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## CHAPTER EN ENDURANCE RIDING DIVISION

Horsemanship and horse welfare are the core of Endurance riding. Endurance is a test of the rider's ability and skills at managing their horse safely over a course designed to test the stamina and fitness of the horse and rider combination. A well-designed Endurance course will contain elements that permit a rider to demonstrate their skills against the track, distance, terrain, climate, and clock, without compromising the welfare of the horse. Successful completion of an Endurance course includes not only completion of each Loop of the course, but also successful completion at all mandatory veterinary inspections, highlighting a well-trained and conditioned horse, while observing standards of horse welfare.

As the primary focus of Endurance riding, horse welfare and safety are the guiding principles to all participants in Endurance competition. All riders, trainers, owners, crew members, support personnel, and officials are tasked with prioritizing horse welfare above all else.

If there is a conflict between these Endurance Division rules and the General Rules, the Endurance Divisions rules prevail. FEI rules govern all FEI competitions. If there is a conflict between the Endurance Division Rules and any Endurance Calendar Policies and Procedures for FEI or non-FEI events adopted for Endurance, the latter shall prevail.

### **SUBCHAPTER EN-1 ATHLETE**

#### **EN101 Eligibility**

1. Eligibility to Compete in Age Restricted Divisions at Federation Licensed Competitions:
  - a. *JUNIOR (JR)*. Individuals are eligible to compete in Junior Rider divisions until the end of the competition year in which they reach the age of 18.
  - b. *YOUNG RIDER (YR)*. Individuals are eligible to compete in Young Rider divisions from the beginning of the competition year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the competition year in which they reach the age of 21.
  - c. *SENIOR (SR)*. Individuals are eligible to compete in Senior divisions from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16.
  - d. For FEI competitions, FEI age requirements will apply.
2. Riders under the age of 16 must be entered and accompanied by a Federation Senior Active Member in good standing who is 21 (years old or older). In accordance with the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, written consent from the minor's parent/legal guardian must be provided to the Competition Manager, who will provide it to the Federation Director of Endurance. Individuals between the ages of 14 and 15 may ride unaccompanied if verification has been provided to the Competition Manager by the parent/legal guardian confirming the rider has completed 800km or more, at rides of at least 80km in distance, prior to the start of the competition.
3. Foreign Competitors – please refer to GR828.4
4. Horse Recording
  - a. Horses must have a Life or Annual Recording with the Federation in order to be eligible to earn Horse of the Year (HOTY) awards, submission of application for selection, and Championship events.
  - b. Horses entered in competitions with one-day distances between 40km and 56km must be a minimum of 48 months old; distances between 57km and 159km must be a minimum of 60 months old; distances of 160km must be a minimum of 72 months old. A horse is deemed to have its birthday on the day of its birth in the month in the year it was born. For FEI events, FEI Rules apply.
  - c. Horses being competed for novice qualifications must meet the FEI age requirements.
  - d. Horses competing in Federation licensed competitions must be identifiable and may be assigned a Horse Identification number (HID) by the Federation. A HID can be obtained via:  
<https://members.usef.org/horses/add>.
5. Mares may not compete when more than four months pregnant or with foal at foot.

## EN102 Dress Code

### 1. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR.

It is compulsory for all persons entered in Federation Licensed competitions when mounted to wear properly fastened headgear.

- a. It must be properly fitted with harness secured under the chin. See GR801.
- b. The Federation makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.

2. Safe riding footwear is required and may include caged/boxed or equestrian safety stirrups.

3. Sandals are not permitted within the Field of Play.

## EN103 Saddlery and Equipment

1. The Steward or Veterinary Panel may inspect a combination's tack/equipment on the Field of Play at any time. Any suspected violation of the above, shall be reported to the Federation in the Steward's Report.

2. Tack condition: Horse tack must be in safe condition and correctly fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury to the horse. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that their tack is safe and fits correctly. Officials may require any ill-fitting tack/equipment to be removed or altered. The use of any ill-fitting equipment that risks causing (or causes) pain or injury to the horse may be considered as horse abuse (see also GR838).

- a. The tack shall be appropriate to ensure the horse is under control at all times.
- b. Any type of tack that unduly restricts the free movement of the horse's head or may cause pain is prohibited, i.e., draw reins, etc.
- c. Blinkers are permitted but any method of restricting the forward vision of a horse is prohibited.
- d. Specific safety equipment, such as reflective items, may be required as indicated in the prize list
- e. The use of mobile phones and GPS devices are permitted.
- f. From time to time, the Federation may issue further detailed rules regarding permitted or prohibited tack.

## EN104 Entries

1. RESPONSIBILITY. It is the responsibility of the rider and the owner to enter a horse at the level that corresponds to its abilities. If the rider is a minor, their parent/legal guardian or authorized agent signing the entry blank on the minor's behalf accepts this responsibility. It is the responsibility of the rider to know and comply with the local, state, and interstate (where appropriate) health requirements for the shipment of horses.

2. ENTRY FORMS. An entry must be completed prior to that horse's First Horse Inspection. No horse shall be allowed to participate in the First Horse Inspection without a completed and accepted entry.

3. OPENING DATE. The opening date is the date that the prize list for the competition is available

4. CLOSING DATE. The closing date and time for entries must be published in the prize list of the competition and may be extended at the discretion of the Competition Management.

## EN105 Competition and Fair Play

1. On the course, no other person may ride the horse once the rider has started the competition or they will be penalized by disqualification.

2. A rider who fails to qualify for the next Loop of competition or disqualified for any reason must leave the course and has no right to continue in the competition.

3. The use of motorized vehicles on the Field of Play is prohibited, except for official use by Competition Management, Veterinary Panel, Treatment Veterinarian(s) and Stewards, or emergency vehicles/personnel.

4. Permitted Assistance During Competition or On Course:

- a. The prize list and the pre-ride meeting must detail what assistance (crewing) may be given to combinations during a competition and where such assistance is allowed on the course and within any Veterinary Checkpoint. In the instance of inclement weather or course restrictions, crew check points may be adjusted by the Competition Management. Adjustments must be announced and posted in a conspicuous location in a timely manner to ensure all athletes and crew members are aware of the changes.

- b. After a fall or if the rider is separated from their horse, in the case of loose or a lost horseshoe(s) or hoof protection, or other tack malfunction or breakage, a rider may be assisted. The rider must remount and/or continue in the Loop from the point at which they dismounted, left the course, or required intervention.

