



Our Mission:

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

<https://texastrailchallengeclub.com>

TTCC Good Rider Code

As a courteous, responsible trail rider, I WILL:

RESPECT

fellow riders, judges, assistants, and ride staff

WAIT

After completing an obstacle, while a rider is working a gate,
while a rider is dismounted, or while another horse is drinking

MAINTAIN

An appropriate gait on the trail and respect others' choices of gait

A safe distance from volunteers and/or judges at obstacles

Quiet when another rider is executing an obstacle

KEEP

A good following distance from other horses (one horse length recommended)

COMMUNICATE

Before passing, joining or leaving a group, changing speed, or stopping on the trail

CLEAN UP

My own trash, as well as any I may encounter,
And dispose of it properly

TAKE CARE

Texas Trail Challenge Club Rules — 2024

SECTION 1 – RIDE MANAGEMENT

1.1 — Senior Judge

Qualifications:

1. TTCC member in good standing.
2. Active Judge in good standing.
3. Up to date on all TTCC rules.
4. On current Senior Judge roster (once confirmed).

Candidates for Senior Judge must be invited by Judges Director and must design an obstacle series per the Judges Director's requirements. A Senior Judge candidate must also act/perform the Senior Judges duties for their first ride with the oversight of a veteran Senior Judge.

Duties:

1. May judge any TTCC obstacle.
2. Consults with ride management in design of obstacles and trail logistics.
3. Insures obstacle instructions and descriptions are clearly written/drawn.
4. MAY be both Ride Manager and SJudge, but only with a ride co-manager.
5. Has final say on all obstacles for their ride.
6. With Ride Manager(s), adjudicates rider complaints or disputes, addressing same while riders are still present at the ride or clinic venue.

1.2 — Judge

Qualifications:

1. TTCC Member in good standing.
2. Has competed at the Horseman level.
3. Invited by Judges Director to complete a Judges Application.
4. Thoroughly familiar with TTCC rules and culture.
5. Demonstrates clear, concise, and accurate presentation skills for horsemanship principles and techniques, and mechanics of movement.
6. To remain on active Judge's Roster, and to stay current with judging procedures and protocol, all judges MUST attend one of the following every year.

Judges Roundtable

Judges Clinic

Individual Judges meeting with Judges Director (scheduled at a TTCC event)

Failure to do so may result in a judge being moved to "Inactive" status.

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 different equines without affecting year-end awards eligibility.

- a) Single membership \$30.00 – one rider
- b) Family membership \$40.00 – two or more riders (same household)

2.2 — Junior Scholarship (\$250)

- a) Eligibility — junior members who have competed with TTCC for two or more years; one-time award per junior member
- b) Educational Applicability — colleges and vocational/trade schools
- c) Application — 300-word essay about rider's educational plans and how horses and TTCC prepared them for future; due by Spring of senior year
- d) Evaluation Process — BOD reviews, votes approval; awarded at end of senior year

2.3 — Year End Awards

Current TTCC members are eligible for Year End Awards (see 5.6)

2.4 — Rider Mileage Rewards

Current members are eligible for Rider Mileage Rewards as follows:

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

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

Mileage accumulates over a rider's lifetime.

2.5 — Ride Fees

a. Member

- Adult — One Day \$67.00 Two Days \$107.00
- Scout — 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 (No longer available on website; through Ride Manager wait list only).

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

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

- B. Non-Member — \$10.00 daily membership fee in addition to ride fee. If paying on ride day, cash or check only.

2.6 — 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
- Cancellation by ride management — full refund.

SECTION 3 – GENERAL RULES

3.1 — Rider

- a) All Riders, Adult, Junior, Scout, Buddy, and Safety Riders must sign applicable liability form at check-in.
- b) Failure to abide by published rules, commission of unsafe horsemanship practices, animal abuse, endangering riders or staff, or non-compliance with TTCC Trail Safety and Etiquette guidelines may result in referral of the matter to the Board of Directors. The BOD will adjudicate all such infractions and is solely responsible for sanctions against member's privileges.
- c) Helmets are required for riders under the age 18.
- d) Feet to remain in stirrups at an obstacle unless otherwise directed.
- e) Both feet to be clear of stirrups when landing from dismount.

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 second Judge is mandatory.
- b) TTCC recommends equines be 36 months of age 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.
- c) All horses must have rider number displayed.
- d) Use of artificial aids to complete an obstacle will result in a point deduction.

