



SECTION J: ENDURANCE AMENDMENT SUMMARY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

NOTE:

The following rules have been added or revised in the 2026 edition of the Equestrian Canada rules. All editions of Section J have been updated to include all of the changes in this document.

ARTICLE J101 PREPARATION OF REGULATIONS

EC has prepared the following rules and regulations. Every effort has been made to write this document in a language that is clear and concise. The regulations are written to provide specific legal details using the principles of plain language.

While EC assumes that most participants are responsible and caring, it is recognized that this highly competitive and demanding sport requires regulation. EC’s concern in establishing rules and regulations is to ensure that at all times the welfare of the horse is of paramount importance and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences. These regulations must be read and complied with in conjunction with Equestrian Canada General Regulations and Veterinary Regulations. It is not feasible to include every possible situation in these rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances ride management and ride ~~veterinarians~~ veterinary delegate(s) may make a decision in a sporting spirit and to the best intention of these rules and the individuals affected.

For the purpose of this document the word “horse” is used and is meant to include any member of Genus Equus.

ARTICLE J102 CODE OF CONDUCT AND WELFARE OF THE ENDURANCE HORSE

[...]

2. Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. A mare in advanced pregnancy, meaning over 120 days, or with foal at foot, may not be entered (or participate) in any event. Mares must not be pregnant and there There must be no misuse of aids or medication; recent surgical procedures; or a recent occurrence of a fall or injury that may compromise the welfare or safety of the horse or rider..

[...]

ARTICLE J103 SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS

[...]

- ~~2. Any competitor may wear protective headgear in any division or class without penalty from the judge.~~
23. EC makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear. EC cautions riders that serious injury or death may result despite wearing such headgear, as all equestrian sports involve inherent risk, and no protective headgear can protect against all foreseeable injury.
243. The use of safe riding footwear with heels of 12 mm or more, or alternatively caged/boxed stirrups/equestrian safety stirrups is required by all mounted persons 17 and under and strongly recommended for all persons at the event location while mounted.

ARTICLE J104 SPORT LICENCE REQUIREMENT EXEMPTION FOR NON-CANADIANS

Endurance entry exemption in addition to Article A214 – Exemptions - EC Sport Licences:

1. All Foreign Competitors (owners, lesser, agents or trainers) are not required to hold EC Sport Licences provided they are members in good standing of another national federation recognized by the FEI. (See A214).
2. Grooms/Crew: An EC Sport Licence is not required by persons acting as grooms/crew who assist a competitor in an any provincial, national or CEI 1*-3* endurance event or provincial or national championship.

ARTICLE J201 INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION GENERAL

A competition to test the speed and endurance ability of a horse. To be successful, the competitor must have knowledge of pace and efficient and safe use of the horse across country.

1. Distance

- a) An endurance ride must be a minimum of 80 kilometres (~~nominally, 50 miles~~) per day up to a maximum distance of 240-250 kilometres (~~nominally, 150 miles~~) in three days, or 400 kilometres (~~nominally, 250 miles~~) in five days. No single day ride distance will be greater than 160 kilometres (~~nominally, 100 miles~~).

<u>Listed kilometres</u>	<u>4% Grace kilometre</u>		<u>4% Grace miles</u>
<u>80 Open</u>	<u>77—83</u>		<u>48—52</u>
<u>100 Open</u>	<u>96—104</u>		<u>57—63</u>
<u>160 Open</u>	<u>154—166</u>		<u>96—104</u>
<u>250 – 3 days Open</u>	<u>240—260</u>		<u>144—156</u>
<u>400 – 5 days Open</u>	<u>384—416</u>		<u>240—260</u>

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a)b) Events of ~~60-40-79~~ kilometres ~~or less~~ will be considered provincial events, and will be run under provincial/regional rules. These ~~Endurance~~ rules must include, at a minimum:

- (i) Horse must be at least 48 months of age
- (ii) There must be a pre, mid and post ride vet check
- (iii) Horses must pulse down to pre-set criteria within 30 minutes of arriving at the vet check and at the finish criteria.
- (iv) Total ride time (including any holds) must ~~reflect the mileage of the event at not less than 6.5 kmph.~~ be at least 6 hours

Mileage will be tracked for these events when the competitor holds an EC Sport Licence and submitted by the competition.