## EN106 FEI Novice Qualifications

The FEI Novice Qualifications process must be completed in accordance with the FEI Endurance Rules with the below additions.

1. Of the four (4) required rides, at least two (2) must be completed at Federation Licensed Competitions and no more than two (2) of the required rides may be completed at non-Federation Licensed Competitions authorized by the Federation.
2. All qualifications must be met no later than the definite entry deadline for the horse's and/or rider's first CEI 1\* as published in the FEI Definite Schedule for that Event, including the Mandatory Out of Competition Period.
3. All FEI registration and/or passport requirements must be completed prior to the submission of the novice qualifications.
4. When submitting results from rides at non-Federation Licensed Competitions authorized by the Federation, riders must provide the Federation with a completed Reporting Form or copy of Logbook.

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## SUBCHAPTER EN-2 COMPETITION

### EN107 Competition Officials

1. A Federation Licensed Endurance Competition must provide the following officials:
  - a. Steward: At least one Federation licensed Endurance Steward is required.
  - b. Veterinary Panel: The number of veterinarians on the Veterinary Panel is at the discretion of the Ride Manager based upon the number of entries in the ride, but always an odd number. If the entries are minimal, one (1) veterinarian is allowed to act as the entire Veterinary Panel. As the entry numbers increase and taking the safety and welfare of the horses into consideration the Veterinary Panel may include a total of three (3) or more veterinarians.
  - c. Treatment Veterinarian: At least one (1) additional veterinarian must be designated as the Treatment Veterinarian. This veterinarian **must** be present on competition grounds from the start of the Category through the final Best Condition evaluation or the last horse competing on the course, whichever occurs later. The Treatment Veterinarian **must** be a licensed graduate of an accredited veterinary school in good standing in their state of practice and must be licensed in the state(s) where the competition is being held. **Subject to the approval of the Steward, so long as the Treatment Veterinarian is available, the Treatment Veterinarian may assist in conducting the veterinary inspections on the vet lanes if the number of horses arriving simultaneously require the additional assistance. The Treatment Veterinarian must have the necessary USEF licensure to assist in conducting veterinary inspections. The Treatment Veterinarian's primary responsibility at all times is the treatment of horses and in the event a horse needs treatment, the Treatment Veterinarian must vacate the vet lane and resume responsibilities of the Treatment Veterinarian.**
  - d. Farrier
    1. A qualified farrier is recommended to be present on the grounds.
  - e. Competition Manager and Secretary
    1. The Competition Manager is responsible for knowledge of and compliance with all GR and EN rules, including but not limited to completion of all on-line training by the Federation. Eligibility is determined by GR1202. The Competition Manager is responsible for conducting the competition in accordance with Federation rules.
    2. Assistant Managers have the same requirements and responsibilities as listed in this rule. Managers and Assistant Managers must be listed in Federation competition records and in the prize list.
    3. The Competition Secretary is responsible for knowledge of and compliance with all GR and EN rules. Eligibility is determined by GR1203. The Competition Secretary is responsible for performing assigned duties in accordance with Federation rules. Assistant Secretaries have the same

requirements and responsibilities as listed in this rule. Secretaries and Assistant secretaries must be listed in Federation competition records and in the prize list.

4. A Competition Manager or Secretary may not serve as Steward or other licensed official at their own competition. However, they may compete if they designate an assistant in charge while they are competing. This does not absolve the manager's or secretary's duties and responsibilities.

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## **EN108 Categories of Endurance Competitions and Pulse Criteria**

1. A competition is an event or ride licensed by the Federation.
2. A competition may include one or more separate categories including Limited Distance, OPEN 1, OPEN 2, OPEN 3, and OPEN 4.
3. Junior, Young Rider, and/or Senior divisions may be offered in the following competition categories at Federation Licensed Endurance Competitions:
  - a. Limited Distance – all divisions below 80km held over one (1) day. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gate: 64bpm within 30 minutes and 60bpm at the finish within 30 minutes of arrival time.
  - b. OPEN 1 – all divisions between 80km and 119km held over one (1) day. Maximum Pulse Vet Gates: 64bpm within 30 minutes.
  - c. OPEN 2 – Multi-Day. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gate: 64bpm within 30 minutes.
    1. 80km – 100km/day: Over two (2) days with a minimum distance of 80km each day; or
    2. 64km/89km/day: Over three (3) or more days with a minimum distance of 64km each day.
  - d. OPEN 3 – all divisions between 120km and 139km held over one day. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gate: 64bpm within 30 minutes.
  - e. OPEN 4 – all divisions between 140km and 160km held over one day. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gate: 64bpm within 30 minutes.
4. The pulse criteria may be reduced during the ride if, in the opinion of the Veterinary Panel and Steward, they believe there is a risk to the safety and welfare of the horses.

## **EN109 Prize List**

1. The prize list constitutes the ride schedule for Federation licensed endurance competitions. Notification of any and all changes to the competition schedule must be posted in the competition office and communicated during the ride meeting or prior to the start of the Loop concerned.
2. The prize list (**also known as the "Ride Flyer" or 'Schedule'**) must include at a minimum, in addition to the requirements enumerated in GR901:
  - a. The distance(s) of the competition category(ies) or divisions,
  - b. **Any pre-event** Closing date for entries,
  - c. Competition Management's policy on late fees, cancellations, refunds, withdrawals, and substitutions,
  - d. Entry fees,
  - e. Names of the competition's Licensee, Competition Manager, and trail/course manager or course designer, or person responsible for the trail/course, all **expected** Licensed Officials, Veterinary Panel members, and **any** Treatment Veterinarian(s),
  - f. The total length of the course, and the **planned** length and number of Loops on the course,
  - g. General description of the course including location of Vet Gates (e.g., in camp or out on the course),
  - h. Number and location of crewing points, if applicable,
  - i. Speed caps, if applicable,
  - j. Time limits and cut-off times (in total and for each Loop, as applicable),
  - k. Place and time of the start for each competition category and/or division,
  - l. Prizes,
  - m. Tentative time and date of Ride Meeting,
  - n. Notification of specific changes to the competition will be **appropriately** posted **on competition grounds**, and communicated during the ride meeting, or prior to the start of the Loop concerned, and
  - o. A link to the Federation's website, along with the Federation's logo, headquarters' address, telephone number, and contact information for the Director of Endurance **will be included**.
  - p. If established, cut-off times must be **announced and posted before and at the pre-ride meeting**, published in the prize list and are prohibited from establishing an overall course speed **which requires combinations**

to compete at 12.5km/hour or faster. See FEI qualifications for speed restrictions on Novice Qualification rides.

