



## **Competition Rules for the Equestrian Discipline of**



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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Horsemanship and horse welfare are the core of endurance riding. Endurance is a test of the rider's ability to manage the horse safely over an endurance course. It is designed to test the stamina and fitness of the rider and horse against the track, distance, terrain, climate, and clock, without compromising the welfare of the horse. A key tenet of the sport is successful completion of an endurance course, including all of the phases of the course and all of the mandatory veterinary inspections.

### **Using These Rules**

These "Competition Rules for the Equestrian Discipline of ENDURANCE in NZ" and known as the "Discipline Rules" must be read in conjunction with the following rules current at the time;

- **ESNZ General & Veterinary Regulations**
- **ESNZ Constitution**
- **ESNZ Endurance By-Laws**
- **ESNZ Endurance and CTR Supplementary Rules**

Notwithstanding that these Discipline Rules are legally subordinate to the above rules, regulations, constitutions and by-laws, it is necessary for competitors and judges to first consult these Discipline Rules when considering any matter involved with CEN endurance events in NZ. These rules have been adapted from previous ESNZ Endurance rules and versions of the FEI Endurance rules.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in the rules. In unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Ground Jury, the Technical Delegate and the Veterinarians to make a decision, in a sporting spirit and approaching as nearly as possible the intention of these rules and the rules listed above.

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# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

The following is a Code of Conduct based on that promoted by the FEI but includes changes to reflect the New Zealand environment.

1. In all equestrian sports the welfare of the horse must be considered paramount.
2. The wellbeing of the horse shall be placed above the demands of breeders, trainers, riders, owners, dealers, organisers, sponsors or officials.
3. Horses must be handled in a way that ensures their health and welfare, and veterinary advice must be followed with regards a horse's suitability to present or continue in a competition.
4. The highest standards of nutrition, health, sanitation and safety for the horse shall be encouraged and maintained at all times.
5. Adequate provision must be made for appropriate ventilation, feeding, watering and maintaining a healthy environment when horses are being transported or yarded/stabled.
6. Emphasis should be placed on increasing education of all competitors and officials in training and equestrian practices and promoting scientific studies of equine health.
7. In the interests of the horse, the fitness and competence of the rider shall be regarded as essential.
8. All riding and training methods must take into account that the horse is a sentient entity and therefore horses must not be subjected to any techniques or management considered by the ESNZ to be abusive.
9. ESNZ has established adequate controls in order that all persons and bodies under their jurisdiction respect the welfare of the horse.
10. This Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse applies during competitions and also in training. It is the responsibility of all riders and Officials to uphold this Code and to report any breaches to the appropriate Official or Organisation.

## Definitions

Affiliated Club:	a club entitled to run events approved by EnNZ
Board:	the Board Members of EnNZ
Bpm:	Heart Beats per Minute
Casual membership	rider membership of ESNZ for one competition only
Casual registration	horse registration with ESNZ for one competition only
CEI:	an International Endurance Competition
CEN:	all National Endurance Competitions (non CEI competitions)
Championship Events	the North Island, South Island & National Championships
Class:	each division within a competition e.g Senior vs JY, Novice or Open
Competition:	a set distance within an event
Day Vet Card (DVC):	the Card given to unregistered horses at Events
EnNZ:	ESNZ Endurance
ESNZ:	Equestrian Sports New Zealand Incorporated
Event:	a complete meeting of competitions, usually held over a weekend
FEI:	Fédération Equestre Internationale
Hold time:	the period of time that between a veterinary inspection and when the combination can start the next loop
JY:	Junior / Young Rider
Loop:	the course the horse must travel after crossing the start line; most competitions require that the horse completes several loops (even if this is the same loop covered multiple times)
OC:	the Organising Committee of an Event
Phase:	each competition consists of one or more phase; a phase includes the loop of the course, as well as the time before the horse enters the veterinary ring for the veterinary inspection

## Section One – GENERAL

Endurance Riding is a Competition to test the rider's ability to safely manage the stamina and fitness of the horse over an endurance course in a Competition against the track, the distance, the climate, the terrain and the clock. To be successful, the rider must have knowledge of pace and the efficient and safe use of the horse across country. In an Endurance Competition any member of the Genus Equus counts as a "horse".

The most important responsibility of the Technical Delegate (TD), Ground Jury, Stewards, Veterinary Commission, Chef d'Equipe, Team Veterinarian, trainer and grooms and the absolute responsibility of the rider, is to ensure the health and welfare of the horse by diligent application of their skill together with a caring, knowledgeable attitude by the rider.

The rider is responsible for safely managing the condition of their horse over the course, taking account of the climate and other conditions, without compromising the welfare of their horse. The rider and trainer may not enter or keep a horse in a competition if the horse is suffering from an illness or injury or is receiving medication that would adversely affect or enhance its ability to compete.

Regardless of the order and rules for starting, each rider must carry out the entire competition as if competing alone against the clock, taking account of the track, distance, terrain, and climate, and without compromising the welfare of the horse. The combination that finishes the course in the shortest time, while respecting all course requirements (including any applicable speed restrictions and minimum weight requirements), and passing all veterinary inspections, medication controls, and any other protocols in place for the safety of the horse and rider will be classified as the winner of the competition.

## Section Two - ENDURANCE COMPETITIONS

### 2.1 Riding Season

The riding season starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> August and finishes on the 31<sup>st</sup> July.

### 2.2 Classes of Competitions

Class	Distances / Criteria
Intro	0-39 km, speed restriction of 13.5kph, not eligible for placings or Best Condition Awards
Novice	40 – 90km, speed restriction of 13.5kph, not eligible for placings or Best Condition Awards
Intermediate	40 – 79 km no speed restriction
Open	80-99 km no speed restriction
Open level 1	100-119 km no speed restriction
Open level 2	120-139 km no speed restriction
Open level 3	140-160 km no speed restriction

## **2.3 Horses and Riders**

- a) Horses and riders are classed according to which level of competition they have successfully completed; starting out at Novice and thereafter complying with the qualifying requirements before proceeding to the next level of class.
- b) Where the horse and rider in a combination are graded at different levels they are restricted to entering the lowest level class that the combination are eligible for.

**Novice** - Horses and riders that have successfully qualified a Novice ride in the past 24 months but have not yet completed the Novice Qualifying Procedure.

**Intermediate** - Horses and Riders that have qualified in 200km of Novice rides 40-90km within a 24 month period.

**Open** - Horses and riders that have successfully completed the Novice Qualifying Procedure.

**Open Level 1** – Horses and riders that have successfully completed at least one Open competition of 80-99 km.

**Open Level 2** – Horses and riders that have successfully completed at least one Open competition of 100-119 km.

**Open Level 3**– Horses and riders that have successfully completed at least one Open competition of 120-139 km.

- c) At all CEN competitions Senior and Junior/Young Rider divisions may be held for each competition distance.
  - o Senior - Any rider from the season in which they reach the age of 18.
  - o JY (Junior / Young Rider) - Any rider until the end of the season in which they reach the age of 21.

Between the ages of 18 and 21, riders can choose to compete as a Senior or JY but must compete in that class for the entire season. While under the age of 18 JY competitors must have permission of a parent or guardian to enter any event.

- d) It is at the discretion of the club or OC what classes are held at non-championship events.

## **2.4 Heart Rates**

In all competitions horses shall have a;

- a) Maximum heart rate at all vet gates of 64bpm within 20 minutes
- b) Maximum heart rate at final vetting of 64bpm within 30 minutes.

