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A Competitive Trail Ride (CTR) or Competitive Trail Drive (CTD) is a timed, judged event in which a horse and rider or driver compete over a marked trail within a specific period of time. Experienced judges evaluate the horse on condition, soundness, and manners. Judging begins in camp at the first pre-ride check-in, continues throughout the event, and concludes when the scoring is complete on the final day.

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

In order to have ride or drive results count towards AHA programs or qualifications, membership requirements must be met. (Refer to Chapter 7)

CT 101. AHA RECOGNIZED COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDES OR DRIVES.

1. A local competitive trail ride or drive must be conducted under AHA CTR/CTD rules or under the rules of a CTR/CTD sanctioning body approved by AHA. (Refer to CT 103) and be pre-approved by AHA to be recognized.
 - a. Competitive Trail Rides must be a minimum distance of 25 miles.
 - b. Competitive Trail Drives must be a minimum distance of 10 miles.
2. A completed recognition application form along with a \$25 non-refundable application fee for each distance is required.
 - a. If the completed form and fee are postmarked or electronic dated 60 days or more prior to the ride, then the normal fee will be applied (\$25). (BOD 11/10)
 - b. If the completed form is postmarked or electronic dated less than 60 but more than 30 days prior to the ride, a late fee (\$250) per event will be required in addition to the distance fees. (BOD 11/10)
 - c. If the completed form is postmarked or electronic dated 30 days or fewer prior to the ride, then the ride application will be denied. (BOD 11/10)
 - d. If a Competitive Trail Driving event is run in conjunction with a Competitive Trail Ride, one fee is required. Refer to fee structure outlined in CT 101.2.a-c.
3. Ride or Drive flyers (brochures or ad flyer) including entry forms, fee schedules and similar items must be included. (BOD 8/06)
4. Persons filing recognition application forms without the ride manager's approval or misrepresenting themselves on such forms will be subject to a \$100 fine. Repeated or blatant offenses will be referred to The Probable Cause Panel which may result in review and disciplinary action by the Ethical Practice Review Board. (BOD 8/10)
5. National Championships, Regional Championships, AHA Recognized and Open Qualifying Competitive Trail Ride or Drive participants may earn mileage towards qualifications and distance awards, as well as points in the AHA Horse

and Amateur Achievement Award programs. Refer to Chapter 18 for Sweepstakes program rules and enrollment fees.

6. All AHA Recognized Competitive Trail Rides or Drives are exempt from the Judges and Stewards 9-90 fee assessment (Res. 32-15) and the AHA per horse fee.

CT 102. AHA OPEN RIDES OR DRIVES

1. **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AHA OPEN RIDES OR DRIVES**
 - a. **Equine Eligibility.** The ride may be open to all members of the equine family (including donkeys and mules).
 - i. Breed registration is not required for entry but must be used for determining breed awards.
 - ii. An animal must be at least 48 months old for rides 25-30 miles, 60 months old for rides over 30 miles and/or multi-day rides. Age is defined as the actual age at ride date as defined on registration papers if available.
 - iii. An animal currently owned, managed, or trained by the judge(s), or ride steward or their immediate families may compete for completion mileage only.
 - iv. There is no prior mileage requirement.
 - b. **Rider or Driver must:**
 - i. Not be an immediate member of the judge's or steward's family. However, such a rider or driver can compete for miles only.
 - ii. Not be working in an official capacity for the ride or drive in the position of ride manager, trail master, judge, steward, or farrier.
 - iii. Helmets for drivers and grooms are mandatory.
 - c. **Youth rider or drivers:** (BOD 11/21)
 - i. An individual who has not reached his or her 19th birthday as of **December 1** of the current competitive year.
 - ii. Are required to wear protective headgear, securely fastened while mounted or in the carriage.
 - iii. May not ride or drive stallions.
 - iv. May participate in a ride or drive only with the written consent of a parent or guardian on their entry form.
 - v. Under the age of 16 (as of December 1 of the current competition year) must ride with a sponsor. For CTD, the youth driver must drive with a sponsor who will be considered a Groom and must be in the cart. The Sponsor (CTR and CTD) must be a competent adult (21 years or over as of December 1 of the current competition year) and must be duly entered as a competitor in the event and sponsorship must be documented on the youth's entry form, complete with the sponsor's signature. Youth and sponsor may suspend their sponsorship agreement only at a regular stated checkpoint and then only with the knowledge and consent of ride management. (BOD 11/16)
 - vi. Sponsorship (CTR) may change between check points only in the event that the sponsor's mount is unable to continue safely to a check point and another adult rider is willing to provide temporary sponsorship to the next check point. Sponsorship (CTD) may change between check points and another adult may ride that is willing to provide temporary sponsorship to the next check point. Ride Management must be notified at the next check point (CTR and CTD) and Ride Management approval is required for the youth to continue with a new sponsor. Youth and sponsor will ride together at all times, including entering and leaving all vet checks and judging areas at the same time, the only exception being that at the finish a youth may finish within the same minute or one minute on either side of the sponsor's finishing minute.
 - vii. In the event of an emergency, in order to remain in competition, the sponsor and youth must remain together until another sponsor is secured.
 - viii. Infraction of the sponsorship shall result in the sponsor and/or the youth being disqualified.

d. **Driving Divisions.** Single horses and multiple horses, adult and youth drivers may compete in a single division. This division may be split up if there are more entries of each (**example:** 3 single horse and driver teams and 3 multiple horse hitches). Post ride results will still be listed as one division.

