

TRAIL RIDING RULES

Revised 2026

PART I. REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. The trail riding activities will be of pleasure trail ride type.

Section 2. Any person who is a member in good standing of the Maine Trail Riders, regardless of residence and where the horse is stabled, and who participates in the trail rides which are sponsored by MTRA and a member in good standings, will be eligible to compete toward the Annual Awards.

Section 3. The trail ride sponsor must be affiliated with the MTRA and a member in good standings. Every sponsor must ride **the entirety** of his or her affiliated ride. Should there be a reason that this doesn't happen the Trail Committee will evaluate extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis. *Effective Feb 2011.* Only one sponsor per day with the exception of a junior co-sponsor. *Effective January 2010.*

Section 4.

- A. Every rider will pay \$5.00 per senior rider and \$3.00 per junior rider for each affiliated ride they attend. All monies received goes into the trail committee fund to be used toward the Annual Awards. Non-members donation will be used toward the Annual Awards.
- B. There will be only one (1) MTRA affiliated ride or event per calendar date. A sponsor must contact the Trail Secretary to find out if the date/dates are available at lease one (1) month prior to the affiliated ride date. The dates are established on a first come, first served basis through the Trail Secretary.
- C. Notice of an affiliated ride will be announced/published with the monthly meeting notice of the MTRA and at least one (1) month prior to the ride, and will indicate the person to contact for detailed information on our Webpage and Face Book page.
- D. A list of all participants on the ride must be forwarded to the MTRA Trail Secretary within seven (7) days after the last day of the ride. The MTRA Trail Ride Committee Secretary will supply an official sign-up sheet and a copy of these rules to the sponsoring organization or individual.
- E. Sponsors of an affiliated trail ride must require all participants to sign their own name on the sign-up sheet which contains an indemnification agreement binding the signer to the Constitution and Rules of the MTRA, relinquishing the MTRA and sponsor from any contingent liability and/or compensation. Parents/Guardians must sign for minors and accompany them on that ride.

Section 5. All affiliated trail rides will be held between January 1st and December 1st of each year.

Section 6. A junior member may sponsor an affiliated ride by co-sponsoring with a senior club member. This senior club member will be responsible for overseeing that the junior co-sponsor helps complete the tasks on the “Ride Sponsor Guide List.”

Section 7. All affiliated trail ride sponsors must pay the MTRA Trail Committee Secretary, within seven (7) days of the completion of the ride, an assessment of \$5.00 per senior rider and \$3.00 per junior rider. This money will be used for the purchase of Annual Awards and other trail riding activities that are recommended by the Trail Riding Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Affiliated MTRA Ride-a-thons is optional donations, not mandatory.

PART II. THE TRAIL RIDE

Section 1. Riding hours will be tallied. In order to have your tallied hours count, you must ride a minimum of 2 hours with the scheduled ride. If you leave the ride before it ends, you must notify the trail boss and/or the sponsor. Trail rides must cover a minimum of three (3) hours riding time (See exception in Section 4). Time will be rounded to the nearest half hour. A rider may not qualify more than one horse per ride.

Section 2. An affiliated trail ride should have the following properly identified officials: Trail Boss, Assistant Trail Boss, several outriders, and a first aid person to tend to riders and horses.

Section 3. All affiliated trail rides must have an approved first aid kit suitable for treating horses and riders; in addition, three outrider vests should be worn. The MTRA Trail Secretary will provide these to the sponsor of the ride and they will be returned to the MTRA Trail Secretary or forwarded to the next affiliated sponsor. The sign-up sheets and fees collected will be returned to the MTRA Trail Secretary.

Section 4. Sponsors must be prepared to take riders out regardless of the weather unless weather is severely prohibitive and a rain date has been prior approved by the MTRA Trail Secretary. Rain dates can only be scheduled for the following day. If a minimum of two hours is ridden, the sponsor can discontinue a ride due to inclement weather and still have it count as an affiliated ride.

Section 5. Due to safety and health issues smoking will not be allowed on any Maine Trail Rider’s affiliated trail ride during the ride time.

Section 6.

- A. On all MTRA affiliated trail rides, it is strongly suggested that all horses and ponies be shod, but is not mandatory.

- B. If the Trail Boss and/or member(s) of the Trail Riding Committee deem a horse not fit to start or complete the ride, (this includes any indication of a communicable disease) the rider will be asked to leave in order to protect the health & welfare of the other horses.
- C. Stallions on rides affiliated with or sponsored by the MTRA will be ridden only by riders eighteen (18) years of age or older. Stallions or any other horse that constitute a hazard to other horses and riders may, at the discretion of the Trail Boss and/or member(s) of the Trail Riding Committee, be asked to leave the trail ride or to travel at the rear of the ride if they wish to continue.
- D. Due to safety hazards all horses or ponies that are potential kickers or those that do kick must have a red warning ribbon in their tail.
- E. Any type of equipment will be acceptable as long as it will provide suitable control of the horse at all times. However, participants may be excused if equipment is considered unduly harsh or severe at the discretion of the Trail Boss and/or member(s) of the Trail Riding Committee.

PART III. AWARDS

Section 1.

- A. Awards will be based on total riding hours accumulated during affiliated rides. Patches will be awarded for the following:
 - 10-24 riding hours earns a Bronze Patch
 - 25-39 riding hours earns a Silver Patch
 - 40+ riding hours earns a Gold Patch
- B. A copy of the year-end results will be filed with the MTRA Secretary.
- C. Once horse and rider combination has completed ~~16~~ 10 hours in one riding season, and is a current MTRA member, that same horse and rider combination will be eligible for that year's awards. Riding hours will not be carried over from year to year.

Section 2.

- A. MOST RIDES (same horse and rider), add rider and horse's name to plaque displayed at clubhouse.
- B. SPORTSMANSHIP (one individual each year that has done the most for the club in that year), add individual's name to the plaque displayed at the clubhouse. The BOD's will take at least 3 nominations from the general members and the members will vote at the Banquet. Once you have received this award, you are not eligible for another 5 years. *Effective January 1999. This award was discontinued in 2020 until further notice.*

- C. Each senior ride sponsor will receive a recognition gift. Each junior co-sponsor will receive a recognition gift upon the completion of the junior portion of the Ride Sponsor Guide List.

Section 3. Funding

- A. Award expenses will not exceed revenues accumulated from ride participation.
- B. Any money left over after purchasing awards, will be applied to the following year awards.