## **2.5 Dress Code & Safety Equipment**

**Competitors Attire:** Clothing should be appropriate for riding e.g. Jodhpurs/riding tights, shirt, and not detrimental to the image of ESNZ Endurance.

**Footwear:** Safe riding footwear with a heel of 12 mm or more, or alternatively caged/covered stirrups or equestrian safety stirrups are compulsory for all riders.

**Safety helmet:** Protective headgear that conforms with one of the current approved safety standards and bears the ESNZ/NZPCA helmet tag is compulsory for all riders whilst mounted. Attachments to helmets must be approved by the Ground Jury.

**Designated Rider Bib:** Allocated by the event organisers and must be worn by the rider at all times during the competition and be clearly visible from both front and back. The rider bib must also be worn by a person accompanying the horse during vetting procedures but does not need to be worn by the person that trots the horse out.

The rider bib should be worn inside out if riding but not in competition at an Event to ensure that all officials are not confused.

Safety equipment: The Competition Schedule may require the use of specific safety equipment, such as reflective items.

Mobile phones and GPS: The use of mobile phones and GPS devices is permitted. All other forms of communication devices must be approved by the Ground Jury prior to the Competition.

## **2.6 Riding Times**

- a) Minimum and Maximum Competition Times are to be set by the OC in conjunction with the TD taking the following into account:  
Novice and Intro competitions: No faster than 13.5kph e.g. 3 hours for 40km; maximum time should be at least 15-20 minutes per 20km more than maximum time for Intermediate and Open competitions on the day.  
Open and Intermediate competitions: Recommended maximum time to be set at a speed of 10kph.
- b) All competition times must be set prior to the start of the competition and announced at the pre-competition briefing.
- c) All competition times must be recorded in hours, minutes and seconds on the results sheets and in the Logbook.

## **2.7 Weights at CEN Competitions**

- a) Senior Open Classes: Minimum weight required is 70kg  
Other Classes: No Minimum weight requirement
- b) Minimum weight must not include the horse's bridle.
- c) Weighing Requirements: During the competition at random as decided by the Ground Jury and at the finish of the competition
- d) From time to time, the Board may approve the inclusion of other classes in a competition or season e.g. lightweight or heavyweight for Senior riders but not to be held as a championship class

## **2.8 Lead Rein Class**

- Class Category: Intro
- Maximum Rider Age: Up to the end of the season in which they reach the age of 14 years
- Maximum class distance: 15 km
- Riders must be led by someone aged 18 years or older (walking or riding).
- Must be a separate class with only lead rein competitors eligible to enter.
- Must start after all other classes on the same day have commenced.
- Combinations will be credited with the kilometres provided ESNZ membership and registration requirements are met and the rider is a member of an affiliated club.
- If the adult leading is on foot:  
They do not need to pay a Casual Membership fee;  
The person leading must be named on the entry form of the junior they are leading and sign the entry form as the person responsible.
- If the adult leading is on horseback the following applies:

They must enter in a separate Intro class and pay the Casual Membership fee if applicable

They must be named on the entry form of the junior they are leading and sign the entry form as the person responsible.

Senior combinations will be credited with the kilometres provided ESNZ membership and registration requirements are met and the rider is a member of an affiliated club.

## **2.9 Elevator Competitions**

Elevator competitions may be run in Novice and Open classes but are not to be held as a Championship Class, unless in extreme circumstances in consultation with the Event Organisers, Ground Jury and Technical Delegate.

Distance

- o Minimum Novice elevator competition distance 60 km
- o Maximum Novice elevator competition distance 90 km
- o Minimum Open elevator competition distance 80 km
- o Maximum Open elevator competition distance 120 km

All combinations must successfully complete a minimum of 30km/1 loop before they can choose not to elevate.

All entrants in an elevator competition must enter for the maximum available distance within their class.

Minimum and maximum competition times to be set for each phase in Novice elevator classes. Maximum competition times for Open Classes to be set as an overall ride time, no individual phase times will be set.

Combinations that successfully complete a phase(s), but who choose not to elevate following passing the vet inspection off that phase, to the next or maximum available distance will be given recognition only for the distance successfully completed.

A competitor can only choose not to elevate if there is no requested or compulsory pending veterinary re-inspection and before the departure time for the next phase. If the competitor passes a requested or compulsory re-inspection, they can then choose not to elevate before the departure time of the next phase.

The time the rider decides to not elevate must be recorded in the logbook.

Competitors who elect not to elevate after successful completion of vetting at a designated elevation distance will have their logbooks marked as “Did Not Elevate”.

The distance completed to the point where the rider decides to not elevate must be recorded in the logbook.

Riders who choose not to elevate, must immediately present their horse at the vet ring for a final veterinary inspection. Horses cannot be eliminated for veterinary reasons at this inspection.

The decision not to elevate must be made before the designated departure time for the next phase.

## **2.10 ESNZ Endurance Horse Logbooks**

- a) Only competitions sanctioned by ESNZ can be entered in an ESNZ logbook.
- b) A horse must be currently registered with ESNZ for any competition to be entered in its logbook.
- c) ESNZ reserves the right to inspect logbooks at any time and may delete any unsanctioned competition that has been entered in the logbook.
- d) Any person found using an ESNZ logbook at an unsanctioned event shall face disciplinary action.

## **2.11 Novice Qualifying Procedure**

- a. Novice qualifying applies for horses and riders and consists of the successful completion of:
  - Two novice competitions of 40-60km
  - Followed by two novice competitions of 80-90km
- b. Novice competitions shall be completed at a speed no faster than 13.5 kph
- c. Horses and riders must complete the requirements of novice qualifying within a 24 month period.
- d. After completing the novice qualification requirements the following applies:

Horses – May compete in Open competitions up to a maximum distance of 90km during the 12 month period from the date of their first qualified novice competition at a maximum speed of 16kph.

Riders - May compete in Open competitions up to a maximum distance of 90km during the 6 month period from the date of their first qualified novice competition at a maximum speed of 16kph.
- e. Time frame before being eligible to enter Open competitions of 91km and over:

Horses – 12 months after qualifying in their first novice competition.

Riders – 6 months after qualifying in their first novice competition.

## **2.12 Hold Times**

- Minimum: 30 minutes.
- Maximum: 60 minutes for a one day competition
- Minimum hold time following each loop: Ratio of one minute per one kilometre
- Competitions 80-139km: Must have one hold of at least 40 minutes
- Competitions 140-160km: Must have one hold of at least 50 minutes

## **2.13 Loop Distances**

Competitions up to 40km – no distance restrictions

Competitions longer than 40 km:

- Minimum distance: 16 km
- Maximum distance: 40 km

## **2.14 Number of Phases**

- a) Competitions of 41 – 79km – minimum of two phases
- b) Competitions of 80-100 km are to consist of at least 3 phases;
- c) Competitions of 101-139 km must consist of at least 4 phases;
- d) Competitions of 140-160 km must consist of at least 5 phases.

## **2.15 CEN Competitions 100km & over**

Horses and riders must qualify as follows:

- To enter an Open Level 1 competition - qualify in one Open competition
- To enter an Open Level 2 competition - qualify in one Open Level 1 competition
- To enter an Open Level 3 competition - qualify in one Open Level 2 competition
- These qualifications do not need to be as a combination.
- Qualifying competitions for horses are only valid for 24 months from the date of each competition. Should a horse fail to complete a competition at the next level for which it has qualified within that period it will need to re-qualify for its existing level again before progressing further.

