

2026-2027 CANADIAN TEAM CATTLE PENNING ASSOCIATION

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Canadian Team Cattle Penning Association (CTCPA) has been established to provide a National Penning Association as an umbrella for the promotion and development of the sport of Team Cattle Penning in Canada. In accordance with the mission, the CTCPA seeks to classify penners according to ability and to establish rules to create a common approach to the sport and maximize participation and competition.

The CTCPA supports the view that team penning is a sport for young and old, male and female, families and individuals, and in this regard, seeks to promote a high standard of personal conduct and good sportsmanship. The CTCPA is committed to acting on the belief that the strength of the National Association lies in the preservation of strong regional associations who are the grassroots of penning. The staging of an annual National Finals bringing team cattle penners from across Canada together in the spirit of fun and competition is of primary importance in this mission.

GOALS

1. To promote the sport of Team Cattle Penning.
2. To establish and maintain a handicap system that encourages team cattle penners of every age and every skill level to compete in the sport.
3. To promote a pastime that fosters family involvement while setting standards for proper conduct and good sportsmanship.
4. To constantly strive to improve, enhance and enrich the sport through refinement and innovation.

The CTCPA is an organization that continually seeks to improve the sport of team cattle penning. As in any evolutionary process, new paths must be taken to improve the sport for all competitors on a national basis. Regular monitoring and constant communication among participants and

associations will continue to make team cattle penning a better sport and that is the utmost aim of the CTCPA.

GENERAL RULES

The object of team cattle penning is that a team consisting of three riders in an arena must cut out from a herd and pen three head of cattle with the team's assigned number within a specified time limit. The fastest time wins. It is recommended that a two-person officiating system be utilized. One official will be the Judge who is situated at the pen and the other official is the Line Official. The Line Official is responsible for starting teams and calling "trash". The Judge is responsible for the enforcement of all other rules.

1. A team consists of 3 riders. When cross-entering a team must change out one rider. After a three-person team competes in any one go-round, if one person is unable to compete for any reason in subsequent go round(s), it is the option of the two remaining contestants to compete, if they so desire, but in no event may less than two persons compete. In the event the third rider of the team is not in the arena to begin the run when scheduled to do so, the third rider will be given a maximum of 30 seconds to enter the arena. After the 30 seconds has expired, the official will indicate to the remaining riders when the arena is ready and they must begin the run. If the third rider enters the arena after the flag has dropped to begin the run the team will be disqualified.
2. The maximum time limit for all classes, including youth classes, is 90 seconds. Within this time limit, the team must separate from the herd and pen three head of cattle with the same assigned identity number. In instances where the team has completed their run and the flag has dropped at almost the same time as the maximum time buzzer has sounded the Judge must refer to the timekeepers to determine whether or not the maximum time limit has been exceeded. All a Judge can do is drop the flag to signify the timers to stop the clock. The timer will then tell the Judge and scorekeeper if the time was within the maximum time allowed. A courtesy warning may be given to the team at 30 seconds prior to the maximum time allowed.
3. There must be 30 head of cattle in the arena when a team competes, except in the event that injured or escaped animals have been removed and management has opted to complete runs in that particular herd. If this situation occurs and the number of that injured or escaped animal has not been used previously, that number will be deleted from the order of go. In the event more or less than three assigned cattle are discovered within the herd the team(s) in this situation will receive a rerun at the end of the herd on their previously assigned number. In the event a number is called twice in the same herd the second team drawing the duplicate number must rerun. Teams awarded a rerun for these reasons will not carry forward any penalties to their reruns. Times for all other teams on the herd will remain the same.
4. Herds of cattle will be changed every ten runs regardless of no shows. In order to achieve better herd management, herd changes may be rotated more frequently.
5. All cattle will be unified & settled (bunched) within the mandatory markers on the cattle side of the start line before time begins. The Line Official will raise the flag to signal when the arena is ready. All team members are expected to move promptly into position to start and must proceed immediately if instructed to do so by either official. An official may grant a short rest of not more than 30 seconds to a competitor with back-to-back runs. The team that takes a short rest must turn and face the pen end of the arena so as not to obtain an unfair

advantage over other competitors in spotting cattle. Time begins when the nose of the first rider's horse crosses the start line. The drop of the flag to start the run deems the team is committed to their cattle. Riders will be given their cattle number as they cross the start line. Teams delaying in entering the arena within a 30 second time limit between teams will be disqualified (unless waived for good cause) from competing in that class for that day and will forfeit their entry fee. If a team is a no show, the cattle number drawn for that run will be used for the next team so that the maximum number of teams (10) will compete in each herd. The announcer shall announce, frequently, the competing team's assigned cattle number for the benefit of the competitors and spectators.

6. Once committed to the cattle, the team is completely responsible for their animals. If an animal leaves the arena either over or through a fence or gate the team can be disqualified for unnecessary roughness, given a time on their remaining cattle, or awarded a rerun at the Judge's discretion.
7. If an unassigned cow (trash) crosses the cattle / start line at any time during the run, the team will be disqualified. Cattle will be judged over the cattle/start line when all four feet are over the line.
8. Time will AUTOMATICALLY be called as soon as all four (4) feet of all three (3) cattle are in the pen and all of the riders and horses are on the pen side of the line. This will be signified by the Pen Judge dropping the flag as soon as all of these conditions have been met. A team may call time MANUALLY by any team member any time after one or more cattle have been penned. To call for time "manually" one team member's horse's nose must break the plane of the gate and that team member must raise a hand above their shoulder. The Pen Judge's flag will drop when the first horse's nose breaks the plane and that rider calls for time and time will be given on the number of cattle fully in the pen when the rider called for time. If a team calls for time with only one or two of their cattle in the pen, the remainder of their assigned cattle do not have to be on the herd side of the cattle line. The Pen Judge signals for time to stop on the conditions that occur first, whether automatic or manual.
 - a) A cow judged as penned must be completely in the pen (all 4 feet).
 - b) If all 3 cattle enter the pen before all 3 riders are on the pen side of the line, time will not stop until the Line Official signals to the Pen Judge that all riders have crossed to the pen side (all 4 feet of horse(s)). Only the Pen Judge can signal to the timer when time stops. In this situation, if any cattle escape the pen while waiting for rider(s) to cross the line, cattle may be re-penned.
 - c) If a team calls for time "manually" (see above for definition) and all riders and horses are not on the pen side of the line, the team will be disqualified.
 - d) A rider whose horse totally enters the pen shall not be disqualified.
9. Two herd holders will move penned cattle back to the herd following a run. The herd holders will ensure the herd is settled and unified between the mandatory markers. Herd holders attempting to disturb the herd – splitting pairs or 'burying' unused numbers can be called for Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Herd holders must face the herd and control the herd in this position until the number is called. The herd holders are to exit along the outside edge of the arena immediately upon the number being called and not in front of the competing team. The function of the herd holder is to ensure the herd is settled and unified.

