BYLAWS
TEXAS TRAIL EQUESTRIAN CHALLENGE CLUB

ARTICLE I

1. The name of this organization shall be known as TEXAS TRAIL CHALLENGE CLUB (TTCC) and shall be operated as a perpetual, no-profit organization and referred to as the Club.

2. Place of Business: The principal place of business shall be Cypress, Harris County, Texas. Said location may be amended upon director/officer elections as stated in these bylaws. Members and directors/officers may be residents of any location in the State of Texas and business may be transacted at any location convenient to such members or directors/officers.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE/MISSION

1. To promote trail safety and create a better bond with rider and horse.
2. To have planned and managed competitive trail rides for the pleasure of the Club’s members.
3. To provide educational programs for the members and promote the exchange of information.
4. To do all other things to promote the purpose of the Club.

ARTICLE III – ELECTION AND TERM OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS

The Original Directors served through the calendar year 2015. The President and Treasurer will serve through 2016. In November of 2015, and each October thereafter, elections will be held. Each position serves a 2-year term beginning with Elections for President and Treasurer, then alternate years for the Ride Director/Secretary, Membership Director, and Judges Director. The election shall be held online. Each fully paid TTCC member shall have one vote. The Board of Directors/Officers shall consist of the following positions and shall be a current TTCC member and must maintain membership throughout his or her term with knowledge of the rules and practices of the club:

1. President
2. Ride Director/Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Membership Director
5. Judges Director

The attached “Exhibits A-E” are the individual descriptions for each position and their requirements.

ARTICLE IV – RULES AND GUIDELINES

In accordance with the Agreement dated May 15, 2014, and effective June 8, 2014, between Texas Trail Challenge, Inc. and Texas Trail Challenge Equestrian Club, the Rules and Guidelines for Texas Trail Challenge Equestrian Club shall be as stated in the attached “Exhibit F”. The Rules and Guidelines for Texas Trail Challenge Equestrian Club may be amended at any time as is agreed upon by a majority of the members.

_________________________________________________
Ann Stacy, President

_________________________________________________
Nancy Fenimore, Ride Director

_________________________________________________
Brenda Hicks, Treasurer

_________________________________________________
Shelley Hilton, Membership Director

_________________________________________________
Liz Scott, Judges Director
EXHIBIT “A”
TEXAS TRAIL CHALLENGE EQUESTRIAN CLUB – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION DESCRIPTION AND CANDIDATE SUBMISSION - PRESIDENT

1. POSITION IDENTIFICATION:
   Title: President
   Reports to: Board of Directors/TTCC Membership

2. POSITION OBJECTIVE:
   To serve the TTCC organization as the Chief Volunteer, providing leadership to the Board of Directors (BOD) and membership at large.

3. KEY PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:
   1. Ensure BOD matters are handled properly.
   2. Ensure designated/delegated BOD work is executed properly.
   3. Guide and mediate BOD actions with respect to organizational priorities and governance concerns.
   4. Provide notification of meetings and items for the BOD agenda.
   5. Manage website correspondence.
   6. Monitor financial planning and financial reports.
   7. Act as the BOD representative to all TTCC membership, ensuring timely and appropriate reporting of BOD decisions and actions to members.
   8. Ensure the organization maintains positive and productive relationships with media, funders, donors, members, and other organizations.
   9. Evaluate annually the organization’s performance in achieving its mission.
   10. Develop agenda and preside over all regular and special BOD and membership meetings, encouraging all members to participate in discussion and ensuring decisions are reached in an orderly, timely, and democratic manner.
   11. Maintain year TTCC ride records as completed and post to website.
   12. Maintain finalized year-end totals to include ride scores and year-end placings with Chief of Staff or Appointed Chair.
   13. Work with Webmaster and Web Event Coordinator to keep current.
   14. Work with Ride Director to have tentative upcoming year’s Ride Calendar to Judges Director by September 1 of current year
   15. Performs other responsibilities as the BOD assigns.

4. QUALIFICATIONS/KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE:
   The President must be:
   (a) A current TTCC member and must maintain membership throughout his or her term.
   (b) Knowledgeable of TTCC rules and practices

   NOTE: Nominations are by candidate self-submission. (See Section 5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM – OFFICE OF PRESIDENT)
5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION – OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

To submit yourself as a candidate for the office of President, complete the following. Your information will be provided to the TTCC membership to help them make informed voting decisions.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

1. How long have you been associated with TTCC and in what capacity?

2. What leadership experience do you have that will allow you to lead and grow TTCC?

3. Based on your past TTCC experience, what do you think is the ideal number of:
   (a) Rides per year _________ Why? _________________________________________

   (b) Riders per ride _________ Why? _________________________________________

   (c) Judges per ride _________ Why? _________________________________________

4. What is your primary personal goal for TTCC’s future?
EXHIBIT “B”
TEXAS TRAIL CHALLENGE EQUESTRIAN CLUB – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION DESCRIPTION AND CANDIDATE SUBMISSION – **RIDE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY**

1. **POSITION IDENTIFICATION:**
   Title: Ride Director/Secretary Reports to: President/Board of Directors

2. **POSITION OBJECTIVE:**
   To maintain the organization’s records and to act as Primary liaison between Ride Manager and her staff, (Secretaries, volunteers) and anything that happens at the ride (other than judging and riders).

