



Scorecard Guide

How to score and understand the Scorecard

A Guide for all: Ride Managers, Vets, Vet Recorders, Riders & Members

The BCCTRA Scorecard is used to record information used to calculate scores for each horse and rider competing in a BCCTRA Sanctioned Ride. The scorecard was adopted from the former Canadian Long Distance Riding Association scorecard. These guidelines are for reference only and are based on current BCCTRA scoring procedures.. Proper use of this Scorecard is essential for scoring to be done fairly and accurately. Every Vet Recorder should be familiar with the scoring procedures to answer any questions from both the vets and the riders. The Recorder records (writes down) what the Vets say to record. The Scorecards stay with the Vet Recorder during the whole of the competition. Each rider carries with them a small *Rider Card*, which records their time out; P&R check readings and their time in. The Vet Recorders give the Scorecards to the Ride Manager when the vets have completed and recorded the Final Vet Check - one hour after the rider has crossed the finish line. The points are then tabulated to arrive at the final scoring for each horse/rider.

The Front Side - or Page One

- 1.) The Ride Secretary completes the information at the top of the Scorecard with the rider's name, horse's name, breed or grade, registration number, age, sex, name of the ride/location, date, level & division.
- 2.) There are columns to record the Vet's findings at each check point. The number of columns used will depend upon the number of Vet and/or Pulse and Respiration (P&R) checks during a particular ride. Each ride will have a Pre-Ride and Post-Ride (final) check and any number of checks during competition. For example, if there are 2 P&R checks and one Vet Check during the ride, the columns to be completed will be the ones marked Pre-Ride, Check 1 (for the first P&R and/or Vet Check), Check 2 (for the second P&R and/or Vet Check, and the Post Ride (for the final One-Hour Vet check). All columns do not need to be filled in and probably won't be. Just use the ones you need for each check - no matter how many there are.
- 3.) PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PRE-RIDE COLUMN IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY. THE VET'S FINDINGS ARE RECORDED ONLY WITH THE **EXCEPTION OF BEHAVIOR AND LAMENESS**, WHICH ARE BOTH SCORED AT THE PRE-RIDE VET CHECK. NOTHING ELSE IS TO BE SCORED AT THIS TIME - ONLY RECORDED.

Only the deductions recorded in the Check and Post-Ride columns are to be scored (*with the exception of Behavior & Lameness*). The Vet records his/her observations ONLY in the Pre-Ride column for comparison purposes. Although the Pre-Ride Check is not scored for all sections except Behavior & lameness, it is used as a basis for comparison at subsequent Checks. This applies to the following sections on the Front Side - Hydration, Capillary Refill, Mucous Membranes, Gut Sounds, Mental attitude, Pulse & Respiration, and on the Back Side of the Scorecard (*Side Two*) - Blemishes, Tack Lesions, Interference & Over Reaching, Trail Lesions, Musculature and Joints, Tendons & Ligaments. **The only section to be scored at the Pre-ride Check is Behavior and Lameness.**

If a horse will not stand safely for the Vet at the Pre-Ride Vet Check, and the Vet tells the Vet Recorder to record the action, the Vet Recorder should put a 3 in the Pre-Ride column. If the horse clearly refuses to cooperate it will be assessed points per infraction and then scored together. The same will be scored and applied if the horse clearly and deliberately attempts to bite, kick, strikes, bucks or rears at the Vet or the Vet recorder that each infraction be recorded as it happens. The deductions will be as follows: -3 points / infraction for not standing safely, -5 points / infraction for each attempt to bite and -10 points / infraction for any attempt at rearing, bucking, kicking or striking. Score each infraction and add together at the end of the Ride.

With the exception of Behavior and Lameness (see later on Side two), anything recorded at the Pre-Ride Check is for reference only. The horse and rider combination are considered in competition from the moment of presentation to the Vet at the Pre-Ride Vet Check until the Post-Ride Vet Check following the completion of the Ride. (*BCCTRA Rule Book 14.2*)

4.) The Vet Recorder will record NUMBERS only - not letters or any other symbols or words like "*looks good*" or "*seems slow*", etc. The numbers are to be recorded in the appropriate boxes that correspond with what is being scored. A Vet may want the Recorder to also write down comments to back up the scoring decision made. This is fine as long as there is a number used to score.

