



RSTPA Rule Book 2017

Ranch Sorting Team Penning Association

RSTPA

“Live to Ride, Ride to Live”

Many of our competitors are weekend warriors, and enjoy an affordable, fun, well run show. Providing our members with the ability to live their dream and “Live to ride, Ride to Live” is RSTPA’s Mission

Formed in 2013 RSTPA’s goal is to promote and expand the Ranch Sorting and Team Penning sport on the East Coast. As one of the newest Associations we are looking forward to providing our members with quality shows, fair ratings and affordable entry fees. RSTPA is open to riders of all ages and riding abilities and is a membership-based organization.

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Section 1

Membership

1.1 Membership-

Membership fee is \$30.00 per person per year. Lifetime Membership fee is \$150. However all Memberships are complimentary for 1 year for new Members. Memberships are valid for one year. Annual Membership will begin and end after the RSTPA Finals each year (2014).

1.2 Additional Family Members-

For those current and past Members who are family Members of the purchaser of an RSTPA Membership can join for an additional \$15.00 each. This includes the spouse and any children living at home who are older than 12 and younger than 21.

1.3 Youth Membership-

Any Youth 12 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year, may receive a complimentary Membership. A birth certificate copy may be required for age verification. This Membership will entitle holders to all the benefits of the standard RSTPA Membership.

1.4 Membership requirements-

Participation in RSTPA Sanctioned events requires being a Member of the RSTPA to collect winnings. Their Membership status must show as current in the RSTPA Producer database at the show, or shall have submitted a First Time Member or Renewal Membership application, including all appropriate fees, to the RSTPA headquarters or the Producer, prior to the event or division he/she is entering. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase their first time or renewal Memberships anytime during the year. Memberships can be purchased at event offices. Participation in a RSTPA event by a participant who is not a current RSTPA Member, or has not submitted a first time Membership or renewal Membership application as specified, will result in disqualification of the participant. The disqualified participant that is not current shall not receive a refund of entry fees prizes or winnings. The Current RSTPA Member will receive their points and winnings. By entering an RSTPA event the participant is representing that he/she is in compliance with the Membership requirements. Acceptance of an entry at an event by RSTPA or its Producers shall not constitute a waiver of the requirements set forth in this rule. Membership fees will not be refunded as a result of classification or rule disagreements. Memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable.

1.5 Membership Suspensions

Any Competitor Member, Sanctioned Event Producer, or Non-Member may be suspended and denied privileges and Membership benefits of RSTPA by the Directors for good cause including inappropriate behavior, unsportsmanlike conduct and anything that might be a deterrent to the integrity of the game; for failure to pay any obligation when due to RSTPA; for failure to pay any obligations to an approved show; for giving a worthless credit card or check for entry fees, stall fee, office charges, or any other fees, fines, or charges including bank charges for returned checks; or for failure to timely file with RSTPA any reports required by the rules of RSTPA. Each returned check or declined credit card is subject to a \$50.00 fine due to the RSTPA. After 30 days if outstanding debt is not settled Competitor Member, Sanctioned Event Producer or Non-Member will be suspended from RSTPA until debt is satisfied. RSTPA shall maintain and publish a suspended persons list on the official RSTPA website effective the next opportunity after suspension and may be communicated to any Competitor Member, all Sanctioned Event Producers, and Membership Benefit Providers.

1.6 Day Passes

Non-Members may purchase a Day Pass for \$20, which entitles them to day monies, but points and attendance will not count.

Section 2

Ratings and Classifications

2.1 Rider rating and Classifications-

Accurate ratings for each Member are extremely important to provide an equal and level playing field. It is each new or renewing Member responsibility to accurately and completely answer the application form. Ratings will be reviewed by a rating Committee.

Rating definitions:

#1 Beginner - Novice rider on a novice horse who is just starting out and will be rated according to rider ability and the way they are mounted. This is only an introductory level and is probationary meaning if you or your horse's skills dictate, it you may be moved at any time.

#2 Rookie - Novice rider on a novice horse who has started to improve, has limited horsemanship and or knowledge of cattle and occasionally places among #1 and #2 rated riders in regional/national shows.

#3 Novice- Novice rider who has reasonable horsemanship and cattle skills and consistently places among #1 thru #3 rated riders at regional/national shows.

#4 Amateur - A rider who has average horsemanship and cattle skills that occasionally places among #4 and #5 rated riders in regional/national shows.

#5 Amateur - An experienced rider, who has above average horsemanship and cattle skills and consistently, places on a regional/national level.

#6 Open - An experienced rider with professional ability. Able to ride and win in most any situation at the regional/national level.

#7 Open - An exceptional rider with exceptional cattle skills. Pens/Sorts professionally, or has the ability to do so and is, or can be, extremely successful at the Regional/National level.

Sr Youth - Any Youth age not to exceed 16 as of January 1st of the current year.

Jr Youth - Any Youth age 12 and under as of January 1st of the current year.

2.2 Rider Ratings Procedure

A. Rating Classification-Each new Member of the RSTPA must be given a rating classification. To participate in RSTPA Sanctioned events it is the Member's responsibility to accurately and completely answer all questions on the Membership application and/or from any RSTPA Director and or Producer in charge on the day of a show.

B. Rating Classification- When a rider joins the RSTPA at a Sanctioned event, the Director-In-Charge or Producer in charge will be responsible for giving a rating evaluation and classifying the rider that

day. When a new Member joins RSTPA by mail, the Member will be given a rating classification by the rating Committee. The Rating Committee will review the rating of all new Members and may assign a rating classification of #1-#7 in accordance of these rules. A rating will consist of a number, or in the case of Youth rider accompanied by a (S) senior and (J) Junior.

C. Absence Re-Classification- any individual rejoining RSTPA after a year or more absence will be required to have their rating by the rating Committee.

D. Rating Changes- No riders rating will be changed after July 1st without the approval of the rating Committee unless the rider has not competed in 2 RSTPA Sanctioned Shows before July 1st.

RSTPA Rating Committee may reevaluate and re rate any person rated #1-#7 who for whatever reason has been mis-rated by one (1) or more rating classifications at any time during the competition year.

Any Member who believes he/she has been incorrectly rated may appeal in writing or email to the RSTPA Administrative Office. Faxes and Verbal communication will not be accepted Members may appeal their rating one time per calendar year. His/her appeal will be reviewed by the Rating committee.

Any rating changed by the Rating Committee will remain for the remainder of the competition year, and may only be changed by the Rating Committee regardless of rating number.

