



**Minutes of the ESNZ Endurance CTR Forum
Held from 11:13am on 9th May 2020
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Marie Wakeling, Jenny Weston, Daryl Owen, Sue Billigheimer, Wendy Farnell, Jane Ferguson, Heidi Bulfin, Andrea Rigby, Rena Johnsen, Hannah Ballantyne, Ursula Keenan, Dani McKenzie, Carla Barakat (joined at 12.07pm), Ian Gray (joined at 12.07pm)

Apologies None

In Attendance: Jo Lankow – Endurance Administrator & Minute Taker

Welcome

Forum opened with Jenny advising everyone that the forum was being recorded

Marie welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to join in for ESNZ Endurance's first online forum.

Marie asked that all attendees follow the meeting guidelines that were sent out and to be mindful of others wishing to speak and not to monopolise the floor for a lengthy period. And if everyone could just show some patience if there are any delays as we come to grips with things.

With the first item on the agenda being the Membership Proposal Marie advised she was going to hand over to Sue to present this initiative that the Board had been working on and thanked Jo and Sue for their work on it.

Membership Proposal

Sue explained that the main change for CTR from the current structure is that riders will not be able to compete in Open, Intermediate and Junior classes as introductory members and their horses will not need to be registered if they are happy not to have their kilometres and results recorded on the ESNZ database.

Sue also advised that there are still some details to sort out and then asked for questions.

Jane Ferguson:

Does that mean the riders wouldn't be able to take part in season series and awards?

They will be eligible to take part in series awards but won't have kilometres recorded on the database.

Andrea Rigby:

Think that biggest concern with the change is that there are novice riders who are also introductory members. On the flowchart it looks like anyone who holds an introductory membership can ride up to 80 kilometres? Is that correct, it that what you are intending?

They can ride a maximum of 79 kilometres.

And the flexi start will be paid for the unregistered horses rather than paying an annual start which is paid when horses are registered. The start fees come to Endurance. So the introductory riders will be able to pay the \$10 flexi start per ride to compete in Open, Intermediate and Junior.

Andrea Rigby:

So that looks like it's just replaced the \$5 casual fee that's there at the moment,

No it's not actually the \$5 casual that the riders have had to pay to compete in Intermediate/Junior on an unregistered horse and to be able to claim a ride. The \$10 flexi fee is a start fee, like the annual start fee of \$30 that you pay when registering your horse, but it is paid per ride instead.

Andrea Rigby:

But I'm sort of looking at this form from the current registered rider's perspective and you have put us all in together and yet the rules state you must have membership to enter open and intermediate and during your classes for CTR

The rules still have to be adjusted to take into account the membership structure. We only just got membership structure approved so there hasn't been time yet to adjust the rules.

Andrea Rigby:

I'm secretary for Canterbury. With all of the CTR riders being Introductory how will I know who is qualified for Intermediate and Open?

Any registered rider will be able to enter Intermediate. If the horse is not registered a flexi start will be required. The requirements to enter Open depend on what rides the horse and rider has done prior. That won't change.

Andrea Rigby:

The horse doesn't have a logbook so how are we taking care of Horse Welfare over the longer distances

The longer distances will be looked at.

Jane Ferguson:

Is it possible to get a copy of the flowchart? I haven't actually seen it yet and can't quite see it all on the screen/

It was sent out to all secretaries to forward on to their club members. Some secretaries can't have forded it on as yet.

Andrea Rigby:

I can't see why you have done the model this way in relation to the feedback around costs. It is great but it is cause for concern for a competitive CTR rider than there is no distinction between us and novice riders other than we pay an ESNZ membership and it doesn't reduce the cost for novice riders. The novice riders don't benefit.

ESNZ Endurance has nothing they can give to the novice riders

Andrea Rigby:

Under the current structure we have a choice which membership level we pay and we make the choice to be a full member so we can be competitive and receive the benefits. The novice

riders don't have a choice. The novice riders aren't members so aren't benefiting from this. The registered riders aren't complaining about cost.

*Riders can still choose to pay a full membership and register their horse
The registered riders are the ones complaining about the cost
We don't have any ability to change things for the novice riders*

Andrea Rigby:

I know that \$15 goes across all the disciplines. The membership structure is removing the difference between being a competitive rider and those who just want to come along and go for a hack.

