

OFFICIAL 2023-24 USTPA MEMBER

# HANDBOOK

Guide to USTPA Rules & Regulations  
REV 2 • 09-22-2023



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# **USTPA OFFICIAL 2023-24 Rules & Guidelines**

See Most Current Version of USTPA Rules at USTPA.com

Revision 2 • September 22, 2023

## **I. Membership Categories**

### **1. Competitor Membership Dues:**

Competitor Members are eligible to compete or officiate (with required certification) in any USTPA-Sanctioned Show. Annual Competitor Membership dues valid for the competition year as well as Lifetime Competitor Membership dues as outlined below shall be paid in U.S funds in these amounts:

#### **A. Annual Competitor Membership:**

1. \$68 for Individual Annual. First-time USTPA members receive a free one-time Individual Annual membership.
2. \$156 for Family Annual (includes husband, wife, and children through the end of the membership year of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday which is defined as 18 years and under as of the first Monday after the USTPA World Championship show, or USYTPA World Championship Show if it is separate from the USTPA World Championship Show).

3. \$37 for Sr. Youth Annual (18 years and under as of the first Monday after the USTPA World Championship show, or USYTPA World Championship Show if it is separate from the USTPA World Championship Show).
4. FREE for Jr. Youth Annual (12 years and under as of the first Monday after the USTPA World Championship show, or USYTPA World Championship Show if it is separate from the USTPA World Championship Show).
5. \$37 for Show Official Annual (includes noncompeting Judges, Secretaries, Timers, Back-Up Timers and Announcers).

**B. Lifetime Competitor Membership:**

Lifetime Members shall receive all other benefits of Competitor Membership. Lifetime membership dues shall be paid in U.S. funds in the amounts indicated below:

1. \$520 for Individual Lifetime
2. \$780 for Family Lifetime (includes husband, wife, and children through the end of the membership year of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday which is defined as 18 years and under as of the first Monday after the USTPA World Championship show, or USYTPA World Championship Show if it is separate from the USTPA

World Championship Show). Once the child or children are no longer considered youth as defined above, they are no longer covered as Competitor Members under the Lifetime Family membership.

## **2. Competitor Member Eligibility and Benefits**

All contestants in a USTPA-Sanctioned Show must be a current Competitor Member in good standing to compete in a Sanctioned Show, have points tracked for the show, and be eligible for any year-end awards. A Day Permit is available for those riders who do not want to join the USTPA, in order to participate in up to a single show each competition year. (See "Day Permits" for explanation).

USTPA Competitor Members may compete in any USTPA Sanctioned Show, are eligible to compete in any of the USTPA Regional Finals or the World Championship Series Finals upon qualifying or meeting participation requirements, are allowed to vote in general elections and to hold office. Any USTPA member in good standing, regardless of type of membership, shall also be eligible for certain additional membership benefits which may be offered and modified from time to time. All members, no matter their age, are subject to USTPA rules and bylaws and will be treated equally.

Any rider who joins the USTPA as a Competitor Member at a show, must retain a receipt of their paid membership from the Show Secretary where the membership was

acquired, until such time as the new member receives his/her membership card and/or the membership rosters received by event producers from the Administrative Office have been updated with current Competitor Members. The burden of proof shall rest on the new Competitor Member in those situations.

### **3. Day Permits**

Day Permits are not offered at USTPA World Championship Series shows (aka National Production shows). A free Day Permit is available for those riders who do not want to join the USTPA, in order to participate in up to a single non-National Production show each competition year. Day Permit riders shall fill out a membership application and shall be rated by the Director in Charge at that show and may be eligible to ride in any class that his/her rating allows. Should a Day Permit holder later choose to compete in an additional Sanctioned Show, he or she shall be required to purchase a full Competitor Membership in order to compete at that time.

If the rider subsequently joins USTPA, any points earned while riding on a Day Permit will not be included in the rider's annual points earnings total, although any USTPA Competitor Members riding as teammates with the Day Permit holder will be eligible for tracking of their USTPA earnings on the same team.

#### **4. Rider Rating Classifications**

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 other notice of membership when annual dues have been paid, ratings completed and approval by the Regional and/or National Rating Committee.

The USTPA has 8 Rating Classifications. Riders have separate ratings for Penning and Sorting and those ratings could be different. Of the 8 ratings, "N" is a rating reserved for truly beginner riders with rider ratings increasing through a rating of "7" for the best riders.

Four criteria will be used by Regional and National Rating Committees to determine a riders' ratings in this 8 rating scale in Penning and Sorting including:

1. Win/Loss ratio based on previous two years of competition, or in the case of a rider that has been consistently moved up in the rating system, the review period will be one year.
2. Horsemanship skills as well as the rider's overall ability to ride.
3. The quality of steed to be used.

#### 4. Arena awareness and cattle reading skills.

The Regional Rating Committee (RRC) is comprised of the two Directors in each region, and two other members selected by the Directors (or one Director and three members if the region only has only one Director at the time). The role of the RRC is to review every rider's rating in their region and make recommendations to the National Rating Committee.

The National Rating Committee (NRC) is a Standing Committee of the USTPA and is headed by the Vice President and Chairman of the NRC. The NRC is comprised of not less than three Directors and two other members, and that committee works closely with the RRC to review and assign ratings nationally.

The RRC reviews and makes recommendations to the NRC; the NRC discusses the recommendations with the RRC, and the NRC then assigns the rating and notifies the USTPA office which then notifies the rider.

The NRC has the final word on rating all members after reviewing the RRC recommendations and evaluating any disputed ratings based on the criteria stated above. If a member of the NRC does not have personal knowledge of a rider's ability they should abstain from voting on that riders rating.



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 Definitions

- N** Must be true beginner rider. When calculating cumulative ratings on a team, the “N” rider is calculated as a “0”.
- #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.

## 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, e-mail or on-line through USTPA.com, the member will be given a rating classification by the Regional Rating Committee 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 classification of 7 may only be assigned by the National Rating Committee.

The National Rating Committee will re-evaluate and re-rate any person who for whatever reason has been mis-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 exception of "N" rated riders (which can have their N rating increased at any time as determined by the RRC or NRC), no rider can have their rating number increased after June 30th of the competition year unless approved by both the National Ratings Committee and the Executive Committee.

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/Chairman of the National Ratings Committee. Faxes and verbal communications will not be accepted. Members may appeal their rating one time each year.

## **6. Forfeiture of Money Won**

Producers are not responsible for checking team ratings prior to them competing. That responsibility lies with the teams. At pay-out however, the event producer will check team members' ratings. Teams exceeding the class number or combined rider classifications or handicaps as defined under Contest Classes, will forfeit all monies won.

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 10 places and the 3rd place team is eliminated, the 4th place team moves to 3rd place, 5th to 4th, etc. through the 11th place team which moves to 10th.

## **7. Member Suspension**

Any Competitor Member, Sanctioned event producer, or non-member may be suspended and denied privileges and membership benefits of USTPA by the Board of Directors or any designated Committee by the Board of Directors for good cause; for failure to pay any obligations when due to USTPA; for failure to pay any obligations to an approved show; for giving a worthless credit card or check for entry fees, stall fees, office charges, or any other fees, fines, or charges including bank charges for returned checks; or for failure to timely file with USTPA any reports required by the rules of USTPA. Each returned checks and/or declined credit card is subject to a \$50.00 fine that is due to the USTPA. After 30 days, all outstanding debt will be subject to a 12% APR and a \$100.00 membership reinstatement application fee will apply for all suspended persons applying for membership reinstatement.

USTPA shall maintain and publish a Suspended Persons List on the official website of the USTPA effective the next opportunity after suspension and may be communicated to any Competitor member, all Sanctioned event producers, membership benefit providers and recognized

international equine associations. Upon full payment or filing of requisite report due to USTPA, membership category privileges and membership benefits may be reinstated if approved by the USTPA Board of Directors. For this to occur, the suspended entity must request reinstatement in writing. Any expelled or suspended rider will not be allowed on the grounds or at any USTPA sanctioned event.

USTPA may accept a recognized international equine association's suspension of a member as grounds to automatically suspend such member's USTPA membership. USTPA's suspension of an individual's USTPA membership in such cases is subject to the recognized international association (a) reporting the suspension to USTPA and (b) verifying that the recognized international association provided the accused (i) prior notice of a hearing and (ii) the opportunity to present evidence on his/her behalf and to refute evidence offered against him/her.

## **8. Competition Year**

USTPA's competition year runs from Two (2) weeks prior to the World Championship Series Finals to the following year Two (2) weeks prior to the World Championship Series Finals. Any shows falling in the time period of Two (2) weeks prior to the World Championship Series Finals will be treated as falling into the next years' qualification period.

## **II. Contest Classes**

### **1. Standard Team Penning Classes**

All go rounds will be in reverse order until the top 10 round which will be randomly drawn.

#### **A. Sanctioned Shows:**

All USTPA Sanctioned Team Pennings may include any or all of the following suggested classes; All-Pro (fka Quick Draw), Open, #13, #10HC Elite, #9 Masters, #9HC Elite, #7, #5, #3. Event producers may apply for special Sanctioning to incorporate incentive subclasses; rating number caps; change 2 riders; or any other condition or limitation that the event producer wishes to request to enhance the participation at a Sanctioned event. The Open Class, the #10HC Elite class, the #9HC Elite class and one Youth class are required classes at all USTPA Sanctioned shows unless Special Sanctioning has been granted.

#### **B. World Championship Series Finals Team Penning Classes:**

At the USTPA World Championship Series Finals, minimally the following classes will be offered unless otherwise authorized by the USTPA Executive Committee or Board of Directors: Open; #13; #10HC Elite; #9 Masters; #9HC Elite; #7; #5; Junior Youth; Senior Youth All Levels HC.

To qualify to ride any available Team Penning class at the World Championship Series Finals, riders must ride a minimum of six (6) Team Penning and/or Ranch Sorting rides at each of three (3) separate USTPA Sanctioned Shows during the qualifying period, and a total of Twenty-Four (24) Team Penning rides during the qualifying period.

For a rider to qualify for only a single Team Penning class at the World Championship Series Finals, riders must ride a minimum of four (4) Team Penning and/or Ranch Sorting rides at each of three (3) separate USTPA Sanctioned Shows during the qualifying period, and a total of Twelve (12) Team Penning rides during the qualifying period.