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## **EN110 The Course**

1. Competition Management is responsible for providing an accurately measured and well-marked course.
2. The finish must be long and wide enough to enable several horses to finish at speed without interfering with each other, and must provide sufficient run-out to allow competitors to safely come to a stop after crossing the finishing line in a potential sprint or gallop. If a finish line as described above is not possible, the Steward must approve Competition Management's alternative finish line which must uphold fair-play, safety and horse welfare. It must be situated as close to the Vet Gate as possible.
3. The total length of the course must be divided into several sections called Loops. Loop time is calculated from the time the combination crosses the start line of a Loop until it reaches the end line of that Loop. However, except for the finish, time on course does not stop until the horse has recovered to the requisite recovery pulse at the Vet Gate. Thus, speed on all but the final Loop will be the length of the Loop divided by pulse time less the release time (i.e., when the combination was released to start on the Loop). On the final Loop, depending on the finishing criteria (finish line or pulse), the Loop time may either be as stated above, or the length of the Loop divided by the time at the finish line less the time the combination started on the Loop.
4. The Competition Management will determine the length of each Loop of the section. Competition Management, in consultation with the Veterinary Panel, will determine the length of the holds at each Veterinary Checkpoint.
5. No Loop shall exceed 40km, without express written consent from the Federation.
6. Combinations must have access to water on course at least every 10km, subject to terrain and access limitations. Riders must adjust their pacing accordingly.
7. Competitions shall be organized to allow competitors to establish their own pace to compete against the clock.
8. Cut-off Times. Competition Management is permitted to establish cut-off times to complete the course. See EN109.
9. Crew Points. Competition Management may designate areas on the course where a rider's crew may assist the rider and/or horse. While stopped in crew points, a rider's time on course continues to run. Crew members, athletes, and horses are prohibited from blocking the course or obstructing another rider's access to the crew point or course while in the crew point.

## **EN111 Marking of the Course**

1. The marking of the course must be done in such a manner that there is no doubt on how to proceed along the course. The course may be marked colorfully using signs, lath, marked plates, directional arrows, flags, ribbons, indicators, lime, paint, lights, chemical lights, lanterns, electronic markings, including GPS instructions if reliable cellular and internet access is available on the entire course, or other trail marking methods.
2. Confidence markers are encouraged; especially after turns, divergences, splits, prolonged sections of trail or trail options.
3. Prior to the start of the competition, a plan showing the track of the course and the location of any mandatory Veterinary Checkpoints may be made available to the riders. Prior to the start of the competition, Competition Management must have the Course Designer, or appropriate designee, available to discuss the course and answer riders' questions and explain the location of any mandatory Veterinary Checkpoints.

## **EN112 Modification to the Course and Rescheduling/Delay or Cancellation of Competitions**

1. Course Modification: After the course has been officially established, no alteration shall be made without the approval of the Competition Management and the Steward.
2. Rescheduling/Delay of Competition or Category of Competition: In exceptional circumstances, a competition or category may be rescheduled or delayed in start or held until the competition may be safely resumed by the Competition Management in consultation with the Steward.

3. Cancellation of Competitions: When catastrophic occurrences or circumstances arise beyond the reasonable control of Competition Management at or during a competition, which affect rider safety or horse welfare, or prevents the competition from continuing, a competition may be cancelled by the Competition Management in consultation with the Steward.
4. Notifications: In any case noted above, the riders should be officially notified as soon as reasonably possible of the decision, certainly before the start or before the Loop concerned or when they complete the preceding Loop.
5. Accident Preparedness Plan: Please refer to GR845.

### **EN113 Method of Starting**

1. Combinations must not cross the starting line before the signal is given. If a combination makes a start, which is in any way false, under penalty of disqualification, the combination must return and re-cross the start line. However, their starting time will be recorded as if they had started when originally given the signal
2. Riders must check in within 15 minutes prior to the start of the competition.
3. No combination may start later than 15 minutes after their starting time under penalty of disqualification unless the rider receives permission from the Steward, in consultation with the Competition Management prior to the official start of the competition.

### **EN114 Time and Record Keeping**

1. As timing plays such an important part in the competition, Competition Management must ensure that each combination's start, pulse, and finish time for each timed Loop is accurately noted and recorded by properly qualified persons.
2. Times important to a competition:
  - a. Event Time: Begins at the check-in or at 00:01(12:01 a.m.) local time on the first day of the First Horse Inspection (whichever is earlier), not to exceed 120 hours before the first Start Time, at which point entered riders and horses on-site come under the jurisdiction of these Rules; and conclude when Competition Management closes its on-site record-keeping or monitoring.
  - b. Start Time: when the competition officially starts on course.
  - c. Hold Time: at designated points along a course, combinations are required to be allowed set times for rest and recovery. These may vary at the various designated points.
  - d. Arrival Time: when a combination arrives at a designated point.
  - e. Pulse Time or Vet Gate: when a combination comes to the pulse taker with a pulse that is at or below the parameter designated by the Veterinary Panel.
  - f. Recovery Time: the difference between the pulse time and arrival at a designated point.
  - g. Release Time or Out Time: when the combination is released to the course Release Time or Out Time is calculated by adding Pulse Time and Hold Time.
3. Each combination will be issued a veterinary card that will have the veterinary information and timing information. Alternatively, Federation Logbooks may be used. This veterinary card will be available during the competition.
4. Finishing criteria may be either time when a combination crosses the theoretical finish line or when a combination reaches final pulse criteria. Finishing criteria must be published in the prize list and announced at the ride meeting.
5. Total Time is counted from the instant the signal is given to start until the instant when a combination finishes. Riding Time is the Total Time less the sum of the mandatory hold periods.
6. At the discretion of the Steward and Veterinary Panel, in consultation with Competition Management, Veterinary Checkpoints at mandatory halts may be used. Modification to the Veterinary Checkpoints may be allowed as applicable.
7. At Veterinary Checkpoints, the timing of the combinations must be performed in such a manner to avoid any delay to a combination's timing caused by the arrival of several horses simultaneously for inspection.

