

ENDURANCE | INTERNATIONAL

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Can Malaysia Handle a Hundred?

AERC-I Committee Addresses Concerns at Convention Meeting

The concern over whether or not the country of Malaysia could—and should—be the site of the 2008 World Endurance Championship dominated the discussion at the recent AERC International Committee meeting, held February 25 during the annual AERC Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Just a few years ago, Malaysia was considered an “emerging nation” in FEI-level equestrian competition. Now, the country is on the map with some of the FEI’s premier events: the 2006 World Cup Jumping Final and the 2006 General Assembly Meeting, to be held together in Kuala Lumpur in October; the 2006 World Endurance Forum in July; and the 2008 World Endurance Championship.

Despite the country’s sudden rise in status as an arena for world-class equestrian competition, Malaysia is new to endurance. The first endurance rides were held there in 1998, and the country has held only one 160-km endurance event.

“Should the FEI be putting on the championship in Malaysia when the country has only had one one-day 100-mile ride?” asked USEF Endurance Committee Chairman Art Priesz, who reported that the FEI was going to require that at least two more 100-mile test events be held before the championship.

Other concerns about the venue were voiced during the meeting, including the potential for life-threatening conditions due to Malaysia’s hot, humid tropical environment, the concern over diseases that American horses might be exposed to, and the need for a more technical trail to reduce speed.

“Right now, the technical delegate is in charge of course design,” explained Priesz, “but most technical delegates don’t have the opportunity to work together in that much detail. A course designer could make the course more technical, which help control speed.”

Speed has always been an issue of concern for U.S. endurance riders, as many of the established 100-mile rides are too technical to enable riders to obtain their certificates of capability (COC) on them. In order to compete in an FEI championship, a horse and rider must have completed an FEI-sanctioned 160-km event within a specified time in order to obtain a COC.

“It also puts a restriction on who wants to hold an FEI ride,” said Priesz. “For instance, at Swanton [Pacific 100], finishing times there may not work well for trying to earn a COC, due to the technical nature of the course, the climate and the conditions. And the ride manager is not going to want to hold an FEI ride if no one will come.”

The first test event is tentatively scheduled for April, and the pre-ride will be held in July.

“Whether or not they pull it off, do we really even want to go to Malaysia,” asked Tony Benedetti. “It’s a cesspool of diseases. Peter Toft [of Australia] says that if it is a hot day in Malaysia, the course will be littered with dead horses. Malaysia is an emerging nation in endurance. Having the championship there goes against everything that we think is safe for our horses.”

International Committee member Mark Dial, who lives and works in

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Malaysia

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Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., said that there had been some discussion about moving the championship to Abu Dhabi if Malaysian organizers were unsuccessful in holding the two 160-km events that FEI is requiring. Priesz confirmed this.

“One of the reasons they came up with Abu Dhabi as a back-up plan is because they are concerned that the course might be shortened at the last minute,” explained Priesz. “This is one of the reason why FEI is requiring two tests. Otherwise, it will be moved to another location.”

International Committee member Mike Tomlinson, D.V.M., said, “Each problem can be overcome. The question is whether or not [Malaysia] can overcome these problems, and we simply won’t know that until after the rides in April and July.

Both Steph Teeter and Valerie Kanavy spoke in support of the championship being held in Malaysia.

“I don’t think it will be that difficult,” said Teeter. “They have a history in the sport and great enthusiasm for the sport.”

Kanavy, who plans to compete at both test rides, said, “I think it will be more of a championship than the others we had done because it will be a test of horsemanship. You have to think and you have to do. You ride slower and take care of your horse. Over the last several years, the quality of the veterinary staff and their decisions has been outstanding. I don’t have any fear of horses being in trouble or dying. I think it’s a great opportunity.”

Grace Ramsey also spoke in favor of the event, saying that the United States can do better at a ride like this than any other country in the nation.

The USEF plans to send a delegation to the forum, and the AERC International Committee will look into sending a representative, as well. — *Jennifer Nice*



AERC International Committee members Betty Baker, chairperson Kathy Brunjes and Carol Giles were among the many committee members who volunteered to man the AERC International booth during the Convention in San Antonio. They sold a variety of merchandise to raise money for the committee’s projects and answered questions about competing internationally.

