



Utah Ranch Sorting Association

2019 Rules

All rules contained herein are subject to change.

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The Utah Ranch Sorting Association is a legal, non-profit organization. As such, the club will file a 990 form with the IRS annually. The club is also required to issue a 1099 misc. form to any member who earns \$600 or more for the year in winnings and any person paid \$600 or more for the year from normal and necessary organizational and event functions.

SECTION I

MEMBERSHIP

1.1 SINGLE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS & DAY PASS - \$25.00 per person annually. However, for the 2019 season, all memberships are complimentary for new members. Annual memberships will begin in January and end December 31st. You may also choose to ride with a \$10.00 day pass paid to URSA. No points will be earned on a day pass or turned over if full membership is paid later.

1.2 FAMILY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS – \$30.00 family membership includes the spouse and any children living at home through age 18.

1.3 COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIPS– New members will receive their first year annual membership free. The new membership is for those who have never been a member or have not been a member of URSA for the past 5 years. Current URSA members who recruit new single or family memberships will also receive that sorting season's annual membership for free.

1.4 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS - Participation in an URSA event requires being a paid and rated member of the URSA to collect winnings. Their membership status must show as current in the URSA Members database at the show, or shall have submitted a First Time Membership or Renewal Membership application, including appropriate fees, to the URSA Secretary; prior to the event or class he or she is entering. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase their First Time or Renewal Memberships anytime during the year. Memberships can be purchased at the event or mailed in to the URSA Secretary. Each member will be required to pay a \$10 cattle fee and a \$5 arena fee at each show they participate in.

****Participation in an URSA event by a participant who is not a current paid and rated URSA member, or has not submitted a First Time Membership or Renewal Membership application as specified, will result in disqualification of the participant and the participant's teammates.**

The member or members of a disqualified team that had a current membership shall be entitled to receive a refund of his or her entry fees. The disqualified participant that is not current shall not receive a refund of entry fees and no member of a disqualified team is eligible for any prize or winnings.

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

****IMPORTANT - Memberships are NON-REFUNDABLE & NON-TRANSFERABLE.**

SECTION II

CLASSIFICATION

2.1 RATING SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS

URSA will track sorting dollars won and sorting dollars spent on entry fees by each contestant at all URSA sanctioned events. With this data, the dollars won will be divided by the dollars spent on entry fees by each contestant. That will provide every contestant with a win/loss ratio.

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.

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 Rating Committee to assure that the ratings remain fair.

The Rating Committee will have two shows to observe new riders and determine whether their rating is appropriate. After the second show of the season, or the first two shows in which a new rider competes, his/her rating will remain the same throughout the remainder of the season. At the beginning of the season current riders, whose rating may be in question, may be placed on a "watch list" by the Rating Committee. The Rating Committee will then have two shows to observe riders on the "watch list" with the option of adjusting their rating. After that time period the individual's rating will not be changed for the remainder of the year.

- 2.1.1 "Watch List" – Any rider the Rating Committee may be still observing at the beginning of the year, in order to rate them properly, will be placed on a list to be observed for the first two shows of the season or the first two shows in which the listed rider competes. After the 2nd show that rider will then be assigned their official rating for the remainder of the current sorting season.

2.2 RATING RULES

***Important Note - URSA will rely heavily on the Rating Committee to keep the ratings fair and accurate.

2.2.1 The **#1 Rookie** rating is only for those participants who are novice riders. This is only an introductory level and is probationary meaning if you or your horse's skills dictate it you may be moved at any time.

2.2.2 The **#2 Novice** rating is only for those participants that have **never been rated higher than #1** in any sorting or other cow horse organization and is a amateur rider. 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 **An Amateur** is defined as #3 and #4 rated contestants that are 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.

2.2.4 **An Open** is defined as a #5 or #6 rated contestant that excels within the sport of Ranch Sorting. These are experienced sorters that have continued to improve and advance within

the rating system or professional horseman that have recently entered the sport and their horses and sorting abilities dictate that they are superior to the Novice and Amateur contestants. These could be cutting horse and cow horse trainers that in a very short period of time have learned how to be competitive in sorting and have advanced to the open level.

