



NSW ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Endurance forum 2020

Session 1: Endurance – Starting Out

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Floating – Getting to your ride safely

Notes by Kylie Jonkers

Make sure the combination of vehicle (including power assisted brakes, tow bar and ball) and float meet the legal towing requirements for the load you are carrying. Have a good idea of the weight of your load - number of horses and gear, and how it is distributed. Stand back from your car and float - you want it to look level, not a “v” shape with all the weight on the tow ball making the car light in the front and affecting the steering. (There are many public weighbridges you can use to weigh your loaded vehicle). Put heaviest horse on drivers side (top camber), vehicle more stable and rides corners better. For angle load floats, put the heaviest horse over your axle. Ensure the vehicle and float are regularly serviced and the float lights are working.

Ensure he is comfortable with leg boots/tail bandages and other horses before loading for the first time.

Make sure your horse is comfortable being floated for 2 – 3 hours, and be aware of the temperature in the float if the float is totally enclosed. Ensure plenty of air flow, but be aware of a tired horse getting cold on the way home, keep him cosy. Dusty roads may need the back cover open to stop the dust from sucking in – go for a trial run. Plan where you can stop and rest - take your horse off the float for a pee/drink after 4 – 4 1/2 hours.

Hay bags – Depends on length of trip and experience. Make sure the horse can get his head down to cough.

If changing floats from a straight load to angle load or truck (or vice versa), take your horse for a few trips before to ensure he manages the change. To help horses load on a truck, try and make the ramp less steep.

Learn how do drive on a quite road with an empty float, practice reversing. Slow and steady.

Membership – Do I need to join NSWERA?

You can be a member of a Zone if you wish, however, you will still require some form of Membership (Day, Intermediate or Full) to NSWERA to enter any ride (or whatever State ERA you reside in).

Day membership -

To take part in an Introductory (1 - 30km), Intermediate (40- 60km) or micro-marathon (min 3 x 15k/day) ride you only need to take out Day Membership and sign a Day Membership Waiver at the event.

This membership does not entitle you to vote at the NSW AGM.

Intermediate membership –

This enables you to take part in unlimited introductory rides (1 - 30k), intermediate rides (40 - 60k), micro (min 3 x 15k) and mini-marathons (min 3 x 40k) without paying day membership for each ride. The Secretariat will issue you with an **Introductory and Intermediate Rides Only** card.

This membership does not entitle you to vote at the NSW AGM, but you can participate in the Intermediate Distance Award.

Both day members and intermediate members are also eligible for the Step Up Program.

Full Riding membership –

Caters for Senior and Junior members. This enables you to take part in all rides, subject to age and novice requirements. You will also have full voting rights at the NSW AGM.

You are a Novice Rider (issued with a Blue Novice Membership Card) until you successfully complete 3 Endurance rides (3 rides of 80k to 120k) and apply for a Full (Yellow Card) Membership. Refer to the Rulebook to meet this criteria.

Rider age

Riders under 18 in the year of the ride will need to have the Parent/Guardian present and the Person Responsible sections of the entry form filled out.

The rider must be at least 4 years of age to attempt an Introductory ride and must be accompanied by at least 1 adult pedestrian.

For other rides the minimum age is 5 years of age.

The rider must be 10 years of age to ride unaccompanied by an adult, and be 18 years of age to ride a stallion.

Horse Eligibility

Horses entering Introductory (1km – 30km), Intermediate (40km – 60km) and Micro-marathon rides (at least 3 days of 15km/day) need to meet the minimum age **and** dentition requirements. If no logbook has been issued for that horse, the date of birth shall be that date verbally advised by the handler. Failure to satisfy both criteria shall render the horse ineligible to enter that particular ride.

- Introductory ride - 3 ½ years. Must show the central incisor teeth erupted and in full wear with the middle incisors erupted but need not be in wear.
- Intermediate and Micro-marathon rides - 4 ½ years. Must show a full mouth of permanent teeth erupted but the corner incisors need not be in wear.
- Mini-marathon rides - 5 years Must show a full mouth of permanent teeth erupted and the permanent incisors are in wear. A logbook is required.

If you do not have a logbook, you will be given a “Vet Card” when you enter.

All Introductory, Intermediate, Micro and Mini Marathon rides are subject to speed and heart rate restrictions regardless of Horse or Rider status.