Section 3

3.1 Competition Year - RSTPA's competition year runs from the day after the RSTPA Finals to the following years Finals.

Section 4

4.1 Standard Team Penning Classes

- A. Classes-** RSTPA Sanctioned shows will include any or all of the following suggested classes: Open HC, #11HC, #10HC, #9HC, #7HC, #6 Novice HC, #5 HC, #3 Draw, #11 Masters HC (40+), Junior Youth, Senior Youth HC.
- B. The Handicap System-** All Team penning classes will be handicapped by ½ sec ,i.e. in the Open class the handicap would be 21 if a Team riding with a combined rating of 10 the Team will receive a 5 ½ second handicap taken off their final time for each go; 60 second clock. Producers may apply for Special Sanctioning to include special sub classes to enhance participation at a Sanctioned Event.
- C. Mandatory Classes-** Promoters are required to run a Minimum of 3 Penning classes to qualify as a Sanctioned Event. Mandatory classes are the Open, #6 or #7 and at least one other Division.
- D. Pick and Draw Division** is designed to allow new contestants to the sport an opportunity to find rides and meet other contestants. All RSTPA Team Penning Divisions have a 6 ride limit with a Mandatory 1 Draw for each class or Draw all rides; with the exception of the Open Division which will be required to be Pick 1, Automatically Draw 1; or Draw All.

4.2 Team Penning Class Descriptions

- 1. Open Handicap-** Pick 1 Draw 1 or draw all - Open to all rated riders. 6 ride limit.
- 2. #11HC, #10HC, #8HC, 7 HC, #6 Novice HC (Riders rated #3 & under)** - 1 mandatory draw may pick or draw up to 5 more rides. Total Team rating cannot exceed class cap. 6 Ride limit.

3. **#3 Draw**- Only #1 rated rider may enter this class no pick partners; must take a minimum of 3 draws. 6 ride limit.
 4. **#11 Masters HC** – Pick 2 Draw 2; riders must be at least 40 years of age the day of the event to ride in the class. The total Team rating cannot exceed class cap. 4 Ride limit.
5. **Youth Classes**
- A. **Junior Youth** -Mandatory 3 rides May Pick 1 Ride or Draw up to all 3. Open to JR Members 12yrs and under: Junior Youth Team must consist of 2 Youth Members 12yrs of age and under as of January 1st of that year. There will be no caps. The Junior Youth Team must include one Adult preferably a rider rated #5 or higher chosen by a random draw. The Adult cannot ride into the heard or call for time; the Adult will pay no fees and receive no awards. Junior Youth will have one go, 75 second clock, and 80% payback.
 - B. **Senior Youth HC** -3 rides 1 Mandatory Draw may Pick 1 Ride or Draw up to all 3. Open to SR Members 16yrs and under: Senior Youth Team must consist of 3 Youth Members 16yrs of age and under as of January 1st of that year. There will be no caps. Handicap is the highest rated Team combined in the class; example if the highest combined Team rating for the class is a 10 then 10 will be the handicap. Senior Youth will have one go, 60 second clock, and 80% payback.

Section 5

5.1 Team Penning Rules

1. The Object of Team Penning

Within a specified time limit, a Team consisting of 3 riders in the arena must cut out from the herd, and pen 3 head of cattle with the assigned number. Fastest time wins.

- A. **Time limit**- the event Producer shall use a 60- Second time limit for each class, and may use “Promoters Option” allowance to extend the time limit to 75 seconds for any class, but must have special sanctioning approved and advertised the show accordingly. A warning may be given to the Team working the cattle at 30 seconds of time remaining. Promoter has the option of implementing progressive time when the number of Teams meets the requirements for the next go-round. A cutoff time can be used, being the highest time available to progress to the next round.
- B. **Spotting Cattle**- Spotting cattle in the herd of any Team in the arena, by any person outside the arena, is prohibited. Any form or manor of assisting a Team in the arena with finding the location of any of their assigned cattle on the herd side of the foul line, may, at the Judge’s discretion, subject the Team in the arena to disqualification on any run. Any Team disqualified by a Judge for spotting will receive a no-time.

2. Starting the Run-

All cattle will be bunched on the cattle side of the starting line within the designated area, before the time begins, the Judge will raise the flag to signal when the arena is ready. The flag will drop when the nose of the first horse crosses the start/foul line. The contestants will be given their cattle number instantly any delay in crossing the foul line may result in a No Time. The next Team has 30 seconds to enter the arena and cross the time line following the previous Teams run. Upon the decision by the Judges, the announcer will call the Team a no-time unless waived for a good cause. No Team Member may enter the arena after the time has started.

3. Calling for Time-

- A. One rider must stand at the opening of the gate and raise a hand for the flag, the flag will drop when the nose of the first horse enters the pen, the assigned cattle are fully in the pen, and the rider calls for time. The Team will receive a No Time if the cows are entering the pen but are not fully in when they call for time. Time continues until all un-penned cattle are completely on the cattle side of the starting line. In the event that an animal escapes from the pen after time is called but prior to the time that any un-penned cattle are on the cattle side of the line the Team will be judged a “No Time”.
- B. Escaped Animal- If an animal escapes as a Team is calling for time they will be judged a “No Time”. An “Escaped Animal” is one with any part of the animal coming out of the opening of the pen.
- C. Calling Time for less than 3 Head: A Team may call for time with only 1 or 2 Assigned cattle penned. However, Teams penning 3 head place higher than 2 or 1, regardless of the time. In a multiple go- round contest, in the event that Teams penned their cattle in only one go-round, the fastest time wins, regardless of which go-round. In a multiple go-round contest, the Teams that pen in each go-round will beat Teams that failed that failed to pen in the Go-round, regardless of the number of cattle penned or time. For example: Times in 3 go-rounds beat times in 2 go-rounds; times in 2 go-rounds beat times on 1 go-rounds; times in 1 go-round beats “no-time”.
- D. Calling Time for Wrong-Numbered Cattle in Pen:
A Team calling for time with any wrong numbered cattle in the pen will be judged a “no-time”.

4. Hazing

Contact with cattle by hand, rope, bats, or any other equipment, or hazing with any equipment or apparel will result in a “no-time”.

5. Too Many Cattle

With the exception of the Youth Penning, Teams are permitted 1 Trash (wrong-numbered) cow across the foul line but no more than 3 total cows at any one time period. The trash cow can change throughout the run, but no more than one trash cow can be on the pen side at any point in time. If more than one trash (wrong –numbered) cow crosses the foul line, the Team will receive a “no-time”. Any part of the fourth animal that crosses the line will evoke a “no-time”. In Youth Penning, any 3 cows can be on the pen side at any one time but, any part of the fourth cow across the line will be judged a “no-time”. Producers can invoke a “No Trash Rule” and a 1 Trash Rule in Youth and Novice Class at their discretion.

