

All M.R.A. Members,

Please see the enclosed updated M.R.A rulebook prepared by the rulebook committee formed at the annual meeting at the State Finals 2016. This rulebook was created based upon the current rulebook, as well as all documentation from previous membership meetings regarding rule proposals. This rulebook contains significant restructuring as well as minor rule changes to eliminate contradictions and represent the current functioning of the association.

This rulebook is being proposed to the membership on a pass/fail basis to act as the rulebook foundation from this point forward. Voting on this rulebook will take place at the General Membership Meeting to be held in conjunction with the upcoming Awards Banquet held on February 11, 2017.

Additional rule change proposals will be submitted to the general membership under separate cover. All members wishing to propose rule changes are encouraged to submit the written proposal to the Secretary-Treasurer, Angie Lauer, for posting to the M.R.A. Facebook page and Website for review prior to the meeting. However, as always, all rule proposals will be voted on at the General Membership meeting, posted or not.

In an attempt to make the rulebook process as transparent as possible and to make the General Membership meeting as efficient as possible, an open forum conference call will be held prior to the General Membership meeting to answer any questions and or discuss the rulebook prior to the meeting.

The conference call information is as follows:

Date: February 9, 2017  
Time: 8:00 pm  
Call in Number: 712-770-4035  
Access Code: 635363

Sincerely,

M.R.A. Rulebook Committee:

Joe Crawford  
Zac Clark  
Dusty Link  
Tim Gilliland  
Justin Parlett  
Seth Madry  
Nate Welch



**2017 Rulebook**

## **FOREWARD**

The Michigan Ropers' Association, Inc., was founded with the purpose of preserving the art and skill of handling stock by means of a lariat or rope while on horseback. It is our aim to advance the sport to a well-organized and equally well conducted contest that everyone can enjoy. With this thought in mind we have endeavored to maintain this organization on a high level of respectability, honesty and integrity. By so doing we feel we will lend valuable assistance to horse show and rodeo committees desiring to put on a high caliber show. It is also our purpose to insure every contestant desiring to rope in a contest a fair and equal chance. Therefore a uniform set of rules and regulations governing a roping event was considered necessary. The rules printed on the following pages were formulated over a period of several years and have been found to be practical and applicable for both contestants and show management. Full cooperation is expected from all members.

### *Reprinted & Revised*

1958

1979

1984

1989

1999

2003

2009

2016

2017

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**CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RULES OF  
THE MICHIGAN ROPERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION**

- A. This association shall be known as The Michigan Ropers' Association, Inc.. The corporation will be without capital stock, and does not own any property, either real or personal.
- B. The purpose of the Michigan Ropers' Association shall be:
  - 1. To set up and maintain a standard set of rules and regulations governing the rodeo contest event of roping and tying calves and team roping steers, while on horseback. Such rules to be so fashioned that each contestant shall have a fair and equal chance. The event shall be a timed event and run strictly on a contest basis.
  - 2. Rules for the protection of livestock used in the contest shall be maintained and strictly enforced.
  - 3. The approval of this event in rodeos and horse shows that use this set of rules, and to cooperate with the management of rodeos and horse shows in an effort to make this one of the top events of a show.
  - 4. To record the winners in the roping contests in such a manner that a champion may be declared at the end of each season.
  - 5. To notify our members of the time and date of approved contests.
  - 6. To encourage the breeding, development, and training of finer roping horses.
- C. The principle office or place of business of this association shall be the home of the Secretary-Treasurer.
- D. There shall be no capital stock and in lieu of stock certificates, membership cards will be issued and signed by the Secretary- Treasurer.
- E. Membership cards shall be non-transferable
- F. The term for which it will exist will be indefinite.

**ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Membership shall be open to anyone who agrees to abide by the rules of the Michigan Ropers' Association (M.R.A.). RELEASE: As a condition of membership, all members – participants in M.R.A. roping's or special events, release and discharge the Michigan Ropers' Association, Inc., owners of show grounds, event sponsors, cattle owners, show management, and their respective employees, agents, representatives, assigns, directors, members, volunteers, affiliates, participating groups, and persons connected with this event, of and from all claims, demands, actions, or causes of actions (present and future), liabilities, or obligations, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of any bodily injury or damage that may be

sustained, or property damage which may occur as a result of attending or participating in the roping event (except if caused by gross negligence or willful misconduct).

