



# RSNC

RANCH SORTING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Cinch Ranch Sorting National Championships *2018-2019 Rules*

All rules contained herein are subject to change

Cinch Ranch Sorting National Championships  
PO Box 1  
Wellington, CO 80549

Phone: 970-897-2901

Fax: 970-897-2921

Email: [cinchrsnc@hotmail.com](mailto:cinchrsnc@hotmail.com)

Web Site: [www.ranchsorting.com](http://www.ranchsorting.com)

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## SECTION I

### MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 Membership fee is \$50.00 per person. However, for the 2018-2019 season, all memberships are complimentary for new members. All current and past members who bring a new member to ride at a show also receive a complimentary membership. Current and past members must list the name of their new member on their membership renewal form to receive the complimentary membership. For the 2018-2019 season, memberships are valid through the Cinch RSNC World Finals (2019). Annual memberships will begin and end after the World Finals each year. A membership purchased on or after March 1st of each season shall be good for the remainder of that season and throughout the next full season, (16 months) membership, with the exception of an upgrade. Complimentary memberships and all upgrades from a Day Pass to a Membership will expire after the World Finals of the year the upgrade was purchased. *The Ranch Sorter* publication is available online.
- 1.2 ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS – For those current and past members who do not bring a new member, family members of the purchaser of a Cinch RSNC Membership can join for an additional \$30 each. This includes the spouse and any children living at home who are older than 12 and younger than 21.
- 1.3 Complimentary Cinch RSNC MEMBERSHIP TO ALL 4H AND FFA MEMBERS - Congratulations to the agriculture-based youth in America! You and your family are the kind of folks that we admire and appreciate. Your sense of pride and determination to be involved with the advancement of land and livestock in this great United States is to be commended. For that reason, we at the Cinch RSNC want to honor your efforts by awarding you a complimentary membership to Cinch RSNC. Just show proof that you are 19 or under as of January 1st of the current year and that you are a current member of 4-H or FFA when you fill out your membership application and you will receive your complimentary membership. This membership will entitle holders to all the benefits of the standard Cinch RSNC memberships. Join us with your horses in this exciting Ranch Sorting activity and celebrate our heritage!
- 1.4 YOUTH MEMBERSHIP - Any youth 12 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year, may receive a complimentary membership. A birth certificate copy may be required for age verification. This membership will entitle holders to all the benefits of the standard Cinch RSNC memberships. Cinch RSNC will run a class specifically for our beginning Youth Members and Youth Rated Members at the World Finals.
- 1.5 DAY PASS - Day Passes may be purchased by any expired contestant wishing to compete at one Cinch RSNC sanctioned event with the exception of the World Finals. The Day Pass must be purchased and a rating survey completed before the contestant competes. Day Passes are \$25.00 and are good for one sorting event. A contestant cannot purchase more than 1 Day Pass in any given year. The \$25.00 Day Pass fee will be credited toward

the upgrade to a membership, if membership is purchased in the same year that the Day Pass is purchased.

- 1.6 LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP - In honor of our more seasoned participants Cinch RSNC offers a Lifetime Membership. This one-time membership fee is \$100. These are only available to participants 70 Years of age and older. *The Ranch Sorter* magazine is available online. This membership is non-transferable.
- 1.7 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS - The membership fee is \$50.00 per person for the 2018-2019 season. Beginning June 15th 2019 all renewal memberships are \$65 and all additional family memberships above 12 years old are \$40. All memberships for new members, youth 12 and under and 4H and FFA members are complimentary. Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, all current and past members who sign up a new member through the Cinch RSNC office only and then bring them to ride at a show will also receive a complimentary membership. Current and past members must list the name of their new member on their membership renewal form and mail or email it to the Cinch RSNC office or call the Cinch RSNC office **prior to an event** to receive the complimentary membership. For the 2018-2019 season, memberships are valid through the CINCH RSNC World Finals (2019). Annual memberships will begin and end after the World Finals each year. A membership purchased on or after March 1st of each season shall be good for the remainder of that season and throughout the next full season, (16 months) membership, with the exception of an upgrade. Complimentary new member memberships and all upgrades from a Day Pass to a Membership will expire after the World Finals of that year. Producers will be held responsible for any memberships that are not collected at their sanctioned events. With the exception of those riding on a first time Day pass, participation in a Cinch RSNC event requires being a member of the Cinch RSNC to collect winnings. Their membership status must show as current in the Cinch RSNC Producer's database at the show, or shall have submitted a First Time Membership or Renewal Membership application, including appropriate fees, to the Cinch RSNC Headquarters or the sorting producer, 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 event offices.

