



# GETTING STARTED IN ENDURANCE RIDING

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## INTRODUCTION

*Each new member of NSW Endurance Riders Association Inc. (NSWERA) will receive a Members' Handbook that will detail all the rules and regulations of the sport. The following notes are a summary of what is required to participate in endurance riding in NSW.*

Firstly, it needs to be understood the difference between an **affiliated training** or **social ride** and an **affiliated endurance ride**. ["Affiliated" means approved by the NSWERA Inc State Management Committee and the event must be run according to the rules and regulations of the Australian Endurance Riders Assoc (AERA).]

**An affiliated training or social ride** is a totally non-competitive ride where all horses and riders must not exceed the maximum speed set for novice horses and riders. There are no weight divisions and no winners or placegetters. The distance for a training ride is usually approx. 40km and approx. 20kms for a social ride in one day.

**An affiliated endurance ride** must be a minimum distance of 80kms in one day and is a competitive event, ie there are winners and placegetters in all four weight divisions. Maximum speeds are set for Novice riders and/or Novice horses that participate in an endurance ride. Endurance riders on Endurance horses may travel above the maximum novice speed set.

***Approved Aust. Standards Riding Helmets must be worn at all times whilst on a horse at any affiliated endurance event***



## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NSWERA INC

- In order to take part in an **endurance ride, ie a ride of 80kms or more**, a rider must do the following –
  - Become a member of an affiliated endurance association, in this case the NSWERA Inc if you live in NSW.
  - Have completed 2 (two) affiliated training rides successfully.
- **In order to take part in a *training ride or social ride*, a rider can either be a member of NSWERA Inc or be a day member at the ride.**
- Senior members will be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting of the NSWERA Inc.
- A fully paid up riding member of the NSWERA Inc. is entitled to full coverage under its Insurance Policy, which includes Personal Accident Insurance whilst riding and training. A detailed description of the Insurance Policy can be found on the AERA (Australian Endurance Riders Assoc.) website at [www.aera.asn.au](http://www.aera.asn.au).
- **NSWERA Membership forms can be obtained from –**  
The Secretariat  
NSWERA Inc  
PO Box 6627  
Chatham NSW 2430  
Tel 0265 538640 Fax 0265 538661  
Email - [nswera@westnet.com.au](mailto:nswera@westnet.com.au)  
  
Or, by downloading forms from the NSWERA website – [www.nswera.asn.au](http://www.nswera.asn.au) – go to “Forms”

## MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS FOR RIDERS

There are two types of riding membership – **Novice** and **Endurance**.

- **Novice Riding Membership –**
  - Novice Riding Membership is applied for first and is for those **riders** who have not successfully completed two affiliated training rides **and** 240kms of affiliated endurance rides. ***Please note, a Novice Rider can only enter an affiliated endurance ride (ie 80kms or more) as a novice rider if he or she has successfully completed two affiliated training rides.***
  - Novice riders are restricted to a maximum riding speed that must not be exceeded and cannot enter events greater than 120kms in distance, regardless of whether they are riding an endurance or novice horse.



## ▪ **Endurance Riding Membership -**

- Once a **rider** has successfully completed the novice criteria of 2 x training rides and 240kms of affiliated endurance rides, they can apply to the Secretariat for an Endurance riding Membership.
- An Endurance riding membership allows riders to ride in endurance events with unrestricted time limits as long as they are riding a qualified endurance horse. *[It must be noted that regardless of qualifications of horse or rider, all entrants in training rides must not exceed the max. speed set. Also, if an endurance rider is riding a novice horse, they are restricted to novice time as well.]*
- Complete the Endurance Section of the Membership form (*as detailed above*) and return with photocopies of your successful rides plus payment to The Secretariat of NSWERA Inc (*see above*.)
- Both Senior Novice and Endurance Members have full voting rights at the NSWERA AGM.

