REGION IV
TRAIL TRIAL RULES
(Revised October 2004)

**DEFINITION:** Trail Trials is not a new term, the name and event have been around for many years. The term has a specific meaning. Trail Trials is an obstacle course competition held on several miles of trail with different degrees of difficulty to accommodate varying stages of horse/rider combination talent and training, as well as the type of trail employed. Trail Trials is genuine trail riding with competition that requires no special training, breed, or conditioning. However, horse/rider combinations should exhibit fundamental skills and harmony. It is fun. Everyone with a horse can compete and have an equal chance of placing regardless of their available time and funds.

C.S.H.A. Trail Trials in Region IV is a Region program that provides yearend awards while also qualifying as many horse/rider combinations as possible to compete at the State Championship Event to be held in October of each year.

**GENERAL RULES**

Region IV will follow C.S.H.A. rules and guidelines except where mentioned below:

1. The maximum height of walk-overs will not exceed 12 inches for Novice Horses. The maximum height of walk-overs will not exceed 12 inches for ponies competing in any division. The maximum height of walk-overs for Advanced horses will not exceed 18 inches.
2. If an obstacle requires the rider to do hand work (is. pick up an object, open a gate, etc.), that object must be a minimum of 50” above the ground level.

**PROGRAM REGISTRATION**

Region IV horse and rider combinations will be charged an annual fee of $20.00 which will be sent to the Region Trail Trial Chairperson. This fee is separate from the C.S.H.A. fee required to be eligible for the State Championship Event.

Region IV club sanction fee is $25.00 per day. This is separate from C.S.H.A. sanction fee of $15.00.

**EVENT SEASON**

Event season will begin and end after the second weekend in September. The 2005 event season will end on Sunday, September 11. The State Championship Event will not count toward yearend awards.

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT QUALIFICATIONS**

Only direct C.S.H.A. members or associate club members, in good standing, will be eligible to compete at the State Championship Event. This is to be verified by the Region Program Chair.
Only horse/rider combinations enrolled in a Region point program and having competed in a minimum of 3 sanctioned events in the state shall be eligible to compete for State Championship Event buckles.

Eligibility shall be determined on their Region Records on or before September 15\textsuperscript{th}. Eligibility shall be confirmed by Region Program Chairperson.

**AWARDS**

**Events**: Awards/or Recognition will be given to each rider placing 3’rd or above in each category and age group except when age breaks are combined because of lack of participation. These awards may vary depending on available funds.

**Yearend**: Champion and Reserve Champion buckles will be awarded in each category and age group with appropriate awards given from third to sixth place.

To qualify for yearend awards, riders must attend a minimum of 50% of all Region IV Trail Trials. Awards and placings will be based on the number of rides that is equal to 75% of all Region IV sanctioned trail trials. The competitor’s best results at sanctioned C.S.H.A. trail trials will also be counted as follows:

Sanctioned rider in other regions will count toward yearend points as follows:

1. The ride must be State Sanctioned.
2. The horse/rider combination must be the same as registered for Region IV.
3. The ride must not conflict with a Region IV sanctioned ride.
4. A maximum of 2 out of region rides may be counted toward Region IV yearend points.

Points are not retroactive. They will be awarded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>1\textsuperscript{st}</th>
<th>2\textsuperscript{nd}</th>
<th>3\textsuperscript{rd}</th>
<th>4\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>5\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>6\textsuperscript{th}</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants that do not place receive 1 point for the event.

One bonus point will be added to a competitor’s placing points for each C.S.H.A. state benefit ride attended.

All Region IV point riders must perform the duties of an obstacle judge or Ride Manager one time during the ride season to be eligible for yearend awards. Points will not be given for doing these duties. There can be a maximum of three Ride Managers at any single sanctioned event. All Ride Managers must equally contribute.

Any additional rides where a point rider judges an obstacle or manages a sanctioned trail trial and does not compete will be given 2 points.

Junior members (17 and under) are not eligible to judge or manage a trails trial, however, one time per event season a junior must assist a judge to be eligible for year end awards.
YEAREND AWARDS

A separate “Rookie” category will be added within all Novice categories, and points will be kept for yearend awards. All first year riders in the Novice categories who have not ridden more than 3 rides in prior years will be eligible for this award. There will be an appropriate yearend award for the top rookie in each Novice category.

BEST TRAIL TRIAL AWARD

There will be two awards given for the most fun and challenging trail trials. One awarded to the best trail trial put on by a Region IV club, and one to the best Region IV Benefit trail trial. This will be voted on by participating point riders.

TIE BREAKERS

EVENT:
“SUDDEN DEATH” Final scores on event rode, in sequence, will be utilized starting with Obstacle #1. If tied on #1, Obstacle #2 will be used. If tied on #2, Obstacle #3 will be used, etc. until tie is broken. If a family member of one of the riders in the tie has judged an obstacle, that obstacle will not be used to break a tie and the next sequential obstacle will be used.

