



Ranch Sorting National Championships 2009-2010 RULES

Copyright 2009 by RSNC LLC.

Revised 1/1/2010

RSNC National Headquarters
PO Box 1, Wellington, Colorado 80549
Phone: 970-897-2901 Fax: 970-897-2921
Website: www.rsnc.us
RSNC is a for profit LLC.

All rules contained herein are subject to change or correction.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I	MEMBERSHIP
	1.1 Silver Star Membership
	1.2 Additional Family Memberships
	1.3 4H & FFA
	1.4 Junior Membership
	1.5 Day Pass
	1.6 Lifetime Membership
	1.7 Membership Requirements
Section II	CLASSIFICATION
	2.1 Rating System Classifications
	2.2 Rating Rules
	2.2.1 #1 Beginner
	2.2.2 #2 Rookie
	2.2.3 Novice
	2.2.4 Amateur
	2.2.5 Open
	2.2.6 Data Driven Rating Evaluation
	2.2.7 New Member Probationary Rating
	2.3 Forfeiture of Money Won
	2.4 Classification Cards
	2.4.1 Statistical Data
	2.4.2 Performance Rating
	2.5 National Finals Rating Committee
	2.6 Rating Review Program
Section III	DIVISION AND ENTRIES
	3.1 Sorting Divisions
	3.1.1 Required Classes
	3.1.2 Pick and Draw
	3.1.3 Handicap System
	3.1.4 Master Handicap
	3.2 Entries & Number of Go's
	3.2.1 Number of Go's
	3.2.2 Running Order
	3.2.3 Payment of Fees
	3.2.4 Entering with Same Partner
	3.3 Draw-Out and Replacement Emergency Draw-out
Section IV	NATIONAL FINALS
Section V	SANCTIONING
	5.1 Sanctioned Sortings
Section VI	REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION
	6.1 Unsportsmanlike Conduct
	6.2 In The Arena Horsemanship
	6.3 Trash Cattle Rule
	6.4 Gate Call

- 6.5 Roughing
- 6.6 Working Cattle While Dismounted

Section VII REASONS FOR RE-RIDES

- 7.1 Number Already Called
- 7.2 Cow Leaves the Arena
- 7.3 Injured Cattle

Section VIII RSNC RANCH SORTING DIVISIONS AND RULES

- 8.1 Sorting Divisions
- 8.2 Beginner Sorters
 - 8.2.1 Rookie Sorters
- 8.3 Ranch Hand Sorting Guidelines
- 8.4 Qualification Guideline for National Finals
- 8.5 Ranch Sorting Rules
- 8.6 Placings
- 8.7 Lap Timers
- 8.8 Time Limit
- 8.9 Settling Cattle
- 8.10 Pen Diagram
- 8.11 Duplicate Teams
- 8.12 Open Arena Sorting Rules
- 8.13 Ride Limit
- 8.14 Ties

Section IX GUIDELINES FOR EVENT PERSONEL

- 9.1 Guidelines for Event Producers
- 9.2 Guidelines for Judges
- 9.3 Guidelines for Announcers
- 9.4 Guidelines for Timekeeper
- 9.5 Guidelines for Show Secretaries

Section X MANDATORY EVENT GUIDELINES

- 10.1 Conduct
- 10.2 General Event Guidelines
- 10.3 Event Cancellations
- 10.4 Substitute Riders
- 10.5 Dress Code

Section XI FORMS FOR OFFICE USE

- 11.1 Handicap Chart
- 11.2 Recommended Payout Schedule
- 11.3 Go Sheet Instructions
- 11.4 Paybacks and Rounds

Section XII SORT FOR THE SADDLES POINTS RACE

- 12.1 Rules for the 2009 Sort For The Saddles Points Race

SECTION I MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1.1 **SILVER STAR** - Membership fee is \$50.00 per person. However, for the 2009-2010 season, all memberships are free for new members. All current and past members who bring a new member also receive a free membership. Current and past members must list the name of their new member on their membership form to receive the free membership. For the 2009-2010 season, memberships are valid through the RSNC National Finals (2010). Annual memberships will begin and end after the National Finals each year. A membership purchased after March 1st of each season shall be good for the remainder of that season and throughout the next full season, (16 months) membership, with the exception of an upgrade. Free memberships and all upgrades from a Day Pass to a Silver Star Membership will expire after the National Finals of the year the upgrade was purchased. *The Ranch Sorter* publication is included with all paid memberships. It is available for \$10 for all who receive a free membership.
- 1.1.2 **ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS** – For those current and past members who do not bring a new member, family members of the purchaser of an RSNC Membership can join for an additional \$30 each. This includes the spouse and any children living at home who are older than 12 and younger than 21.
- 1.1.3 **FREE RSNC MEMBERSHIP TO ALL 4H AND FFA MEMBERS** - Congratulations to the agriculture based youth in America! You and your family are the kind of folks that we admire and appreciate. Your sense of pride and determination to be involved with the advancement of land and livestock in this great United States is to be commended. For that reason, we at the RSNC want to honor your efforts by awarding you a free membership to RSNC. Just show proof that you are 19 or under and that you are a current member of 4-H or FFA when you fill out your membership application and you will receive your free membership. . Then, join us with your horses in this exciting Ranch Sorting activity and celebrate our heritage!
- 1.1.4 **YOUTH MEMBERSHIP** - Any youth 12 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year, may receive a membership free of charge. A birth certificate copy may be required for age verification. This membership will entitle holders to all the benefits of the standard RSNC memberships except for receipt of The Ranch Sorting Publication. RSNC will run a division specifically for our beginning Youth Members and Youth Rated Members at the National Finals.
- 1.1.5 **DAY PASS** - Day Passes may be purchased by any contestant wishing to compete at one RSNC sanctioned event with the exception of the National Finals. The Day Pass must be purchased and a rating survey completed before the contestant competes. Day Passes are \$25.00 and are good for one sorting event. A contestant cannot purchase more than 1 day pass in any given year. The \$25.00 Day Pass fee will be credited toward the upgrade to a membership, if membership is purchased in the same year that the Day Pass is purchased. A complimentary issue of The Ranch Sorting Publication is included.
- 1.1.6 **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP** - In honor of our more mature participants RSNC offers a Lifetime Membership. This one-time membership fee is \$100. These are only available to participants 70 Years of age and older. This membership is non-transferable.
- 1.1.7 **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS** - With the exception of those riding on a first time Day pass, participation in a RSNC event requires being a member of the RSNC to collect winnings. Their

membership status must show as current in the RSNC Producer's database at the show, or shall have submitted a First Time Membership or Renewal Membership application, including appropriate fees, to the RSNC Headquarters or the sorting producer, prior to the event or division he or she is entering. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase their First Time or Renewal Memberships anytime during the year. Memberships can be purchased at event offices. **I took out the part about 1st time beginners. Everone one should have a membership. Its free**

