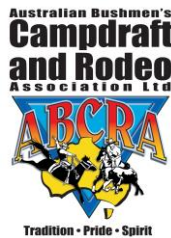




Ranch Sorting National Championships Australia

Rule Book



Australian Bushmen's Campdraft and Rodeo Association
Incorporating
Ranch Sorting National Championships Australia

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All rules contained herein are subject to change without notice

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SECTION I

MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 The membership year is 1 May to 30 April.
- 1.2 Membership fee is as determined by RSNCA from time to time.
- 1.3 Membership is not transferrable.

1.4 FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Family members of an RSNCA Member can join for an additional \$30 each. This includes the spouse and any children living at home who are older than 8 and younger than 18.

1.5 YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

A youth member will be 8 to 18 years of age.

A youth member that reaches 18 years of age prior to the expiry of the current membership year shall be entitled to Full Membership at no charge for the remainder of the current year.

1.6 DAY MEMBERSHIP

Day Membership may be purchased by any person for any show with the exception of the National Finals.

The Day Membership must be purchased and a rating survey completed before the contestant competes.

A contestant cannot purchase more than one (1) Day Membership in any given year. The Day Membership fee will be credited toward the upgrade to a Full Membership.

A Day Member is not eligible to accrue points.

1.7 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Only Full Members and Day Membership holders are eligible to participate in an RSNCA event and to collect winnings.

Membership status must show as current in the RSNCA Committee's database at the time of the show.

By entering an RSNCA event the participant is representing that he or she is in compliance with the membership requirements. Acceptance of an entry at an event by RSNCA or its Producers shall not constitute a waiver of the requirement set forth in this rule.

Membership fees will not be refunded.

SECTION II

CLASSIFICATION

2.1 RATING SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS

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

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

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 #2 through #8 contestants move up 1 number.

(2 to 3; 3 to 4; 4 to 5; 5 to 6; 6 to 7; 7 to 8...)

b) The bottom 10%, for example, of all contestants #3 through #9 will be given the opportunity to move down one rating.

With the exception of the #1 Beginner, #2 Rookie and the #3 Novice, this will be done for every classification category at the end of each sorting season. This guarantees fair and equal treatment of every contestant.

A Beginner automatically moves up when he or she has exceeded life time earnings of \$750 in any sorting or other cow horse competition.

Once a #2/Rookie's earnings in RSNCA sanctioned events reaches \$1000 (youth classes excluded) and that amount has been confirmed and recorded at the RSNCA Headquarters, he/she will no longer be eligible to ride as a #2 Rookie if their win/loss ratio is above 0.60 in either the #6 and below classes and the Rookie #11 Handicap or in all classes combined.

If both win/loss ratios are below a 0.60 then they will remain a #2 until they earn \$1,500 at which point their win/loss ratio will be evaluated again.

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 Committees and rating committee to assure that the ratings remain fair.

All #3 Novices will be reviewed every 6 months and will be moved accordingly based on win/loss ratios in #11 and below classes or all classes combined. This will bring more consistency to the ability of the #3 rating and be fair for all contestants.

2.2 RATING RULES

*****Important Note - Initial ratings will be given based on experience*****

RSNCA has a 9 point rating system. RSNCA will rely on Committees to monitor accuracy of ratings.

2.2.1 The #1 (Beginner) rating is only for those participants who are novice riders on novice horses and who have not exceeded life time earnings of \$750 in any sorting or other cow horse competition.

Once your Life time earnings exceed \$750 (excluding youth earnings) you will automatically be moved to a #2.

The #1 Beginner is only an introductory level and is probationary. If you or your horse's skills dictate it, you may be moved at any time.

2.2.2 The #2 (Rookie) rating is only for those participants that are 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 RSNCA sanctioned events reaches \$1000 (youth classes excluded) and that amount has been confirmed and recorded by RSNCA Headquarters, he/she will no longer be eligible to ride as a #2 Rookie if their win/loss ratio is above a 0.60 in either the #6 and below classes and the Rookie #11 Handicap or in all classes combined.

If both win/loss ratios are below a 0.60 then they will remain a #2 until they earn \$1,500 at which point their win/loss ratio will be evaluated again. If a #2 rated rider has not reached the 0.60 win/loss ratio they will be evaluated every \$500 additionally earned. This is a probationary rating meaning if you or your horse's skills dictate it you may be moved at any time.

