

Rider Rules
of
Tri Valley Trailblazers Club, Inc.,
A California Public Benefit Corporation

Amended October 12, 2016

1. ALWAYS call the Trail Boss to sign up and confirm you are going to attend a club ride or camp out as early as you can. If you have to cancel, call the Trail Boss.
2. The Trail Boss leads the group, unless he or she designates someone else to be in the front. Don't go ahead of the group or the Trail Boss without permission. Be on time. Ride out times are scheduled and includes a pre-ride briefing.
3. If you want to ride faster, *never* just take off – ask permission from the Trail Boss. If you are given permission to ride ahead, wait until you are out of the line of sight to go faster, if possible, and wait at the next intersection for the group to catch up so you do not get lost.
4. *Never* canter or trot fast up a hill when riding with a group, unless the entire group has agreed to do so. You may frantically upset horses behind you and create a dangerous or uncontrollable situation for yourself and others.
5. Don't pass another rider on the trail without calling or telling them you are 'coming by on the right' or 'left'. Keep at least one horse length between horses on the trail, especially on single track. ALWAYS keep at least one full horse length between horses when going up or down hill, crossing bridges, or other obstacles.
6. If a rider dismounts, wait until they are back in the saddle before riding off. If you don't, they may not be able to mount – *this is especially important when opening and closing gates.*
7. Attempt to ride on the uphill side of trails whenever possible, especially if there are blind corners. If a biker, hiker or another rider surprises your horse it is easier to avoid an accident.
8. Make verbal contact with other trail users to alert them that you are approaching. Watch for a response. Be very courteous and careful when passing bicycles and hikers. The fact that horses have the right of way on trails does not give riders the right to "blow by" other trail users. **Always slow down to a walk** when approaching and passing anyone on the trail. Be pleasant to them – that hiker may be able to influence whether or not horses will be allowed on the trails.
9. If your horse is unruly, continues to jig, is upset, or just can't be calm with other horses consider moving to the back so you do not distract the horses behind you, or consider getting a partner and splitting off to give both you and the rest of the group a more pleasant, safer ride. Be sure and notify the Trail Boss before you separate from the group.
10. If your horse kicks put a red ribbon in its tail, and tell people. No one wants an injury due to a kicking horse. You may want to consider riding in the back if your horse is a continual threat to other riders or horses.
11. Use hand signals while riding to notify riders behind you that you are stopping. Horses don't have brake lights and it's hard to hear someone when they are talking facing forward in front of you.

1 Name _____

Initials _____

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13. Carry a halter and lead rope with you on the trail.

14. Stay on the designated trail at all times!

15. Always tie only to sturdy objects. At fences tie only to upright posts, never to cross pieces. Never tie your horse to someone else's rig without permission in advance. You are responsible to ensure your horse is safely secured for day rides or overnight camp outs, checking for potential safety hazards such as picket line height, lead rope length, etc.

16. Never go any faster than the slowest rider is comfortable going in your group at any given time. The Trail Boss will determine transitions to faster speeds only when all riders have agreed.

17. You are responsible to reasonably judge the level of your horse's fitness and conditioning level. Keep your horse's safety and wellbeing in mind at all times. Do not attempt a ride that requires a better level of conditioning than you or your horse has. Take into consideration distance of ride, muscular and aerobic fitness for hills or mountains, and heat tolerance. Check with the Trail Boss before the ride if you have any concerns. Arrangements will be made for a second shorter less difficult ride when possible for less conditioned horses.

18. Always carry out everything you brought in.

19. Practice responsible trail and park stewardship at all times. Do not ride on trails which are in poor condition (such as deep mud) which may result in your horse's hooves causing permanent trail indentation/damage, or which may endanger the soundness of your horse.

20. Club rides and events have club first aid kits, yellow kit for staging or camp area and red saddle bags for trail, that the Trail Boss or a designee carries on the trail. It is *recommended*, though it is not a rule, that you carry a first aid kit, both for you and your horse, a hoof pick, drinking water, and a sharp knife (preferably a Leatherman type tool).