****Participation in a RSNC event by a participant who is not a current RSNC member, or has not submitted a First Time Membership or Renewal Membership application as specified, will result in disqualification of the participant and the participant's teammates. The member or members of a disqualified team that had a current membership shall be entitled to receive a refund of his or her entry fees. The disqualified participant that is not current shall not receive a refund of entry fees and no member of a disqualified team is eligible for any prize or winnings.**

****By entering an RSNC event the participant is representing that he or she is in compliance with the membership requirements. Acceptance of an entry at an event by RSNC or its producers shall not constitute a waiver of the requirement set forth in this rule. Membership fees will not be refunded as a result of classifications or rule disagreements.**

****IMPORTANT - Memberships are NON-REFUNDABLE AND NONTRANSFERABLE. Allow 3-4 weeks for 2-way mailing & processing for receipt of your membership letter. Allow up to 6 weeks for delivery of the first issue of The Ranch Sorting Publication**

SECTION II CLASSIFICATION

2.1 RATING SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS

RSNC will track sorting dollars won and sorting dollars spent on entry fees by each contestant at all RSNC sanctioned Events.

With this data, the dollars won will be divided by the dollars spent on entry fees by each contestant. That will provide every contestant with a win/loss ratio.

Example:

- a) If you win twice as much as you spend then your win/loss ratio would be 2.0
- b) If you win 1/2 of what you spend then your win/loss ratio would be a .5

Each contestant's ratio will then be placed on a bell curve ONLY with other contestants of the same rating. Based on where a contestant's win/loss ratio falls on the Bell curve will decide if he or she moves up one rating or down one rating. Only in extreme circumstances will a contestant's rating move more than one rating.

Example:

- a) The top determined percent of all #3 through #8 contestants move up 1 number. (3 to 4; 4 to 5; 5 to 6; 6 to 7; 7 to 8...)
- b) The bottom 10% of all contestants #4 through #9 will receive a letter stating that their win/loss ratio was in the bottom of their category and they have the option to move down one rating.

With the exception of the #1 Beginner and #2 Rookie, this will be done for every classification category at the end of each sorting season and at least one additional time each year. This guarantees fair and equal treatment of every contestant. A Beginner automatically moves up when he or she wins 3 checks or \$500, which ever comes first, in RSNC events. A Rookie automatically moves up when he or she wins

\$1,000.00 in RSNC events. Both Beginners and Rookies can be moved up regardless of their winnings if it is determined that their sorting abilities are superior to the level of competition in which they currently compete.

For those contestants that have not competed enough to have adequate data to evaluate, we will lean heavily on our producers and rating committee to assure that the ratings remain fair.

2.2 RATING RULES

***Important Note - RSNC will rely heavily on its Producers to keep the ratings fair and accurate.

2.2.1 The **#1 Beginner** rating is only for those participants who are novice riders on novice horses and who have never won 3 checks or over \$500 in any sorting or other cow horse competition. Once you win 3 checks or \$500 you will automatically be moved to a number 2. This is only an introductory level and is probationary meaning if your or your horses skills dictate it you may be moved at any time

2.2.2 The **#2/Rookie** rating is only for those participants that have **never been rated higher than a #1** in any sorting or other cow horse organization and is a novice rider on a novice horse who has never won over a \$1000 in any sorting or other cow horse competition. Once a #2/Rookie's earnings in RSNC sanctioned events reaches \$1000 and that amount has been confirmed and recorded at the RSNC Headquarters, he/she will no longer be eligible to ride as a #2 Rookie. This is a probationary rating meaning if you or your horses skills dictate it you may be moved at any time

2.2.3 **A Novice** is defined as a #3 or #4 rated contestant that is inconsistent in their ability to sort cattle whether it is because of their cattle reading ability, their ability to get successful partners and/or the ability of their horse. Any new member that has won over \$1000 in Ranch Sorting or other cowhorse competition will not be rated below a #3 Novice. Additionally the #3 rating will be reviewed by win/ loss ratios half way thru each season.

2.2.4 **An Amateur** is defined as a #5 or #6 rated contestant that is just below or just above average in their ability to sort cattle. This is a contestant that can read cattle, is aggressive and confident and is riding an athletic cow horse. From time to time this contestant or their horse will make minor errors that prevent them from consistently sorting. Those that are considered just below average should be a #5 and just above average should be a #6.

2.2.5 **An Open Rider** is defined as a #7,#8 or #9 rated contestant that excels within the sport of Ranch Sorting. These are experienced sorters that have continued to improve and advance within the rating system or professional horseman that have recently entered the sport and their horses and sorting abilities dictate that they are superior to the Novice and Amateur contestants. These could be cutting horse and cow horse trainers that in a very short period of time have learned how to be competitive in sorting and have advanced to the open level. There are three levels within the open division.

The #7 is considered to good to ride as an Amateur, but either doesn't have an exceptional horse or who may have a slower reaction time than the best riders in the industry. This contestant's win/loss ratio prevents him/her from advancing.

The #8 is a professional ranch sorter. This contestant can travel anywhere in the country and be competitive in Open Ranch Sorting Divisions but does not consistently win like the #9 contestant. .

The #9 is reserved for the elite within the industry. They reflect the standard of excellence, which all others strive to achieve.

2.2.6 A contestant's data will be collected and carried over from one year to the next, until as determined by RSNC he or she has competed enough to warrant a data driven rating evaluation RSNC will use 9 rating classifications. All contestants regardless of age, will be assigned a rating classification. Each new member of RSNC must be given a rating classification before competing in a RSNC sanctioned event. The member is required to accurately and honestly answer all questions regarding his or her rating criteria.

2.2.7 All new members will compete on a probationary rating for their first year of competition. If for any reason, it is found by RSNC that the person is inappropriately rated then RSNC will correct the rating. If that person is found to have falsified information about his or her rating then RSNC may revoke the membership of that person.

2.3 FORFEITURE OF MONEY WON- Teams whose combined ratings are higher than the division number or division cap will forfeit their winnings.

