
CHAPTER 17 ENDURANCE RIDES

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All AHA program and event deadlines must be met as specified, whether submitted by hand delivery, postal service, fax, e-mail, internet, or other electronic means.

END 101. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

To have ride results count towards AHA programs and/or qualifications, membership requirements must be met. (Refer to Chapter 7)

DISTANCE HORSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENDURANCE RIDES

END 102. ADMINISTRATION

1. The National Championship Endurance Ride shall be conducted pursuant to rules adopted by the Distance Riding Committee and the AHA Board of Directors of the Arabian Horse Association. (BOD 3/21) Every effort will be made to hold all the National Distance events together from 2009 forward and be referred to as the Distance Horse National Championships and continue to designate the AHA Championship rides within the overall Event as the AHA Distance Nationals, with the AHA Distance Nationals always the "top Billing" in all advertisements and where appropriate adding "Presented by the Arabian Horse Association". (BOD 11/16) The results for the National Championship Ride will be submitted to the AHA office by the AHA Ride Secretary within 15 days of the event. National Ride Results are unofficial until posted on the AHA website. (BOD 8/15)
2. Administration and interpretation of such rules and authority to make arrangements for such rides shall be vested in the AHA National Distance Commission of AHA. (BOD 11/07)
3. Subject to these rules and to such further arrangements, interpretations, or decisions not inconsistent herewith as may be determined by said commission. The National Championship Endurance Ride will be directly administered by the AHA. Administration may be assigned to another ride organization to be determined by the Board of Directors of AHA. If assigned to another ride organization, the ride organization will:
 - a. Pay all expenses.
 - b. Furnish all facilities and personnel.
 - c. Receive all entry fees and other income deemed feasible by the AHA National Distance Commission.
4. The ride brochure/flyer must include:
 - a. Name and length of the ride.
 - b. Date.
 - c. Location.
 - d. Names of the Veterinarians and Ride Steward.
 - e. Awards presented.
 - f. A liability clause to be signed by all entrants. A copy of the liability clause may be obtained by contacting the AHA office.
 - g. Reference to ride rules in the AHA Handbook.
 - h. A short description of the ride: days, miles, terrain, weather.
 - i. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors and the AHA National Distance Commission to assure that appropriate awards are presented to the Champions, Reserve Champions, Best Condition, and all finishers

of the Championship Endurance Ride. In addition, the Top Ten horses will receive Top Ten awards.

5. Any ride named as an AHA Championship Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian Endurance Ride must be recognized by AHA. The AHA National Distance Commission and the AHA Board of Directors must approve the location and date of the AHA Championship Endurance Ride.
6. The ride must have a Steward. The Ride Steward must be from the approved AHA Endurance Ride Steward list. The steward shall interpret the AHA rules to the Ride Management and the Veterinarians and process any complaints and protests. Protests must be made in writing to the AHA National Distance Commission within eight (8) days from the end of ride. Protest must be accompanied by a \$100 fee which is returned if protest is upheld. (See Protest Procedures)
7. The ride must be an accurately measured distance. The AHA Championship Endurance Ride shall be 100 miles for a one-day competition or may be 100 miles divided between two consecutive days of competition. The 50-mile AHA Championship Endurance Ride shall be 50 miles as a one-day competition. (BOD 2/01)
8. It is recommended that both the Local Ride Secretary and Manager have active individual AHA Memberships. (BOD 5/09)
9. Regional and National Championship Ride managers must have an active AHA membership. (BOD 8/15)

END 103. GENERAL RULES

1. The current American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) or Endurance Canada rules will be followed except where superseded by AHA rules as published in the current AHA Handbook. (BOD 5/12)

When the National Championship Endurance Ride is held in conjunction with another Recognized endurance event and, if that event's competing criteria are more stringent than the AHA requirements, then AHA will accede to the stricter criteria, including weight requirements.

2. To compete in a National Championship Endurance Ride, a horse must:
 - a. Be registered with the Arabian Horse Association, the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry, or the Canadian Partbred Arabian Register and a copy of registration papers filed with Ride Management prior to start of the ride.

