

Antelope Valley Desert Riders

Rules and Information

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Forward

Antelope Valley Desert Riders was founded on May 12, 1939 by a group of Antelope Valley horsemen in the Jury Room of the Community Hall. While the original organization was founded as a trail riding club, it has changed over the years into what it is now, primarily a CGA sanctioned Gymkhana horse racing club.

AVDR holds its regular CGA shows on the 2nd Sunday of each month from September through June for a total of 10 regular shows scheduled throughout the AVDR season. If a show is cancelled due to weather or other circumstances, the show will not be rescheduled. However, if three or more shows are cancelled during a single season, the board may vote to reschedule one or more of these shows.

Every AVDR member is expected to know and abide by the rules and information contained within this document, as these rules define the policies that govern how AVDR horse shows are conducted, how members qualify for prizes, and many other important items and information that need to be adhered to in order to conduct the organization's events.

While the rules and information contained in the following pages have been written and reviewed to ensure concise and unambiguous meaning, it is inevitable that some rules may not be clear to some individuals. In the case that a rule may be considered ambiguous as written, the intent of the rule shall prevail as determined by the Board of Directors.

NOTE: This document may be out of date! Changes to rules and information may be made by the AVDR Board of Directors at the monthly Board of Directors meeting. Any changes made by the board will be reflected in the meeting minutes emailed out to our membership, and posted on our web site. This document will be updated as quickly as possible and made available for download from our web site. Please check the Antelope Valley Desert Riders web site at <http://www.avdesertriders.org> for the latest version of this document and refer to the board meeting minutes for changes made after the publication date appearing at the top of this page.

Section 1– Sanctioning Body (CGA) Rules

AVDR regular season horse shows are sanctioned by the California Gymkhana Association and therefore are subject to all rules imposed by the CGA. AVDR rules are in addition to the rules defined by the CGA, for CGA sanctioned events. AVDR may impose rules that are narrower than those specified by the CGA, or not covered by the CGA rule book. For example, eligibility for year-end prizes are subject to attending a minimum number of shows, performing volunteer work, and other such restrictions.

In any case, all members must follow all rules imposed by the CGA during a CGA sanctioned show. This includes required CGA membership, Dress Code, conduct, and all other rules outlined in the CGA Rule Book.

It is the responsibility of all AVDR members participating in a CGA sanctioned show to be aware of the rules imposed by the CGA.

Section 2 – Membership

Any person who participates in an AVDR sponsored show must be a member of AVDR. There are no exceptions to this rule; however, AVDR does offer a one month membership for a nominal fee for those who wish to participate in a single AVDR show.

- A. AVDR Membership is based on a calendar year, coinciding with the regular AVDR season. The AVDR season starts on September 1st of each year and ends on the following August 31st. All AVDR memberships expire at the end of August and become due at the beginning of September. Membership must be current prior to riding at AVDR. AVDR memberships are NOT prorated if purchased later throughout the season.
- B. Monthly memberships are generally for new riders who wish to try riding in an organized club show, members of other clubs who wish to participate in one or two AVDR sponsored CGA shows or riders who do not wish to participate in the CGA shows but would like to ride at AVDR play days.
- C. AVDR offers Annual memberships for either individuals or families. Please refer to the AVDR Constitution and By-Laws for information on qualifications for individual and family memberships.
- D. Monthly memberships are for individuals only. We do not offer a monthly family membership.

Section 3 – Safety

- A. All riders under the age of 18 must wear an approved safety helmet (hard hat) whenever mounted, or sitting on a horse. This safety helmet must be correctly worn,

properly fitted and secured whenever on a horse when on AVDR grounds. There are no exceptions to this rule.

- B. All riders must wear boots that have at least a ½" heel and a smooth sole when mounted on a horse in the AVDR arena. "Waffle" soles are specifically prohibited.
- C. Any person entering AVDR grounds must wear closed toe shoes. This applies to all individuals whenever they are on AVDR grounds, even those who do not ride or participate in equestrian events.
- D. Horses ridden on AVDR grounds must have appropriate tack. This applies inside and outside the arena.
- E. Horses shall not be allowed to participate in any event when unsoundness or injury is sufficient to be considered an act of cruelty.
- F. No one under the age of 18 shall be permitted to ride a stallion on AVDR grounds.

Section 4 – Rider Divisions

To ensure that all riders compete with others of similar abilities, AVDR will break up the contestants into separate divisions.