YEAREND TIES:
Will be broken by lowest average score based on the best 75% of events ridden.

RIDER GUIDELINES

Region IV will follow C.S.H.A. rider guidelines for executing obstacles. (See State Rules)

CATEGORIES, DIVISIONS, AND PARTICIPATION LEVELS

PARTICIPATION LEVEL

Schooling: All ages – This participation level will allow a rider to pay a reduced fee to negotiate obstacles and be judged on each obstacle. This category does not receive day awards, or qualify a horse/rider combination for yearend awards, or the State Championship Event.

Day Rider: All division, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced – This category will allow a rider to compete for day awards but does not qualify the horse/rider combination to compete for yearend awards or the State Championship Event.

Point Rider: All divisions, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced – This category allows rider to compete for day awards as well as yearend awards, and the State Championship Event.

Companion Rider: Any rider can ride with a competitor and not be judged. Companion riders are not permitted to negotiate obstacles. A release must be signed and a fee of $5.00 may be requested.

Non competitors are not permitted to negotiate obstacles.
CATEGORIES

Novice – This category is suggested for participants who have a horse/rider combination where they horse and/or rider are unfamiliar with Trail Trials. Any horse and rider combination that wins first place for yearend awards in Region IV will not be eligible to compete in the Novice category again. Any rider who moves up and competes in the Intermediate or Advanced category may not compete again in the Novice category, regardless of horse ridden.

Intermediate – Team is ready to take on more challenging obstacles and can accomplish most skills listed in the Rider Guidelines. The intermediate competitor will ride approximately half of the obstacles following the “Novice” directions with the remainder to follow the “Advanced” directions (See State Rules). Any horse/rider combination that wins first place for yearend awards in Region IV will not be eligible to compete in the Intermediate category again.

Advanced – This category is suggested for horse/rider combinations where both the horse and rider are familiar with Trail Trials and are confidently handling challenging obstacles.

Rookie – Any one who has not previously competed for yearend awards and has not ridden at more than 3 trail trials will be eligible for “Rookie” awards. Rookies will compete for points, awards and prized in the Novice division. Award availability will be based on the participation level and the discretion of the Chairman.

If a Rookie Novice rider wins first place in the Novice category at a ride the next highest placing Rookie Novice will receive the special award. After a rider wins the Rookie Novice award at 2 rides they will no longer be eligible to receive the Rookie Novice award at any individual trail trial but will still remain eligible for a year end Rookie Novice award.

Point Riders should choose their category carefully. Category changes will not be permitted after your first ride of the season.

DIVISIONS

State Rules 2.13.1 “rider’s age” is determined by the rider’s age as of December 1 of the prior year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 and under</td>
<td>18 to 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 &amp; over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RIDE SANCTIONING

The Region IV Trail Trials Chairperson or other designated representative will meet with all ride managers and/or clubs wishing to put on a Trail Trials within Region IV, for the purpose of providing information concerning State and Region IV rule changes as well as other helpful guidance and information.

It is the responsibility of all Ride Managers to read and follow both State and Region IV rules pertaining to Trail Trials. Ride managers must be available to the Senior Judge no later than 2 weeks before the ride. The Senior Judge has the final authority to un-sanction any ride where State or Region rules are not followed.

Unsanctioned Region IV Trail Trials may be used to qualify for the year end program, with the approval of the Region IV Trail Trial Chairman, but will not qualify the horse/rider combination for the State Championship Event.
RIDE RULES

1. Ride Managers for Region IV Benefit Ride will be provided with an allowance of $300.00 for ride expenses. Any and all expenses beyond the $300 allowance must be covered by sponsorship money.

2. In order to accommodate the large number of riders attending a Region IV Trail Trials, assigned start times are suggested. Please refer to Ride Manager’s Packet for more information.

3. Registration forms, rap sheets, official scores and all monies from a Region IV Benefit Ride will be turned over to the Region IV Chairperson, or designated representative, on the day of the ride.

4. Requests for reimbursement, copies of paid or unpaid bills, volunteer, judges, and sponsor reports will be sent to the Region IV Chairperson within 7 days.

5. Club rides will use the official Judge’s Score Sheets approved by C.S.H.A. The method of score keeping must be approved by the Region IV Chairperson (Region IV has volunteers with a computer program in place for consistency in record keeping).

6. Clubs will release rap sheets and official scores to the Region IV Chairperson or designated representative on the day of the ride.

7. Senior Judges are to be available and accessible to the entire course on the day of the event at which they are senior judging.

8. Competitors are not permitted to approach an obstacle judge for the purpose of soliciting a score change or to communicate in an argumentative manner. First offense will result in the competitor being disqualified from that obstacle. Competitors are to go directly to the Senior Judge with their concerns.

9. Any participant who acts in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, inhumane, unsportsmanlike, intemperate or prejudicial, to the best interest of the Region IV Trail Trials Program, can be disqualified from competition for that year by the Program Chairman. Refunds of program fees will not be made.