Data Driven Rating Evaluation is the contestant's data that will be collected and carried over from one year to the next, until as determined by URSA 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 URSA will use 6 rating classifications. All contestants, regardless of age, will be assigned a rating classification. Each new member of URSA must be given a rating classification before competing in a URSA 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 URSA that the person is inappropriately rated then URSA Rating Committee will adjust the rating accordingly. If that person is found to have falsified information about his or her rating then URSA may revoke the membership of that person.

2.2.8 **Youth** - All Contestants in the Youth Division must be 12 or younger by January 1st of that year.

2.3 CRITERIA TO ADVANCE RATINGS

2.3.1 URSA member guidelines for increasing a riders rating at the beginning of the year. The following are change criteria qualifiers for existing riders of the previous year. A rider needs to meet two of the following:

- An URSA rider has won a high point saddle in their Class, #1 through #6 in a state or local series is an automatic number bump.
- An URSA rider's percent of entry payment to money won is:

#5	95%
#4	75%
#3	65%
#2	55%
#1	45%

- An URSA rider has, as an average per show, won money:

#5	\$850.00 avg
#4	\$525.00 avg

#3	\$400.00 avg
#2	\$225.00 avg
#1	\$95.00 avg

- An URSA rider has finished his/her last two active years in the top five of any division or the top three of the same class when there are 10 or more sorters in that class. This is based upon the rider's average points won per show.
- Any rider rated on a National level shall be rated as such or higher in URSA, but no lower than their present URSA rating. URSA may work with associated clubs to respect and adjust URSA ratings with the associated club's ratings.

2.3.2 URSA member guidelines for increasing a rider's rating during the year.

Any pre-existing member with one or more year's absence from riding in any shows is subject to review by the current Rating Committee. Any new URSA member will be observed at any state sanctioned show and can have their rating changed at the discretion of the Rating Committee until the entry deadline for the third show they attend.

2.3.3 URSA members may protest their assigned rating by sending a **written objection** to the Rating Chairman. The URSA rating committee will review your protest and their decision will be final.

2.3.4 If an URSA member places in the bottom 25% of his or her class, based on percentage of money won for the year, they may petition to receive a ratings reduction (to the next lower rating). The request must be **in writing** and given to the Rating Chairman.

- a. The member must have ridden in a **minimum of four shows**.
- b. If a rider meets criteria and is raised a rating number, that rider must remain at that rating for two years before petitioning to be lowered.
- c. However, a rider may receive a rating increase each year he meets criteria.
- d. Additionally, if a rider is lowered (through petition) a rating number, that rider must remain at that rating for two years before petitioning to be lowered again (if criteria met).

Once a rider receives a rating number of 2, he or she cannot petition to be lowered back to a 1.

2.3.5 Appeals and Special Circumstances

Members may appeal their official rating in writing. Appeals shall be mailed to URSA. **NO PHONE APPEALS WILL BE ACCEPTED!** Written appeals shall include the correct name, address, requested number change and a brief explanation of why an appeal should be granted. The rating committee chairman will document all appeals and will give all the information to the committee for a decision. NOTE: A filing of an appeal does not guarantee a rating change.

Members will be notified of number changes by one of the following: in writing, a phone call, or on the URSA website.

**The Rating Chairman and the President will be carried over to the next year's URSA executive's board.

2.4 FORFEITURE OF MONEY WON- Teams whose combined ratings are higher than the class number or class cap will forfeit their winnings. It is the responsibility of the URSA

assigned team entry personnel as well as the member to make sure they are riding at their current rating. Beginners and Rookies move up throughout the year.

2.5 MEMBERSHIPS – 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 URSA that the contestant is miss-rated, the rating will be adjusted.

2.5.1 Statistical Data- At the end of each year all contestants' statistical data will be evaluated and ratings will be adjusted. This classification system is used to limit the margin of error in setting sorting categories. It is based on statistical data rather than opinion and it treats each member identically and fairly. Each contestant is classified or rated with a number 1 through 6 with 6 being the most advanced.