## **2.16 Combined CEI and CEN Classes**

CEI and CEN classes of the same distance and age category may be run as a combined class.

For purposes of awarding placings, it is one class regardless of whether the combination is CEI or CEN.

Combined CEI & CEN classes MUST be run under the same conditions and include, but are not limited to:

- a) Nominations & definite entry submission times.
- b) Weight carried.
- c) Start time & start/finish line.
- d) Hold times & compulsory hold area.
- e) Officials & Veterinarians.
- f) Minimum age of horses

## **2.17 Multi Day Endurance Competitions**

Competition category: Novice, Intermediate and Open

Minimum distance of competition: 60km

Minimum distance per day: 20km

Standard minimum and maximum loop distances as per rule 2.13 will apply.

Minimum number of phases per day: One

Overnight hold time: Must be less than 24 hours from finishing on one day and starting the following day.

Officials must remain the same for the duration of the competition.

Method of Starting:

Day One: Mass start

Following Days: Staggered start for set period of time (usually 1 hour) with same time interval difference as combinations finished the previous day

After the set period of time has elapsed the remaining combinations can start together.

The PGJ and TD in consultation with the OC will decide on the set period of time taking into account the number of horses present and the time differences between the placings

- a) Following all multi day competitions, the usual stand-down periods for overall distance completed apply.
- b) Eligibility for entering classes is the same as if the competitions were held in a single day.
- c) Pre-start veterinary inspection: On the second and any subsequent days all horses must be presented at the vet ring no more than one hour prior to their designated departure time for a veterinary inspection.

## **2.18 Control of Horses**

- Whilst at the event base, all horses shall be under the control of the person responsible and must not be allowed to roam free.
- At all times during the event, if a horse is deemed dangerous to other horses, riders or officials, that horse may be disqualified from the competition.

## **2.19 Yarding**

### **2.19.1** At all events the minimum standard of yarding must be:

- a) Four rigid corners - for example, but not limited to, waratahs (MUST have safety caps that are firmly attached) side of truck, existing fence. These rigid corners must be firmly embedded in the ground. The remainder of the yard may be solid, pipes or electric tape (must be two strands).
- b) If using electric fence tape (not string), the tape must be tight at all times regardless of whether a horse is in the yard or not and it must be electrified while horses are in the yard. Minimum voltage going through the tape is to be 2000 V.
- c) Minimum height of top tape/rail = 1 metre and the approximate minimum distance between the two tapes/rails must be 400mm
- d) Stallions must have an approved solid or pipe yard displaying a STALLION sign. All stallion yards are to be a minimum height of 1.2 metres.
- e) Solid/pipe yards may be divided with two strands of tape which do not need to be electrified, to allow for two horses within the yard
- f) If electric fence tape is used each yard must be a separate yard and not joined to any other yard (although it is permissible to run a connection between adjacent yards to provide electrification).
- g) Only one horse is permitted per electric fence tape yard.
- h) All horses must be identified by an ID tag at all times.

### **2.19.2** It is mandatory for all horses to have halters on while they are in their yards. All horses MUST have identification on them at all times, whether in their yards or not.

### **2.19.3** Electric Fence Standards of any type are not classed as providing a rigid corner.

## **2.20 After the Competition**

- a) After completing  $\leq$  100 km in one day, horses must remain on the competition base for two hours after they have finished the competition unless permission is obtained from the Vet Commission to remove the horse. Failure to abide by this rule shall result in elimination from the competition.

- b) After completing > 100 km in one day, horses must remain on the competition base for twelve hours after they have finished the competition unless permission is obtained from the Vet Commission to remove the horse. Failure to abide by this rule shall result in elimination from the competition.

## **2.21 Vet Fees**

All fees for veterinary attention to individual horses while at an event are to be paid for by the person responsible for the horse.

# **Section Three – REGISTRATION**

## **3.1 Horse Registration**

Upon registration horses will receive a logbook.

Horses competing in Novice ≥ 80km, Open and CEI classes must be ESNZ registered

Registration entitles a horse to:

- Have kilometres and results recorded on the ESNZ database
  - Be eligible for National Awards & Roll of Honour
  - Compete in Championship classes
  - For these entitlements to apply for Novice, Intermediate, Open and CEI classes, the rider must be a current Introductory, Full, Child or Visiting Rider member of ESNZ and a current financial member of an Affiliated Club. The exception to this is horses ridden in CEI classes by foreign riders
  - Kilometres and results will be recorded on the ESNZ database for registered horses in Intro classes providing the rider is an Introductory, Full, Child or Visiting Rider member of ESNZ and a current financial member of an Affiliated Club.
- a) Unregistered horses may be entered in Novice and Intermediate classes up to a maximum distance of 79km providing a flexi-start fee is paid and the rider has Introductory, Child, Visiting Rider or Full registration with ESNZ and is a member of an Affiliated Club.
- b) Unregistered horses may be entered in Intro classes up to a maximum distance of 39km; no flexi-start fee required.
- c) Kilometres will be recorded by the Sport Administrator for unregistered horses to count towards lifetime kilometre awards.
- d) Unregistered horses are eligible for the Intermediate Series but not for any other national series or awards.
- e) Novice qualification rides do not count towards Open horse status if the horse is unregistered; the only exception being the ability to claim one novice 40-50 km ride (before 1<sup>st</sup> May in the season in which the ride is being claimed) in which case the rider would need to have been a full or child member of ESNZ and a member of an affiliated club (see rule 3.3 Claiming a Ride).

### **3.2 Rider Registration and Rider Rules**

Riders must be a current Introductory, Full, Child or Visiting Rider member of ESNZ and a current financial member of an affiliated club to:

- Have their kilometres and results recorded on the ESNZ database.
  - Be eligible for National Awards
  - Compete in Championship classes
  - Compete in Novice, Intermediate, Open and CEI classes
- a) Riders who are not members of an Affiliated club can only compete in Intro classes.
  - b) All riders entering Intro classes must be a member of ESNZ (any level) or pay for a Casual Membership.
  - c) Riders competing in Novice 40-50km classes on an unregistered horse will only be credited with the kilometres if and when the competition is claimed for the horse.
  - d) Kilometres and results will be recorded on the ESNZ database for riders in Intro classes providing the rider is an Introductory, Full, Child or Visiting Rider member of ESNZ, a current financial member of an affiliated club and the horse is registered with ESNZ.
  - e) Novice qualifications by riders with Introductory ESNZ membership do not count towards Open rider status.
  - f) Foreign Riders at CEN events in NZ must be registered with ESNZ to compete in CEN events. They must also be a financial member of an affiliated club. They must either qualify through the Novice Qualifying Procedure depending on the level they wish to compete at OR provide proof that they are qualified to compete at the level of the class they are entering (proof to be forwarded to the Sport Administrator prior to riding at the event).

