



TRAIL RIDING AUSTRALIA Inc

CODE of CONDUCT

**Includes; Trailride Guidelines
Correct Practices for Clubs
Overseers & Drovers
Supporting Forms**

Introduction

Trail horse riding is a source of pleasure and enjoyment for many people and can be a safe and appropriate low impact way to explore and appreciate Australia's natural environment. It can also enhance human/horse relationship and skills while engaging in a physical activity.

Trail Riding Australia's (TRA) aim in this Code is to supply guide lines to affiliated and potential clubs, so as to enhance safety and enjoyment of members, families and friends.

TRA will also facilitate accreditation training for Club Overseers/Drovers to further the risk minimization ethic in a 'Common Sense' approach.

1 Ideals of TRA

1. Respect individual members and clubs worth and encourage and develop participation of talents.
2. To promote, encourage and foster trail horse riding within all Australian States and Territories and work towards the preservation and maintaining of trails through sustainable policies and practices.
3. Promote a supportive environment and encourage a consensus of ideas and thoughts within TRA.
4. Encourage and assist in developing new potential members and clubs and encourage positive interaction between clubs through associated activities.
5. Acknowledge it is individual trail clubs and members who, through affiliation, form TRA.
6. Maintain an open transparent organizational structure, a simple tried and true form i.e. Member – Club – State – National.
7. To promote and encourage good horsemanship and horse welfare in all facets of TRA activities and to encourage family participation in horse trail riding.
8. To educate members and families of TRA in their understanding and protection of the conservation values of the Australian Natural and Cultural environment. To promote safe and environmentally responsible trail horse riding.

2 TRA CODE OF PRACTICE.

All Members should become fully conversant with the following guidelines

1. Many places and items have spiritual or cultural significance for indigenous communities treat such places with consideration and respect.
2. Respect the rights of Landowners. Do not enter private land without permission.
3. Conduct yourself in a manner that promotes the ideals of good horsemanship, horse welfare, your club and TRA.
4. Be observant and avoid unduly disturbing areas of erosion or potential erosion.
5. Where and whenever possible stay on designated trail/tracks.
6. Avoid allowing horses to denude areas of vegetation, especially during stays of more than one night in the same location, be ready/prepared to change positions of yarding or line.
7. Rather than risking damage to fragile creeks, streams and river banks, select firm stony crossings and use bridges wherever possible, as this will help to ensure good water quality and limit erosion.
8. Carry and use canvas or collapsible buckets, and/or pump and hose where possible, to water and wash horses, well away from water courses thereby further reducing the potential for water pollution and bank erosion.
9. Only allow your horse to eat weed free feed at least 48 hours prior to entering bush land Undertake some basic weed identification education so as to help with point 5, and possibly even assist land managers in quickly identifying and eliminating new outbreaks of problem species.
10. Dispose or disperse manure from overnight campsites and float parking area, as this will minimise the fly effect and hasten the breakdown of organic matter.
11. Protect trees from ring-barking by using picket/night lines ropes and tree protector straps and incorporate stops in the line to prevent horses chewing bark off trees.
12. Where possible make picket/night line length 15 meters or more to reduce concentrated impact.
13. Avoid yarding horses not already familiar as paddock mates. This will avoid unnecessary impact should they chase each other around to establish a new social structure or 'pecking order'.
14. In weed infestation prone areas observe all regulatory signs. Avoid unduly disturbing plants bushes etc causing distribution of seeds (refer rule 5).
15. Do not bury or leave rubbish at camp sites, lunch or snack stops. Take out what you take in.

3 Ride guidelines

Each club should have its own set of guidelines. The following, if adhered to, should ensure that all potential risks are minimized.

1. The horse's welfare and training is the responsibility of the owner/rider. In line with this TRA request the horses feet are properly conditioned, booted or shod to ensure their wellbeing.
2. It is recommended that riders wear full length trousers, sleeved shirt, and footwear which prevent the foot from sliding forward through the stirrup iron.
3. Juniors to be supervised by a parent or nominated guardian.
4. All riders under eighteen years (18) years must wear a regulation helmet that complies with AS/NZS 3838;1998 En 1384 or ASTM F 1163, and the helmet be less than five years old. (Check date of manufacture before buying).
5. Helmets are recommended for all riders.
6. For best-practice safety, riders should comply with instructions from Overseer/Drover at all times. This includes the Overseer/Drover, with respect and the best interests of all, requesting a rider/horse combination not take part in the ride due to horse welfare, safety or equipment concerns.
7. Permission to ride in front of the Lead Drover or behind the Heeler must be requested.
8. Do not leave the ride without permission from Overseer.
9. Keep your horse under control and do not pass another rider in a manner that will upset their mount.
10. Keep your horse out of kicking distance of other horses.
11. A horse is a vehicle. When on roads obey road rules, wear visible clothing.
12. No drinking of alcoholic beverages whilst mounted. State Road Rules apply.
13. Respect property owners, leave gates as you find them.
14. No dogs allowed on rides.
15. Report all incidents ASAP.
16. Smoking is not encouraged on the trail.
17. Harness vehicles allowed by the discretion of the club.
18. Communication links; two way radios, mobiles etc must be carried by nominated person/s.
19. A State approved 1st Aid Kit must be carried by an approved / nominated person/s.
20. A record must be kept of all persons participating on a ride.