- i. Single Drivers – may carry a groom whose duties include assisting the driver in hitching and unhitching, cooling out, holding and helping in the care of the horse. The groom is NOT allowed to share the driving. The groom may give the driver directions on the trail.
- ii. Pair or Multiple Carriages – must have a groom (Refer to CT 102.1.d.i. groom duties)
- iii. Youth Drivers under the age of 16 (Refer to CT 102.1.c.v.). The adult in the carriage assumes full responsibility of the turnout.

2. **MANAGEMENT OF RIDES OR DRIVES.**

- a. The Ride Management Committee shall consist of the Ride Manager, the Trail Master, and the Ride Secretary. Some of these positions may be combined.
- b. Horse shall be clearly identified for the duration of the competition with numbers clearly visible at all times. For CTR, satisfactory methods include but are not limited to: bibs, halter tags, hip markings, etc. For CTD, all multiple hitches (tandem, unicorn, pairs, or teams) must have markings that are different from horse to horse being used. Satisfactory methods include but are not limited to: bibs, numbered and lettered, barrel markings (i.e. 10A and 10B), etc.
- c. 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.
- d. Trail markings will be distinct and obvious to the riders or drivers
- e. The Ride/Drive 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 or drivers.
- f. Management may provide water for drinking or sponging along the trail or at rest or 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 unless available to all competitors. (BOD 3/21)
- g. 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 or drivers.
- h. The Ride/Drive Management Committee, along with the Ride/Drive Veterinarian(s), shall set the optimum ride or drive time for completing the course each day (refer to CT 102.2.i).
- i. The ride speed must average between four (4) and seven (7) mph. However, the time must be of sufficient speed and challenge to allow for stress factors to be utilized in judging. The pace for a drive is between five (5) and seven (7) mph. The pace will be determined by the drive management. Factors determining the pace will be heat and humidity, difficulty of the terrain and the conditions of the trail.
- j. It is necessary for the judging teams and the management to make arrangements among themselves to be prepared to handle medical emergencies. 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.
- k. Distance. The AHA recognized ride (CTR) must be an accurately measured distance of 25-40 miles per day for one or two days. The AHA recognized drive (CTD) must be an accurately measured distance of 10-40 miles or less per day for one or two days.
- l. The ride or drive brochure must include:
 - i. The name of the ride or drive
 - ii. Date
 - iii. Location
 - iv. Names of the Ride Management Committee

- v. Names of the judges, if available
- vi. Name of the steward if available
- vii. List of awards to be presented
- viii. A liability clause to be signed by all entrants and volunteers. (A copy of which may be obtained by writing AHA.)
- ix. Provision for protest (Refer to CT 104.1)
- x. A statement regarding the availability of feed
- xi. Reference to ride or drive rules and scoring system in the AHA Handbook, and/or a reference to the Handbook at www.ArabianHorses.org
- xii. A short description of the ride or drive, days, miles, terrain, weather, and facility
- xiii. Type of stabling available

m. The entry form will provide the name of the sanctioning organization and include the AHA liability clause and the statement "The owner and rider or driver have read and will abide by the AHA rules."

n. The ride or drive will be judged and scored using AHA score cards.

o. For CTD, management must perform safety inspections of all turn-outs competing each day. Ride Management has the authority to disqualify a competitor if the horse, vehicle, or harness is deemed unsafe. Entry fees will be refunded in this instance.

3. **RIDERS OR DRIVERS MEETINGS.**

- a. A riders' or drivers' meeting must be held each evening and/or prior to the start of the next day's ride or drive to brief riders or drivers on the course, trail markings, available water, etc.
- b. Judges must discuss the judging methods and procedures.
- c. Judges must set and announce the pulse release parameters prior to the start of each day.
- d. Rules of trail etiquette and trail safety must be explained.
- e. Riders or drivers must be given maps and a schedule of estimated times and/or distances and elevations for various points on the ride/drive.
- f. The ride or drive speed or time must be announced publicly to all riders or drivers prior to the day's ride or drive.
- g. Riders or drivers are responsible for the information given.

4. **HANDLING, CARE AND STABLING.**

- a. Horse may be shod.
 - i. The type of shoe and/or use of pads is up to the discretion of the rider or driver.
 - ii. All types of hoof protection are permissible. Hoof boots with attachment strap, keeper or gaiter MAY NOT extend above the pastern. The judge(s) may request to observe the area covered by the attached strap, keeper, or gaiter at any time. Hoof boots with attachments will be removed after the final trot out for the judge(s) to examine the hoof and leg. (BOD 3/15)
- b. For CTR, any type of humane tack is permissible. For CTD, any type of humane harness is permissible. (BOD 3/15)
 - i. Breeching or a Brake is required unless using a racing type harness employing "quick hitch" couplers, which attach the shafts of the cart directly to the saddle pad of the harness. This type of racing harness may only be used with a lightweight two-wheeled cart.
 - ii. The driver must affirm to Ride/Drive Management via the Safety Check that the horse is accustomed to the harness and cart configuration on hills and rough terrain.
 - iii. Bicycle type wheels are not allowed. Traditional wood or metal wheels are recommended. Pneumatic tires on automobile or heavy duty spoke wheels, such as those used on motorcycles, are acceptable.
- c. Devices which serve strictly as leg protection are not permitted (a leg is defined as all structures above and including the coronet band). Examples of these devices include, but are not limited to: bell boots, splint boots, wraps or any device that was not manufactured to hold the hoof protection in place. (BOD 3/15)

