



CHAPTER 3

RIDERS

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CHAPTER 3: RIDERS

REGISTER OF CHANGES – CHAPTER 3

Article	Subject	Date of Change
3.1.1.1	Annual Membership	Jul 2010
3.1.1.3	Temporary Membership (scratched)	Jul 2010
3.5.1.3	Scratched	Jul 2010
3.5.1.4	Renumbered to 3.5.1.3	Jul 2010
3.5.2.3	Scratched	Jul 2010
3.5.2.4	Renumbered to 3.5.2.3	Jul 2010
3.7	Code of Conduct – moved to Chapter 1	Jul 2010
3.1.1.2.1	Entry of day members	Sep 2010
3.3.1.4.1	Colour of numbers	Sep 2010
3.3.1.4.3	Reflective strips on bibs of child riders	Sep 2010
3.4.1.2	Entry of riders younger than 10 years	Sep 2010
3.4.1.1.1	Child riders	Nov 2010
3.4.2	Junior and Young riders	Nov 2010
3.4.3	Senior riders	Nov 2010
3.4.4	Scratched	Nov 2010
3.4.5	Renumbered to 3.4.4	Nov 2010
3.4.6	Renumbered to 3.4.5	Nov 2010
3.4.7	Renumbered to 3.4.6	Nov 2010
3.4.8	Renumbered to 3.4.7	Nov 2010
3.4.3.2.1	Weight categories (moved from 3.4.7.1)	17 Apr 2011
3.4.3.2.2	Weight categories and team selection	17 Apr 2011
3.4.7.1	Weight categories (Moved to 3.4.3.2.1)	17 Apr 2011
3.4.7.2	Renumbered to 3.4.7.1	17 Apr 2011
3.4.7.3	Renumbered to 3.4.7.2	17 Apr 2011
3.4.7.4	Renumbered to 3.4.7.3	17 Apr 2011
3.4.7.5	Renumbered to 3.4.7.4	17 Apr 2011
3.4.7.6	Renumbered to 3.4.7.5	17 Apr 2011
3.4.7.7	Renumbered to 3.4.7.6	17 Apr 2011
3.1.2.1	Membership administration	6 Nov 2011
3.4.1.5	Age of riders accompanying child riders	6 Nov 2011
3.4.1.11.2	Departure time of child rider	6 Nov 2011
3.4.3.1.3	Selection of teams	6 Nov 2011
3.3.2.1	Neatness of riders	10 May 2013
3.4.2.3	Junior riders to senior weight category	4 July 2014
3.4.2.3	Junior riders to senior weight riders – amended to HW only	15 January 2016
3.3.7	Riding crops	15 January 2017
3.3.7	Riding crops (rule rescinded)	25 March 2017
3.4.1.3	Child rider and senior	25 July 2018
3.4.1.6	Child rider and senior	25 July 2018
3.4.1.8	Child rider and senior	25 July 2018
3.4.3.2	Category Weight - Light and Standard Weight	22 October 2018
3.3.5	Stirrups – Safety cages	22 October 2018

