

# TALLANGATTA HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL HORSE RIDE INC.

## RULES & REGULATIONS

### Horses

1. Any vet care required during the event is at the participants cost.
2. **NO STALLIONS**
3. **NO DOGS**

### People

1. Emergency contact details for all participants and volunteers.
2. Notify event organiser and Leader of any medical conditions (e.g. asthma or diabetes etc.)
3. Riders must ride behind the Leader unless otherwise instructed.

### Equipment

#### **Helmets:**

Properly fitted and fastened helmets that provide an adequate level of protection against physical trauma to the head must be worn by all riders when mounted. These helmets must comply with Australian, European, or American Standard.

Helmets that have had significant impacts (i.e. where the strength and integrity of the shell is likely to have been compromised) or have been otherwise structurally damaged must not be used.

#### **Footwear:**

Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times when riding. Where stirrups are used this footwear must enable the uninhibited removal of the foot from the stirrup iron, especially in the event of a fall from a horse. The footwear must also hinder the foot sliding forward and through the stirrup iron, which may result in a rider's foot or leg being caught in the stirrup.

Additions to stirrups that achieve the same purpose are an acceptable alternative.

When handling horses (i.e. not riding) footwear must be worn that provides protection to the top of the foot in the event of a horse stepping on the foot.

Boots with a smooth sole to reduce the risk of being caught in the stirrup are preferred. Open toed sandals and thongs provide minimal or no protection and should not be worn.

#### **Clothing:**

Minimum clothing requirements are full-length trousers and an appropriate shirt (short sleeves and three quarter length trousers are acceptable to offer protection from physical injuries or distress to the rider (e.g. sunburn, rubbing and grazes).

Leaders should ensure that all participants engaged in trail riding have been advised of the possible need for protection from increased risk of sun damage and the environment, taking into account reasonably foreseeable weather conditions and the distance from shelter.

#### **Tack:**

Riders are responsible for all their tack ensuring saddles are secure and safe.

For the purpose of minimising discomfort and avoiding breakage or malfunction of equipment that may put riders at risk, all equipment (e.g. saddles, bridles) used with the horse must be matched to the activity being undertaken, in good repair and correctly fitted.

*("Matched to the activity" means that stock saddles would not normally be used for jumping, racing saddles for trail rides and so on).*

Items such as bags, cameras and loose jewellery that could become entangled in a manner that may cause an accident must be carried in a way that will minimise the chance of the happening.

### **Leaders Equipment:**

A first aid kit appropriate to the activity must be carried at all times. (for horse & rider)

The activity leader and assistants should be quickly and easily identifiable. For example they should choose to wear clothing and/or helmets as distinguishing them from participants wherever possible. Leaders must carry hand held radios to communicate with middle and rear leaders, and also with ride coordinators.

Event organisers to notify Leaders of any medical conditions of riders deemed necessary.

Map of trail route.

Have a lead rope handy so a horse can be lead if the terrain gets too difficult.

### **Storage & Maintenance:**

Consider where appropriate, a log of all equipment use and maintenance be kept current.

## **Minimal impact**

The leader and organising body should be satisfied that participants are aware of their responsibilities as members of the group in respect to the environment and the community by following principles of minimal impact practices.

Parks Victoria has a Camping Code to help you minimise your impact regardless of the type of camping or activity you undertake. See it at

[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1process\\_details.cfm?note+19](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1process_details.cfm?note+19).

### **Travel & Camping:**

- All riders must supply their own yards.
- Stay on track
- Stay on durable surfaces, which include established tracks, rock, gravel and dry grasses.
- Do not create new tracks.
- Do not disturb vegetation
- Actively manage the group at the site. (Leader might choose to select tent sites and yard sites for participants.
- Avoid digging, landscaping and trenching around tents.
- When leaving a campsite check to make sure it is clean and rubbish free.
- Pack and carry out all packaging rubbish and leftover food including organics in sturdy bags.
- Be careful not to drop rubbish while riding on tracks.
- When available use established toilet facilities.
- Hand sanitisers are a good alternative for personal hygiene.
- All campsites must be located at least 20 metres from any waterway.
- Avoid horses denuding vegetation especially during stays of more than one night.
- Rather than risking damage to fragile creeks, streams and river banks, select firm, stony crossing.
- Dispose or disperse manure from overnight camp sites.
- Avoid yarding horses not already familiar with each other. This will avoid conflicts in establishing a new social order.
- Always be friendly and civil to other bushland users. You should always take the initiative in avoiding any potentially dangerous situations involving your horse and the general public.

**Do Not Disturb:**

- Preserve Nature and respect Culture
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as they are.

**Fire Impact:**

- Fires can cause devastating and lasting impacts to the bush.
- Check area regulations for fire bans. No fire (including a fuel stove) may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban
- Total Fire Bans may be implemented regionally so be sure to check daily and be aware of fire regions that cover the route.
- If a Total Fire Ban has been declared, consider cancelling your trip to the area for safety reasons.
- Leaders and organisers MUST know applicable fire regulations in advance of the trip, as fire regulations are the LAW.
- Contact your local fire authority or local land manager for details regarding your local responsibility.
- Where fire are permitted, use established fire rings or mound fires.
- At least three metres around the fire must be clear of flammable vegetation.
- Keep fires to a minimum size.
- Manage your fire. Do not leave it unattended.
- Fires must be completely extinguished with water before leaving the campsite.
- Be careful of improper cigarette butt disposal. Take butts with you.

**Wildlife:**

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.

**Consider Others:**

- Take the responsibility to ensure that your group behaves with respect for the hosts and other users.
- Never visit places where you have not obtained permission.
- Be courteous. Give way to others on tracks and roads.
- Make reasonable efforts to minimise the impact of the group on others.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

**Organisation or Activity Provider:**

This is the body which undertakes to provide and activity.

**Leader:**

This is the person who has the responsibility for the conduct of the actual activity. The leader will have a level of skill appropriate to the activity and may be supported by one or more assistant leaders.

**Assistant Leader:**

This person will be delegated tasks by the leader and will have a level of skill appropriate to those tasks.

**Participants:**

A person whose welfare is the responsibility of leader or assistant leader and the organisation running the activity.