### **3.3 Claiming a Competition for Novice Qualification**

3.3 A maximum of two Novice 40-50km competitions can be claimed as a qualification retrospectively for novice horses.

- a) The rider must have been a current Introductory, Full, Child or Visiting Rider member of ESNZ and a current financial member of a club affiliated to ESNZ to enter the competitions being claimed.
  - b) The competitions must be claimed within the novice qualifying period ie 24 months from completion of the competition.
  - c) The horse must be registered with ESNZ within the novice qualifying period .
  - d) The date of registration is as recorded on the ESNZ database.
- e) To claim a competition and register the horse with ESNZ, complete the ESNZ Equine Registration Application form as normal with a copy e-mailed to [endurance@nzequestrian.org.nz](mailto:endurance@nzequestrian.org.nz) Include the rides (date & venue) you wish to claim

## Section Four – HORSE RULES

All horses competing in ESNZ Endurance competitions will be classified as Novice until such time as they have qualified through the Novice Qualifying Procedure or proof of previous competition qualification or classification eligibility is received by ESNZ Endurance.

### 4.1 Age of Horses

All horses are deemed to have their birth date on 1<sup>st</sup> August. This date of birth must be entered in the log book allocated to the horse upon registration. To enter competitions, horses must meet the following age criteria:

Intro competitions:	minimum of 4 years old
Novice/Intermediate competitions:	minimum of 5 years old
Open competitions 80-99 km:	minimum, of 5 years old (maximum speed of 16km/hr for any 5yo horses)
Open Level 1 competitions 100 –119 km:	minimum of 6 years old
Open Level 2 competitions 120-139 km:	minimum of 7 years old
Open Level 3 competitions ≥ 140 km	minimum of 8 years old

- a. All ages are determined as of the date of the event for which eligibility to participate is sought, and date of birth must be recorded on the Identification paper in the logbook.
- b. Four year old horses are restricted to competing in Intro classes only and at a maximum speed of 12kph. i.e. 10km at 12kph = 50 minutes; 40km at 12kph = 3 hrs 20 mins
- c. Mares that are more than 120 days pregnant, or with a foal at foot cannot be entered in any competition.

### 4.2 24 Month Rule

- a. When an Open horse has not qualified in a Novice, Intermediate or Open competition in the preceding 24 months then that horse must re-qualify in one 80- 90km Novice competition before it may enter in an Open competition at any event.
- b. When an Intermediate horse has not qualified in a Novice or Intermediate competition in the preceding 24 months then that horse must re-qualify in one 40-60km Novice competition before it may enter an Intermediate competition at any event.

### 4.3 Stallions

At all times, at all events stallions must:

- a) Wear a minimum of two ESNZ approved stallion tags – one on each side of halter or bridle. Tags are available from ESNZ.
- b) Wear a blue ribbon, clearly visible from behind.

- c) Not be tied up unattended unless in an approved solid yard.
- d) When unattended be contained in an approved solid or pipe/rail yard.
- e) Have a “STALLION” sign on the yard. The sign must also display the name and contact details (including cell phone number) for the rider or person responsible for the stallion during the Event
- f) Be under the control of the rider or handler.
- g) Riders and handlers of stallions must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- h) Before arriving at an event the rider/owner of a stallion must advise the OC they are bringing a stallion, and if they don’t have their own suitable yard, ascertain that suitable facilities are available.

## Section Five – THE COMPETITION

Once a class has started the designation of the class cannot be changed e.g. an Open class cannot be changed to a novice class part way through the competition. This does not prevent the Ground Jury from extending the ride time for the class part way through the competition if necessary.

### **5.1 Method of Starting**

The first day of a competition (for multi-day competitions), or the day of a competition (for single-day competitions), must have a mass start. Horses may not cross the starting line before the signal is given.

If a combination makes a false start (i.e. crosses the start line of the first Loop before the start signal is given or crosses the start line of subsequent Loops before the Hold Time has been completed), the combination must return and re-cross the start line. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. The combination's start time will continue to run from when the original start signal was given.

The start time of any combination that does not present on time for the start is recorded as if it had started on time. No combination may start later than 15 minutes after the official start time. Failure to comply with this provision will result in disqualification.

### **5.2 Time-keeping and Record keeping**

Time is counted from the start signal until the combination crosses the finish line. Time-keeping devices must be synchronized and time-keepers must accurately calculate and record the start and finish times and the speeds of each combination for each loop and phase.

Each combination will be issued a time card after each phase. A combination does not have to start a second or subsequent phase on time or within a certain period of time but their riding time will be recorded as if they had started that phase on time.

If electronic time time-keeping systems are used a manual back-up system must be immediately available to use if necessary.

### **5.3 Failure to Qualify, Disqualification, withdrawal and retirement**

**5.3.1. Failure to Qualify** for the next Phase or for final classification occurs when a combination is removed from the competition for failure to pass a veterinary inspection, complete the full course as required, comply with applicable speed restrictions, and/or meet all time requirements for completion, or as a result of such other 'FTQ' designations as may be specified.

**5.4.2 Disqualification** occurs when a combination is removed from a competition and/or Event (or its results are subsequently disqualified after the competition and/or Event) for a violation of any ESNZ Rules.

**5.3.3 Withdrawal** occurs when a rider withdraws their horse from the competition (without otherwise being removed from the competition) after the rider has registered and received their rider bib, and at, or prior to, the first (pre-competition) veterinary inspection.

**5.3.4 Retirement** occurs when a rider decides (without otherwise being removed from the competition) not to continue in the competition after their horse has passed all veterinary checks up to the point of choosing to retire, and prior to the departure time for the next phase. A horse may not be retired if a compulsory or required re-inspection is still pending.

### **5.4 Removal from Competition**

**5.4.1** All horses removed (voluntarily or otherwise) from competition must be presented for veterinary inspection immediately after removal, unless the veterinarian permits the horse's immediate transfer from the Field of Play to a treatment centre and the horse's veterinary records are updated accordingly. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification of the combination and a six-month ban on competing in any ESNZ Endurance Event for both the horse and the rider.

**5.4.2** A combination that is disqualified or designated as Failed to Qualify for any reason must leave the course immediately and may not continue along the course unless there is no viable alternative (which must be agreed by a member of the Ground Jury or, if not available, a Steward).

### **5.5 Pre-Competition Briefing**

A pre-competition briefing must be conducted. Attendance is mandatory for all riders, the Technical Delegate and a Ground Jury member. All other officials and veterinarians should attend if they are able.

### **5.6 The Field of Play**

The **Field of Play** includes all areas where the competition and related veterinary inspections take place, including the:

**Course:** split into loops and phases, as detailed in the Competition Schedule and the plan of the course

**Crew points:** the designated areas on the course where the crew members may assist their combination

**Vet Gate:** the designated area where combinations have to stop after each loop for veterinary inspections and mandatory rest periods, which includes the following areas:

- (a) **Recovery area** the area after the end of each loop where the horses can recover before entering the vetting area for veterinary inspection,
- (b) **Vetting Area** the area where horses undergo veterinary inspection after each loop
- (c) **Hold area** the area where horses can rest following veterinary inspection in the vetting area to complete the required hold time.

**Access to the Field of Play:** Access to the Field of Play may be restricted as set out in these Endurance Rules, the Competition Schedule, or as announced by the Ground Jury.

### **5.7 Phases**

A **Phase** (or Phase time) includes the combination's loop time plus the horse's recovery time after that loop except that the final phase does not include any recovery time after the final loop.

### **5.8 Recovery Area**

Following each loop, there must be a safe area where the horses can recover (including to lower their heart rates to the necessary parameters) before entering the vetting area for veterinary inspection.

The time the horse spends in the recovery area after crossing the end line of a loop until it crosses the line into the vetting area to be presented for its veterinary inspection is referred to as its 'recovery time' or 'lag time'. If the horse's heart rate exceeds the maximum heart rate parameters, the initial time recorded on entering the vetting area is discarded. If the horse is presented a second time for a heart rate re-inspection, the time is recorded when the horse crosses the line into the vetting area for the second time, and it is this second time that it crossed the line into the vetting area that is recorded as the recovery time.

