their mounts.
- 3.2.29 **Maximum completion times/Minimum speed.** The minimum speed for all NERA rides is ten (10) kilometres per hour. Maximum riding times are being calculated by dividing the distance through 10 km/h. For example: 80 km/h ride ÷ 10km/ u = 8 hours.
- 3.2.30 **Irregularities during a ride.** Riders who observe any

irregularities (such as dangerous riding, bad manners, failure to yield to passing horses or any infringement of the rules), should notify the organizing committee of the ride of such incidents. within one hour of the end of the ride a written report of the incident plus N\$10 is to be handed to the responsible official. Should the report lead to a verdict of guilty the N\$10 will be refunded. This rule will be in place at NERA Club rides. At the NERA FEI rides the FEI rule will be applicable.

- 3.2.31 **Re-entry after withdrawal.** Riders may enter a second horse should a horse have to withdraw before a NERA Club or Council Ride.
- 3.2.32 **Elimination to be authorized by two veterinarians.** At least two veterinarians, if possible, have to recommend and confirm elimination of any horse. The chief veterinarian communicates the decision to the rider. At FEI rides three (3) veterinarians vote independently. The outcome is communicated to the rider by the President of the Ground Jury.
- 3.2.33 **Transportation of riders.** Should a rider have a fall and the horse run away, assistance may be given by a groom or fellow rider to catch and bring the horse back to the rider but the rider may not be transported to the horse.
- 3.1.36 **Withdrawal after entry.** No entry fees are refundable for withdrawal after entry.
- 3.2.34 **Affiliation cards and logbooks.** A logbook, each for rider and horse should accompany entry to a ride. This does not apply to non-members (day members) who may only ride only till the second leg of a ride for a maximum of two rides per annum.
- 3.3 **THE HORSE**
- 3.2.1 **NERA : Minimum age and experience of horses for participation**

| Age | Distance |
|-------------------|--|
| Under 4 Years | Not allowed to participate |
| 4 – 5 Years | Only 30 km and 60 km or till second leg |
| 5 – 6 Years | 30 km 60 km and 80 km or till third leg |
| 6 – 7 Years | 160 km * See conditions underneath. |
| 7 Years and older | All Categories * see conditions underneath |

Except from the age restriction NERA also have a distance restriction. Any horse has to successfully compete 3 x 60 km rides before such a horse may compete in a 80 km ride. Further the horse has to successfully compete 3 x 80 km rides before such a horse may enter a longer distance than 80 km. *Instead of 3 x80 km rides the horse may complete 1x80 km ride and a further two rides of a maximum distance of 130 km rides before any further distance than 130 km may be entered on the condition that the horse is 6 years or older.

Should any doubts arise re the age of a horse, riders may be requested to produce a birth certificate or statement from a veterinarian who has determined the age of the horse by means of tooth inspection. This NERA minimum age and experience will only be applicable on NERA riders and - horses. Foreign riders and – horses will have to qualify in terms of the FEI Rules for participation at NERA Rides in Namibia.

- 3.2.1.1 Council accepts that in ideal circumstances horses need three seasons of preparation in order to run competitively at endurance rides.
- 3.2.1.2 Although not compulsory Council strongly advice the following schedule in order to develop and protect our horses.

| Minimum age of horse | Maximum distance per season | Ride type | Maximum speed per leg |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 -5years | 3 x 30 km | Club/Pleasure | 15 km/h |
| 5 -6years | 3 x 60 km or 2 x 80 km | Club ride | 15 km/h |
| 6 -7years | 3 x 80 km | Club ride | 20 km/h |
| 7 -8years | 3 x 80 km 2 x 160 km | Club ride International ride | Rider Discretion |
| 8 +years | Longer than 160 km rides | Open National team | Rider Discretion |

- 3.2.1.3 Novice horses above the age of 5 years are treated as 5 years old according to the above schedule for the first season of competition.

