

TEXAS TRAIL  
CHALLENGE  
CLUB

**RULES – 2017**



# Texas Trail Challenge Club Rules — 2017

## SECTION 1 – RIDE MANAGEMENT

### **1.1 — Senior Judge**

Must be recognized as such by TTCC. Senior Judges must be a current member and familiar with all TTCC rules in addition to being in good standing with other trail competitive horsemanship events (example: NATRC, AQHA). Must be one of the following:

- 1) Current horsemanship judge for other competitive trail events
- 2) Current TTCC judge in good standing

Qualified Senior Judges can judge all TTCC obstacles.

- a) Consults with ride management for obstacles and trail logistics.
- b) Insures all obstacle instructions are written out and clearly stated.
- c) Can only be both Ride Manager and Senior Judge with a Co-Manager

### **1.2 — Judge**

Must be a current member of TTCC and one of the following:

- 1) Current horsemanship judge for other trail competitive events,
- 2) Riding or horsemanship instructor,
- 3) Competitive trail ride championship recipient (TTCC, NATRC, ETS)
- 4) Judged any TTC event from 2007 -2010
- 5) Potential Judges must place 1st-3rd in Maverick or Horseman, and the candidate must be invited by Judges Director to fill out the Judges application.

All judges must attend a judge's clinic according to the following rules:

- a) If member has not judged at all in the last calendar year,
- b) If member has only judged once in the last calendar year



- c) If a judge or senior judge has participated regularly in TTCC events, it is only necessary to attend a Judge's Clinic once every 3 years to obtain current information on ride procedures.

## **SECTION 2 – MEMBERSHIP**

### **2.1 — Full Memberships**

Renew annually on January 1st of each year and can be paid either online or at any ride. Member may ride as many different horses as they choose throughout the year without affecting the ability to earn year-end awards.

Fees:

- a) Single membership \$20.00 – one rider
- b) Family membership \$30.00 – two or more riders (must be family members in the same household)
- c) Daily membership \$5.00 – one rider per day of competition (\$10.00 for a double ride)

### **2.2 — Year End Awards**

Full TTCC members are eligible for Year End Awards (5.6)

### **2.3 — Rider Mileage Rewards**

Full TTCC members are eligible for Rider Mileage Rewards accumulated from year to year as follows:

- a) 100
- b) 300 miles
- c) 500 miles
- d) 1000 miles

Awarded at Year End Awards Ceremony in January of the following year.

### **2.4 — Ride Fees**

Member

- Adult— One Day \$67.00 Two Days \$107.00
- Junior— One Day \$47.00 Two Days \$72.00
- Buddy— One Day \$42.00 Two Days \$52.00
- \$10.00 discount on prepaid ride fees per weekend

Fees include \$7.00 to TTCC per weekend (i.e. \$50.00 ride + \$7.00 TTCC= \$57.00 if prepaid, \$67.00 ride day)

**Fees have been increased by \$10.00 to encourage riders to pre-pay.**

Non Member —\$5.00 daily membership fee in addition to ride fee.

## **2.5 — Ride-Fee Cancellation Policy**

If you cancel:

- 7+ days prior to ride— full refund
- 6-3 days prior to ride— 50%
- Less than 3 days— no refund

If Management cancels ride— full refund.

## **SECTION 3 – GENERAL RULES**

### **3.1 — Rider**

- a) All Riders, Buddy Riders and Safety Riders must sign liability form at check-in.
- b) Riding double, ponying an animal with or without a Rider, or a loose foal on the side is not allowed.
- c) Helmets are required for riders under the age 18.

### **3.2 — Horse**

- a) Horses will be observed for soundness before leaving out on trail. This exercise can be considered an obstacle and, if so, will be graded on the scorecard, generally for horsemanship abilities. Each Rider will trot their horse per the Judge's instructions—either in-hand or mounted—to determine soundness.
  - i) Grade 1 = rider could receive some point deduction as deemed by the Judge. The horse is reevaluated during ride to ensure lameness has not worsened.
  - ii) Grade 2 or 3= the horse will be dismissed from the ride. Second opinion by Senior Judge, Ride Manager or secondary Judge is mandatory.
- b) Texas Trail Challenge Club recommends that horses be 36 months before competing.