For example: under Mucous Membranes - for normal deduct 0, for pale deduct 2, for injected deduct 3 and for cyanotic deduct 4. These are the deductions to use; there are no 1/2 points or points in between or over, such as 1 or 5. There are no ranges to choose from here. You must record according to the deductions shown in each section. When the time to score all the cards comes, the Vets may already have left the Ride Site, and in this case volunteers may be stuck with the task of trying to interpret what the Vet actually meant with his/her comments, and how to score them accurately. THERE SHOULD NEVER BE ANY BLANKS LEFT - THERE HAS TO BE A NUMBER IN THE CHECK BOXES (used) FOR EVERYTHING! IF IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE WERE NO DEDUCTIONS, THEN MARK IN A ZERO (0).

The volunteers with the job of trying to score all the cards under pressure at the end of the day, when everyone is tired, and riders are waiting for results, do not need to be trying to figure out if a blank means the Vet Recorder forgot to fill something out or not.

SECTIONS

5.) HYDRATION

There are three (3) areas on a horse in which to assess the hydration level - the eye, neck and shoulder. BCCTRA only has the Vets check the neck and shoulder. Usually the Vets decide on how they will specifically record hydration throughout the course of the Ride. Some prefer the neck; this is by far the most common area to check. They will grasp a section of the skin and then count the seconds it will take to return to flat. This is called "*tenting*". Some Vets prefer the shoulder, or may use it in conjunction with the neck. Whatever method is used is acceptable.

The deductions are (*minus*) 2 for slight, 4 for moderate and 10 for severe. Only these numbers are to be used, not 3, 4 1/2, 7, 8 etc. Only one area is used for scoring. The Vet is not to deduct points on each area at the same Check. On the same Ride, if a horse is moderately dehydrated at a Check, and the Vet says to deduct 4 points for the neck, and 4 for the shoulder, then the horse would have 8 point deduction. Another Vet may only deduct 4 points for the neck or 4 points for the shoulder only. Both horses would have the same level of dehydration, but are receiving points deducted ranging from 4 to 8 points. This difference in scoring could result in similar horses being placed incorrectly in the final standings. BCCTRA Overall High Point awards are based on scores for each Ride, so such a range and discrepancy in scoring hydration could seriously affect a horse's overall year-end standings.

Scoring and the Vets must be consistent!

How to Calculate Hydration at the end of the Ride

When Hydration is calculated on the Scorecard at the end of the Ride, deduct only if the condition worsens from the immediate Check prior.

For example:

Horse #1 is given a 4 at the Pre-Ride Check, 0 at Check 1, 4 at Check 2, 4 at Check 3 and a 0 at the Post-Ride Check. The total hydration points deducted for this horse would be **(4.)**

Reason:

The Pre-Ride Check is not scored; it is only used for comparison purposes.

At Check 1, the horse was not dehydrated at all (0).

At Check 2, the horse was moderately dehydrated. A decrease in hydration since Check 1. Deduction of 4 points.

At Check 3, the horse's hydration level had not increased or decreased any more since Check 2, so it remains at 4.

At the Post Ride Check the horse had returned to normal, mark a 0.

Rationale:

The only time the horse's hydration changed for the worse from a prior Check was the time between Checks 1 & 2. The horse's hydration was back to normal at the Post ride Check. So the total number of penalty point deductions for this horse is (4)

Horse #2 was 0 at the Pre-Ride Check, 4 at Check 1, 4 at check 2, 4 at Check 3, and 4 at the Post-Ride Check. Total deductions - (4)

Rationale:

At Check 1 the horse was moderately dehydrated, which was a change compared to the Pre-Ride Check. -4 points. The horse however, remained the same at Checks 2, 3 and the Post-Ride Check. It did not increase or decrease any more. So only a total of 4 points are deducted.

Horse #3 was 10 at the Pre-Ride Check, 4 at Check 1, 10 at Check 2, 4 at Check 3, and 10 at the Post-Ride Check. Total dehydration deduction points for this horse are 12.

Reason:

Although the horse was 10 (*severe*) at the Pre-Ride Check, this is recorded only, not scored.

