

2022 RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS – February 17, 2021 – *Changes in Bold*

MAKE DATE OF DETERMINATION OF JUNIOR AGE CONSISTENT

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

A. Membership

1. Any person interested in the purposes of this organization may be eligible for membership upon proper application and payment of the required dues.
 - a. Yearly Membership
 - (1) Adult Competing Membership: Any person 18 years of age or over.
 - (2) Junior Competing Membership: Any person under the age of 18 as of the beginning of the ride year.
 - (3) Family Competing Membership: A household of one or two adults and children under the age of 18 as of **January 1 the beginning of the ride year.**

Rationale: The date to determine the age of a Junior should be the same for a Junior Competing Membership or as part of a Family Competing Membership.

ALLOW MEMBERSHIP IN MULTIPLE REGIONS

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

B. Regions

5. If the domicile and residence of the horse/rider are in different regions, or if the rider desires to compete in **a region one or more regions** other than that of the domicile, the rider must inform the NATRC Executive Director **of in** which region(s) the rider is competing at the time of the first ride in said region(s). **Neither a horse nor a rider may compete for regional points in more than one region in any year. A horse or rider may compete for regional points in more than one region in any year if rider pays membership dues for the additional region(s).**

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

B. Annual Awards

1. General
 - j. In order to qualify for annual **national** awards, the competing horse or rider must have completed at least three rides of any ride type in their designated region(s). (See Section 10 for Region 1A requirements). **In order to qualify for annual regional awards, the competing horse or rider must be a member of that region and have completed at least three rides of any ride type in that region.**

Rationale: This allows those who live in two different regions, or close to two different regions, to compete for points in both. This could increase ridership by allowing competitors to compete for more awards. It would also increase membership since the rider is paying for an additional region. Each supplemental membership for an additional region will be offered at partial cost. Free memberships only cover one region.

CORRECT REGION DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

B. Regions

1. There are presently six regions. Others will be established as needed.
 - c. Region 3: Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Alberta, **and** Saskatchewan **and Northwest Territories.**
 - e. Region 5: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan (excluding the upper peninsula), Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, **Newfoundland**, Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.
 - f. Region 6: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan (upper peninsula only) Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin; Manitoba and **Northwest Nunavut** Territories.

Rationale: Correct and clarify the region definitions. It was probably an oversight that Newfoundland had not been listed in the Rule Book. Nunavut Territory (to the east of the Northwest Territories) was officially separated from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999.

CLARIFY LIMITATIONS FOR NOVICE DIVISION

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Divisions
 - 2. Novice
 - e. Limitations
 - (5) Horse and rider combinations having won a National Championship or placed 3rd or higher in the NATRC annual high point awards (excluding regional awards) in any class **in Open or Competitive Pleasure** in any previous year are ineligible to compete in the Novice division except by participating Distance Only.

Rationale: A competitor should not be excluded from the Novice Division for having done well and placed in the annual awards. This could happen in one year.

LOWER AGE OF JUNIOR COMPETITORS – Option 1: All Divisions

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

- B. Classes
 - 3. Junior
 - a. Age **10 8** through 17. The rider must be **10 8** years old to enter competition; thereafter the age of a junior shall be determined by whatever their age is as of the beginning of the ride year, and this age shall continue throughout that ride year. **Riders must be able to care for their horse with minimal assistance. Riders 12 and under must ride with an adult sponsor, with a limit of two per sponsor.**
 - b. Juniors may compete in Open, Competitive Pleasure or Novice Division Heavyweight or Lightweight Classes if weight requirements are met. **Juniors may compete in Leisure Division Adult or Experienced Classes.**
- D. Eligibility of Riders
 - 1. All persons **10 years of age of minimum competitive age** or older are eligible to compete in NATRC except:

Rationale: We have received consistent requests to lower our eligible age. NATRC could be the best introduction of junior riders to distance riding. Children of this age are developmentally able to ride and care for horses. Often an adult competitor requires minimal assistance due to limited range of motion or recovery from a recent injury or surgery, so it is similar expectations for young riders.

CLARIFY LEG PROTECTION ALLOWED IN DO AND LEISURE

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

- C. Distance Only (DO) (not in competition)
 - 3. Horses may participate with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) **and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof protection.**

and

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

- E. Hoof Protection/ Leg Protection
 - 4. Horses in the Leisure Division may compete with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) **and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof or leg protection.**

and

SECTION 6 – JUDGING

- D. Leisure Division. Horses will be evaluated on trail ability and manners. Riders will be evaluated on equitation and partnership with the horse. Safety may be scored.
 - 5. Horses in the Leisure Division may compete with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) **and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof or leg protection.**

Rationale: Hoof boots and pads were not allowed for many years. "Temporary hoof protection" referred to boots such as Easy Boots which could be used until a shoe was replaced for the next day's ride. This concept is not applicable any more since all types of hoof boots that provide sole protection are allowed. Hoof protection and leg protection should read the same for DO and LeD.

ALLOW ADDITIONAL LEG GEAR DURING STABLING

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

E. Hoof Protection/ Leg Protection

3. Protective devices, such as bell boots, **or** splint boots, **or wraps are only allowed in Leisure Division or when participating Distance Only. Wraps are not only** permissible on the legs of horses **except** as part of hoof sole protections as allowed under Section 5 E2 **or during stabling as allowed under Section 5 E6.** The leg is defined as all structures above and including the coronet.
5. **Ice boots and other means of applying ice/ice water/cooling packs topically by various attachment methods are allowed. Devices that circulate ice water or cool below 0 degrees Celsius are prohibited.**
6. **After the day's final check, standing wraps and compression socks are allowed. No prohibited substances are allowed in conjunction with the application of wraps or socks (See Drug Appendices).**

Rationale: We already allow ice boots. These additional options also allow for more choices for horse care and relieve the confusion over which devices are permitted.