

2024 PROPOSED RULE AND RULE APPENDICES CHANGES – November 12, 2022
Changes shown in RED

2024 PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

#R1: EXTEND COMBINED WEIGHT CLASSES FOR ONE YEAR (2024 RIDE SEASON)
(A ONE-YEAR ACTION)

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

B. Classes

1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes are combined into an Adult class on a temporary basis for the 2024 ride year and will revert to 2022 rules unless extended by the National Board of Directors.

***Rationale:** Due to small Heavyweight and Lightweight classes in all regions, in all divisions (O/CP/N), at many rides, there is a lack of competition at events, and competition for year-end awards can be heavily biased by the competitors' class based on available points. Additionally, the ability of competitors to earn National Championships can be little more than a participation award. There are arguably performance reasons to have Heavyweight and Lightweight classes, but current competitor numbers do not justify both classes.*

#R2 APPENDICE CHANGES MAY BE MADE ADMINISTRATIVELY

INSIDE FRONT COVER

Except for emergency actions and editorial corrections to published rules, all proposed rule changes/additions must be presented to the NATRC™ membership on the national website at least 45 days prior to a vote of the NATRC Board of Directors.

Changes to Rule Book Appendices may be made administratively, but 1) must be approved by the National Board of Directors, and 2) changes must be posted in the Hoof Print and/or the national website 45 days prior to implementation or as soon as is practical.

Changes from previous rule book are annotated with a vertical "bar" in the left margin.

***Rationale:** All Rule Book changes "Except for emergency actions and editorial corrections to published rules, all proposed rule changes/additions must be presented to the NATRC™ membership on the national website at least 45 days prior to a vote of the NATRC Board of Directors." Ride card changes, changes to the Drug Rule Appendices by the Veterinary Drug Committee, and other changes to the Rule Book Appendices seem to happen without following the formal Rule Book change process. While the Appendices are part of the Rule Book, they have been treated differently. Either these changes need to follow the official process used for the main part of the Rule Book, or we need to declare how Appendices changes are handled.*

#R3: NATIONAL LEISURE AWARDS

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

B. Annual Awards

1. General

- c. Only the first 16 rides in Open Division, or 12 rides in Leisure, Novice, or Competitive Pleasure Division officially started (See Section 5A2) in a ride year will count toward national awards. Type AA ride counts as 1½ rides; Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride
- d. A horse/rider does not have to officially start 16 Open Division or 12 in Leisure, Novice, or Competitive Pleasure Division rides in order to qualify.

2. National Awards

- t. **HIGH POINT LEISURE TEAM:** Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Leisure Class (i.e., Experienced, Adult, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the ride day.

Age of Horses

- (1) Horses competing for High Point Leisure Team award must be at least 48 months of age.

(a) Registered horses are considered 48 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.

(b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.

***Rationale:** The Leisure Division is our largest group of competitors and should be recognized.*

#R4: COMPLETION ONLY (CO)

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

- J. Timing and Time Penalty Points
4. Late Arrivals

- b. ~~A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes after the maximum time will not place but will receive completion points and mileage only.~~

SECTION 6 - JUDGING

- H. Completion Only: ~~A horse and rider, for the purpose of "Completion Only", are considered a team. "Completion Only" for one automatically constitutes "Completion Only" of the other.~~
1. A horse and rider, for the purpose of "Completion Only", are considered a team. "Completion Only" for one automatically constitutes "Completion Only" of the other.
 2. A horse that checks out grade 3 lame or with other factors that that would limit its ability to continue at the end of a ride, will not place, but may receive completion points and mileage only at the discretion of the veterinary judge.
 3. A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes after the maximum time will not place but will receive completion points and mileage only.

Rationale: Distance Only is very well defined on page 4-4, section 3, items 1 through 12. Completion Only should be well defined. Does Completion Only belong in Section 6 - Judging? Would it be better to have it in Section 4 - Divisions, Classes and Eligibility, or Section 5 – The Ride where it is currently defined?

2024 PROPOSED RULE APPENDICES CHANGES

#A1: ALLOW BASIC INJURY CARE DURING RIDE

Appendix B. CATEGORIES OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

- ~~31. Topically applied isopropyl alcohol.~~
~~33. Acid neutralizers (e.g. Maalox, Neighlox).~~

Appendix C. ALLOWED SUBSTANCES

12. Topical agents, including ophthalmic, optic, dermal and wound ointments, and liniments, if they do not contain any prohibited substance.
13. Topically applied isopropyl alcohol.

Rationale: NATRC encourages competitors to take the best care of their equines possible. Many minor scrapes could be treated without affecting the performance of the equine. Even small wounds can become infected. Encouraging competitors to either pull for minor injuries or requiring them to put their equines health at risk seems counter to our philosophy of taking the best care possible of our animals. These treatments still would need to be seen, and allowed, by the vet judge and the injuries themselves can lead to point deductions.

#A2: ALLOW PREVENTATIVE ULCER TREATMENT DURING RIDE

Appendix A. Prohibited Substances

~~Omeprazole~~

Appendix B. Categories of prohibited substances

- ~~38. Omeprazole administered in any amount higher than the preventive dose of 1.1 mg/kg.~~

Appendix C. Allowed Substances

12. Omeprazole (GastroGard®, UlcerGard®) administered at a preventative dose no higher than 1 mg/kg/day.
13. Acid neutralizers (e.g. Maalox, Neighlox).

Appendix D. Threshold levels

~~Omeprazole ???~~

Rationale: Equines that compete and travel extensively commonly have diagnosed or undiagnosed ulcers. Many consider treating these conditions as good care. Preventative level doses of the medications have also not been shown to enhance equine performance in equines beyond any issues caused by the ulcers themselves.