2.4 CLASSIFICATION LETTER & MEMBERSHIPS – For the 2009-2010 season, classification letters and membership status letters will be issued beginning publication of the July issue of the Ranch Sorter and good through the 2009-2010 RSNC National Finals All new members are assigned a probationary rating for their 1st year of competition. If at any time within the first year it is determined by RSNC that the contestant is misrated, the rating will be adjusted.

2.4.1 At the end of each year all contestants' statistical data will be evaluated and ratings will be adjusted. This classification system is used to limit the margin of error in setting sorting categories. It is based on statistical data rather than opinion and it treats each member identically and fairly. Each contestant is classified or rated with a number 1 through 9 with 9 being the most advanced.

2.4.2 Your classification number is your performance rating. The sum of your classification number and your partners' classification numbers cannot exceed the number of the sorting division. This procedure closely defines the caliber of each sorting division.

2.5 National Finals Rating Committee- A rating committee will be in place to review all questionable ratings at the 2009-2010 National Finals. It will be the committee's sole responsibility to observe and review all questionable ratings of contestants. The committee will consist of four individuals at any one time, three will vote on a rating adjustment with a unanimous vote required for a change. That change will be in effect the next division in which that contestant competes. If there is a conflict of interest by a person on the committee, that person will not vote and the fourth committee person will replace them. The committee has full authority and will be 100% supported by the association. We want members to know that fairness is our utmost priority and RSNC will not allow underrated contestants to continually compete at the wrong rating.

- 2.6 Rating Review Program- RSNC has instated a rating review program for any contestant that does not believe their current rating is accurate. The review requires a \$200 up front deposit. If after a minimum of 45 entries under the new rating, the win/loss ratio shows that the contestant falls within the bottom 15% of ratios for that rating, then the contestant's rating will be lowered and the \$200 will be refunded. If the rating is not in the bottom 15%, the \$200 will be forfeited and the rating will remain.

SECTION III

DIVISIONS AND ENTRIES:

3.1 RSNC DIVISIONS;

2 MAN SORT

1. All Levels Handicap
2. #13 Handicap
3. #10 Handicap
4. #8 Handicap
5. #6 Handicap
6. #4 (not handicapped)
7. Masters #10 Handicap
8. Rookie #11 Handicap (2-cap on Sorter)
9. Beginner Sort w/ 5 head of cattle and 1 blank
10. Youth #10 HC

RANCH HAND SORT

1. #14 Ranch Hand
2. #11 Ranch Hand w/4 cap on Sorter
3. Beginner Ranch Hand
4. Beginner Youth RH

If the #14 Ranch Hand is not offered and the #11 Ranch Hand is, there is no cap on the Sorter in the #11 Ranch Hand

3.1.1 Required divisions. All Levels Handicap, Beginner Division or Rookie #11 HC and one other division is mandatory to qualify as a sanctioned event.

3.1.2 Pick & Draw - The Pick & Draw division is designed to allow new contestants to the sport an opportunity to find rides and meet other contestants. All RSNC divisions have a 5 ride limit. It is strongly recommended to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 4 or draw all 5. All classes are required to be up to a 5 ride limit with a maximum of 4 picks.

3.1.3 Handicap System

The RSNC handicap system for ranch sorting.

The handicap system for all Sanctioned RSNC events in ranch sorting will be as follows. Each rating below the highest possible team number in a division will receive one additional second beyond 60 seconds to sort their cattle. Then those additional seconds will be subtracted from the team's final time on the cattle sorted. Handicap chart can be found on page 20.

Example:

1. A #10 team in the All Levels Handicap division (#18 maximum rating) receives 8 additional seconds, ($18-10=8$) giving them 68 seconds to sort. If they sort 10 head in 63 seconds their final handicap time would be 10 head in 55 seconds ($63-8=55$)

2. A #9 team in the #13 handicap division receives 4 additional seconds ($13-9=4$) giving

them 4 additional seconds to sort. If they sort 8 head in 56 seconds their final time would be 8 head in 52 seconds (56-4=52)

This system levels the playing field for all sorting contestants with a handicap based on their rating.

3.1.4 **MASTERS #10 HANDICAP-** All Contestants in the Masters Division must be 50 years of age or older at the end of the calendar year. This event is run as a #10 Handicap Division .

3.1.5 **YOUTH-** All Contestants in the Beginner Youth Division must be 13 or younger by January 1st of that year. Beginner Youth may have an Adult or experienced person in the gate but the sorter must be rated #1 Beginner. All Contestants in the Youth Rated Division must be under the age of 19 by January 1st of that year. There is no rating cap on the Youth Rated Division but it is recommended to be a HC class.

3.2 **ENTRIES and Number of Go's**

All classes are strongly recommended to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 4 or draw all 5.

All classes are required to be up to a 5 ride limit with a maximum of 4 picks.

At all RSNC Sanctioned events the % payback will be the producers' option. All divisions will have an additional \$3 per ride per person Sanctioning Fee.

3.2.1 **Number of Go's**

First Go	2nd Go	3rd Go	Final Go
1to50			10
51-100	20		10
101-150	30		10
151-200	40		10
201-250	50		10
251-300	60	20	10
301-350	70	20	10
351-400	80	30	10
401+	90	40	10

This is for all RSNC Sanctioned divisions with the entry fee at \$35 or higher. If entry fees are less than \$35 the Producer has the option of 1 Go and Top Ten regardless of the # of teams. Please announce the # of go's before the start of the division.

3.2.2 **RUNNING ORDER -** All RSNC Sanctioned divisions are progressive (you must sort in each go round to advance). All finals at any RSNC sanctioned sorting will have their running order, determined by draw, mechanically or physically at promoter's discretion.

3.2.3 **PAYMENT OF FEES –** It is the producer's option to require cash, check or credit card. If CASH ONLY at an On-Site sorting is required, it must be advertised as such in The Ranch Sorter

Publication. Checks will not be accepted from sorters that have previously written bad checks. Entry fees should be payable to the RSNC Producer.

3.2.4 ENTERING WITH SAME PARTNERS – Two member teams are permitted to ride together only once in each division, unless it is the result of a Draw or in the Ranch Hand classes, where they can ride together two times if they change designated sorters. Three member teams must change one rider.

3.3 DRAW-OUT AND REPLACEMENT and EMERGENCY DRAW-OUT -

Any team may draw-out of any event with notice prior to the start of that division with no draw out charge. If no notice is provided then entry fees are forfeited to the competition's pot. If an individual draws out, the contestants entered with him/her may draw out or replace the partner. If a team participant's partner fails to notify RSNC or the sorting producer of a draw-out, and does not appear prior to first go-round of a competition, the participants entered with him may get a substitute partner. In no instance may a participant use another participant's entry fee. If a substitute contestant is replacing a contestant who has a doctor or vet's release or has been officially drawn out, that replacement will be required to pay entry fees, but no late fees. In no instance will the team be moved to a later draw position while the participant locates another partner. In the event of an emergency involving a competing contestant, his/her family or his/her horse, the producer may draw that team out and refund their money.