The feedback that the Board have received from members is around having to pay registrations when initially coming into the sport. That has been the main feedback. This is about growth and development and this structure covers that. Now the riders can come into the sport and have a taste of it at a low cost and then choose their pathway from there on.

Andrea Rigby:

I can see that that would work. Just the feedback Canterbury has had is from a large number of novice riders but it is obviously not the same across New Zealand. We discussed this with the Board but it hasn't been achieved by this. And we have had no choice in this structure.

There is the option if you want to pay full membership and registration.

Rena:

I worry it removes the incentive for full membership for many of the lower levels. If you don't intend to ride 80km or longer then km awards would not be sufficient incentive so are they going to get a significant drop in full membership due to this.
So am I right in thinking that introductory rider plus full horse mean horses kms and results get counted but not rider? How does this effect qualification for championships?

There will be a drop in full membership, but without change the indication from a lot of members throughout the country was that they would leave anyway. So we either keep them within Endurance or lose them elsewhere.

Ursula:

Can I just ask what the intention is around the \$10 fee?

When you register your horse at CTR level you pay an annual \$30 start fees that ESNZ pass on to Endurance. The start fees are an ESNZ Endurance fee. If you are not registering your horse then the sport would lose income so the \$10 Flexi fee replaces the annual start fee so Endurance still get the income.

Ursula:

So the riders don't get anything in return for their \$10 fee?

They still get to compete in the series.

Ursula: For the very, very new riders the series may not be very relevant to them.

*The very new casual riders don't have to pay the \$10 flexi fee.
We can't do anything about the casual membership fee.*

Ursula:

It is really hard to understand what class our competitors should be entering and if confusing at to which class riders can enter on what level of membership and what costs apply to each class. Worry that people may end up in the wrong class and it is going to cause problems. There seems to be too many options.

*It is a very new proposal that has only just been approved by the ESNZ Board.
It makes it cheaper for members wanting to compete up to 79km.*

If this is not what the membership want let us know and we can stay with the current system.

Yes we can do that. But we still can't do anything about the casual fee.

Ursula:

I just can't understand the chart.

*We are trying to provide options for riders.
Would it be easier if we took the current fees off the chart and just had one chart for the new structure with a chart for CTR and a separate one for endurance?*

Ursula:

Possibly as there hasn't been much time to take it all in. Maybe I am reading it wrong.

*Maybe it is a little confusing with the current and the new structure on it.
We will do separate ones.*

Ursula:

It looks like there is no difference between novice and the other classes except novice pay the \$15 day membership and Intermediate pay a separate membership and can compete against fully registered riders. So what class you ride in becomes irrelevant. Is that correct?

*It's just the same as it has been. You can either ride in a CTR novice class or CTR intermediate.
The costs haven't changed for CTR Novice and endurance Intro. But there is some flexibility around costs for CTR Open, Intermediate, Junior and endurance Novice and Intermediate.*

Ursula:

So they are a registered rider but don't have to register their horse, just pay the flexi fee? I am looking at the flowchart. Does it mean those horses are qualified for championship events.

That's correct

Ursula:

Why not record the results when they are paying a flexi fee? It would be something to give them, even the novice riders.

They get their results on the website like they do now but they are not recorded on the ESNZ database.

The annual start fees and the flexi start fee go towards funding ESNZ Endurance, our sport, which this year is going to make about a \$6000 loss and next year on the budget, it's probably going to make a \$6000 loss. So we need to be getting some income into the sport to pay for the \$20,000 grants that go towards championship events as well as the other fixed costs for running the sport, so we do need some money coming in to Endurance.

Ursula:

That explains the \$10. But why, if they're paying that \$10 do they get zero things for it. They get no results recorded. They get no qualifications recorded.

It was just mentioned before that the results are recorded. They're just on the website, not the database.

They will be listed in the results that the club secretary sends to Jo and that get posted on our website. People will be able to look them up and see them. But not on the database as the database is ESNZ and you have to contribute to horse registration to be recorded on the database.

Ursula:

But we've got nothing to offer them as far as those results being recorded. How much harder is it to record their kilometres? How much more man hours, need to be done to record their kilometres and results because that's the only two things that we talking and that would look a lot more attractive to our external people that come along. And we can tell them they will get their kms and results recorded.

If they want to get things recorded on the database they need to be a member and to register their horse. Then they need to get the horse registered

Recording things for all the unregistered riders and their horses would just add to the workload.