## ▪ **Other types of Memberships available are –**

- Associate Non-Riding members which receive a Newsletter but do not have voting rights; and
- TPR (Temperature, Pulse & Respiration) Memberships for people wishing to be involved by becoming TPR Stewards but do not want to ride. TPR Memberships are free, once qualified as a TPR Steward but do not have voting rights.

## **HOW TO QUALIFY YOUR HORSE & HOW TO APPLY FOR A LOG BOOK FOR YOUR HORSE**

### **Log Book Application forms can be obtained from –**

The Secretariat  
NSWERA Inc  
PO Box 6627  
Chatham NSW 2430  
Tel 0265 538640 Fax 0265 538661  
Email - [nswera@westnet.com.au](mailto:nswera@westnet.com.au)

Or, by downloading forms from the NSWERA website – [www.nswera.asn.au](http://www.nswera.asn.au)

Like riders, there are two types of horse classifications in the sport – **Novice and Endurance.**

### ▪ **Novice Horse-**

- has **not** successfully complete 240kms in affiliated endurance rides; and
- must have their permanent teeth fully erupted (the corner incisors need not be in wear) and must be no less than 4 ½ years of age on the day of the ride. (If the horse is not registered, then aging by teeth is required).



## ▪ **Endurance Horse -**

- has successfully completed 240kms in affiliated endurance rides (does not include training rides); and
- must show a full mouth of permanent teeth erupted and with permanent incisors in wear and be no less than 5 years of age on the day of the ride. (If the horse is not registered, then aging by teeth is required).
- An endurance horse that has not successfully completed a ride for 13 months, must ride as a novice horse until it successfully completes **one** endurance ride.

In order to enter an 80km ride or greater, the horse must have a Log book. The Log book is divided in two parts – one for the **novice section** and one for the **endurance section**.

## **Novice Horse Log Book Section –**

- A horse can participate in a **training or social ride** without a log book, but **must** have a log book to participate in a ride that is 80km or longer.
- A horse that has not successfully completed 240kms in affiliated endurance rides is considered a Novice Horse.
- A novice horse, like a novice rider, cannot enter an endurance ride greater than 120kms in one day.
- To obtain a Logbook, complete all the forms and send the payment and the forms to the NSWERA Secretariat (see above). You may have a microchip inserted at this stage, or wait until you apply for Endurance Horse status.
- The ID form for the Novice Section must be completed and accompany your Application and payment. At this stage, the owner/person responsible for the horse may complete the ID form.
- The owner of the horse may decide to have the ID page completed by a veterinarian, in preparation for the horse becoming an endurance horse, rather than just completing the ID for Novice status.
- If the horse is registered with an association, eg. Arabian Horse Society of Australia, a copy of the Registration Papers must accompany the Logbook Application.
- Make sure you photocopy all paperwork being sent to the Secretariat for your records.

## **Endurance Horse Log Book Section -**

- Once a horse has successfully completed 240kms of affiliated endurance rides (not including training rides), the owner can apply for Endurance Horse status by obtaining a Logbook Application form (see above) and completing the Endurance Horse section of the form.
- *At this point, it is important to remember that Endurance Status will not be considered until **90 days from the date of the first successful 80km ride.***



- If not already done so as a Novice horse, the owner must have the ID part of the application completed and signed by a veterinarian. This ID form must accompany your Application, Logbook and payment.
- From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 all endurance qualified horses must be microchipped. If not already done so, a microchip must be inserted into your horse at this point. When arranging for your veterinarian to come and identify your horse, please ensure the vet has an ISO microchip to implant into your horse and scanner available to check the microchip is working prior to and after implantation. The microchip sticker must accompany your application to be placed on your Logbook ID page prior to the horse commencing its first ride as an endurance horse.
- Don't forget to complete the Registration section on the logbook application form. This maybe a "lifetime" registration or purchased annually. You will not be able to start a ride unless this sticker is in the back of your logbook. Make sure you include the fees for this with your total payment.
- **Post your Novice Horse (blue) Logbook and application form back to the NSWERA Secretariat** so that the Vet ID and microchip number can be recorded in the Endurance Horse section of the book. A new yellow sticker will be wrapped around the book, signifying the horse is now Endurance qualified. The Logbook will be posted back to you.
- Make sure you photocopy all paperwork being sent to the Secretariat for your records.