- A. The divisions shall be FC, A, AA, and AAA. FC stands for "Future Champion" and is for novice riders or riders on a new horse. AAA is the fastest division at AVDR and is for accomplished rider/horse combinations. Large divisions may also be broken up by age, if the board deems it appropriate for the season.
- B. CGA rules apply for collecting points in each division. Essentially if a rider runs too fast for their division, no points are awarded for the ride. Points may be earned if the rider runs slower than the division, provided the rider finishes in the top 10 positions for the division for which they are registered.
- C. Riders shall have three shows to decide which division they will compete. A rider must choose a division prior to the start of the fourth show that they attend for the season.
- D. When riders change divisions under the above condition, all points for the club will be recalculated as if the rider had been in the new division from the first show they attended.
- E. Riders may only change divisions once during the three month period.
- F. Any additional division changes or division changes made after the first three shows attended by the rider will be allowed, but points will not be recalculated for prior shows. The rider will start in the new division with no points.
- G. To clarify, points earned by a rider/horse combination in other divisions will not be combined and will not move up with the rider to the next division and will not be recalculated to reflect changes made if the rider changes division after the start of the fourth show attended or changes divisions more than once in a season. Choose your division carefully and at a level at which you can comfortably compete.

- H. In each division, 11 points are awarded to 1st place, 9 for 2nd, 8 for 3rd, 7 for 4th, 6 for 5th, 5 for 6th, 4 for 7th, 3 for 8th, 2 for 9th, and 1 for 10th. No points are awarded for placings beyond 10th.

Section 5 – Signups / Payment

- A. Members can save money by preregistering. Members who preregister will receive a discount on ride fees (see the entry form for the discounted rate, available at www.avdesertriders.org). To preregister, send completed entry form(s) along with payment to:

Antelope Valley Desert Riders
3223 West Avenue N-3
Palmdale, CA 93551

To receive the discount, payment must be included with the completed entry form(s). The preregistration must be received at AVDR prior to the day of the show that is being preregistered. No exceptions. If the completed entry form(s) and correct payment are not received prior to the show day, the discount will not apply.

- B. Each horse and rider combination must be signed up separately on an individual entry form for AVDR and CGA.
- C. No refunds will be given for entrants who scratch from an event, for any reason.
- D. Signups on the day of the show are closed 15 minutes prior to the scheduled show start time. In general, signups will be closed at 7:45 AM the day of the show. Entries received after this time will not be eligible to compete in the first event of the day, but may compete in remaining events.
- E. If a show must be cut short due to adverse weather or for any other reason, Antelope Valley Desert Riders will credit each rider for events paid for but not run due to the cancelation of the show. The credit will be applied to the next AVDR regular show. Refunds will not be given for events not run due to show cancellation.
- F. All checks to AVDR must be written to **“Antelope Valley Desert Riders, Inc”**.
- G. Returned check policy – If a check is returned for Non-Sufficient Funds or Account Closed (or any other reason), there will be a fee of \$20.00 due to Antelope Valley Desert Riders. No AVDR points or awards will be given to the rider until the matter is cleared. If the check is not paid within 10 days of notification, the rider/family/check writer will be precluded from participation in further shows and the check will be turned over to the District Attorney’s office for collection. Note: Club financial matters are not considered confidential. A financial report is provided at each Board of Directors meeting to keep the board and membership informed of the financial status of the club.

Section 6 – Awards

Year End awards are presented at the annual AVDR Awards Banquet, hosted at the AVDR arena in October. Typically at the awards banquet, there will be a play-day with several fun events, a gathering for a prepared meal, a raffle, and presentation of the previous season's awards.

End of Day awards are presented after the final event of a show to a winner in each division.

A. Year End Basic Awards

Each year AVDR awards its members who participate all year long with a basic year-end award. Traditionally this has been an AVDR embroidered jacket, but AVDR reserves the right to substitute a different item as the year end-basic award, or to not have a basic award at all, depending on the club's yearly finances. It is extremely unlikely that AVDR would eliminate the basic award for financial reasons, as the club would first reduce the number of places that divisional prizes are awarded.

The following qualifications apply to year-end basic awards:

1. Riders must be an AVDR member in good standing, as well as a CGA member in good standing to compete for year-end awards.
2. Riders must compete in at least 5 regular points counting events in at least 8 regular shows during the season. If a show is cancelled, riders must still compete in at least 8 shows to be eligible to receive awards.
3. Riders must volunteer (or have a representative volunteer) at least one half of one event per show throughout the show season. **To get credit for volunteering, when signing up for a volunteer position on the volunteer sheet, please note the rider that the volunteer is representing, if the actual rider is not doing the volunteering.**
4. Riders may not 'purchase' shows to be eligible for year-end awards.