3.2.2 **Submission of African Horse Sickness (AHS) certificates**

AHS immunization certificates (updated annually as prescribed by the FEI Rules) are to be produced at entry of every NERA ride. Certified vaccination by a qualified veterinarian is advisable for NERA rides, but compulsory. These vaccinations must be endorsed in the horse passport.

Equine Influenza vaccination requirements.

The FEI Rule will be applicable.

All horses and ponies for which an FEI passport or a National Passport approved by the FEI has been issued must have the vaccination section endorsed by a veterinarian, stating that it has received two injections for primary vaccination against equine influenza, given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart. In addition, a booster injection must be recorded as having been given within each succeeding 6 months subsequent to the second injection of the primary vaccination. None of these injections must have been given within the preceding 7 days including the day of the competition or of entry into the competition stables.

The above are the minimum requirements for influenza vaccination. Both primary and first and subsequent booster injections should be given according to the manufacturer's instructions which will fall within the stipulation of the FEI ruling.

No horse will be allowed to participate at any NERA ride if these two vaccinations are not up to date as per FEI prescriptions.

3.2.3 **Horse Shoeing for NERA rides.**

Horses may be ridden without shoes, but if shod they must be correctly shod and the shoes must be in a suitable condition for the competition. Horses which are shod at the first inspection may cross the finish line without one or more shoes. Equi-boots and pads are allowed.

If however the OC is of the opinion that horses have to be shod for any ride or part of the ride, depending on the terrain, prior notice must be given in the ride invitation and / schedule and it will be valid as such.

3.2.4 **Pregnant mares and mares with young foals.**

Mares obviously in advance pregnancies and mares with foals at foot may not compete.

3.2.5 **Use of protective gear.**

After the horse has been examined the chief veterinarian at a ride may give permission for protective equipment such as brushing boots or bandages etc. to be used. The horse has again to be presented to the chief veterinarian with protective equipment in place.

3.2.6 **Use and wear of accessories.**

Use of accessories such as Saddle bags, running martingales etc. as part of the tack is discouraged. If use of accessories is deemed necessary it is to be of humanitarian nature. Any sign of abuse, by the above, shall lead to disqualification.

Spurs and whips in any form are prohibited.

3.2.7 **Horses inclined to kick and stallions.**

A red ribbons placed in the horse's tail serves to identify a kicker. Riders are solely responsible to ensure that this is done. The ribbon has to be visible at a distance of 10 meters. The rider is to handle the horse in such a manner to avoid it being a threat to other riders. Other riders have to take appropriate action to avoid a kick. A horse which is a definite threat to the safety of other horses and riders may be denied participation by the chief veterinarian, or be withdrawn from the ride.

Stallions are identified as above with the use of a yellow ribbon.

3.2.8 **Withdrawal of a horse at a ride.** The veterinary panel has to Examine a horse within the 20 or 30 minute (depending on the distance) period even if the rider intends to withdraw. The pulse rate of the horse has to be noted on the veterinary card. Horses may not be withdrawn without permission from the chief veterinarian or the veterinary panel. The reason for withdrawal must be clearly stated on the veterinary card.

3.2.8.1 **Terminology for elimination.** The following codes will be used. Each term have to be used for record purposes. It is advisable to indicate the term in full if sufficient space is available.

3.2.8.2 **Disqualified (D)** A rider is disqualified when guilty of infringement of a rule or regulation.

3.2.8.3 **Eliminated (E)** Elimination applies when a horse fails to meet the veterinarian criteria and is not allowed to continue.