### **5.9 Hold Time**

After each loop (except for the final loop) horses must be given a mandatory rest period (**Hold Time**), which begins when the recovery time finishes and continues for the specified period. Hold Times are subject to the following requirements:

**5.9.1** Where compulsory re-inspections are required, the Hold Time must be at least 40 minutes, and horses are required to present for such re-inspections no more than 15 minutes before the end of that Hold Time.

**5.9.2** The President of the Ground Jury and the President of the Veterinary Commission must be consulted on Hold Times.

## **5.10 Course design, terrain and safety**

**5.10.1** The OC in consultation with the Technical Delegate, should assist in creating a technically challenging course across country (within the limits of the terrain and weather conditions) that will test the stamina and riding skills of the combinations, without compromising the welfare of the horses.

**5.10.2.** The course should include technically challenging factors including in relation to footing, terrain, altitude, and direction. To accomplish this, the course should include naturally occurring or man-made features such as tracks, ditches, steep climbs, descents, and water crossings. As much as possible, the technical challenges must be left in their natural state, but they must be reinforced if necessary to ensure that they remain in the same state throughout the Competition.

**5.10.3** Loops must not be specially designed or constructed for speeds that increase the risk of injury to the horses. The Course Designer or Technical Delegate will make the final decision on this issue.

**5.10.4** The more demanding part(s) of the course should be earlier in the competition.

**5.10.5** The OC must ensure that there is access to water for the horses on the course at least every 10 km.

**5.10.6** The finish line of the final Loop must be wide enough to allow several horses to finish safely without interference from each other, and there must be sufficient run-out to allow combinations to come to a stop safely after crossing the finish line. The finish line must be located as close as possible to the Vet Gate.

**5.10.7** Competitions will be organised to allow riders to compete at their own pace, subject to any applicable speed restrictions, taking into account any adverse conditions and trail safety:

- a) If adverse conditions or other considerations such as extreme weather conditions arise that might compromise the ability of combinations to complete a course safely, the President of the Ground Jury and the President of the Veterinary Commission, in consultation with the OC and the Veterinary Delegate, may require compulsory halts or establish a maximum time for a loop/phase and/or the closing times of Vet Gates, to ensure that combinations do not fall too far behind the other combinations and to ensure the safety and welfare of horses and riders.
- b) In circumstances related to trail safety, depending on the given circumstances of a particular course, as well as the time of day, the OC, in consultation with the Technical Delegate, may require compulsory halts or establish sections of a course where controlled gaits of the horse and/or speed restrictions apply.

## **5.11 Marking the Course**

**5.11.1** The course markings must be clear and easy to see so that there is no doubt as to how to proceed on the course. In particular, a distance marker must be placed every 10 km, and the start and end of each Loop must be clearly and distinctly marked.

**5.11.2** If the OC is aware of a possible short cut on the course, the OC must have a Steward or check-point in place at that location to ensure that combinations do not take a short cut.

**5.11.3** The course markings must be respected, and failure to do so may result in disqualification.

## **5.12 Plan of the Course**

**5.12.1. Completion of course design:** The course of a Competition must be approved by the Technical Delegate prior to handing over to the Ground Jury.

**5.12.2** At Championship Events, the OC must make a plan (or map) available for the riders to view which shows the track/course.

**5.12.3. Course modification:** After the course has been officially established, no changes may be made without the approval of the Technical Delegate and the President of the Ground Jury. The OC must notify such changes to riders as soon as reasonably practicable.

## **5.13 Order of the Course**

**5.13.1** A combination must complete the entire course in the correct order and direction as marked on the course plan/map. If a combination fails to do so, it will be disqualified.

**5.13.2** If a combination makes an error on the course, the Ground Jury may (if it considers it feasible to do so) allow that combination to correct the error by returning to the place where the error started. If the combination fails to do so, it will be disqualified. If the Ground Jury considers that correcting an error on course is not feasible and/or in the best interests of the horse, it may determine an alternative that will require the combination to complete an equivalent distance over the same type of terrain, such distance to be made up within the same Loop, so that the combination still passes through each Vet Gate in the correct order and within the relevant time limits. In such cases, the combination will be designated as ‘Qualified’ and the horse may not be considered for any Best Condition Award.

## **5.14 Postponement or Cancellation of Events**

An Event may be postponed and/or cancelled. OCs are encouraged to anticipate the possible need to delay (by up to 30 hours), reschedule, and/or cancel an Event and evacuate the venue. A decision to postpone and/or cancel an Event must be notified as soon as reasonably practicable to the riders as well as the OC, time-keeping team, and all Event Officials, and in any event before the start of the Competition or (if the Competition has started) before the commencement of the next loop.

## **5.15 Assistance on Course**

**5.15.1** A rider may lead or follow their horse on the course but must be mounted to pass through the start line of any day and the finish line of the day’s final loop. Failure to comply with this provision will result in disqualification.

**5.15.2** Once the combination has started, no one other than the rider may lead or ride the horse on the course. Failure to comply with this provision will result in disqualification.

### **5.15.3 Permitted assistance:**

**5.15.3.1** The Competition Schedule must detail what assistance (crewing) may be given to combinations during a Competition, and in particular where such assistance is allowed on the

course and within Vet Gates. The designated areas on a course where crewing is permitted are called '**crew points**'.

**5.15.3.2** There must be at least 5km between crew points. Crewing outside the designated crew points is prohibited and will result in disqualification. However:

(a) It remains the responsibility of the rider to manage their horse according to the climate and conditions, and if a horse needs urgent assistance to protect its welfare, the rider must stop their horse to obtain such assistance. A failure to do so, or otherwise preventing the horse from obtaining such assistance, may be considered as horse abuse which would result in disqualification.

(b) A combination may be assisted at any time if a rider falls or is otherwise separated from their horse, or if the horse loses a shoe, or any other equipment failure. The rider must remount and/or continue in the loop from the point at which they dismounted, left the course or required intervention.

#### **5.16 Prohibited assistance**

A rider will be disqualified for:

**5.16.1** being followed, preceded or accompanied on any part of the course by any person on foot, on bicycle, or in a motorised vehicle;

**5.16.2** being followed, preceded or accompanied by any motorised vehicle on any access track adjacent to the course;

**5.16.3** encouraging a horse during the trot-up in the vetting area (except that the person trotting the horse may use limited verbal encouragement);

**5.16.4** cutting wire fences or altering a part of an enclosure on or within the course so as to clear a way, or cutting down trees or eliminating challenges or altering technical aspects of the course;

**5.16.5** providing or accepting any assistance on any part of the course not specifically designated for such assistance;

**5.16.6** accepting any intervention by a person not authorised to assist the combination, whether solicited or not, with the object of advantaging the rider or their horse.

#### **5.17 Fair Play, Health & Safety, Courtesy**

ESNZ Endurance takes Fair Play and Health & Safety very seriously. If your competition is held up for any fair and legitimate reason (i.e. helping an injured rider and/or horse on the track), the Ground Jury may, at their discretion, adjust the time of any assisting riders (the rider involved in an incident cannot have their time adjusted), after taking into consideration the factors involved (i.e. time held up, seriousness of incident).

A combination that wilfully obstructs an overtaking combination will be disqualified.