3.4—Trail

- a) All obstacles must be ridden in numerical order, unless otherwise Senior Judge directs otherwise.
- b) Each TTCC ride day includes 10 obstacles, each marked with a TTCC cone; in the case of Hidden Obstacles, the cone is placed after judge. Hidden obstacles will be announced at the ride meeting held prior to the day of the obstacle.
- c) No obstacles will be recreated in camp or on trail for competitors that got off trail and missed one or more. In addition, willful departure from the official trail is not allowed.
- d) Trail should be between 7-10 miles.
- e) Trail can be marked with flagging tape, painted rocks, pie plates, PVC pipe or arrows.
- f) Ride page on TTCC website will indicate rough trail conditions where shoes/ trail boots are recommended.
- g) When a judge has seen no riders for 10 minutes, they are to call Senior Judge and report. Senior Judge (or Ride Manager if Senior Judge cannot be reached) will start a 30-minute timer. At the end of 30 minutes; if no riders – judge picks up 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 electrified enclosure. Enclosures will be a respectful size. This ensures sufficient room for all competitors to house their equines in camp. All options at the discretion of Ride Manager and/or venue owner. Some venues may offer a limited number of pens.
- b) Fences or pens may not be attached to an existing structure.

3.6—Dogs—Good Neighbor Policy

- a) No aggressive dogs, no wandering dogs, no excessive barking will be allowed at the rides. This includes after you ride 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 venues do not allow dogs; while others do. Ensure you know the rules for the weekend.
- c) No dogs at meals.

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 a rider receive 5 consecutive first places (Tenderfoot or Maverick) in the first half of the competition year (prior to the summer break in the ride calendar), scorecards will be reviewed by Judges Director and two Senior Judges and rider may be asked to move up to the next level for the remainder of the competition year. When starting a new/green equine, professional trainers will remain in the Horseman division, but nonprofessionals in Maverick or Horseman division may drop down one division only one time. BOD approval is needed if a nonprofessional competes on a second equine. Riders who have dropped down a division for the second time will automatically be moved up a division after 3 consecutive first places, or 5 first places over the ride year. Tenderfoot and Maverick High-Point winners will automatically be moved up a Division the next competition year.

- 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 execute primary skills listed on the Obstacle Skills section of the TTCC website.
 - vii. Tenderfoot Riders that receive 1st place awards in 5 rides during one calendar year mandatorily move to Maverick the next competition year.
- b) Maverick: Rider has horsemanship skills and is comfortable on the trail.
 - i. Experienced competitive trail riding team
 - ii. Prepared to execute most skills listed on Obstacle Skills sheet listed on the TTCC website.
 - iii. Able to complete obstacles requiring multiple tasks.
 - iv. Maverick Riders that receive 1st place awards in 5 rides during one competition year mandatorily move to Horseman the next competition 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, and Horsemanship Professionals. A Horsemanship Professional is anyone who offers training, lessons, clinics, or media to the public for monetary compensation. Instructors whose sole function is safety in a therapeutic riding program, instructors who work only in a classroom setting, youth camp counselors, and facilitators in EAL (equine assisted learning) or EAP (equine assisted psychotherapy) scenarios are excepted.

- i. Can execute all skills listed under Obstacle Skills described on the TTCC website.
- ii. Able to complete obstacles requiring multiple tasks over difficult terrain and/or within a challenging environment.

d) Scout Riders: Non-competing riders on trail

- i. May pick any level obstacle; but must decide in advance. May not ask to have all read aloud by volunteer.
- ii. Any member can choose to ride Scout at any time.
- iii. Scout is a one time score. Riders are given a one-time 900 number.
- iv. Scout riders do qualify towards Iron Rider.
- v. If withdrawing from a ride, rider must notify judge (if at an obstacle), or Ride Secretary (upon returning to camp).

e) Buddy Riders: Non-competing rider accompanying a competitor on trail.

- i. May not register on the website. Must contact RM or Secretary (check ride page) and be put on wait list. You'll be notified 30 days prior to ride.
- ii. Must identify themselves to the judge or volunteer and follow all instructions given by judge and/or volunteer.
- iii. Are not able to ride away, leave the marked trail, or perform an obstacle.
- iv. If withdrawing from a ride, rider must notify judge (if at an obstacle), or Ride Secretary (upon returning to camp).
- v. Must not interfere or cause delays (example: horse refusing to cross water causing others to wait; must allow competitors to ride through).

4.2 — Age Classifications

a) Tenderfoot Riders will be divided into three classifications:

- i. 8 – 17 = Junior
- ii. 18 – 61 = Adult
- iii. 62 plus = Senior

b) Maverick and Horseman Riders will be divided into two classifications:

- i. 18 – 61 = Adult
- ii. 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 single (+) 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 day. Team raw score determines ride awards; Junior, Tenderfoot, Maverick, and Horseman. Team raw score also determines year-end placing (section 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 has designated as the tie-breaking 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:

- 1st—6th place
 - ◊ Tenderfoot (Junior, Adult, and Senior)
 - ◊ Maverick (Adult or Senior)
 - ◊ Horseman (Adult or Senior)

A Junior may ride Maverick or Horseman division, Adult class, at Junior fee.

