



# Certified Control Judge Exam

This exam is open book and is based on the Guidelines for Judging AERC Endurance Competitions. The last seven questions are based on the AERC Rules and Regulations. Please submit the answer sheet, course evaluation and any comments to:

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Thank you for participating. A course Certificate of Attendance will be mailed to you upon submitting the exam with a 70% passing score. You will also be listed with AERC as an AERC Certified Control Judge both in Endurance News and on the AERC website.

**Please note that in order to take the exam and become certified, one must be an AERC member.**

The AERC Veterinary Committee

# AERC Certified Control Judge Exam

1. The primary responsibility of the equines' welfare lies with:
  - a. the control judge
  - b. the rider
  - c. ride management
  - d. crew members
  
2. It is difficult at times to differentiate between an equine that is tired and needs to cease work versus one that is in metabolic trouble and needs aggressive treatment.
  - a. true
  - b. false
  
3. Consumption of alcoholic beverages by control judges is permitted when 95% of the competitors of the longest distance ride of that competition have crossed the finish line and received their completion examinations.
  - a. true
  - b. false
  
4. Suggested equipment for endurance events include all of the following with the exception of:
  - a. thermometer
  - b. lip chain and/or twitch
  - c. stomach pump
  - d. IV catheters – 16 gauge and 18 gauge
  - e. formalin jars
  
5. The head control judge should participate with management, if requested, in all phases of planning that affect the stress levels which the equine may experience. These include:
  - a. layout of the trail
  - b. selection of checkpoints (mileage between checkpoints and length of holds)
  - c. provision for emergency care, as well as access for removal of equines requiring ambulance service
  - d. setting pulse criteria
  - e. all of the above
  
6. Control judges share absolute and complete control over all matters affecting the welfare of the equine with experienced ride managers.
  - a. true
  - b. false
  
7. The presence of a control judge at the ride site is required until:
  - a. the last equine has completed the ride
  - b. one hour after the last equine has completed the ride
  - c. it is dark, cold and the control judge is tired
  - d. all equines have safely left the ride site

- 8.** Veterinary control of the competition equine includes pre-ride, on-course, post-ride and camp inspection to assess and insure the safety of the equine.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 9.** If weather and/or terrain conditions create an unacceptable hazard to the equines' health, the control judge, working in conjunction with ride management, may cancel the ride, even if the ride has already started.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 10.** Duties of the control judge are to include:
- a.** adjudicating all disputes
  - b.** judging horsemanship awards
  - c.** determining the winner of sportsmanship trophies
  - d.** matters relating only to the equine's health and safety
- 11.** Which of the following is a TRUE statement regarding pre-ride planning and briefing duties of the head control judge?
- a.** The arrangement of necessary veterinary treatment supplies and a comprehensive plan for treatment is the responsibility of ride management, since they are probably more familiar with the trail and its accessibility.
  - b.** It is inappropriate for ride management to request the head control judge's participation in non-medical matters such as planning course layout, selection of checkpoints and P&R staff allocated to each checkpoint.
  - c.** Setting length of holds, briefing of control judges, treatment veterinarians and riders on pulse criteria and other matters affecting the welfare and safety of the equines is the responsibility of the head control judge.
  - d.** Control judges must have absolute and complete control over all matters affecting the welfare and safety of the equines, unless financial constraints of doing so dictate otherwise.
- 12.** Duties of the head control judge include:
- a.** establishing that management has informed competitors of the location and availability of an emergency veterinary referral hospital
  - b.** setting pulse criteria and length of holds
  - c.** handling complaints and protests related to trail marking and timing
  - d.** a & b
- 13.** When possible, the control judge should not be the treatment veterinarian. When you cannot avoid combining the duties of the two, it is important to:
- a.** establish the priority of treatment over judging
  - b.** specify that if an equine requires your attention for treatment, the ride will have to stop until you can return to control duties
  - c.** provide for treatment supplies at each checkpoint
  - d.** all of the above

- 14.** A control judge should remain at every check until:
- a.** every equine has departed from the check
  - b.** the last equine has arrived at the check and has passed the control check
  - c.** most of the equines have departed from the check
  - d.** the food and drinks for the control judge and staff have run out
- 15.** The pre-ride exam is:
- a.** a pre-purchase exam
  - b.** a guarantee the equine will finish the ride
  - c.** a screening to try to prevent problems during the ride
  - d.** a free vet exam due because of the ride fee
- 16.** Which statement does NOT apply to the pre-ride examination?
- a.** Follow a systematic, easily repeatable, exam generally proceeding from the front to the rear of the equine.
  - b.** The routine and rapid use of hoof testers during the initial pre-ride exam is an efficient way to identify lame equines prior to starting the ride.
  - c.** The use of an A-B-C-D grading system of the parameters is preferable to numerical or descriptive notations.
  - d.** Avoid deep palpation or flexion tests before the equine is jogged out and back.
- 17.** With regards to lameness at the pre-ride control exam, which of the following is NOT true?
- a.** Equines with grade IV lameness are excused irrespective of the cause.
  - b.** Equines with grade III lameness should have the source of their problem identified and can usually proceed with caution if no source of the problem is identified.
  - c.** Equines with grade II lameness should have the source of their problem identified if possible and a judgment made as to prognosis with work in deciding if the equine should proceed.
  - d.** Equines with grade I lameness can usually proceed under careful surveillance if a brief exam fails to find the potential cause.
- 18.** A grade III lameness, according to the AAEP, is defined as:
- a.** difficult to observe at a walk or trotting in a straight line
  - b.** consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances
  - c.** obvious lameness at a walk; marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride
- 19.** Which items can be covered in the Rider Briefing?
- a.** vet checkpoint logistics and recovery criteria
  - b.** the working relationship between riders and control judges and ultimate responsibility for the equine's welfare
  - c.** advice on the handling/care of the equine that becomes seriously fatigued or lame on the trail between checkpoints
  - d.** arrangements for the hauling out of pulled equines and for treatment and/or referral services if needed
  - e.** all of the above

