**GAWLER TRAIL HORSE RIDERS CLUB**

**GUIDELINES FOR YOUR FIRST RIDE**

We try to commence all rides promptly at the time stated, so allow plenty of time to saddle up and prepare you & your horse.

On arrival, please introduce yourself to the Trail Boss (the ride manager for the day), show them your Member Registration or Day Member registration certificate (ATHRA online receipt) & sign the ride register and pay the appropriate ride fee before saddling up. Please take responsibility for informing the Trail Boss of any medical conditions, medications or disabilities you wish to be known in case you have an incident & adhere to all reasonable instructions from the Ride Management team.

If you are riding a young or inexperienced horse, please also inform the Trail Boss so the ride team san be aware. *We encourage you to bring suitable horses to the ride, you should have ridden your horse in company out in different environments as part of their training before they join in a much larger, organised group.*

15 minutes prior to the commencement of the ride all attendees are required to attend a safety talk without horses given by the Trail Boss. The club caries a 1st aid kit, however you need to be prepared to carry your lunch, halter, rope and any other gear in saddle bags as required.

We encourage safe, enjoyable trail riding in an environmentally responsible manner while always respecting the horses’ welfare. Day & new members need to make themselves familiar with & your sponsor will assist you during the ride to understand the Clubs Safety Policy/ATHRA Ride Rules as they a designed for the safety & enjoyment of all horses & riders. Such as, but not limited to the following

* Avoid ‘crowding’ whilst riding & at least one horse length is a minimum distance between horses.
* If your horse has a tendency to kick, attach a red ribbon to its tail or obtain a red sticker from the club.
* When riding along a road it is imperative that you obey all road rules which include riding on the left side in single or double file and stay behind the nominated ride leader unless otherwise instructed.
* Riders must ride appropriately to suit the terrain, weather, visibility and possible interaction with other trail users.
* Please be sensitive to the environment, minimise any impact on plants and animals by staying on designated trails, comply with trail signage, respect the rights of other trail users and any requests from landowners whose land the trail traverses.
* Members should always consider others and respect private property, be it respecting privacy during property access or people’s personal property.

The social atmosphere of our rides finishes with a get together for lunch & a chat before going home but that is not compulsory and if you've got something else on you can leave any time after the completion of the ride.  (BYO lunch, drink, chair etc. unless stated otherwise)

Please remember to remove all rubbish, manure and excess feed from float parking areas and take home unless otherwise directed by the Trail Boss.

Questions and feedback are always welcome.

**ENJOY THE RIDE**

A quick checklist below of equipment to bring for the day:

Helmet, Saddlebags Ride Fee & ATHRA membership forms

Your emergency medication (if required, i.e. Epi Pen) Water / bucket / Hay net

Sunblock/ Wet weather gear Bag or Container for manure and dropped feed

Lunch/drink Chair