

HORSE RIDING CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

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NAVIGATION RIDES RULES

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HRC AV

HORSE RIDING CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

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Section 9 Rules for Navigation Ride Events

PREAMBLE

The following Rules have been adopted by The Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria Inc. (HRC AV) and must be followed by all bodies running Official Navigation Ride Events.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Ground Jury or the Organising Committee to make a decision in a sporting spirit whilst adhering as closely as possible to the intention of these Rules, so providing fair conditions for all Competitors.

These Rules have been drawn up in the broadest possible spirit to allow Organising Committees the fullest freedom in the management of their Events and in the preparation of their Programs. The Rules are established so that Competitors may compete against each other under fair and equal conditions.

These Rules are only complete when read in conjunction with all Rules and Regulations of the HRC AV.

1. SAFETY

- 1.1.** Whilst it is ideal that the course be set over quiet dirt roads, parks, tracks or private property, a course of reasonable distance sometimes results in riders having to travel beside bitumen roads.
- 1.2.** It is strongly recommended that if the course traverses a busy road or highway that traffic controllers be placed with slow/stop signs to control traffic. There must be no questions on these parts of the course.
- 1.3.** It is recommended that “Slow Down – Horse riders ahead” signs around the route if it is on public roads.
- 1.4.** Water crossings or obstacles must not exceed 30cm in depth/height.
- 1.5.** Organisers are to ensure that the course is safe on the day of the ride and prior to the first riders starting.
- 1.6.** A float must be available to retrieve any horse that may go lame or is injured

- 1.7.** A fall of rider or horse and rider whilst on the competition course shall result in elimination. A rider is considered to be on the competition course once they are under starter's orders. A fall of rider is considered to have occurred if any part of the rider's body makes unintentional contact with the ground or any solid surface. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and quarters have touched the ground.
- 1.7.1. Falls are to be reported to the Ground Jury. Only reports submitted by the following persons shall be actioned;
- a) A member of the affected pair or
 - b) Officials or competitors who were witness to the fall.
- 1.7.2. All rider falls occurring at the event venue must be reported to the Event Office. An Incident Report form is to be lodged with the Event Secretary prior to the rider remounting or leaving the venue. The Ground Jury, Technical Delegate or HRCVA Representative may eliminate a rider or horse from the event at any time following a fall, on the grounds that their further participation risks the health and safety of the rider or the welfare of the horse.
- 1.8.** Only horse and rider combinations which satisfy minimum standards of competency are permitted to compete. Riders must be at least 8 years of age. A Navigation Ride card showing that the combination has been assessed by an accredited Level Assessor must be produced prior to riding. A Level Assessor may decline to endorse the card if the combination fails to demonstrate the necessary skills.
- 1.9.** Riders must be mounted for gear check, start and finish. Riders are permitted to dismount on the course.
- 1.10.** Organisers must be able to access all parts of the course with a 4 wheel drive vehicle. The use of quad bikes or trail bikes is not permitted on course while riders are competing.

2. HALF WAY POINT CHECKPOINT

- 2.1.** Approximately half way around the course a checkpoint must be set with light refreshments available for riders. The person/s at the checkpoint should have a list of all pairs and check off each pair as they pass. No time is to be added to the total time to allow for the checkpoint.
- 2.2.** Water must be provided for horses at the checkpoint if weather is forecast for 30 degree celsius or over

3. GENERAL

- 3.1.** In all Rides, competitors must compete in pairs.
- 3.2.** Riders must present for gear check prior to the ride time. No more than 10 minutes prior is recommended to avoid excessive time mounted on the horse.
- 3.3.** A second ride of greater or lesser distance may be offered.
- ~~**3.4.** Rides may be split into sections eg: open section, parent and child section, HRC AV section. If eligible, pairs may enter more than one section of a ride at a reduced fee for second and subsequent sections.~~
- 3.5.** Only Rides including a section for HRC AV pairs will be granted official status. Performance points will be awarded for the official HRC AV section/s only. Special conditions apply to the official sections. Refer to Rule 11.
- 3.6.** Within a Ride special prizes may be awarded eg: pair of veterans, best presented pair.
- 3.7.** Mobile phones are permitted on course for use in an emergency. The use of any electronic device by competitors in order to gain an advantage is not permitted and will result in elimination.
- ~~**3.8.** A Jackpot may be offered over a two day competition. The Jackpot is to be scored from official sections only with equalisers included. The scoring system is to be advertised on the program. Jackpots may be offered for other sections in addition to the official Jackpot. Jackpots are to be calculated by added both final scores together.~~

4. SADDLERY/HORSES

- ~~**4.1.** Medical armbands must be worn.~~
- 4.2.** A saddle and bridle must be worn.
- 4.2.1.** Any type of bridle may be worn. Reins must be attached to the bit(s) or directly to the bridle. Gags and hackamores are allowed. There are no restrictions on bits, however the Ground Jury has the right to forbid the use of a bit that may cause injury to the horse.
- 4.2.2.** Any type of saddle may be worn with the exception of a side saddle. Saddles must be secured by at least two points of attachment (eg: double buckle girth or girth and surcingle) or by a double wrapped latigo. A rear cinch on a western saddle does not constitute a second point of attachment under this rule.