10. Reruns and restarts will only be given for Mechanical Failure or Management Error. In the event a management error or mechanical failure is detected early in a run, the team will be given a restart. Restarts differ from reruns in that a restart is something that occurs within the first few seconds of a run that unfairly impedes the team competing. Several examples of restarts may be: failure for the announcer to inform the team of their assigned number in an appropriate time, duplicate numbers being announced, herd holder interference, failure of the timeclock or an animal bolting from the herd. Restarts will occur immediately and on the same assigned number. Reruns may be granted by the Judge for mechanical failures or management errors that might occur during the run. The team must declare their intention to seek a rerun before leaving the arena through polite request to the Judge. The herd is not to be released until the dispute is resolved. If a rerun is granted, it will be given at the end of the same set of cattle using the same numbered cattle. The team cannot better the time at which the mechanical failure or management error occurred to cause the rerun. The team may decline the rerun except in circumstances where a rerun must be taken due to duplicate numbers being used in the herd or more or less than three assigned cattle in a misnumbered herd. If a rerun is necessary for more or less than the assigned number of cattle in the herd or a rerun is granted due to cattle numbers being obscured, the team will not incur any time penalties on their rerun. In the event that a team rides out of order, their time and number of cows will stand. No re-ride will be given for the team(s) riding out of order. Once the problem has been identified, the next going forward team will be correctly aligned.
 - a) If a team observes an unfit, injured or unidentified animal before committing to the cattle, the team must notify the Judge. Once committed to the cattle by crossing the start line, the team is completely responsible for their animals. If a cow becomes incapacitated (injured, winded, lays down) the Judge has the right to stop the run and the team will not be given a rerun as “luck of the draw” will apply. If an animal leaves the arena, either over or through a fence or gate, the team can either be disqualified for unnecessary roughness, given a time on their remaining cattle or can be awarded a rerun depending on the Judge’s decision. If any extraneous animals such as dogs enter the arena, it will be the Judge’s decision whether or not to grant a rerun.
 - b) Management should make sure all cattle are healthy, two-eyed and workable. Even so, an animal may occasionally be hurt during the contest or a wild one may jump out. Exceptionally wild cattle should be eliminated before the contest. Injured cattle are to be removed immediately and management may decide to go on in that particular herd with less than 30 head of cattle in the herd.
11. Contact with or hazing cattle with hats, ropes, reins, bats, romals or any other equipment or apparatus is a disqualification. Romals or reins may be popped on the rider’s leg or saddle.
12. The fall of a horse and/or rider shall not eliminate the entry. Any attempt by a dismounted rider to work cattle before remounting will result in a disqualification. A team with one or more dismounted riders may call for time providing all riders and horses are on the pen side of the line or time will end automatically once all three cattle are in the pen. Outside help for dismounted riders by anyone other than their team mates in the arena will result in disqualification.
13. If, in the opinion of the Judge, unnecessary roughness occurs, the Judge will stop the run immediately at the point of the infraction. The team will be awarded a no time. Unnecessary roughness which will result in disqualification includes but is not limited to:

- a. Causing cattle to jump other cattle or making them leave the arena.
- b. Excessive bumping, biting or stepping on the cattle by the horse.
- c. Rider forces a cow to slam into the arena fence.
- d. Cattle bumping at the entrance to the pen.
- e. Slamming cattle into the back panel of the pen.
- f. Hitting cow's broadside.
- g. Knocking a cow down.

The Judge may call an "intentional or irresponsible roughing". A rider awarded an intentional or irresponsible roughing will be eliminated from competition at the show at which the infraction(s) took place. The rider may also be subject to further suspension and monetary fines as deemed appropriate by the sanctioned association and/or the CTCPA.

The CTCPA and/or the sanctioned association reserves the right to review any roughing infraction(s) by an individual and the right to assess further penalties if necessary.

14. Unsportsmanlike conduct by a team and/or rider may result in disqualification. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as abuse of one's horse or cattle, excessive use of foul language, intoxication in the arena or on the grounds or any other conduct felt to be detrimental to the sport of team penning. Abuse of one's horse may include but is not limited to excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping or kicking or riding a horse that is visibly lame, sick or emaciated. Unsportsmanlike conduct may also be levied against a rider showing disrespect, physical, verbal or written abuse to a Judge, Line Official or Show Management. Any rider who shows disrespect to those parties listed in the previous sentence will be awarded an unsportsmanlike conduct and will be disqualified for that day of competition and all entry fees for the day will be forfeited. This rule is to be enforced by the presiding Judge, Arena Director and/or Show Management.

The sanctioned association and/or the CTCPA reserves the right to suspend any rider from competing in the balance of the show at which the offense took place and further, will review the offense to determine if further suspension is required.

Unsportsmanlike conduct may also be levied for any physical, verbal or written abuse to any member of a rating committee regardless if it occurs during or outside of a sanctioned event. This rule will be enforced by the local association and/or the CTCPA.

15. Spotting of cattle is not allowed and if blatant spotting occurs, the competing team will be disqualified immediately and given a no time. Spotting is defined as any assistance given to the competing team that assists them in finding their cow at the herd end of the arena. Riders discovered spotting by any person outside of the arena through the use of code words such as look (left), ride (right) or by the use of any electronic communication device (i.e. ear phone etc.) will be awarded an unsportsmanlike conduct and will be disqualified for that day of competition and all entry fees will be forfeited. This rule is to be enforced by the presiding Judge, Arena Director and/or Show Management. The CTCPA should also be notified of these serious infractions and the rider(s) may be subject to further sanctions by the CTCPA Board of Directors. All decisions will be final.
16. Continuing to work cattle after the run has ended may result in a fine of \$30.00. This fine must be paid before the competitor can compete further.

17. If horses are found to be unattended in the hitching ring, the announcer will announce the fact and the rider will be given 5 minutes to attend to the horse. If the horse is not attended to after the 5-minute warning, a fine of \$10.00 will be assessed. The fine must be paid before the competitor will be allowed to compete.
18. Decisions of the Judge and Line Official are final and no disputes will be allowed. Penalties and reruns given by the Judge will be announced.
19. Should there be a discrepancy between a printed rule book and the rules as posted on the CTCPA web site, the rules posted on the web site shall prevail.
20. Judges and Line Officials cannot coach riders or provide assistance as to which numbers have or have not been used.