SECTION IV NATIONAL FINALS

*** NATIONAL FINALS - In 2010 RSNC will host one centrally located National Finals.

SECTION V SANCTIONING

5.1 RSNC SANCTIONED SORTINGS:

- 5.1.1 To be a sanctioned show, a show must be cleared on the Association calendar and approved by RSNC.
 - 1. Sanctioned sorting may include Ranch Hand Sorting, 1-man Ranch Hand Sorting, 2-man Ranch Sorting, 3-man Ranch Sorting and Open Arena Sorting.
- 5.1.2 Required divisions. All Levels Handicap, Beginner Division or Rookie #11 HC and one other division is mandatory to qualify as a sanctioned event. .
- 5.1.3 EVENT PRODUCER - Failure to comply with any RSNC rules could result in forfeiture of future sanctioning by the Event Producer, including any shows already sanctioned or pending sanctioning.
- 5.1.4 SPECIAL SANCTIONING - Special Sanctioning may be granted by RSNC and allow for potential modifications, which may include: a higher ride limit, special venues and additional pick and draw positions. Any and all deviations if granted must be advertised.
- 5.1.5 Each Event Producer operating a show under the Association's sanctioning shall be solely responsible for any and all liability and shall hold RSNC and its officers and directors harmless from any liability.

- 5.1.6 RSNC Bylaws, rules and guidelines will govern all sanctioned classes.
- 5.1.7 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 upon request, forfeits the winnings to the Event Producer.
- 5.1.8 Both RSNC and the Event Producer of a sanctioned show shall have the right to require any contestant, or in the case of a Youth rider, the contestant's parent or guardian to sign a Liability Release form holding the Association and the Event Producer, et al, harmless for any and all injury incurred as a result of the penning/sorting
- 5.1.9 RSNC will strictly enforce a black ball list of participants who write bad checks or who fail to pay entry Fees or other required fees of any RSNC Sanctioned show or contest.

SECTION VI REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- 6.1 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT –RSNC reserves the right to disqualify any contestant who does not act in a sportsmanlike, reasonable or professional manner. This shall include abusive schooling of horses. Disqualified contestants forfeit all fees.
- 6.2 IN THE ARENA HORSEMANSHIP - Abusive schooling or treatment of horses will ***not*** be tolerated. Any contestant who is in violation of this rule will be disqualified.
- 6.3 TRASH CATTLE RULE - The definition of trash cattle is any wrong numbered or blank cattle that cross the start/foul line.
- 6.4 GATE CALL – There is a (one time) 30-second gate call for every team after the announcer calls for that team. If that team has not entered the arena within the allotted time they will be disqualified. Additionally, if a contestant is late a second time or more, he or she may be disqualified.
- 6.5 ROUGHING - A team will be disqualified for roughing - consisting of any physical contact by horse or rider at the judges discretion.
- 6.6 WORKING CATTLE WHILE DISMOUNTED - Any team working cattle must be mounted on horseback. Working cattle on foot is reason for disqualification.

SECTION VII REASONS FOR RE-RIDES

- 7.1 NUMBER ALREADY CALLED - If a duplicate number is called within the same set of cattle a re-ride will be given immediately upon point of discovery using the same set of cattle with the correct numbers. Those re-rides will begin at zero. Re-rides may also be given for official or mechanical errors or downed cattle. In these cases, contestants will be given the option to take their time on the number of cattle sorted or re-ride at the end of the herd starting with the same number beginning at a time of zero.
- 7.2 COW LEAVES THE ARENA - At judge's discretion a re-ride or a no time can be given if a cow leaves the arena. All re-rides will occur at the end of that set using the same numbered cattle starting at 0 cattle with a new clock. Time can also be given on remaining cattle at the time a wrong numbered cow leaves the arena.

7.3 INJURED CATTLE - Prior to a team crossing the start / foul line the team must notify the judge of any UN-numbered, injured, or unfit cattle. No re-rides will be given once a team has committed the cattle by crossing the start / foul line. If at the judge's discretion, a re-ride is given because of UN-numbered, injured, or unfit cattle the re-ride will occur at the end of that set using the same numbered cattle once injured, unfit or unnumbered cattle are replaced.

Possible reasons for a judge to remove cattle:

- lame
- sick
- exhausted
- blind
- bleeding
- There will be no re-rides for inconsistent cattle unless the judge and event producer agree.

SECTION VIII RSNC RANCH SORTING DIVISIONS AND RULES

8.1 Sorting Divisions - for the 2009-2010 season will consist of:

A. 2 MAN SORT

11. All Levels Handicap
12. #13 Handicap
13. #10 Handicap
14. #8 Handicap
15. #6 Handicap
16. #4 (not handicapped)
17. Masters #10 Handicap
18. Rookie #11 Handicap (2-cap on Sorter)
19. Beginner Sort w/ 5 head of cattle and 1 blank
20. Youth #10 HC

B. RANCH HAND SORT

1. #14 Ranch Hand
2. #11 Ranch Hand w/4 cap on Sorter
3. Beginner Ranch Hand
4. Beginner Youth RH

Through special sanctioning RSNC may approve 3-man and 1-man Arena Sorting or Ranch Sorting.

8.2 Beginner Ranch Hand

a. *Beginner Sorter with a handicap on any rated gate person- In this class the recommended entry fee for the gate person is \$10, the recommended entry fee for the sorter is \$15.

Beginner Sort is where beginners ride with beginners on 5 numbered head of cattle and 1 blank.

**To qualify as a Beginner you must be a #1 Rated sorter that has not won 3 Average checks or \$500 in Ranch Sorting or other cow horse competition. A contestant will remain a Beginner until it is determined that his/her skill level merits a rating change, or until he/she wins 3 Average checks or \$500 in RSNC events; at which time they will be automatically moved prior to the next event.

PRODUCERS HAVE THE OPTION OF OFFERING A BEGINNER RANCH HAND OR A BEGINNER SORT.

8.2.1 Rookie #11 Handicap (2 cap on Sorter)

*Rookie Sorter is defined as any #2 RSNC rated contestant that has won 3 or more checks and/or \$500 but less than \$1,000.00. When a #2 Rookie wins \$1,000.00 or shows superior skills for that rating, they will automatically be moved to a #3 or above.

