

NATRC SAFETY GUIDELINES

Ride Management:

1. Provide a safe ride environment through conscious efforts to prevent harm or injury to equine, people or property.
2. Parking
 - a. Arrange participants' trailer parking to allow sufficient distance for a safe zone (distance between horses' rear ends), which will allow human traffic (judges) to move freely between trailers without fear of being injured.
 - b. Provide adequate group parking for management and volunteers
3. Check-In and Briefing Areas -- Provide an area that is free of horse and vehicle traffic
4. Trails
 - a. Select the type of terrain and natural obstacles to meet the different levels of competition
 - b. Course (trail) must be natural and native to the local terrain. The use of artificial or unsafe obstacles is prohibited (Rule Book, Sec 3. C. 2. and Sec. 6. A. 7.)
 - c. Have alternative trail plan if weather conditions change making planned trail unsafe.
5. Observation Points (obstacles)
 - a. Should be natural and common to the trails in your area
 - b. Should be safe
 - c. Should provide a secondary route for riders who elect to bypass
 - d. Present and discuss observation points with judges
 - e. Ensure safety of rider and equine first, not level of difficulty
 - f. Do not compromise rider safety by trying to be inventive
6. Waiver Forms -- must be completed and signed by judges, management and workers
7. Drivers and Vehicles
 - a. Verify insurance on all vehicles to be used
 - b. Verify drivers' vehicle operating certificate (drivers license)
 - c. Ensure adequate passenger seating and restraints (seat belts) per state requirements
8. Helmet
 - a. Juniors (competitors and non-competitors) must wear an ASTM/SEI, Snell, or approved equal equestrian riding helmet at all times when mounted. (Rule book, Sec. 4. B. 6. a.)
 - b. Strongly recommend that adults also wear a similarly approved helmet.
9. Camp Horse Trailer -- have available to transport pulled equine from the trails back to camp
10. Emergency Telephone List -- Make available to all riders and workers and should include local law enforcement, ambulance, and farrier.
11. Accident Report Form
 - a. **Submit to NATRC (Not Insurance Company)** for any incident prior to, during, or immediately after the ride. Ride Manager, RI and Witness to accident, all fill out a form.

Judges:

1. Verify course (trail) is natural and native to the local terrain
2. The use of artificial or unsafe obstacles is prohibited (Rule Book, Sec. V,A.,7 & Sec VII, C,2)
3. Discuss obstacles with management
4. Notify management if you feel a selected obstacle is unsafe for the level of riders competing
5. Ensure safety of rider and equine first, versus level of difficulty of obstacle
6. Complete and sign disclaimer form (liability release)
7. Notify management of any unsafe situations in camp or on the trail
8. Err on the side of safety
9. Brief riders at each ride briefing to ensure they understand they are to use their own judgment when doing obstacles. If they believe the obstacle is unsafe for them or their equine, they have the option to bypass, recognizing that points will be deducted for the missed obstacle.

SAFETY RIDERS:

Listed below are the guidelines that NATRC provides to safety riders. Certainly, every safety rider can not abide by every guideline, but ride management should strive to appoint safety riders that can fill most of the guidelines. State required health papers (certificates, coggins test, etc.) should be checked on each safety equine. A copy of these guidelines should be presented to the safety riders and reviewed with them a few days in advance of the ride to be assured that the safety riders are adequate for the task.

1. A minimum of two (2) adult riders to follow behind competitors on the trail to assist horse and/or rider (Rule Book, Sec 3. B. 7.). Recommend two (2) riders behind Open and two (2) behind CP/Novice if the divisions are using separate trails.
2. Safety riders must attend all ride briefings and receive additional information as necessary from the Trailmaster or Ride Chairman.
3. Should be familiar with the trails and know how to get to connecting roadways in case other help is needed.
4. Should wear identification (such as a colored vest).
5. Must be mounted on a well conditioned equine at least 4 years old and capable of making the entire day's ride. Equine should be steady, reliable mounts, capable of being ridden double, will "pony" another equine and will pull with a rope (western saddle recommended). Stallions must be carefully evaluated, along with their riders, before being allowed to ride in the safety position.
6. Should be experienced enough to recognize and handle equine suffering from fatigue. Safety equine will have P&Rs taken to ensure they are not too stressed to continue.
7. Should maintain a reasonable distance from the last rider in order to not interfere with competition; however, should keep the last ride in sight.
8. Should report problems on the trail to Ride Chairman, Trailmaster, Judges and/or P&R Chairman.
9. Should carry messages to the next available P&R team, Judge, and/or timers of any equine which has pulled at any point.
10. Should carry map, timing sheet (distance between points), and rider roster.
11. Should carry and be familiar with contents of a first aid kit. Kit should contain common medical items for both equine and rider. First aid training is a plus!
12. Should carry radios (when available) to maintain communications with management.
13. Should carry extra lead rope, knife, pliers and other reasonable emergency tools.
14. Should NOT pull ribbons since there is always a chance that a rider has gotten off trail and may be behind the safety riders.