- d. No drugs, external medications, medical, or mechanical devices (such as, but not limited to TENS Unit, Infra-Red machine, LED machine, etc.), or ice can be used. **Dessitin and non-medicated Vaseline are allowed but the horse must be presented without either one for vet in and vet out. (BOD 3/12) Ice and/or ice water only administered orally or topically is permitted. (BOD 3/25)**
- e. Use and choice of feed and supplements is at the discretion of the rider or driver.
 - i. All supplements must be administered via water, oral syringe, or feed.
 - ii. Any substance administered by injection, stomach tube or rectal lavage is prohibited.
- f. Horses need not be tied up all night. If a horse is walked, moved, or attended to, it is the contestant's or groom's responsibility.
- g. All riders/drivers are required to care for their own mounts during the competition with the following exceptions: having a horse held during a restroom break or having a designated trotter if the rider is physically unable. (BOD 1/24)
 - i. Feed, electrolytes, etc. for out-of-camp check points must be carried by the horse or rider(driver).
 - ii. Common courtesies such as transporting jackets or other articles back to camp or refilling water bottles are allowed.
 - iii. In the case of a physically handicapped person, the judges and management may make an adjustment to suit that particular handicap.
 - iv. Age is not considered a handicap.
 - v. In the interest of safety, it is recommended that any youth's girth or harness be checked by an adult.
- h. The driver must have a whip within reach at all times while in the cart. No whips of any kind are allowed during pre or post ride/drive examinations.
- i. It shall be the responsibility of each contestant to ensure that his or her horse has not been administered any drug that may alter the horse's performance within 72 hours of the pre-ride or pre-drive examination.
- j. Stallions will be flagged with a yellow ribbon in the forelock and tail and kickers will be flagged with red ribbons.
- k. There will be a safety check prior to the start of the drive to inspect the harness and vehicle. It is the responsibility of the driver to allow sufficient time at the Safety Check to complete the inspection and make any necessary adjustments prior to the start time.
- l. Spares Kit are required by all drivers. They include a knife, screwdriver, pliers, small hammer, leather punch, hoof pick, wheel wrench to fit axle, length of rawhide, string or wire, a hames strap if applicable, spare rein or splice, spare trace or splice. It must also include a halter and lead, cooler or quarter sheet for each horse. Other items such as duct tape, electrical tape, nuts, and bolts may be included. It is also suggested that the knife or box cutter be carried by the driver so that it is readily available in case of emergency.

5. ON THE TRAIL.

- a. The horse and rider or driver may travel at their own pace on the trail. Each rider or driver shall be responsible for his or her own time. Exceptions:
 - i. Riders or drivers may be asked for a forced trot to pulse check.
 - ii. Riders or drivers must maintain forward motion for the final two miles of each day. (BOD 3/15)
- b. Riders must remain in the saddle and drivers must remain in the cart 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.
- c. At any location designated by the trail master as hazardous, riders may be instructed to dismount and proceed on foot for a specified distance. Drivers have the option to unhook to get through the hazard.
- d. The groom is NOT allowed to share the driving. The groom may give the driver directions on the trail. (Refer to CT 102.1.d)

- e. The same horse and rider/driver team must be maintained throughout the ride or drive, pass all check points, and stay on the trail as marked. Should the rider or driver become lost, they must return via horseback (CTR) or via the carriage (CTD) to that point at which they left the trail and then complete the trail as indicated.
- f. Any team (horse and rider/driver) 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. All drivers are responsible for recovery of their vehicle.
- g. 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 CT 102.2.g)
 - i. Except where provided by management, or carried by horse and rider or driver, only natural water is allowed for drinking and sponging along the trail.
 - ii. Riders or drivers may carry water with them on the trail if they so desire. This water may be used at any time as the rider or driver sees fit.
 - iii. Water at the rest stops may be used in any fashion and at any time the rider or driver sees fit unless otherwise specified by ride/drive management. (Exception refer to CT 102.2.f)
- h. There must be a minimum of two Pulse checks per day of actual on-trail competition. For CTD's, there will be at least one vet check every 15 miles. Riders should initial their pulse cards. (BOD 3/21)
 - i. At pulse checks, either stethoscopes or handheld heart rate monitors (HRM) must be used, but these may not be mixed at any one check point. The 15-second stethoscope count is recorded on the rider's or driver'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.
 - ii. A rider or driver may request and receive an immediate pulse recount at a checkpoint. The second count shall be recorded and scored.
 - iii. All horses must pass parameters within 20 minutes for CTR and 25 minutes for CTD. The initial pulse check will be taken 10 minutes after arrival for CTR and 15 minutes for CTD. A horse that fails to pass pulse parameters must be held an additional 10 minutes for a recheck, with the deduction of an additional 5 points for this second pulse check. Failure to meet the pulse criteria at the second check (20 minutes for CTR and 25 minutes for CTD) will result in disqualification.
 - iv. If a horse is held for a second pulse check, the maximum and minimum riding or driving time will be extended by an additional 10 minutes.
 - v. A pulse check will be taken 10 minutes for CTR and 15 minutes for CTD after the horses finish the total mileage for the day. This may be counted as one of the two required pulse checks for the day.
- i. Horses that fail to complete the ride or drive in the specified ride or drive time frame (optimum ride or drive time, plus or minus 15 minutes) will be eligible for completion awards and mileage credit only, provided that 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/drive. Optimum ride/drive time includes:
 - i. Actual riding or driving time spent in forward motion on the trail.
 - ii. Lunch break.
 - iii. For CTR, fifteen (15) minutes for each pulse check (to include 10-minute pulse time and 5 minutes for dismounting, remounting, etc.). For CTD, twenty-five (25) minutes for each pulse check (to include 15-minute pulse time and 10 minutes for hitching, unhitching, etc.)

