
CHAPTER 15: COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDES

All AHA programs and events deadlines must be met as specified, whether submitted by postal service, fax, e-mail, internet or other electronic means.

A Competitive Trail Ride (CTR) is a timed, judged event in which a horse and rider compete over a marked trail within a specific period of time. Experienced veterinarians judge the horse on condition, soundness, and manners. Judging begins in camp at the first pre-ride check-in and continues throughout the event.

ARTICLE 1501. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

For Membership requirements refer to Chapter 7.

ARTICLE 1502. AWARDS.

National, Regional Championship and AHA Recognized Competitive Trail Ride participants may earn mileage towards qualifications and distance awards, as well as points in the AHA Horse and Amateur Achievement Award programs. Sweepstakes prize money is available for qualified winners at the National and Regional Championship Rides.

ARTICLE 1503. ADMINISTRATION.

National Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Championship Competitive Trail Rides must be conducted pursuant to rules adopted by the Competitive Trail Ride Committee and the AHA Board of Directors.

1. The Competitive Trail Ride Committee shall elect a sub committee called Competitive Trail Ride Sub-Committee which has the function of handling and resolving protests and formal complaints. They will be instrumental in supporting the annual National Championship Competitive Trail Ride. The Competitive Trail Ride Sub-Committee shall consist of the Competitive Trail Ride Committee Chair and four members elected for two-year staggered terms. Two shall be elected annually for a term of two years. No member shall be elected for more than two consecutive terms.
 - a. Eligibility guidelines for Competitive Trail Ride Sub-Committee selection are:
 1. Be a current member of AHA and a National representative for the Competitive Trail Ride Committee.
 2. When the National representatives are elected resumes of interested National representatives will be accepted by the Competitive Trail Ride Committee Chair, for the Competitive Trail Ride Subcommittee. Ballots will then be sent to each National representative for their vote, these positions will be filled from the results of these ballots.
 3. Be a current approved Competitive Trail Ride Steward, and either a current AHA trail competitor or trail manager.
 4. Be willing to serve a two-year term.
 5. Be willing to help at the National Championship Ride.
 6. Be willing to head a sub committee.
 - b. The National Committee Chair may appoint a committee member to fill a vacancy in the Sub-Committee until the next election.
2. The National Championship Competitive Trail Ride dates and location must be recognized by the AHA Competitive Trail Ride Committee and the AHA Board of Directors.
3. The National Championship Competitive Trail Ride may be directly sponsored by AHA or may be assigned to the sponsorship of an AHA region, club, individual, or trail riding organization.
4. The sponsor (AHA) of the ride shall pay all expenses, furnish all facilities and personnel, and receive all entry fees and other income deemed feasible by AHA. The ride sponsor should communicate and coordinate ride activities such as judge's selections, awards, budget, etc., with the AHA Competitive Trail Ride Committee Chair.
5. It shall be the duty of the AHA Board of Directors and the Competitive Trail Ride Committee to assure that appropriate awards are presented to the

Champions, Reserve Champions, Top Ten Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian, all finishers and the Highest Scoring Horse of the National Championship Competitive Trail Ride. These awards should be equivalent to National Championship Performance Horse awards.

6. A fee of \$3-15 per horse entered in AHA Recognized events with the per horse fee to be reviewed annually beginning in 1993 by the Board of Directors. The initial fee structure is \$15 per horse entered in either the U.S. or Canadian National Championships, \$10 at the Regional, and \$3 for all other competitions. Any recognized competition that has had 100 horses or fewer in the two prior years will be exempt from this assessment. Note: Most competitive trail rides are exempt from this requirement since generally fewer than 100 horses are in the AHA portion of the event. (Res. 9-90) (Res. 53-95)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE

ARTICLE 1504. RIDE OFFICIALS.

The ride manager must complete a recognition application form and send it to AHA at least 90 days prior to the National CTR. They must designate personnel to conduct the ride in accordance with the AHA Rules. A person may have more than one ride official position (e.g., the manager might also be the trail master). The judge and steward may not be members of the same immediate family.

