

# Horse Nations Indian Relay Council Rules

## **Men's Relay 17 and younger must have signed waiver**

- a. Three (3) horses
- b. There will be Four (4) team members on each team: 1 mugger, 2 holders and 1 rider.
- c. Standing Start
- d. No team member may touch or assist Rider during starts and exchanges
- e. Must wear matching tribal regalia
- f. Must participate in two (2) Accredited HNIRC races

## **Women's Relay (18 and over) 17 and younger must have signed waiver**

- a. Two (2) horses
- b. There will be Three (3) team members on each team: 1 mugger, 1 holder, 1 rider
- c. Mounted start
- d. Can be assisted at the starting line.
- e. May use knee to assist on exchange, (Neck ropes optional)
- f. Must wear matching tribal regalia
- g. Must participate in one (1) Accredited HNIRC race meet.

## **Junior Relay (14-16) (AGE: May 31 - Prior to Season Opener)**

(Adult responsible for team must sign waiver)

- a. Two (2) horses
- b. There will be Three (3) team members on each team: 1 mugger, 1 holder, 1 rider
- c. Mounted start
- d. Can be assisted at the starting line.
- e. Adult Mugger and Exchange holder (preferred).
- f. May use knee to assist on exchange, (Neck ropes optional)
- g. Must wear matching tribal regalia
- h. Must participate in one (1) Accredited HNIRC race meet.

## **Youth Relay (Ages 11-13)**

(Adult responsible for team must sign waiver)

- a. Three (3) ponies (Size 49"-54" --13 hands)
- b. There will be Four (4) team members on each team: 1 mugger, 2 holders, 1 rider
- c. Standing Start
- d. Can be assisted at the starting line
- e. May use knee to assist on exchange, (Neck ropes optional).
- f. Must wear matching tribal regalia
- g. Must participate in one (1) Accredited HNIRC race meet.

## **Kid Relay (Ages 7-10)**

(Adult responsible for team must sign waiver)

Three (3) ponies (32"-48")

- a. There will be Four (4) team members on each team: 1 mugger, 2 holders, 1 rider
- b. Standing Start
- c. Can be assisted at the starting line.

- d. May use knee to assist on exchange, (Neck ropes optional)
- e. Must wear matching tribal regalia
- f. Must participate in one (1) accredited HNIRC Race meet.

### **Tribal and Team Identity**

- a. Team members must show Tribal ID or proof of Native American descent.
- b. Traditional tribal attire is required for riders.
- c. Team members must have matching attire and colors which identifies them as a team
- d. No ball caps on riders. Please cover all non-related tribal logos on shoes.

### **Riders Dismount, Exchange, Bareback**

- a. The rider must dismount, touch the ground with both feet, before mounting the next horse.
- b. Only One Rider per team per race.
- c. Riders must ride all horses bareback.

### **Horses**

- a. Three horses will be allowed for each race
- b. Once the race has started there will be no horse substitutions
- c. After the race has started any loose horse interfering with another team will result in disqualification at the judges discretion.

### **Riders**

- d. If a rider falls off his horse; does not release the horse, and is able to remount again, no disqualification will occur
- e. Any use of twitches, neck ropes, stud chains, lead ropes, or any other devices will result in the team being disqualified from the entire race. (Men's Relay)
- e. No jumping or sitting on horse by team members once the team is on the track.
- e. Indian Relay Riders will only ride for the team they registered for at Entry. No riders will be allowed to Ride for another team during the event.
- h. In the event a Rider is injured and cannot ride the Team captain must find a qualified rider not registered on another team.
- h. There will be no use of fences, walls or any assistance mounting. This will lead to a Disqualification.
- h. Delaying the start of the race by Rider (staying mounted) after judges' warning could cause a disqualification.
- i. No outside assistance or touching horses outside of team (such as grabbing tails) after judges' warning could cause a disqualification.

### **Starting Line, Standing Start, Horn**

- a. Riders must be at the starting line on time or be disqualified
- b. All races will start with riders standing on the ground (except Junior and Women's)
- c. Races will be started with the sound of a horn.
- d. No teams will be allowed more than 2 false starts, no test jumping on horses.

Teams will be assigned a box by draw; teams must operate from their assigned box.

- e. All races will be one lap and require 2 exchanges.
- f. Women's Relay, Junior Relay, 2 laps, 1 – exchange, mounted start.
- g. If a judge determines a horse is unruly at the start and is taking excessive time or disrupting other horse/riders, it will be start behind the other horses. The judge will provide a verbal warning and place them "on the clock" the member will have 60 seconds from the verbal warning to settle the horse before being disqualified.

#### **Judges Decision, Six Judges per race, Team Inquiry**

- a. Judges decisions are final
- b. There will be six Judges assigned one to each box
- c. Rider/Team **Inquiry** must be placed to the Assigned Box Judge before the judges make the race official.
- d. Once the race has been called official before the next race it cannot be contested.
- e. If there is interference the team causing the interference will be disqualified at judges discretion.
- f. Judges may view only HNIRC video to make a race determination. +++

#### **Entries, draws and qualification for the Championship Race**

- a. There will be qualifying heats and on Championship Day, there will be consolation races and the Championship Race
- b. Heat draws will be done the evening before the race unless otherwise stated. Heat draws for Championship Day will be done at the finish of the last race on Saturday.
- c. On Sunday, the fastest combined time for Friday and Saturday will advance to the Championship. The remaining teams will race in a consolation races.
- d. Positions will be decided by fastest to slowest in each heat.
- e. In case of any ties, teams in the tie will do a draw to determine position/heat.

#### **Collecting Prizes**

- a. Only a pre-designated team member or person listed as owner of a team may collect prize money
- b. A W-9 and a valid ID are required prior to the start of the race
- c. Participation in this event constitutes permission for HNIRC to use your name/likeness for promotions without notice or permission.

#### **Actions or behaviors Disqualification from Event and Forfeiture of Prize Money**

- a. Items listed from 1-7
- b. Any team member who is intoxicated or under the influence of drugs on racetrack grounds.
- c. Striking another team's horse or rider.
- d. Using your horse to block another team's horse and rider from entering his/her exchange area.
- e. Running your horse through another's exchange area determined by judges.
- f. Harassment, arguing, fighting or intimidating the judges, track workers,

starters, fans will not be tolerated.

### **Signed waivers**

All team members must have a signed waiver!!! It is better to have waivers signed by anyone that might be part of the team. If a team loses a member and replaces them if they do not sign a waiver before the race the team will be disqualified. All youth team members must have a guardian signature.

Team members conduct, disrespect and vulgar language, will be grounds for disqualifications.

Team owners/managers will be held liable for anyone associated with their team.

### **Safety**

a. Please pay attention at all times. Your safety and the safety of the livestock, race workers and fans are our utmost priority