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

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



**\*\*IMPORTANT** - Memberships are NON-REFUNDABLE & NON-TRANSFERABLE.  
 Allow 3-4 weeks for 2-way mailing & processing for receipt of your membership letter.  
 The Ranch Sorter magazine is published online 6 times a year (every other month)

## SECTION II

### CLASSIFICATION

#### 2.1 RATING SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS

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

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

Example:

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

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

Example:

- a) The top determined percent of all #2 through #8 contestants move up 1 number.  
 (2 to 3; 3 to 4; 4 to 5; 5 to 6; 6 to 7; 7 to 8...)
- b) The bottom 10%, for example, of all contestants #3 through #9 will be given the opportunity to move down one rating.

With the exception of the #1 Beginner, #2 Rookie and the #3 Novice, this will be done for every classification category at the end of each sorting season. This guarantees fair and equal treatment of every contestant. A Beginner automatically moves up when he or she wins 3 checks or \$500, whichever comes first, in RSNC events. Once a #2/Rookie's earnings in Cinch RSNC sanctioned events reaches \$1000 (youth classes excluded) and that amount has been confirmed and recorded at the Cinch RSNC Headquarters, he/she will no longer be eligible to ride as a #2 Rookie if their win/loss ratio is above a 0.60 in either the #11 and below divisions or in all classes combined. If both win/loss ratios are below a 0.60 then they will remain a #2 until they earn \$1,500 at which point their win/loss ratio will be evaluated again and again at every \$500 interval. Both Beginners and Rookies can be moved up regardless of their winnings if it is determined that their sorting abilities are superior to the level of competition in which they currently compete.

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

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

## 2.2 RATING RULES

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

### Important Rating Guidelines-

It is important to the success of this association to assure there is a place for new novice riders to be competitive within our sport. The #1 Beginner and #2 Rookie rating must continue to be introductory levels. The definitions of the #1, #2 and #3 ratings are printed for all contestants to review so it is clearly understood that **if you are successful at the #1 or #2 rating you will automatically be moved.** This is the only way for new contestants who were just like you when you started to have a fair introduction to the sport.

- 2.2.1 The **#1 Beginner**. This rating is only for those participants who are novice riders on novice horses and who have never won 3 checks or over \$500 in any sorting or other cow horse competition. **Once you win 3 average checks in any classes or \$500 (excluding youth checks) you will automatically be moved to a number 2.** This is only an introductory level and is probationary meaning if you or your horses skill dictates it you may be moved at any time.
- 2.2.2 The **#2 Rookie**. The #2/Rookie rating is only for those participants that have **never been rated higher than a #2** in any sorting or other cow horse organization. To start at a #2 rating this rider must be a novice rider on a novice horse who has never won over a \$1000 in any sorting or other cow horse competition. Once a #2/ Rookie's earnings in RSNC sanctioned events reaches \$1000 (youth classes excluded) and that amount has been confirmed and recorded at the RSNC Headquarters, he/she will no longer be eligible to ride as a #2 Rookie unless their win/loss ratio is below a .60 in the #11 and below divisions. Then they will remain a #2 until they earn another \$500, at which time they will be reevaluated for the .60 cut off, and if not above that ratio again at every \$500 interval. They will remain a #2 until they surpass the .60 win/ loss ratio at which time they will automatically move up to a #3 novice. This is a probationary rating meaning if you or your horse's skills dictate it you may be moved at any time. **If you have success please expect to move beyond the rookie rating.**
- 2.2.3 A **#3 Novice** is defined as a #3 rated contestant that is inconsistent in their ability to sort cattle whether it is because of their cattle reading ability, their ability to get successful partners and/or the ability of their horse. Any new member that has won over \$1000 in Ranch Sorting or other cowhorse competition in any and all

associations combined will not initially be rated below a #3 Novice. Additionally, the #3 rating will be reviewed by win/ loss ratios every 6 months (after the World Finals and State Finals). If a #2 has been moved to a #3 they will have the opportunity to move back to a #2 after reevaluation at every 6-month interval. If they have attended enough events to fairly evaluate them and their win/loss ratio is below a .25 as a #3 they will have the option to move back to a #2.