- B. An individual applying for any membership or permit in the Michigan Ropers' Association, (MRA), must submit an application using forms provided by the MRA. An application must be signed and submitted to the MRA Office. Applicant must allow ample time for the MRA Office to process an application. The MRA may, in its sole discretion, deny an applicant membership in the MRA, or may deny renewal of an existing membership if the applicant or member has been convicted of a serious crime or felony.
- C. The fiscal year shall run from March 1 to February 28 inclusive.
- D. Annual dues of members will be payable as of the first Wednesday following Labor Day. No points or State Finals positions will be awarded unless dues are paid. (New membership and annual dues are published on each bulletin issued.).
- E. Initiation fee to the association shall be \$2.00 plus the annual dues for the year which the initiation occurs.
- F. Permits will be issued to anyone wishing one, providing they have signed a "Waiver and Liability Release".
  - 1. The cost of a permit shall be forty (\$40) dollars and will allow the holder to rope that day only. Exception: Calf Roping Day Permit shall be \$1.00
  - 2. Permit holders are not allowed any other M.R.A. privileges.
  - 3. Permit holders are allowed to rope only in the Open Calf and Open Team Roping divisions (exceptions allowed per the discretion of directors present).
- G. Any non-MRA-member may be required to produce a photo ID and USTRC card to collect winnings.
- H. Membership cards will be issued upon the receipt of a duly signed "Waiver and Liability Release". Anyone refusing to sign the MRA waiver will be refused/dropped from membership.
  - 1. The Secretary-Treasurer must duly sign the membership cards.
  - 2. Membership cards are non-transferable.
- I. Members failing to pay the annual dues each year shall be considered delinquent and will forfeit all rights and privileges to participate in any activities of this association.
- J. Only M.R.A. members in good standing may hold an office or become directors.
- K. Any member who enters the armed forces of the U.S.A. will receive a fully paid membership card until he is discharged.
- L. Any member under 18 years of age must furnish written permission of parents or guardian whose signature has been properly notarized.

- M. Each member shall be entitled to one vote. There will be no proxy votes in this association.
- N. Any member who wins three (3) "A"/Open Calf, Open Team Roping, and/or All-Around championships in the M.R.A. shall become a lifetime member of the M.R.A. and shall be exempt from paying dues. The championships need not be won in consecutive years.
- O. Honorary memberships may be awarded but not promiscuously, from time to time as the occasion arises to persons who have performed an exceptional service to the association. Honorary members will receive a plaque from the M.R.A. at the banquet.
- P. Any member who shall make himself a nuisance by constant complaints or fault finding, or by harassing the President, Secretary, or any member, or any person in relation to the Michigan Ropers' Association, because of real or fancied grievances, may at the discretion of the Board of Directors be dropped from membership. If such action is taken, his membership fee shall be returned and all privileges of the association be denied him thereafter.
- Q. Any member who wishes to resign must do so in writing and return their membership card.
- R. Associate membership is thirty (\$30) dollars per year (Bulletins only).
- S. Individual Membership is eighty (\$80) dollars per year.
- T. Family membership is one hundred twenty five (\$125) dollars per year. (Includes Husband, Wife, and children of High School age and under).
- U. Youth membership dues for sixteen (16) and under (boys and girls) shall be \$15.00. Youth members are required to sign a waiver.

### **ARTICLE III - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AND THEIR DUTIES**

- A. President - Shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting for a term of two years by the members of this association, by a majority vote. The President shall reside at all meetings of the association and the Board of Directors. He shall appoint all special and standing committees and conduct the business of the association in accordance with the by-laws and other rules and regulations of the association. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- B. Vice President - Election procedure shall be the same as for the President. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President when the President is absent from any meetings of the members or Board of Directors.
- C. Secretary and Treasurer's office shall be combined and appointed by the president of this association. The Secretary – Treasurer shall keep the minutes of all meetings, keep and safeguard the records and funds of the association and shall be the ex-officio Secretary of all committees. The Secretary shall notify all M.R.A. members of M.R.A. approved shows in ample time before the show.
- D. All vacancies in the office of the Association shall be filled by Board members, and those so appointed shall serve until their successors have been chosen or duly elected.

- E. Directors - Shall number not less than nine (9), and not more than nineteen (19) and shall include executive officers.
  - 1. The immediate past President automatically becomes a director of the board and need not be included in nominations.
  - 2. Directors shall be elected annually by the membership for a period of two (2) years. All Directors shall be voted on at one time (ballot form). The association shall strive to achieve equal representation of directors from each event.
  - 3. All members of the Board of Directors shall be members in good standing and shall be allowed 30 days in which to qualify. It shall be the duty of the President to appoint a Director or Directors to fill any vacancy in the Board by a member using equal representation.
  - 4. A Director may be replaced on the Board if he misses two meetings.
  - 5. Directors are required to be at all of the year end finals to assist.
- F. Directors Duties will include, but not limited to:
  - 1. To represent the best interest of the general membership, the association and their objectives.
  - 2. To rule on issues that arise.
  - 3. To rate each member as to their judged level of capability. And provide a list of these rated individuals to the membership. To maintain this list throughout the year.
  - 4. To arrange and define the details for the year end Finals.
- G. The Board of Directors shall decide the Secretary-Treasurer salary. The Secretary-Treasurer may but a subscription to the I.P.R.A. and P.R.C.A. official publication.

#### **ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS**

- A. The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual awards banquet. (As close to the beginning of the new year as possible.)
- B. The annual awards banquet will be held during the first quarter of the year, at a place designated by the executive officers.
- C. Special meetings of the board of Directors may be held at any time upon the call of the President or three (3) or more directors.
- D. Notice of the Directors meetings shall be transmitted to each Board Member within a reasonable length of time.
- E. The order of all business at all regular and special meetings shall be as follows, unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the members present:



1. Roll call of officers and directors
  2. Reading of minutes of previous meeting
  3. Reading of reports
  4. Unfinished business
  5. Election of directors and officers
  6. New or miscellaneous business
- F. Any association desiring to have their banquet with the M.R.A. must have a \$200.00 deposit paid three months in advance of the banquet date.

