



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

*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. 1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The race ends when all three “heartbeats” on the team 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 heartrate 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!
6. 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.
7. **EQUATHON**- The rider completes their portion of the course first before the runner starts their portion of the event. The runner may start only after the horse reaches pulse criteria taken by official race staff, but prior to veterinary examination. The clock runs continuously until the runner reaches the finish line.
8. **EQUATHON**- Iron person rides the designated course first and then runs the second part of the course. The clock runs continuously until the runner reaches the finish line. They must start the run portion 30 minutes of the horse passing the pulse criteria. Designated crew may present the horse for both the pulse and the veterinary exam.
9. The runner for both standard and Iron person **Equathon** must report to the event timer for the official run portion start time and follow the designated course.

- 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. Note that in 2021 the Board of Directors determined that the heart and not the nose is the qualifying “organ” to cross the finish line. In a very close race, the timer/official should not be looking at noses, but at the mid-section of the competitors. This complies with the Ride and Tie mantra of “Three heartbeats must finish the course in order to complete the race”
- 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.

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