ORDER OF GO

- a) Team positions for the 1st go-round and cattle numbers will be assigned by an impartial draw. Once the order of the draw is established it cannot be changed.
- b) The second go-round shall be run in the reverse order of the 1st go-round placing (i.e. the slowest time goes first, fastest time goes last). In the event of a tie after completion of the 1st go-round, the order of the tied teams will be the reverse of how they entered in the 1st go-round.
- c) In the event of a tie after completion of the second go-round, tied monies and points will be divided equally, except in the event that management has opted to follow the CTCPA tie-breaking rules.
- d) In the event of a third or fourth go, the team must pen to advance.

PLACING AT SANCTIONED PENNING

- a) The placing in a class at sanctioned penning's is determined on the aggregate scores of cattle penned and times obtained in 2 or more go-rounds. Usually only the top half of the teams are eligible to compete in the 2nd round. The number of cattle penned takes priority over the time obtained.
 - i. A no time or disqualification will be recorded as a no time.
 - ii. Times will be recorded to the nearest hundredth of a second.
- b) Times and cattle penned by all participants will be recorded.
- c) CTCPA Tie Breaking Procedure: In certain circumstances there is a need to break a tie between two or more teams. To break this tie, a flip of a coin will decide which team shall go first. Each team will have one chance to pen one cow. When the Judge raises the flag to start the run, the team can elect to pen any one cow. The team with the fastest time penning one cow will be deemed to have won and will be ranked higher than the other team(s) involved in the tie. In certain circumstances there is a need to break a tie between two or more riders when high point rider awards are involved. To break this tie, a flip of a coin will decide which rider shall go first. Each tied rider will select one rider to pen with them in the tie-

breaker. The selected penner must have been a team member of the tied rider on a previous team in that class. The two-person team will have one chance to pen one cow. When the Judge raises the flag to start the run, the team can elect to pen any one cow. The tied rider must be the rider to select the cow from the herd and call for time. The team with the fastest time penning one cow will be deemed to have won and the rider will be ranked higher than the other rider(s) involved in the tie.

TEAM CATTLE PENNING CLASSES

1. YOUTH

- a) The youth classes will consist of a Junior Division of which riders are 12 years of age or under as of January 1st (a show year is from January 1st to December 31st) and a Senior Division of which riders are 13 to 16 years of age as of January 1st. The Senior Youth class is optional and is offered at the discretion of individual associations.
- b) In the Junior Youth class, two youth must ride with one adult. The adult must be 18 years of age or older. The change out of the rider in the Junior Youth class must be a Youth. In the Senior Youth class all riders are Youth. No cross-entries between Junior and Senior Youth classes are allowed.
- c) In the Junior Youth classes, a youth must enter the herd prior to the adult and must initially do the larger portion of the work involved in bringing each of the cattle out of the herd. The adult is allowed to assist the youth with any animal and may re-cut any animal that has returned to the herd after initially being separated by a youth. If the team calls for time “manually”, a youth must signify for time at the pen.
- d) In the event of only one entry in the Youth Class the team will be allowed to pen, be allocated 1 point and show credit and will be paid 1st place prize money.
- e) Junior Youth riders must wear a proper helmet.
- f) All Junior and Senior Youth riders will be rated according to CTCPA rating procedure and standards. Eligibility to compete in either the Junior or Senior Youth classes is determined by age.

2. OPEN OR # 12 CLASS

An association may opt to offer either an Open or 12 Class at a CTCPA sanctioned show. If a 12 Class is offered, the combined rating total of all 3 members of the team cannot exceed 12. For example: 7-3-2, 6-3-3, 5-4-3 or 4-4-4. The Open Class is open to any rating combination of riders.

3. # 10 CLASS OR # 11 CLASS

The combined rating total of all 3 team members cannot exceed ten (10). For example: 4-4-2, 4-3-3, 6-3-1, 7-2-1 or 6-2-2. **If an 11 Class is offered, the combined rating total of all 3 members of the team cannot exceed 11.**

4. # 7 CLASS OR # 8 CLASS

The combined rating total of all 3 team members cannot exceed seven (7). For example: 4-2-1, 3-3-1 or 5-1-1. **If an 8 Class is offered, the combined rating total of all 3 members of the team cannot exceed 8.**

5. # 5 CLASS

The combined rating total of all 3 team members cannot exceed five (5). For example: 3-1-1 or 2-2-1.

6. **Each association must offer the mandatory Open or 12 Class and the 5 Class but has the option to change the # 7 Class to # 8 Class and/or the # 10 Class to # 11 Class.**

DRESS CODE

1. All contestants must wear a western hat or protective helmet, boots and a long-sleeved collared shirt which is tucked in at the waist or jacket with cuffs covering the wrist. Western style long pants (jeans without holes) are required. In the event that a contestant has a mishap during penning and a button or snap is torn off or broken, this is not to be considered an infraction of the dress code. All contestants are encouraged to maintain a western image.
2. In the case of a dress infraction, a fine of \$10.00 is to be levied against the individual team member. The individual will not be allowed to compete in further penning's until the fine is paid in full. The Judge will notify the individual being assessed the fine at the completion of the run.

SHOW REGULATIONS

1. All entrants in a CTCPA sanctioned show must be CTCPA members and must have a rating issued by the CTCPA. The CTCPA will issue a saddle tag with the member's rating number. All members must attach these rating tags so as the rating number is clearly visible. The first tag will be issued as part of the membership fees. Subsequent tags, if lost, may be purchased from the show secretary. A non-member may compete only if he/she completes either the membership renewal or criteria form and submits it with payment to the show secretary. He/she will be assigned a temporary number for that particular show only (or consecutive two-day show). After the show, the form will be processed by the CTCPA and the penner will be issued his/her official rating. Points will not be awarded nor money paid unless membership dues have been remitted and a rating issued by the CTCPA has been verified by the show secretary.
2. The rules and bylaws of the CTCPA will govern a sanctioned penning. Amendments to CTCPA rules may be made by sanctioned associations to suit local needs upon approval by the CTCPA Board of Directors.

3. Each sanctioned association must carry adequate liability insurance.
4. A cattle charge will be levied on all participants at each penning. The cattle charge may vary depending on the cost of the cattle being used and the number of participants.
5. The rules and payout schedule should be posted at every sanctioned penning.
6. Working area in sanctioned penning's must be a minimum of 60 feet by 160 feet.
7. The CTCPA reserves the right to alter or amend any rule according to special circumstances.
8. All Judges and Line Officials must be certified by the CTCPA and must attend a Judges Clinic. Judges and Line Officials must be members in good standing of the CTCPA.
9. Numbers will be a minimum of 6 inches wide and will be from 0 to 9 and displayed on each side of the animal behind the shoulder. Any number(s) that is unreadable on either side when they enter the arena shall not be used at the discretion of the Judge. The number shall be replaced before the animal is recycled into the arena.