1. Ride Management Committee. The Ride Management Committee shall consist of the Manager, Secretary and Trail Master. It is the duty of this committee to ensure that the ride is conducted and run in accordance with all applicable rules.
2. Judges. The ride must have veterinary judges with distance riding judging experience. One judge (BOD 8/02) must reside a minimum of 500 miles from the ride site. All judges are required to score and judge the ride in accordance with the AHA Competitive Trail Ride rules. It is recommended that the ride have two vet judges for the first 50 horses and one additional vet judge for every additional 25 horses.
3. Steward. The steward will be selected from the recognized AHA Competitive Trail Ride Stewards list. The steward should be available to the judges, competitors, management and staff at all times and shall interpret and explain the applicable rules of the ride when requested to do so. Other duties shall be, protecting the interest of competitors, judges and management; investigating and acting upon any alleged rule violations; and pointing out in a diplomatic manner any instance where applicable rules are not being enforced. The steward must file a written report to AHA within 15 days of the event with a copy to the AHA Competitive Trail Ride Committee Chair and Ride Manager.
4. Manager. The Manager is responsible for the conduct of the ride in accordance with all applicable rules and that each of the ride personnel is doing his/her job. It is the manager's responsibility to have emergency treatment equipment available at camp and all checkpoints. The Ride Manager must send a written report on the ride to AHA within 15 days of the ride with a copy to the AHA Competitive Trail Ride Committee Chair. The report should include pertinent data such as ride participation, problems encountered, solutions, and other items which could help to increase the integrity of the next ride. The manager will ensure that the judge is familiar with the AHA rules and score cards. The Ride manager must be a current member of AHA.
5. Secretary. Sends out entry forms, receives and acknowledges entries, and ensures that horses and riders are qualified. This person is responsible for initial information on score card (rider's name, horse, etc.), supervising the score tallying and placing of horses. The secretary must send the original copies of score cards, the Ride Results Report, and other necessary paper work to AHA within 15 days after the ride. This paperwork should be sent by certified mail For Ride Results Reporting, refer to Article 1132., 1517.
6. Timer. Must keep accurate records of starting and finishing times of all contestants and report any early or late finishers to the judges. A pulse timer must also keep an accurate record of the vet check times.
7. Trail Master. Shall plan, measure, and mark the official trail.
8. Judge's Recording Secretary. Assigned to a judge to quickly, quietly, and accurately record all pertinent data involved in the judging. Since this material significantly influences final scoring and point assignment, well organized,

accurate, and legible records are indispensable. The work begins with the pre-ride exam and ends only after the score cards have been tallied.

9. Tabulator. Tabulates the score cards including pulse penalties and manners deductions. These scores may be tabulated by the secretary but may be processed quicker and checked by separate tabulators.
10. Pulse Captain. Recruit, instruct, and organize all pulse teams and ensure that they are competent, efficient, and accurate in their findings and recordings. Pulse crews must use a 15-second count using stethoscopes or management-provided hand-held heart monitors. At any given pulse check, the same type of instrument (either stethoscope or heart monitor) must be used on all horses.
11. Farrier. A farrier must be available during the ride.
12. Safety/Drag Riders. One or more riders or a vehicle must follow the competitors on the trail to assist any horse or rider in the event of an emergency. Local radio, CB, and REACT clubs may be used to coordinate with management and safety riders to ensure complete ride safety coverage.
13. Ride Publicity Chair. This person shall coordinate publicity with the Communications Department. This position takes creativity, dedication, and hard work. It starts several months before the ride, continues through the event, and ends with ride coverage being sent to appropriate publications. A ride photographer is an important asset to publicity.
14. Rider must:
 - a. Not be an immediate member of judge's or steward's family.
 - b. Not be working in an official capacity for the ride as listed in Article 1504. with the exception of Article 1504.13., the ride publicity chair.

ARTICLE 1505. RIDE REQUIREMENTS.

1. The ride must be an accurately measured distance.
2. The distance shall be between 65 and 100 miles divided between two days of competition or 100 to 120 miles divided between three days of competition.
3. The ride must have a steward selected from the Competitive Trail Ride Stewards list. (Contact the AHA office.)
4. The ride brochure must include:
 - a. The name of the ride.
 - b. Date.
 - c. Location.
 - d. Names of the judges, if available.
 - e. Name of the steward, if available.
 - f. List of awards to be presented.
 - g. A liability clause to be signed by all entrants and volunteers. (a copy of which may be obtained by writing AHA.)
 - h. Provision for protest. (Refer to Article 1514.1.a.)
 - i. A statement regarding availability of feed.
 - j. Reference to ride rules and scoring system in the AHA Handbook.
 - k. A short description of the ride: days, miles, terrain, weather, and facility.
 - l. Type of stabling available.
5. Entrants must be qualified. (Refer to Article 1722., 1733.)
6. Entry form will provide a place to list qualifying ride(s) and the name of the sanctioning organization, and include the AHA liability clause and the statement "The rider and owner have read and will abide by the AHA rules."
7. The ride will be judged and scored using AHA score cards.
8. There will be two divisions offered: Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian.
9. The ten highest scoring horses in each division will be listed as National Top Ten winners. The top scoring horse in each division shall be named National Champion, and the second high scoring horse shall be named National Reserve Champion.
10. If fewer than 20 entries start the ride in a division (must have passed the pre-ride vet check), only enough Top Ten awards will be made to total 50% of the

division. (e.g., a ride division consisting of 13 entries would place seven Top Ten awards including the Champion and Reserve Champion.)

11. In addition, the Competitive Trail Ride Committee and/or ride sponsor may elect to offer special awards such as High Point Junior Rider, Horsemanship, Sportsmanship, High Point Gelding, etc.

ARTICLE 1506. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

For horse and rider eligibility & qualifications refer to Article 1722.