**EXPECT A TWO WEEK TURN AROUND FOR THE RETURN OF YOUR LOGBOOK.**

## **ENTRY; VETTING PROCEDURES & STRAPPING TECHNIQUES FOR AFFILIATED TRAINING & SOCIAL RIDES**

Firstly, "Affiliated" means approved by the NSWERA Inc State Management Committee and the event must be run according to the Rules & Regulation of Australian Endurance Riders Assoc (AERA).

**An affiliated training ride** is a totally non-competitive ride where all competitors must not exceed the maximum novice speed set. Its distance is usually between 40km and 60km in one day. There are no riding weight divisions.

**An affiliated social or introductory ride** is totally non-competitive and is a great introduction to endurance riding. They are usually less than 40km in distance. As in a training ride, there is a max. novice speed set that all competitors must not exceed. There are no riding weight divisions.

## **SETTING UP CAMP**

- When you arrive at the Ride Base, if you are not sure where to park, go to the Secretary's Office and to get directions.
- Various forms of yards are used –



- Electric fencing (minimum of 2 strands of electric tape) with electric charger on and working.
- Purpose built steel yards

Whatever yards you use, make sure your horses are used to them prior to coming to the ride and that they are safe and secure.

- Water is provided at ride bases either in tanks or tapped, but be prepared to carry water to your camp, so have plenty of buckets on hand, especially if you are strapping for yourself. In some cases, you may have to bring human drinking water.
- Set up camp as you like it but be organised for the ride so that you are not hunting for your strapping gear and horse feed when you come in from each leg.
- Most ride bases will have a canteen operating and it's nice to support these canteens as they are usually fund raising for local groups, etc.
- Some ride organisers will ask you to bring firewood but most do supply some for camps. Try and share a fire and the firewood.
- Information about rides can be found in the NSW Endurance News Magazine or in the Calendar section at [www.nswera.asn.au](http://www.nswera.asn.au) and click on the ride.

## ENTRY PROCEDURES

- Most ride organisers of Training and Social Rides now ask riders to pre-nominate to the ride secretary for administrative purposes. Usually no money is involved. This can be done by telephone, fax or email or by going to [www.nswera.asn.au](http://www.nswera.asn.au) and clicking on "Pre Nominations" then go to the ride.
- To enter a Training Ride, the horse must have all its permanent teeth erupted (but the corner incisors need not be in wear) and must be no less than four and half years of age on the day of the ride. If the horse is not registered, then aging by teeth is required.
- To enter a Social or Introductory Ride, the horse must be at least 3 years of age or over on the day of the ride. If the horse is not registered, then aging by teeth is required.
- Each horse and rider must be entered prior to vetting and starting a ride of any length that is an affiliated endurance event, ie social rides, training rides and endurance rides.
- Entry takes place at the Ride Secretary's tent or office.
- Complete an entry form and all the appropriate indemnity forms. If you are already a member of NSWERA, you must remember to bring your membership card when you enter. If you are not a member of the NSWERA, you will need to complete a Day Membership Form. If the rider is 18 yrs of age on the day of the ride, then a guardian/parent must sign for that rider. *(To enter an endurance ride ie 80km or greater, you must be a fully paid up member of the NSWERA)*

- You will receive a ride number which you must wear at all times during the actual ride, and a vet card. If your horse has a logbook, this must be brought with you to enter and will be used instead of a vet card.
- In a training or social ride you will not be asked to weigh.
- After you have entered, you are free to proceed to the vetting area with your horse.

