



2026-2027 SEDRA Competitive Trail Rules & Bylaws

Objectives and Purposes...

- ★ To encourage the growth and popularity of Competitive and Endurance Trail Riding and Ride and Tie, hereinafter referred to as Distance Trail Riding, throughout the State of Florida and the Southeastern States, by the use of publicity and educational programs and by setting the highest standards of excellence through its judging, management and contestants.
- ★ To foster the establishment of well-managed Distance Trail Rides that are conducted and judged under standard rules and guidelines as provided by SEDRA.
- ★ To encourage greater knowledge in the selection, care, and use of distance equines.
- ★ To maintain records related to Distance Trail Riding for the benefit of its members.
- ★ To help maintain and preserve private, public riding, and multi-use trails in local, state and national forests, so that they may be accessible to equestrian activities.
- ★ To do any and all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish the objectives and purposes set forth herein, provided that such are in compliance with the applicable laws of the United States of America and the State of Florida.

SEDRA Mission Statement "...to educate, promote and encourage participation in equestrian competitive distance events throughout the southeastern United States..."

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Trails

1. **Veterinarian** – For safety reasons, a ride cannot take place without a Veterinarian present.
2. **Measurement of Mileage** - Mileage should be measured accurately, not estimated. Mileage, including 1/10th, should be recorded point to point on the working map. If you plan 25 miles and it comes up 27 at the closest, brief as 27 miles and adjust riding time accordingly. Point to point mileage will be an aid when placing mileage markers.
3. **Clearings**- Trails should be trimmed on sides and overhead
4. **Watering Areas** - There should be adequate watering places on the trail, at least 3 for a 25-mile ride. Water must be accessible to carts/drivers as well as riders. If natural watering places are not available, a water truck with riders 'marked buckets must be available. Any unsafe water spots should be clearly marked and mentioned in pre ride briefing.
5. **Trail Markings** - Materials should be able to withstand wind and rain and be different from surveyor tape or forest markers to avoid confusion. Materials vary. Surveyor's flagging tape is available in many colors and paper plates with arrows or mileage marked on them have been very successful and are easily removed after the ride. Directional arrows and mileage markers should be waterproof if possible. Arrows should always be used at any junction of trails and should be followed within 50 feet or less with a confidence marker to assure riders that they have turned correctly. Markers at 1/8 to 1/4 mile increments should be used on a straight trail. At a point where there are any side trails showing either side of the main trail, a marker in sight ahead should be used to assure riders that they should stay on the main trail. Try to keep markings on the RIGHT side of the trail in the direction to be ridden. When the trail is being used with equines going in both directions, markings should be on BOTH sides of the trail.
6. **Mileage Markers** - Whatever material may be used for markers, it should be placed as miles to go; (i.e., 20, 15, 10 to go) and EACH MILE on the last 5 miles to go.
7. **Minimum Distance**: 1 day ride 25 miles. Multi-day rides - one day must be at least 20 miles

Times:

Miles	Hours
20	2:45 to 3:15
25	3:55 to 4:40
30	4:55 to 5:40
35	5:40 to 6:25
40	6:25 to 7:10

8. **Actual riding speed for median time is 5.9 to 6.1 MPH.** Times indicated are total elapsed time (starting line to finish line) without penalty, INCLUDING one scheduled P&R hold. THESE TIMES MAY NOT BE SHORTENED. However, if extra or longer holds are planned, elapsed time can be increased accordingly. All riders must be notified uniformly. Time may also be increased in case of extreme weather conditions, resulting in unusually deep sand and/ or excessive humidity. This must be a decision of Judges and Management.
9. **Time Penalties** - For finishing under or over time are deducted as follows:
 - 1 point per minute on a 1-day ride
 - 1 point per 2 minutes on a 2 -day ride
 - 1 point per 3 minutes on a 3-day ride
 - 3 points for each 2nd 10-minute P&R hold needed due to poor recovery. (Refer to: The Ride, 10 Minute Hold)
10. **Overtime Disqualification** - More than one-half hour over the allotted time for 1-day ride. More than 45 minutes, total accumulated, over the allotted time for 2-day ride. More than 1 hour, total accumulated, over the allotted time for 3-day ride.

Health Requirements

Equines showing evidence of contagious disease are ineligible to compete, and shall be promptly removed from the grounds. A NEGATIVE COGGINS, dated within one year, WILL BE REQUIRED for all equines, prior to registration, for

all SEDRA rides. Nursing mares and equines that have been nerved are ineligible to compete. It is recommended that mares in last half of pregnancy not be entered.

Age and Division Requirements-Equines, Riders, Drivers

At any sanctioned SEDRA "Competitive Trail" event, it is mandatory for all riders, drivers and their passengers to wear an approved ASTM/SEI certified equestrian helmet while mounted or in the driving vehicle.

1. **Equines:** Competition must be open to any members of the equine family. This includes equines, ponies and mules. Minimum age for all Competitive Trail Rides/Drives and Intro Distance Rides is 48 months (4 years) for rides under 40 miles and 60 months (5 years) for rides 40 miles and over. All Driving equines must be a minimum of 11 hands (44 inches) Minimum age for all Endurance rides (in accordance with AERC rules) is 48 months (4 years) for all Limited Distance and Intro Distance Rides. 60 months (5 years) for rides of 50 miles and over.
2. **Riders – Senior:** The divisions for riders shall be divided by weight (rider and tack) into Light, Medium and Heavyweight or only light and Heavyweight, at the option of Management. Riders are weighed, then separated into divisions containing equal numbers of riders. (When actual weighing is not feasible, Management may accept riders estimate of weight as reflected in ride application.
3. **Riders – Juniors:** Riders 17 years of age and under as of the day of the ride must compete in the Junior Division a junior rider under 16 years of age must ride with a sponsor. Junior riders may participate in SEDRA competition only with the written consent of a parent or guardian. This consent shall imply:
 - a. Acceptance of all SEDRA rules, particularly the ability of a Junior to substitute a sponsor during a ride as allowed by SEDRA rules and regulations; and,
 - b. Prior consent to any emergency medical treatment or aid.
 - c. The sponsor must be a competent adult(21 years or older) and must be duly entered as a competitor in the event and sponsorship must be documented on the junior entry form complete with sponsor signature, at the time sponsorship begins.
 - d. Junior and/or sponsor normally may suspend their sponsorship agreement only at regular stated checks and then only with the knowledge and consent of ride management, and management's documentation of the change when it occurs.
 - e. Sponsorships may change between checks only in the event that either Competitor or either Competitor's mount is unable to continue safely to a checkpoint.
 - f. In the event of an emergency and in order to remain in competition, the Junior who is in last place and whose preregistered sponsor is pulled, and there are no other qualified sponsors to follow, the Junior may be sponsored by an un-entered qualified rider through the completion of the ride, with ride management and ride veterinarian approval.
 - g. JUNIOR RIDERS CANNOT COMPETE ON STALLIONS! SEDRA REQUIRES THAT ALL JUNIOR RIDERS WEAR H APPROVED HEADGEAR!
3. **Drivers -** Entries may be divided into Single and Pairs Divisions regardless of age of drivers. Ride Managers have the option to combine Singles and Pairs (Multiple Hitches) into one division.
 - a. All junior drivers under 16 years of age must be accompanied in the vehicle by a competent adult 21 yrs. older, from start to finish, who will assume full responsibility for the turnout.
 - b. A driver must have either breeching on his harness or brakes on his vehicle
 - c. BUCKING/KICKING STRAP- A bucking or kicking strap must be used by all single hitches, and adjusted so as to provide no more than 4" clearance, or the height of a fist, above the croup when slack.
4. **Multiple Hitches**
 - a. The entire entry (all equines, driver and groom) must complete the drive successfully in order to be considered for completion.
 - b. Each multiple hitch driver must carry a groom, whose duties consist of holding, hitching/unhitching, sponging and generally being helpful especially in an emergency. The groom must be at least 14 years of age and be deemed able to render assistance by the judge. The groom is NOT allowed to take the lines while driving but may take the lines at holds.
 - c. Juniors are not permitted to drive Pairs or a Multiple Hitch
5. **Passengers**
 - a. A singles driver may carry a passenger if he/ she desires.
 - b. In all circumstances, the passenger/groom must dismount the vehicle prior to the driver and likewise must mount the vehicle after the driver.
 - c. A passenger is not a groom. A passenger may not assist the driver in any manner.
 - d. Any passenger MUST be at least twelve years of age in any hitch.

Suggested Equipment—

- a. A driver should have a whip with him while driving.
- b. A driver should have a spares kit. (See Appendix A)
- c. If the vehicle has lightweight pneumatic tires and lightweight bicycle type rims, a spare wheel and tire is recommended.

Safety Check - A courtesy safety inspection may be offered to check all vehicles and harnesses before the start

Mileage Only Division

At the discretion of Ride Management, there may be a Mileage Only Division. In this division, riders/drivers will have the option to complete for mileage only. Rider/driver must notify Ride Management of their intention to use this option no later than ride check in.

4. At Ride Management discretion, mileage only riders may trailer in the morning of the ride. Ride Management must take their logistics into consideration, and determine arrival times so it won't interfere with the start of the ride. Time must be allowed for a pre-ride, fit to start vet exam.
5. Mileage Only horses on a multi-day ride must stay on the ride site between ride days.
6. The rider/driver will complete the competition under SEDRA rules/guidelines with the following exception:
 - a. Mileage Only riders will use the mileage only division score sheet, and at check in/out, may optionally trot their horse straight out and back. At the Judge's discretion, they may be required to circle their horse. They will use the score sheet that identifies them as Mileage Only, and will be judged on a Pass/Fail basis
 - b. The end of ride check of the equine at the CRI will include the "Fit to Continue" evaluation which may be accomplished by either the Trail Judge or the Veterinarian judge at the rider's discretion. The metabolic safety check must be accomplished by the Veterinarian ONLY. If the equine was selected for blood testing, it will be performed at this time. The equine is then released from the ride.
 - i. At the entry and completion exams for mileage only and introductory divisions, circles are optional but may be requested by vet judge.
 - c. If the equine is passed as fit to continue, the rider/driver/equine will receive mileage only credit which will count towards SEDRA Miles year-end awards. (Lifetime mileage for Horse and Rider, Annual Versatility, and Annual High Mileage Horse)
 - d. Any devices for protection of equine's legs (interference boots, bandages, etc.) or boots are allowed.

INTRODUCTORY DISTANCE RIDES (IDR) AND DRIVES (IDD)

The purpose of the IDR/D division within SEDRA's awards program is to introduce distance riding/driving to those who would like to sample the sport and for those experienced riders and /or horses no longer able to complete a longer course. IDR/D events will count only towards lifetime mileage for horse and riders and no other SEDRA awards, to include the longevity award.