3.4.7.3	Riding equipment	22 October 2018
3.4.7.4	Minimum riding weight	22 October 2018
3.4.7.4	Minimum riding weight	28 January 2019
3.1.2.2	Membership administration	24 February 2019
3.1.2.4	Club membership administration	24 February 2019
3.3.1	Rider Numbers: inserted – from registration, weigh in and at vetting	24 April 2021
3.3.1.4	Inserted: a number issued by the ride organiser	24 April 2021
3.4.5	Scratched	24 April 2021
3.4.6	Scratched	24 April 2021
3.1.2.2	Late registrations for members	17 February 2022
3.2.1	Logbooks – amended	7 November 2022
3.2.2	Scratched	7 November 2021
3.4.	Amended to read Age, Rider Weight, and Classification of riders	7 November 2022
3.4.5	Classification of Riders	7 November 2022
3.4.5.1	Novice Riders	7 November 2022
3.4.5.2	Endurance Riders	7 November 2022
3.4.7	Renumbered to 3.4.6	7 November 2022
3.4.5.1	Novice Riders- rule to be implemented from the 1 June 2023	1 April 2023
3.4.5.1	Novice Riders – rule to be implemented from 1 January 2024	21 October 2023
3.4.1.11.2	Child handed over to senior at control point	24 June 2024
3.4.3.1.1	Once a rider chooses to ride in the junior or senior category – they may NOT change going forward until the year they turn 21	24 June 2024
3.4.1.9	Child may during a ride be ha3.4.3.1.2.1 handed over to another senior, only after completion of a leg	24 June 2024
3.4.3.1.2	Scratched	24 June 2024
3.4.3.1.2.1	Renumbered to 3.4.3.1.1.1	24 June 2024
3.4.3.1.2.2	Renumbered to 3.4.3.1.1.2	24 June 2024
3.4.3.1.3	Scratched	24 June 2024
3.4.3.1.3.1	Scratched	24 June 2024
3.4.3.1.3.2	Scratched	24 June 2024
3.4.3.1.3.2.1	Scratched	24 June 2024
3.1.3.1.3.2.2	Scratched	24 June 2024
3.4.3.2.1.1	Light Weight changed to less than 70kg	8 Nov 2025
3.4.3.2.1.2	Standard Weight changed to more than 70km	8 Nov 2025
3.1.1.2	DAY RIDERS – fee change	9 Feb 2026

31. MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

3.1.1 Membership.

Only riders who are members of an ERASA club can participate in endurance rides.
Membership includes:

3.1.1.1 Annual membership. (also refer to the Constitution).

- 3.1.1.1.1 Riders can join a club affiliated with ERASA against payment of an annual membership fee (as determined by the club) as well as the prescribed affiliation fee (as determined by the ERASA Council).
- 3.1.1.1.2 Membership is valid for one endurance year (see Constitution). The names and particulars of members who participate as riders in endurance rides during the period 1 – 31 December of any year, but do not affiliate for that specific endurance year will be removed from the ride results as if they never participated.
- 3.1.1.1.3 Riders who join for a year may participate in all rides that are presented under the auspices of ERASA, against payment of an entry fee as determined by the ride committee and subject to the requirements as laid down in the rules and regulations of ERASA.

3.1.1.2 Day membership.

Non-members of ERASA may participate in rides by paying a day membership fee, which will be determined annually by the Council and applies to each event entered into.

- 3.1.1.2.1 Day members may only enter for distances up to and including 40km, against payment of an entry fee as determined by the ride committee and subject to the requirements as laid down in the rules and regulations of ERASA.
- 3.1.1.2.2 There is no limitation on the number of rides for which a person may enter as day member.
- 3.1.1.2.3
- 3.1.1.2.4 To protect inexperienced day riders the Ride Master can:
 - Link the day rider to an experienced senior rider (similar to a child rider), or
 - Make use of a "pace-rider". This "pace-rider" shall be an experienced senior rider who will ride ahead of or with a group of day riders at a steady pace, to prevent day riders overexerting their horses. No day rider shall be allowed to pass the "pace-rider".
 - This decision rests with the Ride Master doing duty at the ride, and it is not compulsory.

3.1.2 **Proof of membership.**

No proof of membership is issued by ERASA. The names of paid-up members appear in the central membership database which is available on the ERASA web site.

3.1.2.1 It is the responsibility of the ride committee to make a print-out of the membership database not earlier than the Thursday morning before the ride, and to check that the names of all riders who enter for the ride appear in the database.

3.1.2.2 The particulars of new members who join a club and affiliate with ERASA will be added to the membership database as soon as possible after the documentation was submitted to the ERASA office. To simplify ride administration new members will only be added to the database **until 14:00 on MONDAY**, to so allow ride committees to verify entries against the database (refer article 3.1.2.1 above). A member can participate in rides as a full member as soon as his/her particulars appear in the membership database. **Late registration up until Tuesday 17h00 before the event can be done subject to a penalty of R500 per registration.**

3.1.2.3 In cases where the specific member's name does not appear in the database, and where the member can submit proof that the documentation was submitted to the ERASA office before **14:00 on the Monday** before the ride, the member shall be allowed to participate in the ride. If the information provided by the member later proves to be incorrect, the member will not be given credit for the ride or for the kilometers ridden.

