

DRASA VETERINARY MANUAL



DRASA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

DRASA requires all those involved in long distance horse riding to adhere to the DRASA Code of Conduct. At all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount. Welfare of the horse must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

This manual is just to give an idea of the process by vets when vetting horses at DRASA events. It is not the DRASA vet rules but should be read in conjunction with the **Veterinary Rules** and the Veterinary part of the scorecard.

Pre Ride Vetting

The Pre Ride vetting is scored in total out of 10 points:

Pulse: Maximum 5 points for the initial pulse – please measure the pulse for at least 30 seconds (multiply by 2) and cross/tick the block under the relevant bpm – this will allocate a score to the criteria. All horses have to present with a pulse of 60bpm and below. Anything above is a Disqualification and the horse/rider combination may not start

Body Condition: maximum 5 points – based on the body condition scoring table provided in the Veterinary Rules. Please tick/cross under the appropriate block allocating a score to the criteria. Any horse in a poor condition is Disqualified and may not start the event. Please score according to the table- we get a variety of horse breeds and it is important not to discriminate against the big boned breeds as fat when they it is rather a moderately fleshed draft type breed. Score the horse for his body type and breed, and check the distance division (Pleasure is below 20km total, and Trail is up to 40km distance).

Non Scored Criteria: these are the normal criteria used to ensure that the horse is fit to start the event but are not scored.

Capillary Refill- write in the seconds

Hydration – write in the letters as indicated

Gut Sounds - write in the letters as indicated

Lesions - write in the letters as indicated

Motion- all horses with a lameness may not start and are DQ with a reason noted

Habitus - write in the letters as indicated

First Leg/Second Leg

If the rider/horse combination are doing 2 legs in the event please use First Leg and Final Vetting. If they are doing three legs us First Leg, Second Leg and Final Vetting.

Each leg is scored out of a total 10 points:

Pulse: maximum 5 points- this is the initial pulse (taken for minimum 30 seconds and multiplied by 2) of the CRI and must be written down under the relevant block thereby scoring the pulse criteria. Now the CRI can be done and then this first pulse will be written down over the second pulse in the relevant CRI clock

CRI: maximum 5 points Take the first pulse for minimum 30 seconds and multiply by 2, start your timer, trot the horse out while checking for Motion and then at 60 seconds on your timer, take the second pulse (again minimum 30 seconds and multiply by 2 and write the second pulse down. This will be written in the relevant block on the Vet Card thereby allocating a score to this criterion.

The Suggested procedure is to take the initial pulse, trot the horse out while checking for motion and if 60 seconds has not passed yet, begin checking cap refill, hydration etc. Once the 60 seconds on the timer is done, check second pulse and note it down. Then check the other criteria.

Non Scored Criteria: these are the normal criteria used to ensure that the horse is fit to continue in the event when taken in conjunction with the CRI and Pulse, but are not scored.

Capillary Refill- write in the seconds

Hydration – write in the letters as indicated

Gut Sounds - write in the letters as indicated

Lesions - write in the letters as indicated

Motion- all horses with a lameness may not start and are DQ with a reason noted

Habitus - write in the letters as indicated

Final Vetting

This is the Final vetting of the horse after the final leg is completed

The same Criteria and Scores apply as per the previous legs

The Final Fit to Travel Home Examination

If the veterinarian is of the opinion that the horse is fit to travel he shall complete a release card and hand this to the person responsible.

Example of Completed Vet Card

Veterinary Judging – Pleasure, Trail, Summit Divisions

Venue: Sasolburg Date: 13/February Rider Number: A023

Pre-Ride						
Pulse (Total 5) Enter actual pulse in column						
DQ >60bpm	1 point 55-60bpm	2 points 50-55bpm	3 points 45-50bpm	4 points 40-45bpm	5 points <40bpm	Comments/code
				42.		
Non Scored Criteria (enter code in appropriate column)						
Cap Refill - Seconds	Hydration – N-Normal, D- Dehydrated, SD- slightly dehydrated	Gut Sounds- N-normal, R- Reduced, -I- Increased	Lesions- A-no lesions, B- mild, C- severe	Motion- A- sound, B- uneven not consistent, C- lame(give reason for DQ)	Habitus- Excellent, Good, Depressed	Comments/Code for DQ
15	N	N	B	A	E	
Body Condition Scoring(tick appropriate column – Total 5)						
DQ Poor	1 point Fat	2 points Fleshy	3 points Moderately thin	4 points Moderately fleshy	5 points Moderate	Comments
				✓		
GRAND TOTAL Pre Ride - max 10						8