- 3.2.8.4 **Retire (R)** A rider retires when he/she decides to stop even though the horse has passed the veterinarian check.
- 3.2.8.5 **Withdrawn (W)** The rider withdraws a horse before the start of the ride.
- 3.2.9 **Dosing and injecting of horses.** The application by injection or oral dosing of horses with drugs, stimulants, homeopathic supplements or any other preparation which will influence the performance, appearance or gait of the horse before or during a ride, is strictly prohibited. Automatic disqualification will ensure should a medication test reveal traces of any prohibited substance in samples of blood, urine or tissue taken from the horse. Riders found guilty of such practice may have club, national or honorary colours confiscated and be expelled from the Association for life. Oral dosing of electrolytes is permissible. At the request of the chief veterinarian any samples necessary (Blood, urine etc) may be drawn from a horse to ensure enforcement of the above rule. Time lost will be compensated only if the results prove negative. Any necessary medication to be administered by a veterinarian during a ride would mean withdrawal or elimination of the horse. Any recent medication received by a horse has to be indicated on the entry form. The rider is responsible to ensure that his horse is not treated with medication which is classified undesirable or forbidden as per FEI Regulations.
- 3.2.10 **Penalties for accelerated pulses at rides.** Accelerated pulse rate at rides would count against a rider when the national team is selected.
- 3.2.11 **Manageability of horses.** Riders may be requested to withdraw by the chief veterinarian, should they not be able to manage their horses.
- 3.2.12 **Best Condition Award**
The Organising Committee may organise a Best Condition Award at all Endurance Events. The purpose of this Award is to find the horse which is in the best condition having completed the event and been classified among the best horses (maximum the first ten horses that finishes within one hour after the winner, except if the ride schedule and / or - invitation stated a different arrangement). A horse can only be entered in the Best Condition Award if it arrived in a riding time close to the winning time. This will be decided by the Organizing Committee. At the NERA Club rides only horses participating in the longest distance of that specific ride, may be eligible for this award. At the FEI rides only the 120 & 160 km horses may participate for this award. Categories will be Child, Junior & Young riders, Senior Standard weight and Senior Heavy weight. Competitors are not obliged to enter their horses in this Best Condition Award. The procedure as laid down in Annexure should be used to establish the Best Condition Award. It is recommended that all entrants in the Best Condition Award be subjected to medication control.

No veterinary treatment may be administered to a horse during the competition without the written approval of the Veterinary Commission. The horse competition ends two hours after that horse crosses the finish line unless the horse is entered for the Best Condition Award. Authorised treatment does not affect classification of the horse. See annexed best conditioned judging FEI scorecard that must be used.

The Organising Committee must ensure that documentary proof of the Score cards for the Best Condition Awards are completed and are available for inspection afterwards.

3.2.13 RIDE MANNERS

Although we are participating in a competitive sport all riders have to adhere to basic rules of sportsmanship. Although there are no rigid rules to govern ride etiquette the following is an indication of what could be expected of any well-mannered rider:

- allow all horses in a group to finish drinking before leaving a watering point
- do not immerse sweaty sponges in drinking water
- keep to the left of the trail when other horses approach from behind
- warn slower horses when you want to pass
- ride at a steady pace
- refrain from attaching yourself to a rider or a group of riders passing from behind
- be courteous to all riders
- do not follow too closely on another horse's tail
- if you're riding in a group, relieve the leading horse at regular intervals
- warn approaching riders if your horse has a tendency to kick
- if in doubt feel obliged to ask for advice from vets and officials
- respect the opinion of the veterinary surgeon regarding your horse and its condition
- keep your horse at a comfortable distance from others at the veterinary check points
- do not abuse the patience of your grooms
- Do not allow your horse to make a nuisance of himself

3.2.14 CRUELTY

1. Any act or series of actions which, in the opinion of the Organizing Committee can clearly and without doubt be defined as cruelty shall be penalised by disqualification and the individual concerned shall be reported to the Ground jury and or any other relevant authority in the opinion of the Ground Jury. Such acts include the excessive pressing of a tired horse.
2. Reports of such actions must be accompanied whenever possible by the signatures and addresses of witnesses of the actions. The reports must be given to the Ground Jury or the Secretary of the Organising Committee as soon as possible.