8.3 Ranch Hand Sorting Guidelines

This class is designed to showcase two separate horse and rider abilities. The Gate Horse holds herd and turns back wrong numbered cattle while the Sort Horse is continuously in the herd to separate and cut out the correct numbered cattle in sequential order. Contestants can ride together two times if they change the designated sorter.

Gate Horse & Rider

- Must compete in a defensive manner
- Must not make any aggressive moves on the object numbered calf
- May make aggressive moves on any and all numbered cattle other than the object numbered calf
- Can not turn toward the object numbered cow and intentionally drive it out when otherwise it wouldn't have gone out at that speed..

Sort Horse & Rider

- The sort horse and rider will be responsible for sorting all cattle in the correct order by working through the herd to both turn back and cut the cattle from the herd.
- This horse and rider is allowed to make both offensive and defensive moves while cutting the cattle.

8.4 QUALIFICATION GUIDELINE FOR NATIONAL FINALS

RSNC NATIONAL FINALS
Attend 5 shows and ride for the maximum percent payback at the National Finals.
Attend less than 5 shows and ride for the maximum percent payback less twenty percent at the National Finals.

8.5 RANCH SORTING RULES

- 8.5.1 Ranch sorting is 1, 2 or 3 man teams sorting 10 cattle numbered 0-9 and 1 unnumbered cow for a total of 11 head. A producer has the option to add 1 more unnumbered cow. A run starts with team members on opposite side of start line from cattle.
- 8.5.2 The judge will raise the flag when the pen is ready. The judge will signal the beginning of the run by dropping the flag when the nose of the first horse crosses the start/foul line and the first number to be sorted will be announced. - The announcer will draw a number, which will determine the first cow to be sorted. The cattle will then be sorted increasing in sequence from that number.
- 8.5.3 The cattle must be sorted in number sequence. If any part of a cow crosses the start/foul line out of sequence a disqualification will occur. A disqualification will also occur if any part of a sorted cow re-crosses the start/foul line. Any cow not entirely across the start/foul line will not be counted. The 10th cow must be completely across the line before the blank cow starts across or the team will receive a no time.

- 8.6 *Placings* - Teams sorting in three go's will place higher than teams sorting in two go's. Teams sorting in two go's will place higher than teams sorting in one go, regardless of how many cattle were sorted. All ties will be brought back to the finals unless greater than 5 additional positions are created. All ties that are run off will be drawn for position of go. All ties can be eliminated by the use of lap timers, which is recommended.
- 8.7 *Lap Timers* -It is recommended that Hand Held Lap Timers are used at all RSNC sortings.
- 8.8 *Time Limit* - A 60, 75 or 90 second allotted time limit for each division will be required at producer's discretion (RSNC Recommends a 60 second clock).
- 8.9 *Settling Cattle* - Each new herd must be familiarized with both sides of sorting pens before the first team runs on a herd. Cattle will be settled prior to run at judge's discretion. It is the judge's responsibility to see that cattle herds are settled as long as needed.

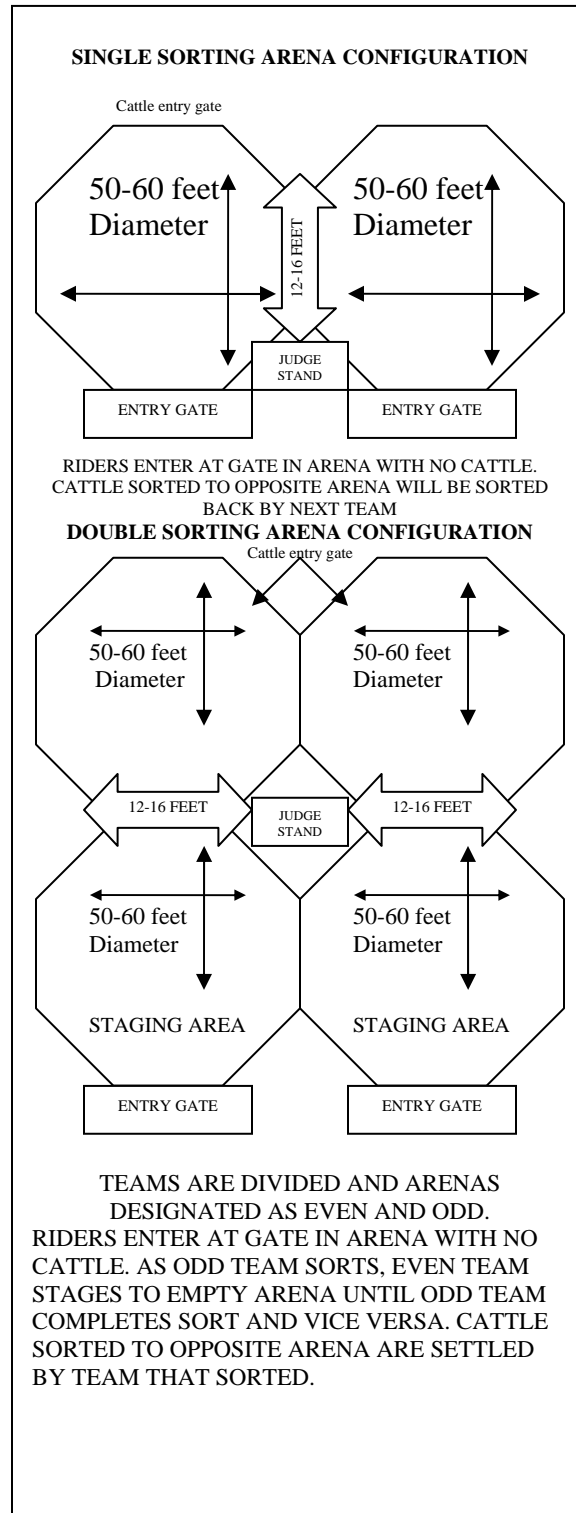
Each arena and set of cattle are different and for that reason, a producer should make a decision and advise the judge on which way the cattle should be settled to be the most fair to the contestant and the well-being of the cattle. For settling cattle, the producer has the following three options:

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

For determining number of runs on each herd, a producer shall advise the judge and should announce before the division starts one of the following options:

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

20.10 PEN DIAGRAM



The optimum sorting pen is 50'-60' diameter with corners cut at 45'.

The opening between the two pens will be 12'-16'.

Two equal sized pens will be used for back and forth or one-way sorting at producers discretion.