The horse and rider must both be registered to have results and kilometres recorded on the database.

Jo will keep a record of kilometres for unregistered horses providing the rider is registered. Horses and riders need current membership/registration to be recorded on the database.

Ursula:

But that is what could add the most value.

The members who register their horses are the ones paying for the privilege of having the kms recorded.

Andrea Rigby:

We're all introductory so we are registered riders, but it's the horse registration which determines whether kilometres are recorded or not. That's what the chart says. By keeping a record of the kilometres and I'm assuming that's what's being used to go to the series awards and distance awards and horse and rider etc. Why should I register my horse when I can do this flexi thing time and still have my results recorded on the ESNZ database.

Your results won't be recorded on the database unless our horse is registered.

Andrea Rigby:

CTR Open riders and horses can do up to 120km but we will be Introductory.

Over two days. That will be looked at. The rules still have to be updated.

Andrea Rigby:

But what incentive is there to register my horse?

It may work out cheaper in the long run to register your horse

Ursula:

Would need to be 12 rides to make it cheaper to register.

Rena:

Even i didn't do that this season. I did 11

Heidi:

I don't think it's meant to be an incentive. That the point of this new structure is that you get it cheaper and to try and keep more people in the sport. This is not meant to be an incentive to register.

Correct

Andrea Rigby:

It's about the whole thing and how it looks t and what it means to the riders. If you ride and cost is a major thing then that's why you ride or not. That's your choice.

But for riders who ride for different reasons the cost is something that we accept. Obviously the reduction in cost is amazing. The thing is we are not trying to be ungrateful about it, what we're trying to say to you is that by changing that category you're changing more than the cost

So do we need to say that's a minimum level of registration and you can actually fully register if you want to?

Andrea Rigby:

When you look at it, it's like you've just sort of lumped CTR into one category and we'll just be introductory members. And if they are they're competing in multiple disciplines that may not work for them if they are just Introductory.

There's no mention here that a rider can have full membership for Open and Intermediate, same with endurance 40-79km. And CTR isn't even mentioned.

Yes it is

Okay, so maybe we need to update this to make it clearer.

People can register as a higher level if they want to.

Ursula:

The draft rules came out and were reviewed by the clubs, that sort of thing. This has cropped up and possibly a little bit unbeknown to a lot of people

This is why it is on the agenda for discussion today.

If we had waited for members to provide feedback we wouldn't have got to this stage with the proposal as every member would have had a different idea.

There was no point putting anything out for discussion before we had approval from the ESNZ Board. We can put out whatever we want for discussion but unless it is actually approved by the ESNZ Board then nothing can be changed.

There has been a lot of feedback wanting a membership structure for people that would allow clubs to retain their club members and to make things easier for them to just ride. With the number of classes that can be held it is never going to be so simple that everyone will know exactly what they want to do when they first start out.

And that's why they need the support from the clubs to help them through it.

Jane Ferguson:

Just looking at the chart now it seems we are moving to make CTR more accessible for Junior, Intermediate and Open.

That just raises the question about club membership which is still required for those classes. I certainly don't want to any members withdraw from our club. Just throwing it out there, if we're trying to grow the sport, would it be an option if maybe for the first year you could enter those classes without being a member of a club?

Probably a lot of the clubs wouldn't be too happy. It would need to be in consultation with the clubs. Most club memberships are reasonably cheap and they've still got the option to ride novice

Ursula:

Would it be something that the clubs could personally do themselves? The club could say for the first season you can have a free club membership.

I think there are probably very few sports that will allow you to join an event that they have organised and structured without having some kind of membership to the club. I know you can't just turn up and play rugby if you're not registered to a club.

The club could give them the option of free membership but other than not having to pay the membership I can't see what benefit it would be for the club.

Maybe you could think of having a reduced membership fee

Jane Ferguson:

In our case, we may just have a novice 20 but someone turns up and wants to do a different distance. If there are a few people and we want to keep them inside then we will put an extra class on for them but it's not ideal. But most of our members are now endurance riders who also compete in CTR on CTR only days.

We need to attract more local people and the riders won't travel as far to a CTR ride as they will to an endurance ride.

As far as club memberships goes they need to be a club member for Open, Intermediate and Junior. But it is fine for the clubs to say a rider can have their club membership free for the first year.