END 104. RIDE RULES

1. Age to be determined by registration papers. All horses entered in a National Championship Endurance Ride must be at least 60 months of age at the time of qualifying rides.
2. The same horse and rider must pass all control points in the correct order specified by ride officials and stay on the trail as marked by the National Championship Endurance Ride officials in order to qualify for awards.
3. All horses and riders competing in the National Championship Endurance Ride must be at the starting line at the time designated in the rules on the day of the ride or be disqualified. Horses must be wearing the number assigned by the ride officials. Horses are to be marked on both hips with marking material that may be seen from a distance. If the National Championship Endurance Ride is held in conjunction with another Endurance Ride, hip markings must clearly differentiate by division those horses competing in the National Championship Endurance Ride.
4. All horses entered in the National Championship Endurance Ride will be presented to the Ride Veterinarians for examination, preferably the day before the ride begins. Ride Veterinarians' decision on the condition of horses regarding the ability to start or continue the ride will prevail at all times. Horses must stand veterinary inspections, and the opinions of the AHA Championship Endurance Ride Veterinarians will, in all cases, be final.
5. All horses entered in the National Championship Endurance Ride are subject to blood, saliva, and/or urine tests at the discretion of the National Championship Ride Veterinarians or Ride Management. Abuse of horses entered in a National Championship Endurance Ride, as determined by the Ride Veterinarians, will be cause for disqualification from the ride. It shall be the responsibility of each contestant to ensure that his/her horse has not been administered any drug, which may alter the horse's performance within 72

hours of the pre-ride examination. This includes, but is not limited to, stimulants, depressants, painkillers, or local anesthetics.

6. A violation of any of the National Championship Endurance Ride rules for National Championship Endurance Rides subjects the horse and rider to immediate disqualification. Those horses and riders disqualified will immediately remove themselves from the trail.
7. For both the 50-mile and 100-mile National Championship Endurance Rides, (BOD 2/01) the first ten horses in their respective divisions (two divisions: one for Arabians, one for Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabians) to successfully complete the ride in accordance with AERC rules will be named as follows:
 - a. First place horse will be named National Champion Endurance Horse in their respective division for that year of competition. Winner being determined by the fastest time of the horses to be awarded a completion for the ride.
 - b. Second place horse in their respective division will be named National Reserve Champion Endurance Horse for that year of competition. Second place being determined by the second fastest time of the horses to be awarded a completion for the ride.
 - c. Top Ten. A horse finishing 1st through 10th in each respective division (two divisions: one for Arabians, one for Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabians) will be named Top Ten.

The National Championship Endurance Ride will award Champion, Reserve Champion and Top Ten ribbons in every class and ride, no matter how many entries per class or ride compete. Champion and Reserve Champions will receive respective placing ribbons. (BOD 8/15) All Top Ten Awards shall include qualifications, and all other AHA program benefits except for the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes, the Horse Achievement Award Program, Amateur Achievement Award Program, High Point Horse Achievement Award, High Point Amateur Achievement Award and Distance Horse Program, which programs shall remain as is awarding 50%. (Res. 18-09)
 - d. Best Conditioned. There will be one Best Condition award available for each division of the ride (two divisions: one for Arabians and one for Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabians). The horse chosen to receive the award will be determined by using the guidelines established by AERC. The ride veterinarians should be made familiar with the AERC guidelines in this respect and the riders should be made familiar with the requirements for best condition before the ride. The award does not have to be given if the control judge(s) feel that none of the Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian(s) in contention for the award deserve to receive it. (BOD 3/12)
 - e. There shall be no ties. A Finish Line Official shall be appointed by ride management to place the Top Ten horses for any single day ride. If the Finish Line Official is unable to decide placings all the ties shall be decided by a flip of the coin. Ties in a multi-day ride shall be decided by a flip of the coin.