8.11 DUPLICATE TEAMS

Two member teams are permitted to ride together only once in each division unless it is the results of a Draw or in Ranch Hand classes, where they can ride together two times if they change the designated sorter. Three member teams are permitted to ride together only once in each division and then must change at least one rider.

8.12 OPEN ARENA SORTING RULES

8.12.1 At each producer's discretion, 3 man team sorting in open arena with one judge is acceptable.

8.12.2 Open arena sorting is a 3 man team sorting ten cattle numbered zero through nine and one unnumbered cow for a total of 11 head. A producer has the option to add 1 more unnumbered cow. The run starts with the 3 man team on the opposite side of the start/foul line from cattle.

8.12.3 Also See Rules 8.5.2 and 8.5.3

8.13 RIDE LIMIT

All classes are strongly recommended to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 4 or draw all 5.

All classes are required to be up to a 5 ride limit with a maximum of 4 picks.

8.14 TIES

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

SECTION IX

9.1 GUIDELINES FOR EVENT PERSONEL

9.1.1 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.

9.1.2 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.

9.1.3 The Event Producer shall have the authority and responsibility to enforce all ratings and rating rules Any suggested rating changes will be confirmed by the RSNC office.

9.1.4 Suggested pay for judges-timekeepers-announcers is a minimum of \$100 per day or \$1.00 per team, whichever is greater. Hotel/motel accommodations should also be provided if overnight stay is required. These shall be paid for by the producer.

9.1.5 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, cattle, exhibitors, spectators, and officials. He or she shall be held responsible for maintaining clean and orderly conditions throughout the show.

9.1.6 The Event Producer shall receive written complaints from exhibitors, trainers, owners, show participants, and other RSNC members of incidents of cruel, abusive or inhumane treatment of

livestock on show grounds and shall forward such complaints to RSNC for possible disciplinary action under the RSNC rules pertaining to unsportsmanlike conduct.

9.2 GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

- 9.2.1 The Event Producer may hire any reputable person they choose as a judge. They must become familiar with RSNC rules.
- 9.2.2 The Judge is responsible for checking each herd as it enters the arena for correct head count, proper numbering, and number readability. The judge shall also watch for lame or crippled cattle.
- 9.2.3 All approved judges should be totally familiar with all RSNC sorting rules and general guidelines.
- 9.2.4 Designation as an RSNC-approved judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by RSNC according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals whose expertise and personal character merits the honor. An individual's conduct as a member/participant/judge and his ability must be exemplary.
- 9.2.5 After acceptance of a judging commitment, a judge shall endeavor, with all reasonable effort, to judge the show, and shall timely communicate to show management any inability to do so, as to allow the show management maximum time in which to seek a suitable replacement.
- 9.2.6 During an approved show, a judge shall be present to meet his responsibilities under RSNC rules, and shall be available to assist show management in meeting its responsibilities to rule compliance.
- 9.2.7 All judges at a RSNC sanctioned show must wear western attire: a western hat is optional, long or short sleeved western shirt tucked-in and buttoned properly, and boots. Tank tops, tee shirts and ball caps will not be allowed.
- 9.2.8 When a participant makes a request through the Arena Director or other show official for the judge's opinion, it is urged that the judge will give his opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the Arena Director or other show official.
- 9.2.9 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 grounds.

9.3 GUIDELINES FOR ANNOUNCERS

All RSNC announcers must be familiar with RSNC rules & general guidelines.

9.4 GUIDELINES FOR TIMEKEEPER

Event producer may hire any reputable person they choose as a time keeper.

9.5 GUIDELINES FOR SHOW SECRETARIES

- 9.5.1 Secretaries may be any reputable person who can furnish proof that he or she is capable through ability and experience to perform the required show secretary duties. They must be familiar with RSNC rules.
- 9.5.2 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.
- 9.5.3 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 RSNC within ten (10) 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 RSNC. The show secretary shall keep a set of the results on file for at least one (1) year from the date of the show. The show secretary and Producer shall be held responsible for the entry fees, office charges, etc., and for all fees that should be collected for membership or sanctioning on behalf of RSNC. 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 RSNC. No results will be posted until the RSNC office has all of the information needed from a show.

SECTION X MANDATORY EVENT GUIDELINES

10.1 Conduct

- a) Each RSNC member shall follow the RSNC rules at all sanctioned shows.
- b) Any contestant who is guilty of misconduct may be fined \$20 to \$250 or be expelled from the contest and/or the Association. RSNC reserves the right to revoke or refuse membership for proper cause.
- c) If a person is fined, the fine will be determined and assessed by the Judges and producer.
- d) Fines must be paid before the contestant rides again, or competes in future events.
- e) 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/her judging duties or as a result thereof, whether or not the conduct occurs during an approved show, on the show grounds or off the show grounds.
- f) By virtue of paying an entry fee and/or competing in a RSNC sanctioned competition, whether or not he or she is a paid RSNC member, each contestant grants permission to the RSNC to use his or her photographic image for the promotion of the sport of Ranch Sorting.

10.2 General Event Guidelines

- a) There will be one (1) sorting judge approved by the RSNC and compensated by the Event Producer. The announcer may function as timekeeper. Decisions of the judges are final. The RSNC Arena Director will cast the tiebreaker.
- b) All classes are strongly recommended to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 4 or draw all 5.
All classes are required to be up to a 5 ride limit with a maximum of 4 picks.
team in each division. Promoters must receive sanctioning approval from RSNC and advertise accordingly.
- c) 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 at the beginning of the second go, unless otherwise posted and announced.

d) All proceeds and records of show must be submitted to the RSNC National Office within ten (10) days of the last day of the show. For each day late after ten (10) days, an Event Producer will be fined \$25 per day. This rule is in effect to allow RSNC to publish results in a timely manner. 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 RSNC.

- 10.3 Event Cancellations - In the event a show is cancelled due to weather or other extenuating circumstances before the final go-round, the last fully completed go-round will decide the winners of the division. The decision to stop the sorting shall be a joint decision of the Event producer, and the judges.
- 10.4 Substitute Riders - In extreme instances, substitution of a rider after a team has made its original ride may be allowed at the discretion of the judge for compassionate reasons. The show secretary must be notified to ensure that monies are awarded to the appropriate rider in each go. Substitute riders must have available rides in order not to exceed the limit in that class. Their rating must also not make the teams rating exceed the division number cap. Their rating must be the same or below that of the original rider.
- 10.5 Dress Code - All contestants at a RSNC sanctioned show must wear western attire: a western hat is optional, long or short sleeved western shirt and boots. Tank tops, tee shirts and ball caps will not be allowed. Any member who is in violation of the dress code rule will be given a "no time" for that ride.