3.3 International Participation

Any individual foreign rider who wishes to compete at any ride in Namibia at a NERA ride ensure that his / her horse meets the FEI criteria to participate in that specific ride. Any such rider must also apply via the NERA Council to the Namibia Sport Commission for permission to compete in Namibia.

Any individual NERA Namibian rider who wishes to compete outside Namibia must also apply to the Namibian Sports Commission and any other relevant Namibian government institution as required by law, via the NERA Council to do so.

When an official foreign national team, representing that country, wishes to compete in Namibia the NERA criteria for horse does not apply and such a country may elect its team on its own criteria and only the FEI criteria will be applicable.

The participation of all teams must always be authorised by the NERA Council. National teams must be applied for and authorized by the Namibian Sport Commission.

3.4 Dead Heat

- 3.5.1. When two or more competitors, who started together, have the same elapsed riding time, they are classified according to their respective passage across the finish line.
- 3.5.2. Riders will share any applicable trophies (if any)
- 3.5.3. Ride committees must recognise dead heat finishes.

3.5 NERA Rides

All rides under the auspices of NERA must be approved by the NERA Council. Any changes in the NERA Ride Calendar must also be approved by the NERA Council.

NERA will host two types of rides, namely NERA Club rides being local rides organized by any of the NERA affiliated clubs and NERA Council rides, being national and /or international rides organized by NERA Council via an NERA appointed official.

In order to minimize travelling cost Council has accepted the principle to host the three NERA Council rides as close as possible to the middle of Namibia, namely the at Gobabis, Otjiwarongo and Walvis Bay.

NERA Council will host three international rides per annum. Any rider who wishes to compete at any of these rides must apply to the Organising Committee to participate and NERA Council through its appointed official and Organising Committee will only approve the rider's application in terms of NERA's Horse Minimum Age and Experience criteria clause and any Council approved criteria and FEI criteria that may be applicable.

The three NERA rides will be as follows:

3.5.1 The Independence Ride will be a 3* 120 & 160 km FEI ride and will be hosted by the Otjivero club at Gobabis, Windhoek or Okahandja annually as decided by the Organising Committee on the weekend closest to Namibia's Independence day and /or the full moon during March month.

3.5.2 The Otjiwarongo 3 * 120 & 160 FEI Ride.

Will be organised by Otjiwarongo club on a weekend normally in June closets to the full moon.

3.5.3. The Walvis Bay 3* or 4* 120 & 160 km FEI ride will be hosted by Tsumeb club normally on a Wednesday during the August / September Namibian school holiday.

The Walvis Bay Ride will also be simultaneously the NERA Namibian National Individual and Club Championships.

The maximum type of ride and - distance of any NERA Club ride is a Vet Gate-, Non FEI-, 100km ride per day. Any other ride will be a NERA Council ride. Clubs may host a maximum of a two day ride of maximum 100 km per day on the condition that certificates may only reflect the distance of a single day and not a total distance of the two days. The motivation for this rule is to protect the Namibian horses, one day rides are the FEI norm and to encourage the riders to support the three NERA Council / FEI rides

Although certain clubs and NERA Council appointed officials have accepted the responsibility to host these three NERA rides the objective is not that such a club will solely be responsible for all the work. The idea is that such a club will accept full to responsibility to organise the ride but that all the NERA clubs will contribute to the work if requested by the host club.

3.6 Night Rides.

With the longer FEI rides becoming a norm in Namibia it is normally necessary to ride at night. For the safety of horses and riders the Organising Committee must do it's utmost to host these rides as close as possible to a full moon and to arrange for whatever safety arrangements like pace cars, clearly marked routes, additional officials etc.

3.7. Southern African Annual International Endurance Competition.

Between BERA, ERASA and NERA the following principles were accepted for the annual international competitions between each other.

The competition will currently consist of two annual competitions, one in South Africa and one in Namibia between the Namibian and South African teams. The competition will be;

- A registered FEI ride

- The same format as the FEI World Championships.