11. A rider must ride a minimum of three (3) times during a show in order for that show to count and qualify as a sanctioned show.

ARENA AND PEN DIMENSIONS

The start/cattle line must be marked with chalk, flour or lime if a 1-person official system is used. Anytime a 2-person system is used in officiating, the Judge shall work the finish line (pen) and the Line Official will work the start/cattle line. If a 2-person system is used, marking of the chalk line is not required provided the line is marked on the wall. Also, if a 2-person official system is used, the line may be marked by either one of the following methods:

- (1) The full width of the arena, or (2) marked 10' from each sidewall of the arena. If using the 2-person official system, the Line Official is responsible for starting teams and calling "trash".

The cattle line shall be placed at 40-50% length of the arena from the cattle end, except in instances where the working area of the arena exceeds 200 feet in length. In this instance, management may opt to use a 30% cattle line. With implementation of the No Trash rule, it is recommended that the commonly used foul line of 40% be increased to up to 50% depending upon the arena set up. For larger arenas, if a 30% foul line is used it is recommended that up to a 40% foul line be used.

The finish line is placed at 75% length of the arena from the cattle end. The "hole" is always 16 feet. Depending on the size of panels used, the pen opening will be from 8 to 12 feet and the length of the pen sides will be from 16 to 24 feet. The length of the pen sides may be extended if arena conditions allow. A banner must be placed on the back side of the pen. Banners are not to be placed on the front panel of the pen adjacent to the opening or on the "wing" of the pen.

PEN AND ARENA DIAGRAM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

RATINGS

Goals

The purpose of rating each member is to provide a fair and level playing field for all members. No one should be riding with an advantage or be disadvantaged when competing with other members.

It is stressed that at any time, when determining the rating of an individual, rating committees must not consider the effect on the individual member but the effect on the membership as a whole. If the member pens like a 3 then they are rated a 3. If they pen like a 2 then they are rated a 2. The individual's age, length of time penning, existing teams or the fact they may skip a rating level altogether, simply do not enter into the equation. The penner's ability dictates what their rating should be.

When rating a penner, rating committees cannot consider personal relationships, emotions or conflicts of interest. The decision must be based solely on the individual's ability. The rate of improvement the individual has shown and the likelihood of significant improvement by the end of the year should also be considered. It is the responsibility of the CTCPA Rating Coordinator to ensure that all riders in regional associations are rated on a level playing field across the nation.

The biggest test of the ratings system is when penners across all associations compete in shows such as the National Finals and other large shows. A #4 from one association should pen similar to a #4 from any other association. If even one penner competes at a show and is incorrectly rated, he or she has been given a competitive advantage, all other penners have been disadvantaged and the integrity of the CTCPA Ratings System is put in jeopardy.

The purpose of the CTCPA Rating Coordinator position is to ensure every rider, no matter which regional association they belong to, is rated at the appropriate level.

The CTCPA is responsible for the integrity of the rating system and as such, the CTCPA AS OWNERS OF THE RATING SYSTEM will have the final say.

Procedure

An affiliate member joins a CTCPA association. Fees are taken by that association secretary, which include CTCPA fees. The association secretary submits the affiliate membership application and corresponding fees to the CTCPA office. The association secretary forwards any new member criteria form to the CTCPA Rating Coordinator. The CTCPA Rating Coordinator contacts the Regional Rating Chairperson to confirm and/or discuss the rating of the affiliate member after which the member is issued a temporary rating number. The CTCPA Rating Coordinator will have a rating person available at each sanctioned show that will be responsible for rating any new member appearing to compete at that sanctioned show. Once their membership is received, new members' ratings will be reviewed by the CTCPA Rating Committee and a final rating issued. Ratings will be reviewed by the CTCPA Rating Committee prior to the commencement of the next year's competition. In few cases, there are those members who will undergo further review in the new competition year prior to receiving a rating for that year. It must be understood that members are constantly under review and ratings are subject to change in accordance with the CTCPA rules.

Ratings

Rating Guideline

8 – This penner is an internationally rated penner whose penning skills exceed the top domestically rated penners. Any rider who is rated a 7 or higher by any other rating system other than CTCPA will be designated an #8 until rated by the CTCPA National Rating Committee

7 – This penner is a topnotch penner who has exceptional skills and excels in all areas of penning. This penner regularly displays an ability to be the most significant contributor on rated teams and can display the same skills on teams with other pro level penners. This penner shows a comprehensive understanding and excels in their knowledge of most or all areas of the sport.

6 – This penner has elite skills, is highly proficient in all areas of penning and is highly competitive. This penner regularly displays an ability to be the most significant contributor on rated teams and can display the same skills on teams with other pro level penners. This penner shows a comprehensive understanding and excels in their knowledge of most or all areas of the sport.

5 – This penner is proficient in all areas of penning. This competitor can make consistent above average contributions to a team's success and shows a thorough understanding of the sport. This rider regularly displays an ability to be the most meaningful contributor on teams in rated classes and excels alongside their peers (other pro riders) in the open class.

4 – This penner is above average in most areas of penning. This penner can provide above average contributions to a team's success. Showing above average skills in pulling cows, turning cattle and likely displays an above average understanding of the sport.

3 – This penner is average in most areas of penning. This penner regularly consistently provides meaningful contributions to a team's success with their penning knowledge and skills and shows a solid understanding of the sport.

2 – This penner is developing their skills in all areas of penning where they are no longer a beginner yet are not achieving overall average penning skills. This penner can consistently contribute to the team's success.

1 – This penner is below average in penning skills and is likely a newer penner who needs to develop in most areas of penning. This penner can sometimes contribute to a team's success but does so inconsistently. This penner may also be a former seasoned penner who can no longer be competitive riding above this rating because of age, health or physical ability.

#N -This penner is new to riding, penning or both. Well below average in penning skills and needs to develop in all areas of penning. This penner does not make meaningful contributions to the success of most runs without the consistent and constant support from a higher rated rider on the team. This penner may also be a former seasoned penner who can no longer be competitive riding above this

rating because of age, health or physical ability.

