

Scottish Endurance Riding Club



Rule Book and Constitution

Argyll

Border

Dumfries

Glasgow

Grampian

Highland

Lothians

Tayside

SCOTTISH ENDURANCE RIDING CLUB

RULE BOOK

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Scottish Endurance Riding Club **CONSTITUTION**

POLICIES

The following policies are available and may be accessed by either of the following methods:

Send a SAE to the Club General Secretary

View or download at www.scottishendurance.com

- Health and Safety
- Privacy and data protection
- Equity
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult
- Volunteering

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Club is known as the SCOTTISH ENDURANCE RIDING CLUB. It is organised in the form of a Club Committee and Individual Branches, which are affiliated to the Club Committee.

The aim of the Club is to promote the sport of Endurance Riding in Scotland and to encourage it as a sport and recreation, also to improve and maintain the standard of Endurance Riding, horsemanship, and welfare of the horse.

Current Branches are: Argyll, Border, Dumfries, Grampian, Glasgow, Highland, Lothian, and Tayside.

The Club Committee is responsible for the Constitution, Rules, Insurance, Championships, Publicity and liaison with other Organisations.

The Branches organise membership, rides and events in their own areas, and have their own independent funding. Each Branch pays a per capita levy to the Club Committee.

TYPES OF RIDES – Summary

Taster/Introductory

- 8 - 14.99Km
- Non Competitive
- All horses shall be inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon if available or a competent person appointed by the Organising Committee, at the start and finish
- Must be ridden between 8Km – 11Kmph
- No cumulative mileage awarded

Pleasure

- 15 - 29Km
- Non Competitive
- All horses shall be inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon if available or a competent person appointed by the Organising Committee, at the start and finish
- Must be ridden between 8Km – 11Kmph
- Riders wishing to go faster must enter the event as a Training Ride
- Cumulative mileage will only be awarded to riders completing the distance within the speed parameters.

Training

- 15 - 29Km
- All horses shall be inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon if available or a competent person appointed by the Organising Committee, at the start and finish
- Ridden under Competitive Ride Rules
- Minimum Speed 9Kmph
- Cumulative mileage will only be awarded to riders completing the distance within the maximum time allowance of 9Kmph
- Riders are not eliminated for exceeding Speed Category parameters but will be advised how to achieve them.

Competitive

- 30Km – 80km
- Veterinary Inspections
- Ridden under Competitive Ride Rules
- Horse Log Book required
- Minimum speed 9Kmph
- May be used as a Grading Ride

Gated - [Endurance Rides]

- 60Km – 160km
- Veterinary Inspections
- Ridden under Gated Ride Rules
- Horse Log Book required
- Minimum speed 9Kmph
- May be used as a Grading Ride

Gated - [Elevator Endurance Rides]

- Only available using 1 day 160km classes
- Veterinary Inspections
- Ridden under Gated Ride Rules
- Minimum speed 9Kmph
- Combination can retire after each successful vetting from 120km onwards and will be awarded cumulative mileage and points up to this last successful vetting
- Any such retiral must be made prior to leaving the Vet Gate

Multiple Day Rides

- Competitive and Gated Distances per ride schedule
- Veterinary Inspections
- Horse Log Book required
- Minimum speed each day 9Kmph
- May be used as a Grading Ride
- Qualifications may be required

Camp Rides

- Maximum distance per day –50Km
- Horse's age – 5 years and over
- Non Competitive
- All horses shall be inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon if available or a competent person appointed by the Organising Committee, at the start and finish of each day
- Route should not return to the same venue at the end of each day
- Entrants must stay on site overnight
- Mileage awarded to last successful vetting
- Awards – progressive completion rosettes, with the awarding of an overall completion rosette at the discretion of individual branches.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Save for the death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the Organisers or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, neither the Organisers of any event to which these rules apply, nor any agent, employee, or representative of these bodies accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, spectators, land or any other person or property whatsoever whether caused by their negligence, breach of contract or in any other way whatsoever.

INSURANCE

The Club is covered for public liability of £ 10 million for official Club events organised by the Branches or Club Committee. This includes public liability for Official's transport.

Members are advised to insure their individual horses.

HEALTH & SAFETY STATEMENT

The Scottish Endurance Riding Club is strongly committed to encouraging our members to take part, but the health, well-being and safety of each individual is always our paramount concern. We recommend levels of training dependent on age and ability, and expect our junior athletes to participate within these boundaries.

Scottish Endurance Riding Club will safeguard so far as is reasonably practicable the health, safety and welfare of all persons who might be subject to risks from its activities. This will be achieved by co-operating, communicating and co-ordinating with all relevant agencies, organisations, volunteers, etc. necessary to manage the health & safety during the activities of Scottish Endurance Riding Club.

GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL MEMBERS

1. MEMBERSHIP Categories

Riding Adult: 17 years and over

Young riders group 17 – 21 years [adult membership fees and voting rights apply]

Riding Junior: 8 - 16 years

Family: Up to 4 people [riding or member categories] of which no more than 2 may be adults living at the same address

Non Riding: Adult or Junior

Riding Adult members can participate in any ride, according to qualification.

Riding Junior members aged 13 - 16 years can participate in Rides unaccompanied, once they have achieved their BTF. Written consent must be received from Parents/Guardian and Accompanying adult at time of entry.

2. HORSE REGISTRATION

All horses taking part in SERC rides are required to be registered annually according to the type of ride they will be taking part in during the year i.e. Pleasure or Competitive. Upgrade of registration can be made during the year. A horse registration/record card will be issued for each horse.

NOTE: day/temporary members do not require to register their horses.

3. GOOD CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE AT RIDES

A Chief Steward will be appointed for all SERC rides. The Chief Steward shall act as Disciplinary Steward. A Chief Steward may form a Ground jury to assist them with their duties and a Ground Jury and Appeal Committee must be appointed for all major rides.

3.1 Chief Steward / Ground Jury Disciplinary Duties

- a] The Chief Steward / Ground Jury shall be competent to deal with all Protests and Reports which relate to anything occurring during or in direct connection with an event and are presented within the period of its jurisdiction. The Chief Steward's role is to ensure that all aspects of the ride are carried out in accordance with SERC rules, and that an expedient solution is found for new and unforeseen circumstances arising during the course of the ride wherever possible. The period of jurisdiction commences one hour before the beginning of the first horse inspection and terminates half an hour after the announcement of the final results. (The Chief Steward / Ground Jury should however be available to receive protests regarding the course at any time up to 18.00 hours on the day preceding the relevant competition.)
- b] The Chief Steward / Ground Jury may impose the following penalties on owners of horses, persons responsible, any person assisting a rider or competitors:
1. A written warning;
 2. A fine of a maximum of £100 - to be paid to SERC;
 3. Amendment to a result / award;
 4. Disqualification from the competition;
 5. In serious cases, immediate disqualification during the event with a referral to the Appeal Committee.
 - 6.
- c] Decisions must be notified in writing to the parties concerned. Cases involving penalties must be recorded by the Chief Steward.
- d] There is no appeal against decisions of the Ground Jury in the following cases:
1. The elimination of a horse for veterinary reasons including non- acceptance of a horse at a Horse Inspection;
 2. The imposition of a Warning without additional penalties;
 3. Immediate disqualification during an event.

- e] The Chief Steward / Ground Jury shall refer the following to the Appeal Committee:
 1. Any case which is beyond its competence;
 2. Any case, within its competence which it considers deserving of more severe penalties than the Ground Jury may impose;
 3. Any matter concerning alleged acts of abuse of horses the decision of which is not immediately required for the purpose of a competition and which, having regard to its primary duty to judge the competition, it deems more appropriate to be dealt with by the Appeal Committee.

3.2 APPEAL COMMITTEE - DUTIES

An Appeal Committee consisting of a Chairman and at least 2 members shall be appointed for all Championships and any other major rides on the instructions of the Club Committee.

- a] The Chairman and at least 2 members of the Appeal Committee must be available throughout the event. If a protest lodged with the Ground Jury is still pending, the Appeal Committee must be available and has jurisdiction until one hour after the relevant decision of the Chief Steward /Ground Jury has been announced.
- b] The Appeal Committee shall deal with the following matters:
 1. Appeals against decisions of the Chief Steward / Ground Jury. In these cases the decision of the Appeal Committee is final;
 2. Protests addressed to the Appeal Committee or referred to it by the Ground Jury, and all cases which are beyond the competence of the Ground Jury.
- c] In appropriate cases involving veterinary matters the Chief Vet at an event must be invited to join the Appeal Committee in an advisory capacity.
- d] The Appeal Committee may impose the following penalties on Officials, owners of horses, persons responsible, competitors and team officials:
 1. A Warning;
 2. A fine of a maximum of £200 - to be paid to SERC;
 3. Disqualification from the competition or from the whole event;
 4. In serious cases, immediate disqualification from the competition or from the whole event with a referral to the Club Chairman (for referral to the Judicial Committee).
- e] The Appeal Committee shall report to the Club Chairman for referral to the Judicial Committee:
 1. Any case which is beyond its competence.
 2. Any case within its competence, other than an appeal, which it considers deserving of more severe penalties than the Appeal Committee may impose.

3.3 PROTESTS

- a] Protests may be lodged against any person or body involved in any capacity in an event or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of SERC, including for failure to observe the Rules and constitution or violation of the common principles of behaviour, fairness, or accepted standards of sportsmanship, whether occurring during or in connection with an event or at any other time.
- b] Protests may only be lodged by Officials, the owner or his authorised agent, or the rider of a horse taking part in the ride, with the exception of protests for abuse which may be lodged by any person or body.
- c] Protests must be lodged with the Chief Steward / Ground Jury during its period of jurisdiction for failing to observe the Rules or Constitution in the organisation or conduct of a competition, including the matters referred to in paragraph 7 below. Protests for other matters must be lodged with the Appeal Committee during its period of jurisdiction.
- d] Protests regarding matters which have not occurred during or in direct connection with an event or which were not known until after the end of the event, shall be reported to the Club Chairman and dealt with by the Judicial Committee. A case shall only be deemed to occur in direct connection with an event if it occurs during the journey towards the event or, after arrival.

- e] Protests lodged with the Club Chairman for referral to the Judicial Committee should be received by the Club Chairman not later than 14 days after the end of the event.
- f] Protests must be in writing, signed by the authorised person making the protest, and presented personally to the Chief Steward, to the Chairman of the Appeal Committee or sent to the Club Chairman, as the case may be, together with any supporting evidence, names of witnesses and the necessary deposit.
- g] Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, protests against any of the following matters may only be lodged with the Chief Steward / Ground Jury and within the following time limits, and a decision by the Chief Steward / Ground Jury in these matters is a prerequisite to a right of appeal to the Appeal Committee:
 1. Protests concerning the eligibility of a competitor or horse or to the conditions of the route: not later than 30 minutes before the start of the class
 2. Protests concerning the course not later than 1800 hours on the day before the relevant competition
 3. Protests concerning irregularities or incidents during a competition, not later than 30 minutes after the announcement of the results.
- h] Any person making a protest should, if possible, secure witnesses to the incident and any other form of evidence, and either bring them to the body before whom the protest is lodged, or obtain written statements from them, duly signed, together with their names and addresses.

