



## Elite Team Penning Class 2018 Competition Season Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Elite Team Penning Class?

The *Elite Penning* class is an all-new USTPA Team Penning class for 2018 that features **\$50,000 Guaranteed Minimum Cash Added** to the class payout at the World Championship Finals, with the potential of \$100,000 Added Money in just the Elite Penning class depending on the total number of teams entered at the Finals.

The Elite Penning class is also unique in that it pays the top 20 place winners at the World Championship Finals, and is set as a #10 class with a full one-second handicap, another new feature for a USTPA Team Penning class.

Riders can compete to qualify for the Finals at local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows throughout the 2018 USTPA competition season. The Elite Penning class will be offered at all local USTPA-sanctioned shows around the country (beg. Feb 01, 2018), and will be a featured class at all 2018 USTPA World Championship Series shows.

### How does the Elite Penning class work?

The Elite Penning class will be run at every local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series show throughout the 2018 USTPA competition season.

Riders compete in the class at the various USTPA events throughout the 2018 competition season to qualify to ride in the class at the 2018 USTPA World Championship Finals.

The class is run as a #10 Handicap Team Penning class, with a full one (1) second handicap for every one (1) team rating point below the class number (*e.g., combined team rider rating of 8 = 2 second handicap*).

At every local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series show, and the World Championship Finals, the class features a 60% payback. The class may include Added Money in certain shows around the country, and will have a minimum of \$50,000 Cash Added to the class payout at the World Championship Finals.

### Who can enter the class at local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows?

All USTPA members in good standing with a Penning Rating of N through 7 may enter this class at any local, Regional Finals or World Championship Series show throughout the 2018 competition season.



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**How do I enter the class at local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows?**

At any Local, Regional Finals or World Championship Series show, when you enter the Elite Team Penning class, you will enter it as you would any other Penning class. All the entered teams will be part of the qualifying for the Elite Team Penning class at the World Championship Series Finals. With each entry, the rider will receive their draw or draws plus the pick teams entered, and will pay the standard class entry and sanction fees, plus the Elite Class Fee for every team entered (including draws).

**How many teams can I enter in the Elite Penning class at local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows, and are there any draws?**

There is a 2-ride minimum per entry, with a minimum of 2 draws with 2 or more pick teams, and a total ride limit of 6. Special sanctioning may increase this ride minimum and ride limit at certain shows (see show Flyer for details).

**Standard Entry Options – (Elite Class Fee Applies)**

Minimum of 2 Rides per Entry; Maximum of 6 Rides per Entry

Minimum of 2 Draws per Entry with 2 or More Picks

- |                              |           |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1) Pick 1, Draw 1 or up to 5 | 5) Draw 2 | 9) Draw 6 |
| 2) Pick 2, Draw 2 or up to 4 | 6) Draw 3 |           |
| 3) Pick 3, Draw 2 or up to 3 | 7) Draw 4 |           |
| 4) Pick 4, Draw 2            | 8) Draw 5 |           |

**What does it cost to enter the Elite Penning class at local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows, including the World Championship Finals?**

At any Local USTPA-sanctioned show, the maximum entry fee is \$50, with a \$7 per rider/ride Elite Class fee, plus \$3.50 per rider/ride USTPA sanction fees. The entry fee at Regional Finals is \$65 plus the \$7 per rider/ride Elite Class fee and \$3.50 per rider/ride USTPA sanction fees, and the entry fee at the World Championship Series shows is \$75 plus a \$10.50 per rider/ride Elite Class fee (no other USTPA sanction fees apply at World Championship Series shows). The entry fee for the Elite Penning class at the 2018 USTPA World Championship Series Finals is \$125 per ride/ride, with no Elite Class fee.



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**How do teams that compete in the local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows qualify to enter the Elite Penning class at the World Championship Finals?**

At local USTPA-sanctioned shows, the top 30% of the entered Teams Qualify for the Elite Penning class at Finals, but not less than 10 teams qualify if 30% is less than 10. At USTPA Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows, the top 50% of the entered Teams Qualify for the Elite Penning class at Finals. However, in order to qualify, the team must have a time in the first round of the qualifying show in the Elite Penning Class (no-times in the first round cannot qualify).

