

# Information to Members and Riders at WA Horse Trekkers Club Events

## Membership and Joining the WAHTC

- To ride in a ride with the WAHTC you **firstly need to become a member of the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA)** and join as an **adult, junior or senior member**.
  - This currently costs \$110 for adults or
  - \$60 for juniors (12 to 17 years only).
  - Go to: **www.athra.com.au** - the “Membership” tab, then the “New membership registration” tab and complete the details requested.
  - Old members must renew each year before attending a ride.
- **Or** you can join ATHRA as a **Day member** for a maximum of two ride days a year using the “Day Membership” tab and follow the process through.
  - You can, within 7 days of riding as a day member convert the day membership to full membership and the payments will go towards the full membership fees.

## Insurances

- Members, committee and volunteer helpers are covered for **General Liability and Personal Accident** insurances – please refer to ATHRA’s website for the details.
- **Please note there is no coverage for ambulance costs through ATHRA’s insurances.** Please ensure you have your own ambulance cover for all rides.

## Registering and Booking Procedures for Rides

- Then go to: **www.nominate.com.au** to enter for the ride you wish to join.
  - In Nominate select “Equestrian” – then “Enter Events here” – then interest “Trail Riding” – then state “WA”
  - Ride notes can be obtained prior to entering from Nominate and printed out by double clicking on “WA Horse Trekkers Club Inc Trail Ride” heading in the Events column.
  - Then click on the “Enter” tab for the ride you wish to enter.
  - **A full set of instructions is available on how to complete Nominate entries.**
  - Most importantly you need to enter all your details **CAREFULLY AND ACCURATELY.**
- **Club Ride fees payable in Nominate** (this is separate to the ATHRA membership fees)
  - Most ride fees are set at \$10 per ride for the whole ride – whether it is for 1 to 3-4 days.
  - Occasionally there are extra charges for accommodation bookings.
  - Day Riders are charged \$15 per day – maximum 2 in a year.
- **The ride register needs to be signed prior to riding out every day of the ride.**
- **Please advise the ride organiser if you’re not coming – the previous day if possible.**
  - So, the ride organiser is not wondering where you’ve got to and perhaps holding up the ride.
  - This should be done by phone preferably or at least send a message with another participant.
  - Not by Email or Facebook – sometimes ride organisers are already at the ride venue the day before, and don’t have access to a computer or have mobile reception.
  - If you are withdrawing from a ride prior to the closing date on Nominate you can “Scratch” your entry in Nominate and a space will be freed up for someone else.
  - Please read the Nominate instructions on how to do this.

- **There must be a minimum of 4 riders to hold a ride.** If someone is injured out on a ride, one rider needs to stay with the injured person and the other two riders can then go off together to get help.
- **Approved helmets are compulsory for junior riders.** It is highly recommended all adult riders wear them also.

**For more information go to:**

- Australian Trail Horse Riders Association website: [www.athra.com.au](http://www.athra.com.au)
- Western Australian Horse Trekkers Club website: [www.watrekkers.info/](http://www.watrekkers.info/)
- Facebook page for Western Australian Horse Trekkers Club – it is a closed group and you can request to be accepted.
- Email to: [wahtc@iinet.net.au](mailto:wahtc@iinet.net.au) with any questions you may have.

**TO ASSIST RIDE ORGANISERS TO RUN WAHTC RIDES SMOOTHLY AND SAFELY  
PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:**

**When Arriving at the Venue or Camp**

- **PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE ON TIME TO RIDES – for the ride briefing and then the ride out times.**
  - It is preferable you arrive at least an hour before the advertised ride briefing time.
  - Allow extra time if you need to fit hoof boots.
  - Your delays can cause other horses to become anxious and rides to return late in the cold and dark – especially in winter.
  - You risk being left behind if you are not ready.
- **Mobile phones often will not work in many ride areas.** Don't rely on them for communication.
- **Halters must be worn by horses "at all times" for the duration of the ride stay.**
  - **This includes in your yard and all night.**
  - It is preferable to use a leather halter in your yard at night with no loops hanging downwards that could catch on electric/metal fencing posts.
- **Gates** must be kept closed at all times, where a ride is based is on a property that has a perimeter fence.
- **Clean up your yard before leaving.**
  - Generally, all loose hay and manure needs to be cleaned up before leaving a ride.
  - Some property owners may allow manure to be spread.
  - Come equipped with bags, rakes, scoopers etc. to clean up and take home.
  - Fill in any holes your horse has dug
- **Take all your rubbish home.**

**Protection of Other People's Property**

- **Please keep horses away**
  - From other vehicles and floats at all times, in the camp, out on the trail, and at lunch stops.
  - Do not tie a horse to anyone else's vehicle or float without the owner's permission.
- **Don't tie your horse to a float that is not hitched to a vehicle.**
- **Parked Floats** - put chocks under the wheels of a parked float so it can't roll.