## **PRE-RIDE VETTING**

- Bring your horse unsaddled to the vetting ring. Make sure you have your vet card or logbook with you for that horse.
- The horse's temperature, pulse and respiration will be taken by either a TPR Steward or a vet and these will be recorded on your vet card or log book. The vet will check all the other parameters required on the vet card and you will then be asked to trot your horse out on a loose rein.
- Practice taking your horse's temperature and pulse at home. If the horse cannot be examined in a safe and controlled manner, it may not be permitted to start as the pre ride vetting examination could not be completed
- Your horse must pass all the criteria that are on the vet card, including being sound at the trot.
- At this point, it is usual that your vet card or logbook will be kept by the Ride Organisers until the end of the ride.
- Take your horse back to its yard and allow it to relax, eat and drink, prior to the start of the ride, which may be the same day as vetting or the next day if the training ride is being run in conjunction with an endurance ride.
- If the ride is the next day, you may like to take your horse out for a light ride prior to bedding down for the night.


## **PRE RIDE TALK**

- At every endurance event, there will be a Pre Ride Talk given after all the entries have been vetted.
- A description of the course will be given and any hazards or dangers on course described. The Ride start times, novice times and speeds, marking and any other relevant information will be given to riders at this talk.
- **It is compulsory to attend the Pre Ride Talk.**



# STRAPPING YOUR HORSE AT THE END OF THE LEG OR RIDE

- Upon arrival back at the ride base, proceed to the timing desk and you will be given a time slip that will show your time to vet, which will be 30 minutes after your arrival, eg. if you arrive at 10.15am, your vetting time will be 10.45am (see example below).

Time Slip	RIDER NUMBER	IN	VET	OUT
	1	10.15am	10.45am	N/A

- During the 30 minutes prior to vetting, you will strap your horse to take heat out of its body, remove dirt from legs and girth and allow the horse to relax prior to vetting.
- Have your strapping gear organised so that when you come in all you have to do is take the saddle off, put a headstall on and start washing your horse down with cool water if it is hot, and warmer water if the weather conditions are cooler and your horse is not hot.
- Scrap the water off and towel your horse down to make comfortable. If the air temperature is cool, place a light rug over the hind quarter or the whole horse, depending on how hot the horse is.
- Offer some water with the chill off and some damp hay. Walk the horse slowly and offering a pick of grass or hay and the opportunity to urinate if it wants. Ideally, do not allow the horse to eat 5-10mins prior to vetting.
- Don't forget the rider who will need lots of sustenance and don't forget to thank your strappers.

## END OF THE RIDE - VETTING

- Make sure you arrive at the vetting area at least 5 minutes prior to your vetting time. This allows for any discrepancies in timing between your watch and the Vet Steward's and also allows your horse to relax in the vetting area prior to having its pulse taken.
- Your vet card or log book will be ready for you at the Vetting Area. You will get this back after the Head Vet and Ride Secretary have signed them off, at the Presentations.
- Post ride vetting is exactly the same as the pre ride vet check.
- The pulse and respiration (not temperature unless the vet specifically asks for it) are taken and the pulse rate must be 55bpm or under at the end of training or social ride or 1<sup>st</sup> Leg of an endurance ride.
- Congratulations! You are successful if the vet passes your horse as sound metabolically and physically, i.e. is not lame and passes all the vetting criteria that are recorded on your vet card or log book.
- Take your horse back to its yard and allow it to eat, drink and relax before its journey home.

- There will usually be a Presentation ceremony after the last rider has vetted. This is a nice time to thank the ride organisers and to celebrate your completion.
- If you wish to leave prior to the presentations, depending on how busy the Ride Secretary is, he/she will either give you your vet card or logbook, once it has been signed off by the Head Vet or will post it to you. If you know you will need to leave early, have a self-addressed postage paid envelope available for this purpose.