6. RE-Ride Situations

- A. In the event the Team is given a number that has already been used with a set of cattle, a re-run must be given IMMEDIATELY upon discovery, using the correct number within the same set. Teams receiving a re-ride will be able to start their time at zero. In case of other official or mechanical error, a re-ride will be given IMMEDIATELY using the same numbered cattle.
- B. If an animal leaves the arena, the Team can either be given a “no-time” for unnecessary roughness; can be given time on their remaining cattle; or given an immediate re-ride depending on the Judge’s decision. A team cannot better their time on a re-ride.

- C. If a Team observes an unfit, injured, or unidentified animal before committing to the cattle; the Team must notify the Judge. Once the Team is committed to the cattle, no re-ride will be given. "Committed to the cattle" means that the Team has crossed the foul line, the flag has been dropped to start the time on that run, and their cattle number has been called.
- D. As each new Team begins a run, there should be 30 head in the arena. In the event that a Team draws a number where more or less than three identical numbers are in the arena (at the time of their run", that Team must have an IMMEDIATE RE-RIDE on their same numbered cattle. Teams receiving a re-ride will be able to start their time at 0. (Times for all other Teams with such a miss-numbered herd will remain the same.)
- E. In the rare instance that a Team rides out-of-order, their time and number of cattle will stand. No re-ride will be given for Teams riding out of order. Once the problem is identified, the going forward Teams will be correctly aligned, and in the case of sorting, placed in the proper arena and follow the order as posted. All go's must be posted before the round starts.

7. Cattle Rotation - Order of Herd Rotation

The Event Producer will number each herd available for Penning. An event Producer has the option to run less than 10 Teams per set of cattle in order to equally divide Teams among sets. All options shall be decided and announced before first go-round of each class.

8. Roughing

Includes, but not limited to, unnecessary or aggressive contact, running over cattle with horses, stepping on cattle while in pursuit, running thru the herd in such a manner that the cattle are knocked down, horses consistently biting the cattle and entering the pen with such force on the cattle causing them to collide with the back panels. A Judge's call for "Roughing" will result in an immediate disqualification of the Team.

9. Arena Layout

"Ideal" Arena size for Team Penning is 100'x200', although there shall be no mandatory arena size, recognizing that arena size may vary with each facility.

- A. **Foul Line:** The foul line shall be between 30% and 35% of the arena length from the cattle end of the arena, and the foul line shall be determined and advertised as such by the event Producer. The foul line may be extended by 5% for each 10' beyond 110' in width to accommodate bigger, wider arenas.
- B. **Pen Opening:** The entry gate to the pen shall be situated 25% of the distance from the arena back wall, but shall not be less than 55' from the arena back wall. *see diagram*

10. Working Cattle on Foot

Any attempt to work cattle on foot will be judged a "no-Time".

11. Display Clock

All RSTPA Shows must have a readable display clock; electric eye will not be used to start time. In the event of extreme malfunction, Producer may determine how and whether to proceed with the contest.

Section 6

6.1 Standard Ranch Sorting Classes

- A. RSTPA Sanctioned shows will include any or all of the following suggested classes: Open HC, #10 HC, #9HC, #8HC, #7HC, #4 HC, Rookie #9 HC (2 cap on Sorter), Youth/Masters HC (under 16yrs over 40yrs), Round Robin (10 riders).
- B. **The Handicap System** for all RSTPA events in Ranch Sorting will be as follows. Each rating below the highest possible Team number in a division will receive one additional second subtracted from the Team's final time from the cattle sorted; example: The Open HC has a maximum Team rating of 14 if a Team riding with a combined rating of 7 then the Team will receive a 7 second handicap taken off their final time for each go; 60 second clock. Producers may apply for Special Sanctioning to include special sub classes to enhance participation at a Sanctioned Event.
- C. **Mandatory Classes**- Promoters are required to run a Minimum of 3 Sorting classes to qualify as a Sanctioned Event. Mandatory classes are the Open HC, Novice Class and at least one other Division.
- D. **Pick and Draw Division** -is designed to allow new Contestants to the sport an opportunity to find rides and meet other Contestants. All RSTPA Ranch Sorting Divisions have a 6 ride limit with a Mandatory 1 Draw for each class or Draw all rides; with the exception of the Open HC Division which will be required to be Pick 1, Automatically Draw 1; or Draw all.

6.2 Ranch Sorting Class Descriptions

- 1. **Open Handicap**- Pick 1 Draw 1 or draw all - Open to all rated riders. 6 ride limit.
- 2. **All Other Classes** - 1 mandatory draw may pick or draw up to 5 more rides. Total Team rating cannot exceed class cap. 6 Ride limit.
- 3. ***Youth/Masters**- Pick 2 Draw 2, JR/SR Youth (16 and Under) ride with a Master (40+) Highest Team rating will determine the handicap; example if the highest combined Team rating for the class is a 10 then 10 will be the handicap. 4 ride limit.
- 4. **Rookie #9 (2 cap on Sorter)** –1 mandatory draw may pick or draw up to 5 more rides. Riders rated #2 or below are allowed to sort in this class. If both partners are rated #2 or below, they both may sort. Riders rated higher than a #2 must work the gate only and allow the #2 or below partner to sort. The total Team rating cannot exceed class cap. 6 Ride limit.
- 5. **Round Robin**- 10 riders; Mandatory 9 rides each contestants will ride with each other on a 60 second clock no handicap, one go, riders times and total number of cattle will be

calculated for each rider individually; Class pays 3 places; rider with most cattle and fastest time wins.

Section 7

7.1 Ranch Sorting Rules

1. The Object of Ranch Sorting- Ranch Sorting is 1, 2 or 3 Man Teams Sorting 10 Cattle numbered 0-9 and one unnumbered cow for a total of 11 head. The Producer has the option to add one or more unnumbered cows. A run starts with Team Member on opposite side of start line for cattle.

2. Starting The Run - The Judge will raise the flag when the pen is ready. The Judge will signal the beginning of the run by dropping the flag when the nose of the first horse crosses the start/foul line and the first number to be sorted will be announced. The Announcer will draw a number, which will determine the first cow to be sorted. The cattle will then be sorted increasing in sequence from that number. A warning may be given to the Team working the cattle at 30 seconds of time remaining

3. Sorting order- The cattle must be sorted in number sequence. If any part of a cow crosses the start/foul line out of sequence a disqualification will occur. A disqualification will also occur if any part of a sorted cow re-crosses the start/foul line. Any cow not entirely across the start/foul line will not be counted. The tenth cow must be completely across the line before the blank cow starts across or the Team will receive a No Time.

4. All other RSTPA classes are to be run consistent with all RSTPA Rules

5. Placing's- Teams sorting in three go's will place higher then Teams sorting in two go's. Teams sorting in two go's will place higher then t Teams sorting in one go, regardless of how many cattle were sorted. All ties (if lap timers are not used) will be brought back to the finals unless greater than 5 additional positions are created. All ties that are runoff will be drawn for position of go. All ties can be eliminated by the use of lap timers, which is recommended.