In the event one or more of the qualifying USTPA Shows does not offer the specific-number Team Penning class at that show, the rider may satisfy the qualifying requirement by riding any higher number class, the minimum number of rides described above.

As an example, and for the purpose of additional clarification, if a rider plans to ride in the #5 Team Penning class at the World Championship Series Finals, that rider must first meet the single class minimum show qualifying requirement, and then have at least twelve (12) total Team Penning rides in the #5 or higher numbered Team Penning class during the qualifying period.

Any combination of USTPA World Championship Series (National) shows and any other USTPA Sanctioned Show may be used in any combination to satisfy the Minimum Show Requirements. Two (2) Co-Sanctioned Shows may be applied for each required Show in Ranch Sorting and/or Team Penning, up to a maximum of Two (2) Co-Sanctioned Shows to off-set one of the Three (3) required Shows.

Youth Team Penning Qualifying. To qualify to ride in any Youth Team Penning class at Finals (age requirements apply), the Youth rider must ride in at least one Youth Team Penning class at 1 USTPA show throughout the year with no ride minimums other than those required as a part of the class description (may use any combination of shows, i.e. National, sanctioned). All USTPA shows must offer a Youth Team Penning class; however, in the event there is not a sufficient number of youth competitors for the event producer to run the class, the youth riders in attendance at the show shall receive credit for one (1) show towards the Youth Team Penning qualifying.

Regional Finals and the World Championship Series Finals are not qualifying shows for the purpose of satisfying the Minimum Show Requirements of any adult or youth classes.



## C. Youth Team Penning Classes

1. Junior Youth Penning. Pick 1, Draw 1, Pick 2, Draw 2 or Draw up to 4; 4 ride limit. No rating caps. No HC; Open to all Jr. Youth members. One rider rated 5 or higher ("Open Rider"), preferably an adult, chosen by random draw and Two Jr. Youth riders. The Open Rider cannot ride into the herd unless a cow, first brought out by the Jr. Youth, returns to the herd. Only the Jr. Youth rider(s) may call for time. One trash cow can be on the pen side at any one time, but no time will be given until the trash cow is on the cattle end of the foul line. If any part of a fourth cow crosses the line will be judged a no time. Open Rider will pay no entry fees and will receive no awards. Jr. Youth will ride on a 75 second clock with 2 full rounds. The first round is a random draw and the second round runs in reverse order of the first round. Teams with times in both rounds take precedent over teams with a time in only one round. Offered at World Championship Series (National) Shows. Three rounds (that includes a top ten Finals round) are run at the USTPA World Championship Series Finals or USYTPA Finals (top ten is by random draw or Draft at Finals). Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
2. Sr. Youth All Levels HC Penning. Pick 1, Draw 1, Pick 2, Draw 2 or Draw up to 4; 4 ride limit. No rating caps. 1/2 Sec HC (HC based on the highest possible rating

combination of riders entered). Open to all Youth members. Sr. Youth All Levels HC Penning will ride a 60 second clock with 2 rounds progressive (must pen to progress) with the order drawn for all rounds. Three rounds (that includes a top ten Finals round) are run at the USTPA World Championship Series Finals or USYTPA Finals (top ten is by random draw or Draft at Finals). Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning. Sr. Youth riders must be competing in the Sr. Youth class for points to be awarded in the Sr. Youth class (Sr. Youth points do not accrue if there are no Sr. Youth riders in the class).

- 3. Youth All-Draw Penning.** All Draw, 4 ride limit. May draw one or up to 4. No rating caps. No HC. Random Draw. Open to all Youth members. Youth All-Draw Penning will ride on a 75 second clock with 2 rounds progressive (must pen to progress) with the order drawn for all rounds. For classes with larger team counts, three rounds (that includes a top ten Finals round) may be run at the Promoter's option. One trash cow allowed; no time will be given until the trash cow is on the cattle end of the foul line. Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning. Points in the Youth All-Draw Penning class are awarded in both the Jr. Youth and Sr. Youth classes unless no Sr. Youth are entered in the class (only Jr. Youth points will be awarded if no Sr. Youth are entered in the class).

Prize money in Youth Penning and Sorting classes will be paid to 1 for every 7 teams (or part of 7) as per the below schedule. Payout will be per team:

### # Teams Payout

1 – 7	1st=100%
8 – 14	1st=60% 2nd=40%
15 – 22	1st=50% 2nd=30% 3rd=20%
23 – 28	1st=40% 2nd=30% 3rd=20% 4th=10%
29 – 35	1st=30% 2nd=25% 3rd=20% 4th=15% 5th=10%

#### **D. Special Sanctioning Team Penning Classes:**

Additional classes may be “Special Sanctioned”. Special Sanctioning may allow for straight numbered classes, higher ride limit, not all classes being offered, special venues, or any other variations that may be granted to the show producer. All Special Sanctioning conditions or variances must be approved by the USTPA Executive Committee and advertised in BOLD PRINT prior to the event and cannot be changed once advertised.

#### **E. Other Team Penning Class Descriptions:**

1. All-Pro - For riders rated 5, 6 and/or 7. Riders must ride 6 rides in at least 2 other Penning classes at the same show as the All-Pro in which they want to compete. All riders must be entered prior to the beginning of the class before the All-Pro. Draw should

take place at the end of the first go of the class before the All-Pro. A number will be assigned to each rider entered and teams will be drawn by number, rather than name. Class will include two progressive rounds plus a "top 10" (must pen to progress). A third progressive round will be added, and a fourth progressive round may be added at the World Championship Series Finals. At a 3-day show, the All-Pro should be held on the first Penning day. The All-Pro will offer 95% payback at World Championship Series (National) Shows. Prize money will be paid to 1 for every 7 teams (or part of 7) as per the below schedule. Payout will be per team:

## # Teams Payout

1 – 7	1st=100%
8 – 14	1st=60% 2nd=40%
15 – 22	1st=50% 2nd=30% 3rd=20%
23 – 28	1st=40% 2nd=30% 3rd=20% 4th=10%
29 – 35	1st=30% 2nd=25% 3rd=20% 4th=15% 5th=10%

2. Open Handicap - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 3 more rides with a handicap - For all rated riders; Handicap provides ½ second off per round for each total team rating below 21. A rider must draw at least one team to pick a team. "N" rated riders are not eligible to complete in this class. Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.

3. #13 - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 3 more rides. When the three riders' ratings are added together, the total cannot exceed 13. "N" rated riders are not eligible to complete in this class. Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
4. #10HC Elite - 2 Mandatory draws, may pick or draw up to 6 more rides. For all rated riders; Handicap provides One (1) second off per round for each total team rating below 10. When the three riders' ratings are added together, the total cannot exceed 10. Eight (8) ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning. 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. Additional specific details regarding the #10HC Elite class (i.e., Finals entry procedures, entry date requirements, etc.) should be posted on the official USTPA website and updated each time an update has been approved. Once approved and posted, the information will constitute official rules and procedures for this class.
5. #9 Masters - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 3 more rides. - Riders must be at least 50 years old on the day of the show and the three riders' ratings, when added together, cannot exceed 9. Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.

6. #9 – 1 Mandatory draw may pick or draw up 4 more rides - when the rider ratings are added together the total cannot exceed 9. Five ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
7. #7 (w/5 cap) - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 4 more rides. - When the riders' ratings are added together, the total cannot exceed 7. No rider with a rating higher than 5 may ride in class. Five ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
8. #5 (w/3 cap) - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 4 more rides. When the riders' ratings are added together, the total cannot exceed 5. No rider with a rating higher than 3 may ride in class. Five ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
9. #3 (w/3 cap) - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 4 more rides. When the riders' ratings are added together, the total cannot exceed 3. No rider with a rating higher than 3 may ride in class. Five ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
10. Pro/N/1 – All Draw; Three Mandatory Rides. Entry open to “N” and 1 rated riders. A Pro/N/1 team will consist of one “N” rated rider and one 1 rated rider drawn with one “Pro” member rated 5, 6 or 7. The “N” rated rider must enter the herd first. The “Pro” cannot ride into the herd unless a cow, first brought

out by the “N” or 1 rated rider returns to the herd. The Pro may not call for time. The Pro will pay no entry fees but will share in prize money. Three ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.

11. Pro/AM/Novice – All Draw; Three Mandatory Rides. Manual draw procedure to select the teams. USTPA software draws the running order. Three ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.

## **2. Standard Ranch Sorting Classes**

### **A. Sanctioned Shows:**

All USTPA Sanctioned Ranch Sortings may include any or all of the following suggested classes; Open, #9HC Elite, #6, #3, Senior Youth All Levels HC and Junior Youth (a Sanctioned Show may have one class, some classes or all classes offered at event producer's option.) The Open Class, #9HC Elite and a Youth class are required classes at all USTPA Sanctioned shows unless Special Sanctioning has been granted.

### **B. World Championship Ranch Sorting Classes:**

At the USTPA World Championship Series Finals minimally the following classes will be offered unless otherwise authorized by the USTPA Executive Committee or Board of Directors: Open; #9HC Elite; #6; #3; Junior Youth; Senior Youth All Levels HC.

Qualifying requirements to ride any available Ranch Sorting or Team Penning class at the World Championship Series Finals will be determined annually by the USTPA Board of Directors and published on the USTPA website as soon as reasonably possible following approval by the Board of Directors.

Regional Finals, Elite Finals and the World Championship Series Finals are not qualifying shows for the purpose of satisfying the Minimum Show Requirements of any adult or youth classes.

### **C. Youth Ranch Sorting Classes:**

1. Junior Youth Sorting. No rating caps. No HC, Pick 1, Draw 1, Pick 2, Draw 2 or Draw up to 4; 4 ride limit. Open to all Jr. Youth members. Two Jr. Youth will ride on a 60 second clock with 2 full rounds. The first round is a random draw and the second round runs in reverse order of the first round. Teams with times in both rounds take precedent over teams with a time in only one round. Offered at World Championship Series (National) Shows. Three rounds (that includes a top ten Finals round) are run at the USTPA World Championship Series Finals or USYTPA Finals (top ten is by random draw or Draft at Finals). Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.