3. **KEY PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:**
   1. Manage minutes for all membership and BOD meetings; provide those minutes to the membership via internet email lists, website, and through mail upon request. At a minimum, minutes include: a) date, time, and location of meeting; b) list of attendees; c) list of items discussed; d) list of reports presented; and e) text of motions presented and description of disposition.
   2. Sign a copy of the final, approved minutes and ensure this copy is maintained in TTCC records.
   3. Work closely with Ride Managers, Judges and Judges Director to maintain obstacle guidelines.
   5. Ensure effective records management to include: accurate recollection of decisions, determination of eligibility to vote, continuity of policies and practices, and BOD accountability.
   6. Propose policy and practices to ensure appropriate and accurate record maintenance.
   7. In the absence of the President and Director of Membership, the Secretary calls meetings to order.
   8. Perform other duties as the BOD assigns.
   10. Have Sanction Forms back from RM’s by June 1.

4. **QUALIFICATIONS/KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE:**
   The secretary must be:
   (a) A current TTCC member and must maintain membership throughout his or her term.
   (b) Knowledgeable of TTCC rules and practices.
NOTE: Nominations are by candidate self-submission. (See section 5 – CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM – OFFICE OF SECRETARY)

5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM – OFFICE OF RIDE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

To submit yourself as a candidate for the office of Ride Director/Secretary, complete the following. Your information will be provided to the TTCC membership to help them make informed voting decisions.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

1. How long have you been associated with TTCC and in what capacity?

2. What is your estimate of the amount of time this position will entail and how does your schedule permit you that time?

3. What experience, skills, and/or knowledge do you have that would contribute to your success in serving as the TTCC Secretary?

4. As ride director, if ridership begins to drop, what would you do to reverse the trend?

5. What is your primary personal goal for TTCC’s future?
EXHIBIT “C”
TEXAS TRAIL CHALLENGE EQUESTRIAN CLUB– BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION DESCRIPTION AND CANDIDATE SUBMISSION - TREASURER

1. POSITION IDENTIFICATION:
   Title: Treasurer
   Reports to: President/Board of Directors (BOD)

2. POSITION OBJECTIVE:
   To maintain the organization’s finances, including maintaining checking and savings accounts and all USPS correspondence, ensuring all mail gets to proper BOD member.

3. KEY PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:
   1. Maintain all financial documents including copies of any internal and external audits.
   2. Pay all incoming bills.
   3. Work with President to prepare annual budget to submit to BOD for members’ approval.
   4. Work closely with Awards Chair on year end awards budget.
   5. Maintain all bank accounts.
   6. Ensure annual audit is completed and reported to the BOD in a timely manner by a nominated TTCC member.
   7. Distribute financial information to the TTCC members as appropriate.
   8. Regularly report to BOD on key financial events, trends, concerns, and assessment of fiscal health.
   9. Ensure appropriate financial records are available to the public.
   10. Compute and submit annual Ride insurance forms and collect funds from Ride managers.
   11. Perform other financial responsibilities as the BOD assigns.
   12. Have copy of by-laws available at all meetings.
   13. Responsible for paperwork regarding Ride Manager loans after Presidential approval.
   14. Handle election process with Membership Director.
   15. Handle Ride insurance for Rides and Clinics.

4. QUALIFICATION/KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE:
   The Treasurer must be:
(a) A current TTCC member and must maintain membership throughout his or her term.
(b) Knowledgeable of TTCC rules and practices

NOTE: Nominations are by candidate self-submission. (see section 5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM)

5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM – OFFICE OF TREASURER

To submit yourself as a candidate for the office of Treasurer, complete the following. Your information will be provided to the TTCC membership to help them make informed voting decisions.

Name: ____________________________________________

1. How do you see TTCC funds being used to grow the no profit organization?

2. What experience, other than your personal finances, would help you be successful in this position?

3. What leadership experience do you have that will allow you to lead and grow TTCC?

4. What is your primary personal goal for TTCC’s future?
EXHIBIT “D”
TEXAS TRAIL CHALLENGE EQUESTRIAN CLUB– BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION DESCRIPTION AND CANDIDATE SUBMISSION – MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

1. POSITION IDENTIFICATION:
Title: Membership Director Reports to: President/Board of Directors (BOD)/TTCC members

2. POSITION OBJECTIVE:
To act as primary liaison between TTCC membership and Board of Directors (BOD).

3. KEY PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:
1. Perform the President’s duties when the President is unavailable.
2. Participate closely with the President to develop and implement officer transition plans.
3. Maintain membership records.
4. Represent general membership; stay in tune with needs and desires of membership at large to ensure goodwill.
5. Work closely with ride hosts and managers to plan opportunities that encourage member interaction.
6. Publish newsletter as necessary to communicate with the organization’s membership.
7. Manage patches, T-shirts, and other membership rewards and/or awards (mileage) and souvenirs.
8. Serve as primary fundraiser by securing sponsorships.
9. Report to the full BOD on membership rule and policy recommendations.
10. Performs other responsibilities as the BOD assigns.
11. Send out appropriate Sympathy cards from Club.