## **A BASIC STRAPPING KIT**

- Metal bucket for heating water by the fire, especially for those cold mornings when coming in off the 1<sup>st</sup> Leg.
- Sponges
- Clean Towels
- Scrapper
- Hoof Pick
- Grooming brushes, etc.
- Easy to put on headstall
- Warm rugs, such as kersey or polar fleece rugs, waterproof rugs, etc.
- Cotton or lighter rugs for those in-between weather conditions that don't warrant a heavier rug
- Stethoscope & thermometer (essential as you continue in endurance – can be purchased from a pharmacy)
- Feed and water buckets.
- Fresh sweet hay. Preferably dampen hay for horse to eat whilst strapping
- Horse feeds for after the ride or each leg (preferable keep grains or high carb feeds to a minimum prior to the ride and save these for after the ride).

## **ENTRY; VETTING PROCEDURES & STRAPPING TECHNIQUES FOR AN AFFILIATED ENDURANCE RIDE – (80kms or more)**

“Affiliated” means approved by the NSWERA Inc State Management Committee and the event must be run according to the Rules & Regulation of Australian Endurance Riders Assoc (AERA).

### **An affiliated endurance ride -**

- Is competitive in nature, ie there are winners, placegetters and Best Conditioned Horse awards in all four riding divisions – Heavyweight, Middleweight, Lightweight and Junior (see below for weight requirements).
- It must be a minimum distance of 80kms in one day.
- Maximum novice speeds are set for Novice riders and/or Novice horses. Endurance riders on Endurance horses may travel above the novice speed set. An endurance rider on a novice horse and a novice rider on an endurance horse must not exceed the set novice speed for that ride.

### **Riding Weight Divisions –**

- Heavyweight – all up riding weight of 91kg and over (not including bridle)
- Middleweight – all up riding weight of 73kg and over (not including bridle)
- Lightweight – all up riding weight of less than 73kg (not including bridle)
- Junior – riders who are 18 years of age or less in the calendar year of riding (no weight restriction).



It is the responsibility of the rider to maintain the weight applicable to the riding division entered throughout the ride. Weigh-ins will be done at pre-ride, after each leg and at the end of the ride. Heavyweight and Middleweight riders must not drop under the min. weight required, otherwise risk disqualification. For this reason, it would be very sensible to make sure that you have a few kilos to spare just in case you lose weight through the ride.

Most Endurance rides incorporate a training and/or social ride into the event.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS – ENDURANCE RIDES**

- Pre nomination is requested for all affiliated endurance rides, and for some rides it is compulsory. This is possible on the NSWERA web site at [www.nswera.asn.au](http://www.nswera.asn.au) or you can contact the Ride Secretary direct by telephone, email or fax.
- To enter an endurance ride, the rider must have completed a minimum of 2 x training rides and be a full riding member (novice or endurance) of the NSWERA Inc.
- To enter an endurance ride, a horse must have a Logbook
- To enter an endurance ride a horse must show a full mouth of permanent teeth erupted and with permanent incisor in wear and be no less than 5 years of age on the day of the ride. (If the horse is not registered, then aging by teeth is required.)

## **SETTING UP CAMP**

- When you arrive at the Ride Base, if you are not sure where to park, go to the Secretary's Office and they can direct you.
- Various forms of yards are used –
  - Electric fencing (minimum of 2 strands of electric tape) with electric charger on and working.
  - Purpose built steel yards

Whatever yards you use, make sure your horses are used to them prior to coming to the ride and that they are safe and secure.

- Water is provided at Ride Bases either in tanks or tapped, but be prepared to carry water to your camp, so have plenty of buckets on hand, especially if you are strapping for yourself. In some cases, you may have to bring human drinking water.
- Set up camp as you like it but be organised for the next day's riding so that you are not hunting for your strapping gear and horse feed when you come in from each leg.
- Most ride bases will have a canteen operating and it's nice to support these canteens as they are usually fund raising for local groups, etc.
- Some ride organisers will ask you to bring firewood but most do supply some for camps. Try and share a fire and the firewood.