USEF Budget Crunch

Endurance hopes to attract individual, association donors

In the face of significant cutbacks of the USEF High Performance budget, endurance may see its funds to send riders and support personnel to the World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany, in August cut by approximately \$100,000. Available funds may only be enough to cover the costs of getting the horses and three riders to Germany.

USEF is currently looking at developing corporate and institutional support, rather than relying solely on individual giving. Both the American Quarter Horse Association and the National Reining Horse Association help fund reining riders competing internationally. Endurance is hoping to establish a similar partnership with its breed organization, the Arabian Horse Association.

“We need to find a way both individually and through our discipline and major breed organizations to

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East Zone

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Your AERC-International Committee

Committee members are dedicated to international-level competition, both on the trail and off.

Competing as an international-level rider requires a substantial commitment. It demands time, money, effort, focus and sacrifice. Many of AERC's International Committee members are competitors. Others devote their time to promoting international riding on many different levels. In this issue, and in upcoming issues, *Endurance International* will profile these dedicated individuals.

Betty Baker

Betty Baker began distance riding with the Eastern Competitive Trail Riding Association (ECTRA) and has been an AERC member since 1991. She has logged more than 5,000 ECTRA miles and 4,000 AERC miles. In 1995, she was named treasurer for the USA East Zone, and in 2001, when her zone hosted the Pan American Championships in Vermont, Betty served on the Organizing Committee.

"I have been a scribe, secretary, fetch-it person, crew, rider and ride organizer," says Betty. "With these experiences has come the knowledge that each of us is an intricate part of the other in this sport and none can function without the other."

Betty works as a financial advisor with a major brokerage house, where she specializes in portfolio management and retirement planning. As such, she has been able to contribute her financial expertise to helping the AERC's Finance and International committees.

"My professional career has made me a very detail-oriented person, or maybe the other way around, and this has come in useful, as I juggle being a mother of three, wife, career person and endurance rider."

In 2005, Betty competed in the North American Championships on her husband Steve's horse, for which she earned the Individual Bronze medal for her zone and an opportunity to try for the National Team to



Betty Baker and Synematic at the 2004 North American Championships.

represent the United States in Aachen this August.

The Bakers own a small horse farm in Honey Brook, Pennsylvania. They currently own seven horses ranging in age from 2 to 12.

"We prefer to train our own horses from the ground up, and get great satisfaction in seeing our youngsters grow into wonderfully talented endurance horses," says Betty. "They also teach us year in and year out how much more we still have to learn to always become a better horseperson."

The Bakers' training program entails starting their young horses with limited distance and competitive trail rides, and then moving them up to longer distances as they mature. Their goal is to produce a well-based, sound 100 mile horse.

Betty says that there is room for all interests in endurance. "Distance riding is like a wheel with many spokes, whether it is the LD riders, multi-day riders, junior riders, or international riders, we are all part of the same wheel. It is my belief that the AERC organization should embrace all these

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various aspects of our sport and promote each one as unique and important to the whole of our organization. I especially feel that we should be proud of our international riders that sacrifice so much to pursue a level of excellence that every American sport aspires to. These riders are AERC's ambassadors. They represent our country around the world, all the while elevating the importance of sportsmanship, horsemanship and horse welfare."

Mike Tomlinson, D.V.M

Mike Tomlinson, D.V.M. got hooked on horses in the fifth grade, and from that point on, his life has been focused on them. In high school, Mike wanted to become an agriculture teacher. It soon became evident, though, after attending a variety of equestrian events, that the only person consistently earning a living at the events was the veterinarian. And so off to vet school Mike went, earning his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of California at Davis. His first job after picking up his diploma and license was at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, where he worked on several of the competing horses.

Mike started a private practice limited to performance horses. He also began officiated at more and more FEI events, and all appeared well until

returning from the World Equestrian Games in Stockholm, Sweden, when several of his clients explained that he could not be gone for six weeks straight; he had to choose between his practice and working at the events.