- A Junior and Young Rider and a Senior Competition

- 120 Km ride for the Junior & Young Riders and a 160 Km ride for the Seniors

- A date as close as possible to a full moon.

- Teams consist of six riders and the best four times will be taken in consideration.

The South African leg will be hosted on a course as determined annually by ERASA but the venue will have the following;

- Sufficient stabling facilities.

- Sufficient accommodation facilities for the riders in order for the participants not to camp due to the distances involved and the fact that it is very difficult to transport both horses and camping equipment.

- The venue will be at a course on which 12 km/h will be a reasonable aim in order for the riders to qualify for the world championships.

- The course will be as situated as centrally as possible to minimize travelling time and cost.

The Namibian leg of the competition will be at a venue as approved by the NERA Council that will also meet the above mentioned criteria, but normally it will be hosted at Walvis Bay.

The SA leg of the competition will be hosted as close as possible to the full moon date in May and the Namibian / Walvis Bay date will be on a Wednesday during the Namibian school holiday as close as possible to a full moon.

Each country will be responsible for all the arrangements and cost to host their leg of the competition and participants will have to pay fees as determined by the Organising committee of the ride. Each country will also be responsible for its own travelling and accommodation cost.

At this stage Botswana may elect any of the two said dates to participate with its national side against SA and Namibia. Once Botswana is ready to become fully part of the competition it will become a Tri Nations competition. The condition is that Botswana must guarantee to have a National team for both the SA and Namibian leg of the competition before it can become an integral part of the competition.

A possible date for the Botswana leg of the tri Nations will be in March and it will most possibly be hosted at Lobatse. With this arrangement there will be an evenly spread of the three rides through the endurance competition part of the year.

Three countries have accepted the principle that it is the prerogative of each country to host its leg of the annual championship on the course of its choice as long as the above mentioned criteria are met.

The three countries will annually coordinate their FEI dates with each other before it is submitted to the FEI.

Any critics and / or problems that may arise between the three said countries will be amicably resolved in good spirit in such a way that endurance riding will be the ultimate winner. The communication channel for any such critics will be through the Presidents of each association and not via any other media.

The Councils of all three associations will meet annually at the venue where the three countries compete in order to discuss matters of common interest.

3.8 African Championships.

NERA Council has reserved the annual Walvis Bay ride as the African Championships. The ride will also be registered as such at the FEI. This article must be read in conjunction with the article above regarding the Southern African Annual International Endurance Competition.

Guidelines, between Namibia, South Africa and Botswana for participation in African Endurance Championships(AEC).

Background.

During 2005 NERA had the idea to register the annual NERA FEI Walvis Bay ride as the African Championships. The idea was then discussed with ERASA and ERASA had the idea to name their annual Christiana FEI ride the Southern Hemisphere Championships.

NERA has then decided to register the 2005 Walvis Bay ride at the FEI as the African championships and it was as such accepted by the FEI.

During 2006 however after consultations with the FEI official at head office the idea was raised by the FEI that they would not like to see two major separate competitions in Southern Africa and proposed that the African Championship take place over two legs namely one in S.A. and Walvis Bay in Namibia.

The NERA Council has accepted it as the "status quo".

Rules of the AEC Competition.

1. NERA will have the right and title to concept of "The African Endurance Championships" title between the three said countries.
2. NERA are however willing to share this trophy with South Africa and/or Botswana on the condition that the NERA Walvis Bay ride, or any other

NERA FEI ride that the NERA Council may in future decide upon, will always be the final leg of the AEC. Should South Africa and / or Botswana decide not to take part in the AEC Namibia may host it all on their own.