### **EN115 Veterinary Control**

1. The Veterinary Panel and Steward, in consultation with the Competition Management, have absolute control on all matters concerning horse safety and welfare.
2. Equine Fatalities. See GR849.9

3. Only riders whose horses have passed all the inspections and examinations are eligible to be ranked in the final results.
4. All the relevant information required at the inspections and examinations must be recorded on an individual veterinary card for each combination and must be available at all subsequent inspections and examinations. Riders are entitled to see and copy the record of the veterinary card referring to their horses immediately after the inspection or examination.
5. The arrival time into the Veterinary Checkpoint must be recorded and the horse must be presented to the Veterinary Panel for inspection within recovery time.
6. The following types of Veterinary Checkpoints may be used:
  - a. Gate Into Hold. Gate into Hold should be held in all divisions at Federation Licensed Endurance
    - i. Riders will be timed in on arrival at the Veterinary Checkpoint (arrival time).
    - ii. Riders must proceed to a designated recovery area, where the horse will have up to 30 minutes to recover sufficiently to be timed into horse inspection upon being presented with a heart rate at or below the maximum heart rate parameters.
    - iii. Prior to being timed into the Vet Gate, a rider's time on course continues to run.
    - iv. Once a horse/rider combination has successfully completed the horse inspection, the mandatory hold period will begin from the successful Pulse Time and the rider's time on course will be stopped. If a rider is required to re-present their horse because they did not meet the pulse parameter, the Pulse Time will be recorded when the horse is at or below the pulse parameter and then proceed to the Horse Inspection.
    - v. Upon completing the mandatory hold period, the rider/horse combination may present to the out-timer and continue on course.
    - vi. Upon presenting to the out-timer, the rider's time on course will resume from their assigned out-time. Any additional time spent in the hold area, outside of the mandatory hold period, will be added to a rider's time on course.
  - b. Stop and Go.
    - i. At a Stop & Go Checkpoint, each rider will be timed into the Veterinary Checkpoint.
    - ii. After being timed into the Veterinary Checkpoint, the rider may present their horse multiple times, as determined by Competition Management within the stated recovery period to present the horse and pass the Horse Examination.
    - iii. A failure to pass the Horse Examination within the stated recovery period will result in Elimination.
    - iv. The horse may be presented under tack, but the rider may be asked for the tack to be removed by the Veterinarian(s).
    - v. The rider's presentation time will be recorded, but the rider's Ride Time continues to run throughout the Stop & Go.
    - vi. The Veterinary Panel may establish a straight departure lane for mounted horses of approximately 30-40 meters, preferably stationing a veterinarian at each end to assess each horse's gait and soundness on departure at the trot. The assessment lane should allow riders to continue onto the course unless stopped due to a veterinary determination that further assessment is warranted.
    - vii. If the horse successfully meets the maximum heart rate parameters as stated in the prize list or ride meeting as prescribed by the Veterinary Panel upon the rider's successful presentation within the rider's hold time that is recorded as the recovery time.
  - c. Mandatory Stop for a Designated Time Period.
    - i. At a Mandatory Stop on Trail Checkpoint, each rider will be timed into the Veterinary Checkpoint.
    - ii. The combination must remain at this checkpoint for the required time before it is released.
    - iii. Typically, upon release, a veterinarian will assess each horse's gait and soundness on departure at the trot. The assessment lane should allow riders to continue onto the course unless stopped due to a veterinary determination that further assessment is warranted.
7. Failure to achieve a heart rate below the maximum heart rate parameters within the recovery time will result in the horse/rider combination being disqualified. See Annex C.

## **EN116 Horse Inspections and Examinations**

1. The Veterinarians' responsibilities to evaluate a horse are the same for all Horse Inspections. Notification of specific changes to the Horse Inspections will be posted in the competition office and communicated during the ride meeting or prior to the start of the Loop concerned.



- a. Assessments will be made of the horse's general condition, its metabolic status and may include gait; heart rate; respiratory rate and body temperature; mucous membrane characteristics; capillary refill time; metabolic condition and gut sounds; soreness, abrasions, rubs or galls on the withers, back, loins, ribs, girth, chest, shoulders and mouth; and leg injuries, hoof conditions and lower leg dermatitis or bruises, cuts or abnormalities. These assessments and any other observations regarding the horse's condition must be recorded on the Vet Card.
- b. The inspection should be run on a flat firm surface at approximately 38 meters (124 feet). All Horse Inspections during the competition will follow the same format.
- c. First Inspection: It shall take place preceding the start of the competition as stated in the prize list and is performed by the Veterinary Panel. It will be conducted according to the standards for all inspections, as outlined below, to include Heart Rate, Respiratory System, General Condition, Gait Evaluation, Soreness, Lacerations, and Wounds, Range of Motion and other matters and items that from time to time may be added to the Veterinary Card. See EN 116.2 for details.
- d. Cardiac Recovery Index (CRI) is recorded at each inspection and involves the examination and recording of the heart rate as part of the metabolic assessment of the horse. Once the heart rate has been recorded the stopwatch is restarted and the horse has one minute to trot approximately 76 meters (250 feet.) allowing for a gait assessment. At the end of the minute, a second heart rate is recorded. The difference between the first and second heart rate is the CRI.
- e. General condition and metabolic status: horses in a generally poor condition or with an abnormally high temperature will be reassessed by the Veterinary Panel.
- f. Re-Inspections or Exit Exams: The Veterinary Panel, in consultation with the Steward and Competition Management, will establish prior to the ride meeting any Vet Gates they will require horses to be presented for an exit exam. The horse must pass the examination before returning to competition.
- g. Re-Inspections: The examining veterinarian may ask a rider to present their horse for re-inspection prior to its scheduled departure if after passing the horse; the veterinarian retains concerns about the horse's continuing stability and fitness to continue.
- h. Failure to represent within the hold time for that horse will result in failure to qualify for the next *Loop*.
- i. Metabolic status: the metabolic status will be assessed by the examination and recording of those parameters that indicate the Horse's fitness to continue including mucous membranes, capillary refill time, hydration, intestinal activity (gut sounds), demeanor and CRI.
- j. Failure to Qualify due to metabolic status, musculoskeletal injuries or other reasons will require a review by the Veterinary Panel.
- k. Vet Gate Inspection (Pulse gate): The first mandatory inspection of the horse at the end of each Loop when the horse is at a pulse that is at or below the parameter designated by the Veterinary Panel.
- l. Final Inspection: The final inspection, which takes place after the horse crosses the finish line of the competition or has successfully met the maximum heart rate parameters in Limited Distance, must be within the time allowed as defined.
- m. Respiratory System: Abnormalities in rate or character of the breathing deemed by the Veterinary Panel to be of such a nature as to endanger the safety of the horse will be cause for failure to qualify for the next Loop.
- n. General Condition: Temperatures may be recorded, and mucous membrane may be examined. Horses in a generally poor condition or with an abnormally high temperature will fail to qualify for the next Loop.
- o. Irregular gait: During any horse inspection, a horse with an irregular gait that is observable through evaluation by trotting the horse on a loose lead in hand straight out and back, will be removed from competition and will Fail to Qualify for the next Loop.
  1. To assess irregular gait:
    - a. If after having once trotted the horse, the observing Veterinarian questions the horse's fitness to continue, the horse will be re-trotted before up to two (2) members or the entire Veterinary Panel who will vote for a pass or fail and communicate their vote directly to the Steward and the Athlete.
    - b. The Veterinary Panel may call for a single additional trot up prior to voting, giving the horse and rider the benefit of the doubt, and will communicate that request to the Steward who will request the horse be trotted again. The additional trot may take place immediately or may take place at a later requested re-inspection. The decision made by the Veterinary Panel will be final. The number of potential re-trots must be announced at the pre-ride meeting in the prize list.
  2. Any unusual feature about a horse's gait must be noted on the horse's Vet Card and/or their USEF Logbook, whether it is deemed grounds for elimination or not.
  3. If the Veterinary Panel is still unable to conclude that the horse is fit to continue, whether it is because of a presentation failure, including the inability of the horse to trot the full distance, the inability of the horse to trot soundly, or based on veterinary assessment criteria, or Veterinary application of AAEP standards, the horse will be designated as Failed to Qualify irregular gait (FTQGA).