3.1.2.4 A club will have the discretion to apply a cut of date for their members to register with the club. This will enable the club to finalise all documentation before sending to ERASA.

32 LOGBOOKS

3.2.1 Riders (with the exception of day riders) may keep a rider log book for their own records and can obtain a log book from their club or ERASA offices

33 IDENTIFICATION, DRESS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE RIDER

3.3.1 **Rider numbers.**

All riders must wear a rider number at all rides, from registration process, weigh in and when vetting. This rider number can either be a number issued by the ride committee, a permanent club number, an honorary number, a provincial team number or a national team number.

3.3.1.1 It is the sole responsibility of the rider to ensure that the rider number is always clearly visible.

3.3.1.2 Numbers awarded to riders who obtained honorary colours (one, two or three stars, previously Springbok number) remain their property. They may ride with these numbers at all pre-rides until such time as honorary colours are withdrawn from them for any particular reason.

3.3.1.3 Members of national and provincial teams can wear special national or provincial team numbers at competitions, if so, allowed by the organisers of the competition. Should this not be allowed, team members will be recognised by their team gear.

3.3.1.4 The ERASA office will allocate a permanent rider number to all members with their first affiliation with ERASA, and riders shall ride with this number at all rides presented under the auspices of ERASA (riders who forget their numbers at home shall be allowed to ride with a number issued by the ride organiser, see below).

3.3.1.4.1 Riders shall have their own numbers (black numbers against a yellow, neon-yellow or neon-green background) made.

- Numbers shall be at least 100mm high, and the black lines that form the number must be at least 15mm wide.
-
- The yellow/neon-yellow/neon green block on which the numbers are displayed, shall be at least 300mm wide and 200mm high (for adults), or 200mm wide by 150mm high (for children). Numbers to be displayed on both front and back of shirt

3.3.1.4.2 The black and yellow/green numbers can be permanently attached to either a bib, a golf shirt, or a jacket. The colour of the bib, shirt or jacket shall be decided on by the Provincial where the club of which the rider is a member is affiliated.

3.3.1.4.3 For child riders a red or orange reflective strip of 50mm wide and at least 15mm long must be worked onto the bib, both above and below the numbers, to so make them clearly identifiable as child riders.

3.3.1.5 Ride committees must ensure that they have sufficient additional rider bibs available for the use of day riders and riders who have forgotten their permanent numbers at home.

3.3.2 Neatness or riders

3.3.2.1 Riders must be always dressed neatly and appropriately. Their dress should not be detrimental to the image of the sport of endurance riding, and riders must always convey a neat and sporty image. It is recommended that riders wear appropriate riding attire (shirts to include a collar). Riders are not allowed to wear shorts whilst riding.

3.3.2.2 It is encouraged that riders wear club, provincial, national or honorary colours to prize giving ceremonies.

3.3.2.3 The use of loose hanging earrings or other jewellery which could possibly get stuck on equipment or vegetation on route is discouraged.

3.3.3 **Rider helmet.** It is compulsory for all riders to wear rider helmets during all rides. Rider helmets shall be always worn when the rider is mounted whilst at the ride venue (including when horses are exercised or warmed up). This also applies to all other persons

(including children of all ages) who are led on horseback at the ride venue. Rider helmets shall be properly fastened when worn.

3.3.3.1 These rider helmets shall be proven high-speed sports safety helmets.

3.3.3.2 It is highly recommended that riders will purchase rider helmets which were specifically designed for equestrian sport, and which meet either the European standard (EN1384), the British standard (PAS 015) or the American standard (ASTM F1163, or ASTM/SEI certified).

3.3.4 During all rides that take place at night time, riders shall attach reflective strips of at least 15mm wide and 100mm long to the front and back of the rider helmet, to the back of the saddle and to the back of the stirrups.

3.3.5 **All stirrups MUST have a safety cage fitted to the front of the stirrup.**

3.3.6 Spores, whips (with the exception of lunging whips which are used when the horse is lunged at the ride venue) and sjamboks are not allowed at endurance rides.

3.3.7 The use of crops is allowed at all rides under ERASA rules, under condition that the crops meet the following requirements:

- Maximum length 75 cm
- The crop shall end in a double leather flap of minimum 1,5 cm wide and 7,5 cm in length.