- 20.** If a rider reports that the equine is neither eating nor drinking upon arrival and prior to presenting for a vet check, the correct designated pull code is RO-M because it was the rider who initially identified the problem.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 21.** An equine arrives at a vet check with a thrown shoe and trots during the exam with a low grade and inconsistent degree of lameness, which resolves after a boot is applied. The rider is informed her equine has passed the check, but she says she doesn't like how the equine moves in boots and pulls. The correct pull code is:
- a.** RO-L – Rider Option Lamé
  - b.** RO – Rider Option
  - c.** L – Lamé
  - d.** SF – Surface Factors
  - e.** M – Metabolic
- 22.** An equine may be eliminated at any location on trail or in the control check.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 23.** Under certain conditions an equine that is showing doubtful metabolic signs may be allowed to continue if the rider promises to do what you ask of them.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 24.** \_\_\_\_\_, with rest, has become the main objective measure of "fitness to continue."
- a.** gut sounds
  - b.** respiration rate
  - c.** body temperature
  - d.** pulse recovery
- 25.** The CRI is not necessarily used to eliminate an equine from competition; the entire clinical picture is used to assess the ability of an equine to continue in the competition.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 26.** Which of the following with regards to respiration is NOT true?
- a.** Respiratory recovery varies with the weather conditions.
  - b.** Panting in hot, humid weather can be entirely consistent with optimal performance.
  - c.** Equines whose pulse and other signs of recovery are prompt and have a rectal temperature below 103.5°, but are panting, should be eliminated from the ride based on the respiration rate.
  - d.** Equines with a rectal temperature above 103.5° should be closely scrutinized for other fatigue signs and made to reach and maintain cooler temperatures before being allowed to continue on the ride.

- 27.** Dehydration status is best checked by a skin fold pinched on the side of the neck.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 28.** Reduced gut sounds in an equine that has an appetite and is not showing other signs of stress are of less concern than an equine with reduced gut sounds accompanied by other metabolic abnormalities.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 29.** With regards to lameness, which of the following is true?
- a.** Grades I and II lameness can usually continue with caution if the prognosis of the lameness with continued work is determined to be acceptable.
  - b.** Grade III lameness should not be disqualified at the finish line control check because the criteria here is less stringent.
  - c.** Diagnostics such as flexions and palpations should be completed before the equine is trotted out.
  - d.** Improperly fitting saddles are not a cause of lameness.
- 30.** Once an equine has passed and is leaving a control checkpoint, a control judge noticing a soundness or metabolic issue must wait until the next control point to re-evaluate the equine.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 31.** The post-ride completion exam may be carried out any time within one hour of crossing the finish line. An equine should be passed for completion if it:
- a.** is "fit to continue" even if at reduced speed and is grade II lame
  - b.** has a pulse fluctuating between 68 and 72 after one hour
  - c.** has already been given some bute by the rider because the rider felt the equine might stiffen up
  - d.** is sound at the walk but is consistently lame at the trot on a straight line
- 32.** An equine that is presented for a post-ride check and is found to be inconsistently lame when trotted out in a straight line should be:
- a.** disqualified
  - b.** allowed to complete in the place that it finished if all other parameters are acceptable
- 33.** The best condition award is made up of what three aspects?
- a.** finishing time, equine size, and equine exam
  - b.** equine exam, weight of rider and tack, and finishing time
  - c.** weight of rider and tack, finishing time, and finish-line control check
  - d.** equine exam, general attractiveness of the rider, and weight of rider and tack
- 34.** When determining scores for best condition judging you should use the full range of scores available. Failure to do this may allow the award to go to an unfit or lame equine ridden by an exceptionally fast or heavy rider.
- a.** true
  - b.** false

