



### Endurance Horse Racing

A celebration of partnership between horse and rider, endurance racing covers long distances through varied terrains. It challenges physical stamina, strategic pacing, and exceptional horsemanship.

Endurance horse racing in the UAE has been a longstanding tradition, celebrating both the bond between rider and horse and the country's historical dependence on Arabian horses. The Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026 (OMGAD2026) will feature two main categories: Individual 100KM (Men) and Individual 100KM (Women), with age categories designed to encourage the participation of all riders and ensure a level of competition suited to their experience and physical capabilities.

### Competition dates

The provisional Endurance Horse Racing competition schedule for OMGAD2026 is as follows:

February 7 Saturday	February 8 Sunday
	

All dates and times are subject to change, pending final entries received. A detailed schedule by event for each discipline will be developed throughout 2025.

**Venue: Competition venue: Al Wathba Race Track, Abu Dhabi**

 [Pin Location](#)

### Competition format:

Categories	Competition type	Race Distance	Age categories
Men's	Individual	100KM	25-40, 40-55, 55+
Women's	Individual	100KM	25-30, 30+

The 100KM race will be divided into five distinct stages of 20KM each. The division of the race into stages allows for a structured approach, where horses and riders can pause to rest and undergo veterinary checks after each stage.

The rest periods between each stage will provide essential recovery time, reducing the risk of fatigue and ensuring that all participants have a fair opportunity to succeed.

At the completion of each 20KM stage, riders will undergo a veterinary check. These checks ensure that both horses and riders are fit to continue. A minimum rest period of 30 minutes will be enforced at each check, allowing the horses to recover and ensuring they are in a good condition to proceed. The total time spent resting will vary depending on the results of the veterinary checks, but the format encourages a balance between speed and careful management of the horse's condition.

To compete in the Masters Games, riders must meet specific eligibility requirements. Participants must be within their respective age categories as outlined in the event rules.

In terms of horses, the eligibility requirements are stringent to ensure that only fit and healthy horses are allowed to race. Horses must be at least six years old and no older than 15 years. This age bracket is chosen to ensure that the horses are physically mature enough to handle the demands of a 100KM race while still being in their prime performance years. All horses must be registered with the UAE Endurance Racing Federation and meet the health and safety standards, including having the necessary vaccinations and health checks.

In order to qualify for the Masters Games, riders must have participated in at least two endurance events of 80KM or more in the past year. Those without the required qualifications must pass a pre-qualification race or demonstrate their skills through an assessment.

### **Competition standards and rules**

The Endurance Horse Racing event will be conducted in line with the competition rules of the UAE Equestrian and Racing Federation, or as otherwise specified in this document.

### **Athlete and Event Eligibility**

Prior to entering the Open Masters Games, the riders must have competed and completed the 40KM and 80KM lead-up races.

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### **Technical Delegate**

The Technical Delegate endorsed by the UAE Equestrian and Racing Federation will be announced in Version 2 of the Guide. The Technical Delegate will oversee the implementation of all sport specific rules and requirements at the Games.

### **Updates**

This guide will be updated Version 2 by 1 September 2025. Important additional information will be available at that time. In the meantime, please address all inquiries to: [sports@omgad2026.ae](mailto:sports@omgad2026.ae)