



**Western Australian
Horse Trekkers Club Inc.
(WAHTC)**

CLUB RULES

Version 2

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In this document:

Words and phrases in *[italic blue text and underlined](#)* contain a hyperlink to the relevant website.

“Annual Trek” refers to the (up to) two (2) week annual trek conducted by WAHTC;

“Associate member” refers to a person whose primary membership is with another ATHRA club;

“ATHRA” refers to the [Australian Trail Horse Riders Association](#);

“Committee” refers to the entire Club Committee;

“Daily Ride Register” refers to the register of riders and volunteers that is signed by all riders and volunteers on each day of the event;

“events” refers to rides, treks, camps, meetings and any other occurrences attended by WAHTC members;

“Full member” refers to a member who has [paid the full annual membership fee](#);

“Junior member” refers to a member who is 12 to 17 (inclusive) years of age;

“Nominate” refers to the [online event registration system](#);

“participants” refers to members, visitors, guests and volunteers at a WAHTC event;

“rider” refers to both riders and drivers of horses, plus any passengers in a harness vehicle;

“treks” refer to rides or treks conducted by WAHTC;

“Trek Coordinator” (Ride Coordinator in ATHRA Accreditation manual and Code of Conduct) refers to the person who organises and coordinates a trek;

“Trek Notes” refer to the individual Trek Notes for a particular event; and

“WAHTC” refers to the Western Australian Horse Trekkers Club.

Where referring to a rule from the [ATHRA Code of Conduct](#) (ATHRA CoC), the clause from the ATHRA CoC will be identified in brackets.

1. General

- 1.1 All participants at events held by WAHTC must comply with these rules and the [ATHRA Code of Conduct](#).
- 1.2 At all WAHTC events, participants shall behave in a courteous manner to other participants. Music is permitted in camps, as long as it does not disturb others.
- 1.3 Any media matters relating to WAHTC must be authorised by the President or a person appointed by the Committee.
- 1.4 Items posted on [WAHTC Social Media](#) will be monitored by the site administrators.
- 1.5 No stallions, donkeys or dogs shall be allowed at WAHTC events.
- 1.6 Any horse, for which a commercial hire fee has been paid for its use, may not be used in an event. This does not prevent the use of a horse which is the subject of a written or verbal lease agreement (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.31*).
- 1.7 The Trek Coordinator may decide whether riders must meet any pre-requisites in order to attend the trek. Any pre-requisites for the trek will be stated in the Trek Notes.
- 1.8 It is the responsibility of each participant to advise the Trail Boss, Trek Coordinator or First Aid person of any relevant pre-existing medical conditions prior to a ride or event (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.11*).
- 1.9 There is no ambulance cover within the ATHRA insurance. Please ensure you have your own cover.

2. Membership

- 2.1 All riders, harness drivers, and harness vehicle passengers must be [Full Members, Day Members or Associate Members](#) of ATHRA and WAHTC.
- 2.2 Day Members
 - 2.2.1 The Trek Coordinator will include in the Trek Notes whether a particular event is open to Day Members.
 - 2.2.2 If the Day Member doesn't know any members prior to the event, they should contact the Trek Coordinator who will arrange a sponsor/buddy for them.
 - 2.2.3 Additional details on Day Membership can be found in in Clauses 9.1 and 9.2 of the [ATHRA Code of Conduct](#).

3. Volunteers and Visitors

- 3.1 Volunteers may attend WAHTC events, under the following conditions:
 - 3.1.1 Volunteers must register on [Nominate](#);
 - 3.1.2 The Daily Ride Register must be signed by the Volunteer at the event;
 - 3.1.3 No ride fees are payable whilst volunteering; and
 - 3.1.4 Accommodation and/or catering fees may still be applicable.

- 3.2 Visitors may be allowed at WAHTC events, under the following conditions:
- 3.2.1 Pre-approval of the Trek Coordinator;
 - 3.2.2 Visitors must register on [Nominate](#);
 - 3.2.3 The Daily Ride Register must be signed by the Visitor at the event;
 - 3.2.4 Visitors are not to go out on trails with the horses, or accept rides on any horses or in harness vehicles for the duration of the sanctioned event;
 - 3.2.5 Visitors may, by arrangement, travel in a vehicle to meet up with the riders at lunch venues; and
 - 3.2.6 Accommodation and/or catering fees may still be applicable.