4. QUALIFICATIONS/KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE:
The Membership Director must be:
(a) A current TTCC member and must maintain membership throughout his or her term.
(b) Knowledgeable of TTCC rules and practices.

NOTE: Nominations are by candidate self-submission. (See section 5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM)
5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM - OFFICE OF MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

To submit yourself as a candidate for the office of Membership Director, complete the following. Your information will be provided to the TTCC membership to help them make informed voting decisions.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

1. How long have you been associated with TTCC and in what capacity?

2. What leadership experience do you have that will allow you to lead and grow TTCC?

3. List three methods you would use to raise funds for end-of-the-year awards.

4. What is your primary personal goal for TTCC’s future?
EXHIBIT “E”
TEXAS TRAIL CHALLENGE EQUESTRIAN CLUB – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION DESCRIPTION AND CANDIDATE SUBMISSION – JUDGES DIRECTOR

1. POSITION IDENTIFICATION:

Title: Judges Director Reports to: President/Board of Directors (BOD)/TTCC members

2. POSITION OBJECTIVE:

To insure TTCC ride events are scheduled and managed according to the organization’s guidelines, rules, and bylaws.

3. KEY PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

1. Ensure judges have the information they need to perform their jobs.
3. Manage Riders Clinic- for members and non-members.
4. Provide a structured, formalized method for members to attain judge’s credentials.
5. Work closely with Ride Director and senior judges to establish obstacle guidelines (Trail worthy? Safe? Appropriate level, options? Etc.).
6. Initiate and lead an annual evaluation of judges’ rules and policies.
7. Report to the full BOD on judging rules and policy recommendations.
8. Be available on scheduled ride weekends via phone or text (or assign a delegate).
9. Have judges’ calendar for upcoming year available at first September ride of current year.
10. Perform other responsibilities as the BOD assigns.

4. QUALIFICATIONS/KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE:

The Judges Director must be:
(a) A current TTCC member and must maintain membership throughout his or her term.
(b) Knowledgeable of TTCC rules and practices.

NOTE: Nominations are by candidate self-submission. (See section 5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM)
5. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION FORM – OFFICE OF JUDGES DIRECTOR

To submit yourself as a candidate for the office of Judges Director, complete the following. Your information will be provided to the TTCC membership to help them make informed voting decisions.

Name: ________________________________

1. How long have you been associated with TTCC and in what capacity?

2. What equine associations have you been a member of and how will that experience help you, as the Judges Director, to lead and grow TTCC?

3. As Judges Director, how would you support and mentor judges?

4. What unique talents and/or perspective would you bring to TTCC as the Judges’ Director?
EXHIBIT “F”
TEXAS TRAIL CHALLENGE EQUESTRIAN CLUB
COMPETITIVE TRAIL CHALLENGE
RULES AND GUIDELINES
2017

A Texas Trail Challenge Club (TTCC) ride is an obstacle course laid out on a trail located on public or private land. Each Horse and Rider is tested for their trail skills in a natural setting over the course of several miles and in camp. Obstacles are natural to their region and are ones typically encountered while on a trail ride. A Judge at each obstacle evaluates the way both Rider and Horse negotiate each obstacle. Obstacles can be mounted or in-hand. The Riders are judged by keeping common sense and safety in mind. A Texas Trail Challenge is not a race. Any breed of horse or any style of riding makes this an excellent individual, club and family activity.

Typical ride agenda: Check in on Friday and attend ride meeting that evening. The first obstacle on Saturday is a soundness check and horsemanship skills. Afterwards you will ride out on a marked 7 to 10-mile trail. You will encounter Judges along the way for a total of 10+ obstacles equaling 200 points. There are also hidden obstacles. One hour after the last Rider returns to camp, a Judge’s debriefing will start. They will review each obstacle and can give a “Shout Out” as recognition of someone that overcame a difficult training moment, or recognized improvement (Not intended for people placing 1-2). If time permits, in addition we try to have an informative moment before awards are presented. To wrap up the ride, the awards are presented 1st to 6th places in each division and class. The Rider cards are handed out after awards and Judges are available for 30-60 mins if you have any questions.

The official ride results and the description of the obstacles will be posted online. The full TTCC members will have access to their accumulated points towards year end awards.

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CONTACT INFORMATION:
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SECTION 1 – MANAGEMENT OF RIDES

1.1 Ride Manager – responsible for all matters pertaining to the ride.
   (a) This position is the chief executive of the ride.
   (b) The Ride Manager can also be the Trail Master.
   (c) The Ride Manager can also judge obstacles.
   (d) Adhere to the Ride Manager guidelines in the Ride Manager Manual.