#### **ARTICLE V – RULE INFRACTIONS**

- A. Any infraction of M.R.A. rules by members of the M.R.A. shall be referred to the Board of Directors for disciplinary actions. The maximum penalty could be expulsion from the M.R.A.
- B. A recommended fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be assessed against the roper for the first offense. A second rule infraction by the same member shall be subjected to a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine and/or suspension from the M.R.A. indefinitely.
- C. If there is a circumstance not governed by or a need for clarification of a M.R.A. rule, we will refer to the IPRA (International Professional Rodeo Association) or PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) rulebook in Calf Roping, and the USTRC rulebook in Team Roping.
- D. Members or any persons may be disqualified at a show for any of the following reasons, but not limited to:
  1. Under the undue influence of intoxicating beverages in the arena.
  2. Rowdyism in the arena.
  3. An altercation or quarreling with judges or officials in the arena.
  4. The mistreatment of stock and/or mounts.
  5. Refusing to contest for an animal drawn for him.
  6. Cheating or attempting to cheat.
  7. Does not make an honest effort while competing in the contest arena.

#### **ARTICLE VI – REPEALS AND AMENDMENTS**

- A. Any by-laws or rules may be repealed, modified or amended and by-laws or rules may be adopted by a majority vote at a general membership meeting of the members of this association.

## **ARTICLE V – M.R.A. APPROVED JACKPOTS**

- A. The Office and Board of Directors will evaluate and review requests for approved ropings.
- B. The Board of Directors will meet with the stock contractors to determine the year's approved roping schedule.
- C. The group will work out the dates of requested ropings, using guidelines of equal rotation. A draw for dates may be used.
- D. The M.R.A. will allow jackpots to be held at any time, regardless of Rodeo schedules.
- E. Jackpots should not be approved on a normal weekday, Monday through Friday, unless for a special exception.
- F. One (1) roping per weekend, that was the first to be scheduled and approved, cannot have the approval revoked due to a request for a roping from a 2nd individual, even in the event of money being added to the 2nd roping. The 2nd persons request for a roping will be considered an open event, with no MRA points awarded. April 30th through October 30th.
- G. The flag judge and barrier judge, if any, must be active members.
- H. Judges for the jackpots will be determined by the contractor hosting the jackpot.
- I. Timers shall be stationed in a neutral zone or announcers stand. The time recorded is measured from barrier activation (eye or flag) to the drop of the flag from the flag judge, then add any penalties applicable.
- J. The flag judge shall rule on barriers when an electric eye barrier is used. When a rope barrier is used the barrier judge will rule on the broken barrier.
- K. The field judge's decision shall be final in all matters of dispute arising from a roping event.
  - a. Protests must be filed in writing with the MRA Secretary-Treasurer within 72 hours after completion of the roping event.
- L. M.R.A. will not approve an outdoor roping where M.R.A. members are charged a gate fee, unless a minimum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) is added to each of the Calf & Team Roping classes.
- M. If an arena fee/any fee is to be charged to any member, the fee must be published in the bulletin prior to the roping/event.
- N. It is the responsibility of the Stock Contractor to report the complete entries and results of the jackpot to the MRA Secretary, along with MRA money, no later than seven (7) days from the completion of the jackpot or be subject to a \$50.00 fine. Results must be submitted on the approved completed MRA Results sheets along with worksheets and/or cards.
- O. Current MRA Ratings and Rule Book shall be posted and/or made available to contestants at the time of entry.

- P. Only current MRA members shall rope at MRA approved jackpots, or upon the purchase of a day permit and receipt of a duly executed "Waiver and Liability Release" form a non-member will be able to rope.
- Q. It is recommended that the barrier, chutes, ground condition and general layout, including the calves and steers be inspected by a committee of three (3) M.R.A. members before the roping starts and that the ropers and the judges are informed of any unusual condition.
- R. All jackpot ropings are to have an open gate at the catch pen.
- S. Jackpot ropings can be cancelled without prior notice due to inclement weather conditions (extreme heat or cold, etc.).
- T. No points or State Finals positions will be given at any jackpots, unless the jackpot is published in the bulletin. A fifty dollar (\$50) fine will be assessed to anyone changing their roping from the way it appears in the bulletin.
- U. Cattle Charge and Entry Fees must be published in the Bulletin.
- V. Members of the MRA shall not be responsible in any way for the injury or damage to livestock used in any roping event.
- W. The box in which the contestants start is required and shall be wide enough to turn a horse in, and at least twelve feet (12 ft) deep.
  - a. Calves shall be released from the left side of the horse.
- X. Stock shall be released only on the signal of the contestant (header in team roping). In the event the stock is released too soon a re-run will be given.

