

# **INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDING**

The aim of Competitive Trail Riding (CTR) is for a horse and rider to traverse a course within a specified time and to score points at challenges.

The rides are judged events, not social rides, but they are not races as there is a minimum as well as a maximum allotted time.

Upon arrival at the ride base, riders set up camp, provide all the required paperwork such as nomination forms, waivers and horse health documents to the Ride Secretary and collect a Horse Health slip to take to vetting and an ID number. These ID numbers must be worn by the rider until the completion of the competition.

Riders then present their horse to the Horse Health Judge for a preliminary veterinary check where the horse's temperature, respiration and heart rate are recorded. Riders are asked to ensure that their horse is used to having its temperature taken.

The Horse Health Judge will then check the horse for any problems such as dehydration, loose shoes, sore back or injuries which will exclude it from competing. If the horse passes all these checks, the rider will then be required to trot out the horse (on a loose lead) so it can be checked for lameness.

It's strongly recommended that riders attend the Ride Briefing when details of the trail and expected riding times and how to correctly follow the marked trail are discussed.

On the day of the competition, riders are required to present their horse saddled and ready to ride 15 minutes prior to their scheduled starting time, to the first judge point – the In hand Gear and Safety Check.

Riders are then timed out individually at 3 minute intervals and the competition has begun.

While on track follow arrows and ribbons – don't go past any blockers and maintain a good Distance from other riders as the object of Competitive Trail Riding is for you and your horse to complete the course without the assistance of other riders.

On the trail, horse and riders are judged separately which makes CTRs a unique sport. Horses are judged on their manners and ability while the riders are judged on all phases of technical riding skills and the care and handling of their horses.

From the Score Sheets and the experience of competing, riders learn equitation and pacing techniques as well as methods of care and training which help their horses perform.

An important by-product of CTRs includes equine nutrition and health and horse handling techniques as well as care and selection of tack.

***Ride Officials are always available to help you***