

DRM

Rule Book



Distance Riders of Manitoba

Version 1.3

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NOTE: The Appendices are a reference tool only. Each item is updated as required prior to the start of the ride season. This document contains the most current versions available at the date of ratification.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL RULES

1.1. APPLICATION/INFRACTIONS

1.1.1. THE PURPOSE OF THESE RULES

The Purpose of these rules is to protect the animal and provide fair and equal conditions for competition.

1.1.2. AMENDMENT OF RULES

- A. A Rules Committee established and maintained by the DRM Board of Directors is mandated to formulate recommendations for amendments to the DRM Rules based on proposals from and in consultation with the DRM membership and present these recommendations to the DRM Board of Directors.
 - a. The DRM Rule Book will only be amended once a year after the current AGM with the DRM Rule Book being updated and posted prior to the start of the new ride season. However,
 - i. proposals can be forwarded to the BoD and Rules Committee at any time during the year.
 - ii. the Rules Committee can forward resolutions to the BoD at any time during the year.
 - b. The DRM Rule Book posted at the start of the season will be the official documents to be used by all members for that season.
- B. The DRM Board of Directors
 - a. will follow the process as outlined in Rule 1.1.2a, Amendment of Rules before voting on any Rule changes.
 - b. reserves the right, under special circumstances, to change a Rule during the season. The membership will be made aware of said change via:
 - i. a membership email, and/or
 - ii. information posted on the official DRM web site, and/or
 - iii. information shared at DRM events
 - c. is authorized to approve or disapprove any recommendations presented by the Rules Committee and will inform the membership of said vote(s) within 30 days of voting.

1.1.3. DRM SANCTIONED EVENTS

- A. Follow all the rules and guidelines established by the Sanctioning Body
 - a. i.e. American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC)
 - b. i.e. Equestrian Canada (EC)
- B. In the event there is a conflict between these rules and rules set by the Sanctioning Body, the more stringent rule shall apply.
- C. All DRM sanctioned events are open to any riders whether holding full annual membership or using a day membership of the Association.

1.1.4. KNOWLEDGE OF THE RULES

All competitors and officials are responsible for knowing the DRM Rules, the rules of the Sanctioning Body, and any other additional rules set by Ride Management.

1.1.5. JUDGES DECISIONS

- A. All rides will have a Veterinary Control Judge. The Veterinary Control Judge will be a member in good standing of the Sanctioning Body. The Veterinary Control Judge will follow the rules and guidelines for judging as established by the Sanctioning Body.
- B. The Control Judges will have the final decision as to
 - a. If a horse may start a ride and
 - b. When a horse should be withdrawn.
 - c. In all matters concerning the health and safety of any competing horse, in all situations the decisions of the Control Judge(s) is final.
- C. The decisions of the judges and/or ride management are final.
- D. In all matters concerning judging and the well-being of any competing horse, all decisions of the Head Control Judge as allowed by the rules of the Association will be final and binding on the riders and the Ride Management.
- E. The Judges' findings are not secret. Judges shall tell the rider when any condition is assessed that will be penalized.
 - a. Any disagreement will be arbitrated by the Veterinary Control Judge and the decision of the Veterinary Control Judge will be final.
- F. Judges have the right and duty to remove from competition, at any time, any horse they think is 'unfit to continue'.

1.1.6. POLICY ON DRUGS – “NO DRUGS RULE”

The Sanctioning Body's definition of drugs will be used.

Drugs in any form are prohibited (no attempt is made to name all prohibited or acceptable substances in this document. See AERC rules for clarifications.)

- A. Horses may be subject to blood or urine test to determine the use of drugs such as stimulants, depressants and pain relievers.
- B. Management has the right to test at any time.

1.2. REQUIREMENTS FOR EVENTS AND RIDE SITES

1.2.1 ENTRY

- A. Entry Form and fees
- B. Membership – either annual or day
- C. Necessary documentation (photocopies or digital copies) must accompany registration, or be shown at the ride event
- D. Awards – All entries are eligible to win ride event awards

1.2.2 PROOF OF INSURANCE

- A. Prior to participation, all riders and sponsors must present:

- a. Proof of Provincial sports organization membership (MHC #) or,
 - b. Proof of current “off farm” equine third party liability insurance minimum of one million dollars. A Letter of coverage from the entrant’s insurance agent shall be taken as proof of insurance.
- B. Such proof must be presented to Ride Management at the time of entry.