The horse's hydration improved from the Pre-Ride Check to moderate (4) at Check 1, but then went from moderate at Check 1 to severe again at Check 2 (10). It then improved again to moderate (4) at Check 3, but then went back to severe (10) at the Post-Ride Check.

To score changes up or down in hydration levels *you must deduct the difference at each check if the condition worsens from the prior Check.*

The horses lost 6 points between Checks 1 and 2, (a difference of 6 [4-10]) and then another 6 points between Check 3 and the Post-Ride Check (*a difference of 6 [4-10]*), this brought the total penalty points to 12.

As the maximum penalty points for hydration are only (10), this horse lost 12 points, but received the maximum penalty points in the section of (10). Deducted points are only added together if the condition worsens from the immediately prior Check.

Rationale:

The theory behind this scoring is that a horse that maintains its level of hydration throughout the Ride is considered in better condition than one that worsens, then improves, then gets worse again, then improves.

Hydration depends on many factors, including the age of the horse. Like people, young skin bounces back faster than older skin. It is the maintenance of the same level of hydration that counts, not whether it is a 0 or a 4. Scoring hydration is not done by comparing the difference between the Pre-Ride and Post-Ride Checks, but by comparing the difference between each check from the Pre-Ride Check right through to the Post-Ride Check.

6.) CAPILLARY REFILL

Again, as with hydration, deduct points only if the condition worsens from the immediately prior Check. After 1 second deduct 1 point per second. If it takes 2 seconds for the cap refill, then the deduction would still be only 1 point. If it takes 3 seconds to return to normal then the deduction would be 2 points. Deduction points start after 1 second not at 1 second.

For example:

If Horse #1 is given 1 at each check, including the Pre-Ride Check, the cap refill has not changed, but remains constant. There have been no changes and therefore no penalty points are deducted, and so the total penalty points would be (0).

Horse #2 is given a 1 at the Pre-Ride Check and a 3 at each of the next Checks plus the Post-Ride Check. Cap refill went from 1 at the Pre-Ride Check to 3 at Check 1, for a deduction of 2 points. It remained at 3 during the rest of the Ride, and at the Post-Ride Check. The horse receives 2 penalty points under the Capillary Refill Section.

Horse #3 was 2 at the Pre-Ride Check, 1 at Check 1, 3 at Check 2, 2 at Check 3 and 3 at the Post-Ride Check. Not scoring the Pre-Ride Check, the horse improved from the Pre-Ride Check to Check 1, then between Check 1 and Check 2 the horse went from 1 to 3, giving a deduction of 2 points. Then the horse went from 3 to 2 (*still an improvement*) between Checks 2 and 3, so would not have any points deducted at Check 3. But at the Post-Ride Check the horse went down to a 3 again, receiving 1 penalty point. This would give a final total of 3 penalty points for this horse for Capillary Refill.

7.) MUCOUS MEMBRANES

The deductions for Mucous Membranes are: Normal 2, Pale 2, Injected 3, and Cyanotic 4.

Again as with hydration and capillary refill, deduct points only if the condition worsens from the immediately prior Check.

For example:

If horse #1 was 3 at the Pre-Ride Check, 2 at Check 1, 0 at Check 2, 2 at Check 3 and 0 at the Post-Ride Check, it would only be deducted 2 points at Check 3.

Horse #2 was 2 at the Pre-Ride Check (*comparison only*) and continued to be at 2 at each of the Checks including the Post-Ride Check. This horse would not have any points deducted (0) as it never worsens from the immediate Check prior.

Horse #3 was 0 at the Pre-Ride Check, 2 at Check 1, 0 at Check 2, 2 at Check 3 and 0 at the Post-Ride Check. It would have 2 points deducted for Check 1 (*compared to the Pre-Ride Check of 0*) and 2 points deducted between Checks 2 and 3 for a total deduction of 4 points.

8.) GUT SOUNDS

Gut sounds like hydration, capillary refill and mucous membranes are deducted only if the condition worsens from the immediately prior Check. The deductions are Slight 3, Moderate 5 and Severe 10.