3.4 APPEALS

- i] An Appeal may be lodged by any person or body with a legitimate interest against any decision made by any person or body authorised under Rules, provided it is admissible (see paragraph 2 below):
 - a] With the Appeal Committee (if appointed) against decisions by the Chief Steward / Ground Jury.
 - b] With the Judicial Committee through the Club Chairman against decisions by the Appeal Committee (where appointed) or the Chief Steward / Ground Jury where no appeal committee is appointed.
 - c] With the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel [SDRP] through the Club Chairman against decisions by the Judicial Committee. The SDRP, as an independent court of arbitration, shall judge all appeals properly submitted to it against decisions of the Judicial Committee. The parties concerned shall comply with the Statutes and Regulations of the SDRP, and accept and enforce its decision in good faith.
- ii] An Appeal is NOT admissible:
 - a] Against decisions by the Ground Jury in cases covered by para 3.1.1 [d]
 - b] Against decisions by the Appeal Committee of appeals from decisions by the Ground Jury.
- iii] Appeals to the Appeal Committee must be in writing, signed and accompanied by supporting evidence in writing or the presence of one or more witnesses and must be lodged not later than 1 hour after the decision of the Ground Jury.
- iv] Appeals to the Judicial Committee must be dispatched to the Club Chairman and signed by the appellant or his authorised agent and accompanied by supporting evidence in writing or the presence of one or more witnesses at a designated hearing and must reach the Club Chairman within 30 days of the date of the event being appealed against.
- v] Appeals to the SDRP together with supporting documents must be dispatched to the Club Chairman and signed by the appellant or his authorised agent:
 - a] In the case of an appeal against decisions of an Appeal Committee so as to reach the Club Chairman not later than 14 days after the end of the event.
 - b] In case of an appeal against decisions of the Judicial Committee so as to reach the club Chairman within 30 days of the date of the Club Chairman's notification.
 - c] Appeals reaching the SDRP after the time limits as indicated above will not be considered.

- vi] No new evidence may be presented on appeal, other than in circumstances where it is shown that such new evidence could not have been obtained, with reasonable diligence, prior to the hearing before the first instance.

3.5 DEPOSITS

- i] Protests and appeals to the Chief Steward / Ground Jury or the Appeal Committee must be accompanied by a deposit to SERC of £50.
- ii] The deposit shall be refunded if the protest or appeal is upheld. If the protest or appeal is rejected, the deposit is retained by SERC, unless the body hearing the protest or appeal otherwise directs.

3.6 RECORDING PROTESTS, APPEALS AND PENALTIES

- i] The Chief Steward must include in his report to the Chairman of the event Organising Committee (OC) all reports and protests received by the Chief Steward / Ground Jury and all decisions and penalties awarded on these and other relevant matters.
- ii] The President of the Appeal Committee must report to the Chairman of the event OC all protests, reports and appeals, received by the Appeal Committee and all decisions and penalties awarded by the Appeal Committee on these and other relevant matters.
- iii] The Club General Secretary shall be responsible for:
 - a] Recording proceedings of the Judicial Committee
 - b] Notifying the decisions, including the dates on which they become effective, to the parties concerned;
 - c] Publication of all decisions which he believes warrant publication or which have to be published.
 - d] Processing reports from event officials.

3.7 PENALTIES

- i] In deciding on the appropriate penalties to be imposed, the following factors shall be taken into consideration, together with any other relevant factors:
 - a] Whether the action or omission resulted in an unfair advantage to the offender or a competitor;
 - b] Whether the action or omission resulted in a material disadvantage to any other person or body involved;
 - c] Whether the action or omission involved the maltreatment of horses;
 - d] Whether the action or omission affected the dignity or integrity of any person involved in the sport;
 - e] Whether the action or omission involved fraud, violence or abuse or similar criminal acts.
 - f] Whether the action or omission was deemed to be deliberate.
- ii] An oral or written warning is appropriate in cases of minor violations or contraventions committed unintentionally and without significant consequences.
- iii] A fine is appropriate particularly in cases where the offender has acted negligently.
- iv] Disqualification is appropriate when it is specified in the Rules, or when the circumstances require an immediate action.
- v] A suspension, on such terms and subject to conditions as the Judicial Committee may impose, is appropriate in cases of intentional or very negligent violations or contravention. In certain cases suspension may be automatic under the Rules.
 - a] Suspension must be for a stated period and during that period the person or body suspended may take no part in competitions or events as a competitor or Official or in the organisation of, or participation in, any event under the jurisdiction of the SERC.
 - b] In deciding when any suspension will commence, the appropriate body shall, in order to achieve a just penalty, have regard to the gravity of the offence.

4. DOGS

Dogs must be kept on leads at all times during the course of Club activities.

5. RIDER'S DRESS

- 5.1 Riders should be dressed appropriately. A hard hat to current standards with chin strap securely fastened, must be worn.
- 5.2 Footwear - if riding footwear without a heel is worn, a suitable caged front to the stirrups must be fitted.
- 5.3 A whip of not more than 75cm in length may be carried. In ER's, no whips will be allowed in the final phase i.e. after the final vet gate.
- 5.4 Spurs – are not permitted

6. SADDLERY

- 6.1 Horses must be ridden in a saddle and bridle at all times during the ride.
- 6.2 Protective clothings such as boots, bandages and knee boots must be removed for veterinary inspection or at the Chief Steward's request.
- 6.3 The following are **NOT PERMITTED**: any form of bearing, side, check or running reins, [including Market Harborough] blinkers or hoods of any kind, nor goads of any form.
- 6.4 Heart monitors are permitted.
- 6.5 A First Aid Kit, with the following minimum contents must be carried either by the Rider or Horse at **ALL rides**.

Triangular Bandage	Whistle
Vet Wrap	Glucose Tablets
Wound Bandage	Rider Medical Card
Space Blanket	

7. TACK INSPECTION

- 7.1 The Chief Steward on the day, or any person appointed by the Chief Steward, has the authority to carry out random inspections on tack, rider's dress, equipment to check compliance to rules 5 to 6 inclusive.
- 7.2 If in the opinion of the Chief Steward any item of tack is ill fitting, unsafe, likely to cause damage or excluded from the rules or the first aid kit is incomplete, the competitor will be required to rectify or replace it before being permitted to start.
- 7.3 Such horses may be subject to additional tack inspections during the course of the ride, for which no time allowance will be given.
- 7.4 If at any time the Chief Steward, or officiating Veterinary Surgeon is of the opinion that a horse is suffering or may suffer as a result of unsafe or damaging state of its saddlery, any of these officials is empowered to withdraw the horse from taking any further part in the event.
- 7.5 The tack inspection is purely to satisfy the Organising Committee of the safety of the tack at the time of inspection and, in no way whatsoever, is a guarantee of rider and/or horse safety during the ride.

8. SHOEING

- 8.1 Horses may be ridden with or without shoes, but if shod they must have been recently and correctly shod at the start of the ride. Equi-boots or equivalent pads are allowed.
- 8.2 Horses whose shoes are not in good condition in the opinion of the official Farrier or Chief Steward will not be allowed to start if they can not be rectified. Unshod horses whose feet are considered to be in an unsuitable condition to complete the course will not be allowed to start. This decision will be taken by the chief steward following advice from the Veterinary Surgeon, Farrier, or in their absence, the appointed lay person.
- 8.3 Horses that are unshod or have lost shoes, must be trotted up in the same area as all other horses.
- 8.4 Shoeing pads are permitted.

9. UNFITNESS OF RIDER

- 9.1 The Chief Steward may at any time exclude from the competition, any competitor who is, in his opinion, severely injured or unfit due to a fall, fatigue or exhaustion.

- 9.2** The Chief Steward may at any time exclude any competitor who is, in his opinion, under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Refer to current FEI list of prohibited substances.
- 9.3** Competitors may be asked to submit samples of blood for testing for alcohol or drugs.
- 9.4** Competitors found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be dealt with in accordance with procedures under Good Conduct and Discipline.

10. WEIGHT

- 10.1** There are no weight restrictions for riders.
- 10.2** A competitor will be asked to retire if, in the opinion of the Veterinary Surgeon or Chief Steward, the horse is not up to the rider's weight.

11. HORSEMANSHIP AND HORSEMANAGEMENT

- 11.1** Horses will be under observation of Officials from the time of arrival at the ride.
- 11.2** Any incident of bad horsemanship or management will be reported to the Chief Steward to be dealt with in accordance with procedures under Good Conduct and Discipline at Rides.
- 11.3** Any act or series of actions which, in the opinion of a Steward, constitutes cruelty shall be reported to the Chief Steward, to be dealt with in accordance with procedures under Good conduct and Discipline.

12. PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

12.1 Reservation of Right

The organising committee has the right to:

- a] Cancel the Ride or any Class
- b] Alter the advertised times
- c] Refuse any entry
- d] Reduce average speed in accordance to conditions.

12.2 Definition of Novice Horse/Pony

There are three categories of novice horses:

- 4 year olds
- 5 year olds
- 6 year old and older horses in their first competitive season

Notes:

- **Season** is defined as from 1st January to 31st December annually for all types of ride
- **Horse Age** is taken from 1st January.
- **4 and 5 year old horses** may not exceed 400km per annum i.e. 1st January – 31st December.

12.2.1 Rules applying to a 4 year old

The minimum age for a horse to enter a SERC ride is 4 years old. They may not enter competitive or training rides and are not to be ridden over 400km in the season. The 400km applies to all types of rides including those which are not successfully completed.

12.2.2 Rules applying to a 5 year old

A 5 year old horse may enter pleasure, training and competitive rides. They may not be ridden over 400km as per four year old rules. To be eligible for the Novice Class at the Scottish Championships [in the horses 6th year] they may not complete a competitive or training ride over SC3 nor a class over 50km within the competitive season.

12.2.3 Rules applying to a 6 year old & older horses in their first competitive season

A 6 year old & older horse may enter pleasure, training & competitive rides. To be eligible for the Novice Class at the Scottish Championships they may not complete a competitive or training ride over SC3 nor a class over 50km until 31st May, thereafter they may be ridden in higher speed categories but not in classes over 50km until the next season, however restrictions may apply if the horse has not achieved BTF.