Excessive use of a crop (in the opinion of the ride master) will lead to disciplinary action.

3.4 AGE, WEIGHT CATEGORIES AND CLASSIFICATION OF RIDERS

3.4.1 Child riders

3.4.1.1 Riders participate as child riders in endurance rides from the beginning of the year in which they turn ten (10) years of age until the end of the year during which they turn thirteen (13) years of age. No weight limitations apply to this category (i.e. there is no minimum prescribed weight for riders participating in this category).

3.4.1.2 Riders under the age of ten (10) may participate in club rides of the Association but are regarded as day riders and may only enter for distances up to and including 40km. All rules as applicable to child riders also apply to riders under the age of ten (10) years.

3.4.1.3 Child riders may only participate in an endurance ride if a senior rider accepts responsibility for them. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardian of the child rider to arrange for a suitable senior rider to accompany the child. The senior rider shall always accompany the child **on the course**.

3.4.1.4 Seniors who accompany children shall:

3.4.1.4.1 Be a member of an endurance club.

3.4.1.4.2 Participate as riders in the specific ride.

- 3.4.1.5 Any rider entered for the senior category may accompany child riders. Riders entered for the young rider category may accompany child riders from the first day of the year in which the rider turns eighteen (18).
- 3.4.1.6 The senior must be prepared to stay with the child for the full length of the **course**. Once a senior has accepted responsibility for the child(ren), he/she must remain with the child(ren) for the full length of the **course**, whether it is a single or multiple day ride.
- 3.4.1.7 A senior may accompany a maximum of three (3) children at club and provincial rides, and two (2) at a national ride.
- 3.4.1.8 Both senior and child(ren) will be disqualified if they are separated at any stage on the **course**. The senior and child(ren) under his/her guardianship should at all times be within hearing distance from one another whilst on the course (the senior shall at all times be able to communicate with the child(ren) without the use of any aids).
- 3.4.1.9 A child may during a ride be handed over to another senior, only after completion of a leg.
- 3.4.1.10 If a senior is of the opinion that a child rider is guilty of misbehaviour whilst on the course, or if the child does not adhere to the instructions given by the senior, the senior may (after consultation with the ride master) request that the child be disqualified, where after the senior shall be allowed to continue with the ride.
- 3.4.1.11 The following applies when either the senior or child rider is unable to continue with the ride
- 3.4.1.11.1 **En route:**
- If the senior cannot continue, it is his/her responsibility to hand the child(ren) over to another suitable and responsible senior who is mounted and competing in the ride, who will accompany the child to the next checkpoint. On completion of the loop, the parent or guardian of the child may hand the child to another senior (of the parent or guardian's choice). Time lost by the child will not be compensated for. The original senior (who handed the child over to another senior) may not continue with the ride.
 - If the child is unable to continue, the senior is to remain with the child until the child can be placed in the care of a non-competing responsible adult (i.e. parent, guardian or course official). This person must arrange for the child to either be accompanied to the previous or next checkpoint (whichever is closer), and to report to the timekeepers and veterinary panel that the child is unable to continue. Time lost by the senior rider will not be compensated for. The child involved is not allowed to continue with the ride.

3.4.1.11.2 **At a checkpoint:**

- If the senior cannot continue (or, in the case of a ride under stepladder rules, decides to stop the step ladder after his/her horse was inspected and found fit to continue by the veterinary panel), the parents or guardian may approach another experienced senior to accompany the child. The original departure time of the child will still apply in such a case, and time lost whilst the child waits for another senior (whether because a senior was not immediately available, or due to the fact that the departure time of the senior involved is after that of the child) will be compensated for.
 - A child rider will be allowed to depart with a senior whose departure time is earlier than that of the child, but only if:
 - At rides under "compulsory hold" rules, a minimum of thirty (30) minutes elapsed since the arrival of the child rider at the check point (i.e. the horse should have rested for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes). These thirty (30) minutes include the veterinary inspection (where the child's horse was found fit to continue).
 - At rides under the "gate system" rules, the child's horse was already found fit to continue by the veterinary panel, and a minimum of thirty (30) minutes lapsed after the horse was inspected by the veterinary panel.

