

WAHTC Pre-Ride Briefing Prompt for Trail Bosses

Prior to conducting briefing, tick the optional points on the next page that are relevant to this ride.

- 🐾 Conduct a headcount.
- 🐾 Ensure everyone has signed the Ride Register.
- 🐾 Welcome all riders and any volunteer helpers.
- 🐾 Introduce any new members.
- 🐾 Introduce pre-assigned buddies for new riders/members.
- 🐾 Give green ribbons to put in tail of new riders and/or any new horses or nervous riders.
- 🐾 Introduce the pre-assigned officials (wearing hi-vis vests). These people must be listened to.
 - **Trail Boss** (orange vest) – has overall say over all participants on ride
 - **Lead Rider** (yellow vest) – don't pass the Lead Rider without the Lead Rider's permission
 - **Drag Rider** (yellow vest) – don't ride behind the Drag Rider without the Drag Rider's permission
 - **First Aid Officer** (green vest) (advise no medications in first aid kit – people should take own Panadol etc)
- 🐾 Outline length and terrain of tracks – eg. flat, hilly, sandy, rocky, muddy
- 🐾 Outline hazards – eg. wet areas, washouts, creeks, bridges, road crossings, dangerous corners, animals that may be encountered, poisonous plants eg. heart-leaf, etc.
 - If motor bikes or vehicles are approaching, ensure all horses move to the same side of the track, or off the track if possible, to allow the vehicle to pass.
- 🐾 Everyone to maintain adequate space between horses – each rider must be able to see the next horse's hocks between the ears of the horse they are riding.
- 🐾 The Lead Rider will put up their hand when slowing down to stop. Please repeat this down the line so the whole group is aware that they are slowing down.
- 🐾 If anyone feels they need to stop, yell "stop" and the Lead Rider will immediately stop the group.
- 🐾 If the navigator has stopped to check AllTrails, all riders should stop and keep their horses quiet to allow the navigator to concentrate on their phone.
- 🐾 Everyone must carry/wear a halter and lead rope:
 - Recommend lead rope not attached if wearing a halter. One of the officials can show you how to tie it to hang it from your saddle.
- 🐾 Observe ATHRA convoy procedure ie. always have sight of horse in front and horse behind, especially at corners – make sure the person behind has seen you turn.
- 🐾 No overtaking at trot or canter – excites other horses.
- 🐾 If overtaking at the walk, ask the rider in front if you can pass, and say which side you'll be passing on.
- 🐾 No rider may individually ride away from the group, and if they wish to leave the group, they must gain permission from the Trail Boss and leave with at least one other person.
- 🐾 Make sure appropriately dressed for riding and the weather.
- 🐾 Don't forget to bring some drinking water on the ride, even in winter.
- 🐾 Reminder about breastplates/footwear/other equipment as relevant.
- 🐾 Ask if any kickers.
 - Give out "Horse May Kick" sticker to place on rumps.
 - Other riders to stay a safe distance from them, both behind and beside them.
- 🐾 The venue should be left in the same (or better) clean and tidy condition as per Trek Notes.
- 🐾 No smoking on the trail (if smoker present)

More on next page

- 🐾 In the event of an accident, move your horses away from the accident site, and if needed, dismount and hold an official's horse for them.
 - Where a suspected or serious injury has occurred, an ambulance will be called (remind that everyone needs their own ambulance coverage).
 - The country may not be accessible to bring an ambulance in, and Trail Boss, Ride Coordinator and/or First Aid Officer will make decisions on how injured person will be transported out.
- 🐾 If a horse is injured, the Trail Boss, Ride Coordinator and horse owner/Emergency Horse Contact will make decisions on how the injured horse will be transported out. Float access may not always be possible.
- 🐾 Are any other horse/rider issues for people to be aware of?
 - If there are any medical conditions we need to be aware of, please see me in private after the briefing.
- 🐾 Present thank you gift (if relevant).
- 🐾 Advise how long it is until the ride actually starts, and where everyone is to assemble – organise group photo if applicable.
- 🐾 Ask if anyone has any questions.
- 🐾 Ask those carrying radios to remain:
 - Get them to check that the aerial is tightly screwed on and radio turned on
 - Remind which CB channel is being used (channel 15)
 - Radios, vests and first aid kits must be returned to your group's Trail Boss at the end of the ride, with radios turned off and microphone removed
 - Do a radio check before moving out

OPTIONAL, DEPENDING ON RIDE

If crossing a road:

- ✦ All riders must comply with the WA Road Rules when riding on or near roadways ie. keep to the left, no more than 2 abreast (on the verge) or single file if no verge and on the road. Nervous riders/horses to be on the side away from the traffic, only vested riders to call out "car" if a car is approaching, and will radio to other officials.
- ✦ When crossing a road, gather close to the road as a group and wait for the officials to establish their positions on either side of the crossing. Cross as a group when told, then wait for officials to re-join group before riding off.

If having a break during the ride:

- ✦ Advise whether there will be a support vehicle for lunch or whether people need to carry their own and their horse's lunch.
- ✦ No hay or grain feed to be taken to lunch spots – only processed feed.
- ✦ Only tie to solid points (live trees) rather than dead branches or obstacles that could break away. No tying to support vehicle without permission from the owner.

If water points on track:

- ✦ Allow horse to drink and move out of the way for others to drink. Wait until all horses finished before moving off.

If harness vehicles on ride:

- ✦ Ask riders to stay behind the harness vehicle while familiarising horses with it.

If Juniors on ride:

- ✦ Parents/Guardians and Responsible Persons must always stay with their Junior Rider/s before, during and after the ride.