1. The Competitive Trail Ride committee Chair shall not enter the National Championship Ride, unless the Chair makes arrangements for other committee members to provide the following normal Chair functions: selection and approval of the ride judges, selection and approval of the ride steward, selection and approval of the ride course, and chairing the Protest Hearing Sub-Committee while the committee hears any National Ride Protest.
2. Junior Rider Definition and Sponsor Rule.
 - a. A Junior is an individual who has not reached his/her 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competitive year.
 - b. All juniors are required to wear protective head gear, securely fastened while mounted.
 - c. Juniors are not allowed to ride stallions.
 - d. Junior riders may participate in a ride only with the written consent of a parent or guardian on their entry form.
 - e. A Junior under the age of 16 must ride with a sponsor. The sponsor must be a competent adult (21 years or over) and must be duly entered as a competitor in the event and sponsorship must be documented on the junior's entry form, complete with the sponsor's signature. Junior and sponsor may suspend their sponsorship agreement only at a regular stated check point and then only with the knowledge and written consent of ride management.
 1. Sponsorship may change between check points only in the event that either the junior's or sponsor's mount is unable to continue safely to a check point. Ride management must be notified at the next check point and written ride management approval is required for the junior to continue with a new sponsor. Junior and sponsor will ride together at all times, including entering and leaving all vet checks/judging areas at the same time; the only exception being that at the finish a junior may finish within the same minute or within one minute on either side of the sponsor's finishing minute.
 2. In the event of an emergency, in order to remain in competition the sponsor and junior must remain together until another sponsor is secured.
 3. Infraction of the sponsorship shall result in the sponsor and/or the junior being disqualified.

APPROVED COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE ORGANIZATIONS

3. Approved Competitive Trail Ride Organizations. Only Competitive Trail Ride competitions conducted by organizations designated in this Article may be used to qualify for AHA recognized events and AHA awards.
 - a. Organizations may be approved permanently or on a one year provisional basis. Organizations on provisional approval will be reviewed at the next annual convention and may be placed on provisional status again, rejected or given permanent approval at the option of the committee. Only the Competitive Trail Ride Committee may grant permanent approval to a Competitive Trail Ride organization. Provisional approval may be granted by the Committee, its Chair or the President of AHA. Organizations previously given permanent approval may be reviewed by the committee and deleted or changed to provisional status for cause.
 - b. Any organization which is rejected for AHA approval or placed on provisional status must be sent a letter so stating with a brief

explanation of the reason. This does not apply to organizations placed on provisional status by the Chair or AHA President until the next committee meeting.

- c. Reasons to reject or only provisionally approve a group include:
 1. Failure to hold events which are recognizable as CTR.
 2. Failure to adhere to the group's own stated rules.
 3. Serious instability of the organization.
 4. Concerns about humane treatment or safety.
 5. Existence of the organization for fewer than twelve months or a history of fewer than five rides conducted to date.
 6. Marked differences between the organization and AHA regarding one or more CTR.
 7. Actions deemed deleterious to AHA or the distance riding sports.
- d. Organizations may be placed before the CTR Committee for consideration for AHA approval by any AHA member or directly by CTR sponsoring groups. No fee is required for consideration or approval. In order to be considered the following information will be provided:
 1. Name and address of organization.
 2. Key contact person.
 3. E-mail address and Fax number if applicable.
 4. Current rules.
 5. Score Card.
 6. Current Ride Schedule.
- e. CTR organizations approved for the purposes of this chapter are:
 1. Arabian Horse Association
 2. Arabian Horse Distance Riding Association
 3. Biltmore Estate Equestrian Center
 4. Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association
 5. Great Lakes Distance Riding Association
 6. Hooves & Company Distance Riders
 7. Indiana Arabian Horse Club Distance Program
 8. Manitoba Trail Riding Club
 9. Middle of the Trail Distance Riding Association (MOTDRA)
 10. North American Trail Ride Conference
 11. Ohio Arabian and All Breed Trail Society
 12. Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association
 13. Saskatchewan Long Riders
 14. Southeastern Distance Riders Association
 15. Upper Midwest Endurance & Competitive Riders Association
- f. Approval by AHA should not be mistaken for endorsement of a group. Non-approval does not mean disapproval of a group but indicates that their events are not appropriate.
- g. This list of approved CTR organizations shall be reviewed and updated each year.

ARTICLE 1507. MANAGEMENT OF RIDES.

1. Management will provide adequate trail supervision by vehicle and/or horseback for the safety of horses and riders. Horse and rider shall be clearly identified for the duration of the competition with matching numbers clearly visible at all times. A satisfactory method utilizes bibs, halter tags, hip markings, etc.
2. The course will be natural and native to the local terrain. The horse may not be asked to do anything an intelligent, well-trained horse would not do.
3. Trail markings will be distinct and obvious to the riders. Adequate trail markings may vary according to the locale. The use of lime, paint, and ribbons is very effective in marking trails. Markings should have a strong contrast to the background to assist the color-blind. Silver colored, anti-bird ribbon has been found particularly effective.