2.2.3 A Novice is defined as a #3 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 cow horse competition will not initially be rated below a #3 Novice. Additionally the #3 rating will be reviewed by win/ loss ratios every 6 months.

2.2.4 An Amateur is defined as a #4, #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 #4, average as 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.

They 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 too 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 will 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.

Data Driven Rating Evaluation

A contestant's data will be collected and carried over from one year to the next, until as determined by RSNCA he or she has competed enough to accurately depict a contestant's performance.

Once data is used to depict a contestant's performance, then the slate is cleared and data is collected again until a rating evaluation is determined.

- 2.2.6** RSNCA will use 9 rating classifications. All contestants regardless of age, will be assigned a rating classification.

Each new member of RSNCA must be given a rating classification before competing in a RSNCA sanctioned event. The member is required to accurately and honestly answer all questions regarding his or her rating criteria.

- 2.2.7 New Membership Probationary Rating** is where all new members will compete on a probationary rating for their first year of competition. If for any reason, it is found by RSNCA that the person is inappropriately rated then RSNCA will correct the rating.

If that person is found to have falsified information about his or her rating then RSNCA may suspend or revoke the membership of that person.

- 2.2.8 Masters** - The Masters division is for all contestants aged 50 years or older.

- 2.2.9 Youth** - All Contestants in the Beginner Youth Division (Junior) must be between 8 and 13 years of age.

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 (Juvenile) must be 17 or younger. There is no rating cap on the Youth Rated Division.

Youth ages 13 through 17 who are rated #4 & under may ride in the Rated Youth class but are not eligible for Youth points.

- 2.2.9.1 The Youth Points Race is for all youth aged 12 & under and rated a #4 or below. The youth points race includes all youth classes and all RSNCA classes with a class cap of #11 or lower, excluding the #11 Handicap.

- 2.2.9.2 Youth will not be moved from a #2 to a #3 unless their win/loss ratio is in the top 60% of all youth when they reach the \$1,000 mark or until they reach \$1,500 or in regular rated classes in the top 60%.

2.3 FORFEITURE OF MONEY WON

Teams whose combined ratings are higher than the class number or class cap for the event competed in will forfeit their winnings.

It is the responsibility of the Producer as well as the Member to make sure that they are riding at their current rating. Beginners and Rookies move up throughout the year.

2.4 CLASSIFICATION LETTER & MEMBERSHIPS

Classification letters and membership status letters will be issued each year.

All new members are assigned a probationary rating for their first year of competition. If at any time within the first year it is determined by RSNCA that the contestant is mis-rated, the rating will be adjusted.

2.4.1 Statistical Data - At the end of each year all contestants' statistical data will be evaluated and ratings will be adjusted accordingly. 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 Performance Rating - 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 class. This procedure closely defines the caliber of each sorting division.

2.5 NATIONAL FINALS RATING COMMITTEE

A rating committee will be put in place to review all questionable ratings at the National Finals.

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 RSNCA will not allow underrated contestants to continually compete at the wrong rating.

It will be the committee's sole responsibility to observe and review all questionable ratings of contestants.

2.6 RATING REVIEW PROGRAM

RSNCA has 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 40 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 RSNCA RANCH SORTING CLASSES AND RULES

3.1 RSNCA SORTING CLASSES - for the 2014-2015 season will consist of:

A. 2 MAN SORT

1. All Levels Handicap
2. #13 Handicap
3. #10 Handicap
4. #8 Handicap
5. #6 Handicap
6. #5 Handicap
6. #4 (not handicapped)
7. Masters #10 Handicap
8. Rookie #11 Handicap (2-cap on Sorter)
9. Beginner Sort
10. Youth #10 HC (Rated Youth)
11. Round Robin
12. Quick Draw

B. RANCH HAND SORT

1. #14 Ranch Hand
2. #11 Ranch Hand w/4 cap on Sorter
3. Beginner Ranch Hand #10 HC
4. Beginner Youth RH (Experienced Gate person)

In a Ranch Hand class, one person must be the designated Sorter and one person must be the designated Gate regardless of their rating.

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

Special sanctioning RSNCA may approve 3-man and 1-man Arena Sorting or Ranch Sorting.

3.2 RANCH SORTING RULES

3.2.1 Ranch sorting is typically a 2 man team sorting 10 cattle numbered 0-9 and 1 unnumbered cow for a total of 11 head. A Committee has the option to add 1 more unnumbered cow.