## **ARTICLE VI – TEAM ROPING**

### **A. General Rules:**

1. There will be a minimum of \$4.00 per team and \$1.50 per entry in the Novice put into the MRA Treasury.
2. All Team Roping's will be dally, unless the Board of Directors approve otherwise.
3. When entering a roping for a numbered division both partners numbers will be added up.
4. Entry cards will include both partner's names and rating numbers.
5. All Team Ropings shall use an electric eye barrier. In the absence of an electric eye barrier a rope barrier will be used. Slap stick or barrel judging is not allowed. The person/contractor hosting the team roping shall determine the barrier to be used.
6. If the flag or automatic barrier fails to work properly, the contestants will receive a re-run, whether the stock is caught or missed.

7. If the barrier equipment stops the steer, or turns the steer back, a decision by the judges will be determined if the stock is to be re-run.
8. Teams will have the privilege of selecting one individual to go into the arena as far as the score line, to prevent the steer from turning back.
  - a. This person must not come in physical contact with the steer nor throw any foreign objects at the steer under penalty of disqualification of the team.
9. There shall be one (1) or more time-keepers, a field judge, and if a rope barrier is used, a score line judge and a qualified person to tie the jerk line around the steer's neck and feed the jerk line from the box and as many other officials as are deemed necessary.
10. No re-runs will be given due to the hanging of a horn or horns in the chute.
11. Ropers are permitted one (1) rope.
12. No re-runs shall be given due to default or breakage of the contestant's equipment.
13. If the field judge flags out a team that has loops coming, the team shall get a rerun.
14. Animal belongs to contestants after crossing line.
  - a. If the animal gets out of the arena, the flag will be dropped and the time will be stopped. The contestants will get the animal back, lap and tap, with the same head catch if the animal has been roped. Time will then start again and will be added to the time that the animal left arena. The same rule would also apply if the handy horns come off the steer after he has been roped.
15. Steer must cross the score line in front of the flag judge after leaving the chute or a re-run will be given.
16. Contestants must hold dallies until the flagger passes catches.
17. Time will be taken when the steer is roped at both ends, with the horses facing the steer in an "L" or better, with both ropes tight and dallied, horses front feet on the ground.
  - a. **No-Face Clarification:** "Standard M.R.A. Team Roping rules apply with the following clarification: Header must have legal head catch and must be in control of the steer when the heel rope comes tight. Heel horse must still be facing the steer. Time is flagged when heel rope is dallied and comes tight." Cross-fire rule still applies.
18. No illegal catch will be determined until the flag judge drops the flag for the time.
19. Time limit will be 30 seconds total excluding penalties.
20. Contestants are not allowed to change, by rubbing the rope over a horn or nose by hand, a bad catch to make it legal. Loops may be changed by fishing only.

21. If a team is disqualified for unnecessary roughness of a steer, that team will not receive any more steers for the remainder of that roping.
22. A "Dally": The rope must cross on the horn to form a 360 degree circle around the saddle horn.
23. If a roper gets hurt during the roping and can no longer compete, his entry fees will be refunded for the remainder of the runs that he would have to make in the go-rounds. Another roper cannot take his place in the team that has competed.
  - a. Exception: In an "average" roping of three head or more, (non-progressive), including the Finals, the qualified roper may choose another eligible partner to finish the roping. The newly formed team will then compete for Go-Round money only, but will not be eligible for Average money or Championship.
24. Cross Fire- The header must have control of the steer's head and the steer's head must be bent before the heeler can legally deliver his or her rope. In other words, the heeler may rope the steer in the switch, but not before. In the instance where a steer sets up, at no fault of the roper, the heel loop can be thrown at any time once the header has control of the steer.
25. Allow all women, and men over 60, who are heeling to tie on hard and fast. It is the roper's responsibility to inform their partner and the flagging judge of their roping status
26. When a rerun is given for a bad steer (drags, stops, etc.), the steer must be pulled for the rest of the roping.

#### B. Legal Catches:

1. For the catch to be legal both ropers must be dallied and faced up.
2. Head Catches:
  - a. Around both horns (around both horns).
  - b. Half head (around one horn and the head, one eye of steer must look through the loop).
  - c. Neck.
3. Heel Catches:
  - a. Any heel catch behind both shoulders is legal if the rope comes on from the heels.
  - b. Dew claw catches are legal if the catch holds for flagger inspection.

#### C. Penalties:

1. There will be a ten (10) second penalty for beating or breaking the barrier.
2. There will be a five (5) second penalty for roping one heel.

D. Disqualifications:

1. A contestant will be disqualified if he attempts in any way to tamper with the chute or steers before, during or after a performance.
2. Steer must be on their feet when roped by either end.
3. Failure to head the steer before heeling.
4. Illegal head catches.
5. Lost or broken rope.
6. If either contestant intentionally dismounts during the run, the team will be disqualified.
7. A front foot in the heel catch.
8. Unnecessary rough treatment of the steers.
9. Roping steers without turning the loose the loop will be considered no catch.
10. Cross fire.
11. If the header ropes any leg (steer or horse) it's an automatic no time. Under no circumstances will the header be allowed to fish-out the leg.
12. It is illegal to dally over the top of a tied on rope or tie on devise. The result will be an automatic disqualification.