Because Mike had been consulting with several businesses on how they could better run their companies, it was clear which way he was to go. So back to school he went, this time earning his MBA. He was hired as the CFO for one of the businesses with which he had previously been consulting, getting in writing the proviso that he would have adequate time off to attend the equestrian events. This proviso has continued ever since, while he has both started businesses and worked as CFO, CEO or COO of several corporations.

Mike has worked an average of 20 events a year since 1984. He has been chef d'equipe for the USET Endurance Team and USET Team Vet for numerous competitions, including three World Equestrian Games. He is an FEI vet for dressage, endurance and jumping, an FEI steward, and is an FEI 'O' judge in endurance. In 2005 he officiated at nine dressage, six endurance and four jumping FEI events worldwide. He also developed or taught four FEI officials' courses and attended numerous national, regional and local events.

Mike lives in Thousand Oaks, California, where he rides with his wife Debbie and two young sons, Matthew and Scott. Debbie is an accomplished dressage rider training PSG and competing 4th level on horses which she takes pride in having started under saddle herself.

Michele Roush, D.V.M

Michele Roush, DVM, of French Corral, California has been riding for more than 30 years. She rose through the ranks of pony club and achieved an "A" rating by age 18. She started competing in endurance 11 years ago, coming in to it from the grueling sport of ride & tie.

Michele considers herself an all-purpose endurance rider. In addition to competing, she also works as a ride veterinarian and occasionally helps manage rides. She has also served on the AERC Veterinary Committee and has been a USEF selector at both the zone and national level.

She has more than 9,000 AERC miles to-date. "While recently, many of those miles have been top 10, I have often found myself in the middle or back of the pack," says Michele. "I've competed on more than 25 different horses, and I've tried to ride each and every one to its best ability."

Michele has competed at the regional, national and international level,

USEF Names National Training Squad

The following riders are members of the National Training Squad based on points earned at a selection trial in 2005:

Betty Baker
Nina Barnett
Kathy Brunjes
Carl Bruno
Julie Bullock
Sandra Connor
Patti Crawford
Kathy Downs
Crockett Dumas
Sarah Engsberg
Hal Hall
Sue Hedgecock

Carolyn Hock
Valerie Kanavy
Ona Lawrence
Gabrielle Mann
Lois McAfee
Danielle McGunigal
Joe Mattingley
Jennifer Neihaus
Stagg Newman
Alexandra North
Heather Reynolds
Christoph Shork
Sandy Schuler
Meg Sleeper
Joyce Sousa
Vicki Stanislawski
Heather Stevens

Sue Summers
Gloria Vanderford
Barry Waitte
Tracy Webb
Nicole Wiere
Dian Woodward
Jan Worthington
Gail Zeck

2006 USEF National Selection Committee:

Linda Strelnik, Chair
Jerry Hamilton
Becky Harris
Tom Johnson, Chef d'Equipe
Ann Stuart, DVM, Team Vet

Endurance.net's John and Steph Teeter are hosting an email list, US.Team@endurance.net, The list will be used as a management tool for the WEG effort. Anyone involved in supporting the U.S. team can subscribe to the list by contacting Mary Lutz or Tom Johnson.



Michele Roush has logged more than 9,000 AERC miles on 25 horses.

and she enjoys the varied aspects of the different levels of competition.

“I believe that riders at every level, from limited distance to international, should strive for excellence in horsemanship, equitation, and performance,” she says. “We are a small community, and we should embrace each other in a spirit of sportsmanship and shared passion for our incredible equine partners. I hope to do my part, not only by continuing to be competitive, have fun, and take better care of my horses, but also by helping other people do well in the sport.”



Carol Giles

Carol Giles grew up in the Colorado Rockies where, at the age of 4, her parents bought Carol her first horse. After a youth “misspent” barrel racing, Carol moved to Central Oregon in the mid-1980s to pursue a career in nursing. While there, one of the local physicians asked her if she would be interested in training his endurance horses.

“The fact that I did not have a clue what endurance racing was did not dampen my enthusiasm for taking on the job,” says Carol. “Little did I know, that was to be my introduction

Carol Giles has been competing in endurance since the mid-1980s.

into the sport that has since become my passion.”

