

Rules for Equathon

(revised March 2022)

What is an Equathon: Equathon consists of a TEAM of two persons (Rider/Runner) and one horse, or IRON consisting of one person (Rides/Runs) and one horse competing on a pre-determined course. The Ride Manager must designate prior to the start whether the event will follow a Standard or Modified version.

- **Standard:** The Rider completes his portion of the course first before the Runner starts his portion of the event. The Runner may start after the horse reaches pulse criteria, but prior to the veterinary examination.
- **Modified:** Team members (Riders/Runners) start together; Riders ride the pre-determined ride course while the Runners run the pre-determined run course.
- **IRON Person:** Iron person rides the designated course first and then runs the second part of the course. They must start the run portion within 30 minutes of the horse passing the pulse criteria. Designated crew may present the horse for both the pulse and the veterinary exam.

Ride Time: The "Ride Time" is determined when the horse and rider complete their portion of the event and the horse reaches pulse criteria as determined by an official race veterinary pulse staff.

Run Time: The "Run Time" is determined by the elapsed time from when the runner starts and then crosses the finish line on his portion of the course.

Completion Time: The "Completion Time" is calculated by adding the "Ride Time" and the "Run Time". In addition, the horse must PASS the post-ride exam meeting "fit to continue" criteria otherwise the team will be disqualified.

Long Course: Is combined rider/runner mileage of 20 miles or longer.

Short Course: Is combined rider/runner mileage of less than 20 miles.

General rules:

1. All participants must be current members of the Ride & Tie Association.
2. All minors under age 16 must wear approved safety helmets by AHSA, PCA, ANSIZ90.4 or Snell while mounted during a race.
3. Before the Start there will be an Agreed upon "Start and Finish line".
4. The Runner (for both the Standard Equathon and IRON Person) must report to the event timer for the official run portion start time and follow the designated course.
5. The horse must be at least five years old. NO pregnant or lactating mares will be allowed to compete. "Horse" means horse, pony, donkey, burro, or mule.
6. All horses must be submitted for a pre-race and post-race examination.
7. All horses must be presented for a post-race veterinary examination within a half an hour of finishing. Horses must pass this examination for any member of that team to be eligible for completion awards and points.
8. If the ride portion is 20 miles or longer, there will be a mandatory hold of 20 minutes minimum or longer as pre-determined by the head veterinarian for the horse at any vet check(s).
9. **Horses traveling less than 10 miles** require only Pre/Post Pulse criteria and trot out abbreviated examination. Horses traveling 10 miles or greater require standard pre and post examinations.
10. Veterinarians will determine pulse criteria which may differ from Ride & Tie horses.
11. All decisions of the Veterinarian staff regarding the health and safety of the horse including altering any horse related Equathon rules are final. NO abuse of a horse will be tolerated.
12. In alignment with AERC, no foreign substance or medication may be given or administered to any horse within 72 hours before starting or one hour after finishing the event. This includes ointments or solutions for topical use that contain local anesthetics All medications administered during the two weeks prior to the race must be declared in writing to the veterinarian conducting the pre-race examination.
13. Riders shall be responsible for their horse's behavior prior to and during the event. If, at the discretion of the race management, any horse becomes unruly or jeopardizes the safety of other participants, the team may be disqualified from the event.
14. Competitors must pass and report to any trail marshals who are positioned along the course. Competitors inadvertently off course must return to the point at which they left the marked trail and complete the course correctly.
15. Any protests must be made in accordance with the Association's Protest Policy.