E. Divisions:

1. It shall be up to the Contractor to determine the divisions offered at their roping. However, the Novice division (Heading and Heeling) shall be offered at all ropings.
2. Novice (Heading/Heeling):
  - a. Roper must be rated a #1 or #2.
  - b. Competition will be headers vs headers, heelers vs heelers.
  - c. Non-competing partner's number can be any rating.
  - d. Only contestant pays entry fee (non-competing partner doesn't pay).

F. State Finals Qualifier Roping:

1. A Qualifier roping will be held for each division for M.R.A. members, offering MRA members one final opportunity to earn a State Finals position. Any MRA member that has roped in at least four ropings during the regular season is eligible to compete in the State Finals qualifier roping. After completion of the qualifier roping, the top 25% of the teams entered in the qualifier roping, will advance to the state finals to join the teams who have earned S.F. positions during the regular season sanctioned ropings. Entry

fees of ropers advancing from qualifiers to State Finals will have their entry fees paid as part of their winnings in the qualifiers roping.

#### G. State Finals:

1. State Finals positions will be awarded as follows:
  - a. There will be one (1) State Finals position awarded for every 75 teams entered per division (1 to 75 = 1 SF position, 76-150 = 2 SF positions, etc.)
  - b. Each member who is in the top 15 in the year end standings will receive one (1) State Finals position in that division.
2. No roper may use more than two (2) State Finals positions in any one division. Once a roper has earned two (2) State Finals positions in a division, he/she may continue to compete in the division, but will only be competing for cash and prizes.
3. A roper who enters an MRA Approved jackpot, other than State Finals, with a partner who has already won two (2) State Finals positions in the division is still eligible to win a State Finals position.
4. A roper may choose to move a State Finals position up to a higher division than the position was awarded in. In no event will a State Finals position be allowed to be moved to a lower division.
5. To obtain a State Finals position at any jackpot there must be nine (9) or more teams entered. Except in the Open and Novice divisions.
6. A member must compete in at least four (4) MRA Approved jackpots in the current year to be eligible for State Finals.
7. The Board of Directors will determine the specific format of the State Finals Roping.

#### H. Championships/Awards

1. Championship placing will be determined by money won in the current season, including the State Finals Roping.
2. Championship divisions shall be as follows:
  - a. 5 and above (Header/Heeler based upon rating)
  - b. 2+ to 4+ (Header/Heeler based upon rating)
  - c. Novice (Header/Heeler)
3. The Champions will be honored at the annual banquet with awards determined by the Board of Directors.
4. Awards will be given for the following:
  - a. Year-end Champion in each division.
  - b. Top 10 in the current season standings following the State Finals Roping.
  - c. State Finals Roping Average Champion in each division.

5. The following awards may be offered at the discretion of the Board of Directors based upon the nominations of members:
  - a. Sportsperson of the Year
  - b. Hard Luck Roper
  - c. Most Improved Roper
  - d. Rookie of the Year
  - i. Any member shall submit nominations to the Secretary-Treasurer prior to the Board of Directors Meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Awards Banquet.

#### I. Ratings

1. Team ropers will be rated as a header and heeler, using a number system defined herein. These numbers will be used and added with their partner's number to give a value to the total team. This total team value will then be used to determine their eligibility to compete in the numbered divisions that are offered.
2. The Board of Directors will use the current version of the Team Roping Rating Guidelines to rate each roper and assign them their current rating numbers.
  - a. Directors shall only judge ropers that you have seen rope at jackpots recently. Rodeos and practice pen should not be used as strongly in determining the roper's ratings. The last round of a roping should be the most important. If there is a question about a Header, leave them lower; on a Heeler, move them up. Age and Sex play a small part in the decision.
3. The rating process is to be done once per year to re-evaluate all ropers on the current member list. This main process is to be done prior to the first jackpot roping of the year, whenever possible.
4. The rating of any roper can be changed at any time throughout the year.
5. A member can protest anyone's rating at any time. The members are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions regarding ropers' ratings to the M.R.A. office and to the Board of Directors at any time.
  - a. A fee of \$25 will be charged to appeal a rating. Fee to be given to the Secretary-Treasurer at the time of appeal. The fee will be doubled for every occurrence, within the last two years, concerning the same issue (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> appeal fee is \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal fee is \$50, etc.). If, upon the decision of the Board of Directors, the appeal is successful, the fee will be returned to the member making the appeal.
6. All new-comers and unrated ropers are considered at #2 or higher and can be changed only by the vote of the Directors present. They may be re-evaluated and added to the member rating list at a later time.
7. MRA rating numbers are not related to USTRC or any other association's rating system.
8. Team Roping Rating Guidelines



