



PROPOSED RULE CHANGES PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR CONSIDERATION FROM THE RULES & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

#1 Changes to the Rider rating procedure

4. Rider Rating Classifications **Motion Carried - Approved**

Accurate ratings for each member are extremely important to provide a level and fair playing field. It is each new or renewing member's responsibility to accurately and completely answer the application form. A competitor member shall be issued a membership card or certificate of membership when annual dues have been paid, ratings completed and approval by the Regional and/or National Rating Committee.

The USTPA has 8 Adult Rating Classifications and 2 Youth Rating Classifications. Any youth who desires to ride in non-youth classes must also have an Adult Rating Classification. Riders have separate ratings for Penning and Sorting and those ratings could be different. **Of the 8 adult ratings, "N" is a rating reserved for truly beginner riders with rider ratings increasing through a rating of "7" for the best riders.**

Three criteria will be used by Regional and National Rating Committee to determine a riders' ratings in this 8-rating scale in Penning & Sorting include:

1. Win/Loss Ratio based on previous 2 years
2. Horsemanship ability to include quality of steed as well as riding ability
3. Arena awareness and cattle reading skills

Regional Rating Committees (RRC) comprised of a representative group from each region do the initial evaluation of every member. The regional rating committees recommend the rating numbers of each of its members to the NRC, based on the criteria stated above.

The NRC is comprised of 5 to 6 members who travel nationally having outlook and exposure to a large portion of the membership that can give rating perspective without prejudice. This committee is chosen by the President & Vice President of National Ratings Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Any disputed member will be reviewed by NRC and discussed with the local RRC before a final decision is made. All decisions will be based on the criteria stated above. If a member of the NRC does not have personal knowledge of a rider's ability they abstain from voting on that riders rating.

For N rated riders, there are mandatory earnings levels that will trigger an automatic rating change. These mandatory rating changes will take affect at the conclusion of any show that the rider exceeds

these thresholds and will be in affect at the rider's next show. Only in medically documented and observed cases of changes in physical ability will a rating reduction below a 2 be considered.

If as a new member, you misrepresent your riding ability or experience, your rating may be changed by a Director at any time during a show without immediate review of the National Rating Committee.

Rating Definition

N Must be true beginner rider. Must have earned less than \$1,000 in Penning or any other equine event or \$500 in Sorting the previous 3 years. When calculating cumulative ratings on a team, the "N" rider is calculated as a "O".

#1 A rider who rarely places in regional or national shows.

#2 A rider who has started to improve, has limited horsemanship and/or knowledge of cattle and occasionally places among 1 and 2 rated riders in regional or national shows

#3 A rider who has reasonable horsemanship and cattle skills.

#4 A rider who has average horsemanship and cattle skills.

#5 An experienced rider, who has above average horsemanship skills and cattle skills.

#6 An experienced rider with professional ability.

#7 An exceptional rider with exceptional cattle skills. Pen/Sorts professionally, or has the ability to do so.

Sr. Youth Any youth age not to exceed 16 as of the first Monday after the USTPA World Championship Show beginning each show year.

Jr. Youth Any youth 12 and under, as of the first Monday after the USTPA World Championship Show beginning each show year.

5. Rider Ratings Procedure

Each new member of the USTPA must be given a rating in Team Penning and a rating in Ranch Sorting to participate in USTPA Sanctioned events. It is the member's responsibility to accurately and completely answer all questions on the membership application and/or from any USTPA Regional Director, and/or the Director-In-Charge on the day of a show.

When a rider joins the USTPA at a Sanctioned event, the Director-In-Charge will be responsible for giving a rating evaluation and classifying the rider that day.

Every effort should be made by the Director-In-Charge to collect as much information about the rider's ability when assessing the rating including but not limited to, contacting the Directors from the new

member's region. When a new member joins the USTPA by mail, the member will be given a rating classification by a Regional Rating Committee (RRC) including the Directors in the Region where the new member resides.

The Regional Rating Committee will review the ratings of all new members and may assign a rating classification of N - #6 in accordance with these rules. A rating will consist of a number, or in the case of Youth riders, a number accompanied by 11511 (Senior) or 'J1' (Junior) . A rating classification of #7 may only be assigned by the National Rating Committee (NRC).

Any individual rejoining USTPA after a year or more absence will re-enter competition initially at the ratings they had when they last competed with the USTPA. Their rating may then be reviewed by their Regional Rating Committee and changed with the approval of the National Rating Committee.

The National Rating Committee will re-evaluate and re-rate any person who for whatever reason has been miss-rated. Any member who believes he/she has been incorrectly rated may appeal their rating in writing to the USTPA Administrative Office and rating appeals will be reviewed by the NRC during scheduled reviews. With the exclusion of "N" rated riders, no rider can be moved up after April 30th of the competition year unless approved by both the NRC and Executive Board.

All rating appeals must be submitted in writing via mail or e-mail (receipt confirmation recommended) to the USTPA Administrative Office. The USTPA Administrative Office will forward rating appeals to the Vice President of National Ratings. Faxes and verbal communications will not be accepted. Members may appeal their rating one time each year.

#2. Rule that applies to alcohol – **If intoxicated in the arena, you will be fined and can be removed.**
Motion Carried - Approved

VII. Mandatory Event Guidelines

B. During any National Production Show, no alcohol will be consumed or possessed by exhibitors in the Show Arena where competition is being performed. This also includes the staging area (where exhibitors are waiting to ride).

#3. Add a Pro Am Novice Class

Add a Pro Am Novice class at National Production shows in place of the Quick Draw. Each open rider must ride in at least one Pro Am Novice class in order to qualify to ride in the Quick Draw that will only be held at the finals. This would be an all draw for all three teams. Each Pro, each Am & each Novice name would be put in separate pots and drawn. After completing the first ride for each exhibitor the 2nd & 3rd rides would be drawn the same. The computer would then draw the running order.

#3. Add a Pro Am Novice Class – **Motion Carried - Approved**

Add a Pro Am Novice class at National Production shows in place of the Quick Draw. Each open rider must ride in at least one Pro Am Novice class in order to qualify to ride in the Quick Draw that will only be held at the finals. This would be an all draw for all three teams. Each Pro, each Am & each Novice name would be put in separate pots and drawn. After completing the first ride for each exhibitor the 2nd & 3rd rides would be drawn the same. The computer would then draw the running order.

#4. Add a Pro N 1 class **-Motion Carried - Approved**

For the #1 to be eligible they may not have ridden in the 11

#5. Co-Sanctioning **-Motion Carried - Approved**

All the rules stay the same for the exhibitor but the producer must pay to USTPA a \$200.00 fee for each show sanctioned.

#6. Rules for 3 man two gate sorting **-Motion Carried - Approved**

The object of three man two gate sorting is that there are ten numbered cattle and two unnumbered cattle at the beginning of each run with three contestants stationed behind the sorting pen openings. When cattle are ready and the judge raises the flag a contestant shall cross either opening and a number will be given. The number will then be sorted through either opening and the subsequent numbers will be sorted through either opening until all ten are sorted in order or time expires. All other sorting rules and guidelines will apply and it is suggested to shorten sorting pens and not run ten to a set, however this would be the producers option. Sorting pens side by side with a center section removed is the suggested layout for this event. Upon approval, this class can be sanctioned.

United States Team Penning Association,
Board of Directors