1.2 Trail Master – responsible for all trail matters pertaining to the ride.
   (a) Have a well-marked trail of varied terrain prepared in advance for the TTCC ride.
   (b) Provide a map for Riders with the trail direction visibly marked and various landmarks recorded clearly.
   (c) Evaluate the obstacles and determine if they allow adequate space for multiple horse waiting and room to negotiate the obstacle.
   (d) Evaluation of the obstacle will include considering the terrain, especially as it pertains to the skills of the Tenderfoot participant.
   (e) Each obstacle will have a suitable and safe means of bypassing the obstacle while providing a smooth transition to the next obstacle.
   (f) Adhere to the trail marking guideline in the Ride Manager Manual.

1.3 Ride Secretary – responsible for all ride information before and after the ride, manage check-in to include payments from Riders, assigning numbers and being familiar with the scoring process by either administering the Judges’ remarks or overseeing this phase of the ride.
   (a) Shall administer the score cards in the “Rider Cards Workbook”
   (b) Shall send in all reports to TTCC’s BOD and Webmaster after each ride.
   (c) Shall provide information to Ride Management with figures for the TTCC membership fees to be sent to TTCC Membership Chair and Treasurer.
   (d) Adhere to the secretarial responsibilities outlined in the Ride Manager Manual.

1.4 Sr. Judge – Must be recognized as such by TTCC. Sr. Judges must be familiar with all TTCC rules in addition to being a member in good standing. Qualified Sr. Judge can judge all obstacles associated with a TTCC ride.
   (a) Shall follow the guidelines in the Rider Management Manual pertaining to the types of obstacles required at each TTCC ride.
   (b) Shall preview the course prior to the event. Approval of the course design is contingent on obstacles being category appropriate. Typically, this is done the day prior to the ride.
   (c) Shall create or approve the obstacles for the Tenderfoot, Maverick & Horseman categories.
      i. The obstacle information will then be placed in a folder with the directions, location and score sheets for each Judge to use.
      ii. After each obstacle, the folders will be turned in to the Ride Secretary to record the Rider scores.
   (d) Shall consult with Ride Management on respective obstacles to be sure none of them are unsafe or artificial.
   (e) All instructions for the obstacles shall be clearly stated and not be considered “got-cha” obstacles. There will not be situations where the Rider could have the wrong answer.
   (f) Responsible for communication between Ride Management and the Judges. The Sr. Judge will get all Judges’ cell phone numbers to give to Ride Management and to each of the Judges.
(g) Has the authority to disqualify any participant from an obstacle, or if appropriate, from the entire ride for unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct that may reasonably result in physical harm to any person, animal or property.

(h) Is responsible for selecting the Judge that will determine the soundness check on the horses before leaving camp and the backup Judge to consult with in case a lame horse detected. The Sr. Judge’s decision is final.

(i) Is responsible for making a final ruling if there is a grievance from a competitor.

(j) Is responsible for breaking ties by comparing the timed obstacles.

(k) Follows all procedures listed in 1.5 – Judge (see below)

1.5 Judge – Must be one of the following: 1) current horsemanship Judge for other trail competitive events, 2) riding or horsemanship Instructor, 3) Regional Championship recipient. Each TTCC ride will have two or more Judges. All Judges from the 2007 to 2010 TTC events are grandfathered in.

a) Qualified Judges can judge all obstacles associated with a TTCC ride.

b) Judges shall review the obstacles with the Sr. Judge that has assigned them. Typically the Judges will view the location and what will be judged the day before the ride. Showing up the morning of the ride is not adequate time to prepare a Judge for an obstacle (discretion of Sr. Judge).

c) Writing the Rider’s instructions down in the folder is essential. Each Rider will need the exact same explanation of the obstacle they are to complete.

d) Do not allow Riders to interrupt the instructions. Start with “Welcome to Obstacle #_. These are your instructions” or “Listen Carefully”.

e) All Judges are responsible for the placement of their team’s belongings. The belongings are not to become part of the obstacle or impact the Rider’s way of going, unless so intended.

f) Stay in communication and adhere to the times set by the Trail Master on the Rider’s maps.

g) After each obstacle is complete, the folder with the Rider’s results is taken to the Ride Secretary to be transferred to the Rider’s card.

h) Judges are responsible for staying in contact with the score card transcribers; the Judge may be needed to dictate the scores or answer questions.

i) After the results from each Judge’s obstacle is transferred to the score cards, each Judge is required to sign off on their “Judge’s Folder”.

j) Following this there will be a “Debriefing Meeting” of the obstacles. Each Judge is responsible to review their obstacle and give some constructive comments.

k) Take note of Riders that did an exceptional job so they can be highlighted at the judges’ debriefing.

l) Awards are held afterward. The Riders will receive their score card. Judges are encouraged to stay for this portion in case there are any questions about their obstacles.