- Number 1: A new roper who is learning. Also includes ropers who are inexperienced roping this particular end (i.e. a heeler who does not head, a calf roper who does not team rope).
- Number 2: A roper who is now riding better and swings their rope more aggressively. Header: about half their catches will be neck catches; they are still inconsistent in handling of cattle. Heeler: catching their steers on a more regular basis; still rope most of their steers by one leg. Consideration is taken into account for what part of the arena they catch at.
- Number 3: Rides well and is putting runs together. Header will rope 5-7 steers out of 10; Heeler will rope 4-7 out of 10, catching half by two feet. Roper is positioned correctly most of the time. Roper will start to stand out at ropings but will still not dominate them. They will be in the last round of the ropings most of the time.
- Number 4: Header: catch about the same number of steers as a #3 (5-7 out of 10) but will catch most of them by the horns, rides the barrier well and handles cattle well. Heelers: rope more steers by two feet than the #3. These ropers will be in the last round of the ropings and also do well in lower level rodeos.
- Number 5: Header: catch 7-9 out of 10 and will rope almost all by two horns; handle cattle well. They ride barriers extremely well and will always be in the last round of the ropings. Heelers: catch approx. 7-9 out of 10 of their steers by two feet. These ropers will do well at the Pro rodeos.
- Number 6: Header: Able to control the speed of the run & handle cattle well. Will rope most steers in the upper 1/3 of the arena. Ride the barrier extremely well. Very consistent. Heeler: Catch most of their cattle by two feet. Usually in the right position to rope steers on the 3rd or 4th jump. Will most always be in the last round of the roping.
- Number 7: Header: Rides the barrier extremely well and able to reach and rope steers consistently. Handle both horse & steer well and able to make speed adjustments to the run as necessary. Heeler: Consistently in the correct position to rope the steer on the 2nd or 3rd jump. Has the ability to take time out of the run by his/her rope and horse handling skills.

## **ARTICLE VII – CALF ROPING**

### **A. General Rules:**

1. Calves should be run from the chutes to the catch pen before show starts. The M.R.A. reserves the right to reject objectionable livestock.
2. There will be a \$1.50 office charge for each “A/Open”, “B/Novice” or “C/Intermediate” run per go-round to be placed in the MRA Treasury. This also applies to added money ropings.

3. Time limit on all calf roping is 30 seconds total excluding penalties, Youth 60 seconds.
4. A ten (10) second penalty will be added to the roper's time for breaking or beating the barrier. A broken barrier shall include the broken barrier string or the broken barrier itself.
5. A barrier will not be considered broken unless the ring drops within ten (10) feet of the post.
6. All calves shall be numbered and chosen by lot. Results of the drawing will be posted in a conspicuous place or on the roping chutes.
7. The following officials are necessary for conducting a roping event: One (1) approved M.R.A. tie/field judge whose decision will be final on the roping event. Two (2) timer personnel, a barrier judge, and ample chute help.
8. A barrier and score line is required. Length of score line to depend on the condition and size of the arena, but not less than five (5) feet.
9. In Calf Roping, Finals, Go-rounds and average points will count toward championships.
10. Entry fees must be paid before stock is drawn.
11. All calves are to be numbered clearly.
12. When drawing for calves, the responsible person must announce when the draw is to be done. There must be two (2) people in attendance, including a contestant/director and a contractor/management person.
13. Results of the drawing will be posted in a conspicuous place, on or near the roping chutes.
14. Any arrangements as to setting up calves or steers in a certain section of a go-round will be made as in the past; however, this is understood to be an accommodation to the contestants. If any questions or dispute arise, the following rule will govern.
15. Each contestant assumes the responsibility of knowing the number of the calf drawn for them, the section he ropes in and the order that the calf will be run in this section. Ropers must rope the calf drawn for them. In the event the wrong calf is turned out, no time will be given and the time will be taken on the correct calf.
16. Contestant shall be ready to rope when his name is called and will be given 30 seconds to enter the arena or forfeit his entry.
17. Each calf roper contestant's horse, upon entering the arena to rope must be equipped with a strong suitable neck rope to prevent dragging or running off with a calf. Also, a back cinch is strongly recommended.
18. Inhumane devices of restraint and/or punishment of the horse will not be tolerated by the M.R.A. in the contest arena and the roper may be subject to a disqualification.

19. Once a roper has signaled for his time, there will be no working or cueing of his horse allowed, subject to disqualification for the day.
20. An M.R.A. approved barrier shall be used in all calf roping and youth events. Calf shall be released only on signal from the roper. In the event a calf is released too soon, they shall be brought back for rerun at the conclusion of the go-round. If a calf should "hang up" in the chute, or should not come out of the chute, for any reason, the roper must have his horse under control and remain behind the barrier until the gate is secured. In the event the horse comes through the barrier before the calf crosses the score line, a broken barrier will be called and the usual ten (10) second penalty will be assessed.
21. Catch as catch can. Must be a catch. Calf ropers will be permitted two (2) loops. If two ropes are carried and should the roper miss with both, he must retire and no time will be allowed. Roping the calf without releasing the loop from the hand is not permitted. Any roped calf or steer that enters the catch pen disqualifies the contestants and no time will be allowed. Calf roping contestants must adjust the rope and reins in a manner that will prevent the horse from dragging the calf. Contestants must receive no assistance of any kind from the outside. If the horse drags the calf, the flag judge may stop the horse and any penalty for such dragging will be a matter for local determination. When a roper busts a calf (calf hits over on spine) intentionally, in the opinion of the judges, the roper is disqualified. Ropes may be dallied or tied hard and fast, either is permissible; contestants may dismount, go down the rope and throw calf by hand and cross and tie three (3) feet. If the calf is down when the roper reaches it, the calf must be let up on his feet and be thrown by hand. In the event a contestant is in doubt as to whether a calf is up or down, he will look to the tie judge for a yes or no signal to start tying the calf. If a roper's hand is on the calf when the calf falls, the calf is considered thrown by hand. The rope must hold the calf until the roper gets a hand on the calf. The tie must hold for five (5) seconds after the roper remounts his horse and allows the slack in the rope. If a tie comes loose or the calf gets to his feet before the tie has been ruled a fair one, the roper will be marked no time. Untie man must not touch calf until judge passes tie.
22. Calves must weigh at least 180 pounds in the calf roping events.
23. Tie must be completed with a half hitch or hooley.
24. Two (2) loops will be allowed if two (2) ropes are carried. (loop can not be rebuilt)
25. All ties shall be judged alike (such as flipping a calf over, or elapse of time.)
26. In order for year-end awards to be awarded a minimum of four (4) calf roping jackpots must be held.