4. Harness Drivers

- 4.1 The Trek Coordinator will include in the Trek Notes whether a particular event is deemed suitable for harness vehicles.
- 4.2 Harness Drivers must be competent drivers with the ability to manoeuvre their horse and vehicle in tight spaces and around tight corners.
- 4.3 It is recommended that vehicle wheels/tyres are suitable for variable ground conditions, including sand.

5. Junior Members

Junior Members (12 to 17 [inclusive] years of age) will be allowed on Club events under the following conditions:

- 5.1 The Trek Coordinator will include in the Trek Notes whether a particular event is deemed suitable for Juniors;
- 5.2 Attendance by the Junior must be approved by the Trek Coordinator and/or Trail Boss;
- 5.3 Juniors must wear a regulation helmet that complies with AS/NZS 3838:2006 and is no more than five years old (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.26*);
- 5.4 Each Junior rider must be a competent independent rider;
- 5.5 Each Junior must be accompanied and supervised by a “responsible adult” who is responsible for the welfare, care and safety of the Junior at all times, whether riding or otherwise, under the following conditions:
 - 5.5.1 If the responsible adult is not a parent or legal guardian, then written permission (on the WAHTC “Parent/Responsible Person” form) nominating the responsible adult must be provided by the parent or legal guardian in order for the Junior to participate in the event;
 - 5.5.2 Juniors (whether riders or visitors) may not be left in camp without adequate supervision by the appointed responsible adult; and
 - 5.5.3 One (1) adult shall be responsible for a maximum of two (2) Juniors only.

6. Registration for Treks

- 6.1 All trek entries are to be done through "[Nominate](#)" online, where:
- 6.1.1 no late entries will be accepted, except under special circumstances and with the approval of the Trek Coordinator, and at the discretion of the Committee Nominate Liaison Officer;
 - 6.1.2 an "Emergency Contact for Horse Welfare" must be nominated and made aware that they have responsibility for the horse in the event of an injury to the rider which results in the rider being unavailable to make decisions regarding the horse:
 - the "Emergency Contact for Horse Welfare" must be aware of the rider's wishes in order to make decisions in the event of injury to the horse requiring veterinary treatment or euthanasia.
 - the "Emergency Contact for Horse Welfare" will be responsible for organising transport home for the horse, in consultation with the rider's emergency contact.
 - 6.1.3 any Nominate queries/complaints must be directed through the Committee Nominate Liaison Officer.

7. Host Venues and Camps

- 7.1 Yards/Fencing
- 7.1.1 All horse owners must have safe and appropriate yards/fencing approved by the Trek Coordinator, the Committee and the host.
 - 7.1.2 Horse owners must do a trial run at home with their yards/fencing to ensure the yard is going to contain their horse. This is relevant for both metal and electric yards.
 - 7.1.3 It is recommended that each horse have a separate yard.
 - 7.1.4 If using electric fencing:
 - Prior to the event, horse owners must ensure that electric fence power units are working, and that they have spare batteries for the unit;
 - It is recommended to use 2 strands of 1cm (minimum) tape or 6mm equine cord, preferably white, with the top line to be at the horse's upper chest height;
 - The posts should be installed so that the tape/cord does not sag; and
 - The fence must be energised at all times the horse is in the yard.
 - 7.1.5 If a horse has previously escaped from its yard, the horse owner must provide a secondary containment system (eg. hobbles) for future treks.
- 7.2 All care must be taken to ensure horses do not damage trees, vegetation or any reticulation components.
- 7.3 Any horse outside its yard must be fully supervised and restrained at all times, and any manure deposited cleaned up as soon as is practicable.

- 7.4 All horse feed used at WAHTC events must meet the requirements of property hosts and relevant government authorities, and must meet ATHRA's Sixteen Environmental Rules (*ATHRA CoC - Section 5*)
 - 7.4.1 The Trek Coordinator will advise feed requirements in the Trek Notes for each trek.
- 7.5 Be considerate of others when smoking in camp:
 - 7.5.1 Do not smoke around or upwind of other participants; and
 - 7.5.2 Cigarette butts must be disposed of with care and are not to be thrown on the ground.
- 7.6 All venues must be left in the same (or better) clean and tidy condition as when participants arrived.