2. Senior Youth All Levels HC Sorting. No rating caps. 1/2 Sec HC (HC based on the highest possible rating combination of riders entered). Pick 1, Draw 1, Pick 2, Draw 2 or Draw up to 4; 4 ride limit. Open to all Youth members. Sr. Youth All Levels HC Sorting will ride a 60 second clock with 2 rounds progressive (must pen to progress) with the order drawn for all rounds. Three rounds (that includes a top ten Finals round) are run at the USTPA World Championship Series Finals or USYTPA Finals (top ten is by random draw or Draft at Finals). Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
3. Youth All-Draw Sorting. All Draw; 4 ride limit. May draw one or up to 4. No rating caps. No HC. Random Draw. Open to all Youth members. Youth All-Draw Sorting will ride on a 60 second clock with 2 rounds progressive (must sort to progress) with the order drawn for all rounds. For classes with larger team counts, three rounds (that includes a top ten Finals round) may be run at the Promoter's option. Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning. Points in the Youth All-Draw Sorting class are awarded in both the Jr. Youth and Sr. Youth classes unless no Sr. Youth are entered in the class (only Jr. Youth points will be awarded if no Sr. Youth are entered in the class).

## **D. Other Ranch Sorting Class Descriptions:**

- 1. Open Handicap - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 3 more rides with a handicap.** - For all rated riders; Handicap provides  $\frac{1}{2}$  second off per round for each total team rating below 14. "N" rated riders are not eligible to compete in this class. Four ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
- 2. #9HC Elite - 2 Mandatory draws, may pick or draw up to 6 more rides.** For all rated riders; Handicap provides One (1) second off per round for each total team rating below 9. When the two riders' ratings are added together, the total cannot exceed 9. Eight (8) ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning. 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 Sorting class at that show. Additional specific details regarding the #9HC Elite class (i.e., Finals entry procedures, entry date requirements, etc.) should be posted on the official USTPA website and updated each time an update has been approved. Once approved and posted, the information will constitute official rules and procedures for this class.
- 3. #6 - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 4 more rides.** - When the two riders' ratings are added

together the total cannot exceed 6. Five ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning..

4. #3 - 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 4 more rides. - When the two riders' ratings are added together the total cannot exceed 3. Five ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning.
5. #12 3-Man, 2 Gate. 1 Mandatory draw, may pick or draw up to 4 more rides. No rating caps. When the three riders' ratings are added together the total cannot exceed 12. Cows may be sorted through either sorting pen opening, but must go through in order. All other sorting rules apply. Five ride limit unless increased by special sanctioning. Class number can be changed through special sanctioning when approved.

#### **E. Contest Classes for Open Arena Sorting:**

1. Open, #12, #10, #5, Youth (a Sanctioned Show can have one class, some classes or all classes offered at event producer's option.)
2. The Open Class and a Youth class are required classes at Sanctioned Sortings unless Special Sanctioning has been granted.

### **III. 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. The fastest time wins.

##### **A. Time Limit:**

The event producer shall use a 60-second time limit for each class (unless otherwise extended by class description), and may use "Promoter's Option" allowance to extend the time limit to 75 seconds for any class, but must have Special Sanctioning approved and advertise the show accordingly. A warning may be given to the team working 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 for any team in the arena, by any person outside the arena, is prohibited. Any form or manner 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 immediately. 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 team's 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.

In the event that a team is scratched or chooses not to ride, the announcer will announce that the number would have been for that team.

## **3. Calling for Time**

### **A. To Call for Time**

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 unpenned cattle are completely on the cattle side of the start/foul 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 Three 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 teams pen 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 fail to pen in a 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 in 1 go-round; and times in 1 go-round beat a no-time.

## **4. Hazing**

Contact with cattle by hands, ropes, bats, or any other equipment, or hazing with any equipment or apparel will result in a no-time.

## **5. Too Many Cattle**

Any wrong number cow that crosses the foul line will result in a no-time. In Jr. 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.

## **6. Re-Ride Situations**

In the event a team is given a number that has already been used with a set of cattle, a re-ride 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. A team cannot better their time on these re-rides and penalty seconds may be given at the judges' discretion.

If an animal leaves the arena, the team can either be given a no-time for roughing; can be given time on their remaining cattle; or be given an immediate re-ride depending on the judge's decision. A team cannot better their time on a re-ride.

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 start/foul line, the flag has been

dropped to start the time on that run, and their cattle number has been called.

As each team begins a run, there should be 30 head in the arena (unless otherwise required by class description or special sanctioning).

In the case it is discovered that a herd contains more or less than 30 head, that herd will be removed and a correct herd brought in, all teams which ran on the incorrect herd will have a mandatory reride on the correct herd. New numbers will be drawn for this entire new herd.

If it is discovered that the herd in the arena with exactly 30 head contains cattle with more or less than 3 identical numbers, the herd will be corrected and only the team(s) directly affected will receive an immediate mandatory reride on their same numbered cattle and their time will start at zero. Times for all other teams in such a mis-numbered herd will remain the same.

Directly affected teams are only teams that drew a number that had more or less than three identical numbers in the herd.

Re-rides may be given for downed or stuck cattle at the judges' discretion. Downed or stuck cattle includes cattle that fall down, but not as a result of Roughing, and are down for 5 seconds (as determined in the judge's sole



discretion) whether stuck in a panel or gate, or not standing. If the judge determines that the downed or stuck cow did not impair the teams run, the judge can allow the team to complete their run and receive whatever time they earned. The judge will then fix the situation and continue to the next team. If the judge determines the downed or stuck cow did directly affect the team in the arena, the judge will fix the situation and that team will receive a re-ride immediately.

If during or after a run a rider on a team notices a cow that he/she thinks is blind in one or both eyes. Before leaving the arena, the rider should alert the judge. If the judge determines that the cow is indeed blind and this directly affected this teams run, the cow should be replaced, and this team should receive an immediate re-ride on the same number. If the judge determines the cow is indeed blind and did not directly affect this teams run, the cow will be replaced, and competition will continue.

If the judge determines that the cow is not blind, the team will receive the results of their run.

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 rounds must be posted before the round starts unless the USTPA video

system is in use, in which case the round may begin prior to posting a printed run order in the arena.

## **7. Cattle Rotation**

### **A. Order of Herd Rotation:**

An event producer will number each herd available for the Penning. The cattle will be rotated at the end of every set of 10 teams and at the end of the first go and before the finals. In a Penning with a 50% second go, the herds will be used in the same order for every class. 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 round of each class.

### **B. Non-Rerun Cattle in 1<sup>st</sup> Go of Open Penning:**

Non rerun cattle will be provided for all teams in the first round of the Open Penning Class at all World Championship Series (National) shows. Team counts may be capped to accommodate this rule.

### **C. Go-Rounds & Percent Returning**

All USTPA Sanctioned Events will have 3 go-rounds. Go rounds run in reverse order. If 50 or less teams: 100% to first go, 50% to second go, top 10 to finals. If 51-100 teams: 100% to first go, 40% to second go, top 10 to finals. If over 100 teams: 100% to first go, 30% to second go, top 10 to finals. In the event of classes with fewer than

20 teams Promoters may opt to have up to 100% of all entries back to the second go (and then a top 10), or may opt to run only the first go, and then proceed directly to a top 10. This “Promoter Option” must be advertised in advance. All go rounds will be run in reverse order until top 10 finals. All finals at any USTPA Sanctioned Event will have their running order determined by either 1) draw, either by mechanical draw or by manual draw, or 2) selection (the “Draft”), where each team qualified for the final round will select their run position in the final round as follows: The team in 1<sup>st</sup> place coming into the final round will select their run position first (they select from 1-10 in the running order); the team in 2<sup>nd</sup> place coming into the final round will select next, and so on until all teams have selected their running position in the top 10 (the 10<sup>th</sup> place team coming into the final round will have their run position determined by whatever position remains after the 9<sup>th</sup> place team selects their run position).

The #10HC Elite Team Penning and #9 Elite Ranch Sorting classes will follow the Go-Round and Percent Returning rules set forth in this section, except that at the Elite World Finals, the #10HC Elite Penning and #9 Elite Ranch Sorting classes will follow the Go-Round and Percent Returning rules below:

- 1) First Round: All Qualified and Properly Entered Teams
- 2) Second Round: 40% of 1<sup>st</sup> Round Advances to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

- 3) Third Round: 40% of 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Advances to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round
- 4) Final Round: Top 20. Ride Position in the Final Round (Top 20) determined by team selection (“Draft) as noted above, except that this class will have a top 20 in the final round at the Elite World Finals.

## **8. Roughing**

Roughing includes, but is not limited to, running over cattle with horses, stepping on cattle while in pursuit, running through 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 pen panels (see also the section of this Handbook regarding inhumane treatment). A Judge’s call for “roughing” will result in the team receiving a no-time. Roughing calls are made in the Judge’s sole discretion, and Roughing may be called by the Judge whether or not the Judge believed the action that resulted in the Roughing call was deliberate.

## **9. Arena Layout**

Ideal arena size for Team Penning is 90' x 180', 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 40% 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 feet from the arena back wall. \*See Diagram at End of Handbook

## **10. Working Cattle On-Foot**

Attempts to work cattle on-foot will be judged a no-time.

## **11. Display Clock**

All USTPA shows must have a readable display clock and this will be the official time clock; electric eye will not be used to start time. In the event of extreme malfunction, Director-In-Charge may determine how and whether to proceed with the contest.

## **12. Settling Each Herd**

Cattle must be settled in each corner of arena and taken through the pen before final settling behind the foul line.

### 13. Arena Arrangement for Team Penning

See diagram at back of book.