1. All Equines must be 4 years or older to compete.
2. **At the discretion of Ride Management**, IDR's and IDD's can be offered only in conjunction with a SEDRA sanctioned competitive trail ride/drive (CTR/CTD), endurance ride or **a SEDRA sanctioned Educational Clinic**. IDR's/IDD's will be conducted under the **same rules as the Mileage Only division**. Ride Management may also offer a fun ride division which would receive no mileage but keeps safety in mind.
3. Mileage for IDRs and IDDs will be between 10-20 miles.
4. All SEDRA safety, procedural, and completion requirements are to be enforced for the miles to count.
 - a. If held in conjunction with a CTR/D, the IDR
 - i. Must follow those procedures and completion criteria already set up for the Mileage Only Division.
 - ii. A separate Trail Judge can be used for the IDR/D, if Ride Management feels that it is warranted.
 - b. If held in conjunction with an Endurance ride, the IDR
 - i. Must follow those procedures and completion criteria already set up for Limited Distance.
 - ii. Hoof and leg protection devices are acceptable, as stated in the Mileage Only Division.
5. Event distances and times (In conjunction with a CTR/D: times indicated are elapsed time, including one 20- minute hold. Hold is optional, but if no hold is scheduled, no adjustment on time is permitted. Standard 45- minute window applies with no assessed penalties. DQ if come in 30 minutes over time, again follow Mileage Only Division rules. (Pace set at 6 mph average).
 - a. 10 miles = 1:25-2:10
 - b. 12.5 miles = 1:50-2:35
 - c. 15 miles = 2:15-3:00
 - d. 18 miles = 2:45-3:30
 - e. 20 miles = 3:05-3:50

6. Event distances and times (In conjunction with Endurance ride: one hold may be scheduled, but is not required. If no hold is scheduled, no adjustment on time is permitted.)
 - a. 10 miles = 2:30 hours maximum
 - b. 12.5 miles = 3 hours maximum
 - c. 15 miles = 4 hours maximum
 - d. 18 miles = 5 hours maximum
 - e. 20 miles = 5:15 hours maximum
7. Participation in an IDR/D does NOT constitute the official beginning of a rider's or horse's Rookie season. The Rookie season will officially begin with their first 25 mile minimum CTR/D or Limited Distance Endurance ride.
8. IDR/D is not eligible for elevating.
9. Any mileage before the beginning date of this test period cannot be purchased and will not count.
10. All SEDRA rules apply (i.e., Rider/Driver must be a member, horse must be nominated prior to the ride, etc. for miles to count.)

Awards

MONETARY AWARDS – Monetary awards may not be awarded by Ride Management, Judges or Sponsors at or for any SEDRA sanctioned CTR. Monetary awards offered and awarded directly by other organizations (including but not limited (Breed organizations) based on accumulated points or miles (for CTR/CTD and Endurance) are permitted.

1. **Completion** - These awards are given to all who successfully complete the ride within the time allocated only after the riders' and drivers' equines pass final judging.
2. **Placing**- These are usually the six highest scoring equines in each division.
3. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion - These are the two highest scoring equines on the ride and are generally placed ABOVE their respective divisions on SEDRA rides.
4. **Junior Riders**— under 18 are considered to be full-fledged entrants in the ride and are eligible for all awards except Grand and Reserve Champion.
5. **Return of the Score Sheets** - Score sheets are returned to the riders/drivers immediately following the Awards Ceremony, in exchange for the riders/drivers' return of their number vests (pinnies) to Management. The sheets contain final scores and the comments of the judges on the equines. If the riders/drivers have any comments on the score sheets, they should be brought to the attention of Ride Management immediately.

Ride Personnel

Minimum personnel* will consist of a Ride/General Manager, Ride Secretary, P&R Teams, Weight Person if applicable), Timer/Starter, Trail Master, SEDRA Steward, Recorder for each judge, Driver(s) for equine ambulance, Driver(s) for Water Wagons (where applicable) Drivers for P&R teams, Scorers.

1. **Ride Manager:** The Ride Manager carries out the duties of putting on a ride as outlined in the Ride Manager's packet. The Ride Manager oversees the functions of Ride Management, volunteers and Judges. Ride manager shall direct all rules questions, inquiries, and concerns to the SEDRA Steward and proceed accordingly. The Ride Manager of a sanctioned CTR cannot compete, be a Judge or Steward of a Ride they are managing.
2. **Ride Steward:** A Ride Steward is required for all SEDRA sanctioned Competitive Trail Rides and/or drives. The SEDRA Steward functions as the enforcer of the rules and guidelines. The Ride Steward is responsible for discussing rule interpretations and clarifications with all affected parties. The Steward must file a report to the Sanctioning Secretary after each ride. The Ride Steward may not Judge a Ride, but may be the Timer, or Starter.
3. **Recorders** shall record the findings of the judges on the SEDRA Score Sheets and should be available for assistance at time of final scoring. Recorders should be chosen from persons reasonably conversant with Competitive Trail Rides and Terminologies.
4. **Farrier:** It is recommended that a Farrier be available for the entire ride, or at selected times such as prior to the ride start and/or at the lunch stop. If no farrier is available, the contestants should be so notified in advance of the ride. All shoeing expenses shall be paid by the rider or driver.
5. **Weight Recorder:** Weight person shall record the rider/tack weights of Senior Riders (and Junior Riders when applicable), and determine the appropriate divisions equally dividing the senior riders into Lightweight, Middleweight, and Heavyweight, or into Lightweight and Heavyweight. If there is an extra rider, he or she will go into the heavier division. Ride Management may elect to accept Riders estimates of weight as reflected in rider applications. Should any conflict arise, management should be prepared to provide scales to check estimates for accuracy.
6. **Starter:** Starter shall call the equines to the starting line in order of their departure. Permission to change starting order must be obtained from Ride Management. Riders of Stallions may choose to start at the end of the starting order. Ride Management may decree that Junior Riders under 10 years of age, accompanied by their sponsor, must start at the end of the starting order.

7. **Timekeeper:** Timekeeper and Starter may be the same person or the duties may be divided. The timekeeper must keep an accurate record of start and finish time of each contestant and calculate anytime penalties, if incurred, for recording on contestants' score sheets. Any official, unscheduled holds on the trail shall be timed by a ride official and credited to the Contestant(s).
8. **P&R Teams:** A P&R Team usually consists of 2 people, usually one to take the pulse and one to record same. The Taker(s) should have extensive experience in this category. For accuracy, pulse may be taken at a P&R stop with either a stethoscope or a hand-held heart rate monitor. A stethoscope must be available at all times, and the rider/driver has the option to request the use of a stethoscope. Fairest results are for a 30 second count multiplied by two (30 seconds x 2 = BPM). Any abnormal pulse should be reported to the judges IMMEDIATELY. A thermometer will be available for use, as needed, at every ride.
9. **CRI persons:** Must be certified either by board approval based on past experience OR by completing a SEDRA approved workshop or training session. To participate, you must be 18 years of age and have completed two years of ride management experience or distance experience or extensive pulse and respiration experience. You must also have recorded on one SEDRA sanctioned ride and demonstrate an understanding of the CRI procedure.
10. **Scorers:** At least one scorer must be certified by a SEDRA workshop or training session. (SEDRA will provide an up- dated list of certified CRI takers and scorers upon request.)
11. **Trail Master:** The Trail Master shall plan, measure and mark the official trail and in conjunction with Ride Management, shall recommend the best lunch stop, water stops and any other needed accommodations along the trail. The Trail Master should always be recognized as a valuable member of the ride team and should be recognized for his/her contribution to the ride.
12. **Ride Secretary:** The Ride Secretary sends out entry forms, receives, and acknowledges entries when applicable, is responsible for initial information entered on the score sheets (names of riders, drivers, equines, etc.), sees that judges have all pertinent information and equipment and supervises correct tallying of scores and subsequent placing of equines. Generally, policy has been that acknowledgement of entries on a one day ride is not necessary, but is left to the discretion of ride management, taking into consideration current postage costs. Acknowledgement is required on multi-day rides.
13. **Judges–** SEDRA Judges should have a good working knowledge of equines under stress. SEDRA REQUIRES that at least one judge be a veterinarian. Two other judges (non-veterinary, lay judges are acceptable) with appropriate experience are required for Trail Judge and Special Awards Judge. During the "Hands On" portion of judging horses, each Judge will not be near the horse at the same time. Absolute independent judging will be maintained in appearance and fact.
 - a. There must be a veterinarian available on call in case of emergency. Veterinarian judge should be equipped to administer first aid to an equine in trouble until the local veterinarian can come and take over. Any such treatment disqualifies an equine immediately. Any treatment of an equine by either veterinary judge or local veterinarian shall be at owner's expense.
 - b. THE JUDGES SHALL HAVE FINAL AUTHORITY ON ALL QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE SAFETY AND PLACING OF THE EQUINES.
 - c. Judges MUST understand and AGREE to use the standard SEDRA judging procedures and score sheets without modification.
 - d. Under certain circumstances, such as illness or other emergency, Special Awards judging may be performed by a member of the ride management team; e.g., the Trail Judge.
14. ***Competitive Trail Rides (CTR) that have 20 entries or less for all divisions offered may reduce the required personnel to 6 as follows:**
 - a. Ride Manager: Can also be Ride Secretary, Trail Master if one is not assigned
 - b. Ride Steward: Can also be the Timer and/or Starter
 - c. CRI Person: Can also be P & R Person and Scorer
 - d. CRI Person *MUST* be certified by BOD approval based on past experience or by completing SEDRA approved workshop or training session.
 - e. Recorder/Scribe
 - f. Judges (2): 1 Judge is required to be a veterinarian. Trail Judge (can also be Special Awards Judge)
 - g. Special Awards are not required but can be awarded by Ride management and Vet/Trail Judge. Special awards can also be awarded by peer recognized voting. Peer recognized voting must be established PRIOR to the start of the ride and announced at the pre-ride meeting.

Ethics

To improve the quality of distance rides and the caliber of the competition at the rides and remove any questions of bias at rides, the SOUTH EASTERN DISTANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION has adopted the following guidelines and rules concerning ethics of ride management, judges, stewards and riders /drivers.

1. Judges and Stewards

- a. The first step of a judge must be to exhibit the highest standard of integrity at all times and avoid decisions arrived at by influence, bias or ignorance.
 - b. Family members of any Judge contracted in the event may compete in the "Mileage Only" Division" (provided MO is being offered by Ride Management). Horses owned by the contracted Judges or horses that any contracted judge may have a "financial interest in" can only participate in the "Mileage Only Division".
 - i. Exception – Special Award Judge's family members and/or horses in which Special Awards Judges have a financial interest may ride for full points but may not compete for special awards.
2. Family members (affiliates) and equines of Ride Manager, Ride Personnel, or Ride Steward are allowed to compete for awards, points, and mileage credit.
 3. Judges and Stewards are responsible for a thorough knowledge, understanding and application of general rules of SEDRA and the ride they are judging.
 4. Judges should report to the Steward or Ride Management any improper approaches by riders or drivers.
 5. Owners and Riders/Drivers-
 - a. Owners and Riders/Drivers will at all times treat their equines with the kindness, respect and affection which they deserve; at no time while on the ride will an equine be subject to mistreatment.
 - b. Riders, Drivers or Owners shall not attempt to influence judges by telephoning, writing or any other means before or during rides that they have been employed to judge.