12.3 Making Entries

- 12.3.1** When entering all rides an official entry form must be completed and sent with the appropriate entry fee to the Ride Secretary as stated in the schedule, to arrive 2 weeks before the date of the ride.
- 12.3.2** Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Organising committee
- 12.3.3** Entries from Juniors must state the name of the accompanying adult and include written consent from Parents/Guardian and Accompanying adult.
- 12.3.4** The Organising Committee of any ride may refuse to accept an entry.
- 12.3.5** If a ride or class is oversubscribed at the closing date for entries the following Ballot Procedure to be applied - listed in order of priority.
1. Entries for 80km and Gold Series rides will generally be accepted
 2. Host Branch members regardless of distance
 3. Members from other Branches
 4. Non Members
- 12.3.6** Riders balloted out to be issued with a Priority Entry Voucher which can be submitted for any future ride and will guarantee an entry at whatever distance, providing the entry is received by the closing date for that ride. This does not apply to non members.

12.4 Acceptance of Rules

Making an entry for any Club Ride constitutes an implicit acceptance of the rules of the S.E.R.C.

12.5 Substitution

- 12.5.1** Riders or horses can be substituted up to half an hour before the start of the competition.
- 12.5.2** Substitute horses and riders must be eligible according to the conditions of the Class.

12.6 Withdrawals

- 12.6.1** Once a competitor's entry has been accepted, it will be assumed that he intends to take part unless he notifies the Organising committee to the contrary.
- 12.6.2** Competitors failing to declare at the earliest opportunity their intention to withdraw, in accordance with any conditions published in the schedule, are liable to be refused permission to compete in rides for up to a period of 3 months.
- 12.6.3** Withdrawal prior to 14 days before the date of the Ride - a FULL refund will be given. Thereafter at the Organising committee's discretion.

12.7 Elimination and Retirals

- 12.7.1** Competitors retiring from the ride must inform the nearest checkpoint or the Organiser's Office.
- 12.7.2** Horses retired on the course between vettings and not attended to by a Ride Vet at the time, must return to the venue and be presented to the officiating vet to ensure their fitness to travel home.
- 12.7.3** A competitor eliminated for any reason must leave the course at once and has no right to continue on the course unless there is no viable alternative.
- 12.7.4** Competitors retiring or eliminated must make their own arrangements to be collected.

12.8 Orders

Riders and owners of competing horses and their helpers must, under penalty of disciplinary action, obey any order or direction given to them by any Steward and they must, in particular, be careful not to do anything liable to upset or hinder the undisturbed progress of the ride.

12.9 Riding on Private Land

Where the route of a ride crosses private land and is not on a public right of way, competitors may not ride on that land other than during the actual event, unless specific permission has been granted.

12.10 Course Plan and Marking

- 12.10.1** Competitors will be supplied with a plan and written description of the route, if possible seven days before the start of the event.
- 12.10.2** The location of any compulsory halt/s, and the distance from the start to the halt and to the finish must be indicated.
- 12.10.3** Competitors will be informed of the materials and method used for marking the route.
- 12.10.4** If a competitor deviates, for gain, from the marked route he risks elimination, if he does not rejoin the route at the point at which he left it.
- 12.10.5** If it is necessary to make alterations to the published route, every competitor must be officially informed of the situation before starting or continuing the ride.
- 12.10.6** Any tampering by the competitor or his crew with marking of the course will result in his immediate elimination.

12.11 Order of Starting

- 12.11.1** The order of starting will be announced by the Organising Committee after the close of entries.
- 12.11.2** Competitors will be started en masse, in groups, or individually, at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
- 12.11.3** The order of starting and the times at which competitors will be required to start, will be sent to competitors, except those whose declarations are made after the closing date for entry.
- 12.11.4** Competitors must, under penalty of elimination, be prepared to start at the times shown on the timetable.
- 12.11.5** Competitors are not permitted to start before their starting times except with the permission of the Chief Steward.
- 12.11.6** If it is necessary to alter the timetable, all reasonable steps will be taken to inform the competitors when they must, under penalty of elimination, be prepared to start at their revised times.
- 12.11.7** It is the responsibility of the competitor to present himself at the correct start time.

12.12 Numbers

- 12.12.1** For the purpose of easy identification, competitors must wear numbers issued by the Organising Committee during the ride.
- 12.12.2** The same numbers must be worn for veterinary inspections.

12.13 Timing

- 12.13.1** Competitors must be informed of the maximum time limit in which the ride must be completed - this to include any gate allowance. In pleasure, training, and competitive rides, a gate allowance of 30 seconds per gate will come into effect for every gate after 10.
- 12.13.2** An Official Timekeeper will record the time for each competitor at the start, on arrival and on leaving any compulsory halts and at the finish.
- 12.13.3** The times will be recorded in hours and minutes, with seconds being recorded in Gated Rides.
- 12.13.4** If any competitor believes he is entitled to a time allowance for any reason, such as assisting at an accident, etc. he should appeal to the Chief Steward, who will decide what allowance, if any, is to be made and will inform the relevant official.

12.14 Checkpoints

- 12.14.1** Consecutively numbered checkpoints will be situated at various points on the route.
- 12.14.2** Competitors must be recorded as having passed through each checkpoint in the correct direction by the Steward on duty.
- 12.14.3** Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their number is recorded.

12.15 Overtaking

- 12.15.1** Any competitor who is about to be overtaken by a following competitor must quickly clear the way and allow the passing rider a clear unhindered passage.
- 12.15.2** Wilful obstruction of an overtaking competitor will be dealt with in accordance with procedures under Good conduct and Discipline.
- 12.15.3** Competitors wishing to pass must give warning and overtake with courtesy and consideration.

12.16 Dismounting

During the ride, competitors may dismount and proceed on foot leading their horse, but must be mounted to pass through the start and finish.

12.17 Assistance

- 12.17.1** Before the start, after the finish and at compulsory halts or veterinary inspections, it is permitted to assist the competitor and to attend to his horse [groom, water, etc]. During the course of the competition, it is permitted to help the competitor to water and wash down the horse.
- 12.17.2** After a fall, or if the competitor dismounts, or is separated from his horse, or in the case of lost or loose horse shoes, he may be assisted to recover his horse, adjust his equipment, to replace the shoe and to remount, or be handed any part of his equipment whilst dismounted or remounted.

12.18 Forbidden Assistance

- 12.18.1** Under the penalty of elimination any intervention by a third party, whether solicited or not, with the object of facilitating the task of the competitor, or of helping his horse, is considered forbidden assistance. In particular the following are forbidden:
- i] To be accompanied on any part of the course by any vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian or horse not in competition.
 - ii] To have someone at a hazard to encourage the horse by any means whatsoever.
- 12.18.2** On the course no other person may lead or ride the horse.

12.19 Unfitness of Horse

- 12.19.1** If at any time during the competition a horse is, in the opinion of the official Veterinary Surgeon, lame, sick, exhausted, it will be eliminated by the Veterinary Surgeon.
- 12.19.2** Competitors are warned that competing a horse in such a condition as referred to above can amount to a breach of the rules.
- 12.19.3** Any horse that is declared lame at any ride shall be suspended from participating in all rides [Endurance, Competitive, Pleasure/Training or Camp Ride] for a period of 8 days including the day of the ride on which the horse was declared lame.

12.20 Doping

- 12.20.1** It is forbidden to administer any substance that is specified by the F.E.I. as a prohibited substance, or cause one to be administered in any way whatsoever, or to compete or attempt to compete a horse which is found to have had administered to it any such substance. [Consult current FEI list of prohibited substances] [FEI Clean Sport](#)
- 12.20.2** The use of inhalation oxygen and the use of hypodermic injections for the administration of normal nutrients such as saline fluids, electrolyte solutions, glucose, etc. is forbidden throughout the period of the Ride.
- 12.20.3** If during the ride it is necessary to treat a horse with a drug, the officiating veterinary surgeon must be informed immediately. He will investigate the reason for treatment given and make a report to the Chief Steward who shall decide whether the horse is to be allowed to continue or shall be eliminated.
- 12.20.4** The Organising Committee of a ride reserve the right to cause to be carried out at any time random tests in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure prescribed in the veterinary rules of the F.E.I.

12.20.5 A refusal to submit a horse for the taking of a sample for analysis shall constitute a breach of this rule

12.21 Destruction of Severely injured Horses

If in the opinion of the official Veterinary Surgeon a horse is so seriously injured that on humanitarian grounds it ought to be destroyed, the following procedure will apply:

- i] If the owner or his authorised representative is present, his agreement will first be obtained by the officiating Veterinary Surgeon.
- ii] If the owner or his representative is not available, a steward, acting on the advice of a registered Veterinary surgeon, may order the destruction of the horse.

NOTE: Owners should be aware that this rule is slightly at variance with the Protection of Animals Act 1911, Section 11, which states that in the absence of the owner, a Police Constable, acting on the advice of a registered Veterinary Surgeon, may order the destruction of a horse. This rule is framed to avoid unnecessary suffering to a severely injured horse.

13. RULES FOR PLEASURE RIDES

13.1 Distances: 15 - 29Km

13.2 All horses shall be trotted up prior to starting the ride and if, in the opinion of the vet or lay person [appointed by the Ride Organising committee], the horse is lame, it will not be allowed to start.

13.3 All horses shall be trotted up and have their heart rates taken at the end of the ride and if, in the opinion of the vet or lay person, the horse is lame, the horse will not be awarded mileage for the ride, nor will the rider receive a pleasure ride rosette. The Branch may decide to award a commemorative rosette, at their discretion

13.4 Speed parameters: To be ridden at a minimum of 8Kmph and a maximum of 11Kmph. Riders wishing to go faster must enter the event as a Training Ride.

13.5 Cumulative mileage will only be awarded to horse and rider combinations completing the distance within the parameters of 8Kmph – 11Kmph Pleasure Ride Rosettes awarded to all within the parameters of 8Kmph – 11Kmph. NOTE: mileage awards are not applicable to day/temporary members.

13.6 Vet Sheets - Pleasure/Training Ride Vet Sheets to be completed in full and must have "Pleasure" circled **before** the start of the ride.

14. RULES FOR TRAINING RIDES

14.1 Distances: 15 – 29km

14.2 All horses shall be trotted up prior to starting the ride and if, in the opinion of the vet or lay person [appointed by the Organising Committee], the horse is lame, it will not be allowed to start

14.3 All horses shall be trotted up at the end of the ride and have their heart rates taken and if, in the opinion of the vet or lay person, the horse is lame, the horse will not be awarded mileage for the ride, nor will the rider receive a Training ride rosette. The Branch may decide to award a commemorative rosette, at their discretion.