It would be a bit of a nightmare for Jo to work out that these people haven't been to a ride before so they don't need club membership.

Sue:

If you can have a proper look at the structure over the next week and get all your questions to us then we can have a look at them and move forward.

Does that work for you all?

Ursula:

I think I have raised all my questions but I'd really love to be able to make it a lot easier for our day secretaries as well. So is there a way we can do that?

You touched on the clubs needing to help the riders understand what they should enter and we have put a lot of effort into that the last few years. But we need to keep it as simple as we can and the flowchart doesn't appear to do that for me, it's quite busy so maybe you could simplify it. Maybe you could send something out in the next week or so.

So with the points you have raised today to help us develop something that's probably a bit more user friendly can you just jot down your points and email it through to us so that you know we've got that because we're going to hear a lot of information today.

Because it's being recorded we should have all of that.

If there are any suggestions on things to change as well on alternative things it would be would be helpful to send them in.

Rules

Sue:

I'll start as Heidi had a question regarding the minimum distance for lead rein class except Heidi seems to have left the room.

When the rules came back from the members there had been a minimum distance of 5km added in for the lead rein class.

Heidi said they sometimes only have 4km available so not keen on a 5km minimum.

Wendy:

I agree with that.

Marie:

What was the reason that it was put at minimum of five?

Ursula:

I thought it needed a minimum so it had parameters but it could be four kms.

Sue:

I understand that as if you have it as two or three you may as well not have it.

Heidi's back now. Heidi. I just raised your point about the minimum five km for lead rein.

Heidi:

Probably doesn't need to be less than four but it doesn't have a minimum at the moment. No one is going to pay money to do one km.

Clubs aren't going to be putting the class on below about three km I would of thought. But we try and keep them on a separate track and the loop won't necessarily be five kms. . It is a pain anyway having to mark a separate track for them and if you have to find five km that may not be easy.

Ursula:

It wasn't it certainly wasn't intended to be a pain, just thought it would be best to have a parameter but it doesn't have to.

Sue:

Any other questions from anybody on the rules?

Andrea Rigby:

I have a few points on them. I don't know how you want me to go through them

Jenny Weston:

I'll pull them up and share the screen if you just say which rule.

Andrea Rigby:

2.2.2. Just for clarity can we include the fact that you get lifetime kms for A, B and C. It is mentioned in D but not in the others.

2.3.1 I think when we had made the submission we had included something in there about registration for championship events. Why was that taken out?

Ursula:

That'll probably become a little bit irrelevant now as it won't necessarily be part of those rules now. Is that correct?

Sue:

That is correct. I think actually the reason it got taken out was it was about needing to be registered to enter in championship events rather than championship classes.

Andrea Rigby:

What is now the qualification to enter championship events under the new membership structure?

Sue:

We need to look at that and update the rules.

Andrea Rigby:

Okay, so probably just ignore that one as that will be addressed.

2.3.2 Was that again to be looked at as well because that's the full membership stuff?

Sue:

Yes

Andrea Rigby:

2.6 7.c Is just an incorrect rule reference. Should be 2.4.4 not 2.3.4

2.6.7. h It's impractical to apply this rule as not maintaining forward motion when getting off to open and shut a gate, getting off to take a stone out of a hoof or to fix gear. We excluded the bit about forward motion and just made it tiime wasting so wondered why it was put back in.

Jenny Weston:

Who finalised the CTR rules?

Sue:

Heidi myself and Wendy and we did have a conversation about that.

Heidi:

I don't think we had a conversation around that. I only remember the conversation around the circling which is a different rule.

Wendy:

I agree. I can't remember discussing it either. It was the circling one that we discussed.

Heidi:

The forward motion has always been in the rules though but I know that's not a reason to leave it in. It's never caused an issue before.

Andrea Rigby:
It could

Sue:
I do appreciate that. There's no point in having a rule if we can't enforce it. And we can't say maintain forward motion except when doing this, this or this.

Andrea Rigby:
I've seen people get off and walk so slow, I don't even know how they can walk that slowly. That was time wasting but they were still maintaining forward motion.

Rena:
It worries me with if you have a horse throwing in a strop and running backwards, this could legitimately get you eliminated

Sue:
So should we change it to be just time wasting.

Andrea Rigby:
That's what we had suggested, because that enables the officials to look at any kind of human behaviour.

