

Horse riding



Activity scope

This document relates to student participation in horse riding as a curriculum activity at a recognised riding school or where equipment/horses are hired from a horse-hire service. However, this document can be applied generally to situations in which students provide their own mounts.

The activity of Horse Trail Riding involves organised recreational horse back riding that can be long (multi-day) as well as short (an hour or two) rides. It may occur in diverse environments including metropolitan, coastal, outback and remote regions, where the participants are led as a group outside of enclosed areas in the natural environment for pleasure, challenge, experience and/or educational outcomes.

It is highly recommended that the [Queensland Adventure Activity Standards](#) are referred to when planning this activity.



Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors

- For a registered teacher, a statement of attainment in the teaching of horse riding from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or [equivalent](#).

Note: Depending on the activity scope, the person may need Horse Trail Riding Guide qualifications (Broad Range of Situations). If the trip is overnight, the minimum is Horse Trail Riding Guide (Tracked Areas – Overnight).

- For a leader other than a registered teacher, a Statement of Attainment for a nationally recognised course, at Restricted Trail Guide (day rides) level, from an RTO or equivalent.

Minimum activity-specific equipment/facilities

- Long trousers that are not restrictive of movement and do not chafe.
- Shoes with a closed toe and a raised heel.
- Correctly fitted helmets of appropriate size conforming with Australian Standards AS/NZS 3838:2006 – Helmets for horse riding and horse-related activities.

Activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures

- Wash hands after handling animals.
- Monitor animals constantly for signs of ill health.
- Ensure animals used are not aggressive to people or other animals.
- Ensure that helmets are worn at all times when on or around horses.
- Ensure gaps are maintained between horses.
- Ensure pace set suits skills of riders and behaviour of horses.
- Continually monitor students and horses for fatigue/exhaustion.
- Instruct students on correct manual handling techniques and horse leading techniques.
- Ensure terrain is suited to the experience of the riders.
- Students should never ride on roadways or other traffic areas.
- Ensure that all equipment is in good condition and checked prior to use.
- Note that a [surcingle](#) should be used for stock saddles and for saddles with one girth point either side of the saddle.
- Ensure that stirrup leathers are adjusted to the correct length.
- Ensure that girth checks are carried out.

- Participants with asthma or dust sensitivity should travel at the front of the group if the terrain is dusty.
- Guidelines/codes of practice are established for this activity, refer to [Equestrian Australia](#) and [Horse Safety Australia](#).

Useful activity-specific links

- Equestrian Australia
<http://www.equestrian.org.au/>
- Horse Safety Australia
<http://www.horsesafetyaustralia.com.au/>
- Queensland Adventure Activity Standards
http://www.qorf.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=1048
- Vocational Education and Training
<http://training.gov.au/>

Glossary and other information

Surcingle — a strap made of leather or leather-like synthetic materials such as nylon or neoprene, sometimes with elastic that fastens around a horse's girth area. A surcingle may be used for ground training, some types of in-hand exhibition, and over a saddle or horse pack to stabilise the load. It is also a primary component of a horse harness.

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