A run starts with team members on opposite side of start line from cattle.

3.2.2 The cattle must be sorted in number sequence. If any part of a cow crosses the start/foul line out of sequence before the correct cow starts across the start/foul line 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.

3.2.3 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.

When the flag has dropped, the announcer will announce a number, which will determine the first cow to be sorted. The cattle will then be sorted in ascending order from that number.

3.2.4 RSNCA Youth classes are to be run consistent with all RSNCA rules.

3.3 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.

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.

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
- Cannot turn toward the object numbered cow and drive it out when otherwise it wouldn't have gone out at that speed.

3.4 Class Descriptions

3.4.1 **Beginner Ranch Hand #10 Handicap**

*Beginner Sorter with a handicap on any rated gate person. Any team under a #10 will receive a time handicap with 1 additional second for every rating number under #10.

Beginner Sort is where beginners ride with beginners on 5 numbered head of cattle and 1 blank, or 10 numbered head of cattle and 1 blank depending on the cattle.

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 RSNCA events; at which time they will be automatically moved prior to the next event.

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

3.4.2 **Rookie #11 Handicap (2 cap on Sorter)**

*Rookie Sorter is defined as any #2 RSNCA rated contestant. Only #2 Rookies or #1 Beginners may be the sort rider in this class. If both partners are rated #2 or below then they both may sort. However if one partner is rated higher than a #2 than that partner must work the gate only and allow only the #2 or below partner to sort as in a Ranch Hand Class

3.4.3 **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 required to be run as a #10 Handicap Class.

3.4.4 **Round Robin** - This is a Single Go class. All teams are created dynamically, and each rider will ride at least once with every other rider. This is a single-entry, "draw only" class. No picks are allowed. All cow counts and times are accumulated for each rider, and the payout goes to the rider (not the team) with the most cows in the least time. Points are awarded to the top teams, following the same point guidelines for all other classes.

3.4.5 **Open Arena Sorting Rules**

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

3.4.5.2 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 Committee 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.

3.4.5.3 Also See Rules 3.2.2 and 3.2.3

3.5 **Entries and Number of Go's**

3.5.1 **Pick & Draw** - The Pick & Draw system is designed to allow new contestants to the sport an opportunity to find rides and meet other contestants.

All RSNCA classes have a 5 ride limit. It is required 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.

The #11 Ranch Hand and #14 Ranch Hand can be a up to 9 ride limit with a maximum 4 picks on each side for a total of 8 picks plus 1 draw. There will be 5 rides on one side and 4 rides on the other.

3.5.2 **Handicap System**

The RSNCA has a handicap system for Ranch Sorting.

The handicap system for all Sanctioned RSNCA Ranch Sorting events will be as follows. Each rating below the highest possible team number in a class 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 in SECTION X.

Example:

1. A #10 team in the All Levels Handicap class (#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 class 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.

Number of Go's

First Go	2 nd Go	3 rd 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	20 teams	10 teams
401 to 450 teams	90 teams	20 teams	10 teams
451 to 500 teams	100 teams	20 teams	10 teams
501 to 550 teams	110 teams	30 teams	10 teams
551 to 600 teams	120 teams	30 teams	10 teams
601 to 650 teams	130 teams	30 teams	10 teams
651 to 700 teams	140 teams	30 teams	10 teams
701 to 750 teams	150 teams	30 teams	10 teams
751 to 800 teams	160 teams	40 teams	10 teams
801 to 850 teams	170 teams	40 teams	10 teams
851 to 900 teams	180 teams	40 teams	10 teams
901 to 950 teams	190 teams	40 teams	10 teams
951 +	200 teams	40 teams	10 teams

The number of go's is to be announced when the draw is done and before the start of the class. Adding or scratching teams after the class starts will not change the # of teams returning.

3.5.3 Running Order

All RSNCA Sanctioned classes are progressive (you must sort in each go round to advance) 0 head sorted is considered a no time. All finals at any RSNCA sanctioned sorting will have their running order determined by draw, mechanically or physically at the promoter's discretion.

3.5.4 Payment of Fees

It is the Committee's option to require that entries are prepaid by cash, cheque or credit card where facilities allow on the day.

If CASH ONLY it must be advertised as such.

Cheques will not be accepted from sorters that have previously written dishonored cheques.