## Section Six - STAND-DOWN PERIODS

Horses are ineligible to compete in any ESNZ competition (Endurance or CTR) while on a stand-down period. The total rest period commences at midnight at the end of the day that the competition finishes, as denoted by the maximum competition time allowed, and finishes at midnight on the last full day of the rest period. The published competition start time of the horse's next competition must fall after the expiry of the rest period. Stand-down periods apply for distance travelled in competition, any elimination for veterinary reasons (gait, metabolic or surface factors) and for any horse that requires immediate invasive treatment. If a horse earns stand-down periods for more than one reason during or at the completion of any competition, the total stand-down period will be cumulative e.g. days for distance completed + days for veterinary elimination / immediate invasive treatment.

- a) Stand-downs for distance completed in competition:

Horses that are ungraded:

0-30 km = no stand-down  
31-50 km = 5 days

Horses that are graded Novice or Intermediate prior to entering a competition:

0-79 km = no stand-down  
80-90 km = 12 days

Open Horses:

0-99 km = no stand-down  
100-119 km = 12 days  
120-139 km = 19 days  
140-160 km = 26 days

- b) Any horse eliminated during a veterinary inspection (for gait, metabolic reasons or surface factors) will incur an additional stand-down of 7 days.
- c) Any horse eliminated during a veterinary inspection in two consecutive competitions (whatever the reason) will incur an additional stand-down of 14 days.
- d) Any horse that requires immediate invasive treatment while at an Event (including pre-competition, during the competition or after the competition) will incur an additional stand-down of 21 days regardless of whether it has undergone the first veterinary inspection or whether it has qualified in competition.

Note: Immediate Invasive treatment is defined as: Any treatment of a horse which involves the puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of any instrument e.g. needle or catheter, or foreign material into the body when that treatment is deemed necessary to maintain the health of the horse and any delay in treatment is likely to be detrimental to the welfare of the horses. A request for rehydration treatment or when treatment is offered proactively and not in an emergency is not included in this rule.

Additionally:

- e) Any horse that requires immediate invasive treatment twice within a 6 month period, or at any 2 consecutive events must successfully complete:
  - a 40-60km Novice competition before being eligible to compete in an Intermediate competition of 40-79km, or
  - a 80-90 km Novice competition before being eligible to compete in an Open competition

- f) Any rider that competes on a horse(s) that require immediate invasive treatment twice within a 6 month period is automatically suspended from all competition for a period of 6 months and must then successfully complete:
  - a 40-60km Novice competition before being eligible to compete in an Intermediate competition of 40-79km, or
  - a 80-90 km Novice competition before being eligible to compete in an Open competition
- g) Any horse or rider whose horse(s) requires immediate invasive treatment twice within one season loses eligibility for any National Awards during that season although lifetime kilometres will be accumulated.

## Section Seven – CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

### **7.1 Classes at Championship Events**

New Zealand National and Island Championship Events will include CEN Championship classes for Senior and Junior /Young Riders over the following distances:

- 140-160 km
- 120-139 km
- 100-119 km
- 60-79 km

CEI classes (standalone or combined with CEN) may also be held. Non-championship classes may be held at Championship events.

### **7.2 Dead Heat**

When two or more combinations start the competition at the same time and finish with the same total elapsed riding time, the Ground Jury (assisted by the Stewards) must determine which combination crossed the finish line first (whether based on plain sight or photo/video evidence) and that combination will be classified ahead of the other combination. There may not be any ties.

### **7.3 Dress Code at Championship Events**

At Championship Events, participants must wear clean and tidy attire that is appropriate and not detrimental to the image of the discipline of Endurance. In addition:

- 7.3.1** Riders must wear appropriate riding attire (including a shirt or polo shirt with a collar) during the competition.
- 7.3.2** Team officials and crew members must wear appropriate attire while on the Field of Play during the competition.
- 7.3.3** Officials must wear appropriate working attire (no shorts or sandals) at all times during the Event when performing their duties, including on the Field of Play. For the first (pre-competition) veterinary inspection, Best Condition Award, and prize-giving ceremonies.

- 7.3.4** Shorts are not permitted in the Vetting Area and for safety reasons, completely closed footwear must be worn in the Field of Play.
- 7.3.5** The President of the Ground Jury and/or the Chief Steward may require a person who is in breach of the dress code to change attire and (if they fail do so) may require that person to leave (or be removed from) the Field of Play.

#### **7.4 Veterinary Inspection at Championship Events**

For the final veterinary inspection, only one Heart-rate inspection is permitted and the first trot-up of all horses must be in front of a panel of three members of the Veterinary Commission accompanied by a member of the Ground Jury. A member of the panel may ask to see the horse trot only one more time before voting takes place.

#### **7.5 Hold Area**

At Championship Events there must be a safe area where horses can rest following the veterinary inspection to complete the required Hold Time (referred to as a hold area). The hold area and recovery area may be the same or separate areas.

#### **7.6 Details of the Course**

At Championship Events, the type of terrain and altitude differentials must be clearly set out in the Competition Schedule.

## APPENDIX ONE – THE VETERINARY INSPECTION

**Veterinary Inspections:** all veterinary inspections during the competition will be performed by the Veterinary Commission and will follow the same format. If there are any changes to how the veterinary inspections will be conducted, that must be announced prior to the competition by the Ground Jury or published in the Competition Schedule.

**First (pre-competition) Veterinary Inspection:** The first (pre-competition) veterinary inspection will take place either on the day preceding or early on the day that the first loop of the competition starts.

**Veterinary Inspections at each Vet Gate:** Veterinary inspections will take place at the end of each phase.

**Compulsory re-inspections:** The Veterinary Commission, in consultation with the Ground Jury, may require that all horses in the competition be presented for a compulsory re-inspection at specified Vet Gates. Compulsory re-inspections will take place in the last 15 minutes of a combination's Hold Time at the relevant Vet Gate.

**Requested re-inspections:** Any member of Veterinary Commission may ask a rider to present their horse for re-inspection at any Vet Gate if they have any concerns about the horse. Vet-requested re-inspections will take place in the last 15 minutes of a combination's Hold Time at the relevant Vet Gate.

**Final Veterinary Inspection:** The final veterinary inspection will take place after the horse crosses the finish line of the competition.

**Veterinary inspection in case of visible blood:** If blood is visible on a horse during a veterinary inspection, the horse must be examined by a Veterinarian to determine (i) that the horse has free-flowing blood from an injury or orifice, or (ii) that continuing in the competition will in any way endanger (or risk endangering) the welfare of the horse, the horse must be designated as Failed to Qualify.

**Other veterinary inspections:** The Veterinary Commission or Ground Jury may select any horses at random at any time to submit to a veterinary inspection during the Competition.

### Assessments during Veterinary Inspections

The Veterinarians' responsibilities to evaluate a horse are the same for all veterinary inspections, i.e. the same standards apply to judging fitness to continue in the competition with respect to heart rate, metabolic status, gait and general condition up to and including the final veterinary inspection.

The veterinarian conducting the veterinary inspection will assess the horse's general condition and its metabolic status, while taking into account the horse's recovery time. The assessments will include heart rate, mucous membrane characteristics, capillary refill time, intestinal activity (gut sounds), estimated hydration status, and demeanour. The veterinarian will also evaluate the horse's gait and assess any soreness on palpation of the back and girth, the texture and any sensitivity of the muscles, and any minor injuries including in the mouth or around the saddle and girth area. These assessments and any other observations regarding the horse's condition must be recorded on the Vet Card or in the horse's logbook".