Examination and Judging Procedures

1. **Pre-Ride Examination** - The pre-ride examinations will be used to determine the FITNESS OF THAT EQUINE TO START THE RIDE. Mucous membranes, anal tone, capillary refill and skin pinch will be taken pre-ride as a fit to start criteria. It will be scored using post-ride criteria only and will be completed by the Vet Judge only. Depending on the number of equines entered and the circumstances existing at the particular ride site, this may take place the afternoon preceding the ride or at first light in the morning prior to the ride. An examination area for the judges must allow room to have the equines trotted, and room for circles and figure eights. The surface should be fairly hard and smooth (trotting strip). Both trail and veterinary judges should examine the equines as a team. If, upon examination, it is the judge's de- termination that an equine is UNSOUND OR UNFIT for the stress of the ride, or to allow the equine to start the ride would be inhumane or dangerous to equine or rider/driver, the equine will not be allowed to start. The special awards judge should be in a position of observer at pre-ride exam and will be noting horsemanship of riders/drivers immediately following check-in. The special awards judge should be allowed an area where he/she may have the opportunity to closely examine the equines at this time. Temperature, equine's age, equine's pulse and respiration will be added to the CTR score card as part of the pre-ride exam. This information is for safety and will not be used for scoring in any way. Taking of the temperature of the horse will not be required at the initial veterinary inspection unless requested by the ride veterinarian as a safety precaution. This includes mileage only and IDR competitors. Failure to comply will result in elimination from the ride.
2. **Scoring System** - SEDRA has developed a numerical scoring system. Specific limits are evaluated for each equine at the beginning and end of the ride. Each equine starts with 100 points and points are deducted at the final exam for changes which signify stress or loss of condition as defined in the scoring system. Deductions are limited in value by the point allotment of the scoring system for a given area. ABSOLUTELY NO DEVIATIONS are to be made to score cards/scoring systems.
3. **Judging Duties** – Each judge should score individually, and should refrain from discussing point values deducted, or not deducted with each other. This will help prevent ties. Metabolics will be scored by the VET Judge only and the scores will be transferred onto the Trail Judge's scorecards by the scribe or by the scorekeeper. If the trail judge is a veterinarian, that judge may also score Metabolics on his or her own score sheets.

Specifics of Pre-Ride Exam

1. **Declarations-** The rider/driver should make note of any declarations of pre-existing conditions, i.e., lacerations, abrasions, "cold" wind puffs, club foot, etc. which must be verified by the vet/judges on the score sheet.
2. **Hydration-** Includes examination of color and texture of mucous membranes, capillary refill time, jugular vein refill, skin tent/pinch and as a safety measure, gut sounds. Vet Judge will examine each equine and note results on scorecard.
3. **Legs/Injuries/Stress-** This category covers any physical evidence of wear and tear or stress on the legs, initiated

or worsened during the ride. The most common leg problems are wind puffs, swollen tendons, lower leg filling, scratches, joint swelling, sore splints and interference marks. These conditions are detected visually and manually.

4. **Lameness-** The equine will be examined by the judges for lameness. This includes, but is not limited to trotting the equine out in straight lines and figure eights or circles in hand. A grade 3 or greater lameness (see definitions) shall prevent an equine from starting a ride; milder degrees of lameness should be brought to the rider/driver's attention by the judges at the start of the ride, and may prevent an equine from starting the ride at the discretion of the judges.
5. **Back and Tack Area** -This includes the parts of the equine touched by actual riding equipment such as saddle, bridle, breastplate, crupper, etc. On the tack examination, the judges' attention will be directed toward tack related injuries such as abrasions, hair missing, and heat bumps. The back area examination will be directed toward muscle tenderness, pain and deep muscle soreness. Some of these are easily seen, others must be detected manually.

Pre-Ride Briefing

The pre-ride briefing and its timing is a concern of Management and must take place between completion of pre ride exams and starting time. It is to inform the riders and drivers of such things as trail marking symbols and colors, starting order, exact ride length, difficult sections of trail, allowed time, approximate lunch stop and water stop locations and P&R hold times, in addition to establishing P&R parameters. Time schedule for final P&R and final Judging should be covered. All questions should be answered at this time and it is the time to introduce the judges, and steward who may contribute to the briefing.

Care and Handling of Mounts

Contestants competing for horsemanship must take complete care of their own mounts at all times during the ride and in the stables.

1. **During the ride** (Exceptions for handicapped or medically impaired riders/drivers must be pre-approved by Ride Management.):
 - a. ALL RIDERS/Drivers over age 18, whether or not they are competing for horsemanship awards, are required to care for their own mounts, except in the case of a sick equine, or such assistance as may be desired in mounting or dismounting, or having their equines held during a rest break.
 - b. Junior riders may receive assistance on the trail from their sponsor. ASSISTANCE IN CLEANING AND GROOMING MOUNTS DURING THE RIDE IS PROHIBITED.
 - c. Sick and Injured Riders/Drivers – If a rider/driver is visibly sick or injured during the ride, it may happen that it is not in the best interests of the equine or rider/driver for that rider team to continue. Any of the judges or the head of the CRI teams should encourage that rider/driver to withdraw/pull from that competition. In case of injury or illness to the rider/driver, a substitute rider/driver may complete the ride for mileage only if the horse successfully meets all ride parameters. Both original and substitute riders/drivers must be current SEDRA members for the horse to receive mileage credit. Only the horse is eligible for mileage credit.
 - d. Having obtained permission from the Ride Manager and Ride Steward prior to the vet-in of a ride, a rider with special needs may obtain assistance throughout the ride with trot out, mounting/dismounting and girth tightening.
2. **Care and Handling of Mounts – Permitted**
 - a. Use of electrolytes and fly repellent is permitted.
 - b. Water that has not been artificially heated or cooled may be used. Equines may be allowed to stand in water of air temperature in an individual bucket only while such water is actually being sloshed on legs. Only one bucket at a time may be used.
 - c. Any saddle cloths, blankets, brushes, curry combs and other grooming aids may be used. Any type of tack is permitted unless deemed inhumane by the judges EXCEPT bareback pads or bareback riding.
 - d. Any type of shoeing, including pads, easy boots or any boot that comes below the entire coronary band, borium and/or corrective shoeing is permitted. A rider/driver may bring his own shoes for emergency use, do his own shoeing, bring his own farrier, or secure the services of the ride farrier. Any ride farrier services shall be at the expense of the rider or driver. (2011)
 - e. Any equine hoof boot that is used to provide sole protection may be used for Competitive Trail competitions without penalty of points with the requirement that any straps, keepers, gaiters or like accessories do not extend above the fetlock. Hoof boots are to be removed **AFTER** the **FINAL** trot out for veterinary and trail judge inspection. Points will be deducted for blemishes created by the wearing of hoof boots such as rubs, blisters, cuts. Bell boots, splint boots, wraps and all similar products as well as any accessory extension above the fetlock are not permissible for points but can be used in our mileage only program.
 - f. Any exercise for cooling out/warming up purposes shall take place within a designated area.

3. **Care and Handling of Mounts - Not Permitted** - The following will absolutely result in disqualification:
 - a. Use of salt packs, external medications, salves, ointments, liniments, leg compresses and/or bandages.
 - b. Any devices for protection of equine's legs (interference boots, bandages, etc.)
 - c. The use of water hoses, hosing to cool out on competitive rides.
 - d. Water that has been artificially heated or cooled.
 - e. Abuse of equines, or un-sportsmanlike behavior by the rider/driver and/or his crew or family.
 - f. Whips cannot be carried at the preliminary or post-ride final exams.
 - g. Riders/Drivers may not have water or feed for mounts transported for them on the trail except that which Ride Management may carry on a designated vehicle, if Ride Management feels there are enough volunteers so as not to interfere with the P&R hold. If management feels that this is not feasible, no equipment, feed, etc. may be used during the competition except that which is carried by the competing team of equine and rider/driver.
 - h. All equines are to be on ride grounds for the preliminary exam, as scheduled, and are to remain on ride grounds through the final exam. This period is defined as during the ride (except if the equine is disqualified from competition).
 - i. Use of any internal drug or medication will automatically disqualify an equine. Random drug testing may be implemented by SEDRA or ride management without notice. No equine competing in any SEDRA sanctioned ride shall be given any illegal drug or medication for the purpose of altering the equine's performance. See Definitions.
 - j. Driver Specific-The following will be immediately disqualified.
 - I. Removing bridle while an equine is attached to a driving vehicle.
 - II. An equine in harness and attached to a driving vehicle left tied and unattended.

SEDRA Medication Policy:

SEDRA takes a strong stance against performance enhancing drugs and masking agents and does not condone any of these substances used in its competitions.

However, SEDRA recognizes that trace amounts of medications commonly used for equine treatment or substances from environmental contamination or exposure may be detected due to the ever-increasing sensitivity of testing methods.

1. **Permissible substances:** Vitamins, Minerals, Foodstuffs. These must be administered in recommended dosages only. Mega doses to achieve a pharmacological effect are not permissible.
2. **Non-Permissible Substances:** Any substance by Injection or stomach tube, Supplements in mega doses, any substance having the following actions: anti-inflammatory (steroidal and non-steroidal), stimulants, depressants or tranquilizers, analgesia or anesthesia (procaine penicillin contains a local anesthetic that can be picked up for 10-14 days from the time of administration), antihistamines, vasoactive substances (i.e., isoxsuprine), bronchodilators.
 - a. **Masking Substances:** Thiamine injectables, sulfa drugs, Benzimidazole wormers.
 - b. **Miscellaneous Drugs:** Dipyrone, Lasix, Trimethoprim, any injectable containing propyl-ethylene-glycol as a carrier, liniments, hoof dressings, salves or other medications.
 - c. **Other:** Ice and ice water, artificially heated water, or alcohol. (SEDRA CTR/CTD only)
3. **Drug Testing** – All Competitive Trail Ride competing horses shall be subject to collection of blood, urine, or saliva at any time during the event. The event is considered complete upon the final veterinarian check of the horse. Although SEDRA sanctions endurance rides, AERC authority concerning drug testing is considered adequate and supersedes this policy for those events.
 - a. The Ride Veterinarian will collect blood samples. Samples will be taken with owner or contestant permission. Refusal to grant permission will be taken as an admission of illegal drug use. The owner and rider, if different, are absolute guarantors of the horse's condition and are subject to disciplinary action, irrespective of demonstrable proof of their knowledge or intent of the administration of a prohibited substance.
 - b. Ride Managers are not responsible for implementation of the SEDRA Drug Testing Program and are prohibited from collecting any fees from competitors concerning this policy. When the designated representative arrives at their ride, the Ride Manager will be informed that their ride has been selected for testing and are expected to assist to ensure the program is successful. The Ride Manager or the Ride Steward may be asked to verify the random selection of the equine to be tested. The actual random selection and the administration of the drug test will be accomplished by the Ride Veterinarian and the SEDRA designated representative. The SEDRA representative or Ride Veterinarian will maintain custody and control ensuring the integrity of the entire process.
 - c. The University of Florida Racing Laboratory is the only source for SEDRA drug screens. The samples are tested according to standard operating procedures by Immunoassay (IA) and instrumental screening.
 - d. Not all rides will be tested. The President or Vice President of SEDRA and two other members of the Board of Directors will determine by a random process if the ride will be tested. The random process selected must

provide for a 50% probability of testing. All rides will be provided a blood testing kit by the Drug Testing Committee or current member of the SEDRA BOD.. The designated representative need only arrive and test. This will prevent advance warning that a ride might not be tested. The determination of whether a ride is to be tested can be accomplished at the ride itself, further increasing the secrecy.

