

HANDBOOK
of the
NAMIBIA ENDURANDE RIDE ASSOCIATION
NERA



*C*ONSTITUTION

*R*ULES

*G*UIDELINES

January

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND REVISION.

Preface to this edition of NERA'S manual consisting of its constitution, rules and regulations and veterinary directives.

Endurance riding unofficially started in Southern Africa in October 1965 when the first "Endurance Ride" was held between Richmond and De Aar in South Africa the one day and back the next day. The following year 97 horses were enrolled for the race but tragically about 60 horses were poisoned and that was the end of endurance riding in Southern Africa. The next endurance ride was only held in 1974 at Fauresmith and is still being held there ever since as the South African Championships annually.

The first endurance ride in Namibia was held in 1966 between Veldduin and Maroelaboom. The first endurance ride club in Namibia was established in 1978 at Grootfontein and was called "Otjiwanda Uithouritklub". After the withdrawal of the South African defence force in 1989 endurance riding stopped in Namibia.

After the Namibian Independence the Grootfontein Endurance Ride Club was established in 1990 and the first endurance ride was held on 13 April 1990 at Kranzfontein near Grootfontein. In 1992 the first Namibian Championships were held at Gobabis. Ever since the endurance sport has grown tremendously and we now have more than 200 members and six clubs. More important than the numbers however, is the quality improvement that Namibia Endurance Riding has experienced. We have grown to become internationally competitive with our wonderful and tough horses.

The time has now come for us to manage NERA highly professional and on an international competitive basis to benefit both our riders and horses, where we not only keep in contact with international events, but that we can compete successfully at international events. One way of achieving this is this manual in which we have kept abreast of international developments, both regionally but also abroad.

In the past NERA was a president driven organization, but part of this manual is to change this forever where as NERA will be professionally managed by a Council which consists of a panel of permanent and rotating portfolios, each with its own area of speciality, with equal representation of all NERA affiliated clubs.

Not only were the constitution and rules revised, but they were also brought in line with endurance ride rules in Southern Africa and the rest of the world.

In this revised and updated edition, we have excluded all the rules of Compulsory Hold rides. In terms of a Council decision all rides under NERA will be Veterinarian Gate Rides as from 1 January 2006. NERA have accepted the FEI rules as our own rules with the only exception our own NERA

restriction on horses in terms of age and experience in order to protect and develop our horses and to provide for circumstances unique to Namibia.

This manual must always be read and consulted in conjunction with the Regulations of the FEI. A copy of both must always be present at all rides. We must never see this manual as the last written word about endurance riding in Namibia, but rather see it as a beginning with no end. This manual need to be updated and changed on a continuous basis to keep it modern, alive and in pace with new developments nationally and internationally in such a way that we serve the interest of all our riders and horses.

This manual was a formidable task and we trust that every rider, official and groom will find this manual a handy source of reference; and that it will ensure many hours of pleasurable endurance riding. May it help to keep our Namibian endurance community intact as one big happy endurance family who do have the ability to compete successfully at international standards but who still have the ability to create opportunities to develop also our entry level riders and thereby ensuring growth in this beautiful and unique sport of us.

NERA Council
1 January 2007

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CONSTITUTION

(CHAPTER 1)

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CHAPTER 7

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