3. The African Championships will be held over two competitions, one in South Africa and one in Namibia. ERASA will notify NERA well in advance to the exact location of their leg of the AEC annually. The Namibian leg will be currently at Walvis Bay. The venue may be changed by the host country on the condition that it has to be a registered FEI ride and should Botswana in future elect to be part of this competition by hosting one leg in Botswana it will be accepted as such by S.A. and Namibia on the condition that Botswana guarantees to have a Young Rider and a Senior team for all three competitions.
4. Each and every leg of the competition will be a registered FEI ride and will be in the same format as the current FEI World Championships for Seniors and for Young Riders. Young Riders will be a rider from the year in which he / she turns 14 until the age of 21 years old and Seniors riders will be from the year in which the riders turns 18 years. It will be the prerogative of each country to elect riders in the age group between the year in which the rider turns 18 until 21 to be either in the Young Rider or in the Senior team.
5. The competition will be an individual as well as a team competition. There may be awards and trophies for the respective teams as well as for the individual riders for each leg of the AEC as well as for the final results at the end of the year, although the final trophies and awards for The AEC will be awarded at Walvis Bay. There will at least be the following AEC awards to be awarded at Walvis Bay, AEC Senior Team Winner, AEC Junior & Young Rider Team Winner, AEC Senior Individual Winner and AEC Junior & Young Rider Individual Winner. Awards may be added to this if agreed by the other relevant countries.
6. Senior teams will consist of at least 6 riders and the best four times are taken into consideration to determine a winner. Should less than four riders successfully finish the ride they will compete against the country with a similar number of finishers. The country and individual rider with the fastest time will be declared the winner. The distance will be 160km. The minimum riding weight will be 75kg.
7. Junior and Young rider teams will consist of at least 6 riders and the best four times are taken into consideration to determine a winner. Should less than four riders successfully finish the ride they will compete against the country with a similar number of finishers. The distance will be 120km. There shall be no minimum weight in this competition.
8. The individual winner of the trophy does not need to be part of a team.
9. Should the AEC be held over more than one leg the times of each leg will be added together and the teams and individuals with the fastest cumulative times will be declared the winners. This will then implicate that in order to qualify as AEC winner such a competitor must have competed at each and every leg of the AEC.
10. Riders riding for a team will have a team as well as individual ranking.

11. The host country will bear all expenses incurred to host their ride and all riders are eligible to pay an entry fee. Visiting teams will be responsible for all their own expenses, like travelling accommodation etc.
12. To be eligible to compete as an individual or as a team member, both the rider and horse must meet the FEI criteria for that specific distance.
13. All FEI veterinary regulations are applicable.
14. All FEI general and any other relevant FEI regulations are applicable besides those described above.
15. Countries who elect to host a leg of the event must at the latest by 15 October submit their venue and date to the other two countries for the following year. This is necessary as all FEI rides have to be submitted by end of October each year to the FEI and the countries will have to include it in their planning and ride program for the following year.
16. Dates for the AEC will be elected by the respective countries in cooperation with the other two countries on the following basis, if possible : To be as close to a full moon as possible, if part of the ride will be at night for the safety of riders and horses, each country will have at least one school holiday ride and that there will be at least one month between consecutive AEC rides. The SA ride will be in May, the Walvis Bay ride end August / beginning of September and should Botswana elect to host a ride it will be decide between the three countries, but March month would be a possibility. No leg of the AEC will be hosted after the end of September due to the heat and the African Horse Sickness inoculation programs as well as the academic pressure of the pupils at that time of the year.

3.9 Official Assistance at Club Rides

Council do acknowledge the fact that there are not always sufficient veterinarians available at the club rides. There must at least be one qualified veterinarian at all NERA rides. In order to relieve the pressure on the veterinarians and to speed the veterinarian process up due to the limited time, the Organising Committee together with the applicable veterinarian may appoint a senior experienced official(s) to assist the veterinarian with by taking hart pulse rates with an electronic hart monitor of high quality in such a way that both the rider and official can clearly see the pulse rate. Should it happen that the heart pulse rate is higher then the permissible rate the official must immediately call upon the veterinarian who must then take the pulse rate. Although the taking of the heart rates are the most common assistance rendered to the veterinarians, such an appointed senior experienced official may assist the veterinarian with any task at the Vet Gate. A horse can only be eliminated by the veterinarian and not by the said assistant official.

