

AERC International Committee Charter

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Mission Statement: The International Committee of the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) shall promote excellence in the sport of international endurance riding through education, facilitation of communication and support those AERC members seeking to explore international riding opportunities and/or compete nationally at a high performance level.

Statement of Purpose: The AERC-International (AERC-I) Committee will represent and act for the American Endurance Ride Conference in all matters pertaining to United States of America (USA) international equestrian endurance riding. The Committee shall perform its duties in accordance with the AERC bylaws, policies and directives including, but not limited to, the following general purposes:

- A. Promote international endurance riding in the USA, including seeking ways to widen the rider/horse base, assisting and educating members and ride managers, and sharing relevant information.
- B. Offer recommendations to the AERC Board of Directors and other appropriate organizations involved in international endurance riding.
- C. Solicit nominations for Zone Representatives (as defined in Articles 2, 3 and 4) of the AERC International Committee at the direction of the AERC Board of Directors.
- D. Provide support for riders seeking to ride internationally either through FEI or national affiliates.
- E. Provide educational opportunities via webinars, clinics and other educational venues on various topics germane to improving horsemanship and welfare of the horse.
- F. Raise funds necessary for the promotion of USA international endurance riding with goals and objectives to be established annually.
- G. Develop a strategic spending plan for the aforementioned purposes.

ARTICLES

Article 1 – AERC International Membership

1.1 In March 1991, the AERC Board of Directors established a special membership category for those interested in supporting USA international endurance riding. This special membership will confer no voting privileges in AERC general elections or accumulation of points/mileage for horse or rider. This membership and this membership only, will confer voting privileges for matters regarding the AERC International Committee.

1.2 This special membership category will be used to establish a direct line of communication from the AERC International Committee to those specifically interested in USA international endurance riding. Having a separate membership category will help to insure that interested, supportive people are involved in the AERC International Committee. The funds generated by the special membership will be used for administrative costs of the AERC International Committee, promoting the sport of international endurance riding, and other expenses as approved by the AERC International Committee.

1.3 The annual fee for this special membership will be determined by the AERC board upon recommendation of the AERC-I Committee. Individuals may join AERC International at any time during the year.

Article 2 – AERC International Committee Structure

2.1. The AERC International Committee will consist of the following:

Voting members:

- * Chairman, appointed by the President of AERC and votes only to break ties
- * Vice Chair, elected by the AERC International Committee members
- * Treasurer, elected by the AERC International Committee members
- * Elected Zone Representatives, two from each Zone (AERC International members, in good standing, chosen by members within each of the zones)
- * AERC President

Non-voting advisory members:

- Up to five additional appointment Advisors may be made by the Chair of the AERC International Committee, to serve for the duration of his/her term.

2.2. Chair, Vice Chair: The Chair of the AERC International Committee shall be appointed by the President of AERC when a vacancy occurs or annually as determined by the committee and will serve a two-year term (from Jan.1-Dec. 31st). The Committee shall solicit nominations for the position of Chair.

Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair should be submitted to the AERC office for approval. The Committee shall appoint one of the Zone Representatives to oversee the process. In the event that more than one person nominates, the Committee will vote on the candidates and recommend the elected to the AERC President. In the event that only one person nominates for the position, that persons must be confirmed by a majority of the committee before that person is recommended to the AERC President for appointment. This appointment is to be submitted to and approved by the AERC Board of Directors. Zone structure is defined in Article 4.

Article 3 – AERC International Committee Duties

3.1 Committee general duties include the following:

3.1.1 The AERC International Committee will be responsible for promoting international endurance riding for USA riders interested in international competition.

3.1.2 The AERC International Committee will work with Senior and Junior/Young riders who are interested in pursuing international riding opportunities either through FEI national and international rides or through the National Affiliate of other countries.

3.1.3 The AERC International Committee shall organize an endurance junior/young rider subcommittee to be made up of 3 to 5 zone representatives. The chair for the subcommittee does not need to be an AERC-I committee member, but must be an AERC-I member. This committee will focus on assisting the junior/young rider program.

3.1.4 The AERC International Committee will provide educational opportunities to its members or the membership as a whole as deemed appropriate. Such educational material will concentrate on high performance riding and improving welfare of the horse at all levels of riding.

3.2 Committee Duties and Election/Selection

The Chair of the AERC International Committee will conduct business meetings and act as the representative of AERC International to the AERC Board of Directors. The Zone Representatives will elect the Vice Chair and Treasurer of the AERC International Committee each year. The Vice Chair will conduct meetings of the AERC International Committee in the absence of the Chair.

