

DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Doing the Distance with you"

WHAT IS DRASA

DRASA is a limited distance Equestrian sport, called Competitive Trail Riding overseas, in which any and every horse and rider as a combination can participate as it is an exercise in strategised pace riding and a sport where the whole family is encouraged to participate. This is NOT a race or a competition sport to endurance riding. We would like to encourage a collaborative relationship with endurance growing both disciplines. The event results are based on a horse/rider combination and although a timed event, the combination with the highest score can win even though they may ride at the minimum speed set. The proliferation of "fun rides" currently happening is worrying as these rides are not regulated at all with no affiliation or compliance to SAEF or horse welfare rules. We would like to bring these "pleasure/fun" riders into a club base as well as a discipline affiliated to SAEF where we can regulate the speeds, distances and horse welfare as well as improve and educate riders in the necessary skills to later participate in endurance riding. The "draw card" for riders is the opportunity for recognition by awarding prizes for all winners of all categories as well as overall winners of the total distance.

OUTLINE OF THE SPORT

There are three judging categories

TIME

EQUINE and VETERINARY

HORSEMANSHIP

TIME

The horse and rider combination that completes the accurately measured distance at an average speed closest to their **nominated** speed within the set minimum and maximum speeds receives the full amount of points allocated to the time category

EQUINE AND VETERINARY

The horse that exhibits the best Veterinary condition and scoring based on accredited Veterinary measurements throughout the ride is the winner in the Equine judging section

HORSEMANSHIP

The rider that exercises the best horsemanship throughout the entire ride is declared the winner in this category.

TIME JUDGING:

The competitor enters as a horse and rider combination for a predetermined and accurately measured distance at a precisely nominated speed. For example:

- 10km/hour (4 hours riding time to complete 40 km)

- Grooming
- Suitability
- Warm Up Technique
- Neatness
- Checkpoint safety and courtesy
- Care of horse at campsite.
- Tack and Turnout
 - Fitting
 - Condition
 - Suitability
 - Cleanliness
 - Neatness
- Basic Equitation
 - Seat
 - Use of Aids
 - Mount and dismount.
 - Care of Horse while in checkpoint.

Trail judges evaluate the riders on the route in terms of:

- Trail Equitation
- Ride Strategy
- Navigation and negotiating of obstacles
- Care of horse at water points and on trail.
- 3 Judges will be present at each ride with one being situated out on the course at a pre-set obstacle

Points are awarded for good equitation, care of the horse and consideration for fellow riders. 33.3% of all attainable points are allocated to the horsemanship section of the ride.

ACCUMULATION OF POINTS:

Throughout the ride points are accumulated in the three categories:

- Time Section – 33.3% of the total points
- Veterinary Section – 33.3% of the total points
- Horsemanship Section – 33.3% of the total points

The points for the three categories are then totalled.

The horse and rider combination to obtain the highest total number of points in the three categories is declared the overall winner of the day.

These points then count towards the total for the overall championship at the end of the season. In order to come in line for prizes the winning riders must be at the prize giving ceremony.

There are awards for each division i.e. time, veterinary, and horsemanship.

There is also a team award for the team of 4 riders that accumulates the highest number of points in the three categories. The scores of the three highest scoring team members are taken into account to determine the winning team.

The Horse and rider combination that accumulates the most points over 4 of these events and the championships (inter Provincials) will be declared the overall champion for the year.

LEVELS OF THE SPORT

1. Pleasure:

- All horses of age 5 and above that have a passport suitably filled in and signed and stamped by SAEF as well as proof of necessary vaccinations may enter for the Pleasure level.
- The aim of this level is to introduce the horse and rider to the sport and to concentrate on horsemanship and horse fitness and welfare concerns.
- The combination must complete 3 rides without any elimination before they may advance to the next level.
- The distance in this level is limited to maximum 20kms in total to accommodate different horse breeds and family participation.
- The maximum and minimum speeds will be from 10km/h to 14km/h, and may be adjusted down according to conditions of the day and course.
- Horse/ Rider combinations may choose to stay at this level as this is a good entry level sport for those who just enjoy a trail ride, improving horsemanship and a day out with the family.
- DRASA will offer the first ride entry free of DRASA membership for the rider to experience the discipline. However for the next ride attended a nominal membership fee will be charged for the year.
- All horses competing at this level(after first introductory ride) will be registered on the DRASA database

2. Trail:

- All horses age 5 and above who have fulfilled the pleasure level criteria, OR if the rider can provide proof of the horse having completed 2 ERASA novice rides of 40km. These rides can then be used as training rides for the endurance horses.
- The distance in this level is limited to maximum 40kms in total to accommodate different horse breeds and families.
- The maximum and minimum speeds will be from 10km/h to 16km/h and may be adjusted down according to conditions of the day and course.
- Multiple day rides will also be offered at this level, example two 20km rides on separate days.
- All horses vetted out for any reason shall have compulsory rest periods imposed.
- All horses participating at this level will be registered on the DRASA database
- The annual DRASA membership fee for this level of rider shall be slighter higher than the Pleasure level member.