Carol took a break from endurance riding in the late 1980s to attend law school. After living in Alaska and spending time jumping with the local riding club, that same physician who introduced Carol to endurance persuaded her to marry him and return to Central Oregon. “My husband, Ron Sproat, and I now enjoy breeding, raising, training and selling endurance horses,” says Carol.

There’s Still Time to Nominate for WEG Team

Interested riders still have an opportunity to make the National Training Squad by nominating for a Wild Card slot and completing one of the three following CEI*** observation trials within 130% of the winning time for that trial:

- May 20:** Owyhee, Oreana, ID
- May 27:** Grand Island, Rapid River, MI
- June 11:** Fort Howes, Ashland, MT

Following the final trial, any additions to the National Training Squad will be named. From that list, the top 12 horse and rider teams and six ranked alternates will be named.

The deadline to nominate for a Wild Card slot is May 29. For information and forms, contact Mary Lutz at USEF.



2007 Pan American Championship

Manitoba, Canada has been selected as the site for the 2007 Pan American Championships. The location was the site of the 1999 Pan Ams. According to Myna Crydermann, manager of the 1999 and 2007 events, the course will be similar. The date is set for July 7, 2007. The pre-ride will be held July 8, 2006, and will be dual AERC and FEI sanctioned. An FEI international passport will be required for U.S riders traveling to Canada.

Support AERC’s international effort by advertising in **ENDURANCE INTERNATIONAL**. For more information and rates, contact Jennifer Nice at 817-270-2874 or email jnice@pjarvis.com

Carol has logged 5,425 AERC miles and has completed 16 100-mile races. In 2002, she was an alternate to the WEG team. At the 2003 Pan American Championship, Carol and her horse, SAR Tiki Stranger, finished 12th. Stranger and Carol were members of the 2004 WEG team that competed in Dubai, UAE. At the North American Championships held in 2005, Stranger and Carol were proud to be a member of the PacNorth silver medal team. Carol has been the PacNorth zone representative for the past several years and now sits on the USEF Technical Committee.

Holly Ulyate

Holly Ulyate has been an endurance rider since 1975 and has accumulated close to 6,000 miles in all different classes of endurance rides. She has also been a ride manager, ride photographer and a member of the AERC board in the early 1980s. Holly has been very involved with the Mountain Region Endurance Riders for many years and was inducted into the MRER Hall of Fame in 1999. For the past 10 years, Holly has presented a clinic in the Denver area for budding endurance riders, helping quite a few launch their distance riding careers. In 2002 she was invited to Guatemala to conduct a three-day clinic.

Holly and her Bezatal son Beztez rode for the USA Mountain Zone at the Flagstaff NAEC in 1995 and were long listed for the 1996 WEC in Kansas. Holly has served as USA Mountain Zone chef d'equipe for the 2003 PAC (team silver medal) and 2005 NAEC (individual gold medal) and is a current member of the AERC-International Committee, where her



Holly Ulyate has been competing in endurance for more than 30 years.

main contribution has been the creation of the USA Endurance web pages on the AERC website.

As far as her thoughts on endurance and international, Holly says "There's a lot more to endurance riding than not falling off your horse, following the ribbons, counting to 15 and multiplying by four. Here's a great venue that requires riders to have a solid base of endurance horsemanship skills, both on and off the horse. International also helps competitors focus on the question, 'How good can I and my horse be?' Besides, the championships are always a great party, where you get to meet endurance riders from all over North America. It is expensive, but if you plan it right you can spread the costs out over the two years between each continental championship. So get out there on your horse, ride some 100s, and come join the fun!"

Editor's Note

On behalf of the AERC International committee, I would like to welcome you to the first issue of the new ENDURANCE INTERNATIONAL newsletter. In this issue and in future issues, you will find useful information to help you get involved in competing in endurance at the international

level. The newsletter will also bring you information about what's going on in FEI-level endurance in the U.S. and around the world. Of course, it is a work in progress. Because this is the first issue, I thought it would be appropriate to profile some of the AERC-I committee members, who are also international competitors.

Budget Crunch

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find ways to help fund international," said Art Priesz.