6. Lap Timers- it is recommended that hand timers are used at all RSTPA Sorting's.

7. Time Limits- a 60 or 75 second allotted time limit for each division will be required at Producer's discretion. (RSTPA recommends a 60 Second Clock)

8. Settling Cattle-

A. Each new herd must be familiarized with both sides of sorting pens before the first Team runs on a herd. Cattle will be settled prior to run at Judge's discretion. It is the Judge's responsibility to see that cattle herds are settled as long as needed.

Each arena and set of cattle are different and for that reason, a Producer should make a decision and advise the Judge on which way the cattle should be settled to be the most fair to the Contestants and the well-being of the cattle. For settling cattle, the Producer has the following three options:

1. Cattle may be settled on one side every time and sorted one way.
2. Cattle may be settled on one side for the first run of each herd and alternated to the opposite side each consecutive run.
3. Cattle may be settled on one side for the first run of each herd and then resettled on the side with the most cattle remaining.

B. For determining number of runs on each herd, a Producer shall advise the Judge and should announce one of the following options:

1. Run 10 runs per herd and remaining runs that are less than 10 on the final herd.
2. Divide the herds equally by the number of Teams.
3. Make a decision that no herd will have more than # _____ runs due to the condition and well- being of the cattle.

7.2 Spotting of Cattle

Spotting of cattle at all RSTPA Sorting Events is permissible and highly encouraged.

7.3 Rider Falls Off

If a rider falls off his/her horse the rider may get back on and continue sorting.

7.4 Reasons for Re- Rides Ranch Sorting

1. **Number already called-** If a duplicate number is called with in the same set of cattle a re-ride will be given immediately upon point of discovery using the same set of cattle with the correct numbers. Those re-ride will begin at zero.
2. **Re –rides-** may be also given for official or mechanical errors or downed cattle, in these cases the contestants will be given the option to take their time on the number of cattle sorted at the time the ride was stopped by the official or re-ride immediately with the same number beginning at a time of zero.
3. **Cow Leaves the Arena-** at Judge's discretion a re-ride or a No Time can be given if a cow leaves the arena. All re-rides will occur immediately using the same number cattle starting at zero cattle with a new clock. Time can also be given on remaining cattle at the time a wrong number cow leaves the arena.
4. **Injured Cattle, Unfit or Unidentifiable-** Prior to a Team crossing the Start/ Foul line the Team must notify the Judge of any unnumbered, injured, or unfit cattle. Once brought to the Judge's attention the Judge (not the contestants) will determine whether to correct the problem or proceed forward. No re-rides will be given once a Team has committed to the cattle by crossing the start/foul line and the flag has been dropped to start the time on that run. If at the Judge's discretion, a re-ride is given because of un-numbered, injured, or unfit cattle the re-ride will occur immediately using the same numbered cattle once injured, unfit or unnumbered cattle are replaced.

Possible unfit reasons for Judges to remove cattle: Lame, Sick, Exhausted, Blind Or Bleeding.

There will be no re-rides for inconsistent cattle unless the Judge /event Producer agree. If it is determined by a Judge that during a set the cow becomes unfit then that cow will be replaced but no re-rides for previous Teams will be allowed.

Section 8

8.1 3 Man/2 Gate Sorting

1. **3 Man 2/ Gate** Is for the 3 riders may be Sanctioned, using a recommended 60' to 80' wide and 50' deep to the foul line pen with 2 gates and the auxiliary pen 30' to 40'. Hole opening should be 12' to 14' on both sides.

2. **Object of 3 Man/2 Gate** – The basic concept of 3 Man/2 Gate is that there are 10 numbered cows, 0-9, and one unnumbered cow for a total of 11 head at the beginning of the run behind a foul line in an arena with 3 people mounted on the other side. Even numbered cattle, including 0, are brought thru right gate and odd numbered cattle are brought thru left gate. Promotor may add one or more additional unnumbered cows to each herd.

3. **Following other sorting guidelines**

Other general sorting guidelines are contained in the Ranch Sorting Rule Section. Please refer to that section for rules that apply to both Ranch Sorting, Open Arena Sorting and 3 Man 2 Gate.

8.2 Open Arena Sorting Rules

1. **Open Arena Sorting** - Open Arena sorting for 3 riders may be Sanctioned, using a full open arena with a foul line length at Event Producer's option, and one Judge.

2. **The Object of Open Arena Sorting** - The Basic concept of Open Arena Sorting is that there are 10 numbered cattle, 0-9, and one unnumbered cattle for a total of 11 head at the beginning of the run behind a foul line. In an arena with 3 people mounted on the other side of the foul line. Promoter may add up to one or more additional unnumbered cows to each herd.

3. **Following other sorting guidelines** - Other general sorting guidelines are contained in the Ranch Sorting Rule Section. Please refer to that section for rules that apply to both Ranch Sorting, Open Arena Sorting and 3 Man 2 Gate.

8.3 Ride Limit

All classes are required to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You may pick up to 5 or draw all 6. All Classes are required to be up 6 ride limit with a maximum of 5 picks.

8.4 Ties

All Ties will be brought back to the finals unless greater than 5 additional positions are created. All ties that are run off will be drawn for position of go. All ties can be eliminated by the use of lap timers.

Section 9

9.1 Entries and Number of Go's

1. **Minimum Go's/Rounds for Team Penning and all 3 Man Events**

For classes with more than 50 Teams a Promoter's option may include a minimum of a First Go/Round, a 30% Back to the Second Go/Round, and to the Top 10.

Any class that has less than 50 Teams in the first Go/Round will go right to a Top 10.

2. Minimum Go's/Rounds for Ranch Sorting

For Classes with more than 75 Teams a Promoters option may include a minimum of a First Go/Round, a 30% Back to the Second Go/Round, and to the Top 10. Any Class that has less than 75 Teams in the First Go/Round will go right to a top ten.

