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WHAT IS A TRAIL RIDE CHALLENGE?

The Trail Ride Challenge (TRC) is designed as an event that will educate both horse and rider. It includes 14 different challenges commonly encountered on most trail rides, set up over a designated course.

A diagram of the course is provided below. Each rider completes the course including all the challenges, and is timed from course start to course completion. There is no right or wrong way for each challenge is to be completed, the only requirement being that all challenges are to be undertaken in order, over the entire course.

THE CHALLENGES ARE (In order of completion):

1. Mount horse near side.
2. Walk over the log.
3. Trot for 50 metres to next challenge.
4. Open gate, go through and close gate.
5. Canter 50 metres to next challenge.
6. Cross the bridge.
7. Figure 8 around barrels or drums.
8. Through the creek.
9. Up, over and down the hill.
10. Over the 60cm jump.
11. Side pass the log left on one side, right on the other.
12. Lead horse (any gait) to the next challenge.
13. Leave the horse with handler.
14. Dismount off side.

There is flexibility in the challenges you can include in the course. Where the course location prevents a particular challenge from being included, it can be substituted by one of the following alternatives. Up to five challenges can be substituted.

ALTERNATIVE CHALLENGES:

1. Back up horse mounted 5 steps
2. Ride horse over a tarp
3. Ride horse over 3 cavalletti (1 metre apart)
4. Dismount, tie horse up (quick release knot), untie horse, mount, ride off
5. Dismount, walk 5 metres away from horse then back and remount. Horse must not move

HOW DOES A CLUB HOST AN ATHRA TRAIL RIDE CHALLENGE?

The ATHRA TRC is designed to be held at a club level. It is an opportunity for members to have fun while educating both themselves and their horse. The Trail Ride Challenge can be as competitive or non-competitive as each club determines.

There is no set course length, however a course that is between 500 metres and no more than 800 metres is the most suitable. The course is ideally suited to a large paddock or your local show ground etc. It should take no more than 4 minutes for a participant to complete the course successfully.

The ATHRA Trail Ride Challenge has no official entry fee, no application forms to be completed, and there is no right or wrong way that each challenge is to be completed.

The ATHRA Trail Ride Challenge is a great way for clubs to provide variety, host 'come try' days, encourage new members, and foster younger membership.

The ATHRA Trail Ride Challenge can be a great tool for club members to improve rider skills for accreditation, and ultimately have 'up skilled' ride officials.

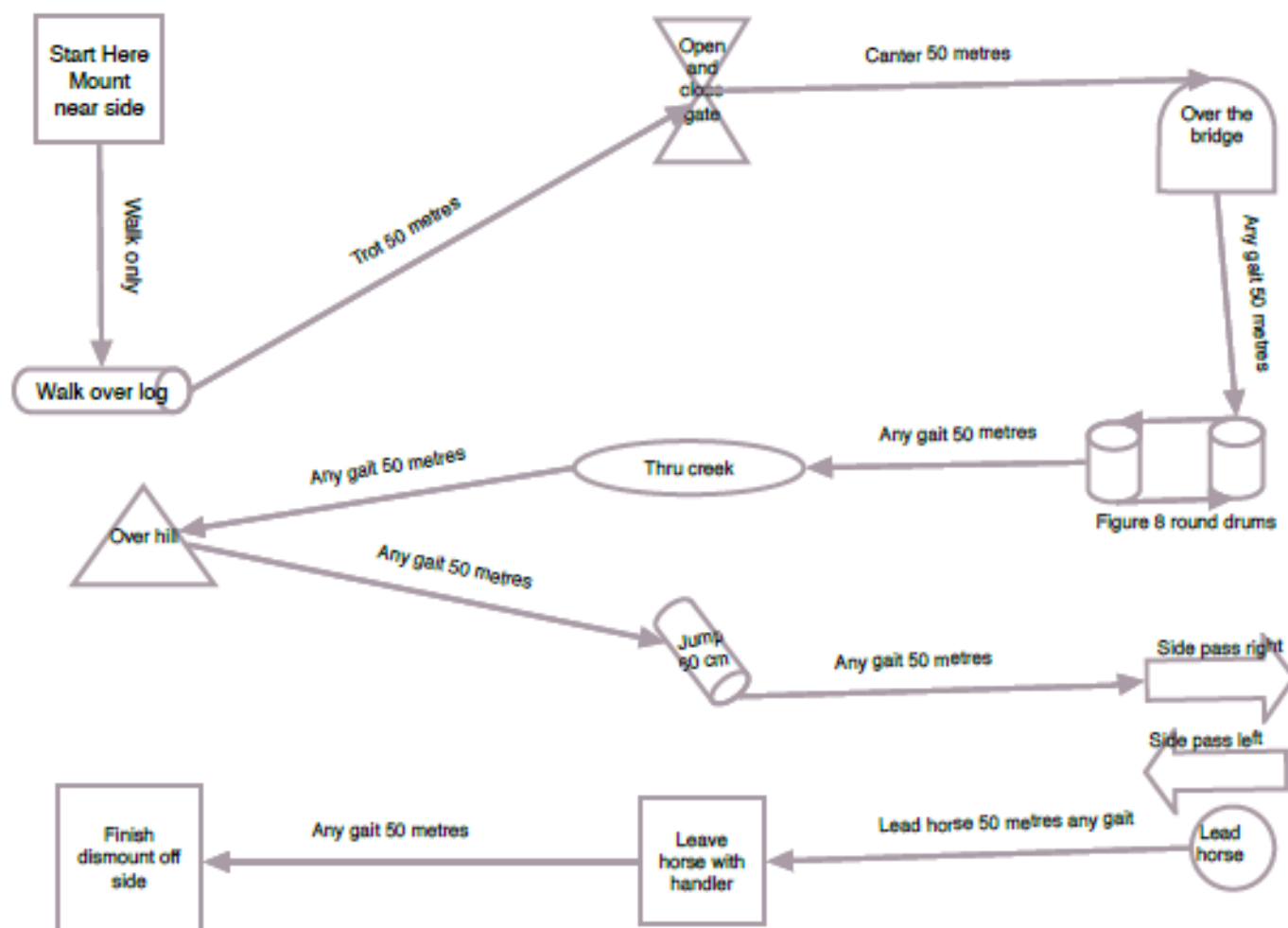
WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

1. Include the ATHRA Trail Ride Challenge on your ride calendar
2. Have the course set up including the 14 challenges
3. Each rider must complete the whole course and it is timed by a "judge" (Trail Boss)
4. The Trail Boss keeps a record of each entrant's time. The ATHRA Trail Ride Challenge time sheet (IMS-F-20) can be downloaded from the ATHRA website
5. Club awards could be given to the fastest, most improved, youngest horse or rider, oldest horse or rider, etc., entirely at the club's discretion. Each club can decide on any number of awards
6. The only ATHRA requirement is that the Code of Conduct is to be adhered to, that appropriate ride officials are present and that participants sign the Ride Register exactly the same as your regular club trail rides
7. ATHRA also requires that when the club's Annual Report (IMS-F-002) is sent in each year that the club lists how many ATHRA Trail Challenges were hosted and how many members participated in total

CONTACT ATHRA FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can contact your local ATHRA Regional Manager or ATHRA's Director Technical Training for more information. Contact details can be found on ATHRA's website (athra.com.au > Contact ATHRA > Contact Us – Directors and Position Holders).

More information on TRC's can also be found on the website (athra.com.au > Forms & Info > Trail Ride Challenge).



ATHRA Trail Ride Challenge