

**ATASCADERO HORSEMEN'S CLUB**  
**TRAIL RIDING RULES and COURTESY**

1. There will be no alcohol consumption on the trail.
2. There will be no smoking, except at designated stops.
3. No stallions shall be allowed on the rides.
4. Dogs are allowed on rides only at the discretion of the trail boss. Dog owners are liable for damage done by their dogs, while on the trail ride. No dogs will be allowed if they chase livestock such as cows, sheep, etc.
5. Children shall be accompanied by an adult, who shall be responsible for their safety and conduct. Our Insurance carrier recommends children to wear helmets for their safety.
6. In all matters pertaining to the ride, the trail boss or their designated substitute shall have final say. The drag rider shall ride at the end of the group.
7. Passing the trail boss is prohibited without their permission.
8. At the discretion of the trail boss, a faster group may be allowed. This should be announced before the ride begins. This may be allowed only when a second trail boss can be assigned. The faster group is not to turn around and return to the main group. If the faster group wished to finish the ride with the main group they are to wait for the main group to catch up to them. Once, returned to the main group, no further leaving will be permitted.
9. Riders must notify the trail boss or the drag rider before leaving a ride. The trail boss or drag rider can communicate through walkie-talkies.
10. Stay a full horse's length from the horse in front of you. Horses that have a tendency to kick **MUST** wear a red ribbon on their tail.
11. Never rush past riders who are proceeding at a slower gait. Approach slowly, indicate a desire to pass and proceed with caution on the safest side.
12. When riding along a traveled road, ride single file. Also, ride along the right shoulder unless safer conditions exist on the other side. All riders **MUST** ride on the same side.
13. You must get permission from the trail boss if you wish to walk instead of ride your horse on a trail ride. If permission is granted, but then the trail boss determines that it is causing problems the trail boss may direct you to ride your horse.
14. When a rider is having difficulty with their horse, tack, or the trail, those riders nearest to them are to halt, if safe to do so, notify the trail boss or drag rider, and give assistance until the problem is solved.

15. Gates should be opened by the trail boss and closed by the drag rider, all other riders in the group shall wait until both the trail boss and the drag rider have remounted their horses before proceeding on the ride.
16. When going through brush or trees, do not hold the branches when others are following closely. Call back any trail hazards you see, hole, wire, low branch, car, etc.
17. Roping or chasing or in any way deliberately disturbing livestock encountered on a ride is strictly prohibited.
18. No littering. Dispose of trash after carrying it out.
19. As a courtesy to the group, be on time for all rides. Rides start promptly at the designated time.
20. Take care of the trail! Stay on the trail! Do not cut corners....if going up or down steep hills, zig zag to save your horse and protect the slope from erosion. Give the horse in front of you space when riding up and down hills.
21. Walk your horse into and out of gullies – don't let them lunge into a gully, or gallop out of a gully or up a hill.
22. All riders should carry a lead rope and halter on the trail. Tack should be kept in good repair to avoid breakdowns on the trail.
23. Familiarize your horse, as much as possible with a variety of conditions and objects that may be encountered on the trail. Some items to consider:
  - Logs to step over
  - Dogs
  - Narrow trails
  - Water crossings
  - Cattle
24. As a suggestion, carry with you:
  - Water
  - First Aid Kit
  - Wire Cutters
  - Sunscreen
  - Knife/Awl
25. When a horse is ridden on a street or highway, California law defines it as a vehicle. The rider is subject to all the requirements and regulations of a driver. The same laws apply, such as staying on the right side of the road and not operating under the influence of alcohol.
26. Watch language as this is a family riding club and children may be present.

27. Group trail rides are not the appropriate place for training green horses. Talk to the trail boss before the scheduled ride.
28. Respect the trails- clean up your litter (pack out what is packed in); clean manure from the staging area and camp site; protect the trail environment e.g. do not remove things that belong on trails or blaze new trails.
29. Share trails- cyclists yield to all other trail users and hikers yield to equestrians.
30. Tread gently when the trails are muddy; footprints, bicycle ruts, and hoof prints can damage the trails. Give single track trails the opportunity to dry out after a heavy rain.
31. Do not pass on narrow bends-pass only when you can clearly see the trail and traffic approaching from the opposite direction

### **COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

1. If on a ride you experience problems with the ride, your horse, safety, or another member, register your problem with the Trail Boss and/or Drag Rider. It is their responsibility to resolve the problem as well as possible under the circumstances.
2. If the situation is not resolved that day, notify a board member. The board member will ask if a board meeting needs to be called, or if an informal discussion is acceptable to resolve the issue. If a board meeting is deemed necessary, a board member will advise the member filing the complaint, to notify the board in writing of the problem within 30 days of the original complaint.
3. The board will have a board meeting within one month of the written request. At that time, an equitable solution to the problem will be made. The board will give a written response to the involved member(s). If the situation that prompted the original complaint is found valid and happens again, the board at its discretion can ask any or all members involved to leave the club.