SECTION XI FORMS FOR OFFICE USE

11.1 EXPLANATION OF HANDICAP:

Note: At the discretion of the producer, a class may be run on a 60, 75, or 90 second clock. According to a team's handicap, they will have time added to the initial 60, 75, or 90 seconds. RSNC recommends that a 60 second clock be used. The handicap in the Beginner divisions is based on the rating of the gate rider.

One (1) additional second is given for every number a team's combined rating falls below the class number. For example, a #3 rider and a #5 rider have paired to ride in the #13 which will be run on a 60 second clock. Their team rating is 8 ($3 + 5 = 8$); therefore, they will receive five (5) additional seconds ($13 - 8 = 5$). This team will sort on a 65 second clock ($60 + 5 = 65$).

After the run, those additional seconds ARE SUBTRACTED from the final time. So, if the team sorted 5 head in 63.5 seconds, they turn-in a 58.5 on 5 head ($63.5 - 5 = 58.5$).

In the All-Levels Handicap, the maximum team rating is 18 (a pair of #9 riders). Therefore, a team receives one (1) second for every number their rating is below 18. This means that if a #6 rider and a #2 rider pair in the All-Levels Handicap which is being run on a 60 second clock, that team will receive 10 additional seconds ($6 + 2 = 8$ & $18 - 8 = 10$); they will sort on a 70 second clock. If the team sorts 9 head in 68 seconds, they will turn-in a 58 on 9 head ($68 - 10 = 58$).

Quick Reference Handicap Chart

All Levels															
2	+16	#14													
3	+15	2	+12	#13											
4	+14	3	+11	2	+11	Rookie		#11							
5	+13	4	+10	3	+10	2	+9	2	+9	Beginner		#10			
6	+12	5	+9	4	+9	3	+8	3	+8	2	+8	2	+8	#6	
7	+11	6	+8	5	+8	4	+7	4	+7	3	+7	3	+7	2	+4
8	+10	7	+7	6	+7	5	+6	5	+6	4	+6	4	+6	3	+3
9	+9	8	+6	7	+6	6	+5	6	+5	5	+5	5	+5	4	+2
10	+8	9	+5	8	+5	7	+4	7	+4	6	+4	6	+4	5	+1
11	+7	10	+4	9	+4	8	+3	8	+3	7	+3	7	+3	6	+0
12	+6	11	+3	10	+3	9	+2	9	+2	8	+2	8	+2		
13	+5	12	+2	11	+2	10	+1	10	+1	9	+1	9	+1		
14	+4	13	+1	12	+1	11	+0	11	+0	10	+0	10	+0		
15	+3	14	+0	13	+0										
16	+2														
17	+1														
18	+0														

11.2 RECOMMENDED PAYOUT SCHEDULE

PLACES PERCENTAGE SPLITS

- 1 100 %
- 2 60% - 40%
- 3 50%-30%-20%
- 4 40%-30%-20%-10%
- 5 34%-27%-20%-10%-9%
- 6 32%-24%-17%-10%-9%-8%
- 7 28%-22%-17%-10%-9%-8%-6%
- 8 26%-22%-14%-10%-9%-8%-6%-5%
- 9 26%-19%-13%-10%-9%-8%-6%-5%-4%
- 10 25%-18%-13%-10%--8.5%-7%-6%-5%-4%-3.5%

Recommended Payout Schedule

a) Suggested split of the purse: 7.5% to the Fast Go in the first go round after 50 teams, with 92.5% to the average.

- b) In the Fast Go, no places are paid for the 1st 50 teams, 2 places are paid from 51-99 teams, 3 places are paid after 100 teams.
- c) The average will pay one place for every ten teams or part thereof (see chart page 22) up to a total of five places and one more for every 50 teams after 100.

11.3 ENTRY FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Cut apart entry form (there are 3 entry forms per page on the next page. Using the entry forms filled-out by the contestants, you will use these to enter teams into the RSNC Software. I have taken out Go Sheets everywhere.

As each team makes a run, the announcer will fill-in the other information accordingly (the cattle # with which the run started, the run time, and the number of cattle sorted) on the software program.

As a round progresses, it is helpful to group entry forms according to the number of cattle penned in a descending order (most sorted to least sorted). This allows the announcer to always know how many spots in the next go or how many payback positions are filled. It also allows him/her to know the “cut-off” so that information can occasionally be announced. It is recommended to keep this information on the hard copies printed from the software program so that there is a backup copy should a contestant question their score.

Number of Rounds RSNC Divisions:

First Go	2nd Go	3rd Go	Final Go
1 to 50 teams			10 teams
51 to 100 teams	20 teams		10 teams
101 to 150 teams	30 teams		10 teams
151 to 200 teams	40 teams		10 teams
201 to 250 teams	50 teams		10 teams
251 to 300 teams	60 teams	20 teams	10 teams
301 to 350 teams	70 teams	20 teams	10 teams
351 to 400 teams	80 teams	30 teams	10 teams
401 +	90 teams	40 teams	10 teams

Note: *This is for all RSNC sanctioned divisions with entry fees of \$35 or higher. If entry fees are less than \$35, the producer has the option of having only a first go and a top ten final go regardless of the number of teams. Please announce the number of rounds and how many teams will be brought back for each subsequent round before the start of the division.*

NEXT PAGE- ENTRY FORM- (Print out as many as you need)

I, _____ (contestant) want to enter the following teams:

Partner #1 _____

Partner #2 _____

Partner #3 _____

Partner #4 _____

Draws _____

FOR THE _____ DIVISION (ie. All Levels Handicap)

I, _____ (contestant) want to enter the following teams:

Partner #1 _____

Partner #2 _____

Partner #3 _____

Partner #4 _____

Draws _____

FOR THE _____ DIVISION (ie. All Levels Handicap)

I, _____ (contestant) want to enter the following teams:

Partner #1 _____

Partner #2 _____

Partner #3 _____

Partner #4 _____

Draws _____

FOR THE _____ DIVISION (ie. All Levels Handicap)

I, _____ (contestant) want to enter the following teams:

Partner #1 _____

Partner #2 _____

Partner #3 _____

Partner #4 _____

Draws _____

FOR THE _____ DIVISION (ie. All Levels Handicap)

11.4

PAYBACKS & ROUNDS

USE THE AVERAGE PAYBACK AND FAST-GO PAYBACK

WORKSHEET TO FIGURE PAYBACKS. CLASSES WITH 50 OR MORE TEAMS WILL HAVE FAST-GO PAYBACKS (PRODUCER’S OPTION) ON TIMES TURNED-IN DURING THE **FIRST ROUND ONLY**. PAYING FAST-GOES AFFECTS THE TOTAL AVERAGE PAYBACK (SEE WORKSHEET).