- p. Soreness, Laceration and Wounds: Any evidence of soreness, lacerations or wounds in the mouth, on the limbs or on the body, including girth and saddle galls, must be recorded. If participation in or continuation of the competition is bound to seriously aggravate any such soreness, lacerations or wounds, the horse will not be allowed to qualify for the next Loop.
- q. Heart rate assessment procedure: The heart rate of the horse is measured using either a stethoscope or electronic heart rate monitor. The maximum heart rate parameters are set out in EN108. Heart rate of the horse may be assessed by either the veterinarians or a qualified layperson, approved and appointed by the veterinarians. If laypersons are used in the assessment of horses' heart rates, and a heart rate above the maximum heart rate parameters is observed, the Veterinarians are required to confirm the heart rate is above the maximum heart rate parameter prior to holding or disqualifying the horse in accordance with these rules.
  - 1. Heart rate is the first parameter to be examined and recorded during the Horse Inspection. It is an essential criterion to accurately assess the horse's recovery and fitness to continue.
  - 2. Every effort should be made to accurately record the heart rate. If the heart rate cannot be safely determined, the horse will fail the inspection. If the rider or crewmember deliberately disrupts the horse inspection, the horse will fail the inspection.
  - 3. Horses with heart rates higher than maximum heart rate parameters will not be allowed to continue in the competition and will be designated as 'Failed to Qualify –metabolic' (FTQ – ME).
  - 4. Determining whether the Horse's heart rate complies with the maximum heart rate parameters:
    - a. If the horse's heart rate is equal to or less than the maximum heart rate parameter in the preferred time, then the reading will be recorded, and the inspection completed.
    - b. If a pulse is above the maximum parameters, the horse may be reevaluated up until they have reached their maximum recover time. Competition Management must state the number of presentations allowed in the prize list. Modifications may be allowed in consultation with the Steward and Veterinary Panel and riders must be notified during the Ride Meeting or prior to the start of the Loop concerned.
- 2. Veterinary Assessment after each competition:
  - 1. Details of a horse's completed distance to the nearest Vet Gate, reasons for elimination (metabolic, irregular gait or both), treatments at the venue, and any other comments necessary to protect the horse's future safety and welfare deemed necessary by the Veterinary Panel must be recorded on the Vet Card.
  - 2. Vet Cards must be electronically transmitted to the Federation within seven (7) days following a Federation Licensed Competition.
  - 3. The Veterinary Report for the competition must be submitted within 14 days after the last licensed day of the competition.

Only the Veterinary Panel may make entries in a horse's logbook, National Passport, or FEI Passport.
- 3. First Horse Inspections shall take place preceding the start of each category as stated in the prize list and is performed by the Veterinary Panel.
  - a. During the First Horse Inspections and/or Examinations, a member of the Veterinary Panel must:
    - i. Verify the identity of the horse from its Horse ID, Federation logbook, National Passport or FEI passport, using the diagram, description, and (if applicable) the microchip number;
    - ii. Check that the horse meets the USEF Equine Vaccination Rule, GR844
    - iii. Ensure that the horse does not have any clinical signs of infectious disease. This includes a clinical examination to assess the heart rate, respiratory rate, body temperature and the checking of any other clinical parameters; and
    - iv. Assess the horse's general condition which may include gait; heart rate; respiratory rate and body temperature; mucous membrane characteristics; capillary refill time; metabolic condition and gut sounds; soreness, abrasions, rubs or galls on the withers, back, loins, ribs, girth, chest, shoulders and mouth; and leg injuries, hoof conditions and lower leg dermatitis or bruises, cuts or abnormalities. These assessments and any other observations regarding the horse's condition must be recorded on the Vet Card.
  - b. At the discretion of Competition Management, a veterinary examination may be scheduled prior to the First Horse Inspection as stated in the prize list. Following any veterinary examination, any horse considered not fit to compete must be reported to the Steward before completing the First Horse Inspection. The rider or owner may withdraw the horse before the First Horse Inspection in consultation with the Veterinary Panel.
  - c. Horses not vaccinated as required under Federation rules or whose vaccination status cannot be confirmed (e.g., failure to produce acceptable records) may be refused permission to compete and moved to the isolation area.