SECTION 2 – TERMS

2.1 Texas Trail Challenge Club will be referred to in this document as TTCC.

2.2 Riders under the age of 18 will be referred to as Junior Riders.

SECTION 3 – MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership is renewed annually on January 1st of each year either online or at a ride.

a) Single membership $20.00 – one Rider; unlimited horses

b) Family membership $30.00 – two or more Riders; unlimited horses (must be family members in the same household)
3.2 All Judges, Ride Managers, Secretaries & Assistant Secretaries must be current TTCC full members.
3.3 All Riders must be current TTCC daily or full members.
3.4 All members are eligible for ride awards 1st to 6th place in Junior, Tenderfoot, Maverick, Wrangler and Horseman divisions.
3.5 Full TTCC members are eligible for year-end awards (section 9.1)
   a) 1st to 6th place in Junior, Tenderfoot, Maverick, Wrangler & Horseman- minimum of 8 Rides.
   b) Special Awards
      i. Grand Champion – Rider/Horse teams with the highest average, minimum of 11 rides in Horseman Class.
      ii. Reserve Grand Champion – Rider/Horse team with second highest avg., minimum of 11 rides Horseman division.
      ii.2 High Point and Reserve in Maverick, Tenderfoot divisions min, 11 rides high avg.
      iii. Horse of the Year – Horse age 5-12 years as of January 1, of the current year, Rider/Horse team with the highest average score cards using 8 highest scores (includes horses age 3 and up that are not eligible for Green Horse).
      iv. Green Horse of the Year – This award is for horses that have never been judged at any trail equine event starting January 1 of the current year, and have less than 18 months’ saddle time.
      v. Seasoned Horse of the Year – Horse age 13 & up as of January 1, of the current year in divisions Tenderfoot, Maverick, and Horseman. Rider/Horse team with the highest average score cards, minimum of 7 rides.
   c) Full Tenderfoot members that compete in 8 TTCC rides within one year are eligible for the following Year End Award:
      Sandra Ladd Award – Most improved Tenderfoot & Tenderfoot Junior that competes in 8 or more rides. Sandra’s motto was "Fall down 7 times, get up 8 times”.
   d) Full Maverick members that compete in 8 TTCC riders within one year are eligible for the following Year End Award:
      Jennifer Severson Award- Most Improved Maverick that competes in 8 or more rides.
3.6 Full TTCC members are eligible for Rider Mileage Medallions accumulated from year to year as follows:
   a) 100 miles
   b) 300 miles
   c) 500 miles
   d) 1000 miles

SECTION 4 – GENERAL RULES
4.1 Trail
   a) A TTCC course is a one day event starting at approximately 8 a.m. and ending by approximately 5 p.m.
   b) Riders will be moving down the trail between 3 to 4.5 mph.
   c) Each Rider will have a map with any special instructions indicating direction of travel, landmarks and management’s phone numbers in case of emergency.
   d) The trail will be well marked and between 7 to 12 miles long.
   e) Ten plus obstacles will be observed on the trail and in camp.
   f) The Rider Card will equal no more than 200 points plus any extra credit earned.
g) All obstacles must be those that might naturally occur on the trail ride. Obstacle should reflect the riding conditions typical of the local environment with the goal being to maintain the character of an authentic trail ride.

h) Indiscriminate overuse of inappropriately placed man-made materials designed only to increase the challenges (spook or startle) will not be allowed. (Section 9.2).

i) Obstacles can be viewed by a hidden Judge. These will be called observations. These can include but are not exclusive to: going down the trail, uphill, downhill, transitions, water crossings, water stops, waiting for an obstacle, etc.

j) Competitions can have one obstacle that will be timed. This time might be noted on the Rider Card as well as the score for that obstacle. This type of obstacle can determine a tie breaker. (Example: opening a gate, maneuvering a course with the best clean run).

k) To ensure the Judges are able to get to their obstacles for judging before the Riders pass that point of the trail, a cone or other type of marker should be posted on the trail. This will be discussed at the ride meeting prior to ride out on Saturday morning. Other places on the trail can have written instructions for the Riders to complete.

l) The ride will go on rain or shine; however, the Ride Manager has the option of delaying the start time of the ride, shortening the length of the ride and/or taking away obstacles as seen fit to ensure the safety of the Riders, horses, Judges, and the management team.

4.2 RIDERS

a) Riders must be a minimum of 8 years old.

b) All Riders will sign a liability form at check-in.

c) Riders may be observed by a Judge riding or in-hand obstacles.

d) Riders receive instructions from a Judge or assistant explaining how to complete the obstacles. This can be either verbal or written or acted out by Judge or Judge’s Assistant. If Participant chooses to perform the obstacle in-hand rather than mounted, it will be considered a pass and receive no score. The same applies if the obstacle was to be performed mounted and Participant chooses to perform it in-hand, it will be considered a pass and receive no score.

e) Riders may ask the instructions to be repeated or ask for further clarification. You are not being judged on your ability to follow directions, but on you and your horse’s communication. Ask until you understand.

f) Riders are not to be “coached” through an obstacle by another Rider, Judge, or bystander.

g) The Rider should not interrupt the instructions given; doing so may result in a miscommunication.

h) Each obstacle is designed to evaluate the Rider or horse or both.

i) Each Rider will receive their scorecard after all awards are presented. (Section 7 – Scoring)

j) Any type of cruelty to animals such as excessive use of spurs, crops, etc. will be penalized. A Rider will be subject to dismissal if it continues.

k) Full members are eligible for TTCC points which will be accumulated for the year. Year-end Awards will be posted on the TTCC website.