## IV. Ranch Sorting Rules

1. **The Object of Ranch Sorting:** The basic concept of Ranch Sorting is that there are ten numbered cattle, 0-9, and two unnumbered cattle (for a total of 12 head) at the beginning of a run behind a foul line in an arena with 2 riders mounted on the opposite side.
2. **Ranch Sorting Guidelines:** Sanctioned Sorting includes 2-Man Ranch Sorting and Open Arena Sorting. Event producers must use USTPA Certified officials and announcers for any Ranch Sorting shows or classes. Sanctioned Ranch Sorting classes and shows will be required to use an electronic display clock or a split timer. Current USTPA rider ratings will be used for Ranch Sorting.
3. **Sorting Pens:** Ranch Sorting will take place between 2 pens of approximately equal size with the event producer's option of working cattle back and forth or only one way. Two Ranch Sorting arenas may be placed side by side with teams alternating odd and even numbers. (See Diagram at End of Book)

4. **Settling Each Herd:** If cattle are to be worked back and forth then they need to be moved to the opposite pen and back before each new herd entering the arena is worked.
5. **Readable Numbers:** All cattle must have USTPA approved back numbers; neck numbers are not acceptable.
6. **Recommended Pen Size:** Sorting area shall be 50ft to 60ft in diameter with no 90 degree corners (i.e., 60ft round pen or octagonal "stop sign" design). *See diagram at back.*
7. **Gate Opening:** The start foul line will be a 12'-16' opening between the two pens using producer's discretion.
8. **Time Limits:** There will be either a 90, 75, or 60 second clock for each class, at the option of the event producer.
9. **Display Clock-Split Timer:** The electronic display-split timer clock, set at 60.01 seconds, is the official clock for Sorting. The official time of each run is determined by the amount of the time used until all 10 cattle are sorted or the time limit has expired.
10. **Judges:** There will be at least One (1) USTPA certified judge on the judge's stand at all USTPA-sanctioned shows, USTPA Regional Finals shows and USTPA

World Championship Series (National) shows Including Finals. If only One (1) judge is used, that judge will operate the official clock and the back-up timer and must be the same judge the entire go-round (at minimum), if not the entire class. Additionally, if available, the USTPA's video system will be used to capture and record video in each pen during each Sorting class. In the event of failure or unavailability of the video system, the Sorting class(es) may begin and/or continue with only the required judge.

11. **Stopping Time:** Time will continue until all cattle are sorted in the correct order or the time limit is reached, either of which becomes the official time for that team.
  
12. **Split Time:** The official clock for Sorting is the Display Split Timer. A Display Split timer is to be used in all Sorting classes to designate the placing of the class. Split times are cumulative in multiple go round events, as well as the number of cattle sorted. In case of promoters who own electronic display clocks without a split timer, a stop watch will be used. The stop watch used for split time purposes will also be the back-up timer in the event of a malfunction of the electronic display clock. Prior to starting the next run, the back-up timer/judge needs to confirm that their record of cattle sorted matches the Display Split Timer record of the split timer judge.



13. **Bunching Cattle:** All cattle will be bunched on the cattle side of the gate within the designated area before the time begins. Judges will designate the need to bunch cattle.
  
14. **Starting the Run:** 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 and the announcer will immediately provide the number to be sorted first. Any delay in crossing the start/foul line may result in a no-time for the team. The next team has 30 seconds to enter the arena and cross the start/foul line after the previous team sorts, and after the announcer calls the team to ride. Upon the decision by the judge(s), 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.
  
15. **Roughing:** Roughing includes, but is not limited to, running over cattle with horses, stepping on cattle while in pursuit, running through 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 pen panels (see also the section of this Handbook regarding inhumane treatment). A Judge's call for "roughing" will result in the team receiving a no-time. Roughing calls are made in the Judge's sole discretion, and Roughing may be called by the Judge whether or not the Judge

believed the action that resulted in the Roughing call was deliberate.

- 16. Order of Sorting:** The cows must be sorted in order. If any part of a numbered cow crosses the start/foul line prior to its correct order, then the team receives a no time. If any part of a sorted cow re-crosses the start/foul line, the team receives a no-time. If any part of any unnumbered cow crosses the foul line before the 10th cow is cleanly sorted, the team receives a no-time. For the purposes of example and clarification of this section, if a cow first crosses the start/foul line in order, but does not continue through the start/foul line, and instead returns to the sorting side of the pen before time runs out, the team receives a no-time. Further, if a cow first crosses the start/foul line in order, but falls down and lies partially in both the sorting and catch pens (“in the gate”), the judge will discontinue the run and the team will have the option to accept the time and number of cows sorted up to and including the cow that went down (but none after that cow), or receive an immediate re-ride with the same number beginning at a time of zero.
- 17. Random Start Number:** The order of Sorting is determined by the picking of a random number by the Announcer/Timer and then that cow must be sorted first; for instance if 7, is drawn as the first number, then the 8 cow must be sorted, 9, 0, 1 and so on. In the event that a team is scratched or chooses not to ride, the

announcer will announce that the number would have been for that team.

18. **Cow Considered Sorted:** For the first 9 cows sorted, when any part of the cow crosses the start/foul line that cow is considered sorted. For the 10<sup>th</sup> cow only, that 10<sup>th</sup> cow is considered sorted only when the entire cow is completely across the start/foul line.
  
19. **Cow Leaving the Arena:** If there is a malfunction of the Sorting pen, or a numbered cow jumps any fence and either leaves the arena, or ends up in the opposite pen, but did not pass through the gate, it will result in a re-ride for that team immediately, (assuming either instance was not caused by roughing of the cattle). In the instance of a re-ride, exhibitors will receive a full (90, 75 or 60 second) clock but the exhibitor's time cannot be improved. However, the number of cattle sorted during the allotted time can be improved. [Example: If a team has sorted 5 head in 55 seconds (with a 60 second clock) when the cow jumped the fence, they would get a re-ride with the full 60 second clock. In the re-ride, the same team sorted 10 head in 50 seconds. Their official time would be 10 head in 55 seconds.
  
20. **Downed or Stuck Cattle:** Re-rides may be given for downed or stuck cattle at the judges' discretion. Downed or stuck cattle includes cattle that fall down, but not as a result of Roughing, and are down for 5 seconds

(as determined in the judge's sole discretion) whether stuck in a panel or gate, or not standing. In these cases, the team sorting will be given the option to take their time on the number of cattle sorted when the run is stopped by the judge or re-ride immediately with the same number beginning at a time of zero.

**21. Entry Limit Per Class:** Ride limits vary by class. Refer to individual class descriptions for details.

**22. Go-Rounds & Percent Returning:** All USTPA Sanctioned Events will have 3 go-rounds. Go rounds run in reverse order. If 50 or less teams: 100% to first go, 50% to second go, top 10 to finals. If 51-100 teams: 100% to first go, 40% to second go, top 10 to finals. If over 100 teams: 100% to first go, 30% to second go, top 10 to finals. In the event of classes with fewer than 20 teams Promoters may opt to have up to 100% of all entries back to the second go (and then a top 10), or may opt to run only the first go, and then proceed directly to a top 10. This "Promoter Option" must be advertised in advance. All go rounds will be run in reverse order until top 10 finals. All finals at any USTPA Sanctioned Event will have their running order determined by either 1) draw, either by mechanical draw or by manual draw, or 2) selection (the "Draft"), where each team qualified for the final round will select their run position in the final round as follows: The team in 1<sup>st</sup> place coming into the final round will select their

run position first (they select from 1-10 in the running order); the team in 2<sup>nd</sup> place coming into the final round will select next, and so on until all teams have selected their running position in the top 10 (the 10<sup>th</sup> place team coming into the final round will have their run position determined by whatever position remains after the 9<sup>th</sup> place team selects their run position).

- 23. Must Sort Clean to Advance:** Teams must sort cleanly to advance to the next round. Promoter has the option of implementing progressive time when the number of teams meets the requirements to advance to the next round. A cutoff time plus number of cattle sorted can be used, being the highest time and lowest number of cattle available to progress to the next round.
- 24. Calculating Placing by Clean Sorts:** Teams that Sort in 3 goes, place higher than teams Sorting in 2 goes; teams Sorting in 2 goes place higher than teams Sorting in 1 go, no matter how many cattle were sorted or time accrued.
- 25. Ample Herds for Open Class:** The promoter must have enough cattle so that no herd is resorted during the first round of the Open Sorting Class.
- 26. Re-Ride Situations**
- A.** Should a herd be mis-numbered or have too many or too few non-numbered cattle, only the team that is in

the arena at the time the problem is identified will receive a re-ride. The re-ride will be a clean slate and will be done immediately.

- B.** If a team observes an unfit, injured, or unidentified animal before committing to the cattle, the team must notify the judge. Except for other rules in this Handbook to the contrary (i.e., downed or stuck cattle, etc.), 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 start/foul line, the flag has been dropped to start the time on that run, and their cattle number has been called.
  - C.** 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 rounds must be posted before the round starts, unless the USTPA video system is in use, in which case the round may begin prior to posting a printed run order in the arena.
- 27. Protest and Video Replay Review Procedure – Ranch Sorting** (certain parts of this section apply only when Video Replay Equipment is being utilized).

- A.** In the event there are two judges being utilized, and those judges initially disagree and subsequently cannot reach agreement on any of the items in #3 below of this rule, an internal review will be made at no charge to, and without a protest being required from the competing team members on the ride in question.
- B.** For all protests, the protest must be verbally presented to the judge(s) before the team member(s) that wish(es) to file the protest leaves the sorting pen.
1. Only the following types of protest are allowed:
    - a) Number of cattle sorted.
    - b) Order of cattle sorted.
    - c) Official time on cattle sorted.
    - d) Duplicate number called.
  2. Protest fee is \$100.
  3. Reviews will be made by the Director-in-Charge and the Animal Welfare Director, or in their absence a Director they have appointed in their place (the “Directors”).
  4. In the event the Directors do not both agree on the review, the original decision of the judge(s) will be final.
  5. In the event the Directors do not both agree on the review, and the two judges also did not agree (on the original ruling), the Director-in-Charge shall make the final decision.
  6. The team members on the ride being reviewed may observe the Video Replay after a formal

decision has been made regarding the review, and then only after the class has been completed and when the show officials are able to make it available. However, under no circumstances shall the team members on the ride being reviewed have any role in the decision on the protest.

7. In order to reverse a judge's decision there should be conclusive evidence allowing such reversal. The decision as to whether the evidence is conclusive or not shall be in the sole discretion of the Directors.
8. All decisions from a Video Replay Review are final and non-appealable.
9. If upon review the protest is found in favor of the protesting team, there will be no fee charged and the correction on the ride will be made.
10. If upon review the protest is not found in favor of the protesting team, the original ruling will remain and the \$100 fee will be charged equally to the protesting rider(s), applied to their respective rider invoice. For the purposes of clarification, in the event only one rider joins the protest, that rider will be charged the entire \$100 protest fee.
11. If upon review there is no conclusive evidence to overturn the original ruling due to video system malfunction, obstructions, camera failure, etc., there will be no fee charged and the judge(s)' original ruling will stand.