14.4 Speed Parameters: Minimum Speed 9Kmph

14.5 Training rides are ridden under Competitive Ride Rules. Horse and rider combinations who have not achieved Bronze Thistle Final level **MUST** nominate a speed category at the start of the ride, unless both horse and rider have a Speed Category Declaration Exemption i.e. as a combination they have successfully completed 6 x 30km classes, including 2 x Bronze Thistle qualifiers

14.6 Riders are not eliminated for exceeding the speed parameters but will be advised how to achieve them.

14.7 Horse and riders combinations completing within the maximum time allowance of 9Kmph and not eliminated by heart and /or vet penalties will be eligible for cumulative mileage. NOTE: mileage awards are not applicable to day/temporary members.

14.8 Time penalties will not be taken into account for cumulative mileage eligibility

- 14.9 Cumulative mileage not awarded if :
Average speed below 9Kmph
Horse eliminated
- 14.10 Vet Sheets - Pleasure/Training Ride Vet Sheets to be completed in full and must have "Training" circled **before** the start of the ride.

15. RULES FOR CAMP RIDES

- 15.1 **Qualifications:** Horse's age – 5 years and over
- 15.2 **Speed Parameters:** no minimum daily/overall speed
- 15.3 **Vetting Procedures:** as Pleasure Rides
- 15.4 **Route/Distance:** Maximum distance per day – 50Km. Route should not return to same venue at the end of each day. Entrants must stay on site overnight.
- 15.5 **Awards:** Mileage awarded to last successful vetting. Progressive completion rosettes awarded with the awarding on an overall completion rosette at the discretion of individual branches.
- 15.6 **Acceptance of Entries:** At the Organising Committee's discretion

16. GRADING SYSTEM

- 16.1 This is for both horses and riders, who do not require to grade as a combination, but may grade separately.
- 16.2 To progress beyond 30Km classes grading is compulsory and must be completed in sequence. [Combinations can choose for themselves which level they wish to achieve, if any]
- 16.3 The horse and rider combination will only be allowed to compete to the lower of their combined grades.
- 16.4 Horses/riders participating in the Grading Scheme require to work their way up through the Thistle Qualifications and Grades. Rides of a longer mileage than required by the standard being attempted may not be used. Equivalent grading schemes of other recognised endurance organisations are recognised by the Club, providing that the result is within the parameters for that grading, but such rides **MUST** be declared in advance, enclosing the relative grading fee, to the rider's Branch Archivist. Riders may ask for previous experience and equivalent rides results to be recognised for Grade equivalence for both horses and riders.
- 16.5 A small additional charge to the ride entry fee will be made to cover costs.
- 16.6 All Competitive and Gated Rides may be used as venues for Grading Awards.
- 16.7 Riders must nominate on their ride entry forms that they wish to use that competition as a grading ride.
- 16.8 Gradings will not be given retrospectively.
- 16.9 To gain a Grading, a minimum of a Bronze award in a Competitive Class, or a completion in a Gated Ride must be achieved.
- 16.10 Grading awards will be given in the form of Certificates for Qualifiers and Badges for Riders/ Brow Buttons for Horses, for Thistle Final Awards.
- 16.11 **Bronze Thistle Qualifiers:**
Two 30Km classes at a Minimum speed of 9.5Kmph, to be ridden at different venues OR three 30Km classes at a minimum speed of 9.5Kmph, but can be ridden at the same venue.
- 16.12 **Bronze Thistle Final:**
One 50Km class to be ridden at a minimum of 9.5Kmph
- 16.13 **Silver Thistle Qualifiers:**
Two 60Km classes at a minimum speed of 11Kmph, to be ridden at different venues OR three 60Km classes at a minimum speed of 11Kmph, but can be ridden at the same venue.
- 16.14 **Silver Thistle Final:**
One 80Km class at a minimum speed of 11Kmph.

16.15 Gold Thistle:

One 80Km class at a minimum speed of 13Kmph OR two 80Km classes at a minimum speed of 11Kmph

16.16 Nomination of Speed Categories

Riders who have not gained their Bronze thistle Final and those riding horses which have not gained their Bronze thistle final must nominate their speed category, except in 30km classes if the horse and rider as a combination have a Speed Category Declaration Exemption i.e. have successfully completed 6 x 30km classes, including 2 x Bronze Thistle Qualifiers.

Combinations wishing to claim a Speed Category Exemption should apply to their Branch Archivists.

NOTE: Equivalent Gradings from recognized endurance organisations may be recognised. Riders may ask for previous experience and equivalent ride results to be recognised for Grade equivalence for both horses and riders.

17. HORSE LOG BOOK - are compulsory for all entrants in competitive and gated rides. Log books are not transferable.

- 17.1** The Log Book is to be presented to the Ride Administrator before the start of every competitive ride on collection of the rider number. Horses will not be allowed to start if the complete Log Book [including a copy of the horse's identification document] is not presented.
- 17.2** The original and subsequent Mastercard should be presented to the Ride Administrator in a plastic poly pocket and with the first columns completed for the Ride concerned. **Note:** 2 day rides should be entered as a single entry. It will then be retained by the Administrator during the ride and must be collected by the rider on return of their rider number. The Mastercard details must be completed and signed by the designated ride official before collection.
- 17.3** The Log Book must be available for the veterinary surgeon to see, if required, at the pre-vetting.
- 17.4** A horse/pony may only have one Log Book, registered either with Scottish Endurance Riding Club, Endurance GB, or the Irish Long Distance Riding Association. Any horse/rider found to have/use duplicate Log Books will face an automatic 90 day ban from competition.
- 17.5** Continuation Mastercards should be obtained from the Club General Secretary, the original or preceding Mastercard being sent with the application. Continuation Mastercards will be stamped with an Issue Number and date of Issue.
- 17.6** Alterations to the Mastercards may be made only by designated ride official and must be printed in block letters and signed with the name clearly printed beneath. Should alteration be necessary, a single line through the wrong entry is sufficient. No correcting fluid is to be used. Reason for elimination can be added by designated ride official. In the case of any lameness, when the vet identifies a particular leg, this will be recorded. In cases of doubt the recording will read "Failed - lame".
- 17.7** The Mastercard must not be defaced nor amended by any other person. The penalty for falsification is that the rider will be suspended from riding for a minimum of two months. More serious transgressions will be referred to the disciplinary officials of the society organising the ride concerned.
- 17.8** After each ride, riders must put their copy of the vet sheet into the plastic folders provided in the Log Book in date order. Vet sheets are an intrinsic part of the Log Book and a vet sheet must be kept in the Log Book in respect of each entry on the Master Card.
- 17.9** Replacement of a lost Log Book will incur a basic charge of £25.00 plus £1 per sheet for replacement of lost documentation. It is therefore recommended that members keep photocopies of their own vet sheets to save time and expense in case of loss. The horse will not be permitted to compete again until a new Log Book has been obtained.

- 17.10** In exceptional cases, where there is evidence from a horse's Log Book that it has been eliminated due to a recurrent problem on three consecutive occasions during the current season, in the interests of the welfare of the horse the Chief Steward, on advice of the senior veterinary surgeon, may prohibit further competition by that horse for a period of 30 days. An entry to this effect being made on the horse's Log Book Mastercard.
- 17.11** On return of their Mastercard riders should check that the information tallies with the Vet Sheet.
- 17.12** If a horse has three successive lamenesses on the same leg then the Mastercard will be retained by the Organising Committee for a PERIOD OF 1 MONTH.
- 17.13** Mastercard Terminology
WITHDRAWN - a horse can only be 'WITHDRAWN' before presenting for initial vetting
RETIRED - if during the ride the rider becomes ill or is injured then the horse will be regarded as 'RETIRED' with the reason being stated on the vet sheet and mastercard.
FAIL - Once the horse has been presented for initial vetting if it fails to finish the ride for any other reason other than the rider being ill/injured it will be eliminated and 'FAIL' will be recorded on the mastercard, the reason being stated on the vet sheet and mastercard. If the horse is lame then the leg on which the lameness is diagnosed should be recorded on the Mastercard e.g. Lamé RF.

18. RULES FOR COMPETITIVE RIDES

18.1 QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications are not usually required for One Day Competitive rides. However Riders competing for the first time, may at the discretion of the Chief Steward, be required to participate at speed category 3.

18.1.2 Riding on Consecutive days

Combinations riding on consecutive days must be qualified as per 2 day rides

18.1.3 Qualifications for 2 Day Rides - all minimum qualifications

- 2 Day 60Km - Horse and Rider Combination must have achieved BTF
- 2 Day 80Km - Horse and Rider Combination must have achieved BTF
- 2 Day 100Km - Horse and Rider Combination must have achieved 1 x STQ
- 2 Day 112Km and above - Horse and Rider Combination must have achieved GTF

18.2 ONE DAY RIDES Distances:

Competitive: 30Km and over

Grading: 30Km and over

18.3 MULTIPLE DAY RIDES Distances:

Competitive 2 day 60Km – 130Km

NOTE: Mastercard/Mileage Card should show this as a single entry.

18.4 VETERINARY INSPECTIONS

18.4.1 The veterinary inspections are an integral part of endurance rides. It is a condition of entry that competitors submit their horses for veterinary inspection as and when required.

18.4.2 The officiating Veterinary Surgeon shall decide whether or not a horse is fit to start or to continue the ride, or to receive an award.

18.4.3 The Veterinary Surgeon's decision is final. There is no appeal.

18.4.4 Lay persons may be appointed by Veterinary Surgeons to assist in inspections under the supervision of the officiating Veterinary Surgeon.

18.4.5 Veterinary inspections will be held:

- a) Before the start of the ride
- b) Within thirty minutes of finishing the day's ride
- c) Towards the end of compulsory halts or at vet gates.

18.4.6 Horses will be examined as follows:

- a] Heart Rate
- b] Action

- c] General condition, lacerations, wounds
- d] Shoeing
- e] A veterinary record card will be completed for each horse in duplicate, the carbon copies of which can be obtained by the rider.

18.4.7 At veterinary inspections horses **MUST** be presented under control. Riders presenting their horses in bridles may be asked to remove them in order for the mouth to be inspected.

18.4.8 Horses hooves must not be oiled.

18.5 VETERINARY HALTS

18.5.1 A compulsory 40 minute halt will be held approximately half way on 50Km classes and over.

18.5.2 Rides over 60Km will have further veterinary halts.

18.5.3 Veterinary halts may be used on shorter rides

18.5.4 Competitors will be informed of the type and length of halts in the ride details.

18.5.5 Competitors are responsible for presenting their horses at the correct time for veterinary inspections and for the re-start.

18.5.6 Veterinary Halt Procedure:

18.5.7 The arrival time at the halt will be recorded by the Vet. Halt timekeeper.

18.5.8 Horses must be presented for veterinary inspection within 20 minutes after arrival at the halt. Crews may attend to horse and rider during this time.