For example:

If horse #1 was 5 at the Pre-Ride Check, 10 at Check 1, 10 at Check 2, 5 at Check 3 and 5 at the Post-Ride Check, it would lose 5 points at Check 1 (*because the difference between the Pre-Ride and Check 1 is 5*), then remained at 10 at Check 2 and then improved to 5 at Check 3, and then was still at 5 at the Post-Ride Check. Total deduction points would be 5.

Horse #2 was 0 at the Pre-Ride Check, 0 at Check 1, 5 at Check 2, 0 at Check 3 and 5 at the Post-Ride Check. The horse would be deducted 5 points between Checks 1 and 2 and then 5 points between Check 3 and the Post-Ride Check. Giving this horse a total deduction of 10 points.

Horse #3 was 3 at the Pre-Ride Check, 0 at Check 1, 3 at Check 2, 3 at Check 3 and 0 at the Post-Ride Check. This horse would only be deducted 3 points between Check 1 and 2. Total penalty points deducted would be 3.

9.) ATTITUDE (MENTAL ALERTNESS)

Each deduction at each Check is added together in this section, except for the Pre-ride Check. Points are deducted for each infraction. They are then added together. The deductions are Dull & Listless 2, Unwilling to go 3. Again the Pre-Ride Check is recorded only and not scored.

For example:

Horse #1 was dull at listless at Check 3 and the Post-Ride Check and was deducted 2 points at each of these Checks giving it a total point deduction of 4. For Attitude this horse received 4 penalty points.

Horse #2 was unwilling to go at the Pre-Ride Check (*which is not scored*), but was fine at all other Checks throughout the Ride as well as the Post-Ride Check. This horse received 0 point deductions for Attitude.

Horse #3 was fine at the Pre-Ride Check, all Checks throughout the Ride and then was dull and listless and unwilling to go at the Post-Ride Check, It was deducted per infraction to give a total of 5 penalty points for this horse for Attitude.

10.) BEHAVIOR

Each deduction at each Check is added together in this section, including the Pre-Ride Check. Points are deducted for each infraction. Therefore, if a horse will not stand safely for an examination (within reason) he/she will be deducted 3 points each time. If he/she bites or attempts to bite, he/she will be deducted 5 points each time it is clear a bite is attempted. The points are then added together. The Vet will then make a determination whether a horse is too difficult to examine or a danger at any time during the competition, and can remove a horse immediately from the competition.

For example:

If Horse #1 will not stand safely for the examination at the Pre-Ride Vet Check, rears up at Check 1, kicks at Check 1, and tries to bite the Vet at the Post-Ride Vet Check, it will deducted 3 points for not standing safely for an exam at the Pre-Ride Vet Check, 10 points for rearing, 10 points for kicking at Check 1 and 5 points at the Post-Ride Vet Check for biting for a total point deduction of 28 points.

Horse #2 would not stand safely for the Vet exam twice at the Pre-Ride Vet Check, but stood quietly at all the other Checks afterwards. He would receive a total of 3 point deductions per infraction for each time he was deemed to be not standing safely. For a total point deduction of 6 points for Behavior.

Horse #3 did not misbehave until the Post-Ride Vet Check when he kicked out 3 separate times during the Check and had 10 points per infraction deducted for a total of 30 points deducted for Behavior.

11.) PULSE & RESPIRATION

Use the Pulse & Respiration Recovery Scoring Point Deduction Table on the Scorecard or in the BCCTRA Rulebook. Pulse & Respiration readings are taken over a 15 second period. (*Not 60 seconds and then divided by 4*). Again the Pre-Ride Vet Check is to be recorded only, not scored.

For example:

Horse #1 was 15 (pulse) and 13 (respiration) at the Pre-Ride Vet Check., 10 and 6 at Check 1, 13 and 6 at Check 2, 12 and 7 at Check 3, and 12 and 5 at the Post-Ride Vet Check. He was not deducted any points at the Pre-Ride Vet Check, but was deducted 1 1/2 points at Check 2. This horse received a total of 1 1/2 penalty points for Pulse & Respiration.