The child rider's departure time will be changed in the time keeping system to be the same as the departure time of the senior rider with whom the child rider will now depart and the child rider's riding time will be calculated with the new departure time as starting point.
- If the child cannot continue (or, in the case of a ride under stepladder rules, decides to stop the step ladder after his/her horse was inspected and found fit to continue by the veterinary panel), the senior may continue at the indicated departure time, providing the child was left in the care of parents, guardian or another responsible adult.

3.4.1.12 Child riders may enter for rides longer than eighty (80) kilometers, on condition that the maximum distance entered for does not exceed:

- 120km in one day.
- 160km on two consecutive days.
- 210km on three consecutive days.

3.4.1.13 Participation of child teams, whether at club, provincial, national, or international level is not allowed.

3.4.2 Juniors and Young Riders

- 3.4.2.1 Riders participate in this category from the beginning of the year during which they turn fourteen (14) years of age, and can continue to participate in this category until the end of the year in which they turn twenty-one (21) years of age. No weight limitations apply to this category (i.e. there is no minimum prescribed weight for riders participating in this category).

3.4.2.1.1 When junior/young rider teams are selected, only achievements in the junior/young rider category will be considered, and rides in which riders participated as child riders will not be taken into consideration. Also refer to Article 3.4.3.1.3.

3.4.2.2 Junior/Young Riders may participate in team context at all levels (see Chapter 5).

3.4.2.3 Junior/Young Riders may participate as a senior from sixteen (16) of age in the Heavy weight category should they meet the minimum weight as prescribed in 3.4.3.2.1.

Permission to ride in this category must be obtained from the ERASA General Manager.

3.4.3 Senior riders

3.4.3.1 A person can participate in this category from the beginning of the year in which he/she turns eighteen (18) years of age, and must participate in this category from the beginning of the year in which he/she turns twenty-one (21) years of age.

3.4.3.1.1 In the year which the rider turns 18 (eighteen) the rider may choose to ride as a Junior Young Rider or as a Senior.

3.4.3.1.1.1 This choice is fixed, and if a junior/young rider rides their first ride as a senior, he/she may not compete as a junior/young rider going forward.

3.4.3.1.1.2 Riders must take into consideration that they will be ranked based on the latest category of participation.

3.4.3.2 For rides of eighty (80) kilometres and longer, senior riders are divided into weight categories.

3.4.3.2.1 Senior riders are divided into weight categories as follows:

3.4.3.2.1.1 **Light weight: Less than 70kg.**

3.4.3.2.1.2 **Standard weight: 70 kg to less than 95kg.**

3.4.3.2.1.3 Heavy Weight: 95 kg and more.

3.4.3.2.2 When teams are selected, the following applies to riders who participated across weight categories within the senior category during the period applicable to team selection:

3.4.3.2.2.1 Riders who only participated in endurance rides in the senior light weight category (including the FEI "No Weight" category) will only be considered for senior light weight teams.

- 3.4.3.2.2 Riders who participated in endurance rides in the senior light weight category (including the FEI “No Weight” category) as well as in the senior standard weight category will be considered for both senior light weight and senior standard weight teams, as well as for combined senior standard and heavy weight teams.
- 3.4.3.2.3 Riders who participated in endurance rides in the senior standard weight category as well as in the senior heavy weight category will be considered for both senior standard weight and senior heavy weight teams, as well as for combined senior standard and heavy weight teams.
- 3.4.3.2.4 Riders who only participated in endurance rides in the senior heavy weight category will be considered for senior heavy weight teams.

3.4.3.3 Senior riders may participate in team context at all levels. If the situation allows, organisers may also arrange team competitions within weight categories (See Chapter 5).

3.4.4 Veteran riders

3.4.4.1 Riders are regarded as veteran riders from the beginning of the endurance year in which they turn fifty (50) years of age. Participation as veteran riders is only possible if this category is made available by the ride committee.

3.4.4.2 Veteran riders may participate in team context at all levels, and a ride committee is free to present such competitions at a ride.

3.4.5 Classification of riders

3.4.5.1 Novice Rider

A novice rider is to complete 2 x 40km and then 2 x 80km (Trapleer).