- 2.2.4 An **Amateur** is defined as a #4, #5 or #6 rated contestant that is just below or just above average in their ability to sort cattle. This is a contestant that can read cattle, is aggressive and confident and is riding an athletic cow horse. From time to time this contestant or their horse will make minor errors that prevent them from consistently sorting. Those that are considered just below average should be a #4, average as a #5, and just above average should be a #6.
- 2.2.5 An **Open Rider** is defined as a #7, #8 or #9 rated contestant that excels within the sport of Ranch Sorting. These are experienced sorters that have continued to improve and advance within the rating system or professional horseman that have recently entered the sport and their horses and sorting abilities dictate that they are superior to the Novice and Amateur contestants. These could be cutting horse and cow horse trainers that in a very short period of time have learned how to be competitive in sorting and have advanced to the open level. There are three levels within the open division.

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

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

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

**Data Driven Rating Evaluation** is the contestant's data and will be collected and carried over from one year to the next, until as determined by Cinch RSNC 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 Cinch RSNC will use 9 rating classifications. All contestants regardless of age, will be assigned a rating classification. Each new member of Cinch RSNC must be given a rating classification before competing in a Cinch RSNC 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 Cinch RSNC that the person is inappropriately rated then Cinch RSNC will correct the rating. If that person is found to have falsified information about his or her rating then Cinch RSNC may revoke the membership of that person.
- 2.2.8 **Masters** - The Masters division is for all contestants ages 50 years or older by December 31 of the current year.
- 2.2.9 **Youth** - All Contestants in the Beginner Youth Division must be 12 or younger by January 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. Beginner Youth may have an Adult or experienced person in the gate but the sorter must be rated #1 Beginner. All Contestants in the Youth Rated Division must be 18 or younger by January 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. There is no rating cap on the Youth Rated Division but it is recommended to be a HC class. Youth ages 13 through 18 who are rated 5 and above may ride in the Rated Youth class but are not eligible for youth points.
- 2.2.9.1 The Youth Points Race is for all youth age 12 & under as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and rated a #4 or below. The youth points race includes all youth classes and all Cinch RSNC classes with a class cap of 11 or lower, excluding the #11 Handicap.
- 2.2.9.2 Youth will not be moved from a #2 to a #3 unless their win/loss ratio is in the top 60% of all youth when they reach the \$1,000 mark or until they reach \$1,500 in regular rated classes in the top 60%.
- 2.3 **FORFEITURE OF MONEY WON-** Teams whose combined ratings are higher than the class number or class cap will forfeit their winnings. It is the responsibility of the Producer as well as the Member to make sure that they are riding at their current rating. Beginners and Rookies move up throughout the year.
- 2.4 **CLASSIFICATION LETTER & MEMBERSHIPS** – For the 2018-2019 season, classification letters and membership status letters will be issued through the 2018-2019 Cinch RSNC World Finals. All new members are assigned a probationary rating for their 1<sup>st</sup> year of competition. If at any time within the first year it is determined by RSNC that the contestant is mis-rated, the rating will be adjusted.
- 2.4.1 **Statistical Data-** At the end of each year all contestants' statistical data will be evaluated and ratings will be adjusted. This classification system is used to limit the margin of error in setting sorting categories. It is based on statistical data rather than opinion and it treats each member identically and fairly. Each contestant is classified or rated with a number 1 through 9 with 9 being the most advanced.
- 2.4.2 **Performance Rating-** Your classification number is your performance rating. The sum of your classification number and your partners' classification numbers cannot exceed the number of the sorting class. This procedure closely defines the caliber of each sorting division.

- 2.5 WORLD FINALS RATING COMMITTEE- A rating committee will be in place to review all questionable ratings at the 2018-2019 World Finals. It will be the committee's sole responsibility to observe and review all questionable ratings of contestants. The committee will consist of four individuals at any one time, three will vote on a rating adjustment with a unanimous vote required for a change. That change will be in effect the next division in which that contestant competes. If there is a conflict of interest by a person on the committee, that person will not vote and the fourth committee person will replace them. The committee has full authority and will be 100% supported by the association. We want members to know that fairness is our utmost priority and Cinch RSNC will not allow underrated contestants to continually compete at the wrong rating.
- 2.6 RATING REVIEW PROGRAM- RSNC has instated a rating review program for any contestant that does not believe their current rating is accurate. The review requires a \$200 up front deposit. If after a minimum of 45 entries under the new rating, the win/loss ratio shows that the contestant falls within the bottom 15% of ratios for that rating, then the contestant's rating will be lowered and the \$200 will be refunded. If the rating is not in the bottom 15%, the \$200 will be forfeited and the rating will remain.