l) Each Rider is responsible for his own safety and the safety of his mount. Earned points and resulting awards are to be considered secondary to safety.

m) Each participant must maintain control of their horse throughout the ride. Failure to do so could result in disqualification.

n) Riding double, ponying an animal with or without a Rider, or a loose foal on the side is not allowed. Ponying a horse as part of an obstacle shall not be allowed.

o) Junior Riders must have written consent of a parent or guardian in order to participate in a TTCC ride.
p) Junior Riders 13 and under must be accompanied by a sponsor on the trail. A maximum of 4 Jr. Riders shall be allowed for each sponsor.
q) Junior Riders shall wear a helmet at all times when mounted either in camp or on the trail.
r) All Riders are encouraged to wear a helmet when mounted either in camp or on the trail.
s) Riders may dismount and walk their horses at any point in the trail unless otherwise instructed for an obstacle. The Rider should be aware by doing so they could be subject to missing a hidden observation.
t) Each Rider is judged on their trail ability, negotiating obstacles, or observations on the trail.

4.3 Horse

a) Horses may be of any breed but should be at least three years of age (36 months) at the time of competing. It is the Rider’s responsibility to ascertain if the horse is capable of completing the mileage.
b) Horses are allowed to wear any type of leg protection or hoof protection including leggings, bell boots, shoes and/or boots (Example: Boa Boots, Epic Easy Boots).
c) Horses that kick must be tagged with a red ribbon in the tail. For the sake of this sport, the horse should be socialized and be respectful to the Rider. Horses that show aggression on the trail are frowned upon. It behooves the Rider to work on this home, demanding the same respect on the ground, as in the saddle. (Section 9.1f & 9.2e)
d) Stallions will be identified by a yellow ribbon in their tail and forelock at all times. Behavior that is deemed potentially dangerous or unsafe will result in dismissal from the ride.
e) Horses that are considered “Green” should wear a green ribbon in their tail. This identifies them as a “new to the trail” horse and could help with some safety issues.
f) Horses will be observed for soundness before leaving on the trail. This exercise is considered an obstacle and will be graded on the scorecard, general for horsemanship abilities. Each Rider will trot their horse by the Judge, either in-hand or mounted, to determine soundness.
i. Grade 1 = the rider will receive a 5-point deduction. In addition, the horse will be re-evaluated at the end of the ride to be certain the lameness has not worsened.
ii. Grade 2 or 3 = the horse will be dismissed from the ride
iii. Horses can be having backs tested in addition to a trot out, or replacing trot out.
g) Horses that have a mechanical lameness will be allowed to start, but may be called back for soundness check at end of ride.

4.4 Camping

a) Management will provide a place for competitors to camp overnight. This may be primitive camping or with facilities like water, electric & a meeting location. Management will note on the “Ride Page” what facilities are available.
b) Fees are unique to each facility that a TTCC ride is held. This fee is generally taken by ride management to pay the ranch owner. Details will be on the “Ride Page”.
c) Horses can be housed in pens, tied to the trailer, high lined with sliding tether or kept in an electric fence. Electric fences cannot be more than 14x14. This ensures that there is room for all competitors to house their horse in the camp.

SECTION 5 – RIDE ENTRY

5.1 Ride fees for participants are $67.00 for Adult/Senior and $47.00 for Junior (ages 8 to 17) per ride. Double rides (two single rides in one weekend) are $107.00 for Adult/Senior and $72.00 for Junior. Any rider paying in advance may deduct $10.00 from ride fee per weekend.

5.2 Ride-Fee Cancellation Policy

If you cancel:
- 7+ days prior to ride-full refund
- 6-3 days prior to ride-50% refund
- Less than 3 days-no refund

If Management cancels ride-full refund

5.3 Competitive Rider

a) Riders able to check-in on Friday are encouraged to do so. This will ensure the ride starts as scheduled Saturday or Sunday mornings. These times can be adjusted by each Ride Manager if needed.

b) Each Rider will receive a number identification.

c) Horses do not need to be present for check-in; however, some rides may start their obstacle observations after checking for Riders that are present. The Riders arriving the following day will complete those same obstacles with the same Judge on the morning of the ride.

5.4 Camping and ranch fees are separate and will be noted by ride management for each ride.

5.5 Points will be kept in a database and available online. Points for full members will accumulate each year for Year End Awards from December through November. Year End Awards will be presented at Celebration Award Dinner in January.

5.6 TTCC rides are recommended to be limited to 55 Riders per day. A waiting list can be started in case there are any cancellations. If a Ride Manager chooses to exceed 55 Riders, an additional Judge will need to be added. All Judges, Senior Judge, Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries will be paid an additional $1/Rider over 55 Riders. The maximum number of riders will be limited according to the terms of the current insurance policy (currently limited to 75 riders).

5.7 Each Rider/Horse combination is considered a team and will be awarded points as such. If the Rider changes to a different horse mid-year, points follow rider as long as riding in same class.

SECTION 6 – EQUIPMENT

6.1 Any type of saddle, bridle, halter, side-pull, or hackamore is allowed. No bareback pads are allowed. It’s the Riders responsibility to determine the appropriateness of his tack and to ensure that such tack is fitted and used properly. Horses that cannot be controlled with the tack being used are subject to dismissal of the event (Section 9.2).