Listed kilometres	4% Grace kilometre	Listed miles	4% Grace miles
80 Open	77—83	50	48—52
100 Open	96—104	60	57—63
160 Open	154—166	100	96—104
240—250—3 days Open	230—250 240—260	150—3 days	144—156
400—5 days Open	384—416	250—5 days	240—260

~~Regarding FEI Novice Qualification (Art 816.1 of the FEI Endurance Rules) which states “Horses and Athletes must, though not necessarily as a combination: Successfully complete 2 rides of distances between 40—79 km and 2 rides of distances between 80—90 km at speeds of 16kph or under.”~~

~~The only rides of 40 km that will be accepted for FEI Novice Qualification for Canadian horses and athletes will be rides organized under EC Endurance Rules and/or rides organized by another organization or NF that follow similar rules with minimum criteria as set out in section (b) above of the EC Rules.~~

~~In addition, in keeping with competition that is mindful of the welfare of the horse, and since Novice Qualification rides fall under National Federation observance even if they are not organized under Equestrian Canada, Canadian horses must observe a minimum rest period between FEI Novice Qualification rides as follows:~~

~~Start to 40Km—5 days~~

~~41Km—80Km—12 days~~

~~81Km—90Km—19 days~~

~~The total rest period commences at Midnight at the end of the day that the ride finishes (24.00 hours), as denoted by the maximum ride time allowed, and finishes at the same time on the last full day of the rest period. The published ride start time of the horse’s next ride must fall after the expiry of the rest period.~~

2. Phases

The competition consists of a number of phases. At the end of each phase there will be a compulsory halt for veterinary inspection. The head veterinarian should be consulted on the distance of each phase and the hold times in each Vet Check.

3. Age and Breed of Horse

An endurance ride is open to any breed or type of horse. The horse must a minimum age of 48 months at the time of the ride for distances below 80 km (below 50 miles) and 60 months at the time of the ride for all distances 80 km (50 miles) or greater. Age is calculated from actual date of birth. Where there are no horse papers available, a ride veterinarian’s opinion and discretion must prevail.

4. Ride Sanctioning

Sanctioning requests for all events must be received by Equestrian Canada or the PTSO (bronze) for approval at least 60 days before the date of the event.

a) EC’s endurance event season runs from December 1st through to November 30th.

b) For additional information on sanctioning and competitions, refer to Section A – General Regulations.

5. Ride Results

Ride results must be reported to Equestrian Canada within 14 days of the event and be accompanied by all the applicable fees as per the Schedule of Fees. All collected medication fees must be submitted to Equestrian Canada or its designate within 30 days of the event.

6. FEI Novice Qualification

~~Regarding FEI Novice Qualification (Art 816.1-832.3 of the FEI Endurance Rules) which states “Horses and Athletes must, though not necessarily as a combination: Successfully complete 2 rides of distances between 40—79 km and 2 rides of distances between 80—90 km at speeds of 16kph or under.”~~



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“Horses and Athletes must have successfully completed (not necessarily as a Combination) two novice rides of 40-79 km (in one day) and two novice rides of 80-100 km each restricted to a speed of no more than 16 km/hour (calculated in accordance with Article 838.2). The required 80-100 km rides may be completed either as (i) two single-day events, or (ii) one single-day event and one multi-day event (for the multi-day event, 40-50km must be completed per day for two consecutive days at the same Competition). All qualifying novice rides must be completed within a three-year period.”

The only Only rides of 40-79 km that will be accepted for FEI Novice Qualification for Canadian horses and athletes will be rides organized under EC Endurance Rules and/or rides organized by another organization or NF that follow similar rules with minimum criteria as set out in section J201.1(b) above of the EC Endurance Rules.

Regarding Rest Periods FEI Endurance rule Art 839.3.2 states that “FEI-registered Horses may not compete in any National Events or FEI Events during any Mandatory Out of Competition Period. Failure to comply with this provision will result in the penalties set out in Article 864.”

