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What is a Trail Ride Challenge?

A Trail Ride Challenge is a trail ride of up to twenty (20) kilometers in length (there is no minimum) where a number of obstacles or challenges are encountered and attempted.

How many “challenge’s are encountered on such a Ride?

There is no maximum number of challenges that may be encountered on such a ride. There is a minimum of six (6) challenges that must be available. It is very much dependant on the location of the event.

What sort of “challenges” will be encountered?

A complete list of challenges is available from the website. This also identifies the different challenges for the different levels.

Can my Club hold a Trail Ride Challenge?

Yes clubs are encouraged to hold Trail Ride Challenges.

Why do we need to do this?

The intent is to promote safety, fun and be educational at the same time. It is something that clubs and members elect to undertake, and is simply another club event. It also provides the added benefits that are described further below. This is not a compulsory event for any club.

What types of Trail Ride Challenges are there?

There are two (2) kinds, Official and Unofficial

Unofficial Trail Ride Challenges can be conducted by any of ATHRA’s Affiliated Clubs. There is no need to submit a “Special Event” form.

Official Trail Ride Challenges are hosted by an ATHRA Affiliated Club and conducted under the supervision of the ATHRA organisation.

What is the difference of the two (2) types?

Official Trail Ride Challenges are used to accumulate points towards the registration of the “Australian Trail Horse”. This is a Registry managed by ATHRA. ATHRA members can elect to have their horse added to this Registry when their horse has accumulated sufficient points to qualify. Prizes for different categories may also be offered at official events, e.g. highest point scorer Junior & Senior.

So how does a Trail Ride Challenge work?

A Trail Ride Challenge is not that different to a normal Trail Ride. A Ride Register will still need to be created and normal ATHRA Code of Conduct practices applied. At each “Challenge/obstacle” an “Assessor” is located who observes each individual attempt of the challenge and award points based how the horse performs at the obstacle. Each obstacle is attempted individually; there is no following of the rider in front. Every member who attempts a challenge starts the exercise with maximum points. Points are deducted based on how the horse performs its task e.g. refuses to cross water. At the end of the Challenge points are accumulated and awarded to each horse. When sufficient “official” points are accumulated, the owner of the horse can apply to have the horse registered in the “Australian Trail Horse Registry”.

What are the costs?

Unofficial Trail Ride Challenge costs are determined by the club conducting them. This could be zero or any other amount determined by the club.

Official Trail Ride Challenge costs are dependent upon a number of factors. The basic participant application cost is \$25 then it is dependent upon inclusions such as meals as well as other facilities e.g., toilet hire, venue costs, entertainment etc.

How does the Australian Trail Horse Registry (ATHR) link into this?

The “Official Trail Horse Challenge” is the process for accumulating points that is recognised for the Australian Trail Horse Registry.

Do I need a registered “Australian Trail Horse” to ride in these challenges?

Absolutely not, the Australian Trail Horse Registry is optional and elective. It is designed not only to add value to your horse by having them registered and independently assessed on their performance, it also recognises the true worth of our horses and how they perform.

What is this “Australian Trail Horse Registry?”

This registry is designed to acknowledge the training and essential characteristics of a good Australian Trail Horse. It is a point based system which allows ATHRA member horses to progress through the different levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold thus increasing the value of their horses accordingly. We all know it takes a special horse to undertake some of the things we expect of them. This acknowledges it. The registry is not a breed as such but a performance based registry.

Why can’t unofficial Trial Ride Challenges be used to accumulate points for the Australian Trail Horse Registry?

It is to ensure uniformity and maintain standards. For a horse registry of this kind to be successful there needs to be controls, measures and standards in place. This will ensure credibility and acceptance.

How are these standards and uniformity going to be managed?

Each obstacle listed will have a definitive list of actions that are expected to occur. Each action will have points associated to them which when the “Assessors” observe the action they will apply the points system. This has been developed in collaboration with our horse training expert Ken Faulkner and Kathy Stewart of the Australian Horsemanship Study Centre.

Will “Assessors” travel around the country attending official TRC’s?

No, that is not the intent. It is expected that volunteers will be provided at official TRC’s who will be trained by an ATHRA official who will be in attendance.

What happens if I disagree with a mark the Assessor has given me at an Official TRC?

Assessors are trained on the observations required for each stage of a challenge. You may wish to seek clarification of the mark which I’m sure will be supplied. All marks will be reviewed and endorsed by the ATHRA Official managing the event. This mark is final and needs to be accepted as such.

What breed of horses are eligible for this registry.

Any breed is eligible; they simply have to qualify as described above.

Is there a cost associated to registering my horse?

Unfortunately yes, whenever there is some form of administration there is a cost associated to it. The cost however should be far less than the value that is added to the horse by their registration and significantly less than other “breed” associations.

What is the cost of registering a horse in the Australian Trail Horse Registry?

Costs are yet to be determined, for indicative numbers the following is a guide.

\$100 upon qualification submission and \$20 per year thereafter.

Alternatively a single lifetime of horse cost of \$150.

To upgrade to the different levels is \$25.

How does my club organise an “Official TRC?”

Complete the application form and forward to your Regional Manager. The Regional Manager will then liaise with the Director, Technical Training and work through the process from then on.

Who can participate in a TRC?

On unofficial TRC’s the rules are the same as a general Trail Ride that is ATHRA members and sponsored potential members/visitors.

At “official” TRC’s only ATHRA members can participate.

Can “borrowed” horses be used and registered in the Australian Trail Horse Registry? (ATHR)

Yes if that horse is “owned” by an ATHRA member. If the horse is not owned by an ATHRA member then the horse is not eligible for listing on the ATHR.

I have purchased a horse that was registered in the ATHR but this has since lapsed. Can I get this reinstated and what is the process?

Please contact the ATHR Registrar to discuss and resolve the issue.

How do I get a reprint of my horses Certificate of Registry?

Please contact the ATHR Registrar for a reprint, and administration fee of \$25.00 will apply.