### **3.3 — Tack**

- a) Rider must use a saddle with stirrups and head gear with attached reins.
- b) Type of saddle and other tack is at the Rider's discretion —within the bounds of good horsemanship. No inhumane method of restraint may be used.

### **3.4 — Camping**

- a) Horses can be housed in pens, tied to trailer, high lined with sliding tether, or kept in an electric fence. Electric fences will be a respectful size. This ensures sufficient room for all competitors to house their horse in the camp. All options at the discretion of Ride Manager and/or Ranch owner.

### **3.5 — Dogs—Good Neighbor Policy**

- a) The Good Neighbor Policy states- no aggressive dogs, no wandering dogs, no excessive barking will be allowed at the rides. This includes after you have ridden out. If your dog barks the entire time you are on trail, you will be asked not to bring it back.
- b) Dogs must be leashed or kenneled at all times. Certain Ranches do not allow dogs; while others do. Ensure you know the rules for the weekend.

### **3.6 — Ride Management**

- a) Ride managers will have the option of borrowing \$200 to \$400, depending on fund availability, as seed money for their ride. The ride manager must sign a promissory note and repay the monies at the end of their ride.
- b) Each TTCC will have four or more Judges.
- c) Each TTCC ride will have one Senior Judge.



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## **SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS & CLASSES**

### **4.1 — Divisions**

Three levels of difficulty: Tenderfoot, Maverick & Horseman. You choose your level; however, if you receive 5 firsts in a row (Tenderfoot or Maverick), your scorecards will be reviewed by the Judges Director and two Senior Judges. Professional Trainers will ride in Horseman, even when starting a new or green horse. **Non Professionals in Maverick or Horseman division may drop down one division when starting a new or green horse one time, a second horse needs Board approval.**

- a) Tenderfoot: Basic obstacles, Rider working on horsemanship skills.
  - i. Confident with horse on trail.
  - ii. Rider has limited competitive trail ride experience.
  - iii. Horse can have previous competitive trail ride experience.
  - iv. Can complete primary skills listed on the Obstacle Skills.
  - vii. Tenderfoot Riders that receive 1<sup>st</sup> place awards in 5 rides during one calendar year mandatorily move to Maverick the next calendar year.
  
- b) Maverick: Rider has horsemanship skills and is comfortable on the trail.
  - i. Experienced trail riding team
  - ii. Has competed in trail events.
  - iii. Is ready for most obstacles and can accomplish skills listed on the Obstacle Skills sheet.
  - iv. Able to complete multiple tasked obstacles.
  - v. May be asked to complete variations of the trail.
  - vi. Maverick Riders that receive 1<sup>st</sup> place awards in 5 rides during one calendar year mandatorily move to Horseman the next calendar year. The same Rider starting a new horse can stay in the Maverick division or move down from Maverick to Tenderfoot.
  
- c) Horseman: Accomplished horse and rider team, trainers, and instructors.
  - i. Accomplished trail rider and horse team.
  - ii. Can complete all skills listed on the Obstacle Skill sheet.
  - iii. Can complete multiple tasks as directed by a Judge over demanding terrain and/or challenging environment.

### **4.2 — Age Classifications**

- a) Tenderfoot Riders will be divided into three classifications:
  - i. 8 – 17 = Junior
  - ii. 18 – 54 = Adult
  - iii. 55 plus = Senior

- b) Maverick and Horseman Riders will be divided into two classifications:
- i. 18 – 54 = Adult
  - j. ii. 55 plus = Senior
- c) Juniors may compete in the Maverick or Horseman divisions paying junior price and competing in the adult classification.

## **SECTION 5 – SCORING**

### **5.1 — Judged Obstacles**

Each obstacle is designed to evaluate both Rider and Horse. Rider and horse earn their score based on negotiating an obstacle under the direction of a Judge.

### **5.2 — Ride Completion**

**If rider pulls during competition, no points earned and no ride placing**

### **5.3 — Points**

Each obstacle is worth 20 points. The horse and rider are judged separately with 10 points for the rider, 10 points for the horse. Both horse and rider can receive a (+) plus by the judge.

### **5.4 — Scores**

Scores are tabulated by the gross raw score. There are a possible 20 points per obstacle, totaling 200 points per ride. Team raw score determines ride awards; Junior, Tenderfoot, Maverick, and Horseman. Raw score also determines year-end placing (5.6)

### **5.5 — Placing**

Each Team's scores are compared within their respective division and class to determine their placing .