- Information about rides can be found in the NSW Endurance News Magazine or in the Calendar section at [www.nswera.asn.au](http://www.nswera.asn.au) and click on the ride.

## ENTERING A RIDE

- Each horse and rider must be entered prior to vetting and starting a ride of any length that is an affiliated endurance event, ie social rides, training rides and endurance rides.
- Entry to the rides takes place at the Ride Secretary's tent or office.
- Complete an entry form and all the appropriate indemnity forms. If the rider is 18 yrs of age or under on the day of the ride, then a guardian/parent must sign for that rider.
- You must remember to bring your NSWERA **membership card** and the **horse's logbook** when you enter. You will not be able to enter an endurance ride, ie 80km or more, without these.
- You will receive a ride number which you must wear at all times during the actual ride.
- In an endurance ride you will be weighed with your saddlery, before during and after the ride. "All up riding weight" must include all riding gear, **excluding** the bridle.
- After you have entered, you are free to proceed to the vetting area with your horse and Logbook.
- If, for some reason, you are not going to be able to vet in during the required vetting time, please advise the Ride Secretary that you are going to be late so that arrangements can be made. Ride Committees will endeavour to accommodate entrants who have a genuine reason for being late, but "tardiness" is not a genuine reason.

## PRE-RIDE VETTING

- Bring your horse unsaddled to the vetting ring. Make sure you have your logbook with you for that horse.
- The horse's temperature, pulse and respiration will be taken by either a TPR Steward or a vet and these will be recorded in your log book. The vet will check all the other parameters required in the log book and you will then be asked to trot your horse out on a loose rein.
- Practice taking your horse's temperature and pulse at home. If the horse cannot be examined in a safe and controlled manner, it may not be permitted to start as the pre ride vetting examination could not be completed.
- Your horse must pass all the criteria that are on the logbook, including being sound at the trot.
- At this point, it is usual that your logbook will be kept by the Ride Organisers until the end of the ride.



- Take your horse back to its yard and allow it to relax, eat and drink. You may like to take your horse out for a light ride prior to bedding down for the night at the ride base.
- Once your horse has entered the ride, it officially comes under the control of the Head Vet. You must not remove the horse from the ride base, except while competing in, or exercising prior to the ride, until such time as it has been officially signed off on its logbook by the Head Vet and Ride Secretary.

## PRE RIDE TALK


- At every endurance event, there will be a Pre Ride Talk given after all the entries have been vetted.
- A description of the course will be given and any hazards or dangers on course described. The Ride start times, novice times and speeds, course marking and any other relevant information will be given to riders at this talk.
- **It is compulsory to attend the Pre Ride Talk.**

## START OF RIDE

- The start time for the ride will have been given at the Pre ride talk.
- Make sure you are wearing your ride number and collect in an orderly manner at the marshalling gate where you will be asked for your ride number. This will be repeated back to you to confirm that you are starting the ride.

### **STRAPPING YOUR HORSE AT THE END OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> LEG (A Basic Strapping Kit can be found at the end of the notes for entering a Training or Social Ride)**

- Upon arrival back at the ride base, proceed to the timing desk and you will be given a time slip that will show your time to vet, which will be 30 minutes after your arrival, eg. if you arrive at 10.15am, your vetting time will be 10.45am. (See example of time slip below.) Some rides now allow you to present to the vets early. Usually, this is not before 15mins of your vet time. But remember, you only have one chance, so if your horse has a pulse rate over the required pulse rate, it will be vetted out. This will be clarified at the Pre Ride Talk.

Time Slip	RIDER NUMBER	IN	VET	OUT
	1	10.15AM	10.45AM	11.15AM

The time slip will also give your time that you can leave on the next leg. Based on the above example, you will be able to leave at 11.15am, ie 30mins after your time to vet.