2.5.2 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.

2.6 URSA RATING COMMITTEE- A rating committee will be in place to review all questionable ratings for the 2019 URSA season. It will be the committee's sole responsibility to observe and review all questionable ratings of contestants. The committee will consist of five individuals appointed by the board, one of which will be the association President. A rating adjustment will require a majority vote. That change will be in effect the next URSA show 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 URSA will not allow underrated contestants to continually compete at the wrong rating.

2.7 RATING REVIEW PROGRAM- URSA has instated a rating review program for any contestant that does not believe their current rating is accurate. Please see Section 2.3 of this rule book.

SECTION III

URSA RANCH SORTING CLASSES AND RULES

3.1 URSA SORTING CLASSES - for the 2017 season will consist of but not limited to:

A. 2 MAN SORT

1. All Levels Handicap
2. #8 Handicap
3. #6 Handicap
4. #4 Handicap

5. Youth (Age 12 and Under)

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

B. RANCH HAND SORT

1. #9 Ranch Hand Handicap

2. #7 Rookie HC w/1 cap on
Sorter*** (ALL DRAW)

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

***Please see specific details for this sorting class in section 3.4.1

3.2 RANCH SORTING RULES

3.2.1 Ranch sorting is typically a 2 man team sorting 10 cattle numbered 0-9 and 1 optional unnumbered cow for a total of 11 head. A run starts with team members on opposite side of start line from cattle.

3.2.2 The judge will raise the flag when the pen is ready. The judge will signal the beginning of the run by dropping the flag when the nose of the first horse crosses the start/foul line and the first number to be sorted will be announced. – The announcer will draw a number, which will determine the first cow to be sorted. The cattle will then be sorted increasing in sequence from that number.

3.2.3 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.

3.2.4 URSA Youth classes are to be run consistent with all URSA 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 #7 Rookie HC with #1 Cap on Sorter**

This division is designed to help our Rookie sorters advance in their skills in the ranch sorting arena. In this division there will be #3 or above rated sorter in the gate while the Rookie #1 sorts the cattle. This division will be an all draw division with different entry fees and payouts for gate and sorter. This division uses the same rules for ranch hand sorting described in Section 3.3 with the exception that the #3 and above may never be a sorter in this class. This division will be an all draw class. The gateman in this class may be offensive only up to the end of the first panel of the pen. If a cow is past that point a gateman may push that cow through the gate. The gateman may not make any offensive moves past the point designated.

*****#7 Rookie HC Exception: Any child under the age of 12 years old may pick an immediate family member or guardian, of any rating, to ride with one time in the #7 HC Rookie class. IF the immediate family member or guardian is rated less than a number 3, he/she may only ride 1 time in the gate with their child and may not enter the draw.**

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. The URSA All Levels class has a 5 ride limit. It is required to be a pick 1, automatically draw. You can pick up to 4 or draw all 5. All other classes with the exception of the #9 Ranch Hand and the #7 Rookie will be a 4 ride limit. It is required to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 3 or draw all 4. The #9 Ranch Hand can be up to a 5 ride limit with 2 picks as the gate, and 2 picks as the sorter and 1 automatic draw. Please see section 3.4.1 on the #7 Rookie class specifics.

3.5.2 Handicap System

The URSA uses a handicap system for ranch sorting.

The handicap will be in place for the first round only. The handicap will be a $\frac{1}{2}$ second off for each number a team is under the maximum team rating. For example, the maximum rating is 12. A team may be rated a 10. Therefore, $12-10=2 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ sec} = 1 \text{ second}$ off the official sorted time.

All Levels HC: The combined numbers of this team will be twelve or less.

9 RH HC Division: The combined numbers of this team will be nine or less.

#8 HC Division: The combined numbers of this team will be eight or less.

#6 HC Division: The combined numbers of this team will be six or less.

#4 HC Division: The combined numbers of this team will be 4 or less.

3.5.3 **Running Order** - All URSA Sanctioned classes are progressive (you must sort in each go round to advance) 0 head sorted is considered a no time. All finals at an URSA sanctioned sorting will have their running order, determined by draw, mechanically or physically at URSA assigned personnel's discretion.