- iv. Specific time allowance for any other required stops on the trail.
- v. For CTD, all horses must be unhitched from the vehicle during checks.
- j. A "Slow Moving Vehicle" sign must be on the rear of the carriage and displayed with the bottom of the sign at least 2 feet from the ground.

6. JUDGING PROCEDURES.

- a. Throughout the ride or drive, each judge must judge the same criteria on every horse (e.g. Judge A scores lameness and Judge B scores metabolics)
- b. Preliminary judging.
 - i. Horses will stand quietly for a pre-ride or pre-drive exam.
 - ii. Judges will verify the accuracy of the description of the horse being scored as to:
 - a. Name
 - b. Age
 - c. Sex
 - d. Color (including markings)
 - e. Division of competition.
 - iii. Judges will evaluate the equine's way of going. Any horse with a grade 3 lameness prior to the ride or drive must not be allowed to start.
 - iv. Judges will note any blemishes or previous injuries
- c. The post-ride or post-drive judging procedure shall be conducted exactly like the pre-ride exam.
- d. The horse and rider/.driver team shall be considered in competition from the moment the horse is presented to the judges for preliminary judging until the final scoring is complete.
- e. During the Competition.
 - i. Horses can be stopped for a veterinary check at any point during the ride or drive.
 - ii. Only pulse will be scored during these veterinary exams; however, horses that are not fit to continue may be disqualified based on any criteria.
 - iii. There must be a minimum of two vet checks per day.
 - iv. A pulse and veterinary check is required at the end of the day's ride or drive.
 - v. Manners deductions can be taken anytime during the ride/drive.
- f. End of Competition. All horses must pass mandatory rest stop examinations, and vet checks at the end of the ride or drive each day. Competition continues until scores have been finalized and management announces scoring is completed.
 - i. In the event of tie scores judges shall break the tie by:
 - ii. Re-examination of score cards for:
 - a. Mathematical errors
 - b. Comparing scored categories in the following priority: (BOD 3/21)
 - 1. Soundness
 - 2. Metabolics
 - 3. Pulse
 - 4. Fatigue
 - 5. Legs
 - 6. Tack
 - 7. Manners
 - iii. If placings are still unresolved, tied horses shall be re-examined.
 - iv. All ties must be broken for Top Ten.

7. DISQUALIFICATION.

- a. Any rider, driver, 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 or the Ride/Drive Management Committee.

- b. Horse and rider or driver must be at the starting line at the time designated by Ride/Drive Management on the day of the ride or be disqualified.
- c. A horse, its owner, and, its rider or driver 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 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 or her horse has not been administered any drug that may alter the horse's performance within 72 hours of the pre-ride or pre-drive examination. Random drug-testing may be implemented by the vet, judge, or ride/drive management without notice.
- d. Any action against a horse by an individual, which is deemed excessive by a judge, steward or Ride/Drive 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 or drive and/or other sanctions that may be deemed appropriate by the Ride/Drive Management Committee or AHA.
- e. For CTR, a horse and rider are considered a team. For CTD, all horses in the hitch and the driver are considered a team. Disqualification of one automatically constitutes the disqualification of the other.
- f. A horse shall be disqualified from further competition when it is determined by the judges or management that a rider or driver has violated the rules to the extent that it would prevent comparative evaluation of the horse's performance.
- g. Unruly or unmannerly horses which are a hazard on the trail or hard to examine may be disqualified or penalized as per CT 102.8.a.vii.
- h. Horses that complete the ride or drive more than 30 minutes prior to the minimum ride or drive time or exceed the maximum ride or drive time by more than 30 minutes will be disqualified. This restriction applies to each day of a multiple day ride or drive.
- i. Failure to meet the pulse criteria at the second check (20 minutes for CTR, 25 minutes for CTD) must result in disqualification. (Refer to CT 102.5.h.iii)
- j. All decisions of the judges as to disqualification or suitability of the horse to continue are final.
- k. The head of a pulse team or Ride/Drive Manager in the absence of the vet may pull any horse that fails to recover to parameters or shows obvious signs of extreme stress to a point where it would be dangerous for the horse to continue the ride or drive or has an obvious injury or lameness that could become more severe or damage the horse.
- l. No equine will be hitched to a vehicle without a bridle and reins. Violators will be subject to immediate elimination and excluded from further driving at the event.
- m. Horses will not be left unattended while put to a carriage. They cannot be left tied to a trailer, fence, or other object unattended while put to a carriage.
- n. At no time during the competition may the groom, passenger, or other person along the route hold back the carriage going down a hill or push the carriage up a hill. Failure to comply will result in immediate elimination.