B. State Finals:

1. Eligibility:
  - a. The top ten finishers in each division are eligible to compete in the Finals. Points will be doubled at the MRA Calf Roping Finals.
  - b. A member must compete in at least four (4) events in a division, in the current year, to be eligible for a Finals Position in that division.

2. Once you have called in for MRA State Finals, and then don't show up, the entry fee must still be paid.

C. Payoff:

1. At least fifty percent (50%) of the entry must be paid back to the contestant.
2. The average should pay twice the amount as the go-round.
3. The contractor will determine the payoff schedule. It must be published in the bulletin prior to the roping.
4. Calf Roping suggested payoff:
  - a. Go-round and average money winners for calf roping can be paid as follows:
  - b. 1 - 5 ropers = 100% 6 - 7 ropers = 60% - 40%
  - c. 8 - 12 ropers = 50% - 30% - 20%
  - d. 13 or more ropers = 40% - 30% - 20% - 10%
  - e. If the payoff is different than this one, it shall be listed in the bulletin for each jackpot.

D. Points:

1. The regular point season shall start the Wednesday following Labor Day and will end on Labor Day of the following year. The championship points for the year will be a total of the regular season points and points earned at the Finals.
2. Points toward the annual championships shall be awarded as follows:

Go-Rounds –

1st Place - receives 6 points for each roper in calf roping.  
2nd Place – receives 5 points - ditto –  
3rd Place – receives 4 points - ditto –  
4th Place – receives 3 points - ditto –  
5th Place – receives 2 points - ditto –  
6th Place – receives 1 point - ditto –

Average –

1st Place - receives 12 points for each roper in calf roping.  
2nd Place – receives 10 points - ditto –  
3rd Place – receives 8 points - ditto –  
4th Place – receives 6 points - ditto –  
5th Place – receives 4 points - ditto –  
6th Place – receives 2 point - ditto –

Exception: The Open Calf roping at jackpots are calculated at double the above rates.

E. Divisions:

1. Novice/Intermediate:
  - a. "B" /Novice class roping was established as a division of the M.R.A. in 1967, "C"/Intermediate was established as a division of the M.R.A. in 1987 with rules and regulations as set forth: *For the purpose of clarification of divisions between previous*

*terminology used and current terminology used - "A"=Open, "B"=Novice, "C"=Intermediate*

- b. The Intermediate division is for former Novice ropers that have advanced out of that division but are not ready to compete in the Open division.
  - c. Any Novice roper who ropes (5) calves under fourteen (14) seconds in one (1) year will be advanced to the Intermediate section at the beginning of a new season.
  - d. The Board of Directors has the discretion to move any new member out of the Novice division if they feel the roper has proven to be capable of roping competitively with the Open/Intermediate ropers.
  - e. Any Intermediate roper who ropes five (5) calves under twelve (12) seconds in one (1) year at any M.R.A. ropings, will be an Open roper at the beginning of the new season.
  - f. Novice or Intermediate class ropers can compete in any approved roping, rodeos, horse shows and in the Open division.
  - g. Any Novice or Intermediate ropers who choose to compete in the Open jackpots, or at a rodeo, will have any points earned awarded to the Open section. All Novice or Intermediate points will remain in the Novice or Intermediate class totals.
  - h. Novice or Intermediate ropers have the right to rope in the Open finals should they finish in the top ten (10) Open division of the same point year.
  - i. The points a Novice or Intermediate roper accumulates in the class they rope in, will remain in that class toward the Novice or Intermediate Championship, and will not carry over into any other division.
  - j. Any roper who advances to another division, then begins the accumulation of points from zero for that division.
  - k. Any established Open roper who feels that he no longer qualifies as an Open roper and wishes to be moved to another class roping shall:
    - i. Write a letter to the M.R.A. office with the request and reason to be moved to the different class.
    - ii. The Board of Directors will take cognizance of the written request.
  - l. A contestant will be allowed to win the M.R.A. "B"/Novice or "C"/Intermediate Championship award only one (1) time and must have "B"/Novice or "C"/Intermediate displayed on their award, unless they are a youth.
2. Youth:
- a. There will be a Breakaway calf roping division offered for the youth. The age limit will be sixteen (16) and under for this division.
  - b. There will also be a Youth Tie Down division. The age limit for this division is eighteen (18) and under, boy or girl. Contestants in this division may also rope in any

other M.R.A. roping division or at approved rodeos. Youth can only win the Youth Tie Down Championship one (1) time and must be a MRA card holder.