- e. When a test is returned with a positive detection of an illegal substance, the interpretation of any positive test result will be completed by the Drug Testing Committee, led by the Committee Chairperson. The Drug Committee chair will review the test findings with the laboratory technician, the owner/rider of the tested equine, and 2 Veterinarians. The Committee will determine any need for further testing and may use expert advice from outside sources if necessary. The name of the equine and horse owner shall not be disclosed outside the Drug Committee during the review. Findings and recommendations will be forwarded to the SEDRA President, who shall present such to the SEDRA Board of Directors for discussion and review. Majority opinion of the SEDRA BOD will be the final decision regarding any penalties or disqualification. At that time, the President will submit written correspondence to the equine owner/rider with the outcome of the decision. This review shall be completed within 30 days of receiving the Drug Committee recommendations.

4. **Penalty For Illegal Drug Use** - Shall Include:

- a. Disqualification from ride and complete withdrawal of awards, including completion.
- b. Owner or Lessee will be suspended from all remaining SEDRA sanctioned rides for the remainder of the ride season. SEDRA will submit reports of illegal drug use to all ride managers.
- c. Suspension of SEDRA mileage and/or high point award for equines owned by suspended owner/lessee for the remainder of the ride season. SEDRA members using illegal drugs will remain on membership probation status without voting privileges until reinstated by the SEDRA Board of Directors.
- d. ANY REPEAT OFFENDER OF ILLEGAL DRUG USE WILL BE PERMANENTLY BARRED FROM SEDRA COMPETITIONS AND SEDRA WILL SUBMIT REPORTS TO ALL RIDE MANAGERS AND ANY OTHER RELATED ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF EQUINES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NATRC, AERC, ECTRA, AHSA, AHA, ETC.

Trail Conduct –

1. **Assigned numbers** must be visibly worn by contestants at all times, beginning with the pre-ride exam. A rider that uses a "Hit-Air vest" or similar device that inflates when the rider separates from the Equine during competition, is allowed to wear their pinnie underneath the device. They must put their rider number on the rear of the equine. When they remove the inflatable device, their pinnie must be clearly visible.
2. **Forward progress may be maintained only if the rider/driver is mounted.** Any rider/driver going off course, intentionally or otherwise, must return to the same point where he left the trail to continue, or such rider/driver will be disqualified. If a rider/driver becomes lost, he must return to the point at which he left the trail to resume the ride. There is no compensation for lost time. It is the responsibility of the rider/driver to stay on the correct trail.
 - a. Exception: In the case of a lost shoe, a rider may dismount and walk an equine with a shoe missing to the nearest area where the farrier can reach him. Time compensation for shoeing is limited to the actual number of minutes the farrier takes to replace the shoe or shoes if approved by ride management. Walking or waiting time will be at the rider's expense.
 - b. Exception: Riders or Drivers may dismount to cross a dangerous/hazardous obstacle on the trail. In the interest of safety, a driver may unhitch their horse(s) from the vehicle prior to going over the unsafe/dangerous obstacle, lead their horse(s) over/through the obstacle and re-hitch once safely across/through the obstacle (2008)
3. **Passing on the Trail:** Riders should be courteous and warn other riders when passing is necessary. Safety, courtesy, and Good Sportsmanship are involved. This includes the equine passing and the equine being passed. A rider should not pass in an unsafe area, the slower equine on the trail always yields to the faster equine.
4. **Red Ribbon** must be worn on the tail of a known KICKER.
5. **Yellow Ribbon** must be worn on the tail of all STALLIONS.
6. **Spread out:** Riders/Drivers should avoid riding in large groups because it makes it very difficult for the judges to see each individual equine.
7. **Water:** Equines should be trained to drink from either a bucket or a natural watering area and should be constantly afforded the opportunity to drink throughout the ride. Equines should be kept moving after drinking.
8. **Sponging:** sponge the neck and between the legs where the blood vessels run close to the surface. In hot weather, overall sponging is helpful, but in cold weather, water over the loins and back should be avoided as it can cause stiffness.
9. **Water and Lunch Stops:** Trail courtesy should extend to water and lunch stops under all circumstances.
10. **Dangerous Equine** – An Equine which constitutes clear danger to other equines and /or persons can be disqualified at any time from competition. From arrival on the premises through to the final exam, by agreement of two of the following: the Ride Manager, Ride Steward, Vet or Trail Judge. The equine can be asked to leave the premises by the Ride Manager's discretion.

The Ride - Equine and Rider/Driver

You, as a rider or driver, are responsible for the following:

- Know the rules of SEDRA and the ride you are participating in.
- Know the information from the pre-ride briefing.
- Make sure you have properly cleared all holds during the course of the ride.

1. **The Start:** Riders/Drivers may draw for starting position OR the ride may start in the order of the rider's/drivers assigned numbers OR the riders/drivers may draw for numbers which will be their assigned numbers AND their starting position as well. This will be a management decision. The granting of special requests for position also will be a management decision.
2. **Mounting:** For safety purposes, mandatory mounting must take place as far away from the starting line as possible.
3. **The Time:** The official timer will start the riders/drivers, usually at 30 or 60 second intervals. Time is computed from the time the equine leaves the starting line (the location of which shall be determined by ride management. The ride will start with a TROT past the judges, after which the rider and driver may proceed at his own pace.
4. **Pacing of the Ride:** (On the Trail) Time allowed for completion, without penalty, will have been established prior to the start of ride. Scheduled P&R stops and lunch stops are included in the total riding time. A Competitive Trail Ride usually averages speeds of 5-7 MPH. Each rider/driver should know the rate at which his equine travels. Pushing the equine at the beginning or at the end of the ride and/or holding the equine back to kill time often puts undue stress on the animal.
5. **Pre Finish or Towards the Finish:** Approximately 2 miles from the finish, riders and drivers should begin to separate themselves from each other to minimize backup and congestion at the finish line and metabolic exam.

Judging the Competition

Trail Checks

1. On the trail checks are for the purpose of equine safety, which is, being there to see and eliminate an equine with an obvious lameness, injury or other problem which makes it painful or impossible for the equine to continue. On trail comments will help give the rider/driver a ride-long picture of his equine and will be helpful in situations where a low grade problem keeps recurring. If, for example, lameness was suspected at the first checkpoint, the recorder should remind the judge of this and the judge will be sure to evaluate this suspected problem before the equine is allowed to leave the checkpoint. The equine will be observed with the problem in mind again at the remaining checkpoint(s) and at the final exam. It is not necessary for ALL Judges to observe TOGETHER on the trail. At any time, any questionable equine may be stopped and examined by the judges. Depending on their findings, the equine maybe allowed to continue, held for a period of time or pulled from the ride. Exam and enforced rest time comes out of the rider/driver's original allotted time. No extra time will be given except in the case of a Mandatory 10-minute hold where a 3 point penalty will be assessed and the 10 minutes is given back to the rider/driver.
2. One judge or the designated, qualified P&R person may pull an equine from a ride, a consensus is not necessary. Once pulled, the equine is automatically disqualified. Depending on the circumstances and the condition of the equine, the rider/driver may be allowed to walk the equine in or may elect to await the equine ambulance. Even if said equine is walked in, it shall not be eligible for a ride completion. Checkpoints should be set with the cooperation of management and judges so that the judges will see all equines pass before moving on. Upon occasion, there will be some late riders or drivers and a decision must be made as to whether to wait for them or not. Ride Management should alert judges to all equines that have been eliminated so that they do not wait for an equine that will not reach the checkpoint.
3. Three trail checks should be average for most rides. This number will vary according to ride length, terrain, and course layout. The judges should see the equines ridden/driven at the trot, one at a time, and on a good section of the trail. At this time, observations may be recorded in the ON TRAIL COMMENTS section of the score sheets for final evaluation purposes.

Pulse and Respiration Stops (P&R Stops)

1. On a minimum ride of 25 miles, approximately halfway through the ride, all equines MUST undergo a Scheduled P&R Check with a 20-minute hold (except on multi-day rides where a distance of less than 25 miles is covered on the last day, the 20 minute hold is waived). On rides of longer than 25 miles duration, additional P&R checks may be handled in the same manner as the initial P&R hold, with ride management and judges making the decision on lengthening the ride time to accommodate such additional holds. Additional P&R checks should be a decision of management and judges and should definitely be considered wherein conditions of extreme weather and/or difficult terrain exist, which may result in high degrees of stress and/or fatigue in the animals. Additional P&R checks may be a Stop and Go.(See Definitions.) Equine must meet minimum recovery parameters to continue at any check point. A judge or an assigned delegate may ask that all equines be observed leaving any hold at a trot or gaited equivalent. A 5-point time penalty would be given to a rider who missed Metabolics at the hold on the trail, but did not leave early. **Leaving a hold early would result in a DQ.**

2. **Driver Hold Safety Requirements-**
 - a. Horses are NOT to be unhitched at holds unless the driver is withdrawing from the ride.
 - b. As the driver must care for his horse while hooked, drivers are allowed a header (or groom) for assistance in holding the horse either in the cart or on the ground.
 - c. If the horse needs to be moved for any reason, the driver must be at the reins in the vehicle.
3. **Minimum Recovery Parameters** –Pulse will be determined by weather conditions and Judge's preferences and experience and shall be set by a conference of judges and management prior to the start of the ride. These parameters shall be made known to the riders at the pre-ride briefing. Respirations should not be higher than pulse (inversion). Inversions should be viewed seriously and are seen more frequently in hot humid weather. Some equines may under some circumstances, work at inverted values, but they should all recover to a normal ratio (respiratory rate being about 2/3 the pulse) value.
4. **Finish Line Criteria:**
 - a. The last 1/4 (quarter) mile must be done at a brisk working trot or gaited equivalent.
 - b. Once the rider/driver is to the finish line, his/her finish time is recorded.
 - c. The rider will go directly into a minimum 10-minute hold with water provided the same as at a water stop.
 - d. Drivers have 20 minutes, cart and harness may be removed in the holding area, or at camp/stall area as designated by ride management and must return immediately to the CRI area for cooling off and water. Drivers may use header assistance only to remove cart and harness.
 - e. This holding area must be separated from CRI. It is recommended that surveyor's tape be used to mark off the hold area to keep riders from leaving the designated area, or wandering too far away from the designated Cardiac Recovery Indexing Area- by a minimum of 100 feet.
 - i. TACK IS OPTIONAL. Riders may remove tack, but may not leave the hold station until it is time to go to the next station.
 - ii. The distance for the CRI is 125 feet out and 125 feet back.
 - f. After the minimum hold period has elapsed, the rider or driver will proceed to the CRI (Cardiac Recovery Index) station.
 - i. At least 2 P&R teams are required. THERE ARE NO RETAKES ALLOWED AT FINAL CRI. Rider or driver must proceed metabolic station.
 - g. Final metabolic exam will be recorded and scored. The CRI is recorded and used in the final score. After rider/driver has completed these procedures as required, he may proceed to his camp/stall area. If a rider misses the metabolic check at the end of the ride (returns to their trailer after the CRI), they must get a safety check done, and will lose maximum points.
 - i. **Missing CRI would result in a DQ.**
5. **Final Exam**
 - a. Rider/driver must present the equine no sooner than 1 hour from his/her FINISH time for FINAL Exam at which time the equine will be trotted in hand for the final lameness exam.
 - b. The time for the final exam should be announced to each rider/driver no later than their final CRI/metabolic exam. Trotting for lameness is required BEFORE hands on examination. After the equine has been trotted, legs, injuries, stress, muscle soreness and tack area will be examined and scored. FINAL EXAM WILL CONSIST OF Metabolics and Fatigue, Pulse Index, Soundness, Back and Tack Exams. All equines will be judged in the order of their completion. Directly after final exam, equine and ride/driver will present to Special Awards Judge.
 - c. Post Ride Safety Check – A mandatory post ride safety check shall be performed by the Veterinarian on all equines starting the ride regardless of completion status.