Individuals can continue to help fund the American endurance team. Donations can now be made to a specific discipline.

"Gold, silver and bronze medal membership levels allow the money to be earmarked for endurance," said Priesz. "However, the best way to make sure that donations are earmarked for endurance is to send the money to the USET Foundation directly. If we can show that more people have joined in donating money individually, it makes a difference when we need to ask for more money from USEF."



New Venue, New Name Unveiled

On Dec. 6, 2005, the FEI announced that the Kentucky Horse Park has been awarded the 2010 World Equestrian Games. It will be the first time the WEG is hosted outside Europe.

The FEI also announced a name change for the WEG, which will now be called the FEI Games. The decision was made to clarify the ownership of the FEI World Equestrian Games and to establish an impacting long-term brand structure. According to an FEI news release, "The new brand will be understood by all and improve the marketability of the most prestigious property of the FEI portfolio.

Look for profiles on the other committee members in upcoming issues. Equally fitting for this first issue is Carol Giles' article about getting involved in international competition. If there is something you would like to see in future issue, let me know, as I am always looking for new ideas and feedback.

CAS Renders Decision in WC Drug Case

The FEI has received the decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in the matter of the appeal concerning the winner of the 2005 FEI Endurance World Championship, Sheikh Hazza bin Sultan al Nahyan (UAE). The outcome of the decision is that Sheikh Hazza is disqualified after his horse Hachim tested positive to the prohibited substance Methylprednisolone.

On 28 April, the FEI Judicial Committee had dismissed the positive medication case concerning Hachim, due to an irregularity in the usual legal procedure, whereby Sheikh Hazza was denied the possibility to send a witness to the laboratory to attend the confirmatory analysis.

In this case, the CAS panel was faced with determining where the delicate balance should lie between the strict liability afforded to riders by the FEI's medication control rules and the due process rights of athletes. The FEI Judicial Committee panel that initially considered the matter decided on the basis of the facts and law before them that under the circumstances, Sheikh Hazza's procedural rights prevailed. After considering very substantial briefs as well as new written and oral testimony from all parties, the CAS panel decided that the balance rather lies in favour of the rules enacted by the FEI General Assembly to ensure a level playing field.

The FEI has consistently main-

tained a strong stance against doping, but has always been mindful of athletes' due process rights. This is often a subtle process. "The CAS panel paid close attention to this issue and rendered a useful decision," said Alexander McLin, the FEI Legal Director. "It reiterated the strong legal foundations supporting sports federations' rights to autonomous governance and rulemaking, and distinguished athletes' procedural rights in a private sports environment from those involved in facing criminal prosecution. As a result, while the Judicial Committee's decision is set aside, there is much that is positive in this decision, including a welcome answer to certain difficult procedural queries, such as the ability for the FEI to qualify or limit the rights of athletes in the testing process."

FEI President HRH Doña Pilar de Borbón commented: "I believe that the CAS decision is fair for equestrian sport. We are fighting hard for a clean sport, and have made tremendous efforts to put the federation's anti-doping rules for horses in line with the WADA code. The doping of a horse is perfectly unacceptable as, contrary to a human athlete, the horse is not in a position to accept or refuse the treatment it receives".

Sven Holmberg (SWE), Chairman of the FEI Task Force on Doping and Medication policy established at the end of 2004 added, "This deci-



sion is perfectly in line with the spirit of the Task Force recommendations. Regardless of formalities, the bottom-line of the case is that the horse indisputably tested positive and had to be disqualified to restore sports equity".

The new official results of the FEI World Endurance Championship, held in Dubai on 27 January 2005 are the following:

Individual Gold: Barbara Lissarague (FRA) on Gorgeat

Silver: HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum (UAE) on Nashmi

Bronze: HE Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan (UAE) on Mindari Aenzac

There is no change to the Team medals.



From left to right: Three-time world champion Becky Hart, farrier Blake Brown and Chef d'Equipe Tom Johnson at the Spring National Training Squad Clinic, held March 3 and 4 at Al Marah-Marah Arabians in Tucson, Arizona. Photos by Steph Teeter.