- 4.3. Blinkers are forbidden
- 4.4. Only unrestricted running martingales are allowed.
- 4.5. A whip may be carried A whip may be carried but must not exceed 1.2 mtrs in total length including tassel / flap.
- 4.6. An approved equestrian helmet with a fixed harness must be worn at all times whilst mounted. See event rule 9.3.
- 4.7. Protective boots may be worn and the type of boot is optional. Bandages are not permitted.
- 4.8. A quarter sheet may be worn.
- 4.9. Any other gadgets such as bearing, running, balancing or side reins are not permitted.
- 4.10. Ear muffs and hoods are not permitted. Ear bonnets are permitted but must not cover the horse's eyes. Ear plugs are allowed.
- 4.11. Nosebands must never be tightly fixed. Dressage rule 10.7.3 applies.
- 4.12. Failure to comply with the preceding saddlery rules will result in elimination.
- 4.13. If horses are required to wear shoes or protective footwear due to the terrain, it must be listed as a condition of entry.
- 4.14. Horses under 4 years of age are ineligible to compete.
- 4.15. Spurs are allowed for all riders. Spurs must be metal and the shank must point directly back or down from the centre. Arms must be smooth. If rowels are used they must be free to rotate and must not be sharpened.
- 4.16. Any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not, is strictly forbidden at an event when the horse is under saddle during training, warm-up and competition and will entail elimination
- 4.17. Helmet brims, designed to be worn over the helmet to provide sun protection, are permitted. Brims must be secured to the helmet.
Example:



5. PROGRAM/QUESTION SHEETS

- 5.1.** An approximate distance must appear on the program, with the actual course being within 2km either side of the stated distance.
- 5.2.** The question sheets must include the approximate distance to be travelled and required speed per kilometre. A notation that the actual distance shall be within 2km either side of the stated distance is to be included. The time allowed is not to be stated.
- 5.3.** An accurately measured course is essential to calculate the time allowed. As a guide, the speed could be set between 6.5 kph to 7.25 kph with the lower band for a course with hilly terrain to the top end of the band for a very flat course over safe roads/tracks
- 5.4.** Exceeding the time limit results in elimination. The question sheet must state that the time limit is the time allowed plus one hour.
- 5.5.** Directions must be clear to avoid competitors taking an incorrect turn and becoming lost. It **MUST NOT** be left to competitors to guess a direction when they approach an intersection.
- 5.6.** Program/question sheets are to be handed to competitors two minutes prior to their scheduled ride out time.
- 5.7.** At the conclusion of the ride, competitors' finish time will be recorded the moment they hand over their program/question sheet and emergency envelope to the nominated official.
- 5.8.** A directional map sealed in an envelope must be provided to each pair. In the event that a pair opens the emergency directional envelope, the pair is eliminated.
- 5.9.** Start time for pairs must not be less than five minutes apart. Ten minutes is ideal when time permits.
- 5.10.** Use of trivia questions or the collection of items is not appropriate.
- 5.11.** Local knowledge questions are not to be used.
- 5.12.** The number of questions per Ride should be at least 20 and not more than 50. 1 – 2 questions per km is recommended.
- 5.13.** All clues must be visible from horseback, and without the rider leaving the track. The planting of clues for questions is allowed if there are limited existing clues available. Clues are to be secured to ensure that they cannot be removed by wildlife, weather or people.
- 5.14.** Only one answer per question will be accepted. If more than one answer is given, only the first answer will be accepted.

- 5.15. Two sets of questions may be made available to each pair, although only one set is accepted for judging.
- 5.16. The points for questions and scoring system should be on the question sheets.
- 5.17. In wet weather, plastic pockets, laminated sheets or water proof paper is to be supplied. Emergency envelopes should be sealed in a waterproof bag.