END 105. AWARDS

Awards will be made to those finishing in the Top Ten and shall be as follows:

1. Champion.
2. Reserve Champion.
3. Top Ten.
4. Best Condition.
5. All completing the National Championship Endurance Ride shall be presented a completion award. Ride Management has the option of providing additional awards.
6. A Youth Rider Award shall be presented for both the 100 mile and the 50-mile Endurance Rides (combined Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian) to the first youth rider to cross the finish line in each distance. The age of a youth is determined by AHA rules. (BOD 8/05) (BOD3/12) (BOD 11/21)

END 106. QUALIFYING RIDES

Qualifying Rides for National Championship Endurance Rides. All horses completing AHA Recognized Endurance Rides on registered Arabian, Half-Arabian, or Anglo-Arabian Horses will be eligible to compete in the annual National Championship Endurance Ride.

END 107. QUALIFICATIONS FOR NATIONAL ENDURANCE RIDES

1. For the 100-mile Championship Ride, the horse must have successfully completed a minimum 300 lifetime miles of which 100 miles must consist of one (1) day or multi-day, one hundred (100) mile Endurance Ride or two consecutive rides of fifty (50) miles or greater over two consecutive days for a total of one hundred (100) miles or more.
2. For the 50-mile Championship Ride, the horse must have successfully completed 200 lifetime miles. (BOD 2/01)
3. Qualifying mileage must be from AHA, AERC, FEI or Endurance Canada Recognized/Sanctioned Endurance Events of a minimum 50 miles distance and be completed within maximum time limits of the Recognizing/Sanctioning body. (BOD 5/12)
4. Ride name, length, date, and location of qualifying ride(s) must be listed on entry blank for the National Championship Ride.
5. The horse is qualified rather than the rider. One or more riders may have ridden qualifying miles for a single horse and a single rider may qualify more than one horse.

AHA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENDURANCE RIDES

A Regional Championship Endurance Ride(s) cannot be held unless there has been at least one Endurance Ride of 50 miles or more recognized by either AHA, AERC, FEI or Endurance Canada in that Region within the previous year or that part of the calendar year prior to the date of the proposed Regional Championship Endurance Ride(s). The Regional Championship Ride(s) must be held within the proposed Region's geographic boundaries or within a contiguous Region's boundaries. (BOD 5/01) (BOD 5/12)

END 108. ADMINISTRATION

1. For the purpose of AHA Regional Championship Endurance Rides, the United States and Canada shall be divided into geographical regions by the Arabian Horse Association.
2. If a Region does not sponsor its own AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride(s), applications for the ride made by any AHA member, AHA member association, or any qualified organization will be considered by the Regional Director. Rides sponsored by a Member Organization of a Region shall be considered as a ride of that same Region regardless of the geographical location of the ride. (Refer to the first paragraph under AHA Regional Championship Endurance Rides.)
3. Any ride named as an AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride must be recognized by AHA. The proposed AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride(s) must be approved by the Regional Director. (BOD 11/10)
 - a. A Regional Endurance Ride(s) may be recognized by AHA upon receipt of a completed Regional Ride Application form.
 - i. The completed Regional Ride Application form must be postmarked at least 60 days (BOD 11/08) prior to the planned event. (BOD 11/10)
 - ii. The completed Regional Ride Application form must be postmarked with the appropriate application fee for each ride (\$30). (BOD 11/10)
 - iii. If the completed Regional Ride Application form is postmarked fewer than 60 days, but more than 30 days prior to the planned event, then the late application fee (\$250) will be charged in addition to the distance fees. (BOD 11/10)
 - iv. No application will be accepted that is postmarked less than 30 days prior to the event. (BOD 11/10)
 - b. Ride flyers including entry forms, fee schedules and similar items must be sent to the AHA office no later than 30 days prior to the first day of the event. (BOD 8/01)
 - c. Persons filing recognition application forms without the ride manager's approval or misrepresenting themselves on such forms will be subject to a \$100 fine. Repeated and/or blatant offenses will be referred to The Probable Cause Panel which may result in review and disciplinary action by the Ethical Practice Review Board. (BOD 8/10)
 - d. Any two Regions are allowed to combine their Regional Championship Endurance Rides. This Combined Regional Championship would be: (Res. 17-19)