## SECTION III

### CINCH RSNC RANCH SORTING CLASSES AND RULES

3.1 Cinch RSNC SORTING CLASSES - for the 2018-2019 season will consist of:

#### A. 2 MAN SORT

1. All Levels Handicap
2. #13 Handicap
3. #12 Handicap
3. #11 Handicap
- 4 #10 Handicap
5. #9 Handicap
6. #8 Handicap
7. #6 Handicap
8. #5 Handicap
9. #4 (not handicapped)
10. Masters #10 Handicap
11. Rookie #11 Handicap (2-cap on Sorter)
12. Reverse Rookie #11 Handicap (2 cap on Gate
13. Beginner Sort
14. Youth #10 HC (Rated Youth)
15. Round Robin
16. Quick Draw
17. 3 Man 2 Gate Sort
18. Western Heritage Classes

Special sanctioning Cinch RSNC may approve 3-man and 1-man Arena Sorting or Ranch Sorting. Other numbered classes may be offered through special sanctioning as well.

#### B. RANCH HAND SORT

1. #14 Ranch Hand
2. #11 Ranch Hand w/4 cap on Sorter  
( No Handicap if #14 RH is not offered)
3. Beginner Ranch Hand #10 HC  
( Experienced Gate Person)
4. Beginner Sort #2  
( option of 5 numbered cattle)
5. Beginner Youth RH (Experienced Gate person)

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

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

### 3.2 RANCH SORTING RULES

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

- 3.2.2 The 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. If two or more cows cross the line together as long as the nose of the correct number or numbers cross the line first the cattle are considered to be in order regardless of whether they finish crossing in that order. Cows are not counted as sorted until they are completely across the line. Also, if any part of a wrong numbered cow starts across the line it is a no time or if any part of a correct numbered cow starts across the line and then backs out it is also considered a no time
- 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 Cinch RSNC Youth classes are to be run consistent with all Cinch RSNC 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 while driving it toward the gate
- May make aggressive moves on any and all numbered cattle other than the object numbered calf
- Cannot turn toward the object numbered cow to drive it out or increase its speed toward the gate.

### 3.4 **Class Descriptions**

#### 3.4.1 **Beginner Ranch Hand #10 Handicap**

**It is recommended that all beginner classes are ran as Western Heritage classes.**

\*Beginner Sorter with a handicap on any rated gate person. Any team under a #10 will receive a time handicap with 1 additional second for every rating number under #10. In this class the recommended entry fee for the gate person is \$10, the recommended entry fee for the sorter is \$15.

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

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

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

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

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

#### 3.4.2B **Reverse Rookie#11 Handicap (2 cap on the Gate)**

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

3.4.3 **Masters #10 Handicap** - All Contestants in the Masters Division must be 50 years of age or older at the end of the calendar year. This event is required to be run as a #10 Handicap Class or lower.

3.4.4 **Sadie Hawkins-** This class is for the ladies to invite the men to the sorting. It must be a lady and a man or youth or masters 65 or over. Either way there must be 1 lady on the team. The class starts as all sorting classes start however at some point at riders choosing the team must resort the cattle they have already sorted back the other way in reverse order. No cattle are counted as sorted until they return across the centerline from the reverse direction. For example: the team is given number 3. They sort 3,4,5,6,7,and 8 in about 30 seconds. Then they go get the 8 and sort it back across the foul line and it is counted as the 1<sup>st</sup> cow sorted at 35 seconds.



Then they get the 7, 6 and 5 before the time expires. Their final time was 4 cows sorted (both ways) in 59.2 seconds.

3.4.5 **Mixed Sorting:** This class is for a mix team. It can be ran with any class cap number. There must be a guy and girl or one member can be a youth 18 or under or a masters 65 and over.

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

3.4.7 **Quick Draw** - For riders rated 3 and below, or 4 and above a number will be assigned to each rider entered and teams will be drawn by number, rather than name. Class will include three progressive rounds (must sort to progress). A “top ten” round will be added at the World Finals. Prize money will be paid to 1 for every 7 teams (or part of 7). Payout will be per team.