8. 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.

a. Scoring – NOTE: For CTD, when scoring multiple driving horses, each horse will be scored individually. However, their individual scores are averaged to determine the final score. (**Example:** when driving a pair, the 2 horse's scores will be added together and then will be divided by 2)

i. **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. There will be one penalty point per minute or part thereof if a competitor does not present for pulse check at the proper official time. (BOD 3/12)

ii. **Metabolics** Maximum penalty, 20 points per day. The baseline for all metabolic categories for each day is the pre-ride or pre-drive 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.

- a) Dehydration. Dehydration is determined by pinching the skin on the point of the shoulder and evaluating the return to normal. Scoring is based on a 0-4 basis, 0 = no dehydration, 4 = severe dehydration.
- b) Capillary Refill. This is measured by pressing the thumb against the upper gum of the horse and counting the seconds for the color to return to normal. Scored on a 0-4 basis. 0 = normal refill, 4 = severely delayed refill
- c) Anal tone. Graded as a change from the pre-ride or pre-drive examination. Scored on a 0-2 basis from 0 for a strong reflex to 2 for flaccid tone.
- d) Muscle Tone. Graded as a change from pre-ride or pre-drive examination. Scored on a 0-4 basis from 0 for firm, warm, and contracting muscles to 4 for rigid or spastic muscle tone.
- e) Gut sounds. Graded as a change from pre-ride or pre-drive examination. Scored on a 0-4 basis, can be evaluated using the following scale (BOD 3/21):
 - 1. 0 = Strong both sides
 - 2. 1 = Moderate both sides
 - 3. 2 = Slight one side/slight or moderate on the other side
 - 4. 3 = Slight one side/none on the other side
 - 5. 4 = No gut sounds

iii. **Tack area.** Maximum penalty, 10 points per day. Baseline for tack area for day 1 is the pre-ride or pre-drive examination. The baseline for day 2 is day 1.

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 back of the scorecard can be used at the pre-ride or pre-drive exam to note physical faults and be referred to at the post-ride or post-drive exam to make sure the horse is not penalized for something with which it checked in.

iv. **Legs.** Maximum penalty, 15 points per day. Baseline for leg categories for day 1 is the pre-ride or pre-drive exam. The baseline for day 2 is day 1.

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 swollen or sore tendons, lower leg filling, scratches, joint swelling or pain on flexion, 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 drive 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 or pre-drive check. It is recommended to document any filling, abrasion, or soreness at this time. This is used for a post-ride or post-drive reference and assures that the horse is not penalized for something with which it checked in. Each leg should be picked up and palpated and flexed thoroughly but not excessively for both the pre- and post- ride or drive examination.

v. **Soundness.** Maximum penalty, 15 points per day. All horses start sound for scoring each day.

Each horse shall be trotted for a minimum distance of 50 feet and circled in both directions in a circle not less than 30 feet in diameter to determine soundness at initial check in and end of each day. (BOD 3/21) Riders or drivers 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 Practitioners (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 the 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. These soundness checks may be circles, straightaways or out and back. (BOD 3/21)

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 the end of ride or drive. Disqualification if at any earlier point.
4. Grade 4 – Obvious lameness, marked nodding, hitching, or shortening of stride. Mandatory disqualification at any point.

vi. **Fatigue.** Maximum penalty, 15 points per day. The baseline for fatigue each day is the pre-ride or pre-drive examination.

It is important at the pre-ride or pre-drive 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 or digressions in these areas will be deducted according to the scorecard.

vii. **Manners.** Maximum penalty, 5 points per day.

- a) 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 or drive. 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 that is disruptive or dangerous may be penalized.
- b) All values are determined by the judges. It is important that a professional, courteous, efficient attitude is displayed. It is extremely important that the veterinary judging team realize that his or her primary responsibility is to ensure the health and safety of the horses involved.

9. RIDE OR DRIVE OFFICIALS.

The ride or drive manager must complete a recognition application form and send it to AHA at least 60 days prior to the CTR or CTD. They must designate personnel to conduct the ride or drive in accordance with the AHA Rules. A

person may have more than one ride or drive 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.