- i. Governed and managed by the two (2) Regions involved.
 - ii. Each division having one (1) set of judge/official(s), one (1) set of awards, and one (1) set of National mileage.
 - iii. Requires approval from each of the Regional Directors within a combined Regional Championship Ride.
4. AHA Regional Championship Endurance Rides shall be conducted pursuant to rules adopted by the AHA Board of Directors.
 5. Administration and interpretation of such rules shall be vested in the Distance Riding Committee of AHA.
 6. The sponsor of the ride(s) shall pay all expenses, furnish all facilities and personnel, and receive all entry fees and other income deemed feasible by the Distance Riding Committee.
 7. The ride brochure/flyer must include:
 - a. Name and length of the ride.
 - b. Date.
 - c. Location.
 - d. Names of the Veterinarians and Ride Steward.
 - e. Awards presented.
 - f. A liability clause to be signed by all entrants. A copy of the liability clause may be obtained by contacting AHA.
 - g. Reference to ride rules in the AHA Handbook.
 - h. A short description of the ride: days, miles, terrain, weather.
 8. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors and the Distance Riding Committee of the respective Region to assure that appropriate awards are presented to the Regional Champions, Regional Reserve Champions, Best Condition, and all finishers of the Regional Championship Endurance Ride. In addition, the Top Five horses will receive Top Five awards.
 9. A ride steward is only required if the number of competitors exceeded ten (10) riders in the previous year. If a ride steward is required, then the ride steward must be from the approved AHA Ride Steward list. If there is not a Ride Steward, then, the ride manager shall interpret the AHA rules to the ride management and the veterinarians and process any complaints and protests. (BOD 11/11) Refer to Protest Procedures END 113.
 10. The ride must be an accurately measured distance. The AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride(s) may hold either one ride or more rides of different distances. If one ride is held, the minimum distance shall be 50 miles. If two rides are held, one ride must be a 50/55-mile ride and the other ride must be either a one-day 100-mile ride or a two-day 100-mile ride or a two-day 100 mile or one-day 75-mile ride. If three rides are held, they are to be 50/55-mile, 75 mile and 100-mile rides. (BOD 8/04, BOD 3/25)

END 109. GENERAL RULES

The current AERC or Endurance Canada rules will be followed except where superseded by AHA rules as published in the current AHA Handbook. (BOD 5/12) AERC is the only sanctioning body AHA recognizes for endurance in the United States. (BOD 11/17)

END 110. RIDE RULES

1. All horses entered in an AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride(s) must be at least 60 months of age at the time of qualifying rides. Age to be determined by registration papers.
2. The same horse and rider must pass all control points in the order specified by ride management and stay on the trail as marked by the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride officials in order to qualify for awards.
3. All horses and riders competing in the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride must be at the starting line at the time designated in the rules on the day of the ride or be disqualified. Horses must be wearing the number assigned by the ride officials. Horses are to be marked on both hips with marking material that may be seen from a distance. If the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride is held in conjunction with another endurance ride, hip markings must clearly differentiate by division those horses competing on the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride.
4. All horses entered in the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride will be presented to the ride veterinarians for examination, preferably the day before

the ride begins. Ride veterinarians' decision on condition of horses concerning the ability to start or continue will prevail at all times. Horses must stand veterinary inspections and the opinions of the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride veterinarians will, in all cases, be final.