FEI from Start to Finish

Your Complete Guide to Getting Started in FEI-Level Endurance Competition

By Carol Giles

The steps necessary to prepare for your first FEI ride can initially seem overwhelming. The following is a step-by-step guide to your journey. It will tell you what to do and how to do it. Each section contains an estimated time to complete and will emphasize important points with the highlighted word “NOTE.”

You should plan to start the process no less than 12 weeks before your first FEI competition and, if at all possible, even earlier than that. As you will find, much of this time will be spent waiting for the return of documents from various entities. NOTE: Do not wait to complete one step before proceeding to the next. You should try to work your way through all of the steps and delay completion of a particular step only when you are waiting for required information or documents to be returned to you. You should also keep copies of every form/application that you submit. Each step also outlines the costs involved. Some costs vary depending on the type and number of FEI rides you ride.

Step One: Be a Current Member of AERC and AERC-International (renew annually).

If you are not already an AERC member, go to www.aerc.org. Click on the upper left “Membership” button then “Join/Renew”, then “Join”. From there, join AERC and AERC-I using either the online or paper application. In either case, the top half of the form deals with your membership into AERC. To join AERC-I, toward the bottom of this application it will ask for “The number of international members”. Indicate in that spot your desire to be an international member. A single membership to AERC is \$65.00. A family membership is \$75.00. The cost of joining AERC-I is an additional \$10.00 per person.

If you are already a member of AERC and wish to join AERC-I, all you need to do is call the AERC office (toll free: 866-271-2372) and request to join AERC-I. Have your credit card ready and they can handle it over the phone. Time to complete: .5 hours.

Step Two: Be a Current Member of USEF (renew annually).

To join USEF go to www.usef.org. The membership form is found on the “Join/Renew” tab located on the upper right hand side of the page. If you choose the “online” option to join, you will be able to join and print your membership card in one step. You will not be able to proceed until you have your membership number. The cost for a USEF membership is \$40.00 plus the endurance discipline fee of \$10.00 fee. Time to complete: .5 hours.

Step Three: Lifetime Record Your Horse with USEF (one time per horse).

Go to www.usef.org. On the right side of the page go to the tab entitled “Forms & Pubs.” From there, click on “Membership” and then on “2006 Horse Recording Application.” Print the form, complete it, and mail it to USEF at the address on the application along with a check for \$200.00. This is a one-time fee. Time to complete: 2-4 weeks. NOTE: If you do not receive your horse recording certificate with the horse recording number within 30 days call USEF immediately.

Step Four: Obtain a Horse Passport (one time per horse) and Meet Influenza Vaccination Requirements (every six months).

You may not request a passport until the horse has a lifetime recording number. NOTE: On some forms the lifetime recording number is also called the “USEF Horse Membership Number.”

Two types of passports are available. The first, a national passport, allows the horse to compete at FEI rides in the U.S. The second, an international passport, allows the horse to compete in (a) local FEI rides in the U.S., (b) non-championship FEI rides in other countries such as Canada and Europe, and (c) FEI Championship rides such as the North American Championship (NEC), Pan American Championship (PAC) and the World Cup Equestrian Games (WEG) (collectively “championship rides”). The cost of the national passport is \$50.00. The cost of an international passport is \$300.00. If you choose to get the national passport first, you may upgrade to an international passport later by paying the additional \$250.00.

You will find the application for a national passport at www.usef.org. Under the tab “Forms & Pubs” go to

Fees-at-a-Glance

AERC Membership	\$ 65.00
AERC-I Membership	\$ 10.00
USEF Membership	\$ 40.00
USEF Discipline Fee	\$ 10.00
Lifetime Recording Fee	\$200.00
Passport	\$50.00-\$300.00
High Performance Fee	\$50.00-\$200.00
Annual Horse Fee	\$ 15.00
Annual Rider Fee	\$ 15.00
TOTAL	\$455.00-\$855.00

“International” and print the form entitled “National Passport Application Form”. The application for an international passport is found at the same location, but is entitled “FEI Horse Application Form”. Mail the form to USEF, ATTN: Rachel Michaels at the address on the form. Once USEF receives all the necessary information, it issues an FEI Passport. You will receive the passport and a packet of information explaining how to complete the passport. You should review this information closely and then give it to the veterinarian for use in completing the passport. NOTE: If at all possible, use a veterinarian familiar with USEF passport requirements. Passports are often returned for corrections because the directions were not followed completely and correctly.