18.5.9 If the horse does not pass the veterinary inspection, it is eliminated and may not be represented.

18.5.10 The horse's heart rate must be 64 beats per minute and under before and after the Coronary Recovery Index [CRI].

18.5.11 The horse will be eliminated if the heart rate is 65 beats per minute and over before or after CRI.

18.5.12 The Coronary Recovery Index [CRI] will be performed on all horses with a heart rate of 64 beats per minute, or under. The CRI is as follows:

- The horse is positioned close to a measured distance of 30 metres and the heart rate taken.
- The horse is then required to trot over this distance, away and back.
- Immediately the horse starts to move a stopwatch is started and exactly 60 seconds later the heart rate is taken again.

18.5.13 Horses that pass the inspection must leave the halt 40 minutes after being timed in.

18.5.14 The total length of the halt is 40 minutes.

18.6 END OF RIDE VETTING - 1 Day Rides

18.6.1 The FINISH time will be recorded by the timekeeper.

18.6.2 Horses must be presented for veterinary inspection within 30 minutes after finishing the ride. Crews may attend to horse and rider during this time.

18.6.3 If the horse does not pass the veterinary inspection, it is eliminated and may not be represented.

18.6.4 The horse's heart rate must be 64 beats per minute and under before and after the Coronary Recovery Index [CRI].

18.6.5 The horse will be eliminated if the heart rate is 65 beats per minute and over before or after CRI.

18.6.6 The Coronary Recovery Index [CRI] will be performed on all horses with a heart rate of 64 beats per minute, or under. The CRI is as follows:

- The horse is positioned close to a measured distance of 30 meters and the heart rate taken.
- The horse is then required to trot over this distance, away and back.
- Immediately the horse starts to move a stopwatch is started and exactly 60 seconds later the heart rate is taken again.

18.7 END OF RIDE VETTING - Multiple Day Rides

18.7.1 The end of each day will be treated as a Vet Halt.

18.7.2 A trot up can be held at the start of the next day as opposed to full vetting at the Veterinary Surgeon's discretion

18.8 PENALTIES IN COMPETITIVE RIDES

Penalty points will be deducted for the following:

- a] Time:** Horse and rider combinations who have not achieved Bronze Thistle Final level or hold a Speed Category Declaration Exemption, and are therefore required to declare a speed category and who do not achieve that pre-nominated category will have time penalties applied. Penalties will be applied thus: 1 penalty for every 3 minutes or part thereof, over or under the nominated speed category. If the speed is between 9Kmph and 9.4Kmph then completion only will be awarded.
- b] Heart Rate:** 1 penalty for every 4 beats per minute or part thereof, above 48 beats per minute after final vetting. Penalties calculated on the second heart rate.
- c] Veterinary Penalties:** 1 - 3 penalties for each cut, sore abrasion and bruising considered non-minor.

18.8.1 Elimination: Horses will be eliminated for the following:

- I. 10 or more penalty points in total.
- II. Heart rate of 65 and over beats per minute
- III. Sores, lacerations of body, limbs and mouth if these make the horse unfit to continue.
- IV. Exhaustion
- V. Lameness
- VI. Dehydration - if pinch test is over 10 seconds.

18.9 AWARDS - applicable to both Single & Multiple Day Rides

Competitors are classified according to:

- a] The average speed they achieve.
 - Speed Category 1 = 13Kmph and over
 - Speed Category 2 = 11Kmph to 12.99Kmph
 - Speed Category 3 = 9.5Kmph to 10.99Kmph
- b] Gold, Silver and Bronze rosettes will be awarded in each speed category as follows:
 - Gold = 0 penalty points
 - Silver = 1 - 2 penalty points
 - Bronze = 3 - 4 penalty points
 - Completion = 5 - 9 penalty points
 - Elimination = 10 + penalty points

Horse and rider combinations above Bronze Thistle Final level will have rosettes awarded according to their average speed.

Note: Heart Rate Penalties calculated on the second heart rate at the end of ride vetting.

18.10 MILEAGE AWARDS:

18.10.1 Horse and rider combinations completing within the maximum time allowance of 9Kmph and not eliminated by heart and /or vet penalties will be eligible for cumulative mileage. Time penalties will not be taken into account for cumulative mileage eligibility. NOTE: mileage awards are not applicable to day/temporary members.

18.10.2 If a horse is vetted out at any time during the competition, cumulative mileage will be awarded up to the last successful vetting.

18.10.3 Any rider disqualified for any reason eg. breach of rules, misconduct etc. will not be eligible for cumulative mileage for that event.

18.10.4 A horse and rider combination, being a member of a SERC nominated Scottish Team and taking part in a competition under the rules of another organisation, shall be credited with the mileage accruing from that competition for cumulative award purposes as if it was a SERC ride.

18.10.5 SERC members are entitled to claim all mileage from successfully completed rides whether completed at SERC rides or at any other recognized Endurance ride. Miles completed at non SERC rides will not be eligible for the SERC mileage trophy awards nor will they accrue points. However they will count for a horse's personal accumulative mileage awards.

18.11 Horse and Rider Points

The following tables should be used to work out the Horse/Rider points appropriate to the awards achieved at Competitive Rides.

To be eligible for points, riders must be members of the S.E.R.C. and horses must be registered. Points are only awarded for rides held under S.E.R.C. rules.

Points

Speed Category 1	Gold	= 10
	Silver	= 7
	Bronze	= 4
	Completion	= 1



Distance Points

Speed Category 2	Gold	= 9	30Km – 39Km	= 2
	Silver	= 6	40Km – 49Km	= 3
	Bronze	= 3	50Km – 59Km	= 4
	Completion	= 1	60Km – 79Km	= 5
Speed Category 3	Gold	= 8	80Km – 99Km	= 6
	Silver	= 5	100Km – 111Km	= 7
	Bronze	= 2	112Km – 130Km	= 8
	Completion	= 1		

In 2 day Competitive Rides additional points are awarded for horses completing both days.

	Total mileage	Additional Points
+	60Km – 79Km	= 4
	80Km – 99Km	= 5
	100Km – 111Km	= 6
	112Km – 130Km	= 7

19. RULES FOR GATED RIDES

19.1 DISTANCES:

- **1 Day Rides** 60Km and over
- **Grading** One Day Rides only – 60Km, 80Km, and 120Km
- **2 Day Rides:** 2 day 130Km and 2 day 160Km
- **Elevator Rides:** 1 day 160km only [NOTE: the entry on the mastercard under “Class & Distance” must be preceded by the letter **E** – for example: E160km

19.2 QUALIFICATIONS

1 Day Rides: Qualifying requirements are for riders and horses who may qualify separately.

- **60Km classes** - Only open to riders who have successfully completed 1 x STQ
- **80Km classes** - To hold Bronze Thistle and to have successfully completed 2 Silver Thistle Qualifiers ridden at Separate venues
- **100Km classes** - To hold Silver Thistle Final.
- **120Km classes** - To hold Gold Thistle Final.

Multiple Day Rides

- **130Km classes** To hold Gold Thistle Final
- **160Km classes** To hold Gold Thistle Final

Combinations riding on consecutive days may only compete in classes for which they are eligible for on the first day, i.e. they will not be allowed to enter classes which accumulate above their combined grading at the start of Day 1.

19.3 VETERINARY INSPECTIONS

The veterinary inspections are an integral part of endurance rides. It is a condition of entry that competitors submit their horses for veterinary inspection as and when required.

19.3.1 The officiating Veterinary Surgeon shall decide whether or not a horse is fit to start or to continue the ride, or to receive an award.

19.3.2 The Veterinary Surgeon's decision is final. There is no appeal.

19.3.3 Lay persons may be appointed by Veterinary Surgeons to assist in inspections under the supervision of the officiating Veterinary Surgeon.

19.3.4 Veterinary inspections will be held:

- a] Before the start of the ride
- b] Within thirty minutes of finishing the day's ride
- c] Towards the end of compulsory halts or at vet gates.

19.3.5 Horses will be examined as follows:

- a] Heart Rate
- b] Action
- c] General condition, lacerations, wounds
- d] Shoeing
- e] A veterinary record form will be completed for each horse in duplicate, the carbon copies of which can be obtained by the rider.

19.3.6 At veterinary inspections horses **MUST** be presented under control. Riders presenting their horses in bridles may be asked to remove them in order for the mouth to be inspected.

19.3.7 Horses hooves must not be oiled.

19.4 VETERINARY GATES

19.4.1 There will be a minimum of one vet gate in 60Km rides and a minimum of two vet gates in rides of 80Km and over. Competitors will be notified of the duration of the compulsory gate holds in the ride details or at the ride briefing.

19.4.2 Competitors are responsible for presenting their horses at the correct time for veterinary inspections and for the re-start.

19.4.3 Veterinary Gate Procedure:

19.4.4 The arrival time is recorded in hours, minutes and seconds by the Vet Gate Timekeeper.

19.4.5 Horses must be presented for veterinary inspection within 30 minutes of arrival at the gate. Crews may attend to the horse and rider during this period.

19.4.6 The horse's heart rate must be 64 beats per minute and under before and after the Coronary Recovery Index [CRI].

19.4.7 The horse will be eliminated if the heart rate is 65 beats per minute and over before or after CRI.

19.4.8 The Coronary Recovery Index [CRI] will be performed on all horses with a heart rate of 64 beats per minute, or under. The CRI is as follows:

- The horse is positioned close to a measured distance of 30 meters and the heart rate taken.
- The horse is then required to trot over this distance, away and back.
- Immediately the horse starts to move a stopwatch is started and exactly 60 seconds later the heart rate is taken again.

19.4.9 If the horse does not pass the veterinary inspection, due to high pulse, it may be re-presented once within 30 minutes of arrival at vet gate.

19.4.10 Horses which do not pass a veterinary inspection within 30 minutes of arrival at the gate will be eliminated.

19.4.11 When the horse has passed the inspection, it moves into a timed hold. The hold time **starts** at the time at which the rider **requested** the veterinary inspection which was successful.

19.4.12 The horse is not allowed to leave the flagged hold area until its hold time has expired.

19.5 END OF DAY VETTING - Multiple Day rides

19.5.1 The end of each day will be treated as a Vet Gate as described above.

19.5.2 A trot up can be held at the Start of the next day as opposed to a full vetting at the Veterinary Surgeons discretion.

19.6 END OF RIDE VETTING

19.6.1 The FINISH time at the halt will be recorded by the timekeeper.

19.6.2 Horses must be presented for veterinary inspection within 30 minutes after finishing the ride. Crews may attend to horse and rider during this time.