**What if I want to ride only the Elite Penning class at a show? Can I just enter and ride only the Elite Penning class?** No, to ride in the Elite Penning class at any show the rider must enter other penning and/or sorting classes at that show, as follows: At all Local USTPA sanctioned shows, the rider must ride in at least one other team penning or ranch sorting class at that show to also ride in the Elite Penning class at that show. At all Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows, the rider must ride in at least two other team penning and/or ranch sorting classes at that show to also ride in the Elite Penning class at that show. At the World Championship Series Finals, the rider must ride in at least two other team penning classes at that show to also ride in the Elite Penning class at the Finals.

**Do my Team Penning rides in the Elite Penning class at local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows count toward the qualifying requirements to ride in the World Championship Finals?**

Yes. The Elite Penning class may be used to meet the USTPA World Championship Finals Team Penning qualifying requirement of 8-penning rides per show at four or more shows (see Finals qualifying requirements at [www.USTPA.com](http://www.USTPA.com)).

**Do I have to meet the overall (Team Penning) World Championship qualifying requirements to ride in the Elite Penning class at the World Championship Finals?**

Yes. Riders must meet the overall (Team Penning) World Championship Finals qualifying requirements (8 penning rides at each of 4 or more shows) to enter any qualified teams in the Elite Penning class at the World Championship Finals. Also, you must ride in at least two other team penning classes at the Finals to also ride in the Elite Penning class at the Finals.

**Is there any limit on how many teams I can qualify throughout the year to enter the Elite Penning class at the World Championship Finals?**

Yes, and No. Any rider may *qualify* as many teams as they are able to when competing at the local, Regional Finals and World Championship Series shows. However, no rider may *enter* more than 20 of their qualified teams in the Elite Penning class at Finals. So, for example, a rider might qualify 25 teams during the 2018 competition season, but would only be able to enter 20 of those



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25 teams. Also, no team, with the same three riders on that team, may *enter* to ride (that exact team) more than 3 times in the Elite Penning class at the 2018 USTPA World Championship Series Finals. To clarify, a team with the same three riders on that team could potentially “qualify” more than three times during the year, but that team with the same three riders may not “enter” more than three times at the World Championship Series Finals, no matter how many times it (the team) qualified during the season.

**When I enter my qualified pick teams at the World Championship Finals, are there also draw teams?**

Yes. In addition to the pick teams that you qualify and enter at the Finals, you will receive a minimum of 2 draw teams, and will have the option to have as many as 4 draw teams. The draw teams are in addition to your qualified and entered pick teams.

**Can I drop one or more of the teams that have been qualified for the Elite Penning class at Finals, and if so, what happens to my partners on the dropped team(s)?**

Any rider on any Finals-Qualified team may drop the team if they do so by either the Initial or Final Pre-Entry Deadline date (see description for those dates further down in these FAQs) if they determine for any reason they do not want to ride that team at Finals.

If a rider drops a team from their Finals-Qualified teams, they may not draw a team to replace it. However, the other two partners that did not drop the team (but were dropped) will both separately be offered a draw team (totally new team, not just a draw of a replacement partner) to replace the dropped team. All draw teams resulting from dropped teams in this case are optional, and are in addition to the 2 mandatory (up to 2 more optional) draws.

**What happens if a Finals-Qualified team is dropped because one or more of the teammates fail to meet the overall (Team Penning) World Championship Finals qualifying requirements?**

Any Finals-Qualified riders that have one or more of their teams dropped as a result of one or more teammates not meeting the overall (Team Penning) World Championship Finals qualifying requirements, may draw one team for every team that was dropped. All draw teams resulting from dropped teams in this case are in addition to the 2 mandatory (up to 2 more optional) draws.