- During the 30 minutes prior to vetting, you will strap your horse to take heat out of its body, remove dirt from legs and girth and allow the horse to relax prior to vetting.

- Have your strapping gear organised so that when you come in all you have to do is take the saddle off, put a headstall on and starting washing your horse down with cool water if it is hot, and warmer water if the weather conditions are cooler and your horse is not hot.
- Scrap the water off and towel your horse down to make comfortable. If the air temperature is cool, place a light rug over the hind quarter or the whole horse, depending on how hot the horse is at the time.
- Offer some water with the chill off and some damp hay. Walk the horse slowly and offering a pick of grass or hay and the opportunity to urinate if it wants. Ideally, do not allow the horse to eat 5-10mins prior to vetting.
- Make sure you arrive at the vetting area at least 5 minutes prior to your vetting time. This allows for any discrepancies in timing between your watch and the Chief Steward's and also allows your horse to relax in the vetting area prior to having its pulse taken.

## **VETTING AFTER THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LEG**

- Your horse's log book will be ready for you at the Vetting Area.
- The vet check during the ride is exactly the same as the pre ride vet check, except that your pulse rate must be 55bpm and under.
- You will only be allowed to continue in the ride if your horse successfully passes this vet check.
- Take your horse back to its yard and allow it to eat, drink and relax before going out on the next leg.
- Make sure your horse has access to good clean water, fresh dampened hay and good feed that the horse will enjoy. Some horses will eat "their heads off" for the whole 30 minutes, others will be content just to pick at some hay.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> & SUBSEQUENT LEGS**

- After you have vetted through the 1<sup>st</sup> leg, you might for many reasons, decide to retire from the ride. You must advise the Chief Steward that you wish to retire.
- You do not have to go back out onto the next leg right on time. However, you are in your own riding time if you decide to stay in camp longer.
- Some riders give their horses electrolytes just prior to going out on the next leg. This is a personal decision. Talk to experienced riders regarding this topic and base your decisions on what suits your speed of riding and horse.
- Ideally, have a clean saddle cloth for each leg of the ride and have it ready to put on so you can saddle quietly and efficiently.
- When you are ready to go back out on course, return to the timing desk and call out your number and you will be checked out onto the next leg of the course. Do not just go out on the next leg without being officially cleared to leave the ride base.

## END OF THE RIDE

- Upon arrival back at the ride base, proceed to the timing desk and you will be given another time slip that will show your time to vet, which, again, will be 30 minutes after your arrival. Again, you may be able to vet early, depending on how the ride committee organises the ride.
- Repeat the strapping procedures of the 1<sup>st</sup> leg and proceed to the vetting area, as for the 1<sup>st</sup> Leg.
- The vet check during the ride is exactly the same as the 1<sup>st</sup> Leg vet check, except that the pulse rate must be now be 60bpm and under.
- You will have completed the ride if your horse passes the final vet check. If it fails this vet check, it is considered a “Vet Out”. This happens to every rider in the sport, so take it with good grace and accept it as part of the criteria of being involved in a competitive long distance horse sport.
- Take your horse back to its yard and allow it to eat, drink and relax before your trip home.
- Make sure your horse has access to good clean water, fresh dampened hay and good feed that the horse will enjoy. Again, some horses will eat “their heads off” whilst others will be content just to pick at some hay, until they relax. Every horse is different as are their requirements and eating habits.
- There will be Presentation ceremony after the last rider has vetted. This is a nice time to thank the ride organisers and to celebrate your completion.
- If you wish to leave prior to the presentations, depending on how busy the Ride Secretary is, he/she will either give you your logbook, once it has been signed off by the Head Vet or will post it to you. If you know you will need to leave early, have a self-addressed postage paid envelope available for this purpose.