At events where more than one vet is present, a horse should only be eliminated for veterinary reasons when at least two veterinarians agree that the horse is not “fit to continue”. Ideally, for eliminations other than due to not meeting heart rate criteria, this decision will be made by a vote of three veterinarians where the vote is conducted without discussion or conferring and is made anonymously; the majority decision rules.

### **1.1. Vetting Area**

Horses must undergo veterinary inspections after the end of each loop. There must be a safe area with restricted access for this purpose that is separate from the recovery and hold areas (the **Vetting Area**). No more than two people may accompany a horse in the Vetting Area.

### **1.2 Veterinary Inspections**

When the horse enters the Vetting Area, it must be taken directly from the Vetting Area entrance to a designated Veterinarian in the vet lane (as instructed by the Stewards) showing constant forward motion. The inspection decorum in the Vetting Area must be respected at all times.

**1.3 Heart rate assessment:** The first assessment to be performed as part of a veterinary inspection is the heart rate assessment. The heart rate of the horse must be measured using a stethoscope. Every effort should be taken to accurately record the heart rate. If the examination of the heart rate is disrupted due to movement or excitement of the horse rendering the examination impossible or inaccurate, the examination will be stopped and recommenced when the horse is settled (within limits). If the horse will not settle or is considered a danger to other horses or people, that horse will be asked to leave the Vetting Area. If the horse is unable to be returned to the Vetting Area within the designated time, it will be disqualified. If the rider, crew member, or other person responsible deliberately disrupts the veterinary inspection, the horse will fail the inspection. To ensure horse welfare however, as much of the veterinary inspection should be conducted as possible.

**1.3.1** For all competitions, horses must be presented for a heart rate assessment with a heart rate of no more than:

- a) Maximum pulse at all Vet Gates of 64bpm within 20 minutes
- b) Maximum pulse at Final Vetting of 64bpm within 30 minutes.

**1.3.1.1** Except for the final veterinary inspection (where only one presentation is permitted), if there is sufficient time remaining for a second presentation, the horse may be presented a second time for a heart rate re-inspection.

**1.3.1.2** At events where a second veterinarian is present, a second opinion should be sought to confirm that the horse’s heart rate does not meet the criteria. Any second or final heart rate inspection where the count may result in the horse being asked to re-present or failing to qualify must be taken over a full 60 seconds; a first heart rate count does not need to be taken over the full 60 seconds (i.e. do not need to take 60 seconds for the first count and then 60 seconds for the second count).

**1.3.1.3** Any horse that is eliminated for not meeting the heart rate criteria will be deemed to be eliminated for metabolic reasons.

**1.3.1.4** To safeguard the welfare of the horses and the safety of the riders, the President of the Ground Jury (in consultation with and based on advice from the President of the Veterinary

Commission, Ground Jury members and the Technical Delegate) may, prior to or during an Event:

- (a) reduce the maximum heart rate parameters;
- (b) shorten the presentation times at Vet Gates; and/or
- (c) increase the Hold Times.

Modifications to the above parameters must be announced to all riders before the start of the Loop concerned

**1.3.1.5** Throughout the Competition, the President of the Ground Jury, the Veterinary Commission, the Ground Jury members and the Technical Delegate must monitor the competition conditions (including any extreme weather conditions or other exceptional circumstances) and the number of horses that Fail to Qualify at each inspection. It is their responsibility to make changes to the inspection parameters to protect the horses.

**1.3.2** The presentation time limits start to count down from the time the combination crosses the end line of a loop and stops when the horse crosses the line into the Vetting Area to be presented for its veterinary inspection (if the horse is required to undergo a heart rate re-inspection, the presentation time limit will continue to count down from when the horse first crossed the line into the vetting area).

**1.3.3** If a horse is removed from Competition before crossing the end line of a loop, the horse must be presented for a veterinary inspection as soon as practical after such removal to either the Veterinary Commission or to the Treatment Vet. A full veterinary inspection will take place and the same maximum heart rate parameters will apply. All parameters will be recorded and the horse may also be designated FTQ for any veterinary reason as well as FTQ-FTC for not completing the loop.

**1.3.4** Failure to comply with the time limits for presentation of the horse to the Vetting Area will result in disqualification. In such circumstances, the horse must still be submitted to a veterinarian inspection, and so an additional designation for Failure to Qualify for veterinary (or other) reasons may also apply in addition to the disqualification.

**1.4 Metabolic, gait, and other assessments:** Following the heart rate assessment, the horse must immediately undergo all other aspects of the veterinary inspection (including trotting to check soundness).

**1.4.1. Cardiac Recovery Index (CRI):** As part of the metabolic assessment of the horse, the Cardiac Recovery Index (CRI) of the horse will also be measured (and recorded) at each veterinary inspection (except the pre-competition veterinarian inspection). Once the heart rate of the horse has been recorded, the veterinarian will assess the gait of the horse through a trot-up in the vet lane. The rider/crew member must trot the horse 80 m (40 m out and 40 m back). The veterinarian will start a stopwatch at the start of the trot, stop it at one minute, and then measure the horse's heart rate for up to 60 seconds using a stethoscope. The difference between the first and second heart rates is the CRI. While measuring the second heart rate, the veterinarian will also consider whether there are any pathological signs (e.g. such as heart murmurs or rhythm abnormalities) that may indicate that the horse is unfit to continue. The veterinarian may not perform any manipulation prior to taking the second heart rate that is likely to cause the heart rate of the horse to become artificially elevated.

**1.4.2 Respiratory system:** Abnormalities in rate or character of the breathing deemed by the Veterinary Commission to be of such a nature as to endanger the safety of the horse will result in a Failure to Qualify designation (for metabolic reasons).

**1.4.3 General condition and metabolic status:** Horses in a generally poor condition/demeanour or with an abnormally high temperature will be designated as Failed to Qualify – metabolic (FTQ-ME).

**1.4.4 Metabolic status:** The metabolic status will be assessed by the examination and recording of those parameters that indicate the horse's fitness to continue in the competition including mucous membrane characteristics, capillary refill time, hydration, intestinal activity (gut sounds), demeanour and Cardiac Recovery Index.

**1.5 Irregular gait:** During any inspection, a horse with an irregular gait that is observable through evaluation by trotting the horse on a loose lead, in-hand, straight out and back, without prior flexion or deep palpation, which is observed to cause pain, or threaten the immediate ability of the horse to continue safely the competition, will be removed from competition and will be designated as Failed to Qualify – irregular gait (FTQ-GA). To assess irregular gait:

- (a) The inspection must be carried out on a flat firm surface.
- (b) If after having once trotted the horse, the observing veterinarian questions the horse's fitness to continue, the horse will be re-trotted. Where possible, a re-trot will be before a panel of three veterinarians accompanied by a Ground Jury member for a panel vote on gait.
- (c) During a panel vote any of the three veterinarians may call for a single additional trot up prior to voting and will communicate that request to the member of the Ground Jury present who will request the horse be trotted again.
- (d) If following a maximum of three attempts, the gait cannot be evaluated due to poor presentation of the horse or an inability of the horse to trot the full distance, the horse is deemed not fit to continue due to irregular gait.
- (e) Any unusual feature about a horse's gait must be noted on the Vet Card of the horse, whether it is deemed grounds for a 'Failed to Qualify' designation or not. Where electronic systems are used, there must be provision for this.