The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget as well as present monthly reports to the Committee of the Committee's financial condition; disburse funds based on the approval of the Committee, and account for the receipt of funds.

The Chair or a designated recording secretary will record meeting minutes.

3.2.1 The Chair and the Treasurer of the AERC International Committee shall present a proposed annual budget to the AERC Board of Directors to coincide with the date due requirements of the AERC Treasurer.

3.2.2 Zone Representatives shall be chosen by members of AERC International in their respective Zones and will perform the following duties:

A. Promote international endurance riding in the United States including, but not limited to:

1. Actively participate in AERC International Committee duties as well as participate in local AERC rides, serve as mentors, and be readily approachable to AERC and AERC I members, in order to help them with any matters pertaining to international competition.
2. Promote education regarding high performance and international endurance riding.
3. Encourage and participate in discussion regarding international endurance riding.
4. Encourage and assist riders seeking to ride at the international level.
5. Encourage and/or assist ride managers seeking to offer High Performance rides in conjunction with AERC rides.

B. Represent the interests of the United States international endurance rider

1. Act as a liaison between AERC International members and the National Federation.
2. Act as a liaison on policy matters between international riders and the AERC Board of Directors.
3. Educate the AERC Board of Directors about issues pertaining to USA international endurance riding.
4. Inform riders in a timely manner of USEF and FEI rule changes by maintaining routine correspondence and announcements.
5. Document rider concerns and opinions regarding proposed rule changes and provide them to members of USEF Committees.
6. Seek international non-FEI riding opportunities and network with other international riders to support rider exchanges and/or informal team events.

C. Promote participation in regional championships

1. Encourage appropriate ride venues to bid to host regional championships.
2. When applicable, assist riders seeking to nominate for an international team.

Zone Representatives must reside in the zone they represent and will serve staggered terms of four years (i.e. one zone committee member would be elected every two years and each shall run from January 1st through December 31st four years later. In the event a Zone receives no nominations for the vacant zone committee position, the remaining Zone members may nominate a replacement, whom, upon majority confirmation of the sitting committee members, will serve a four-year term. The International Committee Chair will initiate and oversee in a timely manner the appointment process as described above.

3.2.3 Should a member of the AERC International Committee not perform his/her duty, they can be removed from the Committee. Reasons for removal shall include missing two AERC International

Committee meetings, missing an international endurance ride for which they held any responsibility, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any combination thereof. Violations of these duties are to be brought to the attention of the AERC International Committee by any three members of the said committee. The AERC International Committee will notify the violator and provide 15 days for response. After consideration of the response, a two-thirds majority vote of the remainder of the AERC International Committee will retain or remove the member under question. Should an AERC International Committee Zone Representative position become vacant, the remaining zone member of the AERC International Committee shall nominate a replacement, which, upon approval of the AERC International Committee, shall fill the office for the remainder of the unexpired term. Should both the zone representative positions in one zone become vacant, the Chair of the AERC International Committee shall nominate replacements who, upon approval of the AERC International Committee, shall fill the offices for the remainder of the unexpired terms.

3.2.4 Meetings of the AERC International Committee will be open to the general public. The Chair of the AERC International Committee may, at his discretion, close a meeting or portions of a meeting per AERC bylaws.

Article 4 – Definition of Zones: AERC-I shall follow a six zone structure, as follows.

4.1 The Northeast Zone includes Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and West Virginia.

4.2 The Southeast Zone includes Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

4.3 The Central Zone includes the states which lie within the Central Time Zone, including Michigan.

4.4 The Mountain Zone includes the states which lie within the Mountain Time Zone and the entire state of Idaho. No part of Oregon is included in this zone.

4.5.1 The Pacific North Zone includes the states of Oregon, Washington and the part of California which lies to the north of the boundary described as follows: Beginning at the Golden Gate Bridge, the boundary crosses the San Francisco Bay, goes up the Sacramento River until it meets Highway 50, and then follows Highway 50 to the Nevada border. No part of Idaho is included in this zone.

4.6.1 The Pacific South Zone includes the state of Nevada and the part of California which lies to the south of the boundary described as follows: Beginning at the Golden Gate Bridge, the boundary crosses the San Francisco Bay, goes up the Sacramento River until it meets Highway 50, and then follows Highway 50 to the Nevada border.