**Cavalry Rules (1993 Edition, Amended 2018)**

**Assistance:**

No outside assistance, either in personnel or equipment, is allowed from the starting line to the finish line. **Whatever is used during the ride must be carried with the rider from the starting line or found in natural state on the trail, e.g. grass and water.** **Hay or other feed left on the grounds by prior riders may not be consumed. The rider is responsible for the total care of himself/herself and his/her horse during the entire ride.**

**Supplies:**

No supplies may be added or deleted during the race. The cavalry rider must start with all that is needed and no item may be left behind during the race, although trash may be left at the Vet Checks. Prior stashing of supplies on the trail or at Vet Checks is prohibited.

The Cavalry rider will be required to carry all of his own personal food and liquid refreshment, other than water, from the start, as well as clothing, first aid supplies, etc... The Cavalry rider will be required to carry all additional food for his horse from the start, i.e. grain, bran, electrolytes, etc..., as well as equipment, i.e. halter, Easyboots, etc...

Prior to the ride start, cavalry riders will be allowed to place a bucket, hay and one (1) blanket in the area of the Post-ride Vet Check, to be used after crossing the finish line.

**Bottled Water:**

Management will provide 4 bottles of water for the rider and equine drinking water **at every Vet Check**, for use by the Cavalry rider. Management will also provide one bucket per rider, designated for the Cavalry rider, at the water source, which is a service to prevent fouling the water source with sponges used on the horses. These are the only items offered to the Cavalry rider. The Cavalry rider can offer the horse water from any natural or permanent, i.e., water trough, source on the trail, but may not take water from other pit crews at any time on the trail.

**Identification:**

Cavalry horses will be marked with a letter on each hip to differentiate them from the other competitors, who are marked with numbers. **A Cavalry rider may drop out of the Cavalry competition during the race, have his horse and Vet Card marked with a "1" preceding the letter, and continue under the regular ride rules**.

**Fit To Continue in Cavalry Division(Rider):**

**Ride Management/Station Head has the right to pull a rider out of the Cavalry division, for the rider’s safety. A team consisting of the Station Head, Head Vet, and one other official will exam the rider and evaluate their state of mind and medical status in determining their ability to be “fit to continue” in the Cavalry division. This NEW rule is for rider safety.**

**Natural Water and Grazing Along Trail**:

Cavalry riders will be informed during Pre-Ride Briefing as to the availability of natural grazing at each Vet Check. If a Vet Check has no natural grazing and the rider feels it important to plan on feeding at this point, he should make efforts to stop along the trail prior to or after the Vet Check to graze his horse.

**Medical Assistance:**

Medical assistance for the rider or horse is not permitted while riding cavalry. If a horse loses a shoe, the rider must personally replace it with equipment he carries with him, i.e. farrier equipment, shoes, Easyboots, etc...

**Loose Horse:**

Loose Cavalry horses caught by anyone besides its rider will result in disqualification from the Cavalry competition, though continuation under the regular ride rules is permitted*.*

**Tying Cavalry Horse:**

A cavalry rider may tie his horse to a permanent structure, i.e. tree, fence, building, etc., but not to a temporary structure, i.e. vehicle, trailer, etc.

A cavalry rider may go anywhere within a Vet Check but may not use anything unnatural, i.e. sit in a chair or vehicle, etc. Restroom facilities are an exception, though horse must be tied to a permanent structure or held through the door.

**Violation of Cavalry Rules:**

Any violation of the rules for the Cavalry competition will result in the rider and horse being disqualified from the Cavalry competition, with the option of continuing in the regular ride.

After crossing the finish line and completing any required rider weigh-in, the Cavalry restrictions on **supplies** cease. Restrictions on **assistance** end with completion of the post-ride examination, i.e., rider must present horse for final examination. Cavalry riders may be eligible to stand for any AERC award such as:

First to Finish

Top Ten

AERC Best Condition

These awards are all associated entirely with the successful completion of the course on the day of the ride*.*

**Cavalry Award:**

Special judging for the Old Dominion Cavalry Award will be held along with judging for the Old Dominion Trophy on the morning (time to be announced) following the end of the 24-hour time limit.

**All** horses whichcomplete the ride inCavalry Division are eligible to stand for the Old Dominion Cavalry Award, regardless of finishing position (AS LONG AS THEY DID NOT WEAR LEG PROTECTION). The method for judging is identical to that used for judging the Old Dominion Troph*y.* ***If you plan to stand for the Cavalry or Old Dominion Trophy Award, you may NOT use brush/interference boots or other protective devices on your horse. Additionally, horses standing for either of those trophies may not be administered any medication except electrolytes until after the Sunday morning judging.***