8. Rider Equipment

- 8.1 It is the rider's responsibility to wear protective clothing appropriate for horse riding and the environment in which the riding occurs (eg. full length legwear and sleeved shirt) (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.8*).
- 8.2 Footwear which prevents the foot sliding forward through, or getting caught in the stirrup iron, is compulsory for riders on horseback (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.8*).
 - 8.2.1 Runners, sandals or chunky soled footwear are not permitted, as per ATHRA insurance guidelines.
- 8.3 Helmets
 - 8.3.1 It is compulsory for Juniors to wear a regulation helmet that complies with AS/NZS 3838:2006 and is no more than five (5) years old (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.26*);
 - 8.3.2 It is highly recommended that adult riders wear a regulation helmet; and
 - 8.3.3 This includes drivers and passengers on harness vehicles.

9. Horse Tack

- 9.1 It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure their tack is regularly checked, well-maintained and correctly fitted (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.16*), and appropriate for each ride as described in the Trek Notes.
- 9.2 The minimum requirement for riding a horse is a saddle with stirrups and girth. No bareback pads are allowed (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.16*).
- 9.3 For both riders and drivers, appropriate head gear with reins must be worn on the horse (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.16*).
- 9.4 A halter and lead rope are to be worn/carried at all times on rides.
- 9.5 When a horse is in its yard, it must at all times be wearing a halter.
 - 9.5.1 It is recommended that the halter has a break point.
- 9.6 Riders at WAHTC events must ensure that their horse's feet are well-maintained, and that they have correctly fitted shoes or boots, or adequately conditioned feet for the intended activity to ensure the horse's soundness and safety.

10. Pre-Ride

- 10.1 Pre-Ride Briefings must be unmounted and are compulsory for all riders and volunteers prior to each ride.
- 10.2 Riders and volunteers must be on time for Pre-Ride Briefings and rides.
- 10.3 Riders who do not attend the Pre-Ride Briefing will not be permitted to participate in that ride.
- 10.4 If unable to attend that ride or the entire event, riders and volunteers should notify the Trek Coordinator or someone else that is present at the event as soon as possible.

11. Rides

- 11.1 All riders must be competent independent riders, with the ability, confidence and control to safely ride their horse in a group, in a range of situations and conditions.
- 11.2 Numbers of riders and Trail Bosses permitting, the ride may be divided into groups according to riders' skills, abilities and confidence.
- 11.3 All riders within each group are to assemble on time (after the briefing), fully tacked and ready, and ride out as a group together, with the Lead and Drag Riders in place.
- 11.4 The authority of the Trail Boss for each group (and/or the Committee members present) is absolute whilst on a ride, and in particular:
 - 11.4.1 A participant may be asked not to participate if the Trail Boss/Committee deems the horse or rider unfit for the ride; and
 - 11.4.2 If a participant's conduct is unacceptable, or the Trail Boss/Committee deems that their horse is a hazard, they may be asked to leave.
- 11.5 There must be a minimum of two (2) riders participating in any WAHTC ride, including reconnaissance rides, one of whom must be an accredited Trail Boss.
 - 11.5.1 The Trail Boss must assess the risks associated with the ride if there are fewer than four (4) riders.
 - 11.5.2 Rides can only be split/separated if there are a minimum of two (2) riders in each group and there is an accredited Trail Boss with each group.
 - 11.5.3 No rider is permitted to individually ride away from the ride course during a sanctioned ride.
- 11.6 Trails are planned and are sometimes marked prior to the event, and will not be changed during an event (unless there is an emergency or change in conditions as perceived by the Trek Coordinator/Trail Boss).
- 11.7 At lunch venues, processed feed may be taken, but no grain or hay is allowed.
- 11.8 Changing horses or swapping gear or tack is not permitted during an event unless and until authorised by the Trail Boss (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.33*).
- 11.9 In the event of an accident, the Trek Coordinator, Trail Boss or a Committee Member has the right to notify the participant's emergency contact.
 - 11.9.1 That emergency contact, in conjunction with the Club representative, will be responsible for organising the participant's transport, along with the transport home of the participant's vehicles.