12. Upon completion of any review under this rule, in the event a re-ride is offered, the team will ride again on the same herd after all other teams have completed their rides, and the same cattle number will be used for such re-ride.
  13. In the event a duplicate number is called, and the judge(s) or announcer discover that mistake during the ride or immediately after the ride, and it is confirmed by the announcer, no Video Replay Review will be made, and in this case the team will be given a mandatory re-ride, before the next team rides, and with the correct cattle number.
28. **Following USTPA General Guidelines:** For general guidelines on Ranch Sorting, follow USTPA's rules on all other issues not covered in this section.
29. **Arena Arrangement for Ranch Sorting:** See diagram at back of Handbook.

## V. Open Arena Sorting Rules

1. **Open Arena:** Open Arena Sorting for 2 or 3 riders may be Sanctioned, using a full open arena with a Foul Line length at event producer's option, preferably the same as the Team Penning foul line, and one judge.
2. **The Object of Open Arena Sorting:** The basic concept of Open Arena Sorting is that there are ten

numbered cattle, 0-9, and two unnumbered cattle for a total of 12 head at the beginning of a run behind a foul line in an arena with two or three people mounted on the other side of the foul line.

- 3. Following Other Sorting Guidelines:** Other general Sorting guidelines are contained in the previous Ranch Sorting Rules section. Please refer to that previous section for rules that apply to both Ranch Sorting and Open Arena Sorting.

## VI. Disputes

- 1. Protest and Video Replay Review Procedure – Ranch Sorting:** See section IV, paragraph 27.
- 2. Initiating a Protest:** When a team has a dispute about a run, a protest must be lodged with a judge before the team leaves the arena. The team will then immediately file the protest with the Director-In-Charge. If upon review the protest is not found in favor of the protesting team, the original ruling will remain and a \$100 fee will be charged equally to the protesting rider(s), applied to their respective rider invoice. For the purposes of clarification, in the event only one rider joins the protest, that rider will be charged the entire \$100 protest fee.

3. **Presenting the Dispute Findings:** If a protest is filed, the Director-In-Charge shall present said dispute, to the judges. The Director-In-Charge shall immediately present the findings and reasons to the protesting parties. Protest results should be decided and announced after the last team but prior to that set of cattle exiting the arena.

## VII. Mandatory Event Guidelines

### 1. Conduct

- A. Each USTPA member shall follow the USTPA rules at all Sanctioned Shows.
- B. During any World Championship Series (National) Show, no alcohol will be consumed or possessed by exhibitors or show officials in the show arena. This also includes the warm up areas, and staging areas where exhibitors are waiting to ride.
- C. Any contestant guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct will be fined and/or suspended and/or expelled from membership. USTPA reserves the right to revoke or refuse membership.
- D. If a person is fined; the fine will be determined and assessed by the judges, Director(s) present or Board of Directors.

- E.** Fines must be paid before contestant rides again.
- F.** An approved judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person shall direct abuse or threatening conduct toward any judge or a judge's 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.
- G.** By virtue of paying an entry fee and/or competing in a Sanctioned USTPA competition, whether or not a paid USTPA member, permission is granted by each contestant to the USTPA to use his or her photographic image for any purpose as determined by the USTPA.
- H.** Any rider that misses a ride will be billed the entry fee for their ride, even if a substitute is used. Any team missing a rider when their team is called to the gate may recruit a substitute rider. A substitute rider must be rated the same, or less than, the missing rider of the team. Substitute riders will not be charged for their ride, but will receive their portion of the payout of any team earnings.

## **2. General Guidelines**

- A.** Approved Officials: The USTPA must approve the Penning judges, timekeepers, and announcers, who

must be USTPA members in good standing. There will be 2 Penning judges approved by the USTPA and compensated by the event producer, (one judge at the line and one judge at the pen), and at least 2 timekeepers. The announcer may function as timekeeper.

- B. Judges:** Decisions of the judges are final. No judge may enter any class that he or she judges. There will be 1 line judge and 1 pen judge in Team Penning. In the event of a disputed decision between the judges, the USTPA Director-in-Charge will cast the tie breaker.
  
- C. Maximum Entries Per Class:** The maximum number of entries varies by class. See individual class descriptions for details. "Promoter's Option" allowances includes changing 2 riders on each team in any class, and a different ride limit per class than described herein, but event producers must apply for and receive special Sanctioning requesting such Promoter's Options and advertise the show accordingly.
  
- D. Timely Submission of Show Results:** All proceeds and results of shows must be submitted to the USTPA Administrative Office within 7 days of the last day of the show. For each day late after 7 days, an event producer will be fined \$25 per day. Any fine must be paid before the event producer's next scheduled show. Failure to do

so will subject the event producer to being disallowed any further Sanctioning by USTPA.

- E. Cancellation Before Completion:** In the event a show is canceled due to weather or other extenuating circumstances before the final round, the last fully completed round will decide the winners of the event. Decision to stop the event shall be a joint decision of the event producer, the USTPA Director(s) present, and the judges.
- F. Access to Show Results:** A Director or Director-in-Charge 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.
- G. Open Finals Herd:** The finals herd for the Open class may be a herd that was used in the first round. This herd will be picked after the first round and before the second round, by the event producer and/or Director-In-Charge.
- H. Substituting riders due to Injury or Medical Emergency.** Once a class begins, if a rider on a penning or sorting team has to pull out of the competition due to a injury or a medical emergency, that rider can be replaced with a different rider who has an equal or lower rating than the rider who is withdrawing. The replacement rider must

also have rides available in this class. If the rider who is withdrawing has already completed 1 or more rounds of competition and the emergency occurs during a class which is handicapped, the team will receive whatever handicap that is allotted for the riders who are in the pen. (if the team has to replace the lost rider with a lower rated rider, they will get the handicap of the lower rated rider on the rides he/she participated in) If the rider who is withdrawing has already completed 1 or more rounds of competition and the emergency occurs, the entry fee will be assessed to the rider who withdrew. Any winnings will be split between the original rider and his replacement. This split will be determined by the percentage of rounds each rider participated in. The rider who withdrew from competition cannot re-enter the class. The replacement rider must continue on that team until they are eliminated, or the class is over.

- I. All USTPA Sanctioned Events will have 3 go-rounds. Go rounds run in reverse order. If 50 or less teams: 100% to first go, 50% to second go, top 10 to finals. If 51-100 teams: 100% to first go, 40% to second go, top 10 to finals. If over 100 teams: 100% to first go, 30% to second go, top 10 to finals. In the event of classes with fewer than 20 teams Promoters may opt to have up to 100% of all entries back to the second go (and then a top 10), or may opt to run only the first go, and then proceed directly to a top 10. This "Promoter Option" must be advertised in advance. All go rounds will be run

in reverse order until top 10 finals. All finals at any USTPA Sanctioned Event will have their running order determined by either 1) draw, either by mechanical draw or by manual draw, or 2) selection (the “Draft”), where each team qualified for the final round will select their run position in the final round as follows: The team in 1<sup>st</sup> place coming into the final round will select their run position first (they select from 1-10 in the running order); the team in 2<sup>nd</sup> place coming into the final round will select next, and so on until all teams have selected their running position in the top 10 (the 10<sup>th</sup> place team coming into the final round will have their run position determined by whatever position remains after the 9<sup>th</sup> place team selects their run position). The #10HC Elite Team Penning and #9HC Elite Sorting classes will follow the Go-Round and Percent Returning rules set forth in this section, except that at the Elite World Finals, the #10HC Elite Penning and #9HC Elite Sorting classes will follow the Go-Round and Percent Returning rules below:

- i. First Round: All Qualified and Properly Entered Teams
- ii. Second Round: 40% of 1<sup>st</sup> Round Advances to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round
- iii. Third Round: 40% of 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Advances to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round
- iv. Final Round: Top 20. Ride Position in the Final Round (Top 20) determined by team selection (“Draft) as noted above, except that this class will have a top 20 in the final round at the Elite World Finals.

**J. Non-Rerun Cattle in 1<sup>st</sup> Go of Open Penning:** Non rerun cattle will be provided for all teams in the first round of



the Open Penning Class at all World Championship Series (National) shows. Team counts may be capped to accommodate this rule.

### **3. Dress Code**

All contestants, judges and herd holders at a USTPA Sanctioned Show must wear western attire including a western hat, long-sleeved western shirt tucked-in and buttoned properly, and boots. Announcers shall wear western attire with a western hat or no hat being optional during the competition day. Show secretaries, office personnel and timekeepers shall wear western attire with a western hat or no hat being optional and boots or other appropriate footwear during the competition day. In the event of extreme temperatures, the Director-In-Charge and the judges will decide on the day of the show if short-sleeved western shirts or cold-weather attire may be worn. Tank tops, ball caps and tee shirts will not be allowed. A hat must be worn by contestants & herd holders unless cold weather attire has been implemented for that day.

**Optional Protective Helmet:** Instead of a western hat, riders may choose to wear a properly fitting protective headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. Helmet harnesses should be worn securely and be

properly fitted. Youth riders are especially encouraged, though not required, to wear protective helmets.

#### **4. Payment of Show Tabs**

All participants at USTPA Sanctioned and Nationally Produced Shows are responsible for paying their show tabs according to the terms of the producer, prior to the end of the show or close of the show office at the show. Members with prior payment issues may be required to pay in the form of cash prior to competing or have other limitations imposed. Show participants who fail to pay their show tabs by the close of the show or show office may be subject to immediate suspension of membership.

### **VIII. Sanctioning**

#### **1. Sanctioning Process**

Applications for approval of either Sanctioned or co Sanctioned Shows must be postmarked or electronically dated no later than 30 days prior to the first date of the event to be approved.

##### **A. Priority Dates**

Priority dates may be awarded to USTPA Sanctioned Shows held the previous year, however, all priority show dates are determined by USTPA. Priority dates will not be awarded if:

- i. Show results and fees are not submitted to the USTPA office within 7 working days;

- ii. A request for new dates is received for the same show;
- iii. Show location is moved from the previous year;
- iv. Show is not held in consecutive years;
- v. Show management or producer is suspended at any time during the previous year.