6.2 A halter and lead rope or halter bridle must be carried on the ride.

6.3 A hoof pick must be carried on the ride.

6.4 A knife capable of cutting a lead rope or tack must be carried by all adults on the ride.

6.5 All Junior Riders are required to wear a helmet at all times while mounted and on the trail or in camp. Helmets are recommended for adults as well.

NOTE: Your horse may not be the normal trail horse you are used to riding. During an event, your horse may become excited while moving down the trail. Please be aware the tack you ride with will impact the way you are able to control your horse in this situation (i.e. – rope halters used as bridles).

SECTION 7 – DIVISIONS & CLASSES

7.1 There are three levels of difficulty: Tenderfoot, Maverick & Horseman (see website “Ride Divisions” for obstacle examples).

a) Tenderfoot: Basic obstacles, Rider working on horsemanship skills.

i. Confident with horse on the trail.

ii. Rider has no competitive trail ride experience or maximum experience is no more than 3 Tenderfoot rides.

iii. Horse can have previous competitive trail ride experience.

iv. Can complete primary skills listed on the Obstacle Skills (Section 10).

v. Dragging to be performed only in straight lines and limited distance.
vii. Tenderfoot Riders that receive 5 first place awards in a single year of competition must move to Maverick Division the following calendar year.

b) Maverick: Rider has horsemanship skills and comfortable on the trail.
   i. Experienced trail riding team.
   ii. Rider has competed in trail events.
   iii. Is ready for most obstacles and can accomplish skills listed on the Obstacle Skills.
   iv. Able to complete multiple tasked obstacles.
   v. This more advanced team may be asked to complete variations of the trail.
   vi. Some obstacles performed will be of the Tenderfoot level and others the Horseman level.
   vi. Maverick Riders that receive 5 first place awards in a single year of competition must move to Horseman Division the following calendar year.

c) Horseman: Accomplished Rider and horse 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.

7.1A Wrangler Teams- Green horses (less than 18 months’ saddle time) are declared at beginning of year.
   - Riders remain in their class.
   - Are pulled at end of year from 1-6 placing.
   - Senior and Adult are combined.
   - Wrangler Scores have a multiplier to even out obstacle challenge. Tenderfoot use raw score, teams competing in Maverick x 1.15, and Horseman score x 1.25.

7.2 Senior Judges shall endeavor to design the majority of obstacles with all levels of directions and they shall design obstacles that are category appropriate.

7.3 The Junior division is for ages 8-17.

7.4 Tenderfoot will be divided into these three classifications:
   a) 8-17 = Junior
   b) 18-54 = Adult
   c) 55+ = Senior

7.5 A Rider’s age for the purpose of determining category shall be the Rider’s age as of January 1, of the current ride year.

NOTE: All categories and divisions will follow the same trail with little deviation to perform obstacles.

SECTION 8 – SCORING

8.1 Riders will be scored on negotiating an obstacle under the direction of a Judge.

8.2 Any Judge may dismiss a participant from their obstacle for safety reasons.

8.3 The obstacles must be executed as stated in the Judge’s directions.

8.4 If any horse refuses at an obstacle, the participant will be allowed a total of three attempts to complete. The team is subject to deduction for each unsuccessful attempt. If the horse refuses a third time, the participant is dismissed from the obstacle receiving points for attempting the obstacle. (If the obstacle needs to be completed in a certain amount of time, the Judge can call when that time runs out).
a) The definition of a refusal is a horse that moves their feet away (any direction) from the obstacle. Looking and snorting are not considered a refusal.

b) Pausing at an obstacle, water crossing or log crossing, to sniff or investigate is allowed as long as the Judge assesses that the horse is not balking.

8.5 If the Rider is asked a question (i.e. where are we on this map?), perform a specific skill, tie a specific knot to a hitching rail, or lead their horse, and the Rider does not perform the skill correctly, the Judge may use this category to assess points.

8.6 Missing an obstacle: If the Rider misses an obstacle due to being too early, tardiness to an obstacle marked on the map, or being off trail, the Rider will not receive points.

8.7 Scorecards will not always reflect a comment on the horse and Rider lines. It is at the discretion per obstacle what will be noted on the Scorecard.

8.8 Judges have the option of awarding a “+” reflected on the Rider’s scorecard. This is used to compliment the Rider on a job well done, not always reflected with a perfect score. This can also be used to break a tie at the end of a ride.

8.9 Each Rider’s scores are compared within their division and class to determine the placing in each class. Ties are broken as such:
   Step 1: Compare the “+” on the cards.
   Step 2: Compare the scores on “hardest obstacle”.
   Step 3: Senior Judge makes the call after studying the score cards.

SECTION 9 – POINTS

9.1 Rider/Horse teams will accumulate points throughout the year. (Dates and locations posted on the TTCC website and on Facebook)

9.2 Riders need to be TTCC full members to receive TTCC Year End Awards. Texas Trail Challenge Club will compile all results for all of the rides.