The cover page of the passport has the horse’s name, passport number, and the issue and expiration dates. This passport will remain with the horse for the remainder of its life but must be revalidated every four years. The next area to review is the Details of Ownership section. The date will already be filled in but the owner of the horse will need to complete the rest of the information on that line including their name, complete address (no P.O. boxes), nationality, and signature.

Next, a licensed veterinarian must examine the horse and document their findings in the passport itself. On the last page of the directions, there is a sample diagram sheet that the veterinarian can use to practice before permanently marking anything in the passport. NOTE: It is generally more accurate and more cost effective for the rider to do the original sketches and descriptions of the horse. You can then fax your practice form to USEF, ATTN: Rachel Michaels, USEF Passport Coordinator, who can help identify any problems with your drafts. The fax number for Rachel is 859-253-1968. Once approved by Rachel, the rider can place the descriptions and sketches in the passport. Your veterinarian must then examine the passport against the horse and affirm that they are accurate.

When the veterinarian has completed the diagram and description pages they must document that the horse has had its primary series of influenza vaccinations. The primary series consists of two influenza vaccinations using the same method of administration (IM or IN) given between 21 to 92 days apart. A booster vaccination must be administered every SIX MONTHS +/- 21 days following the primary series. The booster can be intramuscular or intranasal. This information must be entered in the passport on the influenza pages: date of administration, place, country, name of vaccine, batch number, vet stamp and signature. All details must be recorded in order for the vaccination(s) to be considered valid. Only the veterinarian who administers the vaccine to the horse may record the inoculation in the passport. Transferring vaccines on behalf of another veterinarian is not acceptable. Make sure the veterinarian signs and stamps the passport

in the appropriate places (see directions sent with new passports for examples). NOTE: Although the passport contains pages for vaccinations other than influenza, it is recommended that you DO NOT record other types of vaccinations.

When the passport has been completed, it must be returned to USEF for review and validation. Upon processing at USEF, passports are shipped to the owner at the address listed in the passport. NOTE: It is best to mail passport by registered mail so that they may be tracked if lost. Time to complete: 4-6 weeks.

Step Five: Pay The USEF High Performance Fee (annually).

The high performance fee is an annual fee of \$200.00. If you are doing only local FEI rides, it may be paid in increments as follows. First local FEI ride in a year - \$50.00. Second, local FEI ride in a year - \$50.00. Third, local FEI ride in a year \$100.00. While it is not strictly necessary to pay this fee in advance, the Ride Manager will thank you for taking care of it before arriving at the ride. The form to do this is found at www.usef.org under “Forms & Pubs”, “International” then “International High Performance Form.”

NOTE: To compete in any international or Championship Ride the entire \$200.00 must be paid for that year. It is important to note that, for international and Championship Rides, BOTH the rider and each owner of the horse must pay high performance fee. Time to complete: .5 hours.

Step Six: Pay The FEI Annual Horse/Rider Fee (annually).

All horses and riders competing in any FEI event must register annually with the FEI. You must have an active FEI registration number prior to starting an FEI competition. You may NOT pay this fee at to the FEI ride manager at the time of the ride. The fee is \$15.00 per horse and \$15.00 per rider. The required form is found at www.usef.org, “Forms & Pubs”, “International”, “FEI Horse and Rider Registration”. Time to complete: 4 weeks.

Step Seven: Enter Your First FEI Ride.

Now that you have completed the necessary forms, it’s time to enter your first FEI ride. In addition to the usual AERC ride entry form, you will need to complete an additional form to enter the FEI portion of the ride. The ride manager will provide these forms. There will also be an additional entry fee. Time to complete: .5 hours

Step Eight: Comply with USET Requirements to Compete Abroad.