4. Arrangements must be made for transporting the judges so that they can observe all the horses and riders at strategic points along the trail.
5. The Ride Management Committee may make alterations to advertised criteria if trail and/or weather conditions warrant it. Any changes will be announced prior to the day's ride or be announced at any point on the trail as long as they apply equally to all riders.
6. Management may provide water for drinking or sponging along the trail or at rest/vet checks where natural water is not available. However, care should be taken to ensure that the quantity of water is equal for all (e.g., one bucket per entrant). Management may limit sponging when water is scarce. No hoses will be allowed. (BOD 8/03)
7. Management may transport buckets, blankets, etc., to a vet check or lunch stop if the situation warrants. However, this will be announced at the rider's briefing and be done equally for all riders.
8. The Ride Management Committee must set the precise ride time for completing the course each day. (Refer to Article 1510.9)
9. The ride speed must average between 4 and 7 mph. However, the time must be of sufficient speed and challenge to allow for stress factors to be utilized in judging.
10. The ride speed/time must be announced publicly to all riders prior to the day's ride.
11. Management must be prepared to handle medical emergencies for both horse and rider if they arise.

ARTICLE 1508. RIDERS MEETINGS.

1. A riders meeting must be held each evening prior to the start of the next day's ride to brief riders on the course, trail markings, available water, etc.
2. Judges must discuss the judging methods and procedures.
3. Judges must set and announce the pulse release parameters prior to the start of each day.
4. Rules of trail etiquette and trail safety must be explained.
5. Riders must be given maps and a schedule of estimated times and/or distances and elevations for various points on the ride.
6. Riders are responsible for the information given.

ARTICLE 1509. HANDLING, CARE, AND STABLING.

1. Horses may be shod. The type of shoe and/or use of pads is up to the discretion of the rider. Easy boots are considered a type of shoe.
2. Any type of humane tack is permissible.
3. Splint boots or protective bandages are prohibited.
4. No medicine, ice, or drugs (brace, etc.) of any kind may be administered. If a horse enters a ride with a pre-existing injury, and/or receives an injury during the ride, the injury may be covered with a topical medication after the official ride veterinarian has seen the uncovered injury and determined that participation in the ride will not cause additional damage. The injury and medication used must not affect the performance of the animal. (BOD 8/03)
5. Salt supplements, electrolytes, and vitamins administered via water, feed, or oral syringe are permissible. Fly spray is also permissible. Administration of any of these by injection, stomach tube, or rectal leavage is prohibited.
6. Horses need not be tied all night. If the horse is walked, moved, or attended to, it is the contestant's responsibility.
7. During the competition, all riders are required to care for their own mounts, except for having a horse held during a rest break. Other care or assistance in the care and grooming of mounts is prohibited. In the case of a physically handicapped person, the judges and management may make an adjustment to suit that particular handicap. Age is not to be considered a handicap. In the interest of safety it is recommended that all junior riders have their horses' girths checked by an adult.
8. There will be no pit crews for the horses.
9. The use and choice of feed is at the discretion of the rider.
10. Whips must not be carried in hand during the pre or post ride exams.

11. It shall be the responsibility of each contestant to ensure that his/her horse has not been administered any drug which may alter the horse's performance within 72 hours of the pre-ride examination.
12. Stallions will be flagged with a yellow ribbon in the forelock and tail and kickers will be flagged with red ribbons.

ARTICLE 1510. ON THE TRAIL.

1. The horse and rider may travel at their own pace on the trail. Riders must be given maps and a schedule with all pulse locations, estimated times and/or distances and elevations for various points on the ride.
2. Each rider shall be responsible for his/her own time.
3. Riders must remain in the saddle when the horse is in forward motion over the course, but may dismount and rest themselves and the horse at any time, provided they do not advance.
4. At any location designated by the trail master as hazardous, riders may be instructed to dismount and proceed on foot for a specified distance.
5. The same horse and rider must be maintained throughout the ride, pass all check points, and stay on the trail as marked. Should the rider become lost, s/he must return via horseback to that point at which s/he left the trail and then complete the trail as indicated.
6. Any team (horse and rider) disqualified from the competition while on the trail shall not advance on the trail, but shall be trailered from an accessible point to the base camp, unless permitted by the veterinarian or other disqualifying official to return on foot by the shortest possible route.
7. All items used on the trail by the contestant for the horse must be transported or carried by the same (i.e., feed, water, electrolytes, etc.) (Exception: refer to Article 1507.7.)
 - a. Except when provided by management, or carried by the horse and/or rider, only natural water is allowed for drinking and sponging along the trail.
 - b. Riders may carry water with them on the trail if they so desire. This water may be used at any time as the rider sees fit.
 - c. Water at the rest stops may be used in any fashion and at any time the rider sees fit. (Exception: refer to Article 1507.6.)
8. There must be a minimum of two Pulse checks per day of actual on-trail competition.
 - a. At pulse checks, either stethoscopes or hand held heart rate monitors (HRM) may be used, but these may not be mixed at any one check point. The 15-second stethoscope count is recorded on the rider's pulse card. Do not multiply by 4. The actual HRM count at 15 seconds is recorded on the pulse card. Do not divide by 4. Fractional points shall be deducted as indicated. NOTE: Tabulators must be advised as to which method is used at each check.
 - b. A rider may request and receive an immediate pulse recount at a check point. The second count shall be recorded and scored.
 - c. All horses must pass pulse parameters within 20 minutes. The initial pulse check will be taken 10 minutes after arrival. A horse that fails to pass pulse parameters must be held an additional 10 minutes for a recheck. Deduct an additional 5 points for each pulse hold. Failure to meet the pulse criteria at the second check (20 minutes) will result in disqualification.
 - d. If a horse is held for a second pulse check, the maximum and minimum riding time will be extended that additional 10 minutes.
9. Horses that fail to complete the ride in the specified time frame (precise ride time, plus or minus 15 minutes) will be eligible for completion awards and mileage credit only, provided they do not arrive earlier than 30 minutes prior to the minimum time or exceed the maximum time allowed by more than 30 minutes. This restriction applies to each day of a multiple day ride.