4 VISITOR DAY RIDERS

1. All Visitor Day Riders must sign the attendance register and waiver form and pay an administration fee.
2. Visitor Day Riders may attend two (2) Club rides before becoming members of TRA.

5 CHARITY TRAIL RIDES

Where a club holds a fund raising Trail Ride for charity the following must be observed;

- a. an accredited Overseer/Drover will be in control,
- b. the Charity Trail Ride forms to be completed and forwarded to the Insurance Coordinator and a copy to the State Secretary a minimum of six weeks prior to the event,
- c. all day riders/visiting riders to sign and complete a waiver form with payment of Club nominated fees, standard TRA fee applies, and
- d. if ride is more than 48 hours all riders must be financial members of TRA and non- riding volunteers must be signed into the register.



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WOULD YOU LIKE TO RUN A TRAIL RIDE?

Clubs Overseers and Drivers

INTRODUCTION

It is important as the person/s charged with the responsibility of a group of horses and riders that you fully understand these generally accepted guidelines and procedures designed to ensure that it will be a successful and safe ride.

While incidents can not always be avoided TRA believes that careful planning can significantly minimize the risks.

RIDE NOTICE LAYOUT

RIDE TITLE.....DATE.....

One paragraph invitation and explanation of ride.

In point form, list requirements for attendees:

- Camping gear
- Meals, drinking water
- Horse feed
- Special equipment to be included or not used
- Night lines/electric yarding

In point form, list relevant information of ride:

- Terrain
- Distance
- Horse fitness and shoeing status
- Dogs allowed or not, Stallions allowed or not
- How early may attendees arrive
- How late may attendees leave
- Ride out times
- Ride fees (members/non members, riders/non riders, adults/juniors)
- Ride organizers details for nominations to be sent.
- RSVP date

Nomination Form must include details of:

- Ride Name and Date
- Attendees Names
- Riders / Non Riders
- Members / Non members
- Contact details
- Relevant medical details
- Monies / cheques sent

Map to ride or camp location (not to be on back of nomination form)

- Include street directory reference if possible



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TRAIL RIDE ORGANISATIONAL PLAN

CLUB.....

RIDE:.....Date.....

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS: *(Start no later than 2mths before the ride)*

- Have you decided on a location and a date suitable? Does it suit the club?
- Have you checked with Land Management Department/Ranger/Owner regarding use of area, are the dates correct and are there any restrictions?
- Are permits required?
- Are fees or deposits to be paid?
- Have all tracks been checked RECENTLY? *(Consider the effects of recent storms, rain or fire, locked gates and fences)*
- Is the ride within the capabilities of all expected horses and riders?
- Estimated distance of ride:
- Will there be adequate water availability, particularly lunch spots?
- If fire conditions apply or Total Fire Bans exist have alternative plans been made (ie, escape routes, cooking arrangements)?
- Have ride fees been set? Are they adequate to cover costs?
- Is the ride notice correct and has it been sent to members? *(Allow a minimum of 4 weeks prior to ride where possible, see ride notice layout)*

LEAD UP TO RIDE:

- Who will be carrying First Aid Kits for humans and horses?
- Will a First Aider (wearing identifiable clothing) be present on ride?
- Where is the nearest medical assistance for Riders?
- Where is the nearest medical assistance for Horses?
- Have you finalised Back-up Crew Arrangements?



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POST RIDE DEBRIEFING INFORMATION

(Clubs should keep this on file)

CLUB:

RIDE: **DATE:**

TYPE OF RIDE: *(Catered, camping, base camp, etc)*

Were maps were used, what scale were they, were they accurate?

What routes were taken?

Day 1.....

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Day 2.....

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Day 3.....

.....

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What contacts where required? *(List their contact details)*

Land Managers.....

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Hosts/Facility Owners

Caterers.....

Costs and Charges

Fees Charged

Where they adequate:

Numbers Attended

Weather conditions:

Incidents occurred:

General Comments: *(Attach extra information if required)*

NAME:**Date:**.....