Criteria

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1. General

- 1.1. The CTCPA classification system is based on an 8-Rating System.
- 1.2. Ratings will be based on the quantitative data of competitors win loss fees ratio, pulled from Sort Arena, and a qualitative analysis executed by the CTCPA ratings committee, regional ratings chairs, and regional rating committees.
- 1.3. Competitors of the CTCPA can only be issued one rating at any given time. (i.e. a penner cannot have one rating for one association and one for another).
- 1.4. The CTCPA ratings system is the responsibility of the following authorities:
 - 1.4.1. CTCPA Ratings Committee
 - 1.4.1.1. The CTCPA Ratings Committee will be comprised of no less than three individuals
 - 1.4.1.1.1. CTCPA Ratings Data Manager
 - 1.4.1.1.2. CTCPA Ratings Chair
 - 1.4.1.1.3. CTCPA Ratings Member

*[*See Section 8. Administrative Ratings Structure for more details](#)*
 - 1.4.2. CTCPA Member Associations Ratings Committee(s)
 - 1.4.2.1. Each CTCPA Member Association is responsible for appointing a ratings committee chair and ratings committee.
 - 1.4.3. Each year the CTCPA Ratings Committee and all Member Association Ratings Chairs will meet at an annual meeting as described in [Section 7. Procedures](#)

2. Goals

- 2.1. The purpose of rating each competitor is to provide a fair and level playing field for all. No one should be riding with an advantage or be disadvantaged when competing against others within their region or nationally. With the evolution of Team Cattle Penning and advancing technology, we now have the tools to quantitatively assess riders' skills based on data as qualitative measures. By using data the individuals age, length of time penning, existing teams, appearance and other factors do not dictate their rating. Rather their ability to successfully or unsuccessfully compete against their peers will dictate the individuals rating. By analyzing data, personal relationships, emotions and conflicts of interests are no longer variables.
- 2.2. Ratings will be evaluated after the CTCPA National Finals each year, with all Established Competitors as defined in [Section 3. Definitions](#) being evaluated and ranked against their peers (others within the same rating category.) Competitors will be moved according to their ranking within in their rating peer group based on their results, with oversight from the CTCPA ratings committee and regional ratings chairs. Competitors should expect more fluidity in ratings changes year over year based on their success or struggles as a competitor. Guidelines and Guardrails are established within this system to protect competitors who should not be analyzed on data alone for various reasons.
- 2.3. The CTCPA is committed to establishing and maintaining the data of all CTCPA competitors. An analysis will be provided to all member associations to ensure that every competitor, no matter which member association they belong to, is rated at the appropriate level. The CTCPA is responsible for the integrity of the rating system and as such, the CTCPA as owners of the rating system will have the final say.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. “CTCPA” means The Canadian Team Cattle Penning Association.
- 3.2. “Member Associations” means Team Cattle Penning Association that has been approved by the CTCPA board of directors to join the CTCPA.
- 3.3. “Competitor” means an individual rider that is a member of a CTCPA member association and is participating in a CTCPA Sanctioned event.
- 3.4. “Established Competitor” means riders who have ridden for more than (1) year at CTCPA Sanctioned events and have spent more than \$1,800.00 in fees in that year.
- 3.5. “New Competitor” means riders who have ridden for less than (1) year at CTCPA sanctioned events or who have not competed for more than (2) years at CTCPA will be given a rating classification based on the CTCPA qualitative rating system.
- 3.6. “Quantitative (Analysis)” means an analysis based on the data describe in [Section 3. Quantitative Analysis Overview](#). A quantitative analysis is based on objective criteria and is not subjective to any one person’s opinion or view.
- 3.7. “Qualitative (Analysis)” means an analysis based on the qualitative criteria described in [Section 4. Qualitative Analysis Overview](#). A qualitative analysis is subjective to the persons in the CTCPA ratings authority described in [Section 8. Administrative Ratings Structure](#).
- 3.8. “Upper Threshold” means the point or level within each rating that triggers riders to be moved up into the next rating category. If a rider meets or exceeds the upper threshold, they must be moved up one rating category unless a unanimous vote as described in [Section 7. Procedures](#) The process of defining the upper threshold can be found in [Section 7. Procedures](#).
- 3.9. “Lower Threshold” means the point or level within each rating that triggers riders to be moved down into the next rating category. If a rider falls below the lower threshold, they will be given the option to move down as described in [Section 7. Procedures](#) The process of defining the lower threshold can be found in [Section 7. Procedures](#).
- 3.10. Appellant means the person making the appeal either on behalf of themselves or of another competitor.
- 3.11. Appeal Board is the combination of the following authorities: the CTCPA Rating Committee and the regional ratings chairs of all member associations.

4. Quantitative Analysis Overview

- 4.1. The CTCPA will track team penning entry fees and earnings fees by each competitor through Sort Arena for all Member Association Events and any special CTCPA sanctioned events.
 - 4.1.1. With this data, winnings will be divided by entry fees by each competitor. That will provide every competitor with a **win loss ratio**.
 - All competitors¹ will be ranked highest to lowest by their win loss ratio within their own rating cohort.
 - Example Rider A:
 - \$8,090 (Winnings) / \$4,806 (Entry Fees) / = 168% Win loss Ratio
- 4.2. Each competitor’s win loss ratio will then only be evaluated against other competitors of the same rating. i.e. all 6’s will be ranked against each other, all 5’s, all 4’s etc.

5. Quantitative Analysis Exclusions

¹ Except for those excluded in Section 5 Quantitative Analysis Exclusions

- 5.1. The following is a list of exclusions in which quantitative data cannot provide a fair and complete overview of a rider's skill level for various reasons. Data will be analyzed for ALL competitors regardless of this exclusion list, however based on this list, the CTCPA Rating Committee and the regional ratings chairs will utilize qualitative measurements to rate competitors.
- 5.1.1. Any competitor with a win loss ratio over 100% is not eligible to be moved down regardless of their ranking within their rating or by a qualitative analysis.
- 5.1.2. Any foreign competitors, defined as a competitor that rides primarily in an association outside of Canada will be assessed using the CTCPA qualitative rating system as defined in [Section 6. Qualitative Analysis Overview](#), they will not be eligible to be moved based on an upper or lower threshold quantitative line.
- 5.1.3. Any "new" competitors as defined in [Section Definitions 3.5](#) will be given a rating based on the CTCPA qualitative rating system. The process of rating new competitors is defined in [Section 7.2 New Competitor Procedures](#).
- 5.1.4. Any established competitors whose entry fees were *less than \$1,800* over the course of one year will not be quantitatively evaluated against their peers, rather they will be assessed using the CTCPA qualitative rating system as defined in [Section 6. Qualitative Analysis Overview](#).