Scoring and Point Deductions

1. **Pulse and Cardiac Recovery Scoring-** Total Pulse= 30 seconds Pulse x 2 (30 second count is REQUIRED for Cardiac Recovery Indexing to be valid) Use of Digital Stethoscopes is prohibited. No digital readouts or displays may be used.
 - a. **Pulse:** deduct 1 point for every 2 beats over established ride parameters. A maximum of 5 points can be deducted from this section.
 - b. **Cardiac** Recovery Indexing:
 - i. Base line pulse of 64 or below: return pulse should meet baseline, allow up to 4 beats higher before points are deducted. Deduct 1 point for every two beats over allowed return to baseline.
 - ii. Baseline pulse of over 64: a full return to, or below baseline measurement is required. Deduct 1 point for each two beats over allowed return to baseline, maximum of 5 points to be deducted from this section.
 - iii. Any equine whose pulse is over 68 either at the baseline or the recovery should be brought to the attention of the Veterinarian. Any equine whose pulse does not recover to the baseline requirement of 64 within 30 minutes of crossing the finish line will be disqualified after verification by the Veterinarian.
2. **Fatigue/Reluctance To Trot** - A maximum of five points can be deducted for unwillingness to trot (or gait equivalent) at Final Exam.

3. **Lameness, Legs, Injury, And Stress** - Palpation and flexion of legs will not be allowed until after the final trot out. Legs may be tested for injury and lameness and will be judged for soundness.
4. **Criteria for Completion Awards**- All equines must stand for and pass the final veterinary inspection for completion awards. Any equine that requires veterinary assistance (even if refused by the rider or driver) before the final exam will be eliminated. Equines that are Grade III lameness or more at the final veterinary exam will not be allowed a completion.
5. **Criteria for Placement** - The final criterion of ride completion is for the equine to be determined by the judges to be fit to continue. Equines can be no greater than GRADE II lameness at the Final Exam to be eligible for placing.
6. **Examination Difficulties** - Great emphasis must be placed on equal examination of all equines in every respect. If an individual animal cannot be examined at the post-ride exam, the animal may not be considered in the final scoring and standing.

Score Tabulation –

The score sheets shall be given to a representative of management. No changes in scoring may be made after this point. A separate crew of certified scorers does all of the final calculations, including deduction of time penalties taken from the Timer's Record Sheet. The judges do not add up deductions or make any tabulation's.

1. **Judging Duties** – The total penalties on each judge's score sheet are added and noted, then deducted from the 100 points that each rider/driver started with, to record each judge's total score. Then, the total scores of each judge are added together, divided by the number of judges, and averaged. The final score average is noted on the score sheet of the senior judge. This is the score upon which awards are made. The special awards judge has a special scoresheet totally apart from those of the trail judges.
2. **Tie Breaking** - If a scoring tie occurs, the tie breakers will be in the following order:
 - a. Metabolic Recovery plus Legs/injury/stress plus Lameness
 - b. Metabolic Recovery
 - c. Completely at the Judge's discretion.
3. **Score Sheets** - Original is given to riders/drivers after the awards presentation and upon return of number vests (pinnies) to Management. Duplicate is to be returned to SEDRA with Ride Managers Report.
4. **Mileage Only** - The scoresheet for a rider competing in the mileage only division shall have each box filled in with a P for pass or F for fail. The judge will indicate on the scoresheet that the ride was completed successfully.
5. **Multi-Day Ride Scoring** - Multi-day scoring will be standardized to using the score card and finishing Metabolics and soundness exam on the last day as the final score. (Remember, placement criteria is based on the equine's fitness to continue!)
 - a. It will be mandatory for a safety check to be performed on all days of a multiday ride, after the mileage for the day is complete. This safety check will include, but is not limited to, Metabolics, pulse, respiration, and lameness. This will be done for safety only and will not be used for scoring.

Pulse and Respiration Stops/Trail Checks Disqualification Criteria –

PR and judge's stops on the trail are there for the safety of the equines. The holds are used to determine if your equine is able to safely continue on. Failure to wait until you have been properly cleared, or continuing on after you have been pulled, could place your equine in extreme danger. Because of the danger to the equine, leaving a trail hold for whatever reason without proper clearance will constitute an automatic disqualification from the ride. Failure to recover at P&R holds can be justified as disqualification, as the equine may be in distress. Poor pulse and respiration recoveries, or inversions ALONE will not be a reason to pull. When an inversion or failure to recover is indicated at a P&R checkpoint, the equine should be examined by the judge for STRESS AND FATIGUE. LAME EQUINES WILL BE EXAMINED AND MAY BE ELIMINATED AT P&R CHECKPOINTS, REGARDLESS OF RECOVERY

1. Ride Management may designate that a qualified, experienced lay person(s) can eliminate any equine when Vet Judge or Senior Trail Judge are not available or not at a checkpoint. (Example: Head of P&R Teams)
2. This person(s) must be designated and introduced at the pre-ride briefing.
3. This designated person must remain at the checkpoint until judges arrive or until the final equine gets through the stop. This person must carry a thermometer and stethoscope.
4. Pull Criteria for Designated Person (in absence of Judges) shall include:
 - a. Equine does not recover, or meet base parameter criteria (refer to Mandatory 10 Minute Hold definition) within maximum of 30 minutes
 - b. Temperature is 103 degrees or above.
 - c. Grade Three lameness
1. **Inversion –**
 - a. Pull Criteria in the Case of Inversion - Poor respiration recoveries or inversions (see definitions) will not be a

reason to pull by themselves. Vet judge must perform Stress and Fatigue Exam.

- b. P&R STOPS FOR EQUINES WITH AN INVERSION SHALL BE HANDLED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:
- i. Pulse AND Respirations UNDER parameters, equine is allowed to continue to the next scheduled stop.
 - ii. Pulse UNDER set parameters; respiration OVER set parameters- equine's temperature must be taken. If the temperature is 103 degrees or over, the equine is held for Mandatory 10 Minute Hold. If temperature is below 103 degrees, the equine may continue.

Example: Parameters set at 64

- Equine is 54 pulse, 60 respiration. Equine is allowed to continue.
- Equine is 58 pulse, 68 respiration. Temperature must be taken. If temperature is UNDER 103 degrees, equine is allowed to continue.
- Equine is 58 pulse, 64 respiration. Temperature is OVER 103 degrees, equine is held for Mandatory 10 minute Hold.
- In extreme cases of inversion, (example: Pulse 64, respiration 100) veterinary judge must examine for stress and fatigue.

2. Stress and Fatigue Examination–

- a. This exam includes but is not limited to an equine passing the following examination administered by a veterinary or qualified lay judge.
- b. Temperature less than 103 degrees.
- c. Rectal tone less than +2
- d. Mucous membrane perfusion rate less than 3.
- e. Pulse index normal.
- f. If the judge deems the equine fit to continue, it may do so with appropriate caution having been communicated to the rider/driver. If the equine does not pass the exam, it is eliminated from the competition. No more rest periods are allowed. Anytime an equine is eliminated from the ride, the judge should make a brief comment on the scoresheet as to why the equine was eliminated.

3. Conditions requiring immediate removal of the equine from the competition.

- a. Serious wounds for which the equine should be given qualified aid as soon as possible.
- b. Serious lameness which requires professional treatment.
- c. Colic which may occur at any time during or after a ride. Signs of mild colic include reluctance to move, raising the upper lip, looking at the flank, apparently trying to urinate with no results, or some other indication of mild abdominal pain. More severe signs include laying down and rolling. Colic must be recognized immediately for what it is and help should be summoned. If colic occurs on a ride, elimination is mandatory. The equine's life may be in danger if he is allowed to continue.
- d. Muscle Cramps. These are usually caused by dehydration and electrolyte loss or imbalance and are usually quite painful. Pouring cold water over cramped muscles will make the problem worse. The equine will be reluctant to move. The muscles of the back, loins and hindquarters will very commonly feel extremely hard to the touch. Spasms of individual muscles in this area can often be seen as the muscles contract and stand out in bunches.
- e. Thumps are spasmodic contractions of the diaphragm with each heartbeat. The flank will seem to contract as though the equine has hiccups. If the heart is monitored, these contractions will be seen to time with the heartbeat. This is also a dehydration/electrolyte imbalance.
- f. Severe Dehydration is indicated by depression and weakness, elevated pulse and respiratory rates, dry skin, dry gums and dry cornea, dark or non-existent urine, dark mucous membrane color, inability to raise a jugular vein, prolonged capillary refill time (above four seconds and often the occurrence of colic and/or tying up and/or thumps).
- g. Tying Up is a lay term for exertional rhabdomyolysis. The cause is usually muscle energy depletion. Colic and tying up may look similar to the untrained eye.

4. **Emergency First Aid to Equines** – The Veterinary Judge present at the ride may administer emergency first aid if necessary but will not be responsible for treatment of non-critical problems. Ride management must have a Veterinarian on call. Emergency First Aid treatment by a Veterinarian during the ride will disqualify the equine from competition and completion, even if the rider or driver refuses such treatment. Emergency treatment is at the owner/rider's expense.

Evaluating a Stressed, Fatigued and Dehydrated Equine –

The single, most difficult decision a judge will be called upon to make is to read and eliminate an equine that is too poor to continue. A proper examination leading to a proper assessment of the situation, reinforced by relevant comments, will satisfy this area of the judge's responsibility. Signs of this include, but are not limited to: High pulse and respiratory rates that will not return to safe levels within 20 minutes.