1.2.3. PROOF OF A NEGATIVE EIA TEST

Equine Infectious Anemia (also known as Coggins, or Elisa Test)

- A. Proof of a negative EIA test is required for all equines attending any DRM sanctioned event.
- B. Must be presented to Ride Management prior to the start of the event

1.3. RIDERS & COMPETITORS

1.3.1 HEADGEAR/HELMETS

Equestrian impact resistant protective headgear, CSA approved, with harness properly fitted and secured, must be worn during all DRM sanctioned events while mounted anywhere on the competition grounds and/or the trail.

1.3.2 FOOTWEAR

Footwear with heels (not less than 1 cm), OR use of breakaway stirrups, OR use of basket/cage type stirrup covers while mounted anywhere on the competition grounds and/or trail is recommended for all riders under the age of 18 years and is recommended for all Adult riders.

1.4. HORSES & EQUIPMENT

1.4.1 STALLIONS

- A. Must be ridden by a rider 18 years of age or older.
- B. Must be identified as such, with yellow ribbons in their tails, from the time of the pre-ride control examination until after the final examination.
- C. Manners of a Stallion are expected to be as good as those of a mare or gelding

1.4.4 PRECAUTIONARY RIBBONS

- A. Yellow Ribbon – see **Rule 1.4.1 b), Stallions.**
- B. Red Ribbon is recommended be worn in the tail of a horse that is likely to kick.

1.4.5 TACK AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Saddles must be used, but the type of saddle and other tack used is at the discretion of the rider.
- B. Restraints – Any cruel or inhumane form of restraint is prohibited. e.g. Any form of Ties-downs, French Reins, Fixed Martingale
- C. Curry combs, brushes and other grooming equipment may be used at any time.
- D. Must have some form of bridle, hackamore, bitless bridle or sidepull bridle.

SECTION 2 – RIDE RULES

2.1 DISTANCE RIDES

2.1.1 ELEVATOR RIDES

- A. Rides which are sanctioned for more than one distance (such as 10/15 Intro Ride, 25 mile, 50 mile, 75, mile and/or 100 mile) provide the option for riders to “elevate” to a distance greater than the original distance entered, subject to the following conditions:
 - a) the rider may elevate one loop at a time
 - b) upon elevating, the rider continues to be considered to be a finisher in the original distance, and is still competitive if the original distance is a competitive ride
 - c) the rider is eligible for lifetime mileage for the successfully completed loops
 - d) If the eventual ride length is one of the posted lengths, then the rider is eligible for completion in that distance, but not placing
 - e) If the starting times are not the same, elevating riders must abide by the maximum duration time of the distance being elevated to in order to gain completion and lifetime mileage
 - f) Horse must be deemed Fit to Continue at the end of the original distance
 - g) An elevating rider must include a 1.5 min/mile rest period before heading out on the elevating loop
 - h) An elevator loop can be added up to one hour after the original distance is completed as long as riders from the distance being elevated to are still on trail

2.1.2 MARKINGS

- A. There shall be a uniform code and color for marking trails within any given ride
- B. Details of markings being used will be given at the Pre-Ride Talk
- C. If riders report serious issues with missing or confusing trail markers during the event, ride management must resolve the problem as quickly as possible. While trail markings are fixed riders may be held temporarily at checkpoints with the time of the hold deducted from their total ride time.

2.1.3 TRAIL MAP

- A. Wherever possible, trail maps should be provided for riders
- B. Location of any trail Vet checks must be marked on the map.
- C. Location of watering spots should be included

2.1.4 VET CHECK PROCEDURES

- A. Vet Check area, Trot Out lane(s), and Pulse Area will be clearly labelled and sectioned off
- B. Riders arrival time off the trail loop will be recorded by the Timer
- C. Riders then have up to 30 min to present their horse to the Pulse Box for a heart rate check
- D. The Rider presents their horse to the Pulse Area when they feel their horse is at criteria. The Timer records the time at which the Rider presents their horse.

- E. Heart Rate Technicians or a Vet will then check the heart rate of the presented horse to determine if criteria has been met.
- F. When using the hand-held heart rate monitors, HR Technicians are to hold the monitor in place for a full 15 seconds after the first reading is obtained.
- G. If the horse is at criteria, HR Technician will call out the horse's competition number followed by the heart rate reading for the Timer to record. HR Technicians will also inform the rider if criteria is not met. There is no penalty for not reaching criteria when presented, however riders will be instructed to exit the Pulse Area and represent when the heart rate is down. Their presentation time will be updated to the next time their horse is presented.
- H. Only horses in the Pulse Area will be considered as presented for heart rate checks
- I. HR Technicians or Vets may perform courtesy checks away from the Pulse Area as time permits. Courtesy checks are for information only, no time is recorded.
- J. Riders will proceed to the Vet Check immediately after achieving criteria.
- K. Where applicable, the Timer will calculate and inform the rider of the earliest possible time they are eligible to leave camp for their next loop. i.e. The Rider's 'Out' Time.
- L. The Timer will record the actual time when Riders leave camp on their next loop.