- a. Ride/Drive Management Committee. It is the duty of this committee to ensure that the ride/drive is conducted and run in accordance with all applicable rules.
- b. Judges. The ride or drive must have two judges, one must be a veterinarian judge experienced in the care and treatment of horses. The second can be a lay person with experience and knowledge of CTR/CTD. All judges are required to score and judge the ride or drive in accordance with the AHA Competitive Trail Ride or Drive rules. The ride or drive must have two judges for the first 50 horses, and it is recommended to have one additional vet judge for every additional 25 horses. **Exception:** If a previous year's number of entries or the expected entries for an inaugural ride or drive is 20 horses or less, then a single vet-judge would be acceptable. (BOD 3/15)
- c. Manager. The Manager is responsible for the conduct of the ride or drive in accordance with all applicable rules and that each of the ride or drive personnel is doing his or her job. It is the manager's responsibility to have emergency treatment equipment available at camp and at all checkpoints. The Ride/Drive Manager must send a written report on the ride/drive to AHA within 15 days of the ride/drive with a copy to the AHA Distance Riding Committee Chair. The report should include pertinent data such as ride or drive participation, problems encountered, solution, and other items which could help increase the integrity of the next ride or drive. The manager will ensure that the judges are familiar with AHA rules and score cards. It is recommended that the ride/drive manager have an active AHA membership for local rides or drives. Regional and National Ride/Drive managers must have an active AHA membership. (BOD 3/15)
- d. Secretary. Sends out entry forms, receives, and acknowledges entries, and ensures that horses and riders/drivers are qualified. This person is responsible for initial information on scorecards (rider's or driver's name, horse, etc.), supervising the score tallying and placing of horses. The secretary must send the original copies of score cards, the Ride/Drive Results Report, and other necessary paperwork to AHA within 30 days after the ride or drive. This paperwork should be sent by certified mail or submitted electronically. (BOD 3/15) For Ride/Drive Results Reporting, refer to CT 105.
- e. Steward. A Certified Competitive Trail Ride/Drive Steward should be used. However, an AHA member, knowledgeable about AHA Competitive Trail Ride or drive rules, may serve as Steward if recognized by the AHA Judge and Stewards Commissioner. An AHA steward is not required at an open recognized ride or drive run under the rules of a recognized sanctioning organization.
- f. Timer. Must keep accurate records of starting and finishing times of all contestants and report any early or late finishers to the judges. A timer must also keep an accurate record of the vet check times.
- g. Trail master. Shall plan, measure, and mark the official trail.
- h. 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 or pre-drive exam and ends only after the scorecards have been tallied.
- i. Tabulator. Tabulates the scorecards including pulse penalties and manners deductions. These scores may be tabulated by the secretary or separate tabulators.
- j. 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.
- k. Farrier. A farrier is recommended.
- l. Safety or Drag Riders. One or more riders or a vehicle are recommended to follow the competitors on the trail to assist any horse or rider or driver

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 or drive safety coverage.

- m. Awards. Purchase of awards is the responsibility of the local sponsoring group.
 - i. Placing 1st through 6th, with Champion and Reserve Champion recognition is recommended.
 - ii. 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 and are only available for CTR. (See AWD 105)
 - iii. Ride/Drive management may present other breed awards or special awards as pertinent. Special emphasis should be made for a youth award.

10. GUIDELINES FOR DRIVERS

- a. Often drivers share the trail with ridden horses that may be frightened by the appearance and sound of a horse and cart. In the interest of safety, the driver should pull over and stop when meeting riders. The driver should stand his horse as quietly as possible while talking to the riders and allow them to decide how to safely pass. When approaching riders from the rear, the driver should call out to them and get their input on how to safely pass them.
- b. Drivers are often confronted with hills and other conditions when heavy pulling or braking is necessary. Through proper harnessing the driver can give the horse as much advantage as possible.
 - i. The proper adjustment of the hip straps places the breeching (just below the big part of the hindquarters) neither too high nor too low. The proper adjustment of the hold back straps can eliminate a sloppy fitting breeching and will reduce the possibility of the cart or breeching banging into the horse when stopping or going downhill. A properly adjusted breeching will allow the fingers of both hands to be inserted between the horse and the breeching when traces are in draught (approximately 1 inch).
 - ii. Overchecks hinder the horse from naturally lowering its head when pulling through heavy sand, mud, or up hills and should be avoided.
- c. Nosebands are recommended for bridles with blinkers to help hold the blinkers in place.
- d. A kicking (bucking) strap may be used at the driver's discretion. If a kicking strap is used it should be properly fitted to effectively thwart unwanted behavior. It should pass over the rump just behind the highest point of the rump and be tight enough to allow no more than one hand width (3 to 4 inches) of slack above the hip. It should be attached in such a manner as to prevent slipping backwards toward the tail but should have freedom to move from side to side without pulling on the crupper.

CT 103. APPROVED COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE OR DRIVE ORGANIZATIONS

- 1. Approved Competitive Trail Ride/Drive Organizations. Only Competitive Trail Ride/Drive competitions conducted by organizations designated in this article may be used to qualify for AHA recognized rides/drives. See AWD 105 for the list of recognized organizations for AHA awards.
 - a. CT organizations approved for the purposes of this chapter are:
 - 1. Arabian Horse Association (AHA)
 - 2. * Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association (ECTRA)
 - 3. North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)
 - 4. * Southeastern Distance Riders Association (SEDRA)
 - 5. Ohio Arabian and All Breed Trail Society (OAATS)
 - 6. Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association (OCTRA)
 - 7. Middle of the Trail Distance Riding Association (MOTDRA)
 - 8. * Upper Midwest Endurance & Competitive Riders Association (UMECRA)
 - 9. Trail Riding Alberta Conference (TRAC)

***Note: Organizations approved for CTD are indicated by an asterisk.**

- b. 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.
- c. This list of approved CTR/CTD organizations shall be reviewed and updated each year.
- d. Approved organizations must:
 - i. Have a Board of Directors
 - ii. Be incorporated
 - iii. Have a clear, published set of rules
 - iv. Have insurance
 - v. Have vet supervision
 - vi. Have a method for protest
 - vii. Provide proof of the above to the Chair of the AHA Distance Committee requesting review by the committee or subcommittee to see if a request for action by the AHA Board of Directors is warranted.

CT 104. PROTESTS AND FORMAL LETTERS OF COMPLAINT.