NOTE: Any rider that qualifies Elite Penning teams (at any show or shows during the competition season), but does not also qualify to compete in the World Championship Series Finals in Team Penning (8-penning rides at each of four or more shows) will forfeit all their previously qualified teams/rides in the Elite Penning.



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**In the Elite Penning class at the World Championship Finals, how many teams advance to the next round, up to and including the final round?**

- 1) First Round: All Qualified and Properly Entered Teams
- 2) Second Round: 40% of First Round Advances to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round
- 3) Third Round: 40% of Second Round Advances to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round
- 4) Final Round: Top 20 (pays all 20 places). Top 20 runs as a Finals Class.
- 5) Ride Position in the Finals (Top 20) determined by team selection, with leading team selecting their Finals ride position first, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team coming into the Finals selecting their position next and so on through the top 20 teams.

**What is the payout structure at the local, Regional Finals, World Championship Series shows and the World Championship Finals?**

The payback at all shows including the World Championship Finals is 60% of the class entry fees, not including sanction fees or Elite Class fees, plus any added money (if any is provided). The payout structure in the Elite Penning class at all shows (except the World Championship Series Finals) is as outlined in the USTPA Handbook for USTPA Team Penning classes.

The payout structure in the Elite Penning class at the 2018 USTPA World Championship Series Finals is as detailed in the table below.

Finals Placement	Pctg of Total Payout	Finals Placement	Pctg of Total Payout	Finals Placement	Pctg of Total Payout	Finals Placement	Pctg of Total Payout
1	15.0%	6	7.0%	11	2.50%	16	2.00%
2	12.5%	7	6.0%	12	2.40%	17	1.90%
3	10.0%	8	5.0%	13	2.30%	18	1.80%
4	9.0%	9	4.0%	14	2.20%	19	1.70%
5	8.0%	10	3.0%	15	2.10%	20	1.60%

**Is “Fast-Go” money part of the class payout in the Elite Penning class?**

Fast-Go Payout at Local USTPA-sanctioned events is sometimes included in the overall class payout but is at the individual Producer’s option. Fast-Go Payout will be included in the Elite Penning class at Regional Finals, World Championship Series Shows and the World Championship Series Finals (except for the Elite Penning class). In the Elite Penning Class at the World Championship Series Finals, 100% of the Payout in the class goes to the average (no Fast-Go payout in the Elite Penning class at Finals).



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**In addition to the cash payout, are there any prizes awarded in the Elite Penning class at the World Championship Finals.**

The prizes that are scheduled to be awarded in the Elite Penning class at the 2018 USTPA World Championship Finals is detailed below. This list is subject to revision with prior notice.

**World Champions**

USTPA Elite Team Penning World Champion Saddle  
USTPA World Championship Jacket  
USTPA Elite Team Penning World Champion Patch  
USTPA Elite Team Penning World Champion Buckle  
USTPA Elite Team Penning World Champion Trophy

**Reserve World Champions**

USTPA World Championship Jacket  
USTPA Elite Team Penning Reserve World Champion Patch  
USTPA Elite Team Penning Reserve World Champion Buckle  
USTPA Elite Team Penning Reserve World Champion Trophy

**Places 3-10**

USTPA World Championship Jacket  
USTPA Elite Team Penning Top Ten Patch

**Places 11-20**

USTPA World Championship Vest  
USTPA Elite Team Penning Finalist Patch

**Elite Team Penning Class (Finals) High-Point Rider**

USTPA Elite Team Penning High-Point Saddle





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**How and when do I provide my team entry information for my Finals-Qualified teams so I can ride in the Elite Penning class at the 2018 USTPA World Championship Finals?**

**Elite Team Penning Class Finals Class Entry & Important Dates**

- 1) All teams must confirm their entries in advance of the Finals according to the requirements and dates below.
- 2) Once a rider confirms their complete ride list (by the Final Pre-Entry Deadline), those rides are committed (“Committed Finals Rides”), and must be ridden and paid for when the rider checks out at the conclusion of their participation in the Finals.
- 3) In the event the rider does not ride any of their Committed Finals Rides, they remain obligated for those rides as if they were ridden, and they must also pay the entry fees for the missed ride(s) for both partners that were also on that/those missed team(s). In the case of documented illness or family emergency that results in the rider’s inability to ride the class, this requirement to pay for their missed ride or rides, or those of their partners will be waived (at the discretion of the show officials).