Entry fees are payable to the RSNCA Committee.

A National Finals Trophy Levy of \$1.00 per run will be collected by the committee from the competitor and remitted to the ABCRA.

3.5.5 Entering with Same Partner

Two member teams are permitted to ride together only once in each class, unless it is the result of a Draw. In the Ranch Hand classes, they can ride together two times if they change designated sorters.

Three member teams must change one rider.

3.6 DRAW-OUT AND REPLACEMENT and EMERGENCY DRAW-OUT

Any team may scratch out of any event with notice prior to the start of that class with no penalty.

If no notice is provided then entry fees are forfeited.

If an individual scratches out, the contestants entered with him/her may draw out or replace the partner with a new partner of the same rating or less.

If a team participant's partner fails to notify RSNCA or the sorting Committee 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 of the same rating or less.

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 certificate, 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 Committee may draw that team out and refund their money.

SECTION IV

SANCTIONING

4.1 RSNCA SANCTIONED SORTINGS:

4.1.1 To be **Approved as** a sanctioned show, it must be cleared on the Association calendar and approved by RSNCA.

Sanctioned sorting may include Ranch Hand Sorting, 1-man Ranch Hand Sorting, 2-man Ranch Sorting, 2-man Ranch Hand Sorting, 3-man Ranch Sorting and Open Arena Sorting.

4.1.2 **Required classes** - a minimum of three classes including All Levels Handicap, Beginner class or Rookie #11 HC, plus one other class are mandatory to qualify as a sanctioned event.

4.1.2.1 For Committees interested in holding a Round Robin class the following requirements should be followed. For a 2-show approved weekend, a Beginner or Rookie class, an All Levels and one other approved class must be offered on the first day and then a Round Robin can be offered on the second day.

For a 1-show approved weekend, a Beginner or Rookie class, an All Levels and the Round Robin should all be offered on the same day.

4.1.3 **Event Committee**- Failure to comply with any RSNCA rules could result in forfeiture of future sanctioning by the Event Committee, including any shows already sanctioned or pending sanctioning.

4.1.4 **Special Sanctioning** - may be granted by RSNCA 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 in advance of the show.

4.1.5 **RSNCA** will strictly enforce suspensions and or fines of participants who write bad checks or who fail to pay entry Fees or other required fees at any RSNCA Sanctioned show or contest

SECTION V

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

5.1 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

RSNCA reserves the right to disqualify any contestant who does not act in a sportsmanlike, reasonable or professional manner.

The Abusive schooling or treatment of horses will **not** be tolerated. Any contestant who is in violation of this rule will be disqualified.

Disqualified contestants forfeit all fees.

5.3 TRASH CATTLE RULE

The definition of trash cattle is any wrong numbered or blank cattle that starts across or crosses the start/foul line or that starts back across or crosses back across the start foul line, or any correctly sorted number that starts across the start/foul line and backs out before going all the way through is a no time.

5.4 GATE CALL

There is a single 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.

5.5 ROUGHING

A team will be disqualified for any rough treatment of cattle. The Judge has the discretion and their decision will be final.

5.6 WORKING CATTLE WHILE DISMOUNTED

Any rider working cattle must be mounted on horseback. Working cattle on foot is reason for disqualification.

5.7 HAZING

Contact with cattle by hands, ropes, bats or any other equipment or apparel will result in a no time. Waiving of hats, reins or whips at cattle will result in a No Time.

5.8 NO TIME

Any part of a cow in sequence that starts across the start/foul line and backs out is a No Time. If no cows are sorted in the allotted time the team will receive a No Time.

SECTION VI

REASONS FOR RE-RIDES

6.1 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 any number that has not already been used. Those re-rides will begin at zero time and zero cows.

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 when the run is stopped by the official or re-ride **immediately** with the same number beginning at a time of zero.

6.2 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 **immediately** using the same numbered cattle starting at 0 cattle with a new clock. Time can also be given on sorted cattle at the time a wrong numbered cow leaves the arena.

6.3 INJURED, UNNUMBERED or UNFIT CATTLE

Prior to a team crossing the start / foul line the team must notify the judge of any unnumbered, injured, or unfit cattle. Once brought to the judge's attention the Judge (not the contestants) will determine whether to correct the problem or proceed with the run.

Once a team has committed to the cattle by crossing the start / foul line NO re-rides will be given.