## **2. Required Classes:**

The Open Class, the #10HC Elite Penning, #9HC Elite Sorting and a Youth class are all required classes at USTPA Sanctioned Pennings and Sortings, unless Special Sanctioning has been granted.

## **3. Penning and Sorting Sanctioning:**

Team Penning only shows, Ranch Sorting only shows, and Team Penning/Ranch Sorting combination shows may be Sanctioned.

## **4. Compliance and Fines**

If an event producer does not follow USTPA rules and any exhibitors are disqualified, the event producer may be fined \$100 per disqualification. If an event producer allows anyone who is not either a USTPA Competitor Member or Day Permit Holder to compete, the event producer will be liable to pay \$100 per infraction. Failure to comply with any USTPA rules could result in forfeiture of future Sanctioning by the event producer, including any shows already Sanctioned or pending Sanctioning.

The event producer will pay the USTPA for all fines and/or monies collected.

**5. Special Sanctioning**

Special Sanctioning granted by the National Sanctioning Director and the Executive Committee, may allow for potential modifications, which may include but not be limited to a higher ride limit, not all classes being offered, special venue or large added money per class. Any and all deviations must be advertised in bold print.

**6. Liability**

Each event producer operating a show under the USTPA's Sanctioning shall be solely responsible for any and all liability and shall hold USTPA and its Officers and Directors harmless from any liability.

**7. Cattle Approval**

The number of cattle must be approved by the Regional and/or National Sanctioning Director as specified in the event producers Contract.

**8. Use of Approved Cattle Numbers**

The event producer must use over-the-shoulder cattle numbers approved by USTPA as specified in the event producers Contract.

**9. Sanctioning Fees**

The event producer will pay USTPA a Sanctioning Fee of \$1.50 per rider for each ride entered. All funds will be forwarded to the USTPA office by the event producer or show secretary within 7 days of the last day of the show, along with show results. The event producer must pay for all teams entered in Sanctioned classes.

#### **10. Finals Fees**

Event producers are required to collect and forward a \$2 Finals Fee per rider for each ride entered. Finals Fees collected by the event producer from each rider will be \$2 per rider for each ride entered at Regional Shows. The split will be as follows: 2/3 of the Finals Fees collected shall be distributed back to the Region in which the show is held for their respective Regional Finals and to pay for the cost of Regional Year end Awards, and 1/3 of the Finals Fees collected shall be distributed to the World Championship budget. Event Producers will also pay USTPA a Regional Finals Fee of \$1.50 per rider for each ride entered, which fee shall be distributed back to the Region in which the show is held for their respective Regional Finals.

#### **11. World Championship Series (National) Fees**

Half of the \$2 Finals Fees collected at World Championship Series (National) shows shall remain with the USTPA office for the USTPA's general fund. The other half of the \$2 Finals Fees collected at World

Championship Series (National) shows shall be distributed to the World Championship budget. At all World Championship Series (National) shows an additional \$5 Finals Fee per rider for each time entered will be collected to be used as added money at the USTPA World Championship Series Finals. Notwithstanding the foregoing to the contrary, all fees collected in the Elite Team Penning and Elite Ranch Sorting class at all World Championship Series (National) shows shall be distributed internally to the Elite Team Penning or Elite Ranch Sorting class budget.

**12. Sanctioning Contract**

Each event producer must sign an Event Sanctioning Application and Contract with USTPA.

**13. Governing Rules**

All Sanctioned Shows will be governed by USTPA Bylaws, rules, and guidelines.

**14. Reporting Earnings for Tax Purposes**

The event producer of a Sanctioned Show shall have the right to require any contestant to provide his or her social security number prior to the receipt of any prize money. A contestant, who does not meet this requirement if requested, forfeits the earnings to the event producer.

## **15. Liability Release**

Both USTPA 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 USTPA and the event producer, et al, harmless for any and all injury incurred.

## **16. Designated Director-In-Charge**

A USTPA Director or designated official must be in attendance at all USTPA-Sanctioned Shows and be designated as the "Director-In-Charge."

# **IX. Co-Sanctioning**

## **A. Co-Sanctioning Process**

All Co-Sanctioned events must be approved by USTPA no less than thirty days in advance of the show.

## **17. Co-Sanctioned Event Request**

All Producers requesting a co-sanctioned event must submit their membership list to the USTPA office before their co-sanctioned show will be credited to their event.

## **18. Compliance and Fines**

The event producer shall remit all fees and dues along with copies of excel spreadsheets of all participants to the USTPA Administrative Office within 7 working days from the last day of the event. All participant

information must include name, address and contact information. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$25 per day for results not received within 7 days after the last day of this show, and affect future show approvals. All fees and results must be turned in for show to count toward the rider's World Championship Series Finals qualifications.

### **19. USTPA Co-Sanctioning Fees**

The event producer shall remit to USTPA the appropriate fee of \$100 per rider in U.S. funds. This fee includes Sanctioning fees, World Championship fees, and Regional finals fees. The event producer must remit fees for all USTPA riders participating in the acceptable format.

### **20. Membership Fees**

Show Secretaries must provide a receipt to new Competitor Members for membership fees received at their USTPA Co-Sanctioned Show.

### **21. Liability**

The event producer operating a show under the USTPA's Co-Sanctioning shall be solely responsible for any and all liability and shall hold USTPA and its officers and Directors harmless from any liability.

### **22. World Championship Qualifications**



For World Championship Series Finals qualifications, 2 Co-Sanctioned Shows can be applied for each required Sanctioned Show in Sorting and/or Penning, up to a maximum of 2 Co-sanctioned Shows to off-set 1 of the required Sanctioned Shows.

## **X. USTPA Animal Welfare Rules and Guidelines**

Inhumane treatment of any animal in the show arena, warm-up arena, stall, runway or elsewhere on the show grounds is strictly forbidden. Likewise, any cruelty to or the abuse of any horse is a violation of USTPA rules. USTPA emphatically desires to avoid all cases of cruelty and inhumane or abusive treatment of any horse. Treatment of any horse will be considered cruel, abusive or inhumane if a reasonable person, educated in accepted equine training techniques, could perceive the conduct of an individual to be abusive or an attempt to abuse the horse.

Furthermore, any behavior by an exhibitor, trainer, or rider that could be perceived by the general public to be harmful to any horse should also be avoided. It is the responsibility of each member to report each and every incident which could be perceived as an abusive act toward a horse during a USTPA Sanctioned Event.

The following is a list of criteria specifically prohibited at USTPA Sanctioned Events.

1. Excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping or kicking while on the ground, or any other act with the intent to cause trauma to the horse;
2. Slapping or hitting a horse in the head with hands or any other object;
3. Using a bit in a manner that causes a horse to bleed from its mouth or face;
4. Using any object held in the rider's hand, other than the bridle reins, to hit a horse;
5. Repeatedly and excessively pulling on one or both reins;
6. Riding a horse that is visibly lame, sick or emaciated.

If any of the above actions are observed, they should be reported to a USTPA Director, judge or show management. In the case where the soundness or health of a horse is in question, the decision should be based on the assessment of a veterinarian. In the event one is not available, it shall be at the sole discretion of either the show judge(s) or USTPA Animal Welfare Director to decide whether an animal is fit to be used. At each show, an Animal Welfare Director shall be named.

Each person found to be in violation of this rule may be subject to receiving the following penalty:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: \$10-\$500 fine and 6-month probation;

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$500-\$1,000 fine and 12-month probation;

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: \$500-\$1,000 and 6-month suspension;

These penalties can be increased as appropriated by the Executive Committee depending on the circumstances and nature of the violation.

**Inhumane Treatment** – Inhumane treatment to horses, including, but not limited to, physical abuse towards the animal by the rider or owner to cause the animal further injury or competing on an animal that is visibly hurt or lame.

A \$500 fine will be assessed by the judges, after the teams run has ended, if a team member continues to work cattle other than to gather the herd for the next team, or a team member exhibits any unnecessary roughness or contact with cattle. If excessive roughness continues, any team or team member may be assessed an additional fine and/or disqualification by the judge.

## **XI. USTPA Sportsmanlike Conduct Guidelines**

If a person is fined, the fine will be determined and assessed by the judges, Director(s) present, or the

Boards of Directors after consulting all current Directors in that Region.

Any contestant guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct will be fined and/or suspended and/or expelled from membership. USTPA reserves the right to revoke or refuse membership for proper cause.

Unsportsmanlike conduct by an exhibitor, trainer, rider or spectator will not be tolerated. Activities and behavior that shall be considered unsportsmanlike are listed below:

1. Any act of abuse or an attempt to abuse any horse;
2. Any person who threatens another person or actually inflicts injury to another person;
3. Any person who is publicly intoxicated or disorderly;
4. Any individual who is not on the team currently riding in the arena that 'spots' cattle; Any public display of outrage that could tarnish the image of USTPA;
5. Any person who approaches any Official in a threatening manner;
6. Any expelled or suspended member will not be allowed on the grounds or at any USTPA sanctioned event.

Any USTPA Director or Judge shall determine a violation of the rules listed herein. Immediate removal of the offending individual from the premises will occur. The USTPA Board of Directors will then determine the severity of the disciplinary action, which may be taken including, but not limited to, possible expulsion from the USTPA.

During any World Championship Series (National) Show, no alcohol will be consumed or possessed by exhibitors or show officials in the show arena. This also includes the warm up areas, and staging areas where exhibitors are waiting to ride.

## **XII. USTPA Regional Finals and USTPA World Championship**

Regional/World USTPA Awards & World Championship Qualifying

### **1. Minimum Regional Show Requirements for Year End Awards**

All Regions must have a minimum of three (3) Sanctioned Shows during the competition year to qualify for Regional Year-end award funds provided by USTPA. Co-Sanctioned Shows can be used to meet this requirement with two Co-Sanctioned Shows equaling one Sanctioned Shows. Any Region may award additional year-end awards beyond those provided by the Administrative Office at the discretion

of that Region's respective Regional Directors. If a Region has not generated enough finals fees from its Regional finals fees paid, the Administrative Office is not obligated to supply standard year-end awards (such as saddles, for instance) to that Region in excess of the Regional finals fees paid, however, the Region may acquire the saddles or other year-end awards through local sponsorship or by other means. In the event a Region does not hold a Regional Finals, the Regional finals fees that have been paid to USTPA will continue to accrue in the Region's reserve account for future use.

