



In 2020, the AERC and the Ride and Tie Association entered into an agreement in order to better promote both of our sports. We have discovered that holding AERC Endurance Rides in conjunction with Ride and Tie/Equathon Races wonderfully provides for a utilization of resources (both sports require a camping venue, marked trails, vets, etc. – why do twice the work?), tends to “cross-pollinate” the two sports (some come to Endurance through Ride and Tie and others come to Ride and Tie through Endurance), and increases the overall atmosphere and fun of both events.

In order to facilitate this partnership, the Ride and Tie Association is paying subsidies to AERC Ride Managers who host a Ride and Tie race along with their Endurance Ride. The Association asks the Ride Manager to:

- include Ride and Tie in all advertisements and Ride materials
- furnish completion and place prizes for the Ride and Tie Race (easiest way to do this is to simply include the words “Ride and Tie” on any t-shirts or other printed completion prizes)
- follow the sanctioning process for sanctioning a Ride and Tie race (including applying for sanctioning, paying for the required insurance
- return race results to the Association).

In return, Ride and Tie offers a stipend for any AERC rides that:

- have hosted a sanctioned R&T event in the past five years - \$250 per event
- have NOT hosted a Ride and Tie Race for at least the last five years.
 - \$500 for either a single day ride, or
 - \$250 for the first day of a multiday ride and \$250 per day for an additional two days
- six \$10 coupons per race day to the Ride and Tie store that can be used for prizes, swag, or other awards.
- the help of the Ride and Tie Sanctioning officer who can answer any questions and offer advice and guidance in putting on the race.

The net effect of the subsidy is that an AERC ride manager might receive up to \$750 in subsidies for hosting a Ride and Tie race (\$500 if they have not hosted a race before or within the last 5 years and \$750 if they offer a Ride and Tie race for at least three days of their ride).

For more information, please contact

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Hosting a Ride and Tie at your Endurance Ride

Ride and Tie races and Endurance rides are basically the same sport with one important twist: Ride and Tie adds an extra human to the human/equine team. For the Ride Manager, most other details are the same including the course and vetting criteria. If you have already gone to the trouble and expense to put on an Endurance ride, then adding a Ride and Tie is a great way for you to increase interest and participation.

Our website www.rideandtie.org, our Facebook page and our YouTube channel all have a number of resources including a Ride Manager's manual to assist you. This document is a checklist to help you know the steps you will need to take to successfully offer a Ride and Tie along with your Endurance ride.

____ It is very common for the Endurance Ride manager to designate someone else to be the Ride and Tie Race Manager. This person can do all of the communication and coordination with the Ride and Tie association and assist you in ensuring that the other items on this checklist are coordinated to ensure a great race.

____ As soon as you decide on the date and place for the ride, contact the Ride and Tie Sanctioning Officer events@rideandtie.org. **Ask any and all questions you have!** Provide a race flyer (dates, race lengths, directions, camping information, etc.) and an entry form for posting on the Ride and Tie website as soon as possible. This may be the same documents you use for your ride or slightly altered specific ones to Ride and Tie

____ For a Ride and Tie to be a sanctioned race, you must offer at least one course with a minimum of 20 miles. Note that you are not required to have any team compete in that course. You are then welcome to offer other courses of any length. All miles in Ride and Tie count for career mileage and for the annual points competition.

____ You must be officially sanctioned through Ride and Tie at least 60 days before the event. Sanctioning involves filling out a form and agreeing to pay \$10 per team up to \$100 a day for insurance. This insurance is required even if your Endurance event is also insured. Your endurance event insurance likely does not cover Ride and Tie, so sanctioning is important. ***If you have no entries you may cancel the Ride and Tie up to 24 hours before the race is to begin and incur absolutely no financial obligations to Ride and Tie.***

____ You must join the Ride and Tie association in order to host a Ride and Tie. ***Ride Managers are given complimentary annual memberships.*** You must ensure that all competing team members are members of the Ride and Tie Association (***first time competitors receive a complimentary annual membership to Ride and Tie.***)

____ Include Ride and Tie in all Ride Briefings, Award ceremonies (including providing awards), and Activities (such as meals). This greatly enhances the experience for both Endurance riders and Ride and Tiers

____ Your head veterinarian sets all criteria for Ride and Tie as he/she does for Endurance. Typically the criteria are identical to the criteria for the Endurance horses with a couple of exceptions.

1. Ride and Tie does not require a hold at mid-race vet checks. Once the horse has successfully passed the vet check, it is allowed back on the course.
2. Because Ride and Tie does not require holds, veterinarians typically allow horses to go through mid-race vet checks without removing tack. The head veterinarian, however, may require that tack be removed for all horses or for any horse he/she deems in need of an exam requiring the removal of tack.
3. Ride Managers and Veterinarians often ask Endurance riders to allow Ride and Tie horse to "break" in line at the vet checks because they do not have a hold time making the vet check more time critical for them since the other human partner will already be back out on trail.

____ Ensure that your timers know the rules of Ride and Tie. The race does not end until all members of the team have crossed the finish line. That is the final time. Mid-race times (in and out) may be recorded for both horse and runner in order to keep track of the teams, but that data is not used by Ride and Tie. Unlike Endurance, there is no time limit for a race unless specified by the Ride Manager or the head veterinarian.

____ Post-race: provide race results, submit money for insurance, and turn in membership forms to Ride and Tie.



Vetting/Timing “*Cheat Sheet*” for Ride and Tie

Ride and Tie races and *Endurance rides* are basically the same sport with one important twist: Ride and Tie adds an extra human to the human/equine team.

_____Your **head veterinarian** sets all criteria for Ride and Tie as he/she does for Endurance. Typically the criteria are identical to the criteria for the Endurance horses with a few small exceptions.

- Ride and Tie requires that a team member (not crew) take the horse through the race vet checks. A crew member may take the horse through the initial pre-race vet check.
- Ride and Tie does not require a hold at mid-race vet checks. Once the horse has successfully passed the vet check, it is allowed back on the course.
- Because Ride and Tie does not require holds, veterinarians typically allow horses to go through mid-race vet checks without removing tack. The head veterinarian, however, may require that tack be removed for all horses or for any horse he/she deems in need of an exam requiring the removal of tack.
- Ride Managers and Veterinarians often ask Endurance riders to allow Ride and Tie horse to “break” in line at the vet checks because they do not have a hold time making the vet check more time critical for them since the other human partner will already be back out on the trail. It is great to make this as part of the announcements at the Ride Briefing.
- The race ends when all three team members have crossed the finish line. This is analogous to an Endurance ride (as opposed to a Limited Distance ride which does not consider the race complete until the horse reaches final pulse criteria). In other words, the winning team is the one in which the ENTIRE team has crossed the finish line. Just because a runner or rider was the first competitor to cross the line has no bearing on the final standings until the other team member(s) cross. This can make for exciting finishes with humans trying to outrun horses!
- Ride and Tie does not specify a time limit for races (unlike Endurance). However, the Race Manager may set a time limit (for either the race or individual loops) in order to release the veterinarians/timers/etc. at a decent hour. If the Race Manager sets a time limit, that should be announced well in advance.

_____Timers:

- The timers should be aware that the race does not end until all members of the team have crossed the finish line. That is the final time.
- Mid-race times (in and out) may be recorded for both horse and runner in order to keep track of the teams, but that data is not used by Ride and Tie.
- Unlike Endurance, there is no time limit for a race unless specified by the Ride Manager or the head veterinarian.