- d. Horses must be kept in the isolation area if they show any clinical signs of infectious disease, or have been in contact with other horses that show clinical signs of infectious disease. These horses must be kept in the isolation area pending recovery, or until alternative arrangements have been made.
- 4. Final Horse Inspection:
  - a. The horse must be presented to the Veterinary Panel for a full Horse Inspection.
  - b. The assessments will be performed in the same manner, and applying the same criteria, as previous Horse Inspections.
  - c. To qualify for presentation to the Veterinary Panel at the final inspection, the horse's heart rate must have attained 64 bpm or less within 30 min of crossing the finish line or arrival time for horses in the Limited Distance category. Horses that do not meet these criteria will be eliminated but must still be presented to the Veterinary Panel for inspection at 30 minutes after crossing the finish line.
  - d. The Final Inspection is to determine whether the horse is still fit to continue.
- 5. Other Inspections: Other inspections may be carried out by any member of the Veterinary Panel on all, or any horses selected at random at any time during the course of the competition.
- 6. Veterinary Treatment
  - a. After the First Horse Inspection, the Veterinary Panel in consultation with the Treatment Veterinarian, Steward and Competition Management may recommend changes in the treatment arrangements including the placement of members of the Veterinary Panel, or scheduling of their availability, for help in the treatment area.
  - b. While a rider may refuse veterinary treatment for a horse, the rider may be disqualified (See Annex C) and will be reported to the Federation in the Steward's Report and Veterinary Report.
- 7. Mandatory Reporting and Cooperation of Horse/Pony Collapse, Equine Fatality, and Mandatory Necropsy
  - a. Mandatory Reporting and Cooperation of Horse/Pony Collapse: GR849
  - b. Equine Fatality: See GR849.9
  - c. Mandatory Necropsy: See GR842.

## EN117 Classification

- 1. Individuals: In an endurance competition, the winner is the combination with the shortest elapsed time who successfully passes or complies with all protocols and requirements, including but not limited to the final veterinary examination.
- 2. Dead Heat or Ties: When two or more combinations, who start the competition category, have the same time and finish with the same total elapsed riding time, they are classified according to their respective passage across the finish line whether based on plain sight or photo/video evidence. Dead Heats (Ties) between Individuals may be permitted as stated in the prize list per the Competition Management.
- 3. Disqualification, Retirement, or Failure to Qualify:
  - a. Disqualification: Occurs when a rider is penalized by the Steward in consultation with the Competition Management and removed from further competition for a violation of these Rules.
  - b. Failure to Qualify for the next Loop or for final classification: results when a combination is removed from competition for failure to successfully pass a horse inspection, to complete the full course as required, or to meet all time requirements for presentation or completion.
  - c. Retirement (Rider Option): occurs when a rider decides (without otherwise being removed from the competition) not to continue in the competition after their horse successfully passes the First Horse Inspection, or until the rider makes a request to the Veterinary Panel to retire their horse:
    - i. before the combination crosses the start line; or
    - ii. after the combination successfully completes one or more Loops up to the point of retirement and passes all horse inspections after each of those Loops (including any mandatory re-inspection if vet-requested reinspection).
  - d. Withdrawal: occurs when a rider withdraws from the competition (without otherwise being removed from the competition) prior to the First Horse Inspection.
- 3. All horses removed from competition, voluntarily or otherwise and at any point within the event, must be presented for the horse inspection within the time stated in the prize list and the horse's veterinary records updated accordingly. If removal occurs on course the horse must be inspected by a member of the Veterinary Panel as soon as it is returned to the ride base and the horse's veterinary records updated accordingly.

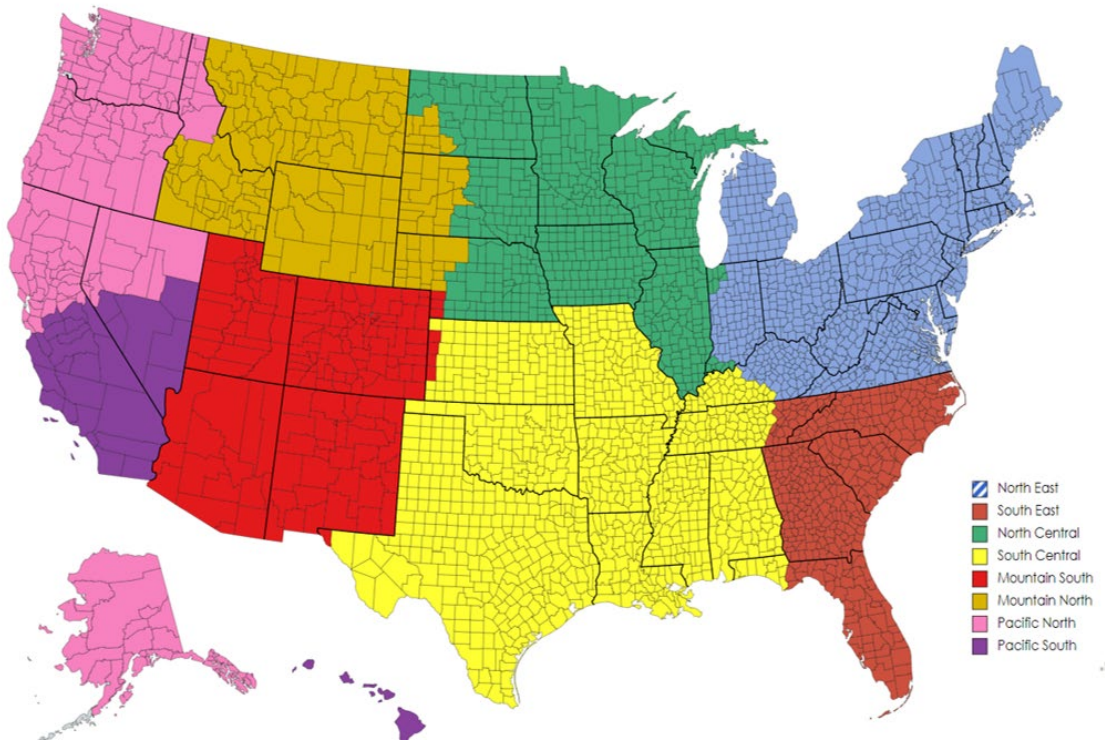
## **EN118 Best Condition**

Competition Management may organize a Best Condition Award for all competitions as stated in the prize list. All horses that completed the competition are eligible to participate in the Best Condition Award. Riders are not required to participate in the Best Condition Award. It is at the discretion of the Veterinary Panel in consultation with the Steward on whether to award Best Condition. Guidelines for determining the Best Condition Award are set out in Annex B.