Possible reasons for a judge to remove cattle will include lameness, sickness, exhaustion, blindness, bleeding or aggressive behavior.

There will be no re-rides for inconsistent cattle unless the judge and event Committee agree.

If it is determined by the judge during a set that a cow becomes unfit then that cow will be replaced but no re-rides for previous teams will be allowed.

SECTION VII

RSNCA RANCH SORTING RULES

7.1 QUALIFICATION FOR NATIONAL FINALS

All members are eligible to compete at the RSNCA National Finals, however, only those that have competed at 3 shows will be eligible to for year-end awards.

7.2 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.

7.3 STOP WATCHES

Stop watches with a Lap Time function must be used at all RSNCA sorting events.

7.4 TIME LIMIT

A 60, 75 or 90 second allotted time limit for each class will be required at Committee's discretion.

7.5 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 being run at judge's discretion. It is the judge's responsibility to see that cattle herds are suitably settled.

Each arena and set of cattle are different and for that reason, a Committee 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 Committee has the following three options:

1. Cattle may be settled on one side every time and sorted one way for that go round or class.
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.

Determining number of runs on each herd - a Committee shall advise the judge and should announce before the class 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 as equally as possible by the number of teams.
3. Due to the conditions and for the well-being of the cattle, make a decision on the maximum number of runs a herd will be used.

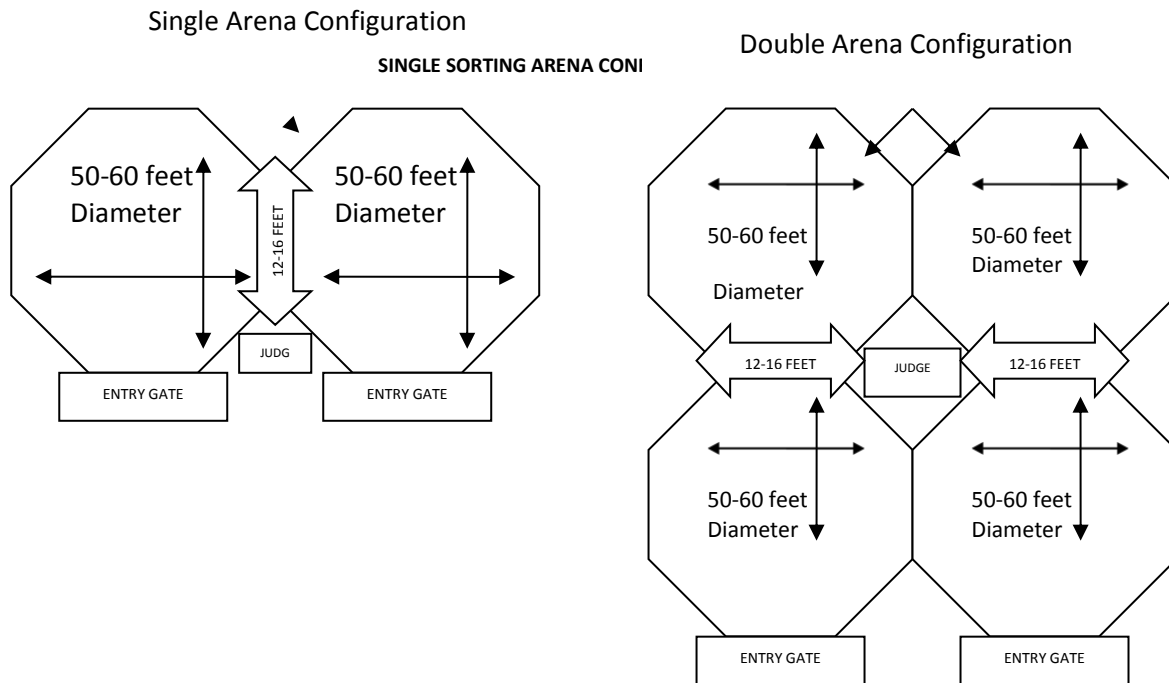
7.6 SPOTTING OF CATTLE

Spotting of cattle at all RSNCA events is permissible and highly encouraged. It brings more excitement to the sport and equals the playing field for all participants.

7.7 RIDER FALLS OFF

If a rider falls off his horse he can get back on and continue sorting.