- c. There will be a Junior and Senior Steer Stopping division offered for the youth. Senior is thirteen (13) and over. Junior is twelve (12) and under. Age to be determined as of the first Wednesday following Labor Day.
- d. Cattle charge for the youth division will be determined by the individual stock contractors for the jackpots.
- e. Payoff and points will be figured the same as the other calf roping divisions.
- f. If only one person ropes in the youth division, the contestant still receives points.
- g. We will honor all 4-H and high school cards as long as there is a completed/signed waiver form on file. *(Don't have to pay a Day Permit, but do not get MRA points if not a member.)*
- h. Any boy age 9 and under, until the start of the season he turns 10, can "tie on" for the heeling end.
- i. Stock Contractors may offer Youth/Ladies Breakaway Division without having to offer all the tie-down roping classes.

#### **ARTICLE X – ALL-AROUND CHAMPIONSHIP**

- A. Points toward the All-Around Championship will be accumulated from the "A"/Open calf roping division, the Heading division and the Heeling division of the Open Team Roping. *(A roper must be in the Top 20 of all three Open Divisions)* Points will be given to the Top Twenty- (20) places in each of the above division standings, from twenty (20) to one (1). Twenty (20) points for first place, nineteen (19) for second, eighteen (18) for third, etc. The All-Around Champion will be honored.
- B. Eligibility for the All-Around Champions requires:
  - 1. Roper must have earned \$1,000 in one event (Team Roping or Calf Roping) and \$200 in the other event.
  - 2. Roper must have competed in at least four (4) MRA jackpots in each event (team roping and calf roping).

#### **ARTICLE XI – PREVIOUS OFFICERS**

President V.P. Sec-Treas.

2016-2017 Zac Clark Tony Lauer Angie Lauer  
2015-2016 A.J. O'Heran Dennis Orr Angie Lauer  
2014-2015  
2013-2014  
2012-2013  
2011-2012

2010-2011  
2009-2010  
2008-2009  
2007-2008 Dan Swiler Jeff Rouse Loretta Swiler  
2005-2006 Dan Swiler Mike Shegan Loretta Swiler  
2003-2004 Dave Firman Don Keller Gail Firman  
2001-2002 Dave Firman Raul Rodriguez Gail Firman  
2000 Stuart Pletcher Mike Walton Gail Firman  
1999 Stuart Pletcher Mike Walton Lora Pletcher-Sec.  
Donna Keller-Treas.  
'97-'98 Don Keller Stuart Pletcher Donna Keller  
'95-'96 Don Keller Steve Shattuck Donna Keller  
1994 Stuart Pletcher Jim Curtis Linda Waun  
1993 Stuart Pletcher Jim Curtis Lora Pletcher  
'91-'92 Pat Porter Jim Marek Jane Porter  
'89-'90 Roy Rodriguez Pat Porter Sharon Rodriguez  
'87-'88 Roy Rodriguez Dave Stevens Sharon Rodriguez  
'85-'86 Roy Rodriguez Dave Stevens Sharon Rodriguez  
1984 Roy Rodriguez Dick Wahl Sharon Rodriguez  
'81-'83 Tom Pugh Joe Garza Jeraldine Pugh  
1981 Lorne Asquith Joe Garza Gary Finley  
1980 Tom Pugh Joe Garza Jeraldine Pugh  
'78-'79 Tom Pugh Lorne Asquith Jeraldine Pugh  
'76-'77 Tom Pugh Roy Rodriguez Jeraldine Pugh  
1975 Dick Wahl Bucky Anteau Margaret Wahl  
1974 Dick Wahl Tom Pugh Margaret Wahl  
1973 Don Coffell Tom Pugh Arloa Coffell  
1972 Mike Culhane Kenny Vaughan Sue Culhane  
1971 Kenny Vaughan Don Boyd Debbie Vaughan  
1970 Kenny Vaughan Nate Bauer Debbie Vaughan  
1969 Tom Cummings Kenny Vaughan Barbara Cummings  
'67-'68 Dick Kerwin Don Boyd Midge Kerwin  
1966 Jerry Edwards Don Boyd Terry Dale  
'64-'65 Don Boyd Jerry Edwards Ilene Boyd  
1963 Ed Aumaugher Ken Fisher Jerry Gamble  
'61-'62 Keith Avery Dick Kerwin Fred Griffith  
1960 Bud Frost Dean Center Rick Thompson  
'58-'59 Chuck Storer Bud Frost Bill O'Brien  
1957 Chuck Storer Dean Center Bill O'Brien  
1956 Dean Center C.A. Cofer Frank Branch  
'53-'55 Bill O'Brien Dean Center Frank Branch  
1952 Bill O'Brien Vern Asquith Frank Branch

1951 Ken Fisher Bill O'Brien Frank Branch  
1950 Clayton Zank Ken Fisher Frank Branch  
1949 Art Winter Bud Frost Frank Branch