Horse #2 was 10 and 5 at the Pre-Ride Vet Check, 19 and 11 at Check 1, 14 and 10 at Check 2, 14 and 7 at Check 3, and 10 and 5 at the Post-Ride Check. He was deducted 10 1/2 points for his pulse being over and a 1/4 point for his respiration being over at Check 1, 3 points at Check 2, 3 points at Check 3, for a total point deduction of 16 3/4 penalty points. Because his pulse was at 19 and was over the Recovery Parameter of 18 for Pulse and 13 for Respiration, which was set by the Ride Vets at the start of the Ride, he was held for recovery for 10 minutes and then given 10 minutes extra Ride Time. After this 10 minute holdover he had a Pulse of 20 and a Respiration reading of 12, and since he was still above the parameters set by the Vets for Pulse was given another 10 minute holdover and an additional 10 minutes was added to his Ride Time. At the end of this second 10 minute holdover, his Pulse was 10 and his Respiration was at 6. Only the original Pulse and Respiration of 19 and 11 are scored, but the two (2) 10 point penalties are recorded in the "Holdovers" section immediately below the Pulse & Respiration section. (See additional information on Holdovers in Section 12 directly following this called Holdovers). His total penalty points were 36 3/4 points for P&R.

Horse # 3 was 14 and 6 at the Pre-Ride Vet Check (which is not scored), 12 and 5 at Checks 1 and 2, 12 and 5 at Check 3, and 12 and 4 at the Post-Ride vet Check. This horse did not receive any penalty point deductions.

12. HOLDOVERS

If a horse received a 10 minute holdover at a P&R Check because his Pulse and Respiration readings did not meet the Hold Criteria prescribed for the Ride by the Vets (see BCCTRA Rulebook Rule 13.3) he will also receive a 10 point penalty per holdover which is to be scored in this section. A horse that has received a 10 minute holdover will have an extra 10 minutes per holdover added to his/her Optimum Ride Time. (See BCCTRA Rulebook Rule 13.2).

For example: Horse #1 and Horse #3 did not have any holdovers, and 0 was recorded in each box at each Check. Horse #2 received two 10 minute holdovers and two 10 point penalties at Check 1 for a total of 20 penalty points. These 20 penalty points are in addition to the 17 penalty points he received for Pulse and Respiration, for a total penalty point deduction in the Pulse and Respiration section of 36 3/4.

NOTE: If a horse however has not recovered after the second 10 minute holdover, he/she will be eliminated from completing the competition.

13. VETS INITIALS

The Vet should review the information recorded at each Check and put his or her initials in the box directly at the bottom of each Check column. This gives the Vet a chance to ensure that the information was recorded accurately, which is important to know if the Vet has left prior to the final calculation of the scores.

14. FINAL SCORING

Fill in the Time Out and the Time In and calculate any Time penalty points. Deduct 2 points per minute the horse/rider came in early and 1 point per minute that the horse/rider came in late.

A grace period of 10 minutes either side of the Optimum Ride Time, for a total of 20 minutes between minimum and maximum Ride Time is allowed. A horse finishing the Ride more than 30 minutes early or late (*to a total of 40 minutes either side of Optimum Ride Time*) is disqualified, but the mileage will be allowed and awarded. (See BCCTRA Rulebook Rule 10.2)

For example: Horse #1 started the Ride at 8:00 with an Optimum Ride Time of 4 hours. Horse #1's Time In was 12:02. He did not receive any time penalties.

Horse #2 also started at 8:00 but had 20 minutes added for 2 holdovers (2 holdovers of 10 minutes each) at Check 1, resulting in an Optimum Ride Time of 4 hours and 20 minutes. He then got lost and was timed in at 12:49. He was 19 minutes late past Optimum Ride Time (9 minutes late past his 10 minute late grace time window). He received late time penalties totaling 9 points. 1 point for each minute he was past his 10 minute window of grace time.

Horse #3 was timed out at 7:30, with an Optimum Ride Time of 6 hours. He miscalculated his pace and was timed in at 12:20. Total Ride Time of 4 hours and 50 minutes. The earliest he could have finished within his early grace period of 10 minutes without any early time penalty points would have been 1:20. The earliest he could have finished the Ride without being disqualified was 12:50. He was timed in at 12:20 so was therefore disqualified.

15. Add the total penalty points from each section and write this under "Penalty Points Assessed (this side)". You will not be able to complete the penalty points from the other side of the Scorecard and the final score out of 300 and the entrants final placing until you have scored the other side (*the back side*).