5. All horses entered in the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride are subject to blood, saliva, and/or urine tests at the discretion of the AHA Regional Championship Ride veterinarians or ride management. Abuse of horses entered in an AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride, as determined by the ride veterinarians, will be cause for disqualification from the ride. It shall be the responsibility of each contestant to ensure that his/her horse has not been administered any drug, which may alter the horse's performance within 72 hours of the pre-ride examination. This includes, but is not limited to, stimulants, depressants, painkillers, or local anesthetics.
6. A violation of any of the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride rules for AHA Regional Championship Endurance Rides subjects the horse and rider to immediate disqualification. Those horses and riders disqualified will immediately remove themselves from the trail.
7. Regional Rides may elect one of the following and shall clearly state in their Regional Ride Brochure/Flyer whether an entire Top Five or 50% of the division rounded up method shall be used: (Res. 20-03)
 - a. Top Five: A horse finishing 1st through 5th, in each division, will be named Top Five. The top scoring horse in each division shall be named Regional Champion and the second highest scoring horse shall be named Regional Reserve Champion. If fewer than 10 entries start the ride (must have passed the pre-ride vet check) in a division, only enough Top Fives will be awarded to total 50% of the division rounded up. (e.g., a ride division consisting of seven entries would be eligible for only four Top Five awards including the Champion and Reserve Champion (BOD 8/02)
 - b. Top Five Awards will be given regardless of how many horses compete in each division at the start of the ride. Points in the Horse Achievement Award, Amateur Achievement Award, High Point Horse Achievement Award, High Point Amateur Achievement Award and Distance Award Programs will be given to those horses enrolled in these programs equal to 50% of the division rounded up not to exceed five of those competing in the division at the beginning of the ride (e.g. A division of a ride of seven horses would be eligible for only four pay-outs even though a Top Five would be awarded) (Res. 20-03)
 - c. The first five horses in their respective divisions (two divisions: one for Arabians, one for Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabians) to successfully complete the ride in accordance with AERC rules will be named as follows for the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Rides:
 - d. First place horse will be named AHA Regional Champion Endurance Horse in their respective division for that year of competition. Winner being determined by the fastest time of the horse's granted completion for the ride.
 - e. Second place horse in their respective division will be named AHA Regional Reserve Champion Endurance Horse for that year of competition. Second place being determined by the second fastest time of the horse's granted completion for the ride.
 - f. Best Condition. There will be one Best Condition award presented for each division of the ride (two divisions: one for Arabians, one for Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabians). This horse will be chosen by the guidelines established by AERC. The ride veterinarians should be familiar with the AERC guidelines in this respect, and the riders should be made familiar with the requirements for Best Condition before the ride.
 - g. There shall be no ties. A Finish Line Official shall be appointed by ride management to place the Top Five horses for any single day ride. If the Finish Line Official is unable to decide placings all the ties shall be decided by a flip of the coin. Ties in a multi-day ride shall be decided by a flip of the coin.

END 111. AWARDS

Awards will be made to those finishing in the Top Five and shall be as follows:

1. Champion.
2. Reserve Champion.
3. Top Five.
4. Best Condition.
5. In addition to these awards, all completing the AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride shall be presented with a Completion Award. Ride management has the option of providing additional awards.

END 112. QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGIONAL ENDURANCE RIDES

1. To compete in an AHA Regional Championship Endurance Ride, a horse must:
 - a. Be registered with the Arabian Horse Association, the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry or the Canadian Partbred Arabian Register, and a copy of registration papers filed with ride management prior to start of the ride.
 - b. Have successfully completed at least 100 lifetime miles of competition, of which up to 50 miles may be earned in an AHA Regional or National Championship Competitive Trail Ride. All endurance completion miles must be from AHA, AERC, FEI or Endurance Canada Recognized/Sanctioned accredited endurance rides of a minimum of 50 miles distance. (BOD 8/01) (BOD 5/12)
 - c. Ride name, length, date, and location of qualifying ride(s) must be listed on entry blank for the AHA Regional Championship Ride.
 - d. The horse is qualified rather than the rider. One rider may qualify more than one horse. A horse may be qualified by more than one rider.

END 113. ENDURANCE RIDE PROTEST PROCEDURE (BOD 1/10)

A subcommittee to handle protests and formal letters of complaint shall be formed of 4 members appointed by the Distance Committee Chair and headed by the Vice Chair. The committee shall serve for a 2-year term starting **December 1**.

Disagreements as to procedure and rules interpretation may be submitted to the Ride Steward for a ruling. If there is a disagreement after the Steward's ruling, or if the Steward did not make a ruling, Protest or Formal Letter of Complaint may be filed in accordance with the procedures outlined in these rules.