6. Qualitative Analysis Overview

- 6.1. A qualitative assessment is done for new competitors when sufficient data is not available to do a quantitative analysis. All new competitors will be responsible for completing a self-assessment. This assessment will be distributed to the member association rating chair for review as well as the CTCPA Rating Committee. The member association rating chair will be responsible for rating new competitors based on the following qualitative criteria:
- 6.1.1. "N" This penner is new to riding, penning, or both. Well below average in penning skills and needs to develop in all areas of penning. This penner does not make meaningful contributions to the success of most runs without the consistent and constant support from a higher-rated rider on the team. This penner may also be a former seasoned penner who can no longer be competitive riding above this rating because of age, health, or physical ability.
- Has very limited or no experience in penning or sorting.
 - Requires continuous direction and assistance from teammates during runs.
 - Little to no understanding of penning strategy or team roles.
 - Uncertain and hesitant when approaching or handling cattle.
 - Unlikely to contribute effectively to the team without direct guidance.
 - Needs extensive coaching on all aspects of riding, positioning, and cattle handling.
 - Minimal arena awareness and reaction time during a run.
 - Minimal understanding of pen positions.
- 6.1.2. "1" This penner is below average in penning skills and is likely a newer penner who needs to develop in most areas of penning. This penner can sometimes contribute to a

team's success but does so inconsistently. This penner may also be a former seasoned penner who can no longer be competitive riding above this rating because of age, health or physical ability.

- Might display shaky riding skills or a lack of confidence when riding at higher speeds.
- Lack of efficiency when sorting or trying to control a cow, most likely needs help pulling or finishing a cow to completion of task.
- Slow to no reaction time to situations in a run.
- Relies on other team members for instructions.
- Most likely limited to playing one position in the herd.
- Needs coaching on positions at the pen in a run.
- Uncertain about strategy and struggles with changing things up in a run.
- Inability to add speed with any accuracy.
- Little arena awareness and needs coaching on what is happening in a run as it unfolds.

6.1.3. "2" This penner is developing their skills in all areas of penning where they are no longer a beginner yet are not achieving overall average penning skills. This penner can consistently contribute to the team's success.

- Would tend to show adequate riding skills and should be displaying some confidence at higher speeds.
- Has developed some ability to sort and control a cow but may still need help finishing.
- Seeing some increased reaction time to situations in a run.
- Starting to make some decisions without coaching.
- Most likely playing one position in the herd but developing in other positions.
- At the pen, most likely to know what position to ride to.
- Basic knowledge of strategy and position but still needs coaching.
- Increasing speed but not consistent in accuracy.
- More arena awareness about how a run is setting up.

6.1.4. "3" This penner is average in most areas of penning. This penner regularly consistently provides meaningful contributions to a team's success with their penning knowledge and skills and shows a solid understanding of the sport.

- A good rider who has confidence at riding at speed.
- Able to pull cattle with control with more consistency however may pull cattle too quickly or slowly than the situation dictates.
- Good reaction time to situations in a run.
- Should be able to assist other riders in some situations.
- Should show some confidence in playing every position in the herd but shows strength in one position.
- Knows where to be at the pen and adapts to changing situations.
- Should be able to strategize and read the play.
- This rider may be too aggressive or timid in certain situations that would warrant a different reaction.

6.1.5. "4" This penner is above average in most areas of penning. This penner can provide above average contributions to a team's success. Showing above average skills in

pulling cows, turning cattle and likely displays an above average understanding of the sport.

- A good rider able to ride with confidence at speed.
- Able to play any position and has more control over cattle/herd with little help.
- Better reaction time to adapting to situations in a run.
- More proactive to developing situations.
- Should be confident in playing any position in the herd.
- Knows where to be at the pen with appropriate speed and adapts quickly to changing situations.
- Able to strategize and read the play. Can adjust to arena situations while coaching.
- Uses appropriate speed in most situations.
- Very good arena awareness.

6.1.6. “5” This penner is proficient in all areas of penning. This competitor can make consistent above average contributions to a team’s success and shows a thorough understanding of the sport. This rider regularly displays an ability to be the most meaningful contributor on teams in rated classes and excels alongside their peers (other pro riders) in the open class.

- Confident and proficient in all areas of riding.
- Can handle and control any type of cattle in most situations.
- Reaction time very efficient for top results.
- Able to lead and coach a team through a run while doing their job.
- Can pull cattle with control, timing and appropriate speed most of the time.
- Precise and correct with speed in all situations at the pen.
- Adept at strategizing, reading the play and adjusting to changing situations while coaching the team.
- Proficient and confident in all areas of penning with speed and accuracy.
- Excellent arena awareness.

6.1.7. “6” This penner has elite skills, is highly proficient in all areas of penning and is highly competitive. This penner regularly displays an ability to be the most significant contributor on rated teams and can display the same skills on teams with other pro level penners. This penner shows a comprehensive understanding and excels in their knowledge of most or all areas of the sport.

- Confident and proficient in all areas of riding with speed.
- Excellent reaction time with small margin of error.
- Able to lead and coach a team while mastering their own task and can change the dynamics of a run.
- Can pull and control cattle with perfect timing and speed.
- Precise and correct with speed in all positions at the pen.
- Most accurate at reading the play and managing runs at top speed.
- This rider is confident, accurate, and efficient with speed in all areas of penning with little to no assistance.
- Riding and horse ability becomes secondary to arena awareness, strategy, reaction time and winning ratio.
- Wins money regularly in all classes.

- 6.1.8. “7” This penner is a topnotch penner who has exceptional skills and excels in all areas of penning. This penner regularly displays an ability to be the most significant contributor on rated teams and can display the same skills on teams with other pro level penners. This penner shows a comprehensive understanding and excels in their knowledge of most or all areas of the sport.
- The very best penners in the nation.
 - Has reached the pinnacle in all areas of penning.
 - An exclusive category that is only achieved by a handful of penners at any time.
- 6.1.9. “8” This penner is an internationally rated penner whose penning skills exceed the top domestically rated penners. Any rider who is rated a 7 or higher by any other rating system other than CTCPA will be designated a #8 until rated by the CTCPA National Rating Committee.