Regarding National Events (Art 839 of the FEI Endurance Rules), which states “After competing in a CEI or National Events, a Horse must be given a mandatory minimum rest period, as defined, before it is again eligible to participate in a National or FEI Competition.” Events of 80 kilometres or more that are organized under Equestrian Canada Endurance Rules and/or organized by another organization or NF that follow similar rules will be considered “National Events” for the purpose of calculating rest periods for Canadian FEI registered horses.

In addition, in-keeping with competition that is mindful of the welfare of the horse, and since Novice Qualification rides fall under National Federation observance even if they are not organized under Equestrian Canada; Canadian novice and FEI registered horses must observe a minimum rest period between FEI Novice Qualification rides as follows:

Start to 40Km 54km – 5 days

41Km – 80Km 55km – 106km – 12 days

81Km – 90Km 107km – 126km – 19 days

127km – 146km – 26 days

Over 146km – 33 days

The total rest period commences at Midnight at the end of the day that the ride finishes (24.00 hours), as denoted by the maximum ride time allowed, and finishes at the same time on the last full day of the rest period. The published ride start time of the horse’s next ride must fall after the expiry of the rest period.

6. National Event Definition

Regarding National Events (Art 815.3.1 of the FEI Endurance Rules), which states “After competing in a CEI or National Events, a Horse must be given a mandatory minimum rest period, as defined, before it is again eligible to participate in a National or FEI Competition.” Events of 80 kilometres or more that are organized under Equestrian Canada Endurance Rules and/or organized by another organization or NF that follow similar rules will be considered “National Events” for the purpose of calculating rest periods for Canadian horses.

ARTICLE J202 COURSE AND MAPS

Ride management will create a course across country. Ride management should attempt to implement technically challenging factors including, but not limited to: changes in footing, terrain, altitude, direction, and width of the trail.

It is customary for ride management to provide each competitor a map or plan showing the track of the course and the location of any compulsory halts or obligatory hazards.

[...]

3. Start and Finish

The start and finish of each phase must be clearly and distinctly marked with the appropriate signs. The start must have enough room for a warm up for the number of horses entered and a mass start. A controlled start using a pace vehicle is an option. The finish line must be wide and long enough for a race off of several horses without obstacles or constraints. The finish line can be at a different location than the start and in a “safe” location within reasonable distance of the vetting area.

[...]



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ARTICLE J205 TIME ALLOWED

[...]

Under normal conditions, maximum competition time will be according to the following prescription:

80 kilometre (50 miles)	= 12 hours
96 kilometre (60 miles)	= 14 hours 30 minutes
120 kilometre (75 miles)	= 18 hours
160 kilometre (100 miles)	= 24 hours

In the case of two-day 160 kilometre ~~(100 mile)~~, three-day 240-250 kilometre ~~(150 mile)~~, and similar events, the total completion time allowed is based on daily mileage. The time allowed for each day of a multi-day ride is that which is allowed for an equivalent one-day ride according to the above chart. Any extra time cannot be carried forward to the next day's ride.

[...]

ARTICLE J207 ELIMINATIONS/DISQUALIFICATIONS

[...]

All horses that are eliminated, excused, rider optioned, or do not complete the course and final fit-to-continue examination for any reason, MUST be examined by a ~~veterinarian~~ veterinary delegate and/or treatment veterinarian to be released from the site for travel before they are loaded for departure.

ARTICLE J301 ROLE OF VETERINARY DELEGATE(S)

[...]

3. Veterinary Delegate(s) are veterinarians employed by ride management to monitor the horses and counsel riders and ride management on equine welfare as well as to uphold EC Regulations. ~~Veterinary Delegate(s) must hold a Bronze Equestrian Canada licence or equivalent recognized by Equestrian Canada. A veterinarian who is supplying treatment only, is not required to hold such licence.~~

[...]

11. The setting of veterinary parameters, including but not limited to heart rate and respiration shall be determined by the head Veterinary Delegate. Since the ambient conditions are of prime concern in the setting of parameters, these parameters should not be finalized more than 24 hours before the start of the ride. ~~The heart rate for the Ranked Novice shall be 56 beats per minute.~~

[...]