GUIDELINE – TRAIL RIDE CHALLENGE

ATHRA

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Trail Ride Challenge Summary

A Trail Ride Challenge (TRC) is a new event for ATHRA. It is designed to encourage members to educate their horses and in doing so make it safer as well as increase the value of their horses.

The normal ATHRA Code of Conduct applies to these events.

A TRC is, broadly speaking, a Trail Ride with obstacles that are generally encountered during a normal Trail Ride. Participants attempt these challenges individually and in doing so, are assessed on their horse's performance. There is an assessor at each obstacle.

Whilst they are not timed events, the time taken to negotiate the individual challenge or obstacle is taken into consideration in the awarding of points for that particular challenge. All participants attempting a TRC commences on maximum points. Points are deducted on the chosen gait and performance of each task.

There are two (2) types of Trail Ride Challenges, "Official" and "Unofficial". See the frequently asked questions (FAQ-001) for details.

Clubs who conduct "Unofficial" TRC's may develop their own categories for assessment and or awards. These will not form the categories for "Official TRC's.

A DVD of the challenges will be available for purchase shortly. This displays each challenge and what is expected of participants and their horses.

How do I conduct an "Official" Trail Ride Challenge?

Clubs are encouraged to host an "Official Trail Ride Challenge". (TRC) The host club should complete the form "Official TRC Application Form" and forward it to their Regional Manager. (Much information is available from the FAQ's and application form.)

Official TRC's will be published on the ATHRA website and become available to all ATHRA members. Hosting clubs have the ability to "cap" the number of participants.

This is a national event and as such is not be restricted to the hosting club members only.

The Regional Manager after review will then submit this to the Technical and Training Director for approval and endorsement.

The Technical and Training Director will then allocate an ATHRA Official to officiate at the event.

The Hosting club will then keep a register of the names of the participants and receive the attendance funds for the event minus the "Official" TRC participant cost.

Sometime before the event takes place the ATHRA Official will need to inspect the venue and the challenges to ensure compliance to the challenge specifications. This may be done the day before the event.

The day or night before the event the ATHRA official will coach the assessors on the marking requirements of the challenges they are assessing. (Participants are welcome to attend this briefing if they chose)

On the day of the event participants or groups will be allocated times for commencing the event (This is to minimise the waiting time for each individual)

Before each obstacle there will be a stopping marker where participants will wait until called by the assessor to perform the challenge.

After each challenge participants should move away to allow the next participant to attempt the challenge in the same way as they did. Participants can then move on to the next challenge.

The assessor will mark each participant at each challenge based on their attempt and as per the marking schema.

At the end of the event each assessor is to provide the ATHRA Official with the results of their assessment.

The ATHRA Official will then record these results and provide a summary of the markings to the Hosting Club for publishing.

These results will also be kept on record for future use for the Trail Horse Registry.

Secondary awards can be created for each event if the Hosting Club wishes e.g. Highest Point Scorer Male/Female/Junior etc.

How do I conduct an "Unofficial" Trail Ride Challenge?

ATHRA clubs can conduct as many unofficial TRC's as they wish. As mention normal Code of Conduct applies.

To do this, simply register the event in your normal club event calendar.

Identify the obstacles/challenges that are available at the ride location.

Download the data sheet & score cards for the identified challenges.

Provide the Data Sheets and& Score Cards to your assessors making sure they understand the marking process.

Conduct the event and have fun.
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Remember this is an "in house/club" event so you can make it as fun or competitive as you wish.

Unofficial TRC's are unable to be used for points towards the ATHRA Trail Horse Registry.

How does the Australian Trail Horse Registry work?

In order for ATHRA members to register their horses in the Australian Trail Horse Registry (ATHR) they will have participated in "Official" Trail Ride Challenges and achieved the required points for each of the applicable challenges for the level of registry they are seeking (bronze/silver/gold).

Once the required points have been achieved, members complete the "Official ATHR Application Form" and send it to the applicable ATHRA address with the nominated dollar amount.
The form is cross checked and processed accordingly.

Following the processing of the application the applicable certificate is generated and returned to the member. The registry database is updated accordingly.