



Trail Riding Safety and Etiquette

The following are suggested trail riding rules and etiquette guidelines to help keep us all safe out there on the trails. Common complaints and feedback from trail riders in general include comments such as riders galloping or cantering past other horses, causing horses to become agitated or riders stopping unexpectedly at the top hills or on a narrow trail.

Horse and Rider Manners

Consider all other riders. Riders can vary in levels of age, experience and even confidence. Horses may also be young or green and can become upset for different reasons. Be aware of your other riders' capabilities and experience. Ride at a pace to suit your group.

- Maintain one horse length distance minimum between horses.
- Never canter or gallop past other horses.
- If overtaking another horse, do so at a walk or trot only and always announce your intention to riders ahead, passing at a safe and wide distance.
- Do not stop at the top of a hill or on a narrow single lane. If you need to stop, please pull off the trail to allow for a safe distance to overtake.
- Advise other riders of hazards such as low hanging branches, pot holes etc.
- Be aware of other riders when removing items of clothing or passing drink bottles etc around to avoid spooking other horses.
- Place a red ribbon on the tail of any horses that kick and always keep a safe distance from all other horses.
- Follow the instructions of the volunteers and event organisers.
- Respect the property you are riding on. Leave no litter. During this event you will be given the opportunity to ride sections of private property following the pipeline. Please leave all gates as you find them and stick to the trails indicated.

Some helpful training tips or techniques to consider:

The following are some training techniques that may be considered useful. When utilising any of the following please exercise caution as incorrect use or over correcting can cause additional or new issues.

- One rein stops – can be helpful for hard to stop horses.
- Leap frogging – a training exercise for horses that resist going in front or always want to take up the rear.
- Head down/calm down – for anxious or excitable horses.
- Ground work and/or arena work

Trail Riding Tips

Practice riding with other horses - riding behind and in front of other horses. That may also alert you to behavioral quirks your horse may have with others.

Ensure your horse is used to encountering bicycles, joggers, vehicles – traffic etc. These rides are conducted on public access trails, so any or all of these may be encountered.

Walk on bitumen sections. Bitumen can be slippery and unsafe especially for horses who are shod. It can also be damaging to horses joints.

Emergency situations

- Runaway horses. Never give chase. A runaway horse with several horses galloping behind it will simply think it is being chased. Nominate one rider to follow at a distance and as soon as possible alert volunteers and Event Marshalls who will further implement safety plans.

- Falls or any medical emergency. – Render First Aid and identify if St John Ambulance are required. Identify and nominate a current first aid qualified person if possible. If St John Ambulance are required call 000 and give clear instructions of your location. Inform event organisers immediately on 0439 957 237. Nominate a person to travel ahead to an agreed meeting place with SJA officers to escort them in if we are on a bush trail. Provide first aid care to the patient. All other riders are to dismount.
- Injured or lame horses. Dismount. Check that there are no stones lodged in horses feet etc. If your horse is injured or lame, contact an Event Marshall on 0439 957 237 and advise of your location. Emergency back up floats are on standby and can be made available to convey you and your horse for veterinary attention or to Northam.

Equipment Considerations

- 50km per day riders. Please ensure all horses are wearing a halter and leadrope to tie up at morning tea and lunch stops.
- All riders to wear an Australian standards approved safety riding helmet and riding boots. Consider wearing a safety vest.
- Place a red ribbon in the tail of a known or suspected kicker.
- Water will be available along the trail for horses and riders, however it is always a good idea to carry additional water on your horse or your person.
- Please carry any medication that you require.
- Shoes or Boots - Please ensure all horses are shod (at least fronts) or wearing boots. The track is mainly gravelly and can be rocky in some sections.
- Sunscreen and Insect Repellents