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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USTPA MAKES IMPORTANT CHANGE TO TEAM PENNING RULES

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS - The Board of Directors of the USTPA voted on June 6, 2015 to officially change the rules of Team Penning to not allow any “trash cows” over the foul line starting in the 2016 show year. In a sport that awards the fastest time for separating and moving specific cows from a herd and into a pen, this rule change will require competitors to adjust their riding styles and strategies in the arena. The margin for error is reduced greatly when no wrong-numbered cattle or “trash cows” are allowed to move across the arena’s foul line. Previously, the rules allowed a maximum of 3 cattle across the line with only one wrong-numbered cow at any given time and riders would chase the trash to move them back to the herd.

This impactful change of the rules in Team Penning will force some riders to significantly change their style of riding. In an effort to encourage smarter rather than just harder riding, proponents of this change are happy that more and more Penners are encouraging one another when riding to “Be clean. No Trash.” Besides promoting better riding, USTPA Board member Joe O’Dea points out that less running will keep the cows fresher and the cattle suppliers happier. “The less stress put on the cows, the better it is for everyone. Less running will result in cows having fewer injuries and more stamina,” said O’Dea.

With the newly approved motion gaining the support of over 84% of the USTPA Board of Directors, the association hopes that local Penning clubs will follow suit and see the advantages of a “no trash” rule. Among the supporters of the rule change is the Italian Team Penning Association head of judges and regulations, Sandrino Filacchione. “Two years ago “no-trash” became the rule at both regional and national competitions in Italy. The change was well received and we have noticed an increased technical level of competition and professionalism among our riders”, reported Filacchione. He said, “This change has also developed a new market for more skilled cow horses in our country. Our riders are looking to the U.S. for better horses with higher technical abilities.”

USTPA President, Nick Mills also voiced the importance of the association being progressive and self-regulatory to improve the sports of Team Penning and Ranch Sorting. “By encouraging a more sophisticated riding style, we will not only improve the safety of both the riders and our animals but we will allow Penning to evolve into a sport that is recognized as requiring a high level of athleticism and



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horsemanship”, said Mills. He added that he is confident that affiliates of the USTPA will see the advantages of this rule change and that “no trash” will become the universal standard at Team Penning competitions.

The new rule regarding “no trash” in Team Penning will go into effect at 2016 shows at the start of the 2016 USTPA show year, on Monday, August 24, 2015. The USTPA 2015 Cinch World Championship will be conducted under 2015 rules.

The current rules for Team Penning will stay in effect until that time and can be seen online at: <http://www.ustpa.com/attachments/2015MemberHandookWebV6.pdf>

For more information about the USTPA, or to learn more about the sports of Team Penning and Ranch Sorting, contact the USTPA at (817) 599-4455 or visit: <http://www.USTPA.com/>.

The United States Team Penning Association (USTPA) is the National Governing Body for the sports of Team Penning and Ranch Sorting. As the only international non-profit Association in the sport, it was formed in 1993 to educate and promote Team Penning and Ranch Sorting, as well as standardize rules. The USTPA proudly represents Penners and Sorters from countries throughout the world.

The purposes of the United States Team Penning Association are to engage those with an affinity for the western lifestyle in the sports of Team Penning and Ranch Sorting and to develop resources and services for the benefit of USTPA members and growth of the sport.