## SUMMARY OF AERA (AUSTRALIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOC) RIDER & HORSE QUALIFICATIONS

Novice Horse	Endurance Horse	Novice Rider	Endurance Rider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has not completed 3xaffiliated endurance rides</li>   <li>• If intending to enter an endurance ride (ie 80km ore more) must have a Novice Horse logbook</li>   <li>• May enter a training or social ride using a pink vet card.</li>   <li>• Must not exceed 14kmp (or novice speed set by the Ride Ctee) at any affiliated event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has successfully completed 3xaffiliated endurance rides</li>   <li>• Has an Endurance Horse logbook which has the appropriate ID forms, registrations, etc completed.</li>   <li>• Must use its logbook at all endurance events, including social, training &amp; endurance rides.</li>   <li>• Is not restricted by speed, unless being ridden by a Novice Rider in any affiliated event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has not completed 2xaffiliated training rides &amp; 3 x affiliated endurance rides.</li>   <li>• To enter a social or training ride, may do so using Day Membership</li>   <li>• To enter an endurance ride (ie 80km or more) must be a full Member &amp; have completed 2xtraining rides.</li>   <li>• Must not exceed 14kmp (or novice speed set by the Ride Ctee) at any affiliated event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has completed 2xaffiliated training rides &amp; 3 x affiliated endurance rides.</li>   <li>• Has applied for &amp; received endurance status from the State endurance body in the State in which they reside.</li>   <li>• Is not restricted by speed, unless the rider is riding a Novice Horse in any affiliated event.</li> </ul>

## AERA VET GATE INTO HOLD (VGIH) & FEI RIDES

- ***Before attempting a VGIH Ride or FEI ride, it is advisable to attend a ride as an observer or even as a strapper to understand the differences between standard AERA vetting and VGIH vetting. It is also strongly advised that competitors make themselves totally familiar with VGIH rules and regulations for AERA and the current FEI rules.***
- Please note when entering an **FEI event** there are requirements for both horse and rider above and beyond what is required to enter an AERA VGIH ride. As at the date of writing, these requirements include –
  - Completing an Application for FEI Registration of Horses and/or Rider.
  - Both horse and rider must have AERA endurance status (ie not novice)
  - Understanding of the “Star” rating system for FEI

Information regarding FEI rules and requirements can be found on the NSWERA website at [www.nswera.asn.au](http://www.nswera.asn.au).

- At an AERA ride run under VGIH, all administrative requirements remain standard, ie member status, logbooks, etc. The only thing that changes is the vetting procedures of the ride.
- Pre ride vetting will be the same as at all affiliated endurance events.
- After the horse completes a leg of the ride, the arrival time will be recorded on a time slip. In rides less than 119kms the horse has up to 20 minutes to present to the Vets after this arrival time. In rides 120kms and over, the horse has up to 30 minutes to present to the Vets after this arrival time.
- After receiving a time slip (and sometimes the logbook as well), the horse proceeds to either a communal strapping area that adjoins the vetting area, or it may return to its camp to be strapped.
- *At the time of writing the pulse rate at an AERA event is 60bpm. However, from 2010 if an AERA Ride is run in conjunction with an FEI event, the same pulse rate and requirements for the FEI event will apply. At all FEI events the pulse rate is a standard 64bpm and under. Hold times vary depending on the length of the ride and will be advised at the pre ride talk or, in the case of FEI events, in the ride schedule.*
- Once you are happy with your horse’s pulse rate, you proceed to the vetting time line and call “Time” and your ride time will then stop. The important thing to remember is that until you call “Time”, your riding time is still accumulating.
- You then proceed to the vet for a vet check and if your horse successfully passes the vet check, it is taken back to its camp for the period of the hold time.
- This process is repeated for all legs, except for the end of the ride when the riding time stops as soon as you cross the finish line and you have up to 30 minutes to present to the vets. The important thing to remember at this time is that you only have one chance and if your pulse rate is over the required rate, it is an automatic “vet out”.