- 1st-6th Place Wrangler—Confident rider and green horse. Must sign up at first ride attended. At year end, Wrangler Riders are SEPARATED from their standard ride division (Tenderfoot/Maverick/Horseman) to be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> in the Wrangler class only, Senior and Adult classes combined. Wrangler scores have a multiplier to even out obstacle challenge:

⇒ Tenderfoot—raw score

⇒ Maverick—score x 1.15

⇒ Horseman—score x 1.25.

Riders must complete **11 of 23 rides (or 5.5 ride weekends)** to be eligible for:

- Grand Champion (Overall)—Horseman only
- Reserve Grand Champion (Overall)—Horseman only
- High Point
- Tenderfoot (Senior/Adult/Junior)
- Maverick (Senior/Adult)
- Reserve High Point

⇒ Tenderfoot (Senior / Adult /Junior )

⇒ Maverick (Senior and Adult)

Wrangler teams return to their respective divisions for these awards.

- Iron Rider Award—awarded to all Riders who rode and/or attended 100% of the rides (one day of two-day weekend allowed). Must compete in 40% of rides.

Additional Year-End Awards Details:

- Multiple Horses: Apply to all Rider awards
- Multiple Riders on One Horse: Apply to all awards except: Wrangler/ Green
- Best Scores: For every ride completed over the required **8** or required **11**, the lowest score(s) will be dropped and replaced with a higher score that the rider has achieved.



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Ties are broken as follows:

Step 1: Compare the number of pluses (+) on the cards

Step 2: Compare what is deemed to be the most-difficult obstacle

Step 3: Compare the timed obstacle score and the length of time to complete the obstacle

### **5.6 — Year-End Awards**

Riders must complete **8 of 23 rides** (or 4 ride weekends) to be eligible for:

- Horse Awards—based on the horse's raw score for the year.
- Horse of the Year—Horse age 5 to 12 years as of Jan 1 of the current year; (includes horses that are not eligible for Green Horse).
- Green Horse of the Year—Horse with less than 18 months of saddle time (no age limit) of the current year in divisions, Tenderfoot, Maverick & Horseman with the highest raw score. This award is for horses that have never been judged at any trail event starting January 1 of the current year.
- Seasoned Horse of the Year—Horse age 13 & up as of Jan 1 of the current year in divisions Tenderfoot Maverick & Horseman with the highest raw score.
- Sandra Ladd Award—Tenderfoot member that shows the most improvement from the start of the year to the finish.
- Jennifer Severson Award—**Maverick member that shows the most improvement from start of the year to finish.**
- 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place
  - ⇒ Tenderfoot (Junior, Adult, and Senior)
  - ⇒ Maverick (Adult and Senior)
  - ⇒ Horseman (Adult and Senior)

If a rider moves up or down a division, they will take all accumulated points with them to the new division and be eligible for year-end awards in the division that represents 11 of rides attended. All year-end awards are calculated by the Riders' best ride scores.

**5.7 — Worker Average Score**

Ride Management, Ride Secretary, Asst Secretary and Judges and Interning Judges may receive points for rides worked at a 4:1 ratio or 6:2.

- a) Must compete/work in a minimum of four weekend rides for that season.
- b) Must complete the required 8 or 11 to be eligible for Year-End Awards, including work weekends.
- c) Average score is calculated by adding the total raw score from all rides ridden and dividing it by the number of rides ridden. The result serves as the 'average' the worker would have scored had they ridden the day they worked. (If they have ridden 8/11 rides, no average is used. ) This average recalculates with every ride in which they compete.

**5.8 — Changing Divisions**

If a rider moves up or down a division, he or she remains eligible for year-end awards. The rider takes all accumulated points with them to the new division and is eligible for year-end awards in the division that represents 60% of rides attended.

**5.9 — Award Presentation**

Year-end awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet in January of the following year.



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## **SECTION 6 – BOARD**

### **6.1 — Position Terms**

Board members serve 2 years with alternating elections, Directors one year/ President and Treasurer the next.

### **6.2 — Membership**

Board members receive free membership during their term.

### **6.3 — Meeting Frequency**

Board members are to meet at least once a month in person or via conference call during ride season.

### **6.4 — Other Benefits**

Board members receive no benefits other than free membership.



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