In spite of the above arrangement nothing prevents the veterinarian to take the heart pulse rate of any or all horses and to perform any veterinarian test on any of the horses and the veterinarian is always the responsible official and in charge of the vet gate.

This arrangement is only allowable on club rides and not at FEI rides.

3.10. BERA, ERASA and NERA.

The three said endurance riding associations, representing endurance riding in Botswana, South Africa and Namibia, have agreed to the following principles between themselves;

That they will always do their utmost to promote the endurance sport everywhere, but with special emphasis on the Southern African context,

There will be continuous communication and contact between the three associations via the respective Council members,

That only these three associations will be accepted and acknowledged as being the only representatives of the endurance sport in their respective countries and these associations will not accept and or acknowledge any other body as being representative of the endurance sport and no accreditation or working relationship will be established with any other body without the prior written consent of the association of a specific country involved,

There must always be a good relationship between the three associations and any dispute will be amicably been solved,

Any dispute and or critics between them will be channelled to the respective presidents and not through any other media,

Between them they will always strive to create the best possible opportunities for all their riders and horses, which will include but will not be limited to assist each other in the granting of national colours for the Southern African riders by creating competitions that will result in the granting of national colours,

They will annually compete against each other at venues as agreed between themselves on an FEI basis to create opportunities for their riders and horses and to do everything possible in order for the riders to receive national colours,

They will cooperate and assist each other with international participation of riders from these three associations,

3.11. WHO ARE AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE AT NERA RIDES (both NERA Club - and NERA Council Rides).

Only NERA members and NERA Day members may participate at a NERA ride. All riders who wish to participate at NERA endurance ride(s), irrespective whether it is a NERA Council or NERA Club ride, have to complete a NERA Ride Entry form to compete at such a ride. NERA Day members do complete the same ride entry form and only once such application has been accepted by the head official of the Organising Committee of that specific ride, in writing, becomes such an applicant a NERA Day Member and may he/she participate. Approval or non approval of a NERA Day Member is the discretion of the Organising Committee of that specific ride. Under exceptional cases the Organising Committee of a ride may refuse a NERA member to participate at a NERA ride should the Organising Committee being of the opinion that the participation of such a member is not in the good interest of the Endurance sport and /or of Namibia and /or of NERA. In this case the Organising Committee must immediately notify the Council and / the President about its decision and the case must be put on the agenda of the very first Council meeting. The Council's decision will be final and may overrule the decision of the Organising Committee in which case such a member may participate.

Due to the fact that affiliation fees are only payable by March of each year all NERA paid up, accepted and approved by NERA Club and NERA Council members of the previous year will be seen as members for the first three months of January, February and March each year and may participate at any NERA ride and /or any distance with the approval of the Organising Committee of that specific ride. Any rider who was not a fully paid up, accepted and approved NERA Club and NERA Council the previous year may only participate until the second leg of such a ride for a maximum of two rides per year with the approval of the Organising Committee of that specific ride. Should a rider who is not a fully paid up, approved and accepted NERA member wish to participate at a NERA ride for a longer distance then the second leg of a ride such a rider may do so with the approval of the Organising Committee of that specific ride and after payment of the full NERA Club and Council affiliation fees. This payment will allow such a rider to participate at the longer distance of such a ride, but will not automatically entitle the rider to NERA Club Membership and/or NERA membership. It will only serve as an application. Only after acceptance by both the NERA Club and NERA Council such a rider will be a NERA and NERA club member.

3.12. PARTICIPATION IN COMBINATION.

At any NERA Endurance ride the rider and horse participate in combination from start to finish, without any unapproved outside assistance, under penalty of disqualification.

Reserved for future use.

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