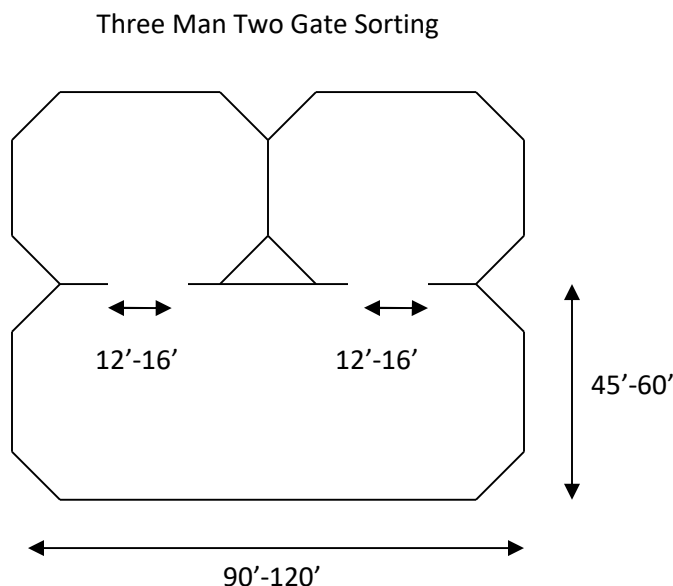
#### 3.4.8 **Open Arena Sorting Rules**

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

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

3.4.8.3 Also See Rules 3.2.2 and 3.2.3

### 3.4.9 Three Man Two Gate Sorting



- a) Three man two gate sorting will take place in a pen that is 90 to 120 foot in size. There will be two 12' to 16' gates on one side of the pen.
- b) Three man teams will sort 10 cattle numbered 0-9 and 1 blank cow for a total of 11 head.
- c) A run starts with team members on the opposite side of the start/foul line at each gate opposite from the cattle. The judge will raise the flag when the cattle are ready. The judge will signal the start of time when the nose of the first horse crosses the start/foul line by dropping the flag and the first number will be announced. The announcer will draw a number to determine the first cow to be sorted. Each team on a herd will be given a different first number. The cattle will then be sorted in numerical order through either gate until all numbered cattle are across the line or time runs out.
- d) Due to the larger pen size it is strongly recommended that no more than 5 runs are made one each herd before another herd is loaded. This includes all goes including the final go.
- e) With the added speed in this class roughing will be strictly enforced for the safety of the riders, horses and cattle. If a judge concludes that rider drives a cow into the wall without giving it adequate room to escape he will be disqualified for roughing. All other roughing rules apply as well. (see rule 5.5)

### 3.4.10 Western Heritage Sorting

This class is used to fine tune the cattle reading and handling skills of the contestant and also to attract a whole new population of contestants who may be intimidated by the speed of competition in many of our events. Those who excel in slow and quiet cattle management will now have a game to be very competitive in. In this class, all standard Cinch RSNC will remain, with the addition of two new ones.

a) Limited to a trot or walk by the sorter:

Loping after one stride by the sorter will result in a no time. The gate person can go at any speed to defend the gate as a defensive move however they cannot lope toward or into the herd to sort cattle.

b) Verbal noise, by either contestant, intended to influence the cattle is prohibited. Shouting by either rider to intimidate the cattle will result in a no time however, non-verbal noises such as whistling, clucking, slapping chaps, etc... are all common practices among cattlemen and are allowed. Artificial whistles are not allowed.

Western Heritage World Finals Qualification:

The Western Heritage Sorting will be a separate qualification program for the World Finals. At the World Finals, there will be three Western Heritage Classes. A #6 Handicap class capped at a #3, for #3 and below rated riders, an All Levels class and a Masters Legend class specifically for riders age 65 and over.

To qualify for year end prizes in the Western Heritage division at the World Finals, you must have ridden in a Western Heritage class at 5 separate sanctioned events. Any rider can compete for the jackpotted money.

Western Heritage points will be tracked in the National Points race specifically for Western Heritage Classes. Should a contestant's rating be changed from a 3 to a 4 or a 4 to a 3 during the National points race season their points will be transferred the same as they are transferred in other RSNC point races. See rule #10.4.6. The top 20 qualifying contestants from each state will enter the World Finals with 20 to 1 points respectively depending on how they ranked within their home state. Points they earn in the Western Heritage Class at the World Finals will be added to the points they enter with to determine the 3 and below and 4 and above World Champions. #3 and below riders will only be eligible to earn points in the #3 and below class but can ride in the All Levels if they wish. Saddles and prizes through 10<sup>th</sup> place in each will be awarded as well.