19.6.3 If the horse does not pass the veterinary inspection, it is eliminated and may not be represented.

19.6.4 The horse's heart rate must be 64 beats per minute and under before and after the Coronary Recovery Index [CRI].

19.6.5 The horse will be eliminated if the heart rate is 65 beats per minute and over before or after CRI.

19.6.6 The Coronary Recovery Index [CRI] will be performed on all horses with a heart rate of 64 beats per minute, or under. The CRI is as follows:

- The horse is positioned close to a measured distance of 30 metres and the heart rate taken.
- The horse is then required to trot over this distance, away and back.
- Immediately the horse starts to move a stopwatch is started and exactly 60 seconds later the heart rate is taken again.

19.7 ELIMINATION OF HORSES IN GATED RIDES

Horses will be eliminated for the following:

- a) 10 or more penalty points in total.
- b) Heart rate of 65 and over beats per minute after 30 minutes.
- c) Sores, lacerations of body, limbs and mouth if these make the horse unfit to continue.
- d) Exhaustion
- e) Lameness
- f) Dehydration - if pinch test is over 10 seconds.

19.8 AWARDS

19.8.1 In Gated Rides there are no set or nominated speed categories.

19.8.2 Fastest time and judged fit to continue by the officiating Veterinary judge is the winner.

19.8.3 Placing rosettes will be given from 1st - 10th

19.8.4 Completion rosettes to those not placed but successfully completing the ride within the time allowance and being past sound and fit to continue.

19.9 MILEAGE AWARDS:

19.9.1 Horse and Rider combinations completing within the maximum time allowance of 9Kmph and passing the veterinary parameters will be eligible for cumulative mileage. NOTE: mileage awards are not applicable to day/temporary members.

19.9.2 Horse and rider combinations that have entered an Elevator Ride may retire after each successful vetting from 120km onwards and will be awarded cumulative mileage up to the last successful vetting. Any such retiral must be made prior to leaving the Vet Gate.

19.9.3 If a horse is vetted out at any time during the competition, cumulative mileage will be awarded up to the last successful vetting.

19.9.4 Any rider disqualified for any reason eg. breach of rules, misconduct etc. will not be eligible for cumulative mileage for that event.

19.9.5 A horse and rider combination, being a member of a SERC nominated Scottish Team and taking part in a competition under the rules of another organisation, shall be credited with the mileage accruing from that competition for cumulative award purposes as if it was a SERC ride.

19.10 HORSE AND RIDER POINTS

	Points		Distance Points		Placing Speed category
13Kmph and over	10		60Km – 79Km = 5		
11Kmph to 12.99Kmph	9		80Km – 99Km = 6		
9.5Kmph to 10.99Kmph	8	X	100Km – 111Km = 7	+	1st Place = 10
9Kmph to 9.49Kmph	1		112Km – 130Km = 8		2nd Place = 6
			131Km – 144Km = 9		3rd Place = 2
			145Km – 159Km = 10		
			160Km – 175Km = 11 etc.		

NOTE: for the avoidance of doubt distance points in elevator rides will be awarded in accordance with the distance successfully completed up to the last successful vetting– e.g. 8 points if you withdraw at 120k, 9 at 140 etc.

20. APPENDICES

20.1 Annual Awards

The following are presented at the Club Annual General Meeting annually, the year will run from 1st January – 31st December each year.

Overall Highest Annual Mileage Award - Mousquetaires Trophy

Awarded to the Club member that has achieved the highest annual mileage within the Club. Eligibility as above. Only Miles ridden under SERC Rules taken into account.

The Cassidy Trophy

Presented to the rider with the most points in any one year.

The Ashanti Trophy

Presented to the horse with the most points in any one year.

Distance Rider Trophy

Presented to the horse and rider combination with the most points. The best 4 results from any competitive or gated rides to count.

The MacLean Fencing Novice Trophy

Presented to the Novice Horse with the highest points, but who has not completed rides of more than 50Km in the season.

Archivist Trophy

Presented to the Top 4 riders in a Branch with the highest points.

Junior Trophy

Presented to the horse and Junior rider combination with the most points in any one year.

Trooper Trophy

Presented to the combination with the most points achieved from the "Gold Series" rides which are declared at the start of each season by Club Committee. Open to Gold Series Horse and Rider combinations or those combinations who are at the correct stage of the grading system to enter the Ride and continue grading while participating.

Young Riders Trooper Series

Presented to the combination with the most points achieved from the "Gold Series" rides which are declared at the start of each season by Club Committee. Open to Gold Series Young Rider Horse and Rider

Combinations or those combinations who are at the correct stage of the grading system to enter the Ride and continue grading while participating.

The Quest 2 day 80km Series

Presented to the combination with the most points from a series of rides which are declared at the start of each season by Club Committee.

Rider points awarded as normal but in addition each combination will receive points based on the Performance Formula (PF) which will accrue over the series and combination with most PF points will get the trophy

If more than 1 combination on same score they will share trophy.

The Performance Formula points are purely for working out winners of the trophy.

Veteran Horse Series – 50km classes

For horses 16 years and over and to be competed for over a series of 4 rides declared at the start of each season by Club Committee.

Rider points awarded as normal but in addition each combination will receive points based on the Performance Formula (PF) which will accrue over the series and combination with most PF points will get the trophy

If more than 1 combination on same score they will share trophy.

The Performance Formula points are purely for working out winners of these trophies

Performance Formula is

$$\text{Points} = \frac{(2 \times \text{Speed} - \text{Minimum Speed}) \times 100}{\text{Pulse}}$$

Alli Balli Bee Gold Cup

Awarded to the horse with the highest number of golds achieved at 30km rides in any one ride year. Horse to be registered with SERC. Speed category is irrelevant, it's getting the gold that counts. If more than one horse gets the same score, they share the trophy and get part of the year each (ie if 2 winners they get it for 6 months each, 3 winners get it for 4 months etc).

Golden Bose of Islay Trophy

Awarded to the Partbred Arab gaining most points in any one year, as Bose is Partbred Arab. Points to be gained from all types of ride by horse and rider combination and horse must be registered both with SERC and with the Arab Horse Society [copy of AHS registration to be submitted to Branch archivist]. Rider must be a current member of SERC.

Young Rider Trophy

Awarded to the young rider and horse combination gaining the most points in any one ride season.

Anouska Rising Star Award

Awarded annually to a junior or young rider who has not only demonstrated significant talent but also love of the sport, commitment and practice. Nominations in writing can be submitted by any SERC member and must include a written citation detailing why the rider is being nominated. Nominations should be sent to the Club General Secretary to arrive not later than 1st January each year. Winner will be decided by way of postal ballot with only junior and young riders eligible to vote.

Longevity Awards

This is a one-off award for a horse's longevity in endurance riding, to be awarded at the Club AGM. The award is for the horse – any rider will count. The award will be made to a horse completing 12 seasons' rides (as defined below) and registered with SERC for each of the qualifying seasons. An owner of a horse seeking to be considered for the award should initially

apply, with evidence of qualification, to their branch archivist, who should notify the club secretary if they consider that the horse meets the award criteria.

The award was introduced from season 2009. Horses competing currently may use previous seasons' results towards future qualification but the award will not be made retrospectively to horses which met the total award criteria prior to the 2009 season.

A 'season's rides', for the purposes of this award is defined as having completed at least 6 rides (of any type, Pleasure, Training, Competitive or Gated) successfully (within time and penalty parameters for the relevant ride and passed fit at the end of the ride). The rides can be with any approved endurance riding organisation. Qualifying seasons do not have to be consecutive. Season is as defined within SERC rule book 20.1 - the year will run 1st January - 31st December each year.

Border Trails Endurance Intermediate Award

Presented to the combination [any level] gaining most points who have not ridden above 50Km competitive classes in the current ride year.

The Glasgow Cup

Presented to the horse which has never competed above 30Km competitive classes and not above speed category 2, gaining the most points in the current ride year.

The Pleasure Ride Bowl

Presented to the horse and rider combination that has the highest annual mileage ridden in Pleasure Rides. Combination must not have completed any competitive rides in their endurance career.

Dragoon Trophy

Presented to the horse and rider combination gaining most points in the current ride year, where the weight of the rider is 14 stone without boots, 14.5 stone with boots [weight taken with normal dry weather riding attire but not including saddle, hat or bumbag]. All competitive and gated rides count towards the points. Riders wishing to participate must notify their Branch Archivist who will inform the Club Archivist. Points will be recorded from the time their notification is received at Branch. Participants must have their weight recorded and confirmed by their Branch at the start and end of the current season. Any rider who does not maintain the weight over the length of the season shall be ineligible for the trophy. Any objection about a rider's weight will be dealt with under the normal objections procedure [see Rule 20.] and the host Branch will be asked to confirm the rider's weight.

Regal Adios Cup

High points Standardbred.

Scottish Exmoor Endurance Trophy

Presented to the Native Pony with the most kilometres gaining in classes under 60Km. Ponies must be registered with their Breed Society and SERC to qualify.

The Storm Trophy

Awarded to horse 16 years and over with highest annual distance under SERC rules.

Free Factor FEI Trophy

To be awarded to all combinations completing an FEI class, irrespective of distance, in the current SERC ride year. If more than one eligible combination then the trophy will be shared.

Distance Awards:

Rosettes - awarded at Branch either when the mileage is achieved or at the Branch Annual Awards Ceremony.

Distances to be recognised: 150Km, 250Km, 500Km, 750Km, 1000Km and increments of 500Km thereafter.

Boxed Medals – awarded by Club Committee but by Branches at the Annual Awards Ceremony. Distances awarded to combinations: achieving 1500Km and increments of 1000Km thereafter.

Special Glass Goblet 3000Km Awards

This achievement will be recognised by the Club Committee with a one-off presentation being made. [as these awards are very specialized and take time to produce, when a combination reaches the 3000km milestone a very good quality headshot of the horse – preferably in black& white – should be sent to the Club General Secretary as soon as possible]. Presentation is made at the Annual Awards Ceremony.

5000km Awards

This achievement will be recognized by the Club Committee with a one off presentation being made at the Annual Awards Ceremony.

Platinum Thistle Awards

Will be awarded to those combinations who successfully complete 120Km in one day - these kilometres can be ridden at an event organised by any Endurance Group. This is a one - off presentation.

Diamond Thistle Awards

Will be awarded to those combinations who successfully complete 160Km in one day – these kilometres may be ridden at an event organized by any recognized Endurance Group. This is a one - off presentation

Pleasure Rider's Achievement Awards

Plaques will be awarded as follows to the horse and rider combination. NOTE: Scottish Championships can be counted as a "Branch".

- Completion of pleasure rides in 5>6 different branches = Bronze
- Completion of pleasure rides in 7>8 different branches = Silver
- Completion of pleasure rides in 8 different branches + 1 Scottish Championships pleasure class = Gold

Awards are per ride season and eligible combinations must be registered as a pleasure combination for the complete season i.e. 1st January – 31st December.

Presentation is made at the annual awards ceremony.

