

The Australian Light Horse Association Ltd.

~ ASSOCIATION CUP ~

EVENT 7

DESPATCH RACE

GENERAL

This event is designed as a Relay Race to test the ability of horses to be led from the ground, the ability to mount and dismount, and the speed of the horse and rider. It is run in sections. Troopers 1 and 3 on the Start Line and Troopers 2 and 4 are on the Dispatch Line.

This is a timed event. It should be run with two sections competing against each other per round. However, if enough judges, ground crew and area are available, several sections could compete at once. If there is limited width on the course to run all sections at one time, the event should be run in two or more heats. There is no separation of A and B grades.

LAYOUT

1. This is run on a straight course approximately 100 m long (see sketch below). The sketch shows only one 'lane' of the course.
2. Ensure that there is at least 8 m wide.
3. Cones or other markers should be set up along the Finish Line and Dispatch Line at 8m intervals across the course as lane markers.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

1. Trooper No. 2 and No. 4 wait dismounted on the Dispatch Line.
2. Trooper No.1 is dismounted on the Start Line, facing the Finish Line. Trooper 3 is dismounted behind the Finish Line.
3. A row of four dispatch bags, either haversacks or empty feed bags should be positioned along the Finish Line, each corresponding to a section lane.
4. On the judge's starting signal, all No 1 Troopers will lead their horse to the finish Line to pick up their dispatch bag.

5. They then mount and gallop down to the Dismount Line, where they dismount, and lead their horses to the Dispatch Line, they then hand over the dispatch bag to Trooper No 2.
6. Trooper No. 2 mounts and then gallops his horse back to the Start Line, dismounts, leads his horse to the Finish Line and hands over the dispatch bag to Trooper No. 3.
7. Trooper No 3 then mounts and gallops back down to the Dismount Line. He dismounts, leads his horse to the Dispatch Line and hands over the dispatch bag to Trooper No 4.
8. Trooper No 4 mounts and gallops back to the Start Line and dismounts. He then leads his horse for 10 meters to the Finish Line. The time stops when the horse's hind feet have crossed the finish line.

PENALTIES

DISQUALIFICATION

1. If in the opinion of the judge, a competitor mistreats his horse, that rider may be disqualified from the competition.
2. If a rider leaves his lane and adversely affects another rider.

EQUIPMENT

1. Cones or other suitable markers to define the Finish Line, Dispatch Line and lane widths.
2. Dispatch bags can consist of either haversacks or empty feed bags.

WEAPONS

There are no weapons required for this event

GROUND CREW

1. Ground crew in the centre of the ring shall be limited to an absolute minimum.
2. As there is often confusion at the end of a close race, stewards could be appointed to assist the judge in recognizing the placegetters.