NOTE: *The Total Money figure used to figure payback should not include the \$3 per ride RSNC fee. Entry fees are determined by each individual producer. However, RSNC encourages producers to keep entry fees fair and affordable to allow the greatest number of contestants to compete.*

The splits are based on 100% *of the total payout*. This means if a class’s payout is 60%, then 60% of all the money paid in entry fees will go back to the contestants as winnings. So, the amount that equals *60% of the total average pot* will be split into paybacks.

IF THE FEES FOR THE GATE RIDER AND THE SORTER ARE DIFFERENT (EXAMPLE: SORTER \$25/GATE \$10), YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE AN AVERAGE PAYBACK WORKSHEET FOR EACH CONTESTANT AS OPPOSED TO ONE PER TEAM.

AVERAGE PAYOUT SCHEDULE

1 TO 10 TEAMS	1 PAYBACK	100%										
11 TO 20 TEAMS	2 PAYBACKS	60%	40%									
21 TO 30 TEAMS	3 PAYBACKS	50%	30%	20%								
31 TO 40 TEAMS	4 PAYBACKS	40%	30%	20%	10%							
41 TO 100 TEAMS	5 PAYBACKS	34%	27%	20%	10%	9%						
101 TO 150 TEAMS	6 PAYBACKS	32%	24%	17%	10%	9%	8%					
151 TO 200 TEAMS	7 PAYBACKS	28%	22%	17%	10%	9%	8%	6%				
201 TO 250 TEAMS	8 PAYBACKS	26%	22%	14%	10%	9%	8%	6%	5%			
251 TO 300 TEAMS	9 PAYBACKS	26%	19%	13%	10%	9%	8%	6%	5%	4%		
301 TO 350 TEAMS	10 PAYBACKS	25%	18%	13%	10%	8.5%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3.5%	

NOTE: ENTRY FEES AND PAYBACKS ARE SET AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRODUCER. THE ABOVE STRUCTURE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE RSNC.

12.1

RSNC Sort for the Reinsman Saddles 2009-2010

Reinsman Saddles will be awarded to the highpoint contestant in each category. Other prizes will be awarded through 10th place. In the 2009-2010 season, qualifying will run from June 14, 09 to June 12, 2010. The top 20 point earners in each category as well all frozen contestants will enter the Finals with 20 points down to 1 point respectively.

Qualifying Divisions	
All 2009-2010 Graduating Beginners And all top 20 Beginners	Automatically Qualified Top 20 from each State
All 2009-2010 Graduating Rookies And all top 20 Rookies	Automatically Qualified Top 20 from each State
Novice (#3 & #4)	Top 20 from each State
Amateur (#5 & #6)	Top 20 from each State
Open (#7, #8 & #9)	Top 20 from each State
Masters 50 & Over	Top 20 from each State

The AQHA point system will be used to award points to contestants placing in the top ten of any division for which they are eligible. Classes with 100+ teams will award double points.

Points will be awarded to the top 10 places regardless if they made a time in the final go or not.

Points Chart

No. of entries in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3-4	1/2									
5-9	1	1/2								
10-14	2	1	1/2							
15-19	3	2	1	1/2						
20-24	4	3	2	1	1/2					
25-29	5	4	3	2	1	1/2				
30-34	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2			
35-39	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2		
40-44	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2	
45 & More	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2

Classes With 100+ Teams Are Double Points

Sort for the
Reinsman Saddles



THE PURPOSE OF THE RSNC *SORT FOR THE REINSMAN SADDLES* CONTEST IS TO SERVE AS AN INCENTIVE FOR PARTICIPATION IN SANCTIONED EVENTS. IN THE '09-10' SEASON, POINT TOTALS WILL BE KEPT FROM JUNE 14, 09 TO JUNE 12, 2010. THE TOP 20 POINT EARNERS FROM EACH STATE, AS WELL AS ALL FROZEN CONTESTANTS, IN SIX SEPARATE CATEGORIES WILL ENTER THE NATIONAL FINALS WITH 20 POINTS TO 1 POINT RESPECTIVELY.

1. Contestants must be a member to earn points for the saddle race.
2. The Masters' Division will be a class of its own and the points will be kept separately.
3. A contestant will represent his/her home state. Points earned at shows outside a contestant's home state will be added to his/her total in the state in which he/she resides.
4. In addition to the Reinsman saddle, the top 20 point earners from each state will be eligible for other year-end prizes. However, a contestant may only claim one year-end award.
5. In the event that a contestant's rating is changed, his/her points will be carried with him/her to the next division unless moving those points improves the contestant's standing in the points race. In this case, only the points that will put the contestant in the same standing as in the prior division will be carried over. Example: A NOVICE has 50 points and is in 4th place in the standings when she becomes an AMATEUR. The current 4th place AMATEUR has 30 points. In this case, the rider that is graduating from NOVICE to AMATEUR can only transfer 30 of her 50 points to the new division. The two riders will now be in a tie for the 4th place AMATEUR position.
6. Contestants graduating from Beginner to Rookie will be automatically qualified for the National finals with a minimum of 10 points in the Graduated Beginner division. A Beginner that graduates to a Rookie and then to a Novice will be eligible to ride in the Graduated Rookie and the Novice divisions at the 2010 Finals. Contestants graduating from Rookie to Novice will be automatically qualified for the National Finals in the Graduated Rookie division with a minimum of 10 points. All other contestants that are moved from one division to another will be automatically qualified for the Finals, with a minimum of 10 points, *in the division they graduated into*. Graduated contestants are eligible to compete for paybacks in every division for which they are qualified, but may only claim one year-end award.

THE RSNC NATIONAL FINALS IS AN OPEN EVENT; THIS MEANS ANYONE MAY COMPETE AT THIS CONTEST AND WIN PAY-BACKS AS WELL AS OTHER PRIZES. CONTESTANTS THAT COMPETED AT 5 OR MORE RSNC EVENTS DURING THE '09-'10 SEASON ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL 20% ON ANY PAYBACK. HOWEVER, ONLY THE TOP 20 POINT EARNERS FROM EACH STATE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SADDLE OR OTHER YEAR-END AWARDS.