Precise ride time includes:

 - a. Actual riding time spent in forward motion on the trail.
 - b. Lunch break.
 - c. 15 minutes for each pulse check (to include the 10 minute pulse time and 5 minutes for dismounting, remounting, etc.).

- d. Specific time allowance for any other required stops on trail.

ARTICLE 1511. JUDGING PROCEDURES.

At any one judging location, each judge must judge the same items on every horse (e.g., one judge covers lameness while another covers metabolics).

1. Preliminary Judging. It is anticipated that preliminary judging will take place on the day before the beginning of the ride. Horses will stand quietly for a pre-ride exam. At this time, the judges are responsible for determining that the score card accurately describes the horse being judged as to name, age, sex, color, and division of competition. Also, the judge shall identify all marks and blemishes prior to the start of the ride, as well as make an evaluation of the horse's way of going. Any horse with a grade 3 lameness prior to the ride must not be allowed to start.
2. Start of Competition. For the purpose of scoring manners and soundness, the horse and rider shall be considered in competition from the moment that horse is presented to the judges for preliminary judging. For the purpose of scoring condition, the horse shall be considered in competition from the moment the first day's ride officially starts.
3. During the Competition. Horses can be stopped for a veterinary exam at any point during the ride. Except for pulse, these exams will not be scored. Horses that are not fit to continue may be removed from competition at this point. (BOD 8/02) There must be a minimum of two vet checks on the trail per day, only the values received at the end of the mileage for each day (i.e. all horses get scored at the same point AFTER the mileage has been covered) shall be used for scoring purposes. (BOD 8/02) Horses shall, at the judge's discretion be subject to morning and/or evening examinations.
4. End of Competition. All horses must pass mandatory rest stop examinations, and vet checks at the end of the ride each day. Competition continues until scores have been finalized and management announces scoring is completed.
 - a. In the event of tie scores judges shall break the tie by:
 1. Re-examination of score cards for:
 - a. Mathematical errors.
 - b. Comparing scored categories in the following priority:
 1. Metabolics.
 2. Pulse.
 3. Soundness
 4. Fatigue.
 5. Legs.
 6. Tack.
 7. Manners.
 - b. If placings are still unresolved, tied horses shall be re-examined.
 - c. All ties must be broken for Top Ten.

ARTICLE 1512. DISQUALIFICATION.

1. Any rider or owner who is in violation of these rules or deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the AHA, shall be subject to such penalty of official warning, disqualification or other sanctions which may be deemed appropriate by the judges and/or the Ride Management Committee.
2. Horse and rider must be at the starting line at the time designated by Ride Management on the day of the ride or be disqualified. (BOD 8/01)
3. A horse, its owner, and, its rider must be disqualified from the competition if said horse has been administered in any manner any stimulant, depressant, general pain killer, tranquilizers, drug, or local anesthetic which could affect the performance or well being of said horse. Some drugs while not in themselves illegal, do mask the presence of some illegal drugs. The presence of abnormally large amounts of these masking agents may subject a horse to the same penalty as if an illegal drug were found. Examples of masking agents include Vitamin B-1 (Thiamin), procaine penicillin, sulfa drugs, some worming preparations, and some diuretics. It shall be the responsibility of each contestant to ensure that his/her horse has not been administered any drug which may alter the horse's performance within 72

hours of the pre-ride examination. Random drug testing may be implemented by the vet/judge or ride management without notice.

4. Any action against a horse by an individual, which is deemed excessive by a judge, steward or Ride Management Committee anywhere on the competition grounds, or any act deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interests of AHA may subject the perpetrator to disqualification and being asked to leave the ride and/or other sanctions which may be deemed appropriate by the Ride Management Committee or AHA.
5. A horse and rider are considered a team and the disqualification of one automatically constitutes the disqualification of the other.
6. A horse shall be disqualified from further competition when it is determined by the judges and/or management that a rider has violated the rules to the extent that it would prevent comparative evaluation of the horse's performance.
7. Unruly or unmannerly horses which are a hazard on the trail or hard to examine may be disqualified or penalized as per Article 1513.1.g.
8. Horses which complete the ride more than 30 minutes prior to the minimum ride time or exceed the maximum ride time by more than 30 minutes will be disqualified. This restriction applies to each day of a multiple day ride.
9. Failure to meet the pulse criteria at the second check (20 minutes) must result in disqualification (Refer to Article 1510.8.c.)
10. All decisions of the judges as to disqualification or the suitability of the horse to continue are final.
11. The head of a pulse team or Ride Manager in the absence of the vet may pull any horse that fails to recover to release parameters or shows obvious signs of extreme stress to a point where it would be dangerous for the horse to continue the ride, or has an obvious injury or lameness that could become more severe or endanger the horse.