3.5.4 **Payment of Fees** – Cash or Checks is accepted at any URSA sanctioned show. Checks will not be accepted from sorters that have previously written bad checks. If the sorter requests invoicing, the invoice must be paid in full before the next URSA sanctioned show in order to continue compete in the next available URSA sanctioned show.

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 or in the Ranch Hand classes, where they can ride together two times if they change designated sorters or under special sanctioning.

3.6 DRAW-OUT AND REPLACEMENT and EMERGENCY DRAW-OUT -

Any team may draw-out of any event with notice prior to the start of that class with no draw out charge. If no notice is provided then entry fees are forfeited to the competition's pot. If an individual draws out, the contestants entered with him/her may draw out or replace the partner with a new partner of the same rating or less. If a team participant's partner fails to notify URSA 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 release, or has been officially drawn out, that replacement will be required to pay entry fees, but no late fees. In no instance will the team be moved to a later draw position while the participant

locates another partner. In the event of an emergency involving a competing contestant, his/her family or his/her horse; URSA may draw that team out and refund their money.

SECTION IV

SANCTIONING

4.1 URSA SANCTIONED SORTINGS:

- 4.1.1 **Approved** -To be a sanctioned URSA sorting, it must be cleared on the association calendar and approved by the Executive Committee. No more than one sanctioned sorting will be approved on the same date and the State recommends no other sorting be scheduled.
- 4.1.2 **Required classes**- All Levels Handicap, Beginner class or Rookie #7 HC, and one other class are mandatory to qualify as a sanctioned event.
- 4.1.3 **Event Producer** Failure to comply with any URSA rules could result in forfeiture of future sanctioning by the Event Producer, including any shows already sanctioned or pending sanctioning. Each producer operating under the association shall be solely responsible for any and all liability and shall hold URSA and its officers and directors harmless from any liability.
- 4.1.4 **URSA Bylaws**- rules and guidelines will govern all sanctioned classes.
- 4.1.5 **The Event Producer of a sanctioned show** shall have the right to require any contestant to provide his or her social security number prior to the receipt of any prize money. A contestant, who does not meet this requirement upon request, forfeits the winnings to the Event Producer
- 4.1.6 **Both URSA and the Event Producer** of a sanctioned show shall have the right to require any contestant, or in the case of a Youth rider, the contestant's parent or guardian to sign a Liability Release form holding the Association and the Event Producer, et al, harmless for any and all injury incurred as a result of the penning/sorting.
- 4.1.7 **Special Sanctioning** - may be granted by URSA and allow for potential modifications, which may include: higher rides limits, special venues and additional pick and draw positions. Any and all deviations if granted must be advertised in advance of the show.
- 4.1.8 **URSA** will strictly enforce a black ball list of participants who write bad checks or who fail to pay entry fees or other required fees of any URSA sanctioned show or contest.

SECTION V

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- 5.1 **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** –URSA reserves the right to disqualify any contestant who does not act in a sportsmanlike, reasonable or professional manner. This shall include abusive schooling of horses. Disqualified contestants forfeit all fees.
- 5.2 **IN THE ARENA HORSEMANSHIP** - Abusive schooling or treatment of horses will *not* be tolerated. Any contestant who is in violation of this rule will be disqualified.
- 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 (one time) 30-second gate call for every team after the announcer calls for that team. If that team has not entered the arena within the allotted time they will be disqualified. Additionally, if a contestant is late a second time or more, he or she may be disqualified.
- 5.5 **ROUGHING** - A team will be disqualified for roughing and hocking cattle - consisting of any physical contact by horse or rider at the judges' discretion.
- 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 UN-numbered, 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 forward. No re-rides will be given once a team has committed the cattle by crossing the start / foul line. If at the judge's discretion, a re-ride is given because of UN-numbered, injured, or unfit cattle the re-ride will occur **immediately** using the same numbered cattle once injured, unfit or unnumbered cattle are replaced.