## Electric Fencing

- **Train your horse at home to respect electric fencing**, prior to embarking on trekking, this is highly important.
- Often rides and camps are held in unfenced areas and are near roads.
- If the horse has previously gone through their electric fence at a camp, **please hobble train them at home and use hobbles on them overnight - all night.**
- **Electric Tape is to be used for electric fencing.**
  - The 40mm wide tape is recommended as it is more visible.
  - Visibility of electric fences is important to all horses that may escape their own enclosure - particularly at night.
- **No electric “cord” or braid is to be used, only tape.**
  - Cord is not as visible as tape and can easily slice horse’s legs if they become entangled.
- **Ensure your fence posts/pegs are of sufficient height** for your horse at approximately chest level.
  - Many of the posts sold are too low.
  - The heavier made steel ones are recommended (not star pickets) – at times they have to be hammered into very hard or rocky ground.
- **Horses with rugs** on will reduce the effectiveness of electric fencing.
- Make sure your **unit is working** before coming to the ride and you have **spare batteries.**
- **Metal fence yards can be used adjacent to your float in a suitable type of camp.**
  - At some ride venues horses are required to camp amongst trees in bush or are on uneven ground making metal yards unsuitable - in these instances, electric fencing will be required.

## Out on the Trail

- **Your horse needs to be of moderate fitness.** It should have been in sufficient work to know your gear is not going to cause girth galls, gear rubs, boot rubs or sore backs for full day rides of up to 35 kms.
- **Your horse needs to have protection on all four feet** with either-
  - well-fitting boots (that won’t rub) or
  - Be shod.
  - It is recommended a spare boot (even if your horse is shod) is carried in a boot bag on your horse whilst out riding in case of loss or breakages.
- **If your horse is a known kicker you must wear a red ribbon in its tail.**
  - Please remember **ALL HORSES CAN KICK** at any time.
  - Ride at a safe distance behind the horse in front of you.
- **Everyone is to assemble** when saddled and ready and ride out as a group together (so no one is left behind).
- **When riding in a group**
  - Make sure everyone is agreeable before moving off into a trot or canter.
  - Advise others if you wish to overtake them and make sure you have sufficient room to do so safely.
- **Drinking water for yourself is to be carried with you in suitable saddle bags** (with one or preferably two bottles in summer for the day)
- **A basic first aid kit is carried out on rides.** Make sure you are aware beforehand of who is carrying it.
- **No riders are to individually ride away from the ride course** during the sanctioned ride. You cannot ride without the minimum four on any rest days and without the permission of the ride organiser.

- **A halter and lead rope are to be worn under bridles or carried with you when ridden.** Some head gear is available that does both jobs.
  - This is for tying up at lunchtimes, tying up during any emergency out on the trail or so someone else can “pony” your horse home if need be.
  - Never tie your horse by the reins with a bit in its mouth.
- **Do not have ropes around your horse’s neck with long loops to the halter.** If they put their heads down they can step through the loop causing a bad accident. Have a rope with a clip and clip the end back onto the saddle
- **It is recommended you teach your horse to tie securely to solid fixtures or trees**
  - ropes are to be tied at an appropriate length
  - so, the loop cannot touch the ground when their head is down, and
  - the horse should not be able to step through or onto it.
  - It is not ideal to be tying horses using baling twine. If you do use this method stay in close proximity in case it breaks away.
- **Do not tie your horse to anything “dead” i.e. branches or trees.**
  - In the event of it pulling back they can snap more easily than live trees and be dragged causing injuries to your horse and also others will get frightened by dragging obstacles.
- **At lunch stops, if there is a support vehicle first take your horse to a tree or other tie up point and tie it safely.**
  - Then go back to the vehicle or central point to collect your gear and take it back to your horse.
  - This minimises risks of horses arguing when together and perhaps injuring someone or damaging a vehicle.
- **No hay may be taken to lunch spots out in the bush.**
  - Only processed horse feed is to be taken in a suitable nosebag, that can be carried on your horse if need be.
  - Please train your horse at home to eat from the bag.
- **No horses are to go anywhere near**
  - support vehicles or floats
  - they must not be tied to them out on the trail, or at lunch spots.
- **Do not allow your horse to walk into or paw in the water** when you come to a water point or puddles along the trail and “muddy” it up for those coming behind you.
- **Wait until all horses in your group have drunk before moving off.**
  - Horses become unsettled if left on their own and won’t drink.
  - This is especially important in summer.
- If you are appointed as **Drag rider and assigned the task of pulling down ride markers**
  - **someone else must ride with you** so your horse is not left on its own fretting, and
  - they can assist you with this job.
- **Don’t wash your horse down if it’s late and cold**
  - just sponge the girth area then rug them straight away.
  - The rest of the sweat can be brushed off next morning.
- **Check your horse for any rubs, cuts, loose shoes, worn gear, etc** at the end of each riding day.
- **Please be aware that much of the country ridden in is not accessible to vehicles or horse floats.**
  - Do not rely on being picked up
  - A horse will have to be led out to an accessible spot if it is injured, for transport.

**Thankyou from the WA Horse Trekkers Club Committee  
Please enjoy your participation in our club rides safely.**