**1.6 Soreness, laceration and wounds:** Any evidence of soreness, lacerations and/or wounds in the mouth, on the limbs and/or on the body (including girth and saddle sores) must be recorded on the Vet Card. If participation in, or continuation of, the Competition is likely to aggravate any such soreness, lacerations or wounds or in any way endangers (or risks endangering) the welfare of the horse, the horse will not be allowed to continue and will be designated 'Failed to Qualify – minor injury' (FTQ-MI).

**1.7 Shoes and hooves:** Horses may be shod, booted or unshod. The horse's feet must be in suitable condition for the competition. Horses that are shod or booted at the first (pre-competition) veterinary inspection may cross the finish line without one or more shoes or boots. However, if the horse's feet or shoes hinder its ability to compete safely or appear to be causing the horse pain, then the horse will be designated as Failed to Qualify – irregular gait (FTQ-GA). A lost shoe or boot can be put back on at any time, but once the horse is presented to the veterinarian, it must be assessed in the condition it is in when presented.

## **1.8 Specific additional procedures for the Final Veterinary Inspection:**

(a) The purpose of the final veterinary inspection is to determine whether the horse would still be fit to continue after a normal rest period.

(b) The assessments will be performed in the same manner, and applying the same criteria, as previous veterinary inspections, save that there will be only one opportunity to qualify for the Heart Rate presentation.

## **1.9 Decorum during Veterinary Inspections:**

**1.9.1** The Ground Jury, Stewards and Veterinary Commission members are responsible for enforcing the veterinary inspection decorum.

**1.9.2** The veterinary inspection areas should (as far as practicable) be quiet and without distraction out of respect for the riders and horses.

**1.9.3** Riders and other persons assisting the riders during the veterinary inspection must respect the veterinary inspection decorum and not do (or fail to do) anything that might have a negative impact on any of the horses in the Vetting Area.

**1.9.4** Horses must be presented for inspection in halter or head collar but without any other tack, including saddle, boots, fly masks, Blinkers/visors etc. The tack must be removed in the recovery area before entering the Vetting Area. If a horse is not presented as outlined in this rule, then that horse will fail the first presentation. Their time into the Vetting Area will be cancelled and the horse will be required to exit the Vetting Area and present for a second (final) presentation. If a horse is incorrectly presented with tack at the final veterinary inspection (at the completion of the competition) it will not be allowed to re-enter the Vetting Area and will be disqualified.

**1.9.5** No gamesmanship will be tolerated in terms of delaying or interfering with a veterinary inspection. Whistling or any other behaviour within the Vetting Area to encourage a horse to urinate is prohibited. No other horse is allowed to accompany the horse being inspected and all horses must leave the Vet Ring once their own Inspection has been completed.

Prohibited conduct in relation to the heart rate assessment includes but is not limited to:

- Applying a neck or ear twitch
- kneeling in front of the horse
- pulling the horse's head down
- feeding the horse

Prohibited conduct in relation to the presentation of the horse for the gait assessment includes but is not limited to:

- unduly restricting the horse's head movement
- voice commands only can be used to encourage the horse to trot; specifically, the horse must not be hit with the lead rope or with the hand and the horse may not be hounded or chased by any official, veterinarian, crew or any other person; trotting another horse out nearby cannot be used to encourage the horse to trot.

Failure to present a horse properly for the gait assessment may result in a horse being designated as 'Failed to Qualify'.

## APPENDIX TWO – Elimination Codes

**WD:** Withdrawn: the combination does not participate in the competition at, or prior to, the first (pre-competition) inspection

**RET:** Retired: the combination decides not to continue in the competition and has passed all veterinary inspections up to the point of choosing to retire. A horse may not be retired if a compulsory or requested reinspection is still pending.

**DSQ:** Disqualified: A combination is disqualified for violation of any of these rules or for violation of any other ESNZ rules or statutes. A horse may be disqualified and also designated as Failed to Qualify for a veterinary or other reason (see list under FTQ below).

**FNR:** Finished Not Ranked: means that the combination has (or is deemed to have) completed a competition (including all veterinary inspections) but is not ranked in the final classification (this is usually designated following an error on course). A combination may be designated FNR with the approval of the President of the Ground Jury and/or the Technical Delegate. The Officials must provide reasons for the FNR designation.

### **FTQ:** Failed to Qualify

The FTQ designation must be accompanied by one or more of the additional codes below:

- **GA:** Irregular gait
- **ME:** Metabolic
- **MI:** Minor Injury (e.g. slight soreness, wound, etc.)
- **SI-MUSCU:** Serious Injury (musculoskeletal injury)
- **SI-META:** Serious Injury (metabolic injury)
- **CI:** Catastrophic Injury
- **OT:** Out of Time (failure to complete a Loop within the allocated time, but passes the veterinary inspection after that Loop, or failure to present to the Veterinary Commission within the required time)
- **FTC:** Failed to Complete (non-completion of a loop but passes the veterinary inspection after that Loop).
- **TR:** Any horse which requires Immediate Invasive Treatment (if the horse has Qualified in the competition then the Qualification is retained but TR should be recorded in its logbook and in the Results).

The above FTQ codes may be cumulative, and all designations should be recorded.

## APPENDIX THREE – Guidelines for Best Condition Award

The OC may use the following guidelines for a Best Condition Award:

1. The Best Condition Award will be determined on the day (or last day) of the competition by a panel of three members (including a chair), made up of (i) two Official Veterinarians and one Judge, or (ii) three Official Veterinarians, as selected by the President of the Veterinary Commission. Details of the criteria used to judge the award must be announced prior to the start of the assessment.
2. Only the horses classified in the top ten finishing positions of the competition may participate in the Best Condition Award, provided that they have successfully completed the Competition in a time that is within an additional percentage of the winning time (such percentage to be determined by the Ground Jury).
3. The procedure for assessing the horses for the Best Condition Award will be as follows:
  - 3.1 First stage: Prior to any examination under saddle, the horse will be assessed unmounted for gait, metabolic parameters, and surface injuries.
  - 3.2 Second stage: If not eliminated at the first stage, the horse must be trotted 40 metres out and back, followed by trotting in a figure eight.
  - 3.3 Third (optional) stage: The Best Condition Award may include a mounted phase. If a mounted phase is included, and provided the horse is not eliminated at the previous stages, the rider will be required, on the instructions of the chair of the Best Condition Award panel, to demonstrate his equitation skills in a free range ridden display of the rider's choice. The purpose of this display is to exhibit the soundness of the horse, including its fitness, agility and willingness to compete. This free range equitation display may not exceed five minutes.
  - 3.4 If the panel considers that the horse has an irregular gait, is unable to complete the trot out due to lack of impulsion or exhaustion, or fails to meet the metabolic criteria, the horse will be eliminated from the Best Condition Award.
4. The scoring is divided into three sections of equal points (100 points for each section):
  - 4.1 Section 1: points are awarded based on the position of the horse compared to the first horse to finish.
  - 4.2 Section 2: points are awarded based on the recovery time of the horse for each Phase, except for the finish. The recovery time is the time between when the rider completes the Loop and presents for the veterinary inspection (for the avoidance of doubt, the horse must pass the inspection for the phase to be considered completed).
  - 4.3 Section 3: points are awarded based on the horse's results during the veterinary inspection (taking place as part of the Best Condition Award).
5. The horse with the highest score after adding the points under the four sections above will be declared the winner of the Best Condition Award.