- A speed restriction of 16kmph will apply.
- No senior required unless a child rider.
- No rest period for the novice rider

3.4.5.2 Endurance Rider

Once the rider has completed novice phase the rider will then be classified as an endurance rider and marked as such on the ERASA database.

- Riders may only participate in a 120km event after successfully completing a competitive 80km ride
- Riders may only participate in a 160km event after successfully completing a 120km ride

3.4.6 Weighing-in of riders

- 3.4.6.1 Riders may carry extra weights to qualify for the next (higher) weight category. These weights can be carried in a weights bag, or in any other way as approved by the weighing-in steward.
- 3.4.6.2 Riders are weighed in:
- 3.4.6.2.1 In dress similar to the dress in which they will ride.
 - 3.4.6.2.2 With the saddle, saddle cloth and other equipment which is carried on the saddle of the horse.
 - 3.4.6.2.3 Without the bridle and any protective equipment carried on the legs of the horse (such as brushing boots or tendon boots).
- 3.4.6.3 Riders **MUST** ride with all the equipment with which they weighed in at all times, and will be disqualified if any of the equipment is not carried. Should any of the equipment need to be changed for whatever reason, the ride master/s present at the ride **MUST** be informed and the rider will need to weigh again. The rider must stay in the same weight category as entered. Should the rider have two different saddles which they may use, the rider must weigh in with both saddles and the lightest saddle weight will be used.
- 3.4.6.4 The rider must at all times weigh more than the minimum riding weight of the specific weight category for which they have entered under penalty of disqualification. The rider is obliged to weigh immediately at any time during the event if requested to do so by an ERASA Official.
- 3.4.6.5 All riders (senior, junior and child) who enter for distances of 80km or longer (with the exception of step ladder riders) shall weigh in (this is required to determine the Best Conditioned Horse and for future team selection). Riders who enter for distances shorter than 80km and riders entering under the step ladder system are not divided into weight categories, and do not weigh in.
- 3.4.6.6 The weigh-in steward can weigh any rider at any stage during the ride to make sure that the rider still meets the requirements of the category for which he/she was entered. Riders who do not meet the requirements (taking article 3.4.7.4 into consideration) will be disqualified.

3.5 FOREIGNRIDERS, SOUTHAFRICANRIDERSWORKINGINFOREIGNCOUNTRIES

3.5.1 Foreign riders. Foreign riders may participate in rides held under the rules of ERASA.

3.5.1.1 Foreign riders shall:

- 3.5.1.1.1 Submit a letter of permission from the national federation of their country of origin.
- 3.5.1.1.2 Apply to the General Manager of ERASA for permission to participate in ERASA rides prior to participation. No fee is payable.

- 3.5.1.2 The General Manager shall issue permission in writing, authorising the foreign riders to participate in all rides taking place during their time of stay in South Africa.
- 3.5.1.3 Foreign riders do not have to qualify to participate in the Fauresmith 200, except if they resided in South Africa for a continuous period of more than six months during the qualification period. The horse on which he/she enters must be qualified.
- 3.5.2 South African citizens who work in foreign countries on a full-time basis.
 - 3.5.2.1 South African citizens who work in foreign countries on a full-time basis can still affiliate with ERASA.
 - 3.5.2.2 If they are affiliated with the national federation of the country in which they work, article 3.5.1.1 above applies.
 - 3.5.2.3 These persons do not have to qualify for the Fauresmith 200. For the purposes of this, "full time" is defined as a person who, during the qualifying period for the Fauresmith 200, was employed in a foreign country for a period of at least six months. The horse on which he/she enters must be qualified.

3.6 PARTICIPATION BY RIDERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- 3.6.1 Members of ERASA who want to participate in endurance rides presented under the rules of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) must affiliate as riders with the FEI and obtain a letter of permission as well as an international riders license prior to participation (all these matters are administered by the ERASA office). Riders shall enter through the ERASA office and SANEF for rides in foreign countries.
- 3.6.2 Members of ERASA who want to participate in foreign countries in other endurance rides (not under the rules of the FEI) shall obtain a letter of permission prior to participation (through the ERASA office).