1. Elevated body temperature (normal 99.5 degrees to 101.6 degree).
2. Muscular weakness, often combined with quivering muscles and loss of coordination.
3. Absence of gut sounds.
4. Relaxed anal sphincter, relaxed penis
5. Colic
6. Thumps
7. Inability to urinate, dark urine
8. Dark, red mucous membranes.
9. Very dry gums.
10. Very slow capillary refill
11. Glazed eye
12. The skin when pinched (at the point of the shoulder) will continue to stand up. This indicates dehydration, but should not be used as the ONLY indicator
13. Tying up.
14. Dehydration

Your ability as a horseman will draw your attention to an excessively fatigued and stressed equine. Then a proper exam, using the above stress and fatigue criteria, will lead you to a yes or no decision.

THE EQUINE'S LIFE AND SOUNDNESS ON RIDE DAY AND PRESERVATION OF ITS FUTURE USEFULNESS ARE THE PRIMARY CONCERNS OF THE JUDGES AND OF SEDRA.

DEFINITIONS

CRI (Cardiac Recovery Index) - The ability of the horse's circulatory system to accommodate the level of exertion experienced at the event is monitored by use of the Cardiac Recovery Index (CRI). During a CTR Ride, the horse is presented to a CRI Team, and a resting heart rate is taken. Then the horse is trotted 125 feet out and 125 feet back. At exactly one minute from the time the horse started the 250-foot trot out, the heart rate is taken again. Most horses complete the trot out within 25-30 seconds, allowing the horse to stand quietly for the remainder of the minute. Any equine whose pulse is over 68 either at the base line or the recovery should be brought to the attention of the Veterinarian as the rider presents the horse to the Veterinarian for a metabolic check and returns within an hour and half for a final vet check/judging.

Competition or "Ride" is considered the time starting from the pre-exam (your first vet-in) through the final exam (your last vet-in) that's being held during the sanctioned Competitive Trail event.

"Competitive Trail Event" is considered the dates established on the ride entry on which the competition or ride is being held.

An **Illegal** drug is defined as any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, anti-inflammatory or analgesic, or any medication that alters the distribution of body fluids. The finding of a drug or its by-products in the blood, urine or saliva of an equine at performance altering levels, will be used as evidence that such drug was illegally administered. Some substances (masking agents), while not illegal, can mask the presence of some illegal drugs. The presence of abnormally large amounts of the masking agents may subject an equine to the same penalty as if an illegal drug were detected. Some examples of masking agents include Vitamin B-1 (Thiamine), sulfa drugs, worming preparations, some diuretics, and buffered electrolytes.

Inversion - In extreme heat and humidity, respirations may be very high as some equines pant to cool themselves. An inversion is a situation in which the respiratory rate is higher than the pulse rate. Such a situation may or may not signal the presence of a metabolic problem (i.e., excessive stress or fatigue). It is not uncommon for equines to work with inverted parameters. However, it is not a normal resting situation. There are differences of opinion as to whether inversions should be considered as indicating a problem or simply accepted as normal for that equine and disregarded. Under distance riding conditions, the two most common causes of high respiratory rates and inversions are heat handling problems and/or shallow lung capacity. An over- heated equine will breath fast to eliminate heat from its body through its lungs. This equine should improve with proper cooling out methods. An equine with insufficient lung capacity will breathe rapidly to get enough oxygen to carry on. Riders/Drivers must know how to deal with inverting or panting equines by proper pacing, resting and cooling out methods.

Lameness- Each equine shall be trotted to determine its degree of soundness back and forth again for a minimum

distance of 100 feet. Circles give more information and are therefore required (in the form of circles, figure 8s or lunging). In the case of Grade III, IV, or V horse at the finish, the vet and trail judge must confer and agree immediately (during the final exam). This is the only allowable instance where the judges may confer. Any equine determined by the judges to have a Grade III, IV, or V Lameness, according to the AAEP (American Association of Equine Professional Standards of Lameness) at the completion exam shall be disqualified. Lameness is a deviation from the normal gait or posture due to pain or mechanical dysfunction.

Lameness Classifications:

Grade I: Difficult to observe. Not consistently apparent, regardless of circumstances (i.e., weight carrying, circling, hard surfaces, etc.).

Grade II: Difficult to observe at a walk or trotting a straight line: consistently apparent under certain circumstances (i.e., weight carrying, circling, hard surfaces, etc.).

Grade III: Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.

Grade IV: Obvious lameness marked nodding, hitching or shortening stride.

Grade V: Minimal weight bearing in motion and/or at rest or inability to move.

Pulse& Respiration Checks/Holds-

Stop and Go P&R Check is a P&R checkpoint that is scheduled by Ride Management and will consist of the rider or driver entering the P&R checkpoint and presenting his equine at his own discretion, on his own ride time. If the equine meets required parameters, it will be allowed to continue. If the equine is over required parameters, equine and rider/driver will be given a **MANDATORY 10 MINUTE HOLD**

Scheduled P&R Hold is a **scheduled 20-minute hold** that consists of riders/drivers entering a predetermined P&R area and receiving an official time from the timer. In case of extreme conditions, the Scheduled 20-minute hold may be shortened to 10 minutes. The steward and veterinarian must approve this change and must be announced uniformly to the riders.

The pulse check is to be held at 10 minutes. Anytime during the 20 minute rider/driver's equine must pass a metabolic safety check performed by a veterinarian; he/she may go to the equine. **A 5-point time penalty would be given to a rider who missed Metabolics at the hold on the trail, but did not leave early.** In the interests of safety, the vet should go to the Driver's equine.

1. After the 20 minutes have elapsed and the equine presented for examination meets parameters criteria set for that ride, the equine may continue.
2. The rider must check out with the timer before leaving the scheduled hold, leaving any hold early results in DQ per current rules. A judge or an assigned delegate may ask that all equines be observed leaving the hold at a trot or gaited equivalent.
3. Horses over parameters at the 10-minute pulse check will be held in a **Mandatory 10-minute Hold, for a total hold of 30 minutes.** 3 penalty points will apply to the score, and the 10 minutes will be given back at the end of the ride, per current rules. If the equine does not recover after the **MANDATORY 10 Minute Hold**, the equine and rider or driver will be disqualified at that time, and may be transported back to ride camp at the discretion of judges, ride management, or Head of P&R Teams

Mandatory 10 Minute Hold will be when the equine is held due to poor recovery. If equine does not meet set parameters criteria after presented when ready, it will be held for 10 minutes. At the end of that 10 minutes if the equine meets parameters criteria, it may continue. There is no point penalty for the **FIRST 10-minute hold**, although the rider/driver is on his **OWN RIDE TIME**. If, at the end of the **FIRST 10-minute hold**, the equine does not meet parameters due to poor recovery, the equine will be held for a **MANDATORY SECOND 10 minute hold**. This second 10 minute hold is a free hold in which the 10 minutes is added to the individual's finishing time, **BUT A THREE(3) POINT TIME PENALTY IS IMPOSED**. After the **SECOND 10-minute hold**, the judge OR **DESIGNATED QUALIFIED PERSON** will take P&Rs and examine the equine for stress and fatigue. If the equine does not recover after a total of 2 **MANDATORY 10 Minute holds**, the equine and rider/driver will be disqualified at that time, and may be transported back to ride camp at the discretion of judges, ride management, or Head of P&R Teams.

Rookie Season- For both horse and rider, the Rookie Season is the season in which the first sanctioned distance ride is completed, regardless of the number of rides competed in that season.

Rookie Rider/Horse- A rider or equine may also be a rookie in a year other than your rookie season on individual rides where you ride and finish with a completion at a specific mileage for the first time, regardless if it is Competitive Trail Riding, Driving or Endurance. The same goes for the horse, for individual ride "rookie horse" awards. This will apply when completing 25 miles, then moving up to higher mileage, (i.e.) 27, 35, 40 or higher. If you complete a higher mileage event as a rookie, you cannot compete as a rookie at a lower distance.

Appendix A. – Driver Spare’s Kit

Items the driver may find helpful in a spares kit.

Hoof Pick	Shears	Spare Rein or Rein
Wheel Wrench	Multi-Tool Knife	Splice Electric or Duct
Knife	Cooler or Quarter Sheet	Tape Nylon Zip Ties
Leather Punch	Halter and Lead per Horse	Slow Moving Vehicle Sign
Screw Driver	Spare Trace or Trace Splice	Fix-A-Flat
Small Hammer	Length of Rawhide, String, Wire	
Pliers	Hame Strap	

Appendix B. Award Programs

Annual Awards Program -The following rules apply to both High Point and Distance programs for rides and drives.

1. The RIDER/DRIVER must be a current member of SEDRA at the time of the ride in order for the equine or rider/driver to receive credit for the ride.
2. The ride/drive season is from June 1 to May 31 of the following year. Ride reports should be sent to the Awards Secretary by the ride manager within 30 days of the ride. Ride report forms for rides/drives held in May must be received at least 15 days prior to the date of the annual meeting to be counted for the current year's High Point and Mileage awards. Ride/Drive points or mileage earned prior to an equine's nomination will not be counted.
3. To calculate credit for each SEDRA sanctioned ride/drive, the Awards Secretary will use the official ride/drive report submitted by management at the end of each ride/drive.
4. Only SEDRA sanctioned rides/drives shall count for High Point.
5. ECTRA, AHA, AERC, NATRC, **USEF** and SEDRA sanctioned rides/drives may count for mileage, subject to SEDRA awards program requirements. (2021)
6. A ride/drive must be at least 25 miles in length to be recognized for high point or mileage awards.

Distance Program - Competitive Trail Rides/Drives, Endurance, Limited Distance and Ride and Tie all count towards life time mileage (subject to awards policy requirements).

1. Rider/Driver only
 - a. Rider/Driver enrollment is included as part of the annual membership fee.
 - b. Rider/Driver must be a current member of SEDRA for mileage to accrue.
2. Equine only
 - a. The Distance program is open to all members of the equine family.
 - b. A one-time nomination fee of \$25 is required. The enrollment is good for the life time of the equine, and may be transferred with the equine to a new owner.
 - c. Mileage earned prior to nomination will not be counted.

Rider/Driver and Equines

1. Awards will be given at the completion of 250, 500, 1000 miles and each 500 mile increment thereafter.
2. The Awards Secretary will use the actual ride/drive report turned in after each ride to assign mileage credit.
3. To receive mileage credit for an ECTRA, AHA, **AERC, USEF, FEI** or NATRC ride/drive that is not SEDRA sanctioned, the rider/driver must provide a copy of the score sheet/**ride card** signed by the Ride Official or a **copy of published ride results**, to the Awards Secretary. (2021)
 - a. The equine must complete the ride/drive to receive mileage credit, and must fulfill all completion requirements of the individual ride/drive entered, i.e. time, vet parameters.
 - b. **Provide a ride card signed by a ride official, or copy of published ride results to the Awards secretary. (2021)**
 - c. **Pay a \$5 fee per ride (or \$20 per ride season per rider) for AERC, USEF, FEI, and NATRC rides. ECTRA and AHA reciprocate mileage at no charge, so no fee shall be incurred for these entities. (2021)**
5. **Back Mileage** for mileage only (not high point) may be purchased for SEDRA sanctioned rides. The rider's or driver's membership must be paid for each ride year, the rider or driver must be a current member,

and the equine must be nominated (for the equine to receive mileage). A fee of \$5 per ride or \$20 per ride season per rider/driver must also be paid. Proof of ride completions must be provided to the awards secretary for verification.