- 11.9.2 They may assist with care and transport home of the participant's horse in conjunction with the participant's "Emergency Contact for Horse Welfare"
- 11.10 No smoking is allowed whilst out on the trail.

12. Riding Rules

- 12.1 No rider shall pass the Lead Rider without the Lead Rider's permission, and no rider shall ride behind the Drag Rider without the Drag Rider's permission (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.18*).
- Riders must ride at a safe distance from horses in front and adjacent to them, keeping them out of kicking distance of other horses and people at all times (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.13*). For example, riders should be able to see the hocks of the horse in front between their own horse's ears at a walk, and this distance should be increased at faster paces.
- 12.2 It is a rider's responsibility to check behind and to the sides before moving laterally, to ensure it is safe to do so (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.13*).
- 12.3 If a rider wishes to pass another rider (at a walk), they should ask permission of that rider.
- 12.4 At any pace faster than a walk, riders should remain in the same riding order. Riders must not pass or overtake another rider at a speed or in a manner which is likely to excite their horse (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.15*).
- 12.5 Horses that are known to kick must wear a red ribbon in their tail or display the ATHRA "Horse May Kick" sticker on the horse's rump, and other riders must be advised at the Pre-Ride Briefing.
- 12.5.1 The rider of a horse that has previously kicked on a ride will be asked to ride at the rear of the ride.
- 12.6 Riders must maintain sight of the horse in front and the horse behind at all times during a ride (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.19*):
- 12.6.1 wait at corners until the person behind has acknowledged that they have seen you;
or
- 12.6.2 unless otherwise agreed with the Trail Boss.
- 12.7 No participant may leave a ride without first obtaining permission from the Trail Boss (*ATHRA CoC – Clause 3.20*).
- 12.8 When stopping for a drink on the trail:
- 12.8.1 move your horse away from the water as soon as it has had enough water to allow for others to use the water; and
- 12.8.2 do not ride off until all horses have had a drink.

13. Refunds for WAHTC Events

- 13.1 Refund Policy for Day and Weekend Events:
- 13.1.1 If a participant wishes to withdraw/scratch at any time before or during a WAHTC event, no refunds will be made for entry fees once the registrations have closed on Nominate.
- 13.1.2 Prior to the closing date, participants may scratch and request a refund from Nominate.

- 13.1.3 If an event is cancelled altogether (due to lack of numbers or inclement weather), Nominate will refund the fees for that event (less the 5.5% Nominate administration fee, if applicable).
- 13.2 Refund Policy for accommodation and/or catering charges paid by WAHTC:
- 13.2.1 Where a participant withdraws from an event, a refund for the accommodation and/or catering portions may be available, with the Committee's approval, under the following conditions:
- The withdrawal is made in writing to the Trek Coordinator indicating the reason;
 - The minimum number required by the venue is attained and there is no financial loss to the club for the accommodation and/or catering booking for the period; and
 - No refunds will be made if withdrawal is in the last two full days before the event commences.
- 13.3 Refund Policy for Treks of Five Days or More
- 13.3.1 The fees for trek durations of five (5) days or more will generally be paid in instalments:
- Initially, a non-refundable payment to reserve a place on the trek; and
 - Subsequent payment/s will be due on or before a set period prior to the commencement of the trek.
- 13.3.2 Should a member who has paid the full trek fee be unable to join the trek:
- they may, with the Committee's approval, transfer the full payment for that trek to another member, in time for that member to participate; or
 - if the trek makes a surplus (subject to the trek accounts being reconciled and funds being available), the second payment may be partially refunded if the reason for a member's non-participation was health issues with themselves/their horse and they provide written evidence from a doctor/vet stating the reasons and that the person/horse cannot physically participate in the trek.
- 13.3.3 In addition, any surplus from the trek payments may be distributed proportionately amongst those persons concerned (up to the amount of the second payment).
- 13.3.4 the Committee will decide if any refunds are due, or the surplus distributed, and they will be paid out by the club (not by Nominate).
- Any refunds made will be less the Nominate administration fee.

These rules may from time to time be amended/added to by the committee and any amendments must be circulated to all members.

Please refer to the [ATHRA Code of Conduct](#) for additional information.