3. If the Entry fee is less than \$35.00, it is the Event Producers option to go to a Top 10 regardless of how many Teams are in the First Go/Round.
4. Team Penning, Ranch Sorting and 3 Man Event classes are required to have a 6 ride limit with One Automatic Draw.
5. All classes you can pick up to 5 Rides or Draw all 6, with the exception of the Open Class which is Pick 1 Draw 1
6. All RSTPA Sanctioned events the % payback will be Producer's option. All divisions will have an additional \$2.00 per ride per person Sanctioning Fee.
7. **Running order-** all RSTPA Sanctioned divisions are progressive (you must sort in each Go/Round to advance) 0 head sorted or penned is considered a No Time. All finals at any RSTPA Sanctioned Shows will have their running order, determined by draw, mechanically or physically at promoter's discretion.
8. **Payment of Fees-** It is the Producer's option to require cash, check, or credit card. If cash only at an onsite show is required, it must be advertised as such in the Producers show flyer. Checks will not be accepted from riders that have previously written bad checks. Entry fees should be payable to the RTSPA Producer.
9. **Forfeiture of monies won-** Producers are not responsible for checking Team rating prior to them competing. That responsibility relies with the Teams. At pay-out however, the event Producer will check Team Member's ratings. Teams exceeding the class number or combined rider classifications or handicaps as defined under contest classes, will forfeit all monies won.
10. In the event a Team forfeits, all places and monies will be distributed to each of the next place Teams, in descending order, regardless if any of those Teams did not ride in the short or final go. For example: if the class pays 5 places and the 1st place Team is eliminated, the second place Team moves to 1st place, third place Team moved to second, etc.
11. **Entering with Same Partner-** Two Member Teams are permitted to ride together only once in each division, unless it is the result of a draw or under special sanctioning. Three Member Teams must change one rider.
12. **Draw out and Replacement and emergency draw out-**
Any Team may draw-out of any event with notice prior to the start of that division with no draw out charge. If no notice is provided then entry fees are forfeited to the competitions pot. If an individual draws out, the contestants entered with him/her may draw out or replace the partner with a new partner of the same rating or less. If a Team participant's partner fails to notify RSTPA or the Producer of a draw-out, and does not appear prior to the first go/round of a competition, the participants entered with him/her may get a substitute partner of the same rating or less. In no instance may a participant use another participant's entry fee. If a substitute contestant is replacing a contestant who has a doctor or vets release, or has been officially drawn out, that replacement will be required to pay entry fees, but no late fees. In no instance will the Team be moved to a later draw position while the participant located another partner. In the event of an emergency involving a competing contestant, his/her family or his/her horse; the Producer may draw that Team out and refund their money.

Section 10

Handicap Charts, Payout and Points

10.1 Recommended Payout Schedule

Places		Percentage Splits					
1	1- 10 Teams	100%					
2	11-20 Teams	60%- 40%					
3	21-30 Teams	50%- 30%- 20%					
4	31-40 Teams	40%- 30%- 20%- 10%					
5	41-100 Teams	34%- 27%- 20%- 10%- 9%					
6	101-150 Teams	32%- 24%- 17%- 10%-9%- 8%					
7	151-200 Teams	28%-22%-17%-10%-9%-8%-6%					
8	201-250 Teams	26%-22%-14%-10%-9%-8%-6%-5%					
9	251-300 Teams	26%-19%-13%-10%-9%-8%-6%-5%-4%					
10	300 & Above	25%-18%-13%-10%-8.5%-7%-6%-5%-4%-3.5%					

The average will pay one place for every ten teams or part thereof up to a total of five places and one more for every 50 teams after 100.

10.2 Points Chart

No of Entries in Class	1st	2nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3-4	1/2									
5-9	1	1/2								
10-14	2	1	1/2							
15-19	3	2	1	1/2						
20-24	4	3	2	1	½					
25-29	5	4	3	2	1	1/2				
30-34	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2			
35-39	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2		

40-44	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2	
45 & more	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2

AQHA Point System will be used to award points to contestants placing in the Top Ten of any Division for which they are eligible. Classes with 100 + Teams & Shows with \$10,000 in added money will award Double Points. Points will be awarded to the Top 10 places regardless if they made a time in the final go or not.

10.3 Team Penning / Arena Sorting/ 3 Man 2 Gate Handicap Quick Reference Chart

Open HC	
Total Team Rating	Total HC
3	-9.00
4	-8.50
5	-8.00
6	-7.50
7	-7.00
8	-6.50
9	-6.00
10	-5.50
11	-5.00
12	-4.50
13	-4.00
14	-3.50
15	-3.00
16	-2.50
17	-2.00
18	-1.50
19	-1.00
20	-0.50
21	0.00

#11 HC & #11 Masters	
Total Team Rating	Total HC
3	-4.00
4	-3.50
5	-3.00
6	-2.50
7	-2.00
8	-1.50
9	-1.00
10	-0.50
11	0.00

#10 HC	
Total Team Rating	Total HC
3	-3.50
4	-3.00
5	-2.50
6	-2.00
7	-1.50
8	-1.00
9	-0.50
10	0.00

#9 HC	
Total Team Rating	Total HC
3	-3.00
4	-2.50
5	-2.00
6	-1.50
7	-1.00
8	-0.50
9	0.00

#7 HC	
Total Team Rating	Total HC
3	-2.00
4	-1.50
5	-1.00
6	-0.50
7	0.00

#6 Novice HC	
Total Team Rating	Total HC
3	-1.50
4	-1.00
5	-0.50

10.4 Ranch Sorting Handicap Quick Reference Chart

Open	HC
2	-12
3	-11
4	-10
5	-9
6	-8
7	-7
8	-6
9	-5
10	-4
11	-3
12	-2
13	-1
14	0

#9 HC	
2	-7
3	-6
4	-5
5	-4
6	-3
7	-2
8	-1
9	0

Rookie #9	HC
2	-7
3	-6
4	-5
5	-4
6	-3
7	-2
8	-1
9	0

# 7 HC	
2	-5
3	-4
4	-3
5	-2
6	-1
7	0

The SR Youth Penning Handicap will be the highest rated teams see Section 5.1.

Section 11

11.1 RSTPA Sanctioning Sorting's and Penning's

1. **Approved** – To be a Sanctioned show, a show must be cleared on the Association Calendar and approved by RSTPA a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the show date. Sanctioned Sorting's and Penning's may include: 2 Man Ranch Sorting, Team Penning and 3 Man Arena Sorting and 3 Man 2 Gate.
2. **Event Producer**- Failure to comply with any RSTPA rules could result in a forfeiture of future sanctioning by the event Producer, including any shows already Sanctioned or pending sanctioning.
3. **Special Sanctioning**- may be granted by RSTPA and allow for potential modifications, which may include: a higher ride limit, special venues and additional pick and draw positions. Any and all deviations if granted must be advertised in advance of the show.
4. **RTSPA Bylaws**- rules and guidelines will govern all Sanctioned classes.
5. **Liability** – Each Event Producer operating a show under the Association's sanctioning shall be solely responsible for any and all liability and shall hold RSTPA and its officer and Directors harmless from any liability.
6. **Both RSTPA and the Event Producer**- of a Sanctioned show shall have the right to require any contestant or in the case of a Youth rider, the contestant's parent or guardian to sign a liability release form holding the association and the event Producer et al, harmless for any and all injury incurred as a result of the Penning/Sorting.
7. **Black Ball List**- RSTPA will strictly enforce a black ball list of participants who write bad checks or failed to pay entry fees or any required fees of RTSPA show or contest.