## **2. Regional and World Championship Qualifying Requirements**

- A.** Qualifying for any Regional Finals will be determined by each respective Region's Directors and the USTPA Executive Committee.
- B.** For World Championship Series Finals qualifying, refer to Section II, 1, B of this Handbook for Team Penning and Section II, 2, B of this Handbook for Ranch Sorting.
- C.** Members who compete in a given competition year but are unable to satisfy the World Championship participation requirements due to an unexpected and bona fide medical condition, illness or injury, may receive a waiver for that competition year subject to

approval of both Regional Directors and the USTPA Executive Committee.

Participation is defined as a person holding a current Competitor membership which either competes in a show or serves as one of the official Judges, Announcer, Timekeeper or Secretary.

### **3. Year-End Award Qualifications**

Awards will be provided to the Year-End High Point Riders. To qualify for the awards, a combination of USTPA Sanctioned event points will be used to calculate USTPA Year-End Awards. The lower of the rider's penning and sorting ratings will be used to determine Year-End High Point placements. No points will be included for the Master's class or the Youth classes to determine Year-End High Point overall placements.

### **4. Ride Limit at the Finals**

Any Competitor Member who has qualified via participation may still only ride the maximum allowable number of rides per class as described herein at either USTPA Regional Finals or the USTPA World Championship Series Finals. A rider may qualify in more than one Region, but the ride limit in each class for the USTPA World Championship Series Finals still applies.

## **5. Counting Shows for Participation Requirements**

All show results are to be delivered to the USTPA office within 7 days from the end of the last day of the show. Shows not in compliance will not count for participation requirement.

## **6. Regional / World Championship Qualifying Geography**

To qualify for a Regional Finals, the minimum USTPA required shows must be within that Region's geography unless cooperative Regional finals have been previously approved by the affected Regions' Directors. The World Championship Series Finals participation requirements can be fulfilled across Regional boundaries.

## **7. Finals Classes**

All Regional Finals and the World Championship Series Finals will include classes as determined by the respective Regional Directors and the USTPA Executive Committee, for both Penning and Sorting classes. Classes for the World Championship Series Finals will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

## **8. Publishing Standings**

USTPA will publish points standings.



### **XIII. Suggested Payout Schedule**

#### **1. Suggested Pay Schedule**

- A.** If producer elects to pay fast go money: 10% of total purse goes to fast go teams in first go round, with 90% to the average. Divide the fast go purse into three monies according to payout splits listed below (50%, 30%, 20%). Pay one place in the average for every 10 teams (or part of 10) up to fifty teams (up to 5 places). If there are over one hundred teams in a class, then pay one place for each 10 teams (or part of ten) over one hundred teams up to 10 total places for the class.
  
- B.** Suggested purse percentage splits are listed in the following chart. Event producers may submit any other payout schedules for approval with their sanctioning request.
  
- C.** Suggested purse percentage splits, by monies paid out of the total purse in each class: Please note that these are suggested payout schedules. Event producers may submit any other payout schedules for approval with their Sanctioning request. However, any payout schedule other than these suggested splits and percentages should be openly posted by the event producer at the show for competitors to see.

<b># of Teams</b>	<b># of Places</b>	<b>% of Purse Paid Per Place</b>
1-10	1	100%
11-20	2	60%-40%
21-30	3	50%-30%-20%
31-40	4	40%-30%-20%-10%
41-100	5	30%-25%-20%-15%-10%
101-110	6	30%-24%-18%-12%-9%-7%
111-120	7	28%-23%-16%-12%-9%-7%-5%
121-130	8	25%-20%-15%-12%-10%-8%-6%-4%
131-140	9	23%-18%-15%-11%-9%-8%-7%-5%-4%
141+	10	20%-16%-14%-11%-9%-8%-7%-6%-5%-4%

## **XIV. Guidelines for Event Producers**

### **1. Who May be an Event Producer**

Any reputable person who can furnish proof that he or she is capable through ability or experience may act in the capacity of an event producer.

### **2. Positions Held**

The event producer shall be the person in charge of the USTPA show, but may not hold the position of show secretary or Director-In-Charge at a show where he or she is the event producer.

### **3. Closing of Entries**

No teams may be added after the starting position draw has been completed for that class unless they are fill-ins for scratched teams. Books will close for the next class after the 1st round of the previous class unless approved by Sanctioning Chairman or the Regional Directors before the start of the show.

### **4. Grant of Rule Enforcement Authority**

The event producer shall have authority and responsibility to enforce all rules pertaining to the show. He or she may excuse any horse or exhibitor from the show prior to or during the judging for any infraction of rules or misconduct.

## **5. Jurisdiction Over Show**

The event producer shall have jurisdiction over preparing and mailing all entry blanks, premium lists, and catalogs. He or she shall enforce the arrival and departure times as shown in the catalog or as advertised.

**6. Responsibilities of Event Producer** 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 duties, he or 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 at all times extend every effort to satisfy the comfort of the horses, exhibitors, spectators, and officials. He or she shall be held responsible for maintaining clean and orderly conditions throughout the show.

## **7. Process for Handling Comments**

The event producer shall receive written complaints from exhibitors, trainers, owners, show participants, and other USTPA members of incidents of cruel, abusive, or inhumane treatment of livestock on show grounds and shall forward such complaints to the USTPA for possible disciplinary action under the USTPA's rules pertaining to unsportsmanlike conduct.

## **8. Display Clock Required**

All USTPA shows must have a readable electronic display clock; electric eye will not be used to start time.

# **XV. Guidelines for Judges**

## **1. Approved List**

Judges must be chosen from the approved list of the USTPA. Upon request, the office of the USTPA will furnish a list of qualified and approved judges to organizations or persons planning to conduct a show. In accepting a Judge's card from USTPA a member may lose their Amateur status in other equine organizations.

## **2. Official's Test**

All approved judges should be totally familiar with all USTPA rules and general guidelines. All judges must take a USTPA Official test and score a passing grade to be eligible to officiate in USTPA Sanctioned events. The expiration of a officials first test will be on the first Monday after the second succeeding World Championship Show.

## **3. Judges' Privilege**

Designation as an Association-approved judge is a privilege, not a right. An individual's conduct as a member/ exhibitor/judge and his ability must be exemplary.

#### **4. Membership Requirement**

Judges must be a member in good standing of USTPA. Any judge not in good standing may be removed from the list of approved judges and will be required to reapply for inclusion to the list of approved judges.

#### **5. Judging Commitment**

Upon acceptance of a judging commitment, a judge shall endeavor, with all reasonable effort, to judge the show. In the case of an inability to judge a show, the judge shall notify show management in a timely manner so as to allow the maximum time in which to seek a suitable replacement. A judge shall, at all times, act in a professional manner. During competition hours, no officiating show official, staff, or judge may consume any alcohol.

#### **6. Presence and Availability**

During an approved show, a judge shall be present to meet his responsibilities under USTPA rules, and shall be available to assist show management in meeting its responsibilities to rule compliance.

#### **7. Dress Code**

Refer to Mandatory Event Guidelines Dress Code.

#### **8. Inability to Compete and Judge**

While judging a class, a judge shall not ride, or in any manner participate, in the role of an exhibitor.

## **9. Conflict of Interest**

Association-approved judges should be sensitive to any conflict of interest between USTPA's objectives and their own personal business or pecuniary interests. Each judge should refrain from using his or her official status to further personal or financial purposes. When such conflict of interest arises, the judge is required to either withdraw the personal objective from the transaction in question or resign from the USTPA's approved judge's list.

## **10. Inability to Manage and Judge**

Any USTPA-approved judge involved in the management of a show cannot officiate as a judge at that show.

## **11. Judges Demeanor**

When an exhibitor makes a request through the Director-in-Charge or other show official for the judge's opinion, it is urged that the judge give his/her opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the Director-in-Charge or other show official and always act in a professional manner.

## **12. Treatment of Judges**

An approved judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and no person shall direct abuse or threatening conduct toward him or his family on or off show grounds, either in the furtherance of his

judging duties, or as a result thereof, whether or not the conduct occurs during an approved show or on show ground.

## **XVI. Guidelines for All Employees/ Subcontractors**

### **1. Take no money policy**

Including, but not limited to, all forms of bribery or corruption are prohibited. Any breach of this rule will result in disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal.

## **XVII. Guidelines for Directors**

### **1. Closed Meeting Confidentiality Rule**

If a Director violates the rule they will be subject to up to One Year suspension from participation in USTPA events. See Article 4 of By-Laws.

## **XVIII. Guidelines for Announcers**

### **1. Approved List**

Announcers must be chosen from the list of approved USTPA announcers. The USTPA will furnish a list of qualified and approved announcers to organizations or person's planning to conduct a show. All announcers must be USTPA members in good standing. All



USTPA announcers must take the USTPA Officials' test, score a passing grade and announce at least 2 shows per year to remain eligible to officiate at USTPA Sanctioned events. Announcers must take the Official's test every 2 years in order to be a USTPA approved announcer. The expiration of an officials first test will be on the first Monday after the second succeeding World Championship Series Finals.

## **2. Who May Be an Announcer**

Any reputable person may apply to the USTPA to be included on the approved announcers list. He or she must furnish proof of familiarity with USTPA rules and capability of serving as announcer through ability and experience.

## **3. Dress Code**

Refer to Mandatory Event Guidelines Dress Code.

## **4. Other Requirements**

During competition hours, no officiating show official, staff, or judge may consume any alcohol.

# **XIX. Guidelines for Show Secretaries**

## **1. Approved List**

Show secretaries must be a member in good standings of USTPA. Any show secretary not in good standing may be removed from the list of approved secretaries

and will be required to reapply for inclusion to the list of approved secretaries.

## **2. Who May be Show Secretary**

Secretaries may be any reputable person who can furnish proof that he or she is capable through ability and experience and is familiar with USTPA rules and may apply to the USTPA to be included on the list. The show secretary must successfully complete the USTPA Official's test every 2 years. The expiration of an official's first test will be on the first Monday after the second succeeding World Championship Series Finals.

## **3. Other Positions Prohibited**

The show secretary may not hold the position of event producer or Director-In-Charge at a show at which he or she serves as show secretary.