6. **Other Competitive Trail Ride organizations** may apply to be included with the existing approved Competitive Trail Ride sanctioning organizations using the SEDRA Rule Making Process. Current approved Competitive Trail Riding Organizations are: AHA, ECTRA and NATRC.

7. **Competitive Trail Rides not sanctioned** by an approved organization must be submitted to the SEDRA BOD for consideration on a Case by Case basis. If approved by the SEDRA BOD, the Rider/Driver must:

- a. Provide a ride card signed by a ride official, or copy of published ride results to the Awards Secretary.
 - b. Pay a \$5 fee per ride (or \$20 per ride season)
8. **Back mileage** may be purchased for approved rides, beginning with the inception of SEDRA. Qualifications to be met:
- a. The rider must be a current member of SEDRA and a member for the year he/she wishes to purchase mileage for.
 - b. For an equine to receive mileage, it must be nominated for lifetime mileage.
 - c. The ride(s) must meet all other program requirements.
 - d. Proof of completion must be provided to the ride secretary. The burden of proof rests with the rider.
 - e. A fee of \$5 per ride or \$20 per ride season per rider must also be paid.

High Point Program

General Requirements

1. Breed restricted rides/drives will only count for points in that breed division and lifetime mileage. (Example: Arabian Classic).
2. Rides requiring qualification to enter (such as a championship ride) will count only towards lifetime mileage.
3. All breed divisions must have a minimum of 5 equines (equines, mules or ponies) to compete for that breed division award. Possible divisions to include, but not limited to, any registered breed (Arabian, Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Paso Fino, etc.) and unregistered equine. Equines registered with a breed that does not have a total of 5 to complete a breed division will be grouped with all other breeds that cannot fill a full category (Other Registered High Point).
4. Proof of registration: Proof of breed registration must be provided, or the equine will compete in the unregistered division.
5. Other awards to be presented may include: High Point Junior, High Point Rookie Equine, High Point Rookie Rider, etc. (Competitive, Endurance and Driving).
6. All equines will automatically be eligible for High Point awards when the rider/driver becomes a member of SEDRA, including HIGH POINT GRAND CHAMPION and HIGH POINT RESERVE CHAMPION.

Point Calculation

1. Point Calculation **Competitive Rides and Drives**
 - a. Points will be awarded on the following basis: The final score on the scorecard will be multiplied by the number of miles ridden/driven, then divided by 100. The total will be number of points received for that ride.
 - b. Only ride/drives of 25 miles or more will count.
2. Point Calculation **Endurance**
 - a. Rides must be 50 miles or more in length to count for High Point Awards.
 - b. AERC guidelines will be followed to arrive at points for individual rides and annual totals.
3. **Ride and Tie** of 25 miles or more will be included in figuring the High Point Awards.
4. Point Calculation **Limited Distance** - Points will be accrued at one point per mile, regardless of placing at the event.
5. **Overall Mileage Championship** - Only SEDRA sanctioned rides will be counted, combining miles from CTR, Endurance, Limited Distance, Drives, and Ride and Ties.

Volunteer Award Program

1. Only SEDRA sanctioned rides will be eligible for volunteer mileage accrual. All SEDRA sanctioned rides will be eligible beginning with the 2006-2007 ride season. SEDRA clinics and workdays will only be eligible if they are posted on the official SEDRA calendar 30 days in advance.
2. Awards will be given at 250 miles worked, 500 miles, 1000 miles and at 1000 mile increments thereafter.
3. Mileage will be a lifetime accrual.

4. Volunteers must be current regular or non-competing members to be eligible for volunteer awards.
5. Miles worked must be submitted and verified by ride management within 30 days of the ride to the SEDRA awards secretary.
6. Only the maximum mileage of a one-day ride will be awarded, i.e., a 25/50-mile ride will accrue 50 miles. Each day worked at a multi-day ride may accrue the maximum mileage for that day. SEDRA Clinics and workdays will receive 25 miles per clinic or workday.

SEDRA, Inc. Bylaws (2021)

ARTICLE I – NAME

Pursuant to its Article of Incorporation under the laws of the state of Florida, the name of this organization shall be SEDRA, Inc., or South Eastern Distance Rider's Association, Inc., and shall be a nonprofit association, hereinafter referred to as SEDRA.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

1. To encourage the growth and popularity of Competitive and Endurance Trail Riding and Ride and Tie, hereinafter referred to as Distance Trail Riding, throughout the State of Florida and the Southeastern States, by the use of publicity and educational programs and by setting the highest standards of excellence through its judging, management and contestants.
2. To foster the establishment of well-managed Distance Trail Rides that are conducted and judged under standard rules and guidelines as provided by SEDRA.
3. To encourage greater knowledge in the selection, care, and use of distance equines.
4. To maintain records related to Distance Trail Riding for the benefit of its members.
5. To help maintain and preserve private, public riding, and multi-use trails in local, state and national forests, so that they may be accessible to equestrian activities
6. To do any and all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish the objectives and purposes set forth herein, provided that such are in compliance with the applicable laws of the United States of America and the State of Florida.

ARTICLE III-MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all and shall be of the following types:

1. **Adult Individual** membership - Open to individuals eighteen (18) years of age or over. This is a voting membership.
2. **Junior Individual** membership - Open to individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, as of July 1 and to remain as junior members for the fiscal year. This is a voting membership, with voting being limited to those junior members fourteen (14) Years of age as of July 1st. Riders 17 years of age and under as of the day of the ride must compete in the Junior Division. Junior rider under 16 years of age must ride with a sponsor. Junior riders may participate in SEDRA competition only with the written consent of a parent or guardian.
3. **Family** Membership – Open to one or two adults residing together. Membership shall include the children in the Household under eighteen (18) years of age. Each family membership shall be entitled to a maximum of two (2) votes.
4. **Honorary** Membership - this is a lifetime voting membership open to individuals who perform outstanding service to SEDRA. Honorary members may be elected by two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors followed by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the following Annual Meeting.
5. **Day Member-** Individuals must become Single Event Members for participation in rides sanctioned by SEDRA by paying dues as set by the Board. Single Event Members shall only have privileges for the duration of the ride where the membership is purchased, and shall not be entitled to vote on matters of the SEDRA organization, nor be eligible for points and mileage.
6. **Non-competing adults**, at a reduced price (\$10 single or \$15 for a family of 2), to allow those not competing any more to remain part of SEDRA. This would also help provide a pool of volunteers with current contact information, if someone joins at the beginning of the year as non-active, they may upgrade to a competing membership by paying the difference in the membership fees if they decide to compete. If they don't upgrade, they wouldn't have to pay a day member fee, but would not receive mileage or points for the ride.

ARTICLE IV-ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The president shall appoint a Nominating Committee of 3 SEDRA members 90 days from the slated Annual Meeting date, who shall present a slate of Officers to the Secretary 60 days prior to the slated Annual Meeting date. Such slate shall consist of at least one nominee for each office and position on the Board. The Secretary shall mail the list of nominees to the general membership no later than 30 days prior to the announced annual meeting date.
2. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting.
3. The election of Officers and Directors shall be held by ballot at the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall supply an official ballot to each voting member at the Annual Meeting. Absent members may vote by

limited proxy.

- a. A member may appoint a limited proxy to vote or otherwise act for the member by signing an SEDRA appointment form, either personally or by the member's attorney in fact. This appointee must be a current member.
 - b. A limited proxy is one on which a member has recorded a vote for or against an issue or issues specifically listed on the proxy. In no event shall any limited proxy be valid for a period longer than 90 days after the date of the first meeting for which the proxy is given.
 - c. Every proxy is revocable, at any time, at the pleasure of the member executing it. In any event, no person shall vote as proxy for more than (2) two members at any meeting of the members except as otherwise permitted in the bylaws.
4. Without limiting the manner in which a member may appoint a limited proxy to vote or otherwise act for the member pursuant to paragraph (1), a member may grant such authority by:
- a. Signing an appointment form or having such form signed by the member's authorized officer, director, employee, or agent by any reasonable means, including, but not limited to, facsimile signature; or
 - b. Transmitting or authorizing the transmission of a telegram, cablegram, or other means of electronic transmission to the person who will be the proxy or to a proxy solicitation firm, proxy support service organization, registrar, or agent authorized by the person who will be designated as the proxy to receive such transmission. However, any telegram, cablegram, or other means of electronic transmission must set forth or be submitted with information from which it can be determined that the transmission was authorized by the member.
 - c. If it is determined that the transmission is valid, the inspectors of election or, if there are no inspectors, such other persons making that determination shall specify the information upon which they relied.
5. The President shall, at the Annual Meeting, appoint a 3-member committee to act as Judges of Election.
6. Judges of Election shall make decisions as to the validity of each ballot and shall count ballots and announce the results.
7. Nominees may not serve on this committee.
8. Nominees for offices and board members must be current SEDRA members in good standing.

ARTICLE V– OFFICERS

1. Officers of SEDRA shall include a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Awards Secretary and Ride Secretary who shall serve for a one-year term, and may be reelected to any number of consecutive terms.
2. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:
 - a. **President** - Shall preside at all meetings of SEDRA, shall appoint committees and shall be ex-officio member of all committees. Shall have the power to call special meetings and to sign checks in the absence of the treasurer. Shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors.
 - b. **Vice-President** - Shall act in the absence of the President. Shall carry out all duties assigned by the President. Shall serve on the Board of Directors.
 - c. **Corresponding Secretary** shall keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings. Shall carry out all correspondence as directed by the Board and shall maintain pertinent records. Shall serve on the Board of Directors.
 - d. **Treasurer** - Shall collect funds for deposit and pay all debts incurred. Shall keep records of all financial transactions and make such records available for examination to all authorized persons. Shall be bonded. Shall serve on the Board of Directors. All transactions shall be by two officers of SEDRA.
 - e. **Awards Secretary** - Shall maintain a trail Ride Scoring system. Shall compile and keep all records pertaining to points and mileage earned by SEDRA registered equines, riders and drivers. Shall supervise year-end awards. Shall serve on the Board of Directors.
 - f. **Sanctioning Secretary** – Shall sanction trail rides. Shall maintain a trail ride Sanctioning System. Shall maintain custody and control of all SEDRA Trail Ride Equipment and ensure that it is readily available. Shall supervise SEDRA Ride Steward Program. (2021) Shall assist in preparation of the Ride Calendar. Shall provide Ride Management with a list of Ride Stewards and keep such a list up to date. Shall insure that Ride Sanction requests not received prior to 60 days from the requested ride date are sanctioned for MILEAGE ONLY Shall Serve on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven (11) members, including the President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Ride Secretary, and Awards Secretary. There shall be five (5) Directors and three (3) alternate members of the Board. One director may be elected from the junior membership. Directors and alternates shall serve a term of one year. Directors and alternates shall serve a term of one year.
2. Attendance at Board Meetings shall be required.
3. Notice must be given in advance to the Board Chairman if a director cannot attend a meeting.