7.8 PEN DIAGRAMS



RIDERS ENTER AT GATE IN ARENA WITH NO CATTLE. CATTLE SORTED
TO OPPOSITE ARENA WILL BE SORTED BACK BY NEXT TEAM

DOUBLE SORTING ARENA CONFIGURATION

Cattle entry gate

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

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 Committees discretion.

7.9 DUPLICATE TEAMS

Two member teams are permitted to ride together only once in each class 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 class and then must change at least one rider.

7.10 RIDE LIMIT

All Non-Ranch Hand classes have a five (5) ride limit and are required to have one (1) automatic draw.

The remaining rides can be at the competitors choice of partners or drawn.

7.11 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.

7.12 PROTESTS

7.12.1 Allotted time for a protest

A protest must be made before the team leaves the arena. Judges decision on a protest will be final.

SECTION VIII

8.1 GUIDELINES FOR EVENT PRODUCERS

8.1.1 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.

8.1.2 Event Committees must have RSNCA Approved Judges and RSNCA Approved Show Secretaries for their events.

The Event Committee must request that Judge tests and Show Secretary tests/software be sent to selected individuals so that those individuals have adequate time to apply and submit the required documentation/files for RSNCA approval a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the Event Committee's first scheduled event.

8.1.3 The Event Committee shall have authority and responsibility to enforce all RSNCA rules. Any horse or competitor may be excluded from the show prior to or during the competition for any infraction of rules or misconduct.

8.1.4 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 RSNCA office.

8.1.5 The Event Manager must be present on the show grounds for the duration of the show. In the event an emergency arises and the Event Manager is unable to fulfill their duties, he or she may appoint an acting Event Manager in his/her absence.

The acting Event Manager must also remain on the show grounds for the duration of the show.

The Event Manager 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.

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

8.2 GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

(An example of what the Judge will need and how to run the class is available upon request.)

8.2.1 The Event Committee may select any reputable person to apply to become an RSNCA Approved Judge. The selected individual must become familiar with RSNCA rules and submit a written rulebook test with a score of 90% or above to RSNCA a minimum of 2 weeks prior to their first event as an Approved RSNCA Judge.

8.2.2 The Judge is responsible for enforcing the RSNCA rules and class procedures as outlined in the RSNCA Rulebook. The Judge is also 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 unfit cattle including lameness, distress or blindness.

8.2.3 All approved Judges will be placed on a RSNCA Approved Judges list on the RSNCA website.

8.2.4 Designation as an RSNCA Approved Judge is a privilege, not a right, and is bestowed by RSNCA according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals whose expertise and personal character merits the honor.

An individual's conduct and ability as a member/participant/judge must be exemplary.

8.2.5 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.

8.2.6 During an approved show, a Judge shall be present to meet their responsibilities under RSNCA rules, and shall be available to assist show management in meeting its responsibilities to rule compliance.

8.2.7 All Judges at a RSNCA sanctioned shows must wear western attire: a western hat, long sleeved western shirt tucked-in and buttoned properly, and boots. Tank tops, tee shirts, polo shirts and ball caps **will not be allowed**.

8.2.8 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.

8.2.9 An RSNCA 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.

8.3 GUIDELINES FOR ANNOUNCERS

(An example of what the Announcer will need and how to run the class is available upon request.)

All RSNCA Announcers must be familiar with RSNCA rules & general guidelines.

8.4 GUIDELINES FOR TIMEKEEPER (An example of how to keep times is available upon request.)

Event Committee may hire any reputable person they choose as a Time Keeper.

8.5 GUIDELINES FOR SHOW SECRETARIES

(An example of what the Show Secretary will need and how to run the show is available upon request.)

8.5.1 The Event Committee may select any reputable person to become an RSNCA Show Secretary.

To become an RSNCA Show Secretary, the selected individual must become familiar with both the RSNCA rules and RSNCA software and successfully run and submit the files from a completed Virtual Show run on the RSNCA Ranch Sorting software to the RSNCA Headquarters office a minimum of 2 weeks prior to their first event.

- 8.5.2 Designation as an RSNCA Show Secretary is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by RSNCA, to individuals whose expertise and personal character merits the honor. An individual's conduct as a member/participant/show secretary must be exemplary.
- 8.5.3 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.
- 8.5.4 It shall be the responsibility of the show secretary to maintain and record both entries and show results.