20.2 CAPERCAILLE INTER BRANCH TEAM RULES AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Branches may only enter 1 Team
2. Team members MUST be members of that Branch
3. Maximum number per team - 4
Minimum number per team - 2
4. Team to comprise:
 - 1 X 2 Day 80Km [no maximum limit] if the event is being held at a 2 day venue or if event is being held at 1 day ride 1 x 60Km [no maximum limit]
 - 1 x 50Km [no maximum limit]
 - 1 x 30Km [must not be above BTF standard]
 - 1 x Pleasure [must not be above BTQ standard]
5. The Grading System will apply with the event being run under Competitive Ride Rules. Pleasure Riders must complete within 8Kmph – 11Kmph
6. Branches must declare their Teams at time of entry.
7. Substitutions will be allowed up to 1/2 hour before the start of the first Class. Substitute horses and riders must be eligible according to the conditions of the Class. All substitutions must be notified to the Ride Administrator before starting.

8. Results will be calculated thus:
 - a] Number of Riders Home
 - b] Least Penalties
 - c] Distance completed
 - d] Average Team Heart Rate
 - e] Comparison of Heart Rates in team equivalents.

20.3 CELTIC CHALLENGE RULES AND QUALIFICATIONS

[Scots- Irish - Welsh Challenge] – currently under review

The team comprises of 5 members in each leg, not necessarily the same team members for each leg.

Team to include 1 junior rider who will ride a 2 Day 80Km competitive. Juniors to be 16 years and under on the 1st January in the year of competition.

Venues for each leg will be announced at the start of each ride season by Club Committee.

Classes: 80Km Gated
2 Day 80Km Competitive **or** 60Km Competitive
50Km Competitive
30Km Competitive

The inclusion of the single 60Km class option instead of the 2 Day 80Km is to allow the Challenge to be run at a single day event, and not being restricted to 2Day events.

The Classes will be determined by the host country.

Qualification of Team members:

80Km Gated - STQ upwards
2 Day 80Km - must be STQ
60Km - must be STQ
50Km & 30Km - not above BTF

Parameters for Competitive Rides

60Km rides - to be completed between 10.5Kmph and 12Kmph

50Km rides - to be completed between 10.5Kmph and 12Kmph

30Km rides - to be completed between 9.5Kmph and 11Kmph

The **2 Day 80Km** - to be completed between 10.5Kmph and 12Kmph

Results Calculation:

Speed Penalties will be awarded at the rate of 1 penalty for each minute or part thereof over or under the time for the Class.

Heart Rate penalties will be awarded at the rate of 1 penalty per 2 beats or thereof for heart rates over 48

1. **Number of horses home**
2. **Distance completed**
3. **Least penalties**
4. **Team total time taken**

S.E.R.C. members who would like to be considered for selection should make contact with the Chairman of the SERC International Selection Committee.

20.4 HOME INTERNATIONAL RULES AND QUALIFICATIONS - currently under review

Each country to be represented by one team, which will consist of six members - all seven members to count in the team total. The team will comprise:

- 2 x 160Km Endurance Rider [80 + 80 ER]
 - 1 x 120Km Endurance Rider [80ER + 40 CTR]
 - 1 x 80Km Endurance Rider
 - 1 x 80Km Competitive Rider [40 + 40 CTR]
 - 1 x 40Km Novice Competitive Rider
 - 1 x 50km Competitive Rider [Junior] *
- * Maximum age 16 years on 1st January in year of competition

ELIGIBILITY

Riders must be members of EGB to be on the English or Welsh teams, ILDRA for the Irish Team and SERC for the Scottish Team.

Entitlement to ride for a country is by birth or residence. If the choice is by residence, then the rider must have lived in the country for at least 12 months prior to the ride. Once a rider has competed for a country they may represent another country, if they are eligible, but may not represent different countries in consecutive years.

160, 120 and 80Km Endurance rides and 80Km CTR ride - riders to be eligible for these classes under the rules of EGB, ILDRA, or SERC.

Novice - horse and rider not to have competed in long distance rides prior to one year from the date of the ride or have competed in a ride of more than 50Km.

S.E.R.C. members who would like to be considered for selection should make contact with the Chairman of the SERC International Selection Committee.

Hosts:

2011 – Wales

Scottish Endurance Riding Club

[Founded 1982]



CONSTITUTION

1. **TITLE**
2. **STRUCTURE OF THE CLUB**
3. **OBJECTS OF THE CLUB**
4. **OBJECTS OF THE CLUB COMMITTEE**
5. **OBJECTS OF THE BRANCH COMMITTEE**
6. **MEMBERSHIP**
7. **FINANCE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**
8. **CLUB ADMINISTRATION**
9. **BRANCH ADMINISTRATION**
10. **CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
11. **BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
12. **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**
13. **CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND RULES**
14. **GOOD CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**
15. **JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (JC)**
16. **APPEAL AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**
17. **DISSOLUTION**
18. **LIABILITY**

1. TITLE

The Club shall be known as the "Scottish Endurance Riding Club". Hereafter referred to as "the Club".

2. STRUCTURE OF THE CLUB

[a] The Club shall comprise of Local Branches.

[b] Each Branch shall have its own Committee.

[c] The Club shall have a Committee formed by representatives from the Branch Committees.

3. OBJECTS OF THE CLUB

[a] To promote the sport of Endurance Riding in Scotland.

[b] To encourage Endurance Riding as a sport and recreation.

[c] To promote good fellowship amongst riders.

[d] To improve and maintain the standard of horsemanship, and horse welfare within the Club.

4. OBJECTS OF THE CLUB COMMITTEE

[a] To review and up-date the Club Rule Book, and to oversee the Administration of the Constitution.

[b] To be responsible for the organisation of the Scottish Championships.

[c] To arrange insurance cover for Club members when participating in Club events.

[d] To promote the Club through publicity and liaison with other Endurance Riding Groups and interested parties.

[e] To investigate the possibility of funding for Endurance Riding in Scotland for the Club and its members.

[f] To select and support Scottish Teams and riders in International Competition.

5. OBJECTS OF THE BRANCH COMMITTEE

[a] To organise instructional meetings, lectures, competitive, pleasure and training events, and other social activities deemed to further the Objects.

[b] To help investigate the subject of bridle tracks and rights of way and maintaining and more clearly defining those that are in existence.

6. MEMBERSHIP

[a] Anyone desirous of becoming a member shall complete a membership application form and send it to the Membership Secretary of their chosen Branch.

[b] Members will normally belong to the Branch covering the area in which they live. Where there is no Branch covering the area in which any Member lives or where a Member does not wish to be affiliated to any particular Branch, that Member's records shall be held on a Central Register without Branch status or voting rights. Should any member on the Central Register show regular and continuing participation in the activities of any one Branch, it shall be open to that Member to transfer to that Branch. Such transfer shall only take place with the agreement of the Member and the Branch concerned and shall be subject to ratification by the Club Committee.

[c] Members that have attained the age of 17 years shall be classed as Adult Members. Members that have attained the age of 8 years shall be classed as Junior Members.

[d] Branch Committee may refuse membership as they see fit, with or without explanation.

[e] Only Adult members, including those registered in a Family Membership have voting rights.

[f] Only adult members, including those registered in a Family Membership, may serve on Committees or be elected as an Official of the Club or a Branch.

[g] Honorary membership may be conferred by the Club Committee or a Branch Committee on any person deemed suitable.

[h] Temporary membership may be conferred by the Club Committee or a branch Committee on any person deemed suitable. Temporary membership shall last for a period of not more than 7 days from and including the date of completion of the appropriate nomination Form, which should be dated 2 days prior to the ride entered.

7. FINANCE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- [a] The financial Year of the Club shall commence on 1st January in each year.
- [b] The Annual Subscription shall be payable on the first day of January each year.
- [c] Any member joining the Club on or after 1st November shall be deemed to have paid his or her subscription for the ensuing year.
- [d] Any member whose subscription is not paid by 28th February shall have his or her name removed from the Membership list, after written notice to that effect has been sent to them.
- [e] A Joining Fee shall apply to all new members.
- [f] Subscriptions shall be paid to the Branch Membership Secretary.
- [g] The Annual subscription rates will be determined by the Club Committee and voted on by members at the Club AGM each year.
- [h] The annual per capita levy payable to the Club by the Branches shall be two-thirds of each individual and Family Subscription, or such other sum as shall be from time to time determined by the AGM of the Club. Joining Fee monies shall be payable in total to the Club by the Branches.
- [i] A temporary members subscription shall be paid in full with the Nomination Form.
- [j] All Branches will contribute a set amount annually towards the Scottish International Team based on membership numbers as at 31st December each year. Levy table:
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 0 – 25 members - £25 | 25 – 50 members - £50 |
| 50 – 75 members - £75 | 75 and over £100 |

8. CLUB ADMINISTRATION

- [a] The power of management of the Club shall be vested in a Club Committee. The Committee shall consist of two elected Representatives from each Branch, who will each serve a maximum term of 3 years.
- [b] Six elected members, who must be representative of at least 50% of the Branches, plus a Chairman, shall form a quorum.
- [c] The Club Chairman will not be a Branch Chairman or a Branch Representative.
- [d] Person to serve as Vice Chairman shall be elected biannually by ballot of the Club Members. The duly elected Vice Chairman will automatically assume the post of Chairman and serve for 2 years in that post.
- [e] Nominations for Vice Chairman, correctly proposed and seconded, must be sent in writing to the General Secretary of the Club, not later than 14th December of that year. Any person nominated must be either:
- An elected member of the current Club Committee *OR*
 - Past or current Branch Chairman
- Persons eligible under ii] must be proposed and seconded by their current Branch Committees in consultation with their Branch Members. Nominees may send in a resume of their intentions, which will be sent out along with ballot papers. Ballot papers will be sent out to all Adult Club Members. These should be returned to the General Secretary of the Club by post to arrive not later than 2 days before the date of the Club Annual General Meeting. At the Annual General Meeting, Tellers will be appointed, the votes opened, counted, and the result announced to the Meeting.
- [f] In the event of an elected Vice Chairman demitting office during the year, the Club Committee may fill the vacancy from within their own elected Branch Representatives, but any person so elected shall retain office only until the next following Annual General Meeting, and shall be eligible for re-election in accordance with the procedure for election of Vice Chairman detailed at 8. [d] and [e].
- [g] The Club Committee must appoint annually the following to the Club:
- ◆ Club General Secretary
 - ◆ Club Treasurer
 - ◆ Club Press Secretary
 - ◆ Any other appointments as deemed necessary by the Committee for the running of the Club.
- These appointments can be co-opted. Co-opted members will not be eligible to vote.

In the event of any of these positions becoming vacant during the year, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy, but any person so co-opted shall retain office until the next following Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-election.