In the Masters Legend Western Heritage Class all contestants who are 65 and over and who have qualified to ride in Western Heritage Classes at the World Finals are eligible. A Masters Legend Buckle will be awarded to the winning team

with additional prizes through 5<sup>th</sup> place. There is to be no points race for this class.

#### Western Heritage Sanctioning:

A producer can host a Western Heritage sanctioned event by having at least two Western Heritage classes. If only two Western Heritage classes are offered, they must include a lower level class and an upper level class.

A producer can choose to double sanction an event by having at least 5 non-Western Heritage sorting classes including a Beginner or Rookie and an All Levels, plus at least two Western Heritage Classes including a lower level Western Heritage class and an upper level Western Heritage class.

### 3.5 Entries and Number of Go's

**3.5.1 Pick & Draw** - The Pick & Draw system is designed to allow new contestants to the sport an opportunity to find rides and meet other contestants. All RSNC classes have a 5 ride limit. It is required to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 4 or draw all 5. All classes are required to be up to a 5 ride limit with a maximum of 4 picks. The #11 Ranch Hand and #14 Ranch Hand can be a up to 9 ride limit with a maximum 4 picks on each side for a total of 8 picks plus 1 draw. There will be 5 rides on one side and 4 rides on the other.

#### 3.5.2 Handicap System

The RSNC handicap system for ranch sorting.

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

Example:

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

2. A #9 team in the #13 Handicap class receives 4 additional seconds ( $13-9=4$ ) giving them 4 additional seconds to sort. If they sort 8 head in 56 seconds their final time would be 8 head in 52 seconds ( $56-4=52$ )

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

**Number of Go's**

First Go	2 <sup>nd</sup> Go	3 <sup>rd</sup> Go	Final Go
1 to 50 teams			10 teams
51 to 100 teams	20 teams		10 teams
101 to 150 teams	30 teams		10 teams
151 to 200 teams	40 teams		10 teams
201 to 250 teams	50 teams		10 teams
251 to 300 teams	60 teams	20 teams	10 teams
301 to 350 teams	70 teams	20 teams	10 teams
351 to 400 teams	80 teams	20 teams	10 teams
401 to 450 teams	90 teams	20 teams	10 teams
451 to 500 teams	100 teams	20 teams	10 teams
501 to 550 teams	110 teams	30 teams	10 teams
551 to 600 teams	120 teams	30 teams	10 teams
601 to 650 teams	130 teams	30 teams	10 teams
651 to 700 teams	140 teams	30 teams	10 teams
701 to 750 teams	150 teams	30 teams	10 teams
751 to 800 teams	160 teams	40 teams	10 teams
801 to 850 teams	170 teams	40 teams	10 teams
851 to 900 teams	180 teams	40 teams	10 teams
901 to 950 teams	190 teams	40 teams	10 teams
951 +	200 teams	40 teams	10 teams

This is for all RSNC Sanctioned classes with the entry fee at \$35 or higher. If entry fees are less than \$35 the Producer has the option of 1 Go and Top Ten regardless of the # of teams. Please announce the # of go's when the draw is done and before the start of the class. Added teams or scratches after the final draw is posted will not change the # of teams returning.

- 3.5.3 **Running Order** - All RSNC Sanctioned classes are progressive (you must sort in each go round to advance) 0 head sorted is considered a no time. All finals at any RSNC sanctioned sorting will have their running order, determined by draw, mechanically or physically at promoter's discretion.
- 3.5.4 **Payment of Fees** – It is the producer's option to require cash, check or credit card. If CASH ONLY at an On-Site sorting is required, it must be advertised as such in *The Ranch Sorter* Publication and must be on the producer's Show Flyer. Checks will not be accepted from sorters that have previously written bad checks. Entry fees should be payable to the Cinch RSNC Producer.
- 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. Three-member teams must change one rider.
- 3.6 **DRAW-OUT AND REPLACEMENT and EMERGENCY DRAW-OUT** -
- Any team may draw-out of any event with notice prior to final draw being made for 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 Cinch RSNC or the sorting producer of a draw-out, and does not appear prior to first go-round of a competition, the participants entered with him may get a substitute partner 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; the producer may draw that team out and refund their money.