- 35.** Which of the following is true with regards to best condition judging?
- a.** The breed, type and disposition of the equine should not be considered when judging gait and movement.
  - b.** Any equine that is grade III at the time of the best condition exam cannot be considered for best condition judging.
  - c.** A best condition award must be given.
  - d.** Palpation of the equine should be performed before evaluating gait and impulsion.
- 36.** An equine that is grade III lame is still eligible for the best condition award as long as the other metabolic factors are within acceptable limits and the total point score is higher than the other top ten equines presented for judging.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 37.** In the event that all of the equines that present for the best condition judging are grade III or worse in lameness, the control judge doing the judging may elect to:
- a.** Get someone from ride management to judge the control judge portion.
  - b.** Have them all split the award as a tie.
  - c.** Elect not to give a best condition award.
  - d.** Break into tears and hope they all leave.
- 38.** The head or designated control judge is responsible for completing the best condition form in its entirety.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 39.** The post-ride statistical report must be completed for each distance at the conclusion of the ride by the ride manager.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 40.** Necropsy of a fatality is generally discouraged because of the emotional distress to the rider/owner and should be kept out of sight of the public.
- a.** true
  - b.** false
- 41.** The goal of the post-ride statistical report is to examine factors involved in non-completions and identify specific problems related to lameness and metabolic issues. The ultimate goal is to decrease the incidence of these problems.
- a.** true
  - b.** false

- 42.** Which of the following statements regarding the AERC Drug Rule is TRUE?
- a.** The owner/rider is not the absolute guarantor of the equine's condition and will not be held responsible for a positive drug test if demonstrable proof of their knowledge or intent of the administration of a prohibited substance cannot be provided.
  - b.** As the list of prohibited substances is limited and is listed in its entirety in the Control Judge Handbook, it is not necessary for a control judge to reference other resources on the AERC website.
  - c.** There are some allowable substances that may be used immediately before or during competition.
  - d.** Discontinuation of medications 72 hours prior to a ride will insure that an equine will have a negative result if tested for prohibited substances.
- 43.** Which of the following are signs that may be present in the exhausted equine?
- a.** pulse persistently above 64 bpm
  - b.** lack of appetite
  - c.** anxious facial expression
  - d.** symptoms consistent with laminitis
  - e.** all of the above
- 44.** Synchronous diaphragmatic flutter or "thumps" is NOT associated with which of the following?
- a.** decreased ionized calcium
  - b.** metabolic acidosis
  - c.** intestinal atony
  - d.** electrical impulses from atrial depolarization resulting in activation of the phrenic nerve and subsequent contraction of the diaphragm
- 45.** Hydration status can be assessed by several methods. Which of the following is NOT a useful method?
- a.** packed cell volume
  - b.** urine concentration observed in the stop
  - c.** total protein
  - d.** skin turgor
  - e.** blood glucose
- 46.** Which of the following most accurately reflects the maximal fluid loss likely to be associated with endurance exercise?
- a.** one to two liters per hour
  - b.** five to six liters per hour
  - c.** 10 to 15 liters per hour
  - d.** 20 to 25 liters per hour
- 47.** Laminitis occurring four to five days after an equine has had a metabolic collapse at an endurance event is not related to the ride.
- a.** true
  - b.** false

**48.** Which of the following is true?

- a.** The ride must employ at least one control judge whose services will be exclusive to the event, pre-ride, during the ride, and post-ride for at least one hour after the last equine has finished or returned to ride camp.
- b.** The Guidelines for Judging AERC Endurance Competitions, AERC rules and regulations and the AERC ride manager's handbook must be provided to the control veterinarians by the ride manager prior to the ride and must be available for reference at the ride.
- c.** A control judge must be an AERC member.
- d.** Each equine will receive a physical exam before, during and after the ride with the results of the exam being recorded on a rider card.
- e.** All of the above are true.

**49.** Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.** The setting of control parameters, including pulse criteria, shall be determined by the head control judge.
- b.** Any equine not meeting pulse criteria within 30 minutes of arrival at a control checkpoint other than the post-finish line check will be disqualified.
- c.** The control judge's decisions regarding disqualification may be overruled by the ride manager
- d.** It is recommended that all checkpoints be of the "gate into a hold" type.
- e.** Equines that are treated or die at rides shall be reported on a form, to be completed by the control judge, and submitted with ride results.

**50.** A rider may present their equine for the post-ride check at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period, even if they are in the top ten and are showing for best condition at a time set by the head control judge.

- a.** true
- b.** false

# AERC Certified Control Judge Answer Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AERC # \_\_\_\_\_

Circle regions you regularly judge rides in: CT MW MT NE NW PS SE SW W

Street address or P.O. Box # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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| 21. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 22. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 23. _____ | 48. _____ |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ |
| 25. _____ | 50. _____ |

**Please submit the answer sheet, course evaluation and any comments to:  
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# Participant Evaluation

AERC Certified Control Judge Program  
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**Please take a moment to fill out this program evaluation so we can improve and tailor future programs based on your feedback. Thank you!**

Was the content of the program relevant to the practice of veterinary medicine?

Was the content of the program relevant to your area of practice?

Was the content of the program practical and helpful to you?

Was the content for the program well organized?

Were the exam questions clear?

Did the exam questions address pertinent and practical information?

Was there any aspect of the program that we could improve upon?

Is there any other information you would like to share with us?

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**This program was reviewed and approved by AAVSB'S RACE program for continuing education. Please contact the AAVSB'S RACE program at [race@aavsb.org](mailto:race@aavsb.org) should you have any comments/suggestions regarding this program.**