Possible reasons for a judge to remove cattle:

- lame
- sick
- exhausted
- blind
- bleeding
- There will be no re-rides for inconsistent cattle unless the judge and URSA President 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

URSA RANCH SORTING RULES

7.1 QUALIFICATION GUIDELINE FOR URSA

7.1.1 Sorters must be a paid URSA member to receive points toward year-end prizes.

7.1.2 **YEAR-END AWARDS:** State Champion sorters will be awarded in each Division & Class (individual) by accumulation of the highest points earned at their best five URSA sanctioned shows. In the event of a tie for year-end, the tie will be broken by whoever had the highest money earned in their top five URSA sanctioned shows. Year-end awards will be presented at a banquet, place to be announced by the Board.

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. All ties (if lap timers are not used) will be brought back to the finals unless greater than 5 additional positions are created. All ties that are run off will be drawn for position of go. All ties can be eliminated by the use of lap timers, which is recommended.

7.3 **LAP TIMERS** -It is recommended that Hand Held Lap Timers are used at all URSA sortings.

7.4 **TIME LIMIT** - A 60, 75 or 90 second allotted time limit for each class will be required at URSA board discretion (URSA Recommends a 60 second clock).

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 run at judge's discretion. It is the judge's responsibility to see that cattle herds are settled as long as needed. Each arena and set of cattle are different and for that reason, a URSA president or Vice President 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 URSA executive 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.
3. Cattle may be settled on one side for the first run of each herd and then resettled on the side with the most cattle remaining.

For determining number of runs on each herd, an URSA executive 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. Make a decision that no herd will have more than #_____ runs due to the

condition and well-being of the cattle.

- 7.6 **SPOTTING OF CATTLE** - Spotting of cattle at all URSA 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 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The optimum sorting pen is 50'-60' diameter with corners cut at 45'. The opening between the two pens will be 12'-16'. Two equal sized pens will be used for back and forth or one-way sorting at URSA executives 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 classes are required to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 3 or draw all 4. All classes are required to be up to a 4 ride limit with a maximum of 3 picks. Exception is specific RH classes.

- 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 **DISPUTES**

In the event of a team having a dispute about a decision made in their run, the team will pay a fee of \$100 for a decision. If sustained, the team will receive their money back. If the initial decision made remains the same, the fee will be paid to URSA. Any protest must be timely filed with the judge at the time of occurrence. The judge and show directors will together decide if the initial decision was correct or incorrect, making that decision final.

- 7.13 **JUDGING**

The decision of the judge is final.

Judging discrepancy – The judge's decision is final say after consultation with announcer timer information and show director. Final decision is for the judge after the appropriate consultation. If the contest wants to proceed with contesting the call, they will need to follow the procedures outlined in section 7.12.

SECTION VIII

URSA GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES, ANNOUNCERS, SCOREKEEPERS

8.1 GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

- 8.2.1 The URSA executives may select any reputable person to apply to become an URSA Approved Judge. The selected individual must become familiar with URSA rules.

Qualifications of a judge can be any of the following:

- Currently sanctioned through another national sorting association
- By submitting a written rule book test with a score of 90% or better 2 weeks prior to their first event as an approved URSA judge.

In the event of uncontrolled circumstances, causing an URSA show to lack a sanctioned judge, a board member will substitute in the place of an URSA sanctioned judge's place for that specific show.

- 8.2.2 The Judge is responsible for enforcing the URSA rules and class procedures as outlined in the URSA Rulebook. The Judge is responsible for checking each herd as it enters the arena for correct head count, proper numbering, and number readability. The Judge shall also watch for lame or crippled cattle.
- 8.2.3 Designation as an URSA Approved Judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by URSA 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.
- 8.2.4 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.
- 8.2.5 During an approved show, a Judge shall be present to meet their responsibilities under URSA rules, and shall be available to assist show management in meeting its responsibilities to rule compliance.
- 8.2.6 All Judges at an URSA sanctioned show must wear western attire: a western hat is optional, long or short sleeved western shirt tucked-in and buttoned properly, and boots. Tank tops, tee shirts and ball caps will not be allowed.
- 8.2.7 When a participant makes a request through the URSA Executives 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 URSA Executives or other show official.
- 8.2.8 An URSA Approved Judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and

respect. 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

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

8.4 GUIDELINES FOR TIMEKEEPER

URSA executives may hire any reputable person they choose as a Time Keeper.