8. **Use of approved Cattle Numbers-** The event Producer must use over the shoulder cattle numbers, no neck numbers.
9. **Sanctioning Fees-** The event Producer will pay RSTPA a sanctioning fee of \$2.00 per Rider all Funds will be forwarded to the RSTPA office by the event Producer or Show Secretary within 10 days of the show. The event Producer must pay for all of the Teams entered in Sanctioned classes.
10. **Sanctioning Contract-** Each event Producer must sign an event sanctioning application and contract with RSTPA.

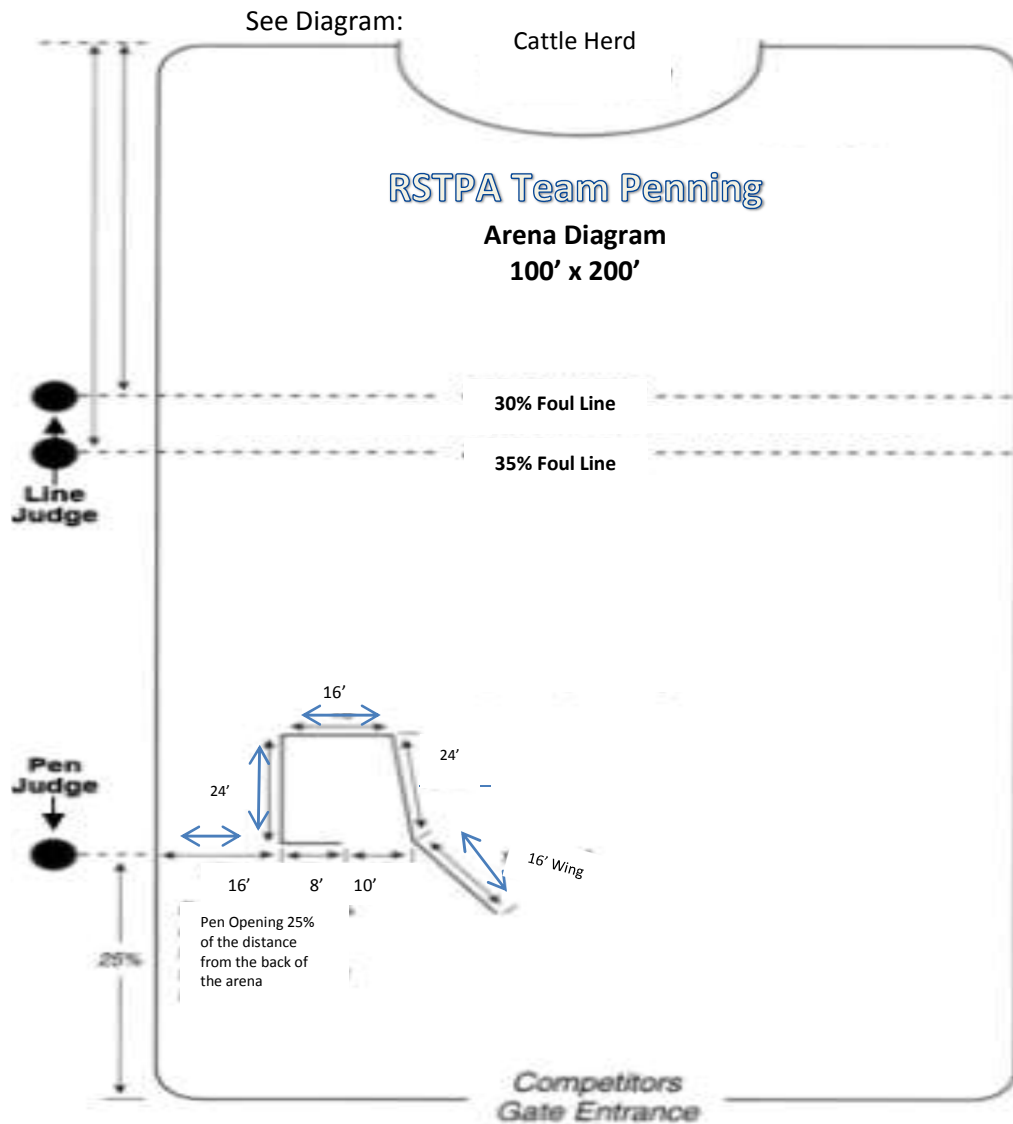
11.2 Reasons for Disqualification For Ranch Sorting and Team Penning:

1. **Unsportsmanlike conduct-** RSTPA has the right to disqualify any contestant who acts in an unsportsmanlike, unreasonable or unprofessional manner. This shall include abusive schooling of horses. Disqualified contestants forfeit all fees.
2. **Trash Cattle Rule for Ranch Sorting** -definition of trash cattle is any wrong numbered or blank cattle that starts across or crosses the start/ foul line or that starts back across or crosses back across the start/foul line, or any correctly sorted number that starts across the start/foul line and backs out before going all the way through is a No Time
3. **Trash Cattle rule for Team Penning-** One Trash rule you may only have one trash cow over the line at any point a second trash cow goes over the foul line the Team is disqualified.
4. **Gate Call-** There is a (one time) 30-second gate call for every Team after the announcer calls for that Team. If that Team has not entered the arena within the allotted time they will be disqualified. Additionally , if a contestant is late a second time he/she may be disqualified
5. **Roughing-** A Team will be disqualified for roughing-consisting of any physical contact by horse or rider at the Judge's discretion.
6. **Working Cattle While Dismounted-** Any Team working cattle must be mounted on horseback. Working cattle on foot in reason for disqualification.
7. **Hazing-** Contact with cattle by hand, ropes, bats or any other equipment or apparel will result in a No Time
8. **No Time-** Any part of the cow in sequence that starts across the start/foul line and backs out is a No Time (Sorting Only)

Section 12

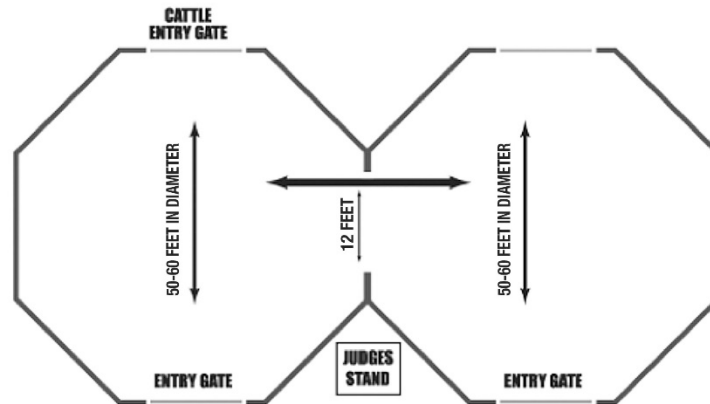
Team Penning, Ranch Sorting Arena & 3 Man 2 Gate Diagrams