7. Procedures

7.1. Established Competitor Procedures

- 7.1.1. For all established competitors a quantitative analysis as described in [Section 4. Quantitative Analysis Overview](#) will be done annually at the completion of the CTCPA National Finals. So long as the competitor is established as defined in [Section 3. Definitions](#), and they are not excluded from such an analysis as described in [Section 5. Quantitative Analysis Exclusions](#); they will be ranked against their peers.
- 7.1.2. Competitors data will be analyzed against their peer group (rating group) only.
- 7.1.3. The riders that exceed the “upper threshold” within their respective ratings groups will be moved up based on their Win Loss Ratio whereas the bottom riders that do not exceed the “lower threshold” will be moved down.
- 7.1.4. The “upper threshold” and the “lower threshold” will be determined each year based on the recommendation of the CTCPA Ratings Committee and regional ratings chairs; motioned by the CTCPA Board of Directors, no later than 21 days after the Canadian National Finals
- 7.1.5. Establishing the “upper threshold” and the “lower threshold”
- 7.1.5.1.1. For the late 2025 - 2026 season, the “upper threshold” shall be a win-loss ratio of 80% or greater, whereas the “lower threshold” shall be a win-loss ratio of 10% or less. The thresholds have the option to vary from year to year and from rating group to rating group.
- Example: Rider B has a win-loss ratio of 98%, they exceed the “upper threshold” and shall move up
 - Example: Rider C has a win-loss ratio of 77%, they do not exceed the “upper threshold”, therefore, they shall not automatically be moved up
- 7.1.6. Following the inaugural year (late 2025 – 2026), once thresholds are motioned by way of the CTCPA board vote, no later than 21 days after nationals, the CTCPA Ratings committee will identify the competitors who fall within the “top threshold” of each rating based on their win-loss ratio; these riders will be moved up based on the quantitative data unless there is a two thirds vote against a competitor being moved up. This vote will take place at the annual ratings chairs meeting. It will be the

responsibility of the members' home club's regional rating chairs to propose a case, based on quantitative evidence and/or qualitative evidence, for a rider not to move up if that rider falls within the 80% win-loss ratio. Each rating chair that is involved with the ratings has 1 vote towards the decision. If a rating chair decides to abstain from voting, their vote will be recognized as a null vote and will not count in favor or in opposition.

7.1.7. The CTCPA will also identify the "bottom" percentage of competitors of each qualifying rating based on their win-loss ratio. The CTCPA will recommend that these riders be moved down based on the quantitative data.

7.1.7.1. For the 2026 season, regional ratings chairs will offer competitors the option to move down for the following competition season based on quantitative data. Moving down will not be mandatory to begin with.

- Example: Rider D has a win loss ratio of 8%, they fall within the "lower threshold" therefore the option to move down for the 2026 season
- Example: Rider E has a win loss ratio of 15%, they do not fall within the "lower threshold" therefore they do not automatically move down

7.1.8. Though the CTCPA will identify the upper and lower thresholds, additional competitors can be moved by majority vote at the annual ratings meeting.

7.1.9. All rating changes will be established at the culmination of one season and set for the following season.

7.1.10. Quantitative data analysis will only be executed one time per year at the culmination of the season. As such early early-season and mid-season ratings changes are discouraged unless absolutely necessary. Should a regional ratings chair feel an early-season ratings change is appropriate, they must notify the CTCPA Ratings committee no later than the competitor's second show of the season. Ratings changes will not be allowed after competitors have competed in more than three shows in any one season.

7.2. New Competitor Procedures

7.2.1. New Competitor joins a member association. Fees are taken by that association secretary, which include CTCPA fees. The member association secretary submits the competitor's application and corresponding fees to the CTCPA office. The member association secretary forwards any new member criteria form to the CTCPA Rating Committee. The CTCPA rating committee contacts the regional rating chairperson to confirm and/or discuss the rating of the competitor after which the competitor is issued a temporary rating number. New competitors are to be rated based on the qualitative criteria outline in section 6. Qualitative Analysis Overview. The regional rating chairperson will be responsible for observing any new competitor appearing to compete at the sanctioned show. Once a competitor's fees are received, new competitors rating will be reviewed by the CTCPA Rating Committee, and a final rating will be issued. Competitors will be ranked against their peers at the culmination of the competition year so long as they meet the minimum threshold. For competitors that do not meet the minimum threshold, the CTCPA Ratings committee

and the regional ratings chairs will review the competitor at the culmination of the year based on qualitative measures.

7.3. New Competitor Procedures & Qualitative Analysis Procedures for competitors excluded from a quantitative analysis.

7.3.1. Any competitor who is being rated qualitatively will be rated by the member association rating chair and committee.

7.3.2. Qualitative assessment will be done based on the criteria defined in Section 6. Qualitative Analysis Overview

7.3.3. Once assessed the ratings will be presented to the CTCPA rating committee for approval either at the yearend ratings meeting, or at the time the new competitor is requesting a rating.

7.4. Annual Rating Review Meeting

7.4.1. An annual meeting will be hosted by the CTCPA Rating Committee each year. All regional ratings chairs will be invited to this meeting. The goal of the meeting is to review the quantitative data analysis and finalize the competitors' ratings for the following competition season.

7.4.1.1. The annual meeting will be hosted after the culmination of the CTCPA National Finals and after the compilation of the current seasons quantitative data. It is the goal of the CTCPA to host this meeting prior to the commencement of the new season

8. Administrative Ratings Structure

8.1. The CTCPA as owners of the rating system will hold ultimate say on all CTCPA competitors' ratings.

8.2. The CTCPA board of directors will elect The CTCPA Ratings Committee

8.2.1. The CTCPA Ratings Committee will be comprised of no less than three individuals.

8.2.1.1. CTCPA Ratings Data Manager

8.2.1.2. CTCPA Ratings Member

8.2.1.3. CTCPA Ratings Chair

8.2.2. The CTCPA Ratings Committee are responsible for maintaining a master list of competitors and their respective ratings.

8.2.3. The CTCPA Ratings Committee is to be made up of at least **one** current CTCPA Director, the other individuals can be an active Director, member association member, or hired individual. It is recommended that the active CTCPA Director(s) do not hold an executive roll in addition to this role.

8.2.3.1. A role on the CTCPA Ratings Committee, does not give one a voting director seat on the CTCPA board unless they are a voting director by way of appointment as one of the Canadian Six or an acting Member Association Director.

8.2.4. Members of the CTCPA Ratings Committee will be evaluated every two years by the CTCPA Board of Directors

8.3. The CTCPA Ratings committee is responsible for managing ratings and the data associated. They are to coordinate any issues that arise from the rating process (procedure issues, communication etc.)

