



Our Mission:

To promote safety and education
while building a better bond with our horses

<https://texastrailchallengeclub.com>

Texas Trail Challenge Club Rules — 2021

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 -2020
- 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 **December 1st** of each year and can be paid either online or at any ride. Member may ride as many different Equines 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 (see 5.6)

2.3 — Rider Mileage Rewards

Full members are eligible for Rider Mileage Rewards as follows:

- a) 100 miles
- b) 250 miles
- c) +250 mile increments (500, 750, 1000, etc.)

Awarded at Year End Awards Ceremony in January of the following year.
Ongoing accumulation; does not reset annually.

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
- Includes \$7.00 to TTCC per weekend (\$60.00 ride + \$7.00 TTCC = \$67.00)

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

Ride fee must be received 30 days prior to the ride. If payment is not received 30 days prior to ride, reservation will be cancelled and given to the next member on the waiting list.

2.5 — Ride-Fee Cancellation Policy

If you cancel:

- **14+ days prior to ride – full refund**
- **7-13 days prior to ride – 50%**
- **Less than 7 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 — Equine

- a) Equines will be observed for soundness before leaving on trail. This exercise can be considered an obstacle and, if so, is graded on scorecard, generally for horsemanship. Each Rider will trot their equine per Judge's instructions—either in-hand or mounted—to determine soundness.
 - i) Grade 1 = rider could receive point deduction as deemed by Judge. The equine is reevaluated during ride to ensure lameness has not worsened.
 - ii) Grade 2 or 3 = equine will be dismissed from the ride. Second opinion by Senior Judge, Ride Manager, or secondary Judge is mandatory.
- b) TTCC recommends equines 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 bounds of good horsemanship. No inhumane method of restraint may be used.

3.4—Trail

- a) All obstacles must be ridden in numerical order, unless otherwise directed by Senior Judge
- b) Each TTCC ride day includes 10 obstacles, each marked with a blue TTCC cone; in the case of Hidden Obstacles, the cone is placed after judge
- c) No obstacles will be recreated in camp or on trail for competitors that got off trail and missed one or more
- d) Trail can be between 7-12 miles
- e) Trail can be marked with flagging tape, painted rocks, pie plates, PVC pipe or arrows
- f) Rocky ride locations will be indicated on ride page and will recommend boots or shoes
- g) When a judge has not seen a rider for 10 mins, they are to call Senior Judge and report. At that time Senior Judge (or Ride manager if Senior judge cannot be reached) may start a 30-minute clock. At the end of 30 minutes; if no riders— judge picks up blue cone and moves to next obstacle.

3.5— Camping

- a) Equines 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 equine in camp. All options at the discretion of Ride Manager and/or Ranch owner. Some venue may offer a limited number of pens.

3.6— 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.

3.7— Ride Management

- a) Ride managers may borrow \$200- \$400, depending on fund availability. Must sign a promissory note and repay 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.
- d) Each TTCC ride may have up to 65 riders subject to ride manager's discretion. If 65 riders attend, an additional judge is required.
- e) **Each TTCC ride must have two ride managers.**
- f) **Ride venues may only be used one time per ride year, unless BoD approves (typically due to inclement weather or other mitigating factor).**

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS & CLASSES**4.1 — Divisions**

Three levels of difficulty: Tenderfoot, Maverick & Horseman. You choose level; however, if receive 5 consecutive firsts (Tenderfoot or Maverick), scorecards will be reviewed by Judges Director and two Senior Judges. When starting a new/green equine, professional trainers ride in Horseman and nonprofessionals in Maverick or Horseman division may drop down one division one time, a second equine requires Board approval.