B. Year End Divisional Awards / Earning Points

Year-end divisional prizes are awarded to AVDR members for the show season that runs September through June. The following eligibility rules apply for year-end awards:

1. Riders must be an AVDR member in good standing, as well as a CGA member in good standing to compete for year-end awards.
2. Riders must meet qualifications for the year-end basic award to be eligible to win year-end divisional awards (see Section 6, Part A above).
3. Divisional awards (FC, A, AA, AAA) will be based on the riders declared division.
4. A rider must choose a division before the beginning of the fourth show that they attend during any season. This can be done during the sign up at the rider's fourth

show. All riders' points from the previous shows will be recalculated to reflect riders who have changed divisions prior to their fourth show of a season.

5. Division changes throughout the year beyond the first three shows a rider attends must be completed at sign-up to qualify for that day's show. Points from other divisions will not be combined and will not move up with the rider to the next division and will not be recalculated to reflect the changes.
6. Riders who have won the first place prize of a division in the past two seasons are not eligible to compete for regular year end divisional awards on the same horse in that same division (or lower division). If the rider/horse pair wishes to ride in the same or lower division in which they won the first place prize, they may do so, but will not be competing for regular prizes in that division. However, if the rider/horse pair finishes in the top 5 places in that division, they will be awarded a special belt buckle as a prize for the season. This rule does not apply to AVDR's fasted division (AAA).
7. Riders who win the first place prize (generally a saddle, but could be something else), may choose to substitute cash for the award. Riders who win lower placed prizes do not have the option of substituting cash for their awards. The amount of the cash substitution shall be determined at the start of each season.
8. The actual awards for each placing and number of placings that receive awards will be determined at the end of each season. Awards and number of placings receiving awards are dependent on the financial status of the club at the end of the season. Currently prizes are awarded from 1st through 6th place.

C. Other Year End Awards

1. AVDR may also choose to give the basic award to other club members who volunteer over and above what is typically expected. However, a member cannot receive multiple year-end basic awards, such as one for volunteering as a board member or judge and another for participation. Except for the following, all basic awards given for volunteering must be voted on and passed by the board of directors with a majority vote.
2. The following members will be awarded a basic award even if they don't qualify under the participation rules, since they volunteer much more than the average member, often performing duties that take many hours prior to a show, during a show, and after a show, and often on days when a show does not even occur.
 - a. Board Members
 - b. Judges
3. Riders 10 and under will each earn a belt buckle, provided they meet all the qualifications for the year-end Basic Award.

D. Purchasing Year End Basic Awards (AVDR Jacket)

AVDR Jackets are NOT available for sale. They must be earned by participation or through volunteer work (board members, judges, etc.)

E. End of Day Awards

End of Day Awards will be awarded to one rider in each division. Because the same people have typically taken home the high point award at the end of the day, to mix things up, we have changed the High Point Award to include a random element. To win the end of day award, a rider must finish in the top 5 spots in their respective division. Before the show competition starts, a random number from 1 to 5 will be drawn from a hat or other container. The number drawn will be the place that wins the end of day award for each division.

Section 7 – General Conduct

- A. The use of offensive language or other conduct considered by a Board Member or Judge to be detrimental to AVDR will not be allowed on AVDR grounds. A warning will be given for the first occurrence. Any contestant not adhering to the first warning will be disqualified from an event. A third occurrence shall result in the contestant being disqualified from the entire show. In any case, whether the person is a contestant or a spectator, the third occurrence shall result in dismissal from AVDR grounds. No refunds shall be given to contestants who are asked to leave for misconduct.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall not be tolerated by contestants, parents, relatives or friends of the contestant, either inside or outside the arena. Such conduct shall result in the dismissal of the person from AVDR grounds, with no refunds given.

Section 8 – Cruel or Inhumane Treatment of Horses

Striking a horse forward of the cinch inside the arena is not allowed and will result in disqualification of the event. Any signs of abuse shall result in disqualification from the show. Signs of abuse include cuts, abrasions, welts, bruises, etc. Any witnesses of abuse by show management or a judge shall be dealt with at the time the abuse was witnessed, and may result in the person being dismissed from AVDR grounds, without a refund given.

Section 9 – Miscellaneous

This section contains rules that do not fit anywhere else

- A. Requests for “Setup” runs must be made 48 or more hours prior to a show. This can be done by emailing or calling the club president (Doug Verseput). To email Doug, visit our website at www.avdesertriders.org, select the “About Us” tab, and then click on Doug’s name under “Board of Directors”. You may also contact Doug by telephone at (661) 944-6133. If you use email, do not assume that the email was received unless you get a confirmation reply from Doug confirming that the Setup run will be available. The main reason for this rule is that we must notify the CGA State Office that the Setup run will be available prior to the show.