9.5 Ride Management, Ride Secretary, Assn Sec, Judges and Intern Judges are eligible to receive their average score for rides worked in a ratio of 4:1 and 6:2. These averages are added only if they did not ride in enough rides to qualify.

9.6 Rider/Horse teams can move up or down in divisions and are eligible for Year End Awards with accumulated points in the highest division they competed in. Each Rider carries the points.

9.8 Year End Awards will be presented in the January following Ride Season. An overall award of Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion (Horsemanship) High Point and Reserve High Point (Maverick and Tenderfoot) at 11 rides each and each division’s top Riders will receive awards 1st through 6th place at 8 rides each.

SECTION 10 – OBSTACLE JUDGING – SCORECARD STANDARDS

10.1 Rider awareness:
   a) Be courteous on the trail, announce when you are ready to pass. (“Rider number 21, may I pass on your right?”)
   b) After completing an obstacle, wait for the next Rider to complete it before moving down the trail. The horse behind you may become excited at the sight of your horse leaving and have difficulty completing the obstacle.
   c) When at a watering spot, wait for the other horses to finish drinking. Leaving while another horse is drinking can cause that horse to stop drinking.
   d) Be careful not to crowd other horses. Riding or standing abreast is acceptable but when following or standing behind another horse, leave at least one horse length between.
   e) Do not drop your sponge in standing water where other horses will drink.
   f) If the Rider is having difficulty controlling their horse, they should step off the trail, out of line to restore calmness to the horse. This can be done mounted or dismounted.
Pay attention to the Judge’s directions with the horse positioned at a safe distance from the Judge. Repeating the directions or asking the Judge to repeat them for clarification is acceptable.

The Rider should evaluate the obstacle for potential cautions before and during the obstacle before proceeding.

**Horse can be faulted or dismissed as reads below:**

a) It is the fault of the horse if it is too aware by spooking, shying, and/or spinning. The Rider can lose points for this infraction.

b) If the horse moves while being examined by a Judge while the Rider is mounted or dismounted.

c) If a horse takes an obvious bite or kick at a Judge, Rider or another Rider or horse, the team will receive a -5 or -10-point deduction to be determined by the attending Judge. Rider is subject to dismissal if infraction is severe.

d) If a horse is fractious, unruly, or dangerous (bites, kicks, and threatening to others), the Rider is subject for dismissal.

f) Riders always have the option to pass an obstacle if they deem it unsafe or above their level.

**Horse’s response to cues:** When the Rider applies aids, or cues the horse, the horse is to react appropriately. The Rider should not have to resort to very strong aids to obtain a response from the horse, nor should cues create a reaction whereby the horse over reacts. (i.e., side passing or back too far). The horse should approach an obstacle as cues (i.e. straight on, side pass) and not avoid direct approach. The horse should stand quietly while mounted (no movement of feet). If the horse is tied, the horse should stand quietly and not pull back.

**Rider’s Control:** The Rider must maintain control of the horse at all times. This will be maintained by having the Rider control either with the reins or lead rope. Rider’s control of the horse is whether mounted or in-hand. The Rider should also control the horse by knowing HOW to ask for their horse to execute the obstacle as well as keep the horse under control if the horse shies or spooks. When in-hand, the Rider shall lead the horse slightly to the side of them with the horse’s head even with the Rider’s shoulder. While leading the horse, the Rider should not let the horse crowd or lean on them.

**Judges’ instructions:** Be courteous to the Judge and their crew. Listen carefully to the instructions. If you have questions after they have been completely read, you may ask for clarification. Be considerate of other Riders and give them the opportunity to have their full attention on the person giving obstacle instructions. Do not crowd or step on the Judge, the crew or any of their supplies. In addition, Riders cannot be coached by other Riders, Buddy Riders or the Judge’s crew.

**Balance:** This applies to both Rider and horse. The Rider should be well balanced in the saddle. For uphill, the Rider should be in line with the trees, vertical to horizon, with legs balanced under Rider, not hitting horse’s flanks, and should be lifting out of the saddle to relieve pressure on the horse’s back. The Rider can take hold of the mane to gain balance and avoid hitting the back of the cantle. For downhill, the Rider should lean slightly back, staying light in the saddle. The Rider is not to lean excessively forward, back or sideways. The horse is to be balanced while negotiating obstacles. For downhill obstacle, hindquarters should be under the horse and the horse should not lean on the forehands. While negotiating step-overs, the horse is to be balanced and pick up feet and avoid clipping and stumbling. The Rider can stay balanced by looking ahead, not at the horse’s feet, while negotiating obstacles.

**On course:** The Rider is to follow directions as given and stay on course. Excessive response, avoidance or Rider’s misunderstanding of the direction will be penalized. The participant must remain within the boundaries of the obstacle as marked. Avoiding or going outside marked boundaries constitutes being off course.

**Passing on an obstacle:** It is the Rider’s responsibility to pass an obstacle they deem as beyond their team’s skill level. Safety and common sense should always be kept in the participant’s mind. The Rider
has three opportunities to attempt an obstacle; demerits to be assessed for each attempt. After the horse refuses three times, the Rider is disqualified for this obstacle.