- a) **Tenderfoot:** Basic obstacles, Rider working on horsemanship skills.
- i. Confident with equine on trail.
 - ii. Rider has limited competitive trail ride experience.
 - iii. Equine can have previous competitive trail ride experience.
 - iv. Can complete primary skills listed on the Obstacle Skills.
 - vii. Tenderfoot Riders that receive 1st 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.
- Experienced trail riding team
 - Has competed in trail events.
 - Is ready for most obstacles and can accomplish skills listed on Obstacle Skills sheet.
 - Able to complete multiple tasked obstacles.
 - May be asked to complete variations of the trail.
 - Maverick Riders that receive 1st place awards in 5 rides during one calendar year mandatorily move to Horseman the next calendar year. The same Rider starting a new equine can stay in the Maverick division or move down from Maverick to Tenderfoot.
- c) **Horseman:** Accomplished equine and rider team, trainers, and instructors.
- Can complete all skills listed on the Obstacle Skill sheet.
 - Can complete multiple tasks as directed by a Judge over demanding terrain and/or challenging environment.
- d) **Buddy Riders: Non-competing rider accompanying a competitor on trail.**
- Must identify themselves to judge or volunteer and follow all instructions given by judge and/or volunteer.**
 - Are not to ride away, leave the marked trail, or perform an obstacle.**
 - May not quit the ride without notifying a judge, if at an obstacle, or the secretary upon returning to camp.**
 - Must not interfere or cause delays (example: horse refusing to cross water causing others to wait; must allow competitors to ride through.)**
- * Tenderfoot and Maverick Year-End High-Point Winners automatically move up a division.

4.2 — Age Classifications

- a) **Tenderfoot Riders** will be divided into three classifications:
- 8 – 17 = Junior
 - 18 – 61 = Adult
 - 62 plus = Senior
- b) **Maverick and Horseman Riders** will be divided into two classifications:
- 18 – 61 = Adult
 - 62 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 Equine. Rider and Equine earn their score based on negotiating an obstacle under the Judge's direction.

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 equine and rider are judged separately with 10 points for the rider, 10 points for the equine. Both equine and rider can receive a (+) plus from 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 yearend placing (5.6)

5.5 — Placing

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

Ties are broken as follows:

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

Step 2: Compare what Sr. Judge deems to be the most-difficult obstacle

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

5.6 — Year-End Awards

Riders must complete **35% of all rides** (rounded down for odd number of total rides; example: 8 of 23 rides) to be eligible for:

- Equine Awards — based on equine's raw score for the year. **In each category:**
 - Champion = highest raw score, Recognized = second highest score*.**
 - ⇒ Green Partners — Equines with less than 18 months of saddle time (no age limit) of the current year in divisions, Tenderfoot, Maverick & Horseman. Applies to equine that have never been judged at any trail event starting January 1 of the current year.
 - ⇒ Working Partners — Equines aged 5 to 12 years as of Jan 1 of the current year; (includes those ineligible for Green Partner).
 - ⇒ Seasoned Partners — Equines aged 13 & up as of Jan 1 of the current year in divisions Tenderfoot Maverick & Horseman.
- ***High Point team horses ineligible for Recognized equine awards**
- Sandra Ladd Award—Tenderfoot member that shows the most improvement from the start of the year to the finish, based on scorecards.
- Jennifer Severson Award—Maverick member that shows the most improvement from start of the year to finish, based on scorecards.

- 1st -6th 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.

- 1st-6th Place Wrangler—Confident rider and green equine. Must sign up at first ride attended. At year end, Wrangler Riders are SEPARATED from their standard ride division (Tenderfoot/Maverick/Horseman) to be award-ed 1st thru 6th 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 **50% of all rides** (rounded down for odd number of total rides; example: 11 of 23 rides) to be eligible for:

- Grand Champion (Overall)—Horseman only
- Reserve Grand Champion (Overall)—Horseman only
- High Point
 - ⇒ Tenderfoot (Senior / Adult /Junior)
 - ⇒ Maverick (Senior and 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 Equines: Apply to all Rider awards
- Multiple Riders on One Equine: Apply to all awards except: Wrangler/Green
- Best Scores: For every ride completed over the required number, the lowest score(s) will be dropped and replaced with a higher score that the rider has achieved.

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 **35% of year's rides** 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 **35% of 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.

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.