A subcommittee to handle protests and formal letters of complaint shall be formed of 4 members appointed by the Distance Committee Chair and headed by the Vice Chair. The committee shall serve a 2-year term starting **December 1**.

Disagreements as to procedure and rules interpretation may be submitted to the Ride Steward for a ruling. If there is a 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 (8) 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 Distance Riding Sub-Committee for resolution.
 - c. Action to solve 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 AHA Distance Riding 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 Distance Riding Sub-Committee.
 - c. Investigated and resolved by the AHA Distance Riding Sub-Committee in a fair and impartial manner as they deem appropriate.

CT 105. AHA RECOGNIZED RIDE OR DRIVE RESULTS

The results for an AHA Recognized Local Ride or Drive will be submitted to the AHA office by the Local Ride Secretary within 30 days of the ride or drive.

CT 106. APPROVED OPEN RIDES

The results for Open rides not recognized by AHA but sanctioned by an 'Approved Ride Organization' (Refer to CT 103.a) must be reported by the horse owner submitting a properly signed and complete Open qualifying Ride Results Form within 90 days of the ride.

CT 107. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SHOWS AND RIDES.

For all Regional and National Championship classes and rides, AHA Adult or Youth with Competition Card or Life or Business Membership is required as per MEM 105. Single event membership will not be accepted at Regionals or Nationals.

CT 108. REGIONAL COMPETITIVE TRAIL RULES

For Membership requirements refer to Chapter 7.

For Regional eligibility and qualifications refer to CT 110.

CT 109. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RIDES.

A Regional Championship CTR must be held within that Region or within an adjoining Region. It must be recognized by AHA. Regional Championship CTR's must be conducted under the same Rules and Regulations as the National Championship CTR with the following exceptions:

- 1. A Regional Competitive Trail Ride may be recognized by AHA upon receipt of a completed Application form.
 - a. The completed Regional Ride Application form must be postmarked at least 60 days (BOD 11/08) prior to the planned event. (BOD 11/10)
 - b. The completed Regional Ride Application form must be postmarked with the appropriate application fee for each ride (\$30). (BOD 11/10)
 - c. If the completed Regional Ride Application form is postmarked fewer than 60 days, but more than 30 days prior to the planned event, then the late application fee (\$250) will be charged in addition to the distance fees. (BOD 11/10)
 - d. No application will be accepted that is postmarked less than 30 days prior to the event. (BOD 11/10)
 - e. Any two Regions are allowed to combine their Regional Championship Competitive Trail Rides. This combined Regional Championship would be: (Res. 17-19)
 - i. Governed and managed by the two (2) Regions involved.
 - ii. Each division has one (1) set of judge/official(s), one (1) set of awards, and one (1) set of National mileage.
 - iii. Requires approval from each of the Regional Directors within a combined Regional Championship Ride.
- 2. Ride flyers (Brochures or ad flyers) 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.
- 3. Persons filing recognition application forms without the ride manager's approval or misrepresenting themselves on such forms will be subject at a \$100 fine. Repeated or blatant offenses will be referred to the Probable Cause Panel which may result in review and disciplinary action by the Ethical Practice Review Board. (BOD 8/10)
- 4. Distance. The Regional ride shall be an accurately measured distance of between 50 and 75 miles divided as equally as possible between two days of competition or a distance of 25 to 40 miles for a one-day competition.
- 5. Ride Steward. A ride steward is only required if the number of competitors exceeded ten (10) riders in the previous year. If a ride steward is required, then the ride steward must be from the approved AHA Ride Steward list. (BOD 11/11)
- 6. If the Regional Championship 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 if those rules are more restrictive. When such adjustments are made, descriptions will be stated in ride flyers and brochures.
 - c. Separate judges may be used, and separate recording secretaries must be used.
- 7. Judges. Two judges are required for the first 50 horses, one of which must be a veterinarian judge familiar with distance horses and their treatment, the other may be a lay judge experienced in distance sports. An extra judge is recommended for every additional 25 horses. There is no minimum distance of residence requirement. **Exception:** If the previous year's number of entries or the expected entries for an inaugural ride or drive is 20 horses or less, then a single vet-judge would be acceptable. (BOD 3/15)
- 8. 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 may be held in each Region each year.
- 9. 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.

- 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 highest 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 7 entries would be eligible for only four Top Five awards including the Champion and Reserve Champion.)
- b. Top Five Awards will be given regardless of how many horses compete in each division at the start of the ride. 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.
- 10. 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 CT 111.
- 11. All AHA Recognized Competitive Trail Rides or Drives are exempt from the Judges and Stewards 9-90 fee assessment (Res. 32-15) and the AHA per horse fee.