Ursula:
When the rules came we didn't have a very long time to go through them. This one is definitely one which needs to be measurable and even time wasting is a bit difficult to measure as well.
Is this something that should be going out to the wider membership? The rest of the rules look pretty good.

Marie:
That's the purpose of having the forum so we can gather feedback on any points like that.

Ursula:
I just think it needs to be measurable and I struggle with it even just being time wasting. We know how these rules tend to get applied and the variation of riders that we get at these events.

Jane Ferguson:
But isn't that why you have a ground jury. There has to be an element of subjectivity against some of these rules because you can't legislate for every potential situation. I have done a lot of CTR over the years, both affiliated and non-affiliated and I have seen way more issues at the non-affiliated events. But if people really want to cheat that much they are going to find a way. And that's when your ground jury may have to step in and in some cases just give a warning if it's somebody new and tell them this isn't right and for next time what they need to do.
It's only really the control area that you can watch. You can't monitor a great deal on course.

Ursula:
I think that's a really good point Jane. I think probably something that's quite concerning is that when it gets to a championship the ground jury is often predominantly endurance officials who possibly don't understand CTR as well.

Jenny Weston:

Any more question on the rules?

Andrea Rigby:

2.7 That just needs the words endurance taken out of the A point. It doesn't need to be there.

Sue:

Horses that are not graded (unregistered) in endurance.

Andrea Rigby:

But these are CTR rules.

Jo:

CTR horses don't have a grading.

Heidi:

We don't have those kinds of grades in CTR so that's why the endurance one is being used.

Andrea Rigby:

You don't need to use the words endurance. It's just confusing for CTR.

Jenny Weston:

So I think the thing with the stand downs was that with a very newbie horse and rider we didn't want them doing more than 30 km on a weekend.

Andrea Rigby:

I'm not disagreeing with the stand downs you've got in here. You just need to take the word endurance out because this is CTR. So if I'm a CTR rider I read this and go why is it saying endurance? I'm doing CTR

Jo:

So all CTR horses would then need to be graded.

Jenny Weston:

So what's the alternative?

Andrea Rigby:

Why is the endurance in here?

Wendy:

It could be just horses that are unregistered

Wendy:

It's only A that needs changing, the second part is OK.

Andrea Rigby:

Second 2.10.6 should be 2.10.7. That should be taken out as it is an endurance rule. My question is around that cross crediting of kilometres and that that is something for an endurance rider so would have thought it should be in the endurance rules.

Sue:

They're competing in CTR that's why it is in the CTR rules.

Andrea Rigby:

Okay, I've just always found that rule confusing as a CTR rider when it is all about endurance.

Sue:

I understand that because you're a CTR rider. But when an endurance rider is riding CTR they are riding under the CTR rules so it needs to be in the CTR rules.

Ursula:

Can I just ask a quick question on that one? What does it mean that two CTR competitions may be cross credited to the 200kms to be eligible to enter Intermediate endurance competitions? Does that mean it doesn't cross create towards a horse getting to open?

Heidi:

That's correct. So the reason it can't go towards open is basically because CTR isn't recognised by the FEI.

Ursula:

So you get a horse to intermediate. It's done 200 kilometres of whatever mixture has been done then wants to get to open and the rides don't count so it's kind of a little bit annoying.

Heidi:

There might be those that only want to do 40 km rides and so maybe they do three novice endurance and two CTR 40's to be eligible for endurance Intermediate. The same criteria have been applied as for the 40 km novice rides. If they get to 200km they will have already done at least two novice 40s.

Jenny Weston:

So maybe on 2.10.7 it needs to include that there was a vet.

Heidi:

I'm pretty sure it used to. The reason it will have come out is because you have to have a vet now for 40km rides so there will have been a vet anyway

Ursula:

Thank you.

Andrea Rigby:

That's all I had. Thank you.

Jenny Weston:

Thanks, Andrea. Did anyone else have any points on the CTR rules?

Jane Ferguson:

I'm just glad that we have given people the option to do back to back rides as we do sometimes get somebody who wants to do 15km one day and 20km the next day and they are not registered..

Ursula:

I just want to say Andrea put a lot of work into these rules from our club's perspective and hopefully from a national perspective. So thanks Andrea.

Marie:

And it is reiterated from the board as well for all the work that everybody has done with structuring these rules, because it's never an easy job.

So unless anybody else has anything to add to this meeting I will declare it closed at 12.35pm.