If you plan to compete in an FEI ride out of the United States there are various other USEF requirements that must be met. Generally speaking, however, if you are competing in a NAC, PAC or WEG, your team support staff will walk you through these requirements or they will be waived by USET. For this reason, I will not outline each of these additional requirements and forms in this article. You should just remember that if you plan to ride

as an individual in an FEI ride abroad, your entry should be submitted to the ride through USEF. If you would like more information, go to www.usef.org, hit the “High Performance” tab on the left side of the page and then look under “Athletic Services/Competing Abroad.” You may also contact Lynn Lopez who is in charge of Athletic Services at USEF. Her e-mail address is llopez@usef.org.

Step Nine: Be Familiar With FEI Rules.

There are several rules unique to FEI that you will be required to comply with. These rules change frequently, so you check the FEI website www.horsesport.org for the endurance rulebook or talk with an experienced FEI rider or your zone rep before your first ride. Following are some of the current rules from the rulebook, 6th edition, effective January 1, 2005. NOTE: While some of these rules apply only to Championship Rides, it is best to just comply with them all. Time to complete: 1 hour.

(1) Willful Obstruction (Article 813)

A competitor who is about to be overtaken must quickly clear the way. Willful obstruction of an overtaking competitor is penalized by disqualification.

(2) Assistance During The Race (Article 815)

General Rule: Before the start, after the finish and during compulsory holds others may assist the competitor and attend to the horse. During the race, however, others may NOT assist the competitor except to water and wash down the horse and the organizing committee may limit the locations at which this assistance may be given. Any unauthorized intervention by a third party, whether solicited or not, can result in the rider’s disqualification.

Exceptions: At any time during the race others may assist the competitor to recover his/her horse, replace horseshoes, adjust equipment, remount, or hand the competitor anything he/she needs (water, food, equipment).

(3) Communication Devices (Article 816)

The use of mobile phones is permitted. The Ground Jury must approve all other communication systems. NOTE: GPS systems are not prohibited.

(4) Dress Code (Article 817)

Riders must wear protective headgear.

Dress must be appropriate and not detrimental to the image of Endurance Riding.

Riders must wear breeches or jodhpurs or riding tights

Rider must wear either footwear with a heel or must use using caged stirrups

Riders must wear a shirt with a collar

(5) Equipment (Article 818)

Draw reins (running reins/French reins) are forbidden

Whips and spurs are prohibited

(6) Weight Requirements (Article 820)

The minimum riding weight for riders is 75 kg (165 pounds). To make weight the rider may be weighed with all riding equipment except the bridle (water bottles must be empty). The rider may weighed anytime during the ride and will be weighed at the conclusion of the ride. No loss

of weight is allowed on equipment. Riders are allowed to lose a maximum of 2 kg (4.4 lbs) from their body weight during the ride.

(7) Recovery (Article 824)

Generally speaking, the horse’s HR must recover to a rate of 64 beats/minute within 30 minutes of completion.

(8) Ride Completion (Article 830)

The final trot out at an FEI ride will be done before three veterinarians who will then secretly vote “pass” or “fail”. The majority vote prevails and the decision is final.

(9) Treatment of the Horse (Article 832)

Any horse treated within 2 hours of competition will be disqualified.

(10) Qualification Requirements (Article 825)

a. For local FEI rides, the horse must be at least 6 years old. For Championship rides (NAC, PAC, WEG), the horse must be 7 years old.

b. To compete in a Championship ride (NAC, PAC, WEG) the horse and rider, as a team, must have a completed an FEI ride over the same distance within 24 months prior to the closing date for nominated entries. If the horse and rider do not qualify as a team, the horse has to have completed an FEI ride over the same distance within 24 months prior to the closing date for nominated entries and the rider has to have completed 3 endurance rides (at least one of them FEI) over the same distance within the current or preceding 3 years before the event. NOTE: This is also what is known as the Certificate of Capability or COC.

Step Nine: Be Familiar With Travel Requirements Before Leaving For An FEI Ride.

If you are not use to traveling out-of-state, make sure you are aware of all the travel requirements of each state you will be going through. Your local veterinarian should be able to help you.

For more information about getting started in FEI-level endurance competition, check out the Endurance USA website on www.aerc.org. Click in “International” on the menu bar and scroll down to “USA Endurance.”

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