## **4. Show Secretary Responsibilities**

The show secretary shall be the primary person responsible for the correctness of the entries and show results, including verifying exhibitor eligibility. The show secretary shall post the results of each class within one hour of the end of the class.

## **5. Show Records Responsibilities**

It shall be the responsibility of the show secretary to maintain and record both entries and show results. The

show secretary must submit show results to the USTPA within 7 days of the last day of the show. Failure to do so will subject the event producer to being fined and disallowed any further Sanctioning by USTPA. The show secretary shall keep a set of the results on file for at least 1 year from the date of the show. The show secretary shall be held responsible for the entry fees, office charges, etc., and for any fees collected for membership on behalf of USTPA. In addition, it is strongly recommended that any cash payments made to the show secretary for these fees be converted to a money order or check before being sent to USTPA.

## **6. Dress Code**

Refer to Mandatory Event Guidelines Dress Code.

## **7. Other Requirements**

During competition hours, no officiating show official, staff, or judge may consume any alcohol.

# **XX. Guidelines for Timekeepers**

## **1. Approved List**

Timekeepers must be chosen from the approved list of the USTPA. Upon request, the USTPA will furnish a list of qualified and approved timekeepers to organizations or persons planning to conduct a show. All timekeepers must be a member in good standing of

USTPA. All USTPA timekeepers must take the Officials' test every 2 years, score a passing grade, and time at least 2 shows per year to remain eligible to officiate in USTPA Sanctioned events.

## **2. Who May Be a Timekeeper**

Any reputable person may apply to the USTPA to be included on the approved list. He or she must furnish proof that he or she is capable of serving as timekeeper through ability and experience and is familiar with USTPA rules.

## **3. Dress Code**

Refer to Mandatory Event Guidelines Dress Code.

## **4. Other Requirements**

During competition hours, no officiating show official, staff, or judge may consume any alcohol.

# **XXI. Guidelines for the Director-In-Charge**

## **1. Who May Be Director-In-Charge**

The Director-In-Charge must be a USTPA member in good standing.

## **2. Familiarity with Rules**

The Director-In-Charge shall be well informed as to the rules and guidelines of the USTPA and have a copy of the rules available on the day of the show.

### **3. Communications During Show**

The Director-In-Charge shall have a discussion with the event producer and announcer regarding specific announcements regarding new and ongoing USTPA programs, sponsors, upcoming events, and other items of member and prospective member interest during the Penning.

### **4. Official's Familiarity with Rules**

The Director-In-Charge shall also have a discussion with the event producer and judges to go over all USTPA rules.

### **5. Cattle Handling**

The Director-In-Charge shall discuss with the event producer the cattle holding pens, rotation of cattle, and proper cattle numbering.

### **6. Checking Each Herd**

The Director-In-Charge is responsible for checking each herd as it enters the arena for correct head count, proper numbering, and number readability. The Director-In-Charge shall also watch for lame or crippled cattle.

### **7. Availability to Member Questions**

The Director-In-Charge shall be available for questions pertaining to the goals and directions of USTPA.

## **8. Director-In-Charge Demeanor**

The Director-In-Charge shall settle all problems that may arise in a professional manner. A Director-In-Charge should not be afraid to say "I don't know but I'll get you the right answer."

## **9. Requirements**

A Director-In-Charge is required at all approved shows. The Director-In-Charge must be appropriately attired as per USTPA rules. The Director-In-Charge may not hold the position of event producer or show secretary at a show at which he or she serves as the Director-In-Charge.

## **10. Presence and Availability**

After acceptance of a show commitment, the Director-In-Charge should endeavor, with all reasonable effort, to be at the show, and shall communicate, in a timely manner, with the Penning event producer any inability to attend the show for which he or she has committed.

## **11. Other Requirements**

During competition hours, no officiating show official, staff, or judge may consume any alcohol.

## **12. A Non-Judging Official**

The Director-In-Charge must keep in mind that he/she has been selected to help the judge, not advise. The Director-In-Charge shall not take part, or seem to take

part, in any of the judging, however, he or she may cast a tie-breaking vote if the judges are deadlocked on a protested call.

### **13. Role of the Director-In-Charge**

The Director-In-Charge has charge of the activity in the arena. He or she should act as mediator between the judge and the exhibitor.

## USTPA Points Rating System

No. of Teams in Class	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
3-4	1									
5-9	2	1								
10-14	3	2	1							
15-19	4	3	2	1						
20-24	5	4	3	2	1					
25-29	6	5	4	3	2	1				
30-34	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
35-39	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
40-44	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
45+	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

The USTPA is proud to recognize our leading riders in each rating throughout the year and recognize our Year-End High Point Champions and High Point Reserve Champions. Leading rider rankings are calculated on a point Based system. The top rider with the most points in each rider rating is the USTPA Year End High Point Champion of that rating. The rider in each rating with the second highest amount of points earned during the show year is the USTPA Year-End High Point Reserve Champion. World Champion and Reserve World Champions are based on the point system.

1<sup>st</sup> Go = Teams in Class

2<sup>nd</sup> Go = Teams in Round

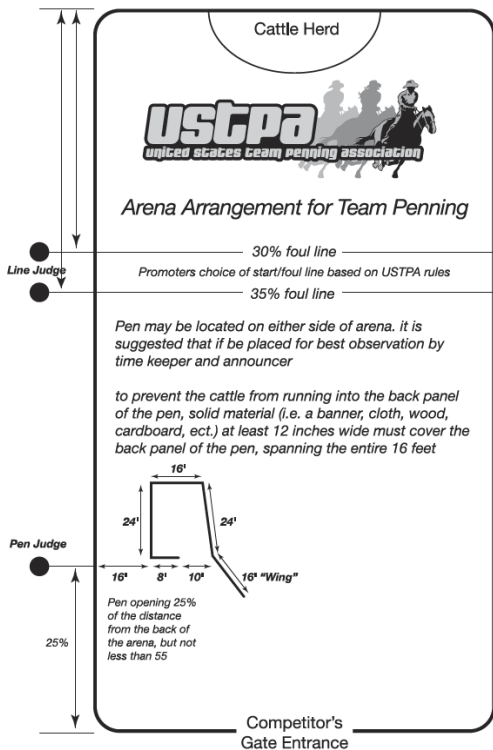
3<sup>rd</sup> Go = Teams in Round

Short Go = Teams in Round

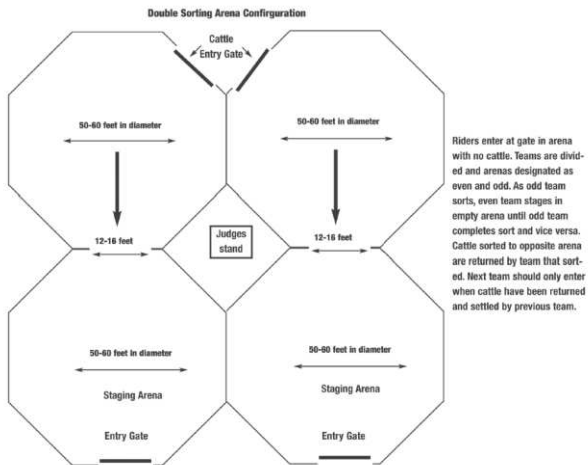
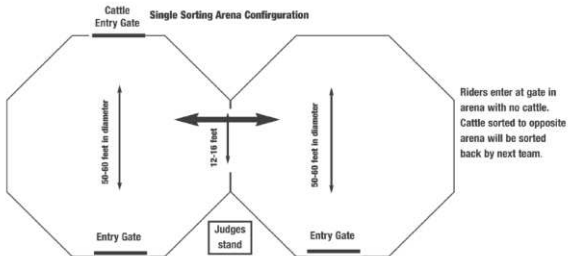
Average = Overall Teams in Class



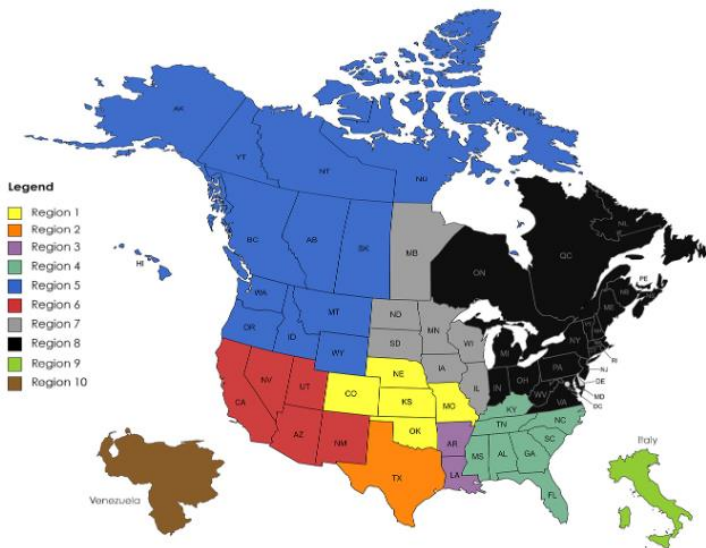
# Penning Arena Diagram



# Sorting Arena Diagram



# 2023-24 USTPA REGIONS



State/Country	Region	State	Region
Alabama	4	Montana	5
Alaska	5	Nebraska	1
Arizona	6	Nevada	6

<b>State/Country</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Region</b>
Arkansas	3	New Hampshire	8
California	6	New Jersey	8
Colorado	1	New Mexico	6
Connecticut	8	New York	8
Delaware	8	North Carolina	4
Florida	4	North Dakota	7
Georgia	4	Ohio	8
Hawaii	5	Oklahoma	1
Idaho	5	Oregon	5
Illinois	7	Pennsylvania	8
Indiana	8	Rhode Island	8
Iowa	7	South Carolina	4

<b>State/Country</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Region</b>
Kansas	1	South Dakota	7
Kentucky	4	Tennessee	4
Louisiana	3	Texas	2
Maine	8	Utah	6
Maryland	8	Vermont	8
Massachusetts	8	Virginia	8
Michigan	8	Washington	5
Minnesota	7	West Virginia	8
Mississippi	4	Wisconsin	7
Missouri	1	Wyoming	5
Italy	9		
Venezuela	10		