4. In the event a director misses more than two (2) meetings in the fiscal year, such director may be dismissed from the Board by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII- COMMITTEES

Committee members must be current SEDRA members in good standing. Following the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint the following committees:

1. **Protest**

- a. To mediate disputes among Management, Competitors, and Judges.
- b. Committee will consist of 3 SEDRA members in good standing.
- c. Upon request of any member, shall consider and investigate grievance and/or cases of misconduct by any member, judge or sanctioned trail ride, and refer their findings to the Board of Directors.
- d. Grievances against any of the above shall be sent to the Protest Committee chairperson within (3) weeks of the incident. A \$25.00 fee must accompany this grievance. If the grievance is upheld, the fee will be refunded. The Protest Committee will acknowledge receipt of grievance within 5 days.
- e. The Chairman must inform the charged member (grievor) immediately of the grievance by written notice accompanied by a copy of the grievance. He/she will also inform the Board that a grievance has been received. The grievor will have two (2) weeks to respond in writing to the committee. This response should outline recollection of events that transpired and the names of any witnesses who can corroborate said event.
- f. After receiving the information from the person filing the grievance (grievor) and the grievor and any witnesses on both sides, careful research will be done by the committee. The Protest Committee is allowed 30 days from receipt of protest filing to gather information and interview witnesses. At this time, the Committee shall decide by a two thirds (2/3) vote whether the grievance should go before the entire Board or inform the Board the grievance is to be dropped. If the grievance is voted by the protest committee to be dropped, the grievor will be informed of this by the chairman within 5 days. If the grievor does not want to abide by this decision, he/she may appeal to the Board of Directors within fourteen (14) days, at which time the Protest Committee must then submit the entire report to the Board for consideration.
- g. If the Committee believes further action should be taken, the report shall be sent to the Board members for review within 15 days. Both the grievor and grievor will receive the report at this time. At the next Board meeting or within 15 days at a specially called meeting to expedite the issue, a discussion of said report will occur and the Board will vote by a two thirds (2/3) vote of those present (must be a quorum) whether to drop the grievance or to act upon it further. If the grievance is voted by the Board to be dropped, both the grievor and grievor will be informed of this within 10 days and the grievor will be asked to drop the grievance. If the grievor insists on continuing the grievance, he/she must appeal in writing within fourteen (14) days to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee. If the grievance is upheld the grievor will have 14 days to appeal in writing to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee.
- h. After a study of the report submitted by the protest committee and discussion, the Appeals Committee will, by a two thirds (2/3) vote, render a decision. The grievor may be present at this meeting, but not necessarily in on all discussion and the vote. If the vote is to drop the grievance, there is no further recourse for the grievor. The grievor and the grievor will be sent written notice that the grievance has been dropped.

5. **Public Relations** - To publish articles containing items of interest and use to members and non-members interested in equine related periodicals, publications and internet web sites. Shall promote educational clinics, forums and other activities in the interest of Distance Riding.

6. **Membership**

- a. Submit membership renewal forms with officer's slate prior to Annual Meeting.
- b. Keep up-to-date records of all members and equine registrations.
- c. Encourage and promote new memberships.

7. **Drug Testing**

- a. To provide equipment for drug testing of equines on Competitive, and Ride and Tie rides, as determined by the committee.
- b. Keep records of all testing results and report findings to the Board of Directors.
- c. Shall coordinate and maintain guidelines concerning the appropriate procedure for Drug Testing with the Texas A & M. Shall assist in training SEDRA Drug Testing Representatives.

8. **Trails Preservation** The Trails Committee will work to encourage the establishment, improvement and maintenance of equestrian trails; promote environmental responsibility of trail users and encourage good community relations with both public and private land managers; strive to educate the general public and equine enthusiasts on the importance of equestrian trails, etiquette, and safety.

9. **Rules** Members of this Committee are considered the Subject Matter Experts concerning all Rule Interpretations.

- a. 75% of this Committee shall be selected from Current Ride Managers, Judges, and Stewards. To be current, the member must have performed one of the above duties at least once in the last three years.
- b. Shall investigate all rule violations referred to them by the President and BOD and make recommendations for corrective actions when deemed necessary.

- c. When requested by any member, they shall assist in any interpretations of proposed rules.
 - d. Responsible to insure all rule changes are incorporated into the rule book within 90 days of passage, and are the custodians of the Rule Book. A new rule will supersede existing rules, therefore, they will insure proper placement within the Rule Book, and resolve any conflicts.
10. **Appeals** Committee will be appointed by the Board of Directors as a standing committee within 30 days of the new term.
- a. A committee of five (5) SEDRA members who are neither on the Protest Committee or Board of Directors.
 - b. Meet to review any grievance vote by the Board to be dropped that has been appealed by the griever.
 - c. Have final authority to drop protest by the griever, or send it back to the Board of Directors to charge the grievor and continue with a hearing of said grievor.
 - d. If grievor is charged by the Board and appeals, this committee will hear appeal and have final authority as to whether member(s) will be charged. The appeal must be made in writing within fourteen (14) days. If the charge is upheld, this committee will decide whether to censure, suspend or expel. If the Appeals Committee votes for the continuation of the grievance, the Board will hold a hearing. (See Article X - Penalties)
11. **Any Other Committee as May Prove Necessary.**

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

- 1. The Annual meeting shall be held not later than 60 days from the fiscal year end May 31st at such time and place as the Board of Directors may designate. The Secretary shall send written notice to all SEDRA members at least twenty (20) Days prior to the meeting.
- 2. The Board of Directors shall convene at the request of the President. The Secretary shall send written notice of such meetings to all members of the Board and Committee Chairpersons at least twenty (20) days prior to such meeting.
- 3. Special membership meetings may be called by the President at any time. A special meeting must be called when requested in writing to the Secretary by two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Board of Directors and/or twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting membership. The Secretary shall send written notice of such meeting to all SEDRA members at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting.
- 4. All meetings shall be conducted in an orderly manner, using Roberts Rules of Order as reference.

ARTICLE IX – QUORUM

- 1 A quorum shall consist of twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting membership at an annual meeting and seven (7) Officers and/or Directors present at an annual, regular or special meeting of SEDRA. Should there be less than seven (7) Officers and/or Directors present; the Chairman of the Board may appoint substitutes from among the Alternates and Committee Chair persons present to fulfill the Quorum requirements.
- 2 A Quorum is required for voting to take place at any meeting.

ARTICLE X- PENALTIES

- 1. Any member, approved judge or sanctioned trail ride may be censured, suspended or expelled from SEDRA for violations of the rules of SEDRA and for conduct deemed to be improper, dishonest or un-sportsmanlike, intemperate or pre- judicial to the best interests of Trail Riding and SEDRA.
- 2. Charged members or grievor(s) shall be given a hearing before the Board of Directors.
- 3. Grievor shall be given (by certified mail) at least two weeks written notice of the date of said hearing. The griever shall also be given written notice (by mail) of said hearing. The hearing may be at a specialty called Board meeting (to expedite the issue) or at a regular board meeting. If either of the individuals involved cannot attend the Board meeting for serious personal reasons, then the hearing will take place at the next Board meeting that both individuals can attend, but no more than two meetings later.
- 4. Grievor and Griever may bring witnesses and shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel.
- 5. A two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board members present (quorum required) is necessary before the grievor can be censured, suspended or expelled (with neither griever nor grievor present). After discussion, the Board will then decide what the penalty will be, also decided by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote. However, If the grievor appeals either vote, the Appeals committee will decide the penalty if the vote is upheld. The appeal must be made in writing within fourteen (14) days.
- 6. **Confidentiality**
 - a. With the exception of the individuals named as witnesses by both the griever and the grievor, the matter should not at any time during the process be discussed with other SEDRA members by anyone involved in the investigation. This preserves the innocence of the party(s) charged until adequate proof of a violation exists. Both the griever and grievor are members in good standing with SEDRA (perhaps exception- judges) prior to this investigation and should receive the same protection and respect until the issue is resolved.
 - b. After a grievance is resolved, the membership will be informed by the Protest Chairman, either through Equine & Pony or in the next SEDRA newsletter, stating that (1) a grievance has been received, reviewed and dropped, or (2) a grievance was received, reviewed and the member(s) censured, or (3) a grievance was

received, reviewed and [name of member(s)] has been suspended for (name length of time), or (4) a grievance was received, reviewed and [name of member(s)] has been expelled from SEDRA

ARTICLE XI-REINSTATEMENT

Any member, judge or sanctioned trail ride having been expelled from SEDRA may request reinstatement in writing to the President. Such request must be evaluated by the Board of Directors at any regular special meeting. The applicant(s) is/are entitled to be present. A two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Directors present is necessary for reinstatement.

ARTICLE XII - RULES

1. The general voting membership shall have the final authority to maintain, alter or add to the Rules and Guidelines of SEDRA. Proposed rule changes must be submitted by any member of SEDRA in writing, original text to the Board of Directors, it is suggested to include a list of SEDRA Members signatures supporting the proposal. All such proposed Rules and Guideline changes may be altered, amended or modified by the Board of Directors, to fit within SEDRA's governing rules and guidelines while maintaining the spirit of the sport, Competitive Trail Riding and Driving.
2. The Board of Directors shall have a response to the proposal 30 days after the next scheduled Board Meeting.
3. Proposed Rule and Guideline changes shall require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote by the Board of Directors for submission of said changes to a membership vote as provided for in Section A. Final membership vote on the proposed changes must be taken within ninety (90) days following Board of Directors approval.
4. At any regular or special meeting with a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present to include limited proxy's from absent members OR
5. By special mail ballot with a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the ballots received.
6. The use of Method 1 or 2 shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
7. The Secretary shall send written notice to all members of SEDRA at least twenty(20) days prior to such meeting, together with a list of all proposed changes.

ARTICLE XIII-DISSOLUTION

The dissolution of the corporation may be authorized by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members at a regular or special meeting called for this purpose. The appropriate officers shall take whatever action is necessary to complete said dissolution in compliance with applicable statutes. All monies and other property belonging to the corporation shall, upon dissolution thereof, be distributed to the following organizations: University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine and/or The Morris Animal Foundation.

ARTICLE XIV-AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be altered or amended:

1. At any regular or special meeting with two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present to include any limited proxy's OR
2. By special mail ballot, with two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the ballots received.
3. The use of Method 1 or 2 will be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
4. The Secretary shall send written notice to all members of SEDRA at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting, together with a list of all proposed changes.
5. Proposed changes may be submitted by any SEDRA member in writing to the Board of Directors. A two thirds majority vote of the Board is necessary for submission of said changes to membership vote, as provided in Section.
 - a. Final membership vote on proposed changes must be taken within ninety (90) days following Board Approval.