8.5 GUIDELINES FOR SHOW SECRETARIES

8.5.1 The URSA Executives (board of directors) may select any reputable person to become an URSA Show Secretary. To become an URSA Show Secretary, the selected individual must become familiar with both the URSA rules and URSA choice of arena software and successfully run a completed Virtual Show run on URSA's Arena Manager Software.

8.5.2 Designation as an URSA Show Secretary is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by URSA, 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 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 treasurer shall be held responsible for the entry fees, office charges, etc., and for all fees that should be collected for membership or sanctioning on behalf of URSA.

SECTION IX

MANDATORY EVENT GUIDELINES

9.1 CONDUCT

a) Each URSA member shall follow the URSA rules at all sanctioned shows.

b) Any contestant who is guilty of misconduct will be given an initial warning. If the misconduct continues the contestant may be fined \$20 to \$250 or be expelled from the contest and/or the Association. URSA reserves the right to

revoke or refuse membership for proper cause. Misconduct includes abusive or foul language in the arena or toward other individuals.

c) If a person is fined, the fine will be determined and assessed by the Judges and URSA executives.

d) Fines must be paid before the contestant rides again, or competes in future events.

e) An approved Judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person shall direct abuse or threatening conduct toward any Judge or a judge's family, either in furtherance of his/her judging duties or as a result thereof, whether or not the conduct occurs during an approved show, on the show grounds or off the show grounds.

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

9.2 **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 URSA executives, and the judges.

9.3 **SUBSTITUTE RIDERS** - In extreme instances, substitution of a rider after a team has been made its original ride may be allowed at the discretion of the URSA executives for compassionate reasons. The show secretary must be notified to ensure that monies are awarded to the appropriate rider in each go. Substitute riders must have available rides in order not to exceed the limit in that class. Their rating must also not make the teams rating exceed the class number cap. Their rating must be the same or below that of the original rider.

9.4 **DRESS CODE** - All contestants at an URSA sanctioned show must wear western attire: a western hat is optional, long or short sleeved western shirt and boots. Tank tops, tee shirts and ball caps will not be allowed. Any member who is in violation of the dress code rule will be given a warning the 1st time and a "no time" after that for that ride.

SECTION X

POINTS AND PAY SCHEDULE

10.1 Points will be accumulated for all sorting divisions, and will remain separate from each other. Year End Awards will be given for each division

10.1.1 Individual points will be awarded in descending order for each division.

a. The first go in each division will receive a maximum of 20 points. For example, 1st place, 20 points; 2nd place, 19 points; 3rd place, 18 points; 4th place, 17 points; etc.

b. The second go/call back in each division will receive a maximum of 10 points. For example, 1st place, 10 points; 2nd place, 9 points; 3rd place, 8 points; etc.

c. The average will be a maximum of 20 points for the top 10 best times for each division. For example, 1st place, 20 points; 2nd place, 18 points; 3rd place, 16 points; etc.

d. A team must have a qualified time to receive points. Example: A no time receives “no points.”

10.1.2 The two shows where the rider accumulated the least amount of points will be dropped. Therefore, only the 5 top shows will count towards year end points.

10.1.3 URSA sanctioned sorting payback schedule (suggested guideline for non-sanctioned sortings):

No. Of Teams	Places Paid	Percentage
1-10	1	100%
11-20	2	60-40%
21-30	3	50-30-20%
31-40	4	40-30-20-10%
41- 60	5	30-25-20-15-10%
61+	6	30-25-18-12-10-5%

**For all Divisions except Youth.

10.2 **FAST GO - 1st** Fast Go money will be paid for each fast go and equal the entry fee when twenty or more teams are entered.

10.3 **AWARDS** The type and number of awards (placings) will be determined by the amount of available finances.

Classes will be combined as follows:

Open - #6s and #5s

Amateur - #4s and #3s

Novice - #2

Rookie - #1.