6. SCORING

- 6.1. Each correct question = 5 points. For partially correct questions, the points are reduced at the discretion of the scorers and/or organising committee.
- 6.2. If the weather becomes inclement, riders may find it very difficult to write answers on wet paper. If this occurs, when a pair returns, they must hand in their 'unreadable' answers and their time taken. They must be advised they will have twenty (20) minutes to look to the care and welfare of their horses. It is expected that the riders will act in an ethical and sporting manner and not discuss the questions or seek/compare answers with any other party during this time. One of the pair or both must return to a designated area to write their answers under supervision. Organisers must ensure a sufficient quantity of blank answer sheets is available.
- 6.3. An equalising mark is applied to the final score of competitors in official HRC AV sections only. See rule 11.
- 6.4. Interim scores may be posted at the organising committee's discretion any time after the final pair have ridden out
- 6.5. Answers to questions are not to be posted until all pairs have returned and submitted their completed program/question sheets.

7. TIME PENALTIES

- 7.1. A minimum of two stopwatches or clocks set at the same time must be used at the starting line and finishing line. All clocks must be synchronised, and the time must be recorded in hours, minutes and seconds.
- 7.2. Time penalties occur for each minute or part thereof over or under the time allowed plus or minus 5 minutes. Eg. Time allowed is 3 hours, penalties for under time start occurring at 2 hrs 55 minutes and over time at 3 hours 5 minutes.
- 7.3. One (1) penalty point per minute or part thereof for being over the time and 2 penalty points per minute or part thereof for being under the time

8. EQUAL PLACINGS

- 8.1.** In the event of equality of placings, the higher placing will be awarded to the pair with the higher number of correct questions.
- 8.2.** In the event of equality of correct questions, the higher placing will be awarded to the pair closest either side to the optimum time.
- 8.3.** In the event of equality of both correct questions and time, the pairs will be declared equal.

9. MONITORING OF HORSES' FITNESS

- 9.1.** A steward/s must be appointed to remain on course in order to monitor the condition of horses and provide assistance if required. The steward/s should preferably be a person or persons very experienced in the fitness of horses.
- 9.2.** If, at any time during the event, a horse is determined to be unfit to continue due to lameness, exhaustion or other health issue causing it serious distress, the steward/s may advise the competitor to withdraw from the event. Should the competitor choose to continue, the matter will be reported to the Ground Jury which has the power to eliminate the combination from the competition. Competitors are warned that competing with a horse in such a condition can amount to cruelty which can be actioned under the Disciplinary Rules of the HRCVA.

10.HRCAV LEVELS FOR NAVIGATION RIDES

- 10.1.** Levels range from Level 5 (beginner) to Level 1 (experienced) and are based on the total number of Navigation Ride performance points earned by the rider. Rider's levels are used to determine the equalising mark applied to the pair's score (refer rule 11).
- 10.2.** Each rider shall be issued with one Navigation Ride performance card upon which all performance points are recorded.
- 10.3.** Members are responsible for completing all initial details on the performance card, including their current level. They are also responsible for ensuring the proof of competency is shown as per rule 1.8.
- 10.4.** The following table shall be used to determine the rider's level. Refer to Event Rule 23 for further information regarding allocation of performance points at events.

Points per level for Navigation Rides

Points on Rider Card	Level
0 – 9	Level 5
10 – 24	Level 4
25 – 44	Level 3
45 – 74	Level 2
75 and over	Level 1

ENTERING THE LEVEL ON YOUR PERFORMANCE CARD

Special note: competitors total Navigation Ride performance points earned as at 1st September 2014 can be viewed on the HRCav website to enable members to complete the relevant details on their new card.

Example: Member who has earned a total of 23 points at the date of effect of the new system. Sample entry on performance card show below.

1st line inside card: initial details entered.

2nd and 3rd lines: shows placings at subsequent events.

CLUB	DATE	HORSE	PLACING	POINTS	TOTAL POINTS
	1.9.2014	Allocated (new system)			23
A Club	10.12.2014	Buddy	1 st	4	27
B Club	10.3.2015	George	4 th	1	28
C Club	22.5.2015	George	2 nd	3	31

11. HRC AV SECTIONS

- 11.1.** Pairs to comprise HRC AV members of any level.
- 11.2.** To be eligible to compete in a HRC AV section, each member of the pair must submit a valid Navigation Ride card to the Event Secretary.
- 11.3.** An equalising mark as shown in the table below and relevant to the combined averaged level of the riders is deducted from the pair's final score. Eg: a pair comprising a level 2 (6%) and a level 5 (0%) has a combined average equaliser of $\{(6 + 0) \text{ divided by } 2 = 3\}$).

The pair finishes the ride with a score of 120 points. An equalising mark of 3.6 (being 3% of 120) would be deducted giving a final score of 116.4.

Equaliser percentages for each level

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
8%	6%	4%	2%	0%

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