- 8.4. All member associations are responsible for electing and selecting their own ratings chair.
- 8.4.1. It is requested that the ratings committee chairs serve a minimum two years in the role.
- 8.4.2. The elected Regional Ratings Chairs are responsible for selecting their own ratings committees.
- 8.4.3. It is recommended that the ratings committee chairs are individuals that hold a minimum rating of a “3” or have held a minimum rating of “3” in the past. Should the selected ratings chair be rated less than a “3” the member association will need to provide a detailed explanation of the qualifications.
- 8.4.4. The CTCPA Rating committee shall approve the selected Regional Ratings Chairs unless there are legitimate and identifiable concerns with respect to experience, objective or past poor performance. The CTCPA Rating committee can remove a Regional Ratings chair for the same reasons. All refusals of approval or notice of removal of such a chair is required to be provided in writing to not only the regional ratings chair, but the Member Association as well with specifics for the reasoning.
- 8.5. The CTCPA Ratings committee is responsible for hosting and managing an annual ratings meeting inclusive of all regional ratings chairs.

Appeal

- 8.5.1. The following section defines the process in which a competitor can request a review of their own rating or that of another competitor. There are two types of appeals; the process for the two appeals is the same.
- 8.5.2. Personal Appeal
- 8.5.2.1. At any time, but not more than once per calendar year, a penner may appeal his or her own rating.
- 8.5.3. Competitor Appeal
- 8.5.3.1. At any time, any penner may appeal another penner's rating. The same penner's rating may not be appealed more than once per calendar year.
- 8.5.3.2. In the case of an appeal, the CTCPA Office, shall alert ALL regional rating chairs along with the CTCPA Ratings Committee of the appeal. The appeal will be heard by both authorities of the CTCPA rating system; the CTCPA National Rating Committee and the regional rating chairs. The two authorities previously mentioned will comprise the Appeal Board. While the appeal will be heard and deliberated on by the Appeal Board, the CTCPA regional rating chairs will be solely responsible for the appeal vote. For an appeal to be accepted, there must be a super-majority (2/3) vote in favor of the appeal to be accepted.
- 8.6. Appeal Process
- 8.6.1. The Appellant is to send written communication addressed to the CTCPA with the appeal. The appeal is to include the following:
- 8.6.1.1. their individual rating or the rating of the individual whom they are appealing
- 8.6.1.2. Outline their reason for filing an appeal

- 8.6.1.3. Explaining what their key points are as to why it is incorrect
- 8.6.1.4. Explain what they see as reasonable solution
- 8.6.1.5. The appeal must be accompanied by fee of \$350.00
- 8.6.2. Once the CTCPA receives the appeal, they will set up an appeal date with the rest of the Appeal Board.
- 8.6.3. Appeal Meeting Process
 - 8.6.3.1. The Appeal Board will hear the evidence provided by the Appellant.
 - The Appellant should be prepared to have an interactive conversation with the Appeal Board. The appellant may speak to the concerns how their rating or that of another competitors will affect their ability to compete but must be aware and informed that the rating chairs will be basing their decisions heavily on the data collected.
 - The Appellant has the right to ask questions of the Appeal Board and have a clear understanding of the goals and objectives of the rating committee.
 - 8.6.3.2. The Appeal Board Chair, who will be one of the CTCPA Rating Committee members, will then ask the Appellant to leave the room/phone and the Appeal Board will deliberate on the appeal.
 - 8.6.3.3. The regional rating chairs shall ALL vote either INFAVOR or OPPOSED to the appeal based off evidence provided by the appellant, fellow rating chairs, and the Quantitative Data.
 - 8.6.3.3.1. Each regional rating chair that is involved with the Appeal has 1 vote towards the decision. If a person decides to abstain from voting; their vote will be recognized in favor of the decision the quantitative data analysis that all other members are evaluated by.
 - 8.6.3.4. The appeal board can only review evidence as it pertains to the Quantitative Data. Under no circumstances can it give any substance to:
 - Age
 - Effect on teams/high point calculations
 - Petitions
 - Personal reasons
 - Political reasons (i.e. sponsorship, the penner will quit, etc.)
 - 8.6.3.5. The CTCPA National Rating Committee will give its decision which can only be:
 - Accept the appeal
 - Deny the appeal

8.7. Appeal Fees

- Appeals will cost an upfront fee of \$350.00 due upon receipt of appeal
- If the appeal is successful, the Appellant will receive \$300.00 back and \$50.00 will be retained by the CTCPA as an administration fee.

PENNING ETIQUETTE

In order to promote Team Penning as a spectator sport and ensure shows are operated as efficiently as possible the CTCPA encourages the following:

- Sportsmanship - Respect your fellow penners, officials and volunteers.
- As a courtesy to fellow penners, officials and spectators, competitors (including Youth) are encouraged to refrain from high pitched screaming.
- Losing a Hat - Losing a hat adds additional time to the length of the show.
- Promptness - Know your order of go and be at the gate when called. Following your run and/or herd holding, exit the arena as quickly as possible (discuss your run outside the arena).
- Herd Holding - Hustle to the herd following your run to complete your herd holding duties. Herd holders are to stay in place and exit arena immediately upon the number being called. Herd holders should exit close to the outside walls so as not to interfere with the next competing team and no attempt should be made to “bury” cattle or “split pairs”.

- Herd holders should be positioned at the side of the herd and facing the herd so as not to obscure numbers from the next competing team.

RECOMMENDED TECHNIQUES FOR HERD SETTLING

It is recommended that no more than 6 riders participate in settling cattle. The herd settlers you select should be experienced cattle handlers and should ensure that each herd is as uniform as possible in regards to weight and color. Always use the cattle end of the arena to settle cattle, not the pen end. Cattle should be brought into the arena and held in a uniform manner against the back wall of the arena. One rider should begin working the perimeter of the herd by walking and trotting in front of them. After the cattle are sufficiently used to the horse and rider in front of them, the rider may begin working through the center of the herd, to the back wall and then to the side of the herd. Then the rider is to go through the center of the herd again and to the other side wall of the arena. The cattle should be moving to the center of the arena throughout this process. The process should be repeated several times. Hold back riders should be assisting in “curling” the cattle back to the herd and ensuring that escaped animals are sent back to the herd again. The goal is to have the cattle become accustomed to a horse and rider in their midst and to have the cattle wanting to turn back to the center of the herd and arena. The cattle should then be taken as a herd to the pen end of the arena and coaxed through the pen. Try to prohibit overcrowding, particularly through the pen and gate. It is important that no animal escapes through the “hole” side of the pen during this process. This is a good time to inspect the cattle for lameness, sickness or eye deformities, as well as counting them. After the herd has been through the pen once, the herd should be taken to the cattle end of the arena, centered, held for a moment and then released. This process should take no longer than ten minutes, although times will vary depending on the disposition of the cattle.