The horse must have a Novice (often called a Blue Logbook) Logbook to enter an 870-120km ride, and is deemed a Novice until 3 Endurance rides (3 rides of 80k to 120k) are successfully completed and apply for an Endurance (Yellow) Logbook.

The rider and horse both have to meet Endurance requirements to compete unrestricted in an Endurance Ride of over 80km.

Refer to the Rulebook for further information on requirements for horses to apply for a logbook and be eligible for longer rides.

Entering a Ride - Pre-nomination

All rides held in NSW are advertised on the NSWERA Newsletter or website under “Calendar” or have their own website or FB page. The ride preview will give the details of the ride, such as ride distances, start time contacts, directions, Horse Health Declarations (HHD), canteen, facilities, fires and firewood, camping fee, if dogs are allowed (must be restrained at **ALL** times) and track description. It will also indicate when pre-nominations open and close and with what online entry vendor, either Manehub or Trybooking. Payment will be done online too due to Covid 19.

This allows ROCs to have an accurate idea of rider numbers so they can plan and budget accordingly to -

- Ensure adequate facilities i.e. portaloos, catering etc.,
- Have the correct vet/horse ratio,
- Allow the ROC to send out information to entered riders directly e.g. entry, day membership and biosecurity (HHD) forms
- Allow better biosecurity planning and

- Allow some information to be pre-entered on the ride computer, thus only requiring signatures on entry facilitating a faster entry process on the day.

Horse Health Declarations require the temperature of your horse to be taken for either 3 or 10 days, depending on what area of the state you are from. The temperature should be taken at the same time each day (ideally) and this is good practice for the horse when he has his temperature taken for vetting at the ride. Download the form from the link and record the temperature. Ensure your Property Identification Code (PIC) number is quoted. You must have your HHD form with you when you enter the ride base as they can be taken at the entry gate or at the ride office – no form, no pic no - no entry. Don't forget to fill out the Trainer Declaration.

Note - Buy a thermometer - the rapid read takes 15sec and some have a rubbery tip not hard, should be between 37.5 and 38.5. Obviously do not bring a sick horse.

If your horse is going in a float not with you, ensure the HHD accompanies the horse. If a companion horse is going with you, he needs a HHD too.

Most forms are sent to you when you nominate, so please make sure you download them and fill them in to take with you to the ride.

If you have pre-nominated and are consequently unable to attend, the ROC should refund most of your entry fee, depending on when you notified them.

Packing for the ride, setting up camp and preparing for your first ride is in the next session.

Horse Containment – Yards, securing your horse

It is a good idea to get your horse used to whatever containment system you wish to use at home first, whether it be electric tape or metal yards. Think about where/how you want to attach it to your float, is the yard big enough for a 2/3 night stay, weather/shade etc. Ensure you have fresh batteries in the charger before packing.

From the Rulebook -

54.1 The person responsible for a horse has a duty of care to all other persons to ensure their horse(s) are contained at all times. A competent responsible person must supervise horse(s) at all times when horse(s) are in the horse yard.

54.2 The preferred method of horse containment are metal yards, substantially fixed to a solid object such as a horse float, truck or permanent fence or appropriately pegged into the ground. Alternatively, electric fencing is permitted, but shall as a minimum, have 2 strands of tape, preferably white and a minimum of 1cm wide, with the top tape to be 1.2 to 1.4 metres above the ground. The posts used should be of substantial material (steel pickets) and installed so that the tape does not sag. The fence shall be energized at all times the horse is in the yard.

54.3 Only one horse is permitted per enclosure.

54.4 Ground tethering or the hobbling of horses is not permitted.

The step-in posts can be used instead of star pickets, as long as you can get 2 strands in. May need to use a step-ins between the star pickets to keep the tension.

A 4 x 4 m yard (there is no minimum size) is a good size for a weekend, big enough for them to lay down and roll, one corner for wee, one for food and water. Have them the same side as your awning so you sit and watch them. Make sure your gate is safe to get in and out. Practice at home beforehand – perhaps after a good workout and or have an experienced buddy nearby. The first zap can be shock. Tuff tubs are good for water and soft and so avoid injury. Make your yard as safe as can be. Think about how close your horse is going to another camp, especially if one is a stallion.

Steel yards need to be secured to something sturdy – often star pickets are used to attach the steel panels to ensure the yard is sturdy.