- 1st—6th place Wrangler

This is a class within a class (see Equine Awards); designed for a confident Rider and green partner. Must declare wrangler eligibility at first ride attended. Teams ride in their standard division (Tenderfoot, Maverick or Horseman); at year end, Wrangler riders are SEPARATED for 1st thru 6th

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Wrangler class awards—Senior and Adult classes combined—but are eligible for Champion/High Point in their standard division. Wrangler scores have a multiplier to even out obstacle challenge: Tenderfoot—raw score, Maverick—score x 1.15, and Horseman—score x 1.25.

- 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.
- Equine Awards—based on equine's score for the year; rider score is not considered. For each category (Green..., Working..., Seasoned...), *one Champion (highest score across all divisions—Horseman, Maverick, and Tenderfoot) and one Honorable Mention per division (next highest score in each division).*
 - ⇒ Green Partners—Equines with less than 18 months of saddle time (no age limit). Green partners can start and finish a second year if still under 18 months saddle time. Not eligible for Wrangler class second year.
 - ⇒ Working Partners—Equines aged 5 to 12 years as of Jan 1 of the current year.
 - ⇒ Seasoned Partners—Equines aged 13 & up as of Jan 1 of the current year.

To be eligible for the following awards, riders must complete **50% of all** rides (rounded down for odd number of total rides; example: 11 of 23 rides); for these awards, classes are combined and Wranglers return to their standard divisions:

- Grand Champion — Horseman only.
- Reserve Grand Champion — Horseman only.
- High Point—Tenderfoot and Maverick.
- Reserve High Point—Tenderfoot and Maverick.
- Iron Rider Award—Riders who rode, worked as a Judge/Secretary/Ride Manager, and/or volunteered 100% of the year's rides.
 - a) One day of two-day weekend counts.
 - b) Must compete in 40% of rides.
 - c) If you start a ride and pull, it counts.
 - d) Scout Ride Counts.

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) are dropped and replaced with a higher score the rider earned.

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 — Award Presentation

Year-end awards are presented at the Awards Banquet (Celebration) in January following the close of the competition year.

5.9—Buckle Series

- a. BOD decision announced in December Newsletter or at Christmas Fundraiser—one series per year.
- b. Any rider that wins 3 years in a row (same division) may not participate for 3 years, then enter again.
- c. Worker average award may be used to replace 2 ride in series.

SECTION 6 – BOARD

6.1 — Position Terms

Board members serve 3 years and terms are staggered: i.e. Directors to be elected one election year, President and Treasurer the following election year.

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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NAME	LOCATION	DATES	OPENS
ROCKY ROAD	PARRIE HAYNES RANCH, KILLEEN	FEB 17-18	NOV 1
HIGHTAIL IT	LAZY F RANCH, SMILEY	MAR 9-10	DEC 1
YOUTH RIDER CLINIC	PARRIE HAYNES RANCH, KILLEEN	MAR 23	DEC 1
SPRING RIDER CLINIC	PARRIE HAYNES RANCH, KILLEEN	MAR 24	DEC 1
SMILEY RIDE	BARNHART Q5 RANCH, BERCLAIR	APR 13-14	JAN 1
CAT SPRING FLING	7IL RANCH, CAT SPRINGS	APR 27-28	JAN 1
EAST TEXAS EQUIFEST	SIX RS RANCH, OAKWOOD	MAY 4-5	FEB 1
CACTUS TWO STEP	SAN ANGELO STATE PARK	MAY 18-19	FEB 1
CAMP REVEILLE	REVEILLE PEAK RANCH, BURNET	JUN 1-2	MAR 1
HOG WILD	REYNOLDS CREEK, WACO	SEP 7-8	JUN 1
LOST CONCHO RIDE	INKS RANCH, LLANO	SEP 21-22	JUN 1
WILD WEST WRANGLE	FORT GRIFFIN STATE PARK, ALBANY	OCT 5-6	JUL 1
FALL RIDER'S CLINIC	TBD	OCT 25	JUL 1
MONSTAR MASH	FOUR SISTERS RANCH, UTOPIA	OCT 26-27	JUL 1
SALUTE TO THE TROOPS	C BAR RANCH, VALLEY MILLS	NOV 9-10	AUG 1