12.1 Arena Arrangement for Team Penning



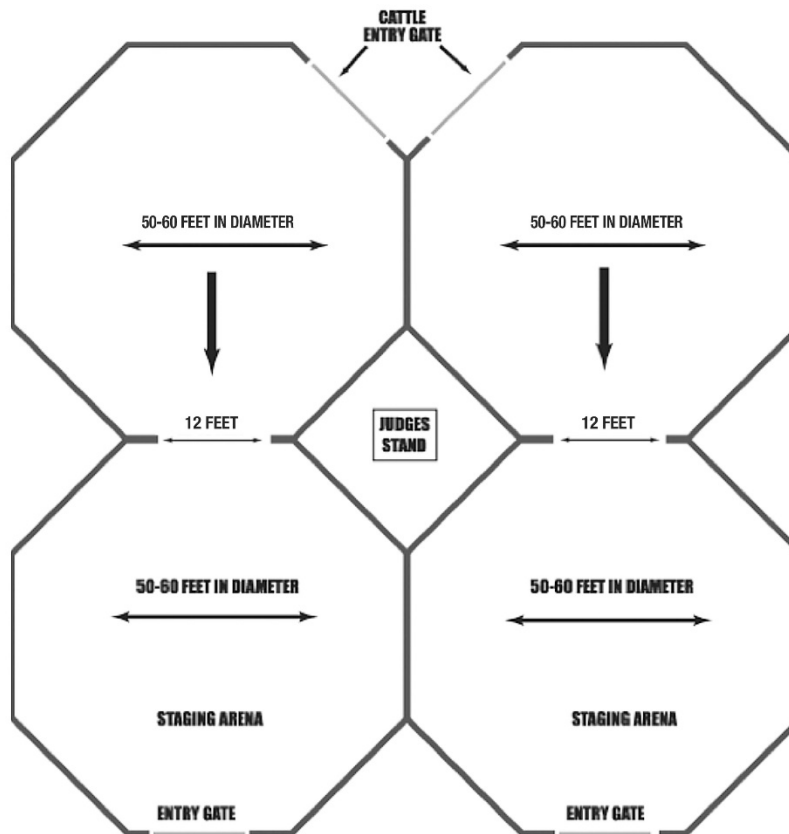
12.2 Ranch Sorting Arena Diagram (One and Two Pen Layout)

SINGLE SORTING ARENA CONFIGURATION



RIDERS ENTER AT GATE IN ARENA WITH NO CATTLE. CATTLE SORTED TO OPPOSITE ARENA WILL BE SORTED BACK BY NEXT TEAM.

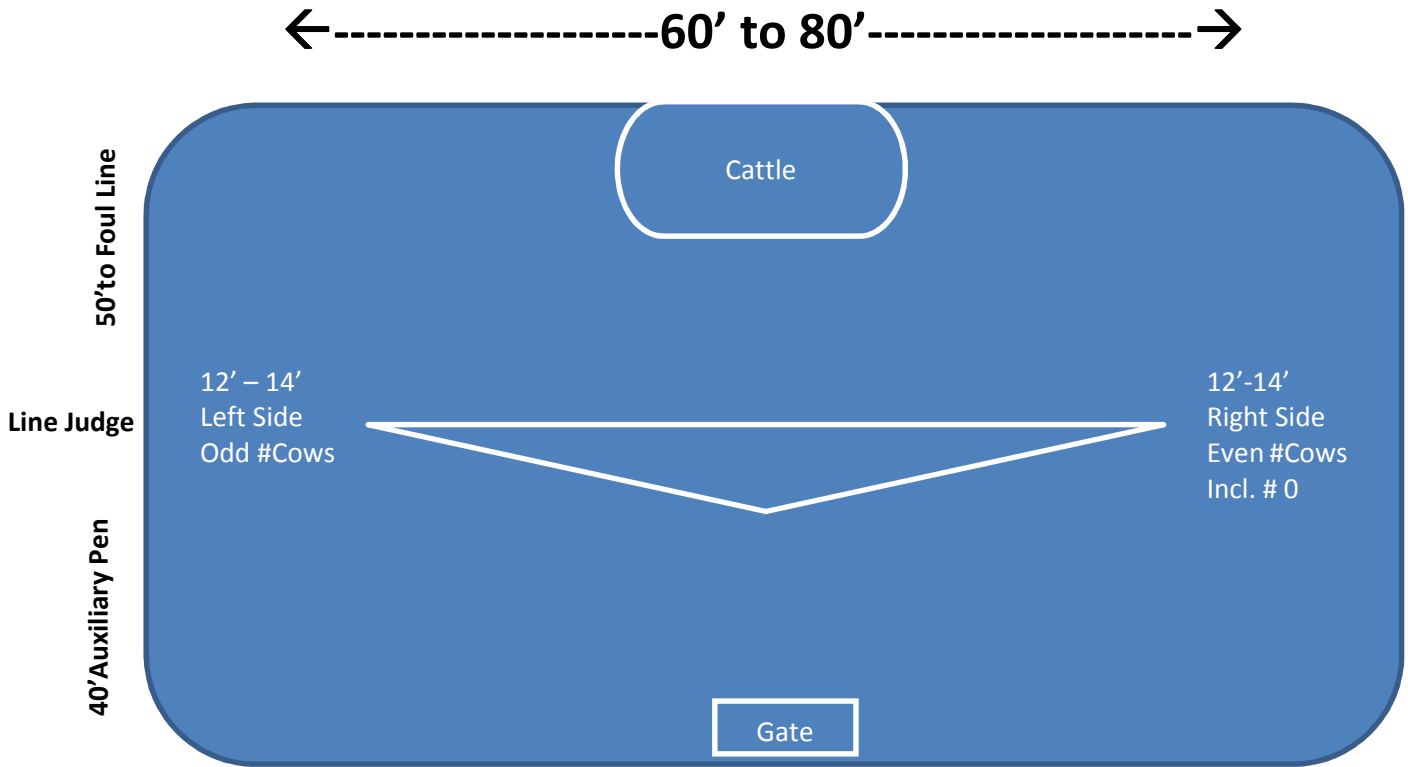
DOUBLE SORTING ARENA CONFIGURATION



TEAMS ARE DIVIDED AND ARENAS DESIGNATED AS EVEN AND ODD.
 RIDERS ENTER AT GATE AND STAGE IN ARENA WITH NO CATTLE.
 AS ODD TEAM SORTS, EVEN TEAMS STAGE TO EMPTY ARENA UNTIL ODD
 TEAMS SORTS AND VICE VERSA. CATTLE SORTED TO OPPOSITE ARENA
 ARE SETTLED BY PREVIOUS TEAM THAT SORTED.