Volunteering – A great way to meet experienced people and learn how a ride works

Notes by Faith Robinson

The ride has the following structure –

Ride Secretary,

Ride Organiser (RO) and

Ride Base Co-ordinator (often the same as the RO). Some big rides have a volunteer co-ordinator. These are the people that will give you a job depending on what you can do and or what help is required.

The Chief Steward is the person responsible for the control of the event while the ride base is open.

To prepare for a ride takes track clearing and marking (putting up markers every 100m or so on each leg, marking corners and hazards clearly), setting up the ride base (putting up gazebos/tents, putting out water on track, putting out water cubes around ride base for use), cleaning the amenities and stocking loo paper), setting up the TPR and vetting area. Then setting up for ride entries etc. Ride day requires people to sit on gates (can be early in the morning!), cattle grids, checkpoints, time keepers, Temperature Pulse and Respiration Stewards (TPRs), runners for the logbook/card as these need to go to the time keepers tent to have the arrival time put on them, then they go to the TPR area ready for TPRing/vetting, then from there back to the office for recording on the ride computer. Penciling for the vets is also another job – you learn a lot about horse management and health. After the ride, you then have to pack up and demark, get water tubs, pull down tents and so on. If you wish to volunteer, try doing it first without a horse, so you can see how everything works, and you get to meet a lot of good people. Have a day out with a friend sitting on a gate. And we have volunteer draws 4 times a year!!

We all enjoy our sport. We pride ourselves on the openness and friendliness we show as riders to newcomers, and as Ride Organisers (ROs) to riders (old and new) and to our volunteers. This comradery is obvious, especially when waiting around a campfire for riders at the end of a wet and cold day. This goodwill has given the RO's the extra hands and assistance needed in setting up

and running events. However, over the last few years as ride requirements need more people to assist in the event organization, and as people are becoming time poor, it is getting harder to adequately source the assistance needed to deliver a quality event. Our ride committees are getting smaller and individuals are continually putting in ever increasing efforts. Some committees cannot sustain this and have just given up.

Everyone associated with our sport, can (and should) volunteer at their local ride at least. All riders, particularly new comers, will benefit from learning what goes on “behind the scenes”, such as penciling for vets (learning how the metabolics are interpreted, looking at trot outs etc.), timekeeping and marking the course. They get to see how horses are managed (strapping, tack used, shoeing or barefoot etc.) and why. They also get an understanding of how the not so obvious rules apply. They also get to meet other riders and form lifelong friendships.

Often riders have friends or family that just like getting out in the country and could assist at checkpoints, put water out/mark/demark the course or just generally help (running logbooks to the vets/office, ensuring the loo paper is stocked up etc.). When offering to help at a ride, let the ROs know what you can do, or what you would like to do, and how much time you can give. For some tasks, you will be paired with an experienced person to teach you, such as time keeping, weighing etc. If your horse is spelling, consider accompanying a friend and assisting at a nearby ride for the weekend.

So, these volunteers are the people that are doing a lot of the heavy lifting in supporting our sport. While the immediate ROC usually comprises of riding members, they do rely on quite a number that aren't. It is up to **all** of us to make an effort and help where we can, after all, many hands make light work. In appreciation for the efforts of the volunteers, the NSWERA SMC have a Volunteers Draw – 3 x \$50 fuel vouchers every 4 months.

Resources

- AERA Rulebook - <http://aera.asn.au/national-rules/>
- AERA Forms <http://aera.asn.au/forms-page/>
 - 3 day HHD - For horses with current Hendra Virus vaccination or horses travelling from a property of origin outside any known Hendra Risk Zone.
 - 10day HHD - For horses without current Hendra Virus vaccination travelling from a property of origin within a known Hendra Risk Zone.
 - Form 35 Horse Trainer
 - Form 36 Junior Rider Parent/Guardian Declaration
- NSWERA Forms <https://nswera.asn.au/forms/riders.html>
 - Membership
 - Personal Accident Insurance
 - Ride Entry
 - Day Member – Waiver

- Property Information Code number
 - FAQs –
<https://www.lis.nsw.gov.au/i-want-to/apply-for-a-property-identification-code/property-identification-codes-faqs>
 - PIC application -
https://www.lis.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/503123/Property-Identification-Code-Application-1-1.pdf