**March 05, 2018** (and again on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month of April – July)

- 1) USTPA will generate a list of the teams that have qualified for the Finals in the Elite Team Penning class as of the end of the prior month.
- 2) Every member of the qualified teams will be contacted to determine if they would like to remit early payment for the team (deposit or in full).
- 3) There is no obligation for any team member to commit the team or remit payment on this date. This process is a courtesy extended to those qualified team members that might prefer to make full or partial payment for their Finals rides in this class prior to the Finals.

**August 20, 2018**

- 1) USTPA will generate a list of Finals Qualified Teams that were qualified at any show prior to August 13, 2018, and will send the Finals Qualified Team list to all riders on those teams.
- 2) All team members with qualified teams must send their commitment for the team(s) no later than September 03, 2018 (“**Initial Pre-Entry Deadline**”).
- 3) All entries for the teams submitted by the Initial Pre-Entry Deadline will be considered committed, and will be entered by the USTPA as Committed Finals Rides. Once



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committed, these rides may not be dropped, except in the case of documented illness or family emergency that results in the rider's inability to ride the class.

- 4) No payment for the Committed Finals Rides is required on the Initial Pre-Entry Deadline date, but is optional if a team member or members would like to remit payment early.

**September 03, 2018 (Initial Pre-Entry Deadline)**

- 1) Last date for any rider to commit to and enter their Finals Qualified Teams that were qualified at any show prior to August 13, 2018.

**September 24, 2018**

- 1) USTPA will generate a list of Finals Qualified Teams that were qualified at any show between August 13, 2018 and September 16, 2018, and will send the Finals Qualified Team list to all riders on those teams.
- 2) All team members with qualified teams must send their commitment for the team(s) no later than October 05, 2018 ("**Final Pre-Entry Deadline**").
- 3) All entries for the teams submitted by the Initial Pre-Entry Deadline will be considered committed, and will be entered by the USTPA as Committed Finals Rides. Once committed, these rides may not be dropped, except in the case of documented illness or family emergency that results in the rider's inability to ride the class.
- 4) No payment for the Committed Finals Rides is required on the Initial Pre-Entry Deadline date, but is optional if a team member or members would like to remit payment early.

**October 05, 2018 (Final Pre-Entry Deadline)**

- 1) Last date for any rider to commit to and enter their Finals Qualified Teams for the Elite Team Penning Class at the World Championship Finals.

**Elite Team Penning Class Finals Early-Payment Option**

- 1) On March 5<sup>th</sup>, and again on the first Monday of each month in April, May, June and July, the USTPA will generate and distribute a list of the teams that have qualified for the Finals in the Elite Team Penning class as of the end of the prior month.
- 2) Each team member will have the option (not mandatory) to commit to that "team slot" at that time, by paying for each of their qualified teams in full, or by paying a \$50 deposit for each of their qualified teams.





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- 3) Once the deposit or full ride cost is paid, that ride is committed and there are no refunds, except in the case where another team member drops the team (see # 6 below), or in the event of a documented illness or family emergency that results in the rider's inability to attend the Finals.
- 4) This early-payment option is not required, but is offered to those riders that wish to commit rides and pay for those rides (or a portion of those rides by the deposit) over the months leading up to the Finals.
- 5) If any member of a team decides to pay early for a Finals-Qualified team (deposit or full ride cost), the other team member(s) have no obligation to also pay early.
- 6) If a deposit or full ride cost is paid early, and by the Final Pre-Entry Deadline date, one or more of the partners on that committed team drops the team, the rider that paid the deposit or full ride cost may either 1) receive a refund of the pre-paid amount or 2) draw a team to replace that dropped team.