



NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION



Pleasure Ride Guidelines

Issue: March 2022

NSBA Pleasure Rides are non-competitive rides, typically 10-18 miles long, that utilise bridleways, tracks & roads. Longer routes often have a shortcut. Map and instructions are provided and most rides are also marked. If a ride will be unmarked, this will be indicated in advance. Some rides benefit from off-road sections for which NSBA has negotiated special permission for that ride only: these permissive sections must not be used on any other occasion. Rosettes are given at every ride & cumulative mileage counts towards NSBA trophies. To be eligible for trophies, a rider must have helped at a ride (or in some other way) at least once in a season.

Entries: to Jude Sockett at least 1 week before the event, unless otherwise stated, on a standard NSBA ride entry form SIGNED & COMPLETED, with the correct entry fee. Cheques payable to NSBA. An "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) number is required. All entrants must have their own, appropriate Public Liability Insurance. Signing the entry form confirms that you have current, Public Liability Insurance. Ride details are usually sent by email. To receive paper copy please provide large s.a.e. with 1st class stamp.

Safety: NSBA expects: 1) horses to be safe to load and unload & in traffic; 2) riders to be able to open and shut bridlegates; 3) riders to be familiar with the Horse Rider sections of Highway Code; 4) riders to be able to ride at a steady speed (eg 5mph) over varied terrain; 5) to be able to read a map & have studied venue & ride details in advance for likely hazards and suitability for you and your horse. If unsure of your own or your horses' ability, arrange in advance to ride with someone; the Ride Steward (RS) cannot undertake to find a riding partner on the day; 6) that all junior riders (under 16 years) **must** be accompanied by a responsible adult declared in advance with Jude Sockett. On the day, the adult **must** reconfirm with the RS that they are accepting the responsibility for the junior rider. 7) Riding hats to current BHS Standards & High Viz clothing **must** be worn while mounted 8) You **must** ride carrying a mobile phone or ride with someone who is carrying one plus carry the ride map and instructions either as hard copy or on phone. 9) Every rider & horse **must** wear a tag provided by the RS giving venue location and RS contact number. In addition, it is recommended that riders wear an armband or wrist band showing their name, first line of address, postcode, ICE contact number. 10) You **must** check-in with RS when you start **and** finish for your safe return to be recorded. Horses **must never** be left tied up outside unattended. Horses known to kick **must** wear a red tail ribbon, young or inexperienced horses a green ribbon, stallions **must** wear a blue ribbon. All dogs **must** be kept on lead and **must not** be left unattended in vehicles.

The above underlined 'musts' are mandatory NSBA safety rules that are enforced!

There is no official "First Aider" at routine NSBA events, but a First Aid Kit is available for own use in the RS vehicle.

Any accident/incident must be reported to the Ride Steward on the day.

Covid requirement: please carry a facemask in case you need to assist another rider or vice versa.

Logistics & Housekeeping: Please follow instructions on how to approach venue and don't rely on SatNav! On arrival, park where Ride Steward (RS) indicates, otherwise park in a safe and tidy fashion, showing consideration to other riders and the public. Report to RS, collect tags for yourself and your horse and check for any new course information. Always gather droppings, haynet debris and rubbish that could be ascribed to NSBA into your horsebox. Permission for venues is often given on condition that it is left clean! At some venues, feeding from haynet outside wagon / trailer is not permitted. Please carry a penknife and strong string to secure a gate or for emergency equipment/tack repairs. Never leave a gate open for the next rider assuming that they will close it.

Cancellation of Ride: NSBA rarely cancels Rides and relies upon entrants to assess the weather and route for their own circumstances. If in doubt whether a Ride will be cancelled, please contact the RS named in course details.

Please enjoy your ride, ride courteously with consideration for everyone, especially landowners!