THE BACK SIDE

16. The drawings of the horse shown for both sides are to mark any blemishes such as: cuts, scrapes, scabs, rubs, scars, old wounds, splints, spavins etc. that the horse had at the Pre-Ride Vet Check. Unless they are irritated or aggravated during competition they are not to be scored against the horse. The Vet recorder should mark the Post-Ride blemishes in a different color ink. The Vet also notes the horse's way of going at the Pre-Ride Vet Check in the space provided.

17. There are spaces where the Pre-ride comments can be recorded (*again, recorded only, not scored*). The items on this side are not usually marked during competition, but compared at the Post-Ride Vet Check against the Pre-Ride Vet Check. If a horse is cut,

for example, during competition, the cut will still be there at the Post-Ride Vet Check and the Vet will note it at that time. All points deducted for tack lesions, interference / overreaching, trail lesions, musculature, and joints, ligaments and tendons are done on a "per injury" basis. If a horse has two cuts on his left pastern at the Post-Ride Vet Check which he did not have at the Pre-Ride Vet Check, he will be deducted the appropriate points for each cut.

Please note that if a horse has an injury or blemish which is not recorded on the Scorecard, he will be penalized for it at the Post-Ride Vet Check regardless if it was not a result of an injury that happened during competition or not.

PLEASE NOTE that the horse and rider are considered in competition from the moment of presentation to the Vet at the Pre-Ride Vet Check through to the conclusion of the Post-Ride Vet Check. (See BCCTRA Rulebook Rule 14.2). If a horse receives, for example, a rope burn during the night, the injury will be marked against the horse as the horse is considered "in competition" even though it has not yet physically started the Ride. Anything that happens to the horse from the time it goes to the Pre-Ride Vet Check can be marked against it.

18. The competitor must be made aware, by the Veterinary Judge, of any injuries, lameness and soreness at the Post-Ride vet check. A 'runner' may trot lame horses so that the rider may observe the horse's movement. (See BCCTRA Rule book Rule 14.3)

19. TACK LESIONS

Use the points indicated for each injury.

For example: Horse #1 had slightly swollen girth galls on each side at the Pre-Ride Vet Check. Both galls were raw and bleeding at the Post-Ride Vet Check. He was scored 7 penalty points (10-3) for each gall, for a total of 14 penalty points.

Horse #2 had an ill-fitting bit which cut his mouth during competition. He had 5 penalty points deducted.

Horse #3 had a small cut on his shoulder at the Pre-Ride Vet Check which did not change during competition. He did not have any points deducted and was given a 0 for total penalty points for Tack Lesions.

20. INTERFERENCE / OVER REACHING

Any changes from the Pre-Ride Vet Check will result in points being deducted as shown.

Horse #1 had an over reaching scab on his right front leg. During competition the scab was pulled off, but the injury was not any worse. He had 2 penalty points deducted.

Horse #2 had no over-reaching injuries at the Pre-Ride Vet Check. At the Post-Ride Vet Check, he had a cut from over reaching on each front leg, one of which was tender. He was deducted 10 points for each injury for a total of 20 penalty points deducted for overreaching.

Horse #3 had no interference or any over-reaching injuries so did not have any points deducted here.

21. TRAIL LESIONS

These happen only during competition.

Horse #1 was kicked in the foreleg by another horse passing on the trail. Bites and kicks are not subject to penalty out on the trail so he did not receive any penalty points for the kick.

Horse #2 had a deep cut on his right leg from a branch sticking out on the trail. He received a total of 10 penalty points.

Horse #3 tripped over a root and scraped the hair off his left knee for which he would receive a 1 point deduction.

22. MUSCULATURE

The Vet will note any comments at the Pre-Ride Vet Check.

Horse #1 hit his left hind quarter unloading at the Ride Site. The Vet noted slight muscle soreness at the Pre-Ride Vet Check. During competition and at the Post-Ride Vet Check there was no soreness. This horse had no points deducted.

Horse #2 showed no muscle soreness at the Pre-Ride Vet Check. At the Post-Ride Vet Check it had a moderately sore back and was deducted 10 penalty points.

Horse #3 had a slightly sore back at the Pre-Ride Vet Check. At the Post-Ride Vet Check it still had a slightly sore back. It had not changed during competition, so no penalty points were deducted.