First Leg						
CRI (enter actual CRI - (Total 5)	1 point 2 nd pulse up to 6 bpm higher than 1st	2 points 2 nd pulse up to 4 bpm higher than 1st	3 points 2 nd pulse up to 2 bpm higher than 1st	4 points 2 nd pulse: equal to 1st	5 points 2 nd pulse lower than 1st	Comments/Code for DQ
42/ 44	/	/	42 44	/	/	
Pulse (Total 5) Enter actual pulse in column						
DQ >60bpm	1 point 55-60bpm	2 points 50-55bpm	3 points 45-50bpm	4 points 40-45bpm	5 points <40bpm	Comments/code
				42.		
Non Scored Criteria (enter code in appropriate column)						
Cap Refill - Seconds	Hydration – N-Normal, D- Dehydrated, SD- slightly dehydrated	Gut Sounds- N-normal, R- Reduced, -I- Increased	Lesions- A-no lesions, B- mild, C- severe	Motion- A- sound, B- uneven not consistent, C- lame(give reason for DQ)	Habitus- Excellent, Good, Depressed	Comments/Code for DQ
15	N	N	B	A	E	
GRAND TOTAL Leg 1 - max 10						7.

Second Leg (if doing 3 legs)						
CRI (enter actual CRI - (Total 5))	1 point 2 nd pulse up to 6bpm higher than 1st	2 points 2 nd pulse up to 4bpm higher than 1st	3 points 2 nd pulse up to 2bpm higher than 1st	4 points 2 nd pulse equal to 1st	5 points 2 nd pulse lower than 1st	Comments/Code for DQ
NSA						
Pulse (Total 5) Enter actual pulse in column						
DQ >60bpm	1 point 55-60bpm	2 points 50-55bpm	3 points 45-50bpm	4 points 40-45bpm	5 points <40bpm	Comments/code
Non Scored Criteria (enter code in appropriate column)						
Cap Refill - Seconds	Hydration - N-Normal, D-Dehydrated, SD- slightly dehydrated	Gut Sounds- N-normal, R-Reduced, -Increased	Lesions- A-no lesions, B- mild, C- severe	Motion- A- sound, B- uneven not consistent, C- lame (give reason for DQ)	Habitus- Excellent, Good, Depressed	Comments/Code for DQ
GRAND TOTAL Leg 2 - max 10						

Final Vetting						
Pulse (Total 5) Enter actual pulse in column						
DQ >60bpm	1 point 55-60bpm	2 points 50-55bpm	3 points 45-50bpm	4 points 40-45bpm	5 points <40bpm	Comments/code
NSA				LL		
Non Scored Criteria (enter code in appropriate column)						
Cap Refill - Seconds	Hydration - N-Normal, D-Dehydrated, SD- slightly dehydrated	Gut Sounds- N-normal, R-Reduced, -Increased	Lesions- A-no lesions, B- mild, C- severe	Motion- A- sound, B- uneven not consistent, C- lame (give reason for DQ)	Habitus- Excellent, Good, Depressed	Comments/Code for DQ
2s	SD	R	B	A	G.	
CRI (enter actual CRI - (Total 5))	1 point 2 nd pulse up to 6bpm higher than 1st	2 points 2 nd pulse up to 4bpm higher than 1st	3 points 2 nd pulse up to 2bpm higher than 1st	4 points 2 nd pulse equal to 1st	5 points 2 nd pulse lower than 1st	Comments/Code for DQ
LL / LS		LL / LS				
GRAND TOTAL Final vetting - max 10						
6.						

Total For Vetting (Max 40 for 3 legs, max 30 for 2 legs, max 20 for 1 leg)

21 / 30

Example of Release Form to use (to be obtained from Ride Manager)

Release Form

Rider Number	Veterinary signature	Time

Release Form

Rider Number	Veterinary signature	Time

Release Form

Rider Number	Veterinary signature	Time

Release Form

Rider Number	Veterinary signature	Time