2.1.5 PRE-RIDE MEETING

- A. Riders must be notified of the number of miles to be ridden.
- B. Each event/ride shall make public before the start of the ride the location of any trail vet checks.
- C. Riders must be notified of heart rate criteria, hold times, and loop order and direction.
- D. Riders must be informed of all vet check procedures
- E. Riders must be informed of procedures for standing for Best Condition.
 - a. How many horses can qualify
 - b. Cut-off times for presenting
 - c. When horses are to be presented
- F. Riders must be notified of Emergency Procedures for human and equines

2.1.6 IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Assigned numbers must be visibly worn by equines at all times beginning with the pre-ride examination and until after the final check of the day.

2.1.7 FINAL VET CHECK

- A. Horse and rider must proceed to the Final Vet Check immediately after reaching criteria for the distance ridden.
- B. Rechecks for the purpose of obtaining a completion after being eliminated are not permitted

2.1.8 TIES

Limited Distance:

There will be no placing *ties* in the Limited Distance Division, with one exception as noted¹. To ensure accurate placings, the following process will be followed at all pulse

checks. Note that *order of arrival* into camp or into the *designated check area* is irrelevant.

- At the designated check area, competitors will call time when they are ready for a designated ride official to take their horse's pulse, once the horse is recovered/presumed recovered to 60 BPM or less.
- The timer will record the time called in minutes and seconds.
- Should a second or subsequent competitor call time immediately after the first or previous competitor, the timer will record the time in minutes and seconds, ensuring that the time recorded represents the order in which the riders called time.
- In the unlikely event of two or more competitors calling at precisely the same time, ride management will have officials/volunteers take the pulse of those horses simultaneously. The horse with the lowest pulse rate (below 60 BPM) will receive the higher placing.

¹ In the previous example, should both or all horses have the same pulse rate (at or below 60 BPM), ties will be awarded, and points awarded will be the sum of the positions divided by the number of people who tied.

Endurance Division:

Ties are allowed in the Endurance division, however the default will be to record the order of finish in minutes and seconds.

- Placings for the Endurance Division will be determined by the order of finish of those who have met the completion criteria. Should two or more competitors *wish* to tie, all parties must be in agreement, and completion criteria must be met.
- Ties will only be recorded if the following conditions are met:
 - Each of the competitors wishing to tie clearly communicate their intentions to ride management and volunteers—particularly the timer and the day manager—immediately following arrival at camp.
 - Efforts must also be made to cross the finish line at the same time (holding hands, riding side by side, etc.).
 - Competitors must cross the finish line with no more than 1 minute separating them.
- Should above conditions be met, the timer will ensure that the times recorded for each tied rider are identical.
- If any competitor does not wish—or agree—to tie, order of finish will prevail.

2.1.9 BEST CONDITION

- A. The top 10 finishers in rides 25 miles or more, in either Junior or Senior division may be considered for Best Condition.
- B. Eligible Horses may be presented any time within one hour of completing the Final Vet Check
- C. Riders who finish in the top 10, but arrive more than two hours after the first finisher may be cut off from the Best Condition competition.
- D. Best Condition is determined as per Sanctioning Body's rules.
- E. DRM awards one Best Condition award for each distance.
- F. DRM awards once Hi Vet Score award for each distance.

2.1.10 COMPLETION AWARDS

All entries who successfully complete a DRM event shall be awarded Completion ribbons. Any horse and rider who finish outside the time allowed, does not meet criteria or final pulse, or is not judged Fit to Continue, will be disqualified, and is NOT eligible for completion, and no points or mileage credit will be awarded by Ride Managers, Official or DRM.

2.1.11 EVENT AWARDS

Placement Ribbons are awarded to the top five (5) finishers in each division (Junior and Senior) for all competitive distances. No placements are calculated for Introductory rides.