## SECTION IV

### SANCTIONING

#### 4.1 CINCH RSNC SANCTIONED SORTINGS:

- 4.1.1 **Approval-** To be a sanctioned show, a show must be cleared on the Association calendar and approved by RSNC. Sanctioned sorting may include Western Heritage Sorting, 1-man Ranch Hand Sorting, 2-man Ranch Sorting, 2-man Ranch Hand Sorting, 3-man, 2 gate Ranch Sorting and Open Arena Sorting.
- 4.1.2 **Required classes-** All Levels Handicap, Beginner class or Rookie #11 HC, and three other classes are mandatory to qualify as a sanctioned event.

4.1.2.1 A RSNC approved event must have a **minimum of 5 classes** including an All Levels and a Beginner or Rookie class plus at least 3 other class of choice. In addition, a maximum of one non-sanctioned class through special sanctioning can be held on the same day. This class would only be approved only if it is for some special benefit or cause. A producer can choose to hold sanctioned and non-sanctioned classes if the non-sanctioned classes are held on the second day.

4.1.2.2 A **Round Robin** can be counted as one of the five required classes in a show OR a lower level and upper level Round Robin on a separate day can also be approved as a sanctioned event.

4.1.2.3 **Western Heritage Sanctioning:**

A producer can host a Western Heritage sanctioned event by having at least two Western Heritage classes. If only two Western Heritage classes are offered, they must include a lower level class and an upper level class.

A producer can choose to double sanction an event by having at least 5 non-Western Heritage sorting classes including a Beginner or Rookie and an All Levels, plus at least two Western Heritage Classes including a lower level Western Heritage class and an upper level Western Heritage class.

- 4.1.3 **Event Producer-** Failure to comply with any Cinch RSNC rules could result in forfeiture of future sanctioning by the Event Producer, including any shows already sanctioned or pending sanctioning.
- 4.1.4 **Special Sanctioning** - may be granted by Cinch RSNC and allow for potential modifications, which may include: a higher ride limit, less number of sanctioned classes, a different sorting class number and additional pick and draw positions. Any and all deviations if granted must be advertised in advance of the show.
- 4.1.5 **Event Producer-** Each Event Producer operating a show under the Association's sanctioning shall be solely responsible for any and all liability and shall hold Cinch RSNC and its officers and directors harmless from any liability.
- 4.1.6 **Cinch RSNC Bylaws-** rules and guidelines will govern all sanctioned classes.
- 4.1.7 **The Event Producer of a sanctioned show** shall have the right to require any contestant to provide his or her social security number prior to the receipt of any prize money. A contestant, who does not meet this requirement upon request, forfeits the winnings to the Event Producer.
- 4.1.8 **Both Cinch RSNC and the Event Producer** of a sanctioned show shall have the right to require any contestant, or in the case of a Youth rider, the contestant's parent or guardian to sign a Liability Release form holding the Association and the Event Producer, et al, harmless for any and all injury incurred as a result of the penning/sorting.

4.1.9 **Cinch RSNC** will strictly enforce a black ball list of participants who write bad checks or who fail to pay entry Fees or other required fees of any RSNC Sanctioned show or contest.

4.1.10 Cinch Ranch Sorting National Championships code of ethics and conduct: United we stand;

The Cinch Ranch Sorting National Championships is an equine organization comprised of proud Americans who enjoy the freedom of equine recreational competition. We appreciate the camaraderie of all who participate regardless of race, religion or political accountability. The majority of those who compete do it specifically for the fun and pleasure of improving their skills with their equine partners. They attend the events to show their improvement from lessons and practice. They also attend to escape the daily deluge of drama and pressures from work or world happenings.

It is for these reasons that Cinch Ranch Sorting National Championships has established a code of conduct and ethics.

While not every concern will be addressed, it is most important to consider that this association is the fastest growing equine family sport in the world. For that reason, the family values that we all have been taught to consider sacred, must remain as so.