1. Protest will be:
 - a. Filed in writing within eight (8) days of the end of the ride.
 - b. Signed by the protester and submitted to AHA with a copy to the Ride Steward and Ride Management Committee for immediate referral to the AHA Distance Riding Sub-Committee for resolution.
 - c. Action to solve the protest will start within 30 days of receipt. Upon receipt of the properly filed protest, AHA will notify Awards, Sweepstakes, and any other concerned departments of the pending action. A \$100 fee will accompany the protest. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. If the AHA Distance Riding Sub-Committee is unable to resolve the protest within 30 days, a note stating the status of the protest shall be sent by the Sub-Committee to the protester, with a copy to the Ride Manager and to the Judges and Stewards Commissioner. A similar note shall be sent every 30 days until the protest is resolved.
2. Formal Letter of Complaint will be:
 - a. Filed in writing within 14 days of the end of the ride.
 - b. Signed by the complainant and submitted to the AHA Distance Riding Sub-Committee.
 - c. Investigated and resolved by the AHA Distance Riding Sub-Committee in a fair and impartial manner as they deem appropriate.

END 114. AHA RECOGNIZED ENDURANCE RIDES

1. A local endurance ride with a minimum distance of 25 miles may be recognized and be conducted by AHA Member Organizations or other interested groups or persons.
2. The current AERC or Endurance Canada rules will be followed except where superseded by AHA rules as published in the current AHA Handbook. (BOD 5/12)
3. A completed recognition application form along with a \$25 non-refundable application fee for each distance is required.

- a. If the completed form and fee are postmarked 60 days or more prior to the ride, then the normal fee will be applied (\$25). (BOD 11/10)
- b. If the completed form is postmarked less than 60 but more than 30 days prior to the ride, a late fee (\$250) per event will be required in addition to the distance fees. (BOD 11/10)
- c. If the completed form is postmarked 30 days or fewer prior to the ride, then the ride application will be denied. (BOD 11/10)
4. Ride flyers (brochures or ad flyer) including entry forms, fee schedules and similar items must be included (BOD 8/06)
5. Persons filing recognition application forms without the ride manager's approval or misrepresenting themselves on such forms will be subject to a \$100 fine. Repeated and/or blatant offenses will be referred to the Probable Cause Panel which may result in review and disciplinary action by the Ethical Practice Review Board. (BOD 8/10)
6. All AHA Recognized Endurance Rides are exempt from the Judges and Stewards 9-90 fee assessment (Res. 32-15) and the AHA per horse fee.

END 115. RESULTS REPORTING

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RIDE RESULTS

1. The results for the National Championship Ride will be submitted to the AHA office by the AHA Ride Secretary.
 - a. When the National Championship ride is held in conjunction with an AERC/FEI/Endurance Canada Open ride, the results from the Open ride must be reported for each horse by submitting a properly signed and completed AHA Open Qualifying Ride Results Form within 90 days of the ride. (BOD 11/02) (BOD 5/12)
 - b. If the Open portion is also recognized by AHA, AHA reporting will prevail for results and Achievement Awards. (Refer to ACH 107.6)

AHA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RIDE RESULTS

2. The results for the AHA Regional Championship rides will be submitted to the AHA office by the Ride Secretary for the placings in the AHA divisions.
 - a. When the AHA Regional Championship ride is held in conjunction with an AERC/FEI/Endurance Canada Open ride, the results from the Open Ride must be reported for each horse by submitting a properly signed and completed AHA Open Qualifying Ride Results Form within 90 days of the ride. (BOD 11/02) (BOD 5/12)
 - b. If the Open portion is also recognized by AHA, AHA reporting will prevail for results and Achievement Awards.

AHA RECOGNIZED RIDE RESULTS

3. The results for an AHA Recognized Local Ride will be submitted to the AHA office by the Local Ride Secretary. (BOD 11/02)

OPEN RIDES NOT RECOGNIZED BY AHA

4. The results for rides sanctioned by AERC/FEI/Endurance Canada/USEF and not recognized by AHA must be reported by submitting a properly signed and complete AHA Open Qualifying Ride Results Form within 90 days of the ride or the Official AERC Horse Record must be submitted along with the AHA Open Qualifying Ride Results form. (BOD 11/02) (BOD 5/12) (BOD 1/22)