SECTION 3 – RIDE MANAGEMENT

3.1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

3.1.1 TRAILER TRANSPORTATION

Ride Management must designate a trailer that is to be available to transport sick or injured horses, and for picking up horses on trail who become sick or injured,

3.2 RIDE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

3.2.1 INFORMATION DEADLINES

- A. Ride Manager is responsible for securing permits, obtaining permissions and sanctioning rides.
- B. Ride Manager is responsible for getting ride information to members of the Board who are responsible for communications
- C. See appendix for Ride Manager Checklist for details about deadlines

3.2.2 DUTIES AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

- A. Ride Manager may opt to delegate the role of Trail Marker and/or Day Manager to other willing volunteers.
- B. Trail Markers – duty is to plan, mark and demark trail. The Trail Marker must also work directly with the Ride Manager to execute these tasks. See Appendix for Trail Marker Checklist.
- C. Day Manager – duty is to coordinate the day(s) of the ride as per the Ride Manager’s instructions. The Day Manager must be someone who is familiar with the rules and procedures followed by DRM. The Day Manager acts as part of “Ride Management” when it comes to executing rules and procedures.
- D. Equipment required for Ride Management and owned by DRM will be stored and managed by the Equipment Coordinator. Ride Managers may sign out any required equipment from the Equipment coordinator. See Appendix for current inventory list.
- E. Ride Manager is to provide food and water for Control Judge and all volunteers
- F. Ride Manager is to see to the collection of all ride fees from all riders
- G. Ride Manager is to obtain DRM membership list prior to ride entries being submitted, as well as any account balances owing or refunds.

3.2.3 REPORTING RESULTS

- A. Ride results must be submitted by Ride Management within two weeks of the ride date.
 - a. To the webmaster and board communications
 - b. To the Sanctioning Body

3.2.4 OTHER VOLUNTEERS

- A. Scribe(s) – Ride Management will ensure scribes are trained on how to record Control Judge findings on the Ride Cards (found in appendix)
- B. Timer(s) – Ride Management will ensure Timers are trained using the Timer Sheet (found in appendix)
- C. Heart Rate Technician(s) – If HR technicians are used, management will appoint a Head Heart Rate Technician who shall ensure that all HR Technicians know and understand the procedures involved in using the hand held heart rate monitors.

SECTION 4 – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

4.1 GRIEVANCES

4.1.1 SCORECARD AND/OR RIDE RESULTS

A rider who feels that Ride Management has made a mechanical error in the calculation of his/her ride penalties/points has the option of making a complaint to DRM.

4.1.2 FILING A GRIEVANCE

- A. Wherever possible, the Complainant should attempt to resolve the grievance at the ride with Ride Management. If that is not satisfactory then,
- B. The Ride Card, along with a letter of complaint, must be sent to the DRM Board within two weeks of the receipt of the ride results.
- C. The complaint shall be considered by a committee of three persons headed by the DRM Vice-President. Their verdict will be final.
- D. If a complaint is upheld, DRM guarantees that the penalties/points will be changed for the purpose of Year End placing only. It is up to the individual Ride Management to make a decision concerning the complainant's placing and resultant award.

SECTION 5 – YEAR-END AWARDS

5.1 GENERAL - SCORING

5.1.1 ELIGIBILITY

- A. Members who have renewed their DRM membership shall be eligible to have results tabulated for year-end awards.
- B. New members will be eligible to have results tabulated for year-end awards upon payment of the DRM membership fee for the current year.

5.1.2 RIDE RESULTS

- A. Only results from DRM sanctioned events shall be used for calculating placing for Year End Awards for riders. Exception: High Mileage Horse. See Rule 7.3.2.

- B. Ride Results become official and are not subject to change – Thirty days after they appear in an official DRM publication, unless the DRM Secretary is notified in writing of an error, or intentional fraud is proven.

5.2 METHOD FOR POINTS CALCULATION

The method used for points calculation shall be as detailed by the Sanctioning Body.

5.3 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

5.3.1 HIGH POINT AWARDS

Year-end awards shall be given to the rider with the highest number of points in the following areas:

- Senior Division High Point Endurance Champion – for rides 50 miles or more
- Senior Division High Point Endurance Reserve Champion - for rides 50 miles or more
- Senior Division High Point Limited Distance Champion – for rides 25 miles or more but less than 50 miles
- Senior Division High Point Limited Distance Reserve Champion – for rides 25 miles or more but less than 50 miles
- Junior Division¹ High Point Champion – all distances

5.3.2 HIGH MILEAGE AWARD

A year-end award shall be given to the horse who accumulates the highest number of miles in one season. Miles from other sanctioned Endurance events in other jurisdictions will be considered.

5.3.3 MILEAGE CRESTS

Mileage crests are awarded at the following cumulative mileage intervals. Crests are awarded to horse and rider separately.

150, 300, 500, 750, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 6000

¹ AERC definition of Junior applies