CT 110. QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGIONAL COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDES

Horse qualifications for regional competitive trail rides are the same as for the national competitive trail ride with the following exceptions:

- 1. Qualifications. All horses ridden in a Regional Championship Competitive Trail Ride must have qualified in a Competitive Trail or Endurance Ride held prior to the closing of entries for the ride at which the Regional Championship Ride is held and will meet the following criteria:
 - a. Complete 50 miles of an AHA Recognized/Approved competition of no less than 25 miles per ride. At least 25 miles must be Competitive Trail miles. See CT 103.1.a. for the Approved List. (BOD 11/17)

CT 111. AHA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RIDE RESULTS

- 1. The results for the AHA Regional Championship rides will be submitted to the AHA office by the Ride Secretary or **Ride Manager** for the placings in the AHA divisions within 15 days of the ride. (BOD 3/25)
 - a. When 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.
- 2. Regional ride results are unofficial until posted on the AHA website. (BOD 8/15)

CT 112. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE

National Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Championship Competitive Trail Rides must be conducted pursuant to rules adopted by the Distance Riding Committee and the AHA Board of Directors. (BOD 3/21)

Administration and interpretation of such rules and authority to make arrangements for such rides shall be vested in the AHA National Distance Commission of AHA. (BOD 3/21)

The National Championship Competitive Trail Ride shall be run under the same rules as an AHA competitive ride with the following exceptions:

- 1. The Distance Riding Committee shall have the function of handling and resolving protests and formal complaints. (BOD 11/08)
- 2. The National Championship Competitive Trail Ride dates and locations must be recognized by the AHA National Distance Commission and the AHA Board of Directors. Every effort will be made to hold all the National Distance events together from 2009 forward and be referred to as the Distance Horse National Championships and continue to designate the AHA Championship rides within the overall Event as the AHA Distance Nationals, with the AHA Distance Nationals always the "top Billing" in all advertisements and where appropriate adding "Presented by the Arabian Horse Association". (BOD 11/16)
- 3. The distance shall be between 40 and 50 miles for a one-day event or between 60 and 100 miles if a two-day event or between 100 and 120 miles if a three-

day event. If the event is a multi-day ride, care should be taken to divide the total mileage as equally as possible between the days. (BOD 11/16)

- 4. 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".
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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 National Distance Commission Chair.
- 7. It shall be the duty of the AHA Board of Directors and the AHA National Distance Commission 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 the National Championship Performance Horse awards.
- 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 highest scoring horse shall be named National Reserve Champion.
- 10. Top Ten. A horse finishing 1st through 10th in each respective division (two divisions: one for Arabian, one for Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian) will be named Top Ten. (BOD 8/15) The National Championship Competitive Trail Ride will award Champion, Reserve Champion and Top Ten ribbons in every class and ride, no matter how many entries per class or ride compete. Champions and Reserve Champions will receive respective placing ribbons. (BOD 8/15) All Top Ten Awards shall include qualifications, and all other AHA program benefits with the exception of the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes, the Horse Achievement Award Program, Amateur Achievement Award Program, High Point Horse Achievement Award, High Point Amateur Achievement Award and Distance Horse Program, which programs shall remain as is awarding 50%. (Res. 18-09)
- 11. In addition, the Competitive Trail Ride Committee or ride sponsor may elect to offer special awards such as High Point Youth Rider, Horsemanship, Sportsmanship, High Point Gelding, etc.

CT 113. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE.

Horse and rider eligibility requirements:
For Membership requirements refer to Chapter 7.

Only competitions conducted by AHA Approved Competitive Trail Ride Organizations may be used to qualify for National and AHA Regional Championship Rides. (Refer to CT 103.1.a for list of Organizations.)

- 1. A Horse must:
 - a. Be issued a Certificate of Registration from the Arabian Horse Association, the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry, or the Canadian Partbred Arabian Register. See USEF rules for Competition Visa.
 - b. Be at least five years actual age (60 months) by registration papers as of the first day of the ride.
 - c. Not currently owned, managed, or trained by the judge or ride steward.
 - d. Have qualified in a Competitive Trail or Endurance Ride that was held prior to the closing of entries for the ride in which a National Championship ride is held and will meet the following criteria:
 - i. Complete 100 miles of an AHA Recognized Competitive Trail Ride(s) or an Open Competitive Trail Ride(s) sanctioned by an AHA Approved Ride Organization or at ride(s) sanctioned by AERC of no less than 25 miles (of which at least 50 miles must be in an AHA Recognized Competitive Trail Ride(s) or an Open Competitive Trail Ride(s) sanctioned by an AHA Approved Ride Organization). (BOD 11/17)
- 2. Rider must:

- a. Not be a member of the Judge's or Steward's immediate family.
- b. Not be working in an official capacity for the ride as listed in CT 114 with the exception of CT 114.3, the ride publicity chair.
3. The AHA Distance Commission 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, and selection and approval of the ride course.

CT 114. RIDE OFFICIALS FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE.

The ride manager must complete a recognition application form and send it to AHA at least 6 months prior to the National CTR. The ride official requirements are the same as AHA recognized rides with the following exceptions:

1. **Judges.** All judges must be veterinary judges. Two judges are required for the first 50 horses and one additional judge is recommended for each additional 25 horses. (BOD 11/17)
2. **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 Distance Commission Chair and Ride Manager. The steward can have no other official ride duties.
3. **Ride Publicity Chair.** This person shall coordinate publicity with the Communications Department. This position requires 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.
4. **Farrier** – a farrier is required to be available during the ride.
5. **Safety or 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.
6. **Treatment Veterinarian.** A veterinarian experienced in treating distance horses will be on call throughout the event and on the grounds from the time the first horse starts on trail until an hour after the last horse finishes each night to ensure safety of the competitors.

CT 115. DISTANCE HORSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

The results for the Distance Horse National Championship Ride will be submitted to the AHA office by the AHA Ride Secretary or **Ride Manager** within 15 days of the event. (BOD 3/25)