A high money award will be given to each of the four divisions at every show.

10.4 **YEAR END AWARDS** Divisions will receive first through fifth place awards at the year end banquet.

URSA Champion sorters will be awarded in each Division & Class (individual) by accumulation of the highest points earned at their best five URSA sanctioned shows. In the event of a tie for year-end, the tie will be broken by whoever had the highest money earner for their best five shows.

Year-end awards will be presented at a banquet, place to be announced by the URSA Executives.

SECTION XI

URSA EXECUTIVES

11.1 URSA Executives are determined by member vote. Members will be made aware of those in the running for specific URSA executive positions: President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Rating's Chairman. Votes are required to be in by the last URSA sanctioned show and the upcoming year's executives will be announced at the Awards Banquet.

11.2 2019 Executives

Mike Olsen, President, Rating Committee
Brad Llewelyn, Vice President, Rating Committee
Jack Tillery, Vice President
Deb Warner, Treasurer
Aileen Hoopes, Secretary
Gordon VanTassell, Rating's Chairman

11.3 Executive's Responsibilities

11.3.1 President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Association and at all other meetings of the Association, all according to Roberts Rules of Order. He/she shall perform all such duties that are incidental to the office of President and chief executive officer of the Association and as are properly and appropriately required of him/her.

No pay is acquired for this position.

11.3.2 Vice Presidents

There will be two Vice Presidents elected each year.

The Vice Presidents, in the absence or incapacity of the President, shall exercise all of the powers and perform all of the functions of the President. One of the Vice Presidents shall be appointed to be a part of the Ratings Committee. They shall, in addition, perform such other duties, from time to time, as may be assigned to them by the President.

No pay is acquired for this position.

11.3.3 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the custody of all funds and financial records of the association, for the receipt of such funds and the authorized disbursement of them and shall conduct such banking business for, and in the name of the Association, as may be consistent with its general fiscal operations. The Treasurer shall prepare and report on the financial operations of the Association as directed by the President. She/he shall also be responsible for taking the entry fees and writing the payback checks at each show. The Treasurer shall in addition, perform such other duties, from time to time, as may be assigned to him/her by the President. The Treasurer shall also store the records of the club for the last 3 years. The pay for this position is \$200 per month, plus supplies (receipts are required).

11.3.4 Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of meetings of the Members and for seeing that all notices of official meetings are properly prepared and sent, to compose and mail out the newsletter monthly, to make the rule books for the year, keep a register of all names and post office addresses/phone numbers/e-mails of members, to maintain and acquire a signed membership form from all members, and shall be custodian of all pertinent records, documents and official correspondence of the Association. The Secretary will post contestant points to the website within 10 days of the last show. Max allowance for posting points is one week before the next scheduled show. Contestants within The Secretary will perform the duties set forth in Section 8.5 of the URSA Rules and Regulations. The Secretary, in general, will perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned to her/him by the President.

The pay for this position is \$150 per month, plus supply cost (receipts are required).

Any new secretary will be paid a one-time \$500 payment after training for the position is complete.

11.3.5 Rating's Chairman

The Rating Committee Chairman shall be a member of the URSA whose expertise and personal character merits the honor and will be appointed by the President. One of the Vice presidents shall be appointed by the Rating's Chairman to serve on the committee along with at least one other URSA member whose expertise and personal character merits the honor. No pay is acquired for this position.

11.4 Paid Show Help

At each show there will be an Announcer, Judges, Cattle Changers, and the Secretary (if the elected Secretary rides a helper may be hired in their place). Show personnel will receive \$75 for working Friday URSA promoted events and \$125 for working Saturday URSA events. The Secretary will be paid \$150/show day.

In the event that the show help (announcer, judge, and secretary) will need to travel to a show (over 50 miles one way), the URSA will pay 35¢ per mile round trip. However, if two or more people ride together, the person driving/owning the vehicle will only receive the mileage. The URSA will also pay for the show help's lodging. The URSA will arrange the rooms and will obtain reasonably-priced reasonable-quality lodging. Only one night will be paid for and the show help will be encouraged to share.