

Proposal – Single Vet Protocol (SVP) DRAFT v1 10/4/2023

Abbreviations & Definitions

SV – single vet. Must be a “treatment” vet with equipment and competence as specified by EGB
HEA – Horse Examination Assistant. A person identified in advance of the ride who is deemed competent to take a horse's heart rate and is not related to any of the competitors. This person might be (eg) an experienced open or advanced grade rider or a (“non-treatment”) MRCVS.
SVP – single vet protocol. Procedures as described below.

Criteria for Applying for SVP use

An RO may apply to EGB to run National Rides using the “Single Vet Protocol” provided following criteria are met:

1. Max ride distance is << 46km>> <<60km??>> (+/- 5%)
2. Max number of graded ride entrants is <<40>>
3. Max total number of entrants (graded rides plus any pleasure riders) is <<55>>
4. No part of the ride route is more than <<0.75>> miles from driveable track.
5. There is an on call local equine vet practice within <<20 miles>> of venue who has been informed of the event.
6. Intended use of SVP is declared in Clubhouse entry form to inform potential entrants of this and to sign disclaimers*
7. Intended use of SVP is discussed with Technical Steward prior to the event.
8. Specific start times are provided which staggers likely vetting times.
9. RO has reviewed need for an (eg 13kph) speed cap to accompany SVP request and justified if NOT imposed.

EGB will then decide whether to grant use of SVP for a particular event based on knowledge of prior use of route, experience of RO team etc.

Single Vet Protocol – procedures

Overarching philosophy: horse welfare takes precedence over competition requirements.

Post ride Examinations: If an SV is called to an emergency out on course or is unable to attend to post-ride horse examinations in a timely manner due to a welfare incident at the venue, then the following shall apply:

- i) Following consultation with the SV, the RO may call the local vet practice for additional veterinary assistance.
- ii) The HAE will take post-ride heart rates of horses as per usual timings for the ride. The HAE will direct the recording of a standard trot up (eg using a Smart phone) for graded ride entrants (not PR entrants). The HAE may or may not be the person taking the recording but they will be the one that determines the suitability for use.
- iii) If the SV becomes available within 45 minutes of rider finishing, the rider will be asked to do a 2nd trot up of the horse and that live assessment will take precedence over the previous recording.
- iv) If SV does not become available within 45 minutes, the results and performance formulae for the affected individuals and classes will not be declared until the video recordings of the trot ups have been assessed by EGB panel. Rosettes will then be posted to entrants.**

Mid-Ride vettings – if SV is not available to do mid-ride vetting on eg a 60km route, then competitor will not be allowed to continue unless up to other distances offered without a mid ride vetting eg up to 46km. Competitor will be awarded grade & points based on mileage achieved and refunded any cost differences.

Pre-ride vettings - if SV is not available to do pre-ride vettings due to attending an equine emergency at venue or out on course, than HAE will assist as described above. Riders will be allowed to start having already accepted disclaimers in the entry system.

NB if SV does not arrive at venue for start of entire competition, then competition cannot proceed. At RO discretion, entrants may do course as pleasure ride option up to <<34km??>> distance.

*DISCLAIMERS: where SVP is likely to be used on a ride, suggest entry system makes clear that if horse cannot be assessed at start of ride by the SV, it is at the riders discretion whether they start or not, knowing they could be retrospectively “vetted out”. If they wish to withdraw before starting, their entry fees will be refunded.

** ROSETTES to save on postage, and if entrant wishes it, grade rosettes may be given based on HR/speed on understanding that the results are provisional, the horse could still be eliminated based on the recorded trot up and that the entrant does not advertise their results on social media until after confirmation.

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