

## TRAIL RIDING RULES

*Revised January 2010*

### **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 standing, 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 standing. Every sponsor must ride on his or her affiliated ride. Only one sponsor per day with the exception of a junior co-sponsor. *Effective January 2010.*

#### Section 4.

- A. No affiliation fee will be required. MTRA members will pay \$3.00 per senior rider and \$2.00 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. *Effective April 2003.* Non-members may make a donation to be used toward the Annual Awards. Application must be made in sufficient time to be posted in the Hoofbeats prior to the ride. *Effective January 1999*
- B. There will be only one (1) MTRA affiliated ride or event per calendar date. The dates are established on a first come, first served basis through the Trail Secretary.
- C. Notice of an affiliated ride will be published with the monthly meeting notice of the MTRA prior to the ride, and will indicate the person to contact for detailed information.
- 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. *Effective October 1999*
- F. To allow a greater variety of riding areas, a ride sponsor will be limited to sponsoring no more than 2 weekends per riding season. *Effective January 1996*  
This does not include junior co-sponsored rides. *Effective April 2003.*

Section 5. All affiliated trail rides will be held between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. *Effective January 1998*

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." *Effective January 2010.*

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 \$3.00 per senior rider and \$2.00 per junior rider for MTRA member. Non-members may make donations. 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 contestant may not qualify more than one horse per ride. *Change effective May 2002.*

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, six 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. *Effective May 2000*

### 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. *Effective October 1999*
- 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. *Effective May 2001*
- 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. Medallions and Patches will be awarded for the following: *Effective October 2001*
  - 16-31 riding hours earns a Bronze Medallion
  - 32-63 riding hours earns a Silver Medallion
  - 64 + riding hours earns a Gold Medallion
- B. A copy of the year-end results will be filed with the MTRA Secretary.
- C. Once horse and rider combination has completed 16 hours in one riding season, and is a current MTRA member, that same horse and rider combination can accumulate from year to year, working toward a special plaque, to be awarded after 125 hours has been ridden.
- D. Once horse and rider combination has ridden a minimum of 250 hours another plate will be added to the original plaque and at every 250-hour interval thereafter.
- E. Once horse and rider combination has reached 500 hours they will also receive a special recognition award in addition to the plate.
- F. Once horse and rider combination has reached 1000 hours they will also receive a special recognition award in addition to the plate. *Effective January 1999*
- G. Once horse and rider combination has reached 1500 hours they will also receive a special recognition award in addition to the plate. *Effective January 2009*

- H. Once horse and rider combination has reached 2000 hours they will also receive a special recognition award in addition to the plate. *Effective January 1999*

## 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*
- 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. *Effective January 2010.*

## 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.