23. JOINTS, LIGAMENTS & TENDONS

Horse #1 had slight fluid swelling on the left front at the Pre-Ride Vet Check. At The Post-ride Vet Check, there was moderate fluid swelling on all legs. The horse was deducted 1 point (being the difference between slight and moderate fluid swelling) and 3 points for each of the other 3 legs, for a total point deduction of 10 penalty points.

Horse #2 had slight fluid swelling on both fronts and at the Post-Ride Vet Check still had slight fluid swelling on both fronts, but had moderate fluid swelling with heat on the right hind. He did not receive any penalty points on the fronts as they had not changed, but had a total of 6 penalty points for the right hind. 3 for moderate fluid swelling and 3 for the heat present.

Horse #3 had no problems at the Pre-Ride Vet Check but strained a tendon on the right front side just before the end of the Ride. At the Post-Ride Vet Check the Vet assessed it as severe with pain and the horse was deducted 20 penalty points.

24. LAMENESS

The Vet will determine whether a horse is showing a degree of lameness, or if it is the horse's way of going. This is why the 'way of going' is recorded at the Pre-Ride Vet and Mid-Ride Checks for comparison at the Post-Ride Vet Check. The way of going may be affected by lameness, and having a note of the way of going is very helpful in the Vet's determination. If a horse is judged to have a lameness greater than a Grade II (*that is if it is a Grade III, IV or V*) it will not place in the awards, but it will receive its mileage if completed.

At the Pre-Ride Vet Check horses with a Grade I or Grade II lameness will be allowed to start the Ride, but only at the discretion of the Vet. At the Pre-Ride Vet Check horses with a Grade III or greater lameness will not be allowed to start the Ride.

At the Pre-Ride Vet Check a horse judged to have a Grade I lameness, but allowed to start the Ride, will receive an automatic 20 point deduction. A horse judged to have a Grade II lameness but allowed to start the Ride will have an automatic 40 point deduction.

Lameness scores from the pre ride vet, mid ride and the post ride check will be added together for a total lameness score on the back page. Lameness is not supposed to be scored the same as hydration (for example). Riders are getting hit hard for lameness (to the max of 160 pts. or a D/Q), but that's consistent with the BCCTRA's policy of not condoning the riding of lame horses.

Rationale:

BCCTRA does not condone the riding of lame horses.

For example:

- Horse #1 had no sign of lameness at the Pre-Ride Vet or Mid-Ride Check, but was diagnosed with a Grade I lameness at the Post-Ride Vet Check, the horse will have 20 penalty points deducted.
- Horse #2 had a Grade 2 lameness at the Pre-Ride and Mid-Ride Check and a Grade 2 lameness at the Post Vet Check (40 + 40 + 40 pts) so the total lameness penalty would be 120 pts. Just because the lameness stayed the same (or in some cases improved) doesn't mean the score remains at 40 pts.
- Horse #3 was a Grade I at the Pre- Ride and Mid-Ride Vet Check and because of a tendon injury was a Grade III lameness at the Post-Ride Vet check. This horse was disqualified, but received credit for the mileage.
- Horse #4 was a Grade II at the Pre-Ride Vet Check and improved to a Grade I at the Mid-Ride and Post-Ride Vet Check. This horse lost 80 Penalty points (40 + 20 + 20).
- Horse #5 was a Grade I at the Pre-Ride Vet Check, no lameness at the Mid-Ride Check and was a Grade II at the Post-Ride Vet Check. He lost 60 Penalty points for lameness (20 + 40).
- NOTE: all level 3 competitors include 2 Mid-Ride Vet Checks. Deductions will be combined accordingly.

25. All penalty points assessed on the back side are added and recorded on the front side to determine the FINAL SCORE out of 300 and then the placing in the Division.

26. It is a good idea to have all the scoring double checked before totaling the Final Score. Usually, two or three people do the scoring, and then pass the Scorecards to each other for a double check. This is really helpful in catching mistakes and errors in addition. When all the scores are completed, sort them by Level and Division and put them in order (*highest score is first*) and work down through all the placings.

Consult the BCCTRA Rulebook for further information, or contact a BCCTRA Executive or Director who is attending your Ride.