## **SUBCHAPTER EN-3 FEDERATION ZONES, CHAMPIONSHIPS, RANKING LISTS, AND AWARDS**

### **EN119 Endurance Zones**

1. The Zone of a rider qualifying to participate in Zone restricted rides or on a Zone Endurance team will be determined by the rider's domicile state. That address is locked on December 1 of the competition year or the first day of the rider's membership activation, whichever comes first. However, a Life member's address is always locked on December 1 of the competition year. The address given on the membership application must be the state where the rider is domiciled at the time of membership activation or renewal. A rider may have only one domicile which is where the rider has their permanent home and where, whenever they are absent, intends to return. If a rider is found not in compliance with this rule, the rider may be subject to disqualification from representing a Zone Endurance Team and/or competing in events restricted to Zones. A person may apply to the Federation for permission to change their domicile state.
2. The following Endurance Zones have been established by the Federation. See Annex D for a complete list of states for each Zone:
  - a. Pacific North
  - b. Pacific South
  - c. Mountain North
  - d. Mountain South
  - e. North Central
  - f. South Central
  - g. North East
  - h. South East



## EN120 Endurance National Ranking List

The specifications for the Federation's Endurance National Ranking List, along with the Endurance National Ranking List, can be found on the [Federation's website](#).

## EN121 Zone/National Endurance Championships

1. The rules and qualification criteria for Endurance Zone and National Championship program qualifying and championship classes are listed in the Selection Procedures for each program. These can be found on the Federation website.
2. The following Endurance Zone and National Championship programs have been established by the Federation:
  - a. Zone Championships
  - b. National Endurance Championship
  - c. Zone Team Challenge

## EN122 Awards

An award must be given to all riders who successfully complete their division.

## **ANNEX A: DEFINITIONS**

Authorized Event: An event that is not licensed by the Federation but designated as authorized for specific purposes.

Catastrophic Injury: an injury that, in the opinion of the Veterinarian Panel or the Treatment Veterinarian(s) requires immediate euthanasia or contributes to the death of a horse in competition or as a result of injuries sustained or illness that arises during a competition, howsoever caused. (For the procedures in the event of a horse fatality, see GR849.9).

Category: Classification of the competition, e.g., Limited Distance, OPEN 1, OPEN 2, OPEN 3, or OPEN 4.

Combination: a horse and rider pair competing in a competition.

Competition: An event in which horses and riders are entered and are placed in order of finish based upon the shortest elapsed time to complete the course and who successfully passes or complies with all protocols and requirements, including but not limited to the final veterinary examination.

Completion: If a combination makes an error on the course, the Steward may (if they consider it appropriate to do so) allow the Combination to correct the error by returning to the place where the error started. If the combination fails to do so, they will be disqualified. If the Steward, in consultation with Competition Management, considers that correcting an error on course is not appropriate and/or in the best interests of the horse, they may determine an alternative that will require the combination to complete an equivalent distance over the same type of terrain so that the combination still passes through each Vet Gate in the correct order and within the relevant time limits. In such cases, the combination will receive a completion and designated as 'Finished Not Ranked' and awarded last place finish in the category. The combination may not be considered for the Best Condition Award and may not count for individual or team awards.

Crewmember: a person assisting a combination on the Field of Play.

Division: Age group permitted to compete in the competition. The three divisions are Junior, Young Rider, and Senior.

Field of Play: The Field of Play includes the defined course, the defined crewing points on the course, the recovery area before the Vetting Area, the Vetting Area, and/or the hold area after the Vetting Area. Certain restrictions apply to the Field of Play as set out in the Federation Rules, the Prize List and the Ride Meeting. A horse should not be removed from the Field of Play without following the proper procedures, the rider may be subject to disciplinary action under Federation General Rules.

Final Horse Inspection: The purpose of the Final Horse Inspection is to determine whether the horse is still fit to continue after a normal rest period for another full Loop. The horse must be fit to continue at the final horse inspection in order to receive a completion and placing.

First Horse Inspection: the mandatory horse inspection that takes place prior to the start of the competition and determines whether a combination may compete.

Hold Time: There must be a rest period for the horse (Hold Time) at each Vet Gate (except the final Vet Gate after the finish) as established by the Veterinary Panel and Competition Management. Riders must be notified of the hold times in the prize list and notified of any modifications to the hold times during the ride meeting or prior to the start of the Loop concerned.

Horse Inspection: Following any recovery time in the recovery area, the rider or crewmembers must enter the Vet Gate with the horse for the Horse Inspection. The Horse Inspection will include an assessment of the horse's fitness to continue in the competition based on its heart rate recovery, metabolic status, gait and general condition. The horse may be inspected more than once if the Veterinarian examining the horse so decides. See EN116.

Loops: The total length of the course is divided into a minimum number of sections or Loops.

Exit Exams: The Veterinary Panel, in consultation with the Steward and Competition Management, may require all horses in a particular division or distance to be presented for a mandatory Exit Exam at specified Vet Gates. These examinations will take place within the last 15 minutes of a combination's Hold Time at the relevant Vet Gate. The horse must pass the Exit Exam to continue in the competition or retire.

Requested Re-inspections: Any member of Veterinary Panel may ask a rider or crewmember to present their horse for re-inspection at any Vet Gate if they have any concerns about the horse. Vet-requested re-inspections will take place in the last 15 minutes of a combination's hold time at the relevant Vet Gate. The horse must pass the Re-inspection to continue in the competition or retire.

Vet Gate: at the end of each Loop, horses must undergo a horse inspection and any other required Veterinary Examinations within a safe and restricted area used exclusively for this purpose (Vet Gate). To move into the Vet Gate, the horse must pulse at or below the parameter designated by the Veterinary Panel.

## ANNEX B: GUIDELINES FOR BEST CONDITION AWARD

### A. Veterinary Score Sheet Standing Evaluation

Maximum Score 500 Points

#### Recovery:

Based upon the ability to demonstrate recovery using the Cardiac Recovery Index. It is recommended to use the CRI taken 10- or 15-minutes post-finish time. Base the respiratory aspects on quality of respiration as determined visually and by auscultation.

#### Hydration Factors:

Use all the metabolic parameters that indicate the state of hydrations: skin tenting, mucous membranes, capillary refill time, jugular refill time and gut sounds.