ARTICLE 1513. SCORING.

Contact the AHA Office for the current Competitive Trail Score Card.

Competitive trail horses are evaluated on the following criteria: soundness, condition, and manners. Although horsemanship, including the ability to negotiate obstacles found along the trail, is an integral part of how well a horse will perform, it will NOT be judged as part of the horse's score. When horsemanship is involved, it is to be judged and awarded separately from the horse's performance.

1. Scoring

- a. Pulse Recovery. Maximum penalty, 20 points per day. The base pulse is 11 (44/minute). The count must be taken for 15 seconds. Points will be deducted at a rate of one point for every beat over base. When pulse is taken with a hand-held heart monitor points will be deducted at a .25 (quarter) point increment. Base pulse is 44 (0 points), 45 (.25 points), 46 (.50 points), etc.
- b. Metabolics. Maximum penalty, 20 points per day. Base line for all metabolic categories is the pre-ride examination. The evaluation of metabolics shall include but not be limited to the following: dehydration, capillary refill, anal tone, muscle tone, gut sounds, azoturia, thumps, sweat and salivation, eating and drinking.
 1. Dehydration. Dehydration is determined by pinching the skin on the point of the shoulder and counting the seconds to return to normal. Scoring is based on 0-4 basis, one point is deducted for each second of increased return time. 0 = no dehydration, 4 = severe dehydration.
 2. Capillary Refill. This is measured by pressing the thumb against the upper gum of the horse and counting the seconds "up to four" for the color to return to normal. 0 = fewer than 1 second; 4 = 4 seconds or longer.
 3. Anal Tone. Graded as a change from the pre-ride exam.
 - a. Strong reflex.
 - b. Weak reflex.
 - c. Flaccid.
 4. Muscle Tone.

- a. Firm/warm/contracting.
- b. Cool/clammy.
- c. Cold/trembling.
- d. Rigid/spastic.

5. Gut Sounds.

- a. Strong both sides.
 - b. Moderate.
 - c. Slight both sides.
 - d. Slight one side.
 - e. No gut sounds.
- c. Tack Area, Maximum penalty, 10 points per day. Baseline for all tack area is the pre-ride examination.

Examination of those parts of the horse touched by actual riding equipment such as saddle, girth, head stall, breast plate, crupper, etc. The judge's attention should be directed toward injuries such as abrasions, hair missing, heat bumps, and muscle soreness. Points are deducted for increase of severity of pre-existing conditions or appearance of new ones. The profile of the horse on the back of the score card can be used at the pre ride exam to note any physical faults and referred to at the post-ride exam to make sure the horse is not penalized for something it checked in with.

- d. Legs. Maximum penalty, 15 points per day. Baseline for leg categories is the pre-ride exam.

This category covers any physical evidence of wear and tear or stress on the legs initiated or worsened during the event. The most common leg problems are windpuffs, swollen tendons, lower leg filling, scratches, joint swelling, sore splints, and interference marks. These conditions are best detected visually and by feeling. Stocking and swelling associated with the subcutaneous tissues need not be considered detrimental when found after an overnight layover if they regress after resuming activity. However, when stocking occurs during the course of the ride or does not regress after resuming activity, it should be considered significant. Use the profiles of the horse on the back of the score card to note and record any filling, abrasion, soreness, etc., at the pre-ride check. It is recommended to document any filling, abrasion, or soreness at this time. This is used for a post-ride reference and assures that the horse is not penalized for something it checked in with.

- e. Soundness. Maximum penalty, 15 points per day. All horses start sound for scoring.

Each horse shall be trotted for a minimum distance of 100 feet and circled both ways to determine soundness. Riders may be permitted to longe their horses for the circling phase of the in-hand trot inspection. Any horse determined by the judges to have a Grade 3 lameness according to the American Association of Equine Professional (AAEP) "Standards of Lameness" shall not be allowed to continue and will be disqualified. If a grade three lameness is found after crossing the finish line on final day, a horse may receive completion points only. The judges need to be very careful to score each horse as an individual and the horse should not be penalized for a "different" way of going. Soundness checks may be taken at any time during each day to determine a horse's ability to continue in the competition.

1. Grade 1-Difficult to observe. Lameness is a deviation from the normal gait or posture due to pain or mechanical dysfunction not consistently apparent regardless of circumstances (1-5 points).
2. Grade 2-Difficult to observe at a walk or trotting a straight line; consistently apparent under certain circumstances; e.g. hard surfaces, circles, etc. (6-15 points).
3. Grade 3-Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances. Completion Only if observed at end of ride. Disqualification if observed at any earlier point.
4. Grade 4-Obvious lameness, marked nodding, hitchy, or shortening of stride. Mandatory Disqualification at any point.

- f. Fatigue. Maximum penalty, 15 points per day. Baseline for fatigue is the pre-ride examination.

It is important at the pre-ride check to make note of the horse's way of going. This is in reference to impulsion, willingness, and coordination. Deductions for degree of changes/digressions in these areas will be deducted according to the score card.