12.3 3 Man/2 Gate Sort

Guideline for Arena Arrangement



Section 13

13.1 Disputes for Ranch Sorting, Team Penning, Open Arena Sorting and 3 Man 2 Gate

When a Team has a dispute about a run, a protest must be lodged with the Judge before the Team leaves the arena. The Team will then immediately file the protest with the Director in/charge or Producer. The Director in charge or promoter shall immediately present the finding and reasons to the protesting Team. Protest results shall be decided and announced after the last Team but prior to that set of cattle exiting the arena.

Section 14

14.1 Mandatory Event Guidelines

1. Conduct

- A. Each RSTPA Member shall follow the RSTPA Rules at all Sanctioned Shows.
- B. Any Contestant guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct will be fined and/or suspended and/or expelled from Membership. RSTPA reserves the right to revoke or refuse Membership.
- C. If a person is fined; the fine will be determined and assessed by the Judges, Director(s) present or board of Directors.
- D. Fines must be paid before contestant rides again
- E. An approved Judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect. No person shall direct, abuse or threatening conduct toward any Judge or Judges family, either in furtherance of his judging duties or as a result thereof, whether or not the conduct occurs during an approved show, on the show grounds, or off the show grounds.
- F. By virtue of paying an entry and/or competing in a sanction RSTPA Competition, whether or not a paid RSTPA permission is granted by each contestant to the RSTPA to use his or her photographic image for the promotion of the sport of Ranch Sorting and Team Penning.

14.2 General Guidelines

- A. **Approved Officials** The RSTPA must approve the Sorting/Penning Judges, who must be RTSPA Members in good standing. There will be 2 Penning Judges approved by the RSTPA and compensated by the event Producer, (One Judge at the line and One Judge at the Pen), and one Time Keeper Back up Timer recommended. There will be 1 Sorting Judge approved by the RSTPA and compensated by the event Producer, One Judge and One Time Keeper. The announcer may function as a time keeper.
- B. **Judges:** Decisions of the Judges are final. In the event of a disputed decision between the Judges, the RSTPA Director-in-Charge or Producer will cast a tiebreaker.
- C. **Timely submission of show results:** All proceeds and results of shows must be submitted to the RSTPA Administrative office within 10 Days of the last day of the show. All Sanctioning fees must be paid before the event Producers next scheduled show. Failure to do so will subject event Producer to being disallowed any further sanctioning by RSTPA.
- D. **Cancellation before Competition:** In the event a show is cancelled due to weather or other extenuating circumstances before the final go/round, the last fully completed go-round will decide the winners of the event. Decision to stop the event shall be a joint decision of the event Producer, the RSTPA Director(s) present, and the Judges.

- E. **Access to Show Results** - A Director and Event Producer shall have access to the results any time after the conclusion of that class. A preliminary report of monies earned in each class shall be openly posted for participants to review.
- F. **Rider Substitution** In the event of substitution of a rider after a Team has made its original ride may be allowed at the discretion of the Judge for compassionate reasons. The show Secretary must be notified to ensure that monies are awarded to the appropriate rider in each go. Substitute riders must have available rides and no to exceed the class ride limit. The replacement rider must be rated the same or lower that the rider they are replacing.
- G. **Dress Code** - All Contestants, Judges and Herd Holders at a RSTPA-Sanctioned shows must wear Western Attire , Optional Western Hat or no hat, no ball caps. Western Shirt tucked in and properly buttoned. Tank Tops, Ball Caps and T-Shirts will not be allowed. RSTPA recommends the use of helmets to all riders. Helmets are required for riders under the age of 18yrs.

Section 15

15.1 Guidelines for Producers

1. Any reputable person who can furnish proof that he/she is capable thru ability or experience may act in the capacity of an event Producer.
2. Event Producer must submit the required RSTPA Producer Contract Pages with requested show dated a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the first requested date. No two producers within 250 miles of another may have shows on the same day.
3. Event Producers must have RSTPA Approved Judges for their events. The Event Producer must request that Judge Test Be sent to selected individuals so that those individuals have adequate time to apply and submit the required documentation for RTSPA Approval a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the Producers First Scheduled Event.
4. Event Produces must provide their own event insurance prior to each scheduled event.
5. The Event Producer shall have authority and responsibility to enforce all rules pertaining to the show. He/she may excuse any horse or exhibitor from the show prior to or during the Judging for any infraction of rules or misconduct.
6. The Event Producer shall have the authority a responsibility to enforce all ratings and ratings rules. Any Suggested rating changes will be confirmed by the RTSPA Office.
7. Pay for Judges-Time Keeper-Announcer-Show Secretaries is up to the Event Producers discretion. There is no suggested amount. These shall be paid by the Event Producer.
8. The Event Producer must be present on the show grounds for the duration of the show. In the event an emergency arises and the Event Producer is unable to fulfill his or her duties, he/she may appoint an acting event Producer in his/her absence. The Acting event Producer must also remain on the show grounds for the duration of the show. The Event Producer shall an all time's extend every effort to satisfy the comfort of the horses, cattle, exhibitors, spectators, and officials. He/She shall be held responsible to maintain clean and orderly conditions throughout the show.
9. Producers are responsible for collecting Day Pass fees of \$20. \$10 allocated to RSTPA and the remaining \$10 to the Producer.

15.2 Guidelines for Judges

- 1.** The Event Producer may select any reputable person to apply to become a RSTPA approved Judge. All Judges must be familiar with the RSTPA Rules.
- 2.** The Judge is responsible for enforcing the RSTPA Rules and class Producers as outlined in the RSTPA Rulebook. The Judge is responsible for checking each herd as it enters the arena for correct head count, proper numbering, and number readability. The Judge shall also watch for lame or crippled cattle.
- 3.** All approved Judges will be placed on a RSTPA Approved Judges list on the RSTPA Website.

15.3 Guidelines for Announcer

All RSTPA Announcers must be familiar with RSTPA Rules and general Guidelines.

15.4 Guidelines for Time Keeper

Event Producer may hire any reputable person as a time keeper.

15.5 Guidelines for Show Secretary

The Event Producer may select any reputable person to apply to become a RSTPA Approved show Secretary. To become an RSTPA Approved show Secretary, the selected individual must become familiar with both the RSTPA Rules and Software.

The show secretary shall be the primary person responsible the correctness of the entries and show results, including verifying exhibitor eligibility.

Section 16

16.1 Qualification Guideline for Finals

- 1 .All Contestants must attend 6 shows to be eligible to attend the Finals, and to be qualified for any Year End Prizes/Added Money at the Finals. Riders must ride at least 4 times at a show in order for the show attendance to count towards Year End Finals.**
- 2. Producers can have no more than 10 shows. (The shows can be 1 day, 2 day or 3 day shows, but they count as one show.**
- 3. Rider points will be accumulated from all shows attended throughout the year. Awards will be given for the top 5 riders in each division 1 through 7. Year End awards will be presented at the Awards Ceremony during RSTPA finals.**