#### Lesions Producing Pain and Discomfort:

Major concerns are back pain and pain/swelling in joints, tendons and ligaments that may be indicative of potentially serious pathology. Also consider girth, saddle, and other tack-induced lesions and all wounds. Note: Do all but cursory palpations after the movement phase.

#### **Movement Evaluation**

##### Soundness:

Note: Not eligible for consideration for Best Condition if there is a pathological gait aberration greater than grade II. Consider: Regularity of gait and movement.

##### Quality of Movement:

Consider: Attitude, coordination, and impulsion (deterioration exhibited as a reluctance or refusal to trot, stumbling, leg weariness, muscle fatigue and stiffness).

Parts B & C to be completed by the Ride Management ONLY (to be done after veterinary completion of Part A)

### B. Time Factor

Maximum 200 Points (Awarded to Fastest Rider)

Riding time of THIS Rider	_____	(Value one point per minute)	
Riding time of Winner	_____	Maximum	200
Difference:	_____	Less Difference	(-) _____
(Calculate time in minutes – exclude hold time_		Total Time Score	

### C. Weight

Maximum 100 Points (Awarded to the Heaviest Rider)

Weight of Heaviest	_____	(Value on-half point per pound)	
Weight of THIS rider	_____	Maximum	100
Difference	_____	Less Difference /2	_____
Difference /2	_____	Total Weight Score	_____

**Total Score = A + B + C = Score** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*The rider's finishing weight is determined at the conclusion of the ride with tack and the same clothes worn during the ride.

This score sheet must accompany USEF ride results. Please include when submitting these.



## ANNEX C: ELIMINATION CODES

### WD: Withdrawn

- The combination entered but does not show up to the competition.
- The combination decides upon arrival to the competition not to participate or prior to the First Horse Inspection in accordance with EN117.3c

### RET: Retired

- The combination decides not to continue in the competition after successfully crossing the start line, or at the end of a Loop providing that the combination has successfully completed that and any previous Loops and passes all horse inspections after each of these Loops, including any Exit Exams or vet requested exams. The horse must be considered fit to continue in the competition at each of these inspections.

### DSQ: Disqualified

- A combination is disqualified in accordance with the Endurance Rules.
- A reason for disqualification must be communicated to the Federation via the official results and reports.
- A horse may be disqualified and also designated as Failed to Qualify for a veterinary or other reason (see list under FTQ below).

### FNR: Finished Not Ranked

- FNR means that the combination completed a competition (including all Horse Inspections) but is not ranked in the final awards due to an error on course.

### FTQ: Failed to Qualify

- The FTQ designation must be accompanied by one or more of the additional codes below
  - SP: Speed (not respecting any applicable speed restriction)
  - GA: Irregular gait
  - ME: Metabolic
  - MI: Minor Injury (e.g., slight soreness, wound, etc.)
  - SI-MUSCU: Serious Injury (musculoskeletal injury)
  - SI-META: Serious Injury (metabolic injury)
  - CI: Catastrophic Injury
  - OT: Out of Time (failure to complete a Loop within the allocated time, but passes the Horse Inspection after that Loop)
  - FTC: Failure to complete (non-completion of a Loop but passes the Horse Inspection after that Loop) the division or distance within the allocated time as stated in the prize list, ride meeting, or prior to the start of the Loop concerned.
- Or when a combination is overtime for a particular Loop when a designated time is established in the prize list, rider meeting, or prior to the start of the Loop concerned.

FTC: Failed to Complete. The Officials must provide reasons for the FTC designation, and an explanation of what happened to the combination.

The above FTQ codes may be cumulative.

## ANNEX D: ZONE DRILL DOWN STATE LIST

By State	
State	Zone
AK	Pacific North
AL	South Central
AR	South Central
AZ	Mountain South
CA NORTH	Pacific North
CA SOUTH	Pacific South
CO	Mountain South
CT	North East
DE	North East
FL CST	South Central
FL EST	South East
GA	South East
HI	Pacific South
IA	North Central
ID MST	Mountain North
ID PST	Pacific North
IL	North Central
IN CST	North Central
IN EST	North East
KS CST	South Central
KS MST	Mountain South
KY CST	South Central
KY EST	North East
LA	South Central
MA	North East
MD	North East
ME	North East
MI	North East
MN	North Central
MN UP	North Central
MO	South Central
MS	South Central
MT	Mountain North
NC	South East
ND CST	North Central
ND MST	Mountain North
NE CST	North Central
NE MST	Mountain North
NH	North East

By Zone	
State	Zone
ID MST	Mountain North
MT	Mountain North
ND MST	Mountain North
NE MST	Mountain North
SD MST	Mountain North
WY	Mountain North
AZ	Mountain South
CO	Mountain South
KS MST	Mountain South
NM	Mountain South
TX El Paso	Mountain South
UT	Mountain South
IA	North Central
IL	North Central
IN CST	North Central
MN	North Central
MN UP	North Central
ND CST	North Central
NE CST	North Central
SD CST	North Central
WI	North Central
CT	North East
DE	North East
IN EST	North East
KY EST	North East
MA	North East
MD	North East
ME	North East
MI	North East
NH	North East
NJ	North East
NY	North East
OH	North East
PA	North East
RI	North East
VA	North East
VT	North East
WV	North East
AK	Pacific North

NJ	North East
NM	Mountain South
NV NORTH	Pacific North
NV SOUTH	Pacific South
NY	North East
OH	North East
OK	South Central
OR	Pacific North
PA	North East
RI	North East
SC	South East
SD CST	North Central
SD MST	Mountain North
TN CST	South Central
TN EST	South East
TX	South Central
TX El Paso	Mountain South
UT	Mountain South
VA	North East
VT	North East
WA	Pacific North
WI	North Central
WV	North East
WY	Mountain North

CA NORTH	Pacific North
ID PST	Pacific North
NV NORTH	Pacific North
OR	Pacific North
WA	Pacific North
CA SOUTH	Pacific South
HI	Pacific South
NV SOUTH	Pacific South
AL	South Central
AR	South Central
FL CST	South Central
KS CST	South Central
KY CST	South Central
LA	South Central
MO	South Central
MS	South Central
OK	South Central
TN CST	South Central
TX	South Central
FL EST	South East
GA	South East
NC	South East
SC	South East
TN EST	South East