- g. Manners. Maximum penalty 5 points per day.

The manners score can be utilized at any time. This is to allow for some deduction for the horse that is somewhat unruly, but is not disruptive enough to be removed from the ride. The horse should stand quietly for any examination. Manners judging is not to be used to evaluate the manner in which an obstacle is negotiated. However, behavior during the competition which is disruptive or dangerous may be penalized. (Refer to Article 1513.)

2. All values are (BOD 8/02) determined by the veterinary judge/s. It is important that a professional, courteous, efficient attitude is displayed. It is extremely important that the veterinary judging team realize that his/her primary responsibility is to ensure the health and safety of the horses involved. Horses can be stopped for a veterinary exam at any point during the ride. Except for pulse, this exam will not be scored. Horses that are not fit to continue may be removed from competition at this point. (BOD 8/02) There must be a minimum of two vet checks on the trail per day, only the values received at the end of the mileage for each day (i.e. all horses get scored at the same point AFTER the mileage has been covered) shall be used for scoring purposes. (BOD 8/02) It is necessary for the judging teams and the management to make arrangements among themselves to be prepared to handle medical emergencies if they arise. This will require that fluids, steroids, analgesics, etc., be available at the ride-site and that someone be available to handle emergencies during the entire course of the event.

ARTICLE 1514. PROTESTS AND FORMAL LETTERS OF COMPLAINT.

Disagreements as to procedure or rules interpretation may be submitted to the Ride Steward for a ruling. If there is disagreement after the Steward's ruling, or if the Steward did not make a ruling, Protest or Formal Letter of Complaint may be filed in accordance with the procedures outlined in these rules.

1. Protest will be:
 - a. Filed in writing within eight days of the end of the ride.
 - b. Signed by the protester and submitted to AHA with a copy to the Ride Steward and Ride Management Committee for immediate referral to the AHA Competitive Trail Ride Sub-Committee for resolution.
 - c. Action to resolve the protest will start within 30 days of receipt. Upon receipt of the properly-filed protest, AHA will notify Awards, Sweepstakes and any other concerned departments of the pending action. A \$100 fee will accompany the protest. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. If the Competitive Trail Ride Sub-Committee is unable to resolve the protest within 30 days, a note stating the status of the protest shall be sent by the Sub-Committee to the protester, with a copy to the Ride Manager and to the Judges and Stewards Commissioner. A similar note shall be sent every 30 days until the protest is resolved.
2. Formal Letter of Complaint will be:
 - a. Filed in writing within 14 days of the end of the ride.
 - b. Signed by the complainant and submitted to the AHA Competitive Trail Ride Sub-Committee.
 - c. Investigated and resolved by the AHA Competitive Trail Ride Sub-Committee in a fair and impartial manner as they deem appropriate.

REGIONAL COMPETITIVE TRAIL RULES

For Membership requirements refer to Chapter 7.

For Regional eligibility and qualifications refer to Article 1733.

ARTICLE 1515. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RIDES.

A Regional Championship Competitive Trail Ride cannot be held unless there has been at least one competitive trail ride sanctioned by an AHA Approved CTR Ride Organization held in that Region and the Regional Championship ride must be held within the region or within a contiguous region.

Regional Championship Competitive Trail Rides must be recognized by AHA. A completed Recognition Application form with a \$25 non-refundable application fee must be sent to AHA at least 90 days prior to the planned event. Ride flyers (brochures or ad flyer) including entry forms, fee schedules and similar items must be sent to the AHA office no later than 30 days prior to the first day of the event. (BOD 8/01) Regional Championship Competitive Trail Rides must be conducted under the same Rules and Regulations as the National Championship Competitive Trail Ride with the following exceptions:

1. Distance. The Regional ride shall be an accurately measured distance. The distance shall be between 50 and 75 miles divided as equally as possible between two days of competition or a distance of 25 to 40 (BOD 8/03) miles on a one day competition.
2. Ride Steward. The Regional ride steward must be from the recognized AHA Competitive Trail Steward list.
3. If the Regional Championship Ride is held in conjunction with another competitive ride:
 - a. The horses competing in the Regional ride will have numbers or markings that clearly identify them as competing in the Regional ride.
 - b. Management may choose to follow the organization's rules when rules differ in stabling and shoeing. When such adjustments are made, descriptions will be stated in ride flyers and brochures.
 - c. Separate judges should be used and separate judges recording secretaries should (BOD 8/03) be used.
4. Judges. All judges must be veterinary judges. There is no minimum distance of residence required.
5. Awards. Regional Championship Rides will offer a Champion, a Reserve Champion, and Top Five in two divisions; Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian. Only one Regional Championship Competitive Trail Ride can be held in each Region each year.
6. Regional Rides may elect one of the following and shall clearly state in their Regional Ride Flyer whether an entire Top Five or 50% of the division rounded up method shall be used: (Res. 20-03)
 - a. Top Five: A horse finishing 1st through 5th, in each division, will be named Top Five. The top scoring horse in each division shall be named Regional Champion and the second high scoring horse shall be named Regional Reserve Champion. If fewer than 10 entries start the ride (must have passed the pre-ride vet check) in a division, only enough Top Fives will be made to total 50% of the division rounded up. (e.g., a ride division consisting of seven entries would be eligible for only four Top Five awards including the Champion and Reserve Champion (BOD 8/02)
 - b. Top Five Awards will be given regardless of how many horses compete in each division at the start of the ride. International Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes pay-out will be given to those horses enrolled in these programs equal to 50% of the ride rounded up not to exceed five of those competing at the beginning of the ride. (e.g. A ride of seven horses would be eligible for only four pay-outs even though a Top Five would be awarded.) Points in the Horse Achievement Award, Amateur Achievement Award, High Point Horse Achievement Award, High Point Amateur Achievement Award and Distance Award Programs will be given to those horses enrolled in these programs equal to 50% of the division rounded up not to exceed five of those competing in the division at the beginning of the ride (e.g. A division of a ride of seven horses would be eligible for only four pay-outs even though a Top Five would be awarded.) (Res. 20-03)
7. Ride Manager's Report, Steward's Report, Ride Results Report Form and Score Cards must be submitted as required for the National Championship Ride. For Ride Results Reporting, refer to Article 1504.5.
8. AHA Education/Evaluation Fund Charges. (Res. 9-90) (Refer to Article 1503.6.)

