- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.