The show secretary must submit the electronic show results, sanctioning fees and membership forms and fees to RSNCA within five (5) days of the last day of the show. Failure to do so will subject the Event Committee to being fined and disallowed any further sanctioning by RSNCA.

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 Committee shall be held responsible for the entry fees, office charges, etc. and for all fees that should be collected on behalf of RSNCA.

In addition, payments made to RSNCA should be by direct deposit to the nominated bank account or by cheque.

No results will be posted until the RSNCA office has all of the information needed from a show.

SECTION IX

MANDATORY EVENT GUIDELINES

9.1 CONDUCT

- a) Each RSNCA member shall follow the RSNCA rules at all sanctioned shows.
- b) Any contestant who is guilty of misconduct may be fined \$20 to \$250 and or suspended.
- c) If a person is fined, the fine will be determined and assessed by the Judges and Committee.
- d) Fines must be paid before the contestant rides again, or competes in future events.
- e) Any contestant can be expelled from the contest and/or the Association if guilty of gross misconduct.

Misconduct includes abusive or foul language in the arena or toward officials or other individuals and abuse of cattle.

RSNCA reserves the right to revoke or refuse membership for proper cause.

- 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/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.
- g) By virtue of paying an entry fee and/or competing in a RSNCA sanctioned competition, whether or not he or she is a paid RSNCA member, each contestant grants permission to the RSNCA to use his or her photographic image for the promotion of the sport of Ranch Sorting.

9.2 GENERAL EVENT GUIDELINES

- a) There will be at least one (1) sorting judge approved by the RSNCA. The announcer may function as timekeeper. Decisions of the judges are final. The RSNCA Arena Director will cast the tiebreaker.
- b) All classes are required to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 4 or draw all 5.

All classes may have up to a 5 ride limit with a maximum of 4 picks.
- c) All proceeds and records of a show must be submitted to the RSNCA National Office within five (5) days of the last day of the show. For each day late after five (5) days, an Event Committee will be fined \$100 per day. This rule is in effect to allow RSNCA to publish results in a timely manner. Any fine must be paid before the Event Committee's next scheduled show. Failure to do so will subject the Event Committee to being disallowed any further sanctioning by RSNCA.

- 9.3 EVENT CANCELLATION** - 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 class.

The decision to stop the sorting shall be a joint decision of the Event Committee, and the judges.

- 9.4 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 Committee 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 be Full Members or Day Members and have available rides in order not to exceed the limit in that class. Their rating must also not make the teams rating exceed the class number cap. Their rating must be the same or below that of the original rider.

- 9.5 DRESS CODE** - All contestants at an RSNCA sanctioned show must wear western attire i.e. a brimmed western hat , long sleeved buttoned western shirt and boots.

NOTE: Tank tops, tee shirts and ball caps will not be permitted while competing or in the competition arena.

Any member who is in violation of the dress code rule will be given a warning the first violation and a “no time” while in violation of the dress code.

SECTION X

FORMS FOR OFFICE USE

10.1 EXPLANATION OF HANDICAP:

Note: At the discretion of the Committee, 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.

RSNCA recommends that a 60 second clock be used. The handicap in the Beginner classes 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														

10.2 PAYOUT SCHEDULE

PLACES		PERCENTAGE SPLITS
1	1- 10 teams	100 %
2	11- 20 teams	60% - 40%
3	21- 30 teams	50%-30%-20%
4	31- 40 teams	40%-30%-20%-10%
5	41-100 teams	34%-27%-20%-10%-9%
6	101-150 teams	32%-24%-17%-10%-9%-8%
7	151-200 teams	28%-22%-17%-10%-9%-8%-6%
8	201-250 teams	26%-22%-14%-10%-9%-8%-6%-5%
9	251-300 teams	26%-19%-13%-10%-9%-8%-6%-5%-4%
10	Above 300	25%-18%-13%-10%--8.5%-7%-6%-5%-4%-3.5%

- a) At all RSNCA Sanctioned events the % payback will be the Committees' discretion. All classes will have an additional \$3 per ride per person Sanctioning Fee.
- b) Suggested split of the purse is 7.5% to the Fast Go in the first go round after 50 teams, with 92.5% to the average.
- c) In the Fast Go, no places are paid for the first 50 teams, 2 places are paid from 51-100 teams, 3 places are paid 101+ teams.
- d) The average will pay one place for every ten teams or part thereof (see chart above) up to a total of five places and one more for every 50 teams after 100