ARTICLE 1516. AHA RECOGNIZED COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDES.

A local competitive trail ride must be recognized and be conducted by AHA Member Organizations or other interested groups or persons. A completed recognition application form along with a \$20 non-refundable application fee for each distance in multi-distance rides, (BOD 8/03) must be sent to AHA at least 30 (BOD 8-03) days prior to the planned event. Ride flyers (brochures or ad flyer) including entry forms, fee schedules and similar items must be included. (BOD 8/01) When conducted in accordance with AHA rules, the AHA recognized ride can be used to obtain the mileage required to qualify for the National and Regional Championship Rides. (Refer to Article 1722. , 1733, Chapter 7.)

The AHA recognized competitive ride will be conducted under the same rules as the National Championship Competitive Trail Ride with the following exceptions:

1. Distance. The AHA recognized ride must be an accurately measured distance of 25-50 (Res. 38-98) miles per day for one, two, or three days. The trail must be accurately measured using a vehicle odometer or pedometer or any other accurate measuring device, such as a USFS topographical map measuring wheel or bicycle wheel.
2. Steward. A Certified AHA Competitive Trail Ride Steward should be used. However, an AHA member, knowledgeable about AHA Competitive Trail Ride rules, may serve as Steward if recognized by the AHA Judge and Stewards Commissioner.
3. Ride Manager. The Ride Manager must be a member of AHA.
4. Judges. The ride must have at least one veterinarian judge experienced in the care and treatment of horses. There is no minimum distance of residency or ride experience required. It is recommended to have one judge per 25 horses.
5. Equine Eligibility. The ride may be open to all members of the equine family (including donkeys and mules). Breed registration (is not required for entry), but must be used for determining breed awards.
 - a. An animal must be at least 48 months old for rides 25-30 (Res. 38-98) miles or fewer, 60 months old for rides over 30 miles and /or multi-day rides.
 - b. An animal currently owned, managed, or trained by the judge(s), or ride steward or their immediate families may compete for completion mileage only.
 - c. There is no prior mileage requirement.
6. The Ride. The ride speed must average 4- to 7-miles-per-hour.
7. Award. Purchase of awards is the responsibility of the local sponsoring group.
 - a. Placing 1st through 6th, with Champion and Reserve Champion recognition is recommended.
 - b. There should be a High Point Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Award. These awards are provided through the AHA Breed Recognition Award Program at no cost.
 - c. Ride management may present other breed awards or special awards as pertinent. Special emphasis should be made for a youth award.
8. Reports. All reports must be submitted as required for the National and Regional Championship Rides. For Ride Results Reporting refer to Article 1504.5., 1517.,

ARTICLE 1517. RIDE RESULTS REPORTING

For all correct and complete results reporting refer to Chapter 7 and Article 1132.

AHA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RIDE RESULTS

1. The results for the AHA National Championship Ride will be submitted to the AHA office by the AHA Ride Secretary. (BOD 11/02)

AHA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RIDE RESULTS

2. The results for the AHA Regional Championship rides will be submitted to the AHA office by the Ride Secretary for the placings in the AHA divisions.
 - a. When the AHA Regional Championship ride is held in conjunction with an 'Approved Ride Organization' Open ride, the results from the Open

ride must be reported by the owner for each horse by submitting a properly signed and completed Open Qualifying Ride Results Form within 90 days of the ride. (BOD 11/02)

AHA RECOGNIZED RIDE RESULTS

3. The results for an AHA Recognized Local Ride will be submitted to the AHA office by the Local Ride Secretary. (BOD 11/02)

OPEN RIDES

4. The results for Open rides not recognized by AHA but sanctioned by an 'Approved Ride Organization' (Refer to Article 1506. 3.e.) must be reported by the owner by submitting a properly signed and complete Open Qualifying Ride Results Form within 90 days of the ride. (BOD 11/02)