- [h] The Committee may appoint sub-committees for any special activities of the Club.
- [i] The Club Committee shall have the final authority for the interpretation of the Club Rules and Constitution, unless this authority is delegated to a Disciplinary Committee, or over ruled by a General Meeting.
- [j] The decisions of the Committee shall be final unless over ruled at a General Meeting.
- [k] In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman will automatically assume this role.

9. BRANCH ADMINISTRATION

- [a] The management of the Branch shall be vested in a Committee.
The Committee shall consist of two Club Committee Representatives, and up to seven other members. Over half shall form a quorum.
- [b] The person to serve as Chairman shall be elected biannually and the person to serve as Vice Chairman shall be elected annually by ballot of the Branch Members. Any person presently serving as Vice Chairman will not be expected to stand down until after their term as Chairman has been completed.
- [c] Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman, correctly proposed and seconded must be sent in writing to the Branch Secretary not later than 14th December that year. Ballot papers will be sent out to all Adult Branch Members. These should be returned to the Branch Secretary by post, to arrive not later than two days before the date of the Branch Annual General Meeting. At the Branch Annual General Meeting, tellers will be appointed, the votes opened, counted and the result announced to the Meeting.
- [d] The persons to serve as Secretary, Treasurer and Press Secretary can be elected by the Committee from their own number, or if necessary co-opted. Co-opted members will not be eligible to vote and must be appointed annually.
- [e] The Branch Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising among members of the Committee, but any person so co—opted shall retain office only until the next following Annual General Meeting, and shall be eligible for re-election.
- [f] In the case of an elected Vice-Chairman demitting office during the year, the Branch Committee may fill this vacancy from within their own elected number, but any person so elected shall retain office only until the next following Annual General Meeting, and shall be eligible for re-election in accordance with the procedure for election of Vice-Chairman.
- [g] In the event of an elected Club Committee representative being unable to attend a notified Club Committee Meeting, the Branch Committee may nominate, from their own elected number, a replacement for that meeting only. This nomination must be notified by the Branch Chairman to the Club General Secretary prior to the meeting. The nominated replacement will be eligible to vote and form part of the quorum.
- [h] At the Annual General Meeting each year, one-third of the members of the Committee shall retire, the members to retire being those who have been longest in Office, and as between those who have been in Office for the same length of time, the members to retire shall be determined by lot. Ordinary members may not serve more than three consecutive terms of office. Retiring members shall not be eligible for re-election until the following Annual General Meeting.
- [i] The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.

10. CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- [a] Notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the Members not less than twenty-one days before the Meeting and shall include an Agenda. The following business will be transacted at the Club Annual General Meeting each year:
- [b] To receive and if approved to adopt an Audited Statement of the Club's Accounts to the end of the proceeding year.
- [c] To accept elected members from Branches to serve on Club Committee.
- [d] Biannually to elect a Vice-Chairman as described in Administration of the Club.

- [e] To deal with any matter which the Committee may desire to bring before the members for consideration at the Meeting.
- [f] To deal with any proposals which have been received from Members for changes to:
 - Rules
 - Constitution
 - Administration and running of the club
 All proposals from Members must be sent in writing, correctly proposed and seconded, to the General Secretary of the Club to arrive not later than 14th November each year.
 All proposals will be published in the Club Newsletter prior to the date of the General Meeting.
- [g] To appoint an Auditor.
- [h] To set the Annual Subscription and Horse Registration Rates for the coming year.

11. BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- [a] The Annual General Meeting shall be held not more than 21 days but not less than 2 days before the date of the Club Annual General Meeting. The following business will be transacted at the Branch AGM each year:
 - [b] To receive and if approved to adopt an Audited Statement of the Branch's Accounts to the end of the preceding year. A copy of these adopted accounts to be forwarded to the Club General Secretary immediately after the Branch A.G.M each year.
 - [c] To elect the Club Committee Representatives from the Branch. Nominations being received either prior to the Meeting or at the Meeting. Voting to take place at the AGM by members attending.
 If a Club Committee Representative so elected is not already a member of the Branch Committee then they will automatically become a full voting member of the Branch Committee.
 - [d] To elect the Committee.
 - [e] Biannually to elect a Chairman, and annually to elect a Vice-Chairman. These elections to be carried out by postal ballot as described in the Branch Administration.
 - [f] To elect the Branch Disciplinary Committee Representative. Nominations being received at the Meeting and voted thereon.
 - [g] To deal with any matter which the Committee may desire to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee.
 - [h] To appoint an Auditor.

12. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- [a] An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club may be called by either the Club Committee, or by a request signed by not less than 10% of voting members of the Club.
- [b] An Extraordinary General Meeting of a Branch may be called by either the Branch Committee or by a request signed by not less than 15% of the voting members of that Branch.
- [c] Requests for an Extraordinary General Meeting must specify the business to be discussed.
- [d] The Club General Secretary or the Branch Secretary, as the case may be, must ensure that the date of any such meeting is arranged within 7 days of receiving the request. The date of this Meeting must be within 35 days of the request being received.
- [e] Members of the Club/Branch must be given 21 days notice of the date of such a Meeting. Business to be dealt with must be specified in this notice. No other business will be discussed at such a Meeting other than that specified by the Secretary in the notice to members.
- [f] Notice may be given to any member by sending it by post to him or her to his or her address in the United Kingdom registered in the records of the Club. If the member has no address in the United Kingdom such a member shall not be entitled to receive any notice. The accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that Meeting.

13. CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND RULES

- [a]** The constitution or Rule Book may only be added to, repealed, or amended by resolution at an Annual or Extraordinary Meeting of the Club.
- [b]** No such resolution shall be deemed to have passed unless carried by 60% of the members present and voting thereon.

14. GOOD CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

- [a]** Branch Committees will, in the first instance, normally deal with the following matters;
 - An allegation that a Club member has contravened a Club rule
 - An allegation that a Club member has brought the Club or the sport into disrepute through any act or omission, or
 - A complaint by any member regarding conduct of Club business.
- [b]** Branch Committees are required to act quickly (normally within 21 days) to address and resolve such situations. Branches will follow any guidance drawn up by the Club as to how to proceed when applying the rules of the Club and dealing with allegations of misconduct. The powers of the Branch Committee, if it is satisfied that a contravention has taken place, shall include:
 - ◆ a written reprimand;
 - ◆ a fine [maximum £100] to be paid to the Branch;
 - ◆ suspension from Club activities for a specific period of time;
 - ◆ or to recommend expulsion from the Club [see [d] below]
- [c]** If a Branch Committee is unable to resolve a case, or if the alleged contravention relates to a matter which falls within the remit of the Club Committee, the matter must be referred to the Club Chairman, who will convene the Judicial Committee (JC) to deal with the matter.
- [d]** In any matter which, in the opinion of the Branch Committee, merits expulsion from the Club, the Branch Committee must refer the case to the Judicial Committee for ratification, the member(s) in question being suspended, without prejudice, from all Club activities until the JC has decided whether or not to ratify the decision.

15. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (JC)

- [a]** The Judicial Committee has competence to deal with violation of the rules, constitution, or of the common standards of behaviour, fairness, or accepted principles of sportsmanship, whether occurring during or in connection with a SERC event or at any other time where Club members are involved. The Judicial Committee shall have jurisdiction to deal with matters referred to it at any time, and will act as a committee of appeal for decisions made by Branch Committees, Chief Stewards, Ground Juries or Appeal Committees.
- (b)** The JC will be convened by the Club Chairman or, in their absence, the Vice-chairman to meet within 21 days of notification being received that there is case to be considered in accordance with the Club constitution.
- (c)** Composition of the Judicial Committee
 - i] Each Branch shall at their Annual General Meeting elect from their membership a Judicial Committee representative.
 - ii] A Judicial Committee shall, when required, be established as follows. 3 members will be decided by the drawing of lots from the pool of 9 elected as per [i] above. If any member so chosen shall have a conflict of interest then this must be declared and a substitute member will be chosen, again by the drawing of lots. Lots will be drawn in the presence of the Club Chairman, Vice Chairman and General Secretary.
 - iii] The Club Chairman or in their absence, the Club Vice Chairman shall chair the Judicial Committee, but will have no voting rights.
 - iv] Decisions taken during a meeting shall be taken by a majority of those present.
 - v] The Judicial Committee may make a valid decision by a majority agreement by correspondence if all parties agree that the process can be conducted without a meeting.
- (d)** When adjudicating cases, the committee shall follow procedures drawn up and approved by the Club Committee including any amendments which may be similarly approved from time to time.

The Judicial Committee must take into account all relevant evidence submitted to it either verbally or in writing. The parties must receive full details of the case together with copies of all written evidence, and must be informed how, when and where the case will be investigated and be given the opportunity to attend in person to present oral and/ or written evidence.

- (e) The Judicial Committee may impose the following penalties:
- A written warning
 - Amendment of a ride placing or award, or a Club award
 - A fine up to a maximum of £200 – payable to SERC
 - Disqualification of a rider with one or more horses from competitions or from activities
 - Suspension of individuals and horses for any period up to suspension for life
 - Expulsion from SERC.
- (f) The decisions taken by the Judicial Committee, and reasons for decisions, must be recorded and communicated in writing to the Club Committee within 7 days of the decisions being taken.
- (g) The Club Chairman, or in their absence, the Club Vice Chairman, will on behalf of the Club Committee forward a written copy of the decisions and reasons to the parties concerned within a further 7 days.
- (h) The decision of the Judicial Committee will be final and binding, subject to any appeal rights arising from affiliation to other equestrian or sporting bodies.
- [i] Confidentiality will be maintained within SERC by all members regarding disciplinary and appeal matters whilst the outcome is under consideration, whether by Branch Committee or JC.

16. APPEAL AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

- (a) The Club Committee will draw up and approve, and amend from time to time as necessary, guidelines for the conduct of appeal and disciplinary processes. These will be appended to this constitution for the information of all members

17. DISSOLUTION

- [a] In the event of the dissolution of a Branch, the funds shall be used to settle all outstanding debts due by that Branch. The balance, if any, shall be returned to the Treasurer of the Club together with a full set of audited accounts showing the closing balance of the Branch. There shall be no distribution of funds or property among members. Any property owned by the Branch at the time of dissolution shall be offered to the Club to distribute to the other Branches.
- [b] In the event of the dissolution of the Club, funds shall be used to settle all outstanding debts. The balance, if any, shall be donated to a body or organisation, in Scotland, having similar objectives to those of the Scottish Endurance Riding Club. There shall be no distribution of funds or property among members.
- [c] The Club can only be dissolved by conducting a postal ballot of all voting members. Such resolution will not be deemed to have passed unless carried by 60% of the total eligible voting membership of the Club.

18. LIABILITY

The Club, its Committees or persons acting on their behalf shall not be held responsible for any accident or injury to any person or property howsoever caused.