During Cinch RSNC sanctioned events, foul language will not be tolerated. Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or physical altercations will not be tolerated, sexual harassment will not be tolerated and competing under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be tolerated. **Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as “engaging in, or attempting to engage in, any action threatening, berating, harassing, intimidating, assaulting or striking a sorting official, a sorting spectator, any official representative or employee of Cinch RSNC or any Cinch RSNC Contestant.”**

We ask that all members compete by the golden rule, which is; Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. We are not here to fight; we are here to enjoy the competitive nature of the sport. Realizing that every cow or judge will not always give favor to your skills or point of view, we acknowledge that sometimes we will win and sometimes we will lose. Sometimes it will be our fault, other times it will be our partner’s fault and sometimes it will be the fault of the cattle. Judges will strive to make the best call possible; wrong calls may sometimes fall in your favor and other times it may not. We realize this is true in all sports and we accept that risk. Cinch RSNC has established the fairest set of rules as possible to govern the sport. If at any time we can improve on those rules, we are here to listen. Until then, all members agree to adhere to the rules set forth without exception.

If, by chance, you feel that the rules set forth were not followed, you have a right to bring it to the attention of those in charge in a respectful manner. The judge and/or show producer will have the final say on any given day. If you feel that it needs to be brought to the attention of the association, please do so in the same respectful manner.



At all times the office staff of this association will strive to assist you in any way possible. We will do so in a pleasant tone of voice and we expect the same in return. Foul language or threats will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Because we admire and wish to protect the Western Lifestyle, we have the duty and obligation to treat all livestock humanely, as well as our horses with compassion and dignity.

There are hundreds of Cinch RSNC sanctioned events across the country produced by individuals who have all agreed to represent Cinch RSNC and the sport of Ranch Sorting under these guidelines. They realize a contestant's first priority is to have fun. The second is to be given a fair opportunity to compete under a well-established set of rules. The third is to expect that all producers of events will put their best foot forward to make sure that happens. All producers must refrain from being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at any Cinch RSNC sanctioned event.

All producers should endeavor to produce the best event possible by resenting Cinch RSNC positively. They should respect other producers without negative comments as to how other producers operate. Tearing down another Cinch RSNC producer is not the way to succeed. Hearing why a producer thinks they are better than other producers is not why contestants are there to compete. We are all riding for the same brand and we must strive to set examples of quality productions and hope that others follow our lead.

As producers of Cinch RSNC, you agree to this and the entire code of ethics. Any individual not adhering to these standards set forth will face disciplinary action, including fines, suspension or expulsion from the association.

United we stand for America; we stand for our flag and those who fought to give us our freedom and the opportunity to enjoy this event. We also stand together to grow within the fun and exciting sport of Ranch Sorting.

## **SECTION V**

### **REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

- 5.1 **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** –Cinch RSNC reserves the right to disqualify any contestant who does not act in a sportsmanlike, reasonable or professional manner. This shall include but is not limited to 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 may be disqualified.
- 5.5 ROUGHING - A team will be disqualified for roughing - 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.
- 6.2 OFFICIAL OR MECHANICAL ERRORS- Re-rides may be given for official or mechanical errors. Examples: Clocks, timers, or buzzer errors. Panels, gates etc.
- 6.3 DOWNED CATTLE- Re-rides may be given for downed cattle at the **judges' discretion**. 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.
- 6.4 INCORRECT NUMBER OF CATTLE- If a run is started with more or less than the correct number of cattle, the team **MUST** take a re-ride. With the same number called, after the correct number of cattle are in the pen.
- 6.5 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 herd with the exception of replacing the jumping cow at judges' discretion, starting at 0 cattle with a new clock. Time can also be given on sorted cattle at the time a cow leaves the arena.
- 6.6 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 judges' 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 to the cattle by crossing the start / foul line, unless cattle become injured or UN-numbered during the run. Then at the judges' discretion the judge may stop the run

and the contestants will have the choice to take their current cattle and time or a re-ride. The re-ride will occur **immediately** using the same numbered cattle once injured, 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
- 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

### CINCH RSNC RANCH SORTING RULES

#### 7.1 QUALIFICATION GUIDELINE FOR WORLD FINALS

CINCH RSNC WORLD FINALS
All contestants must attend 5 shows to be eligible to attend the World Finals.
All First year members are exempt from the 5 show requirement.
Attend 5 shows and be in the top 20 points race from your state to qualify for the Top 10 prizes in your category.
For an event to count as a qualifying show, contestants must enter a minimum of 5 times in that show.

- 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 Cinch RSNC sortings.
- 7.4 **TIME LIMIT** - A 60, 75 or 90 second allotted time limit for each class will be required at producer's discretion (Cinch RSNC 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 producer should make a decision and advise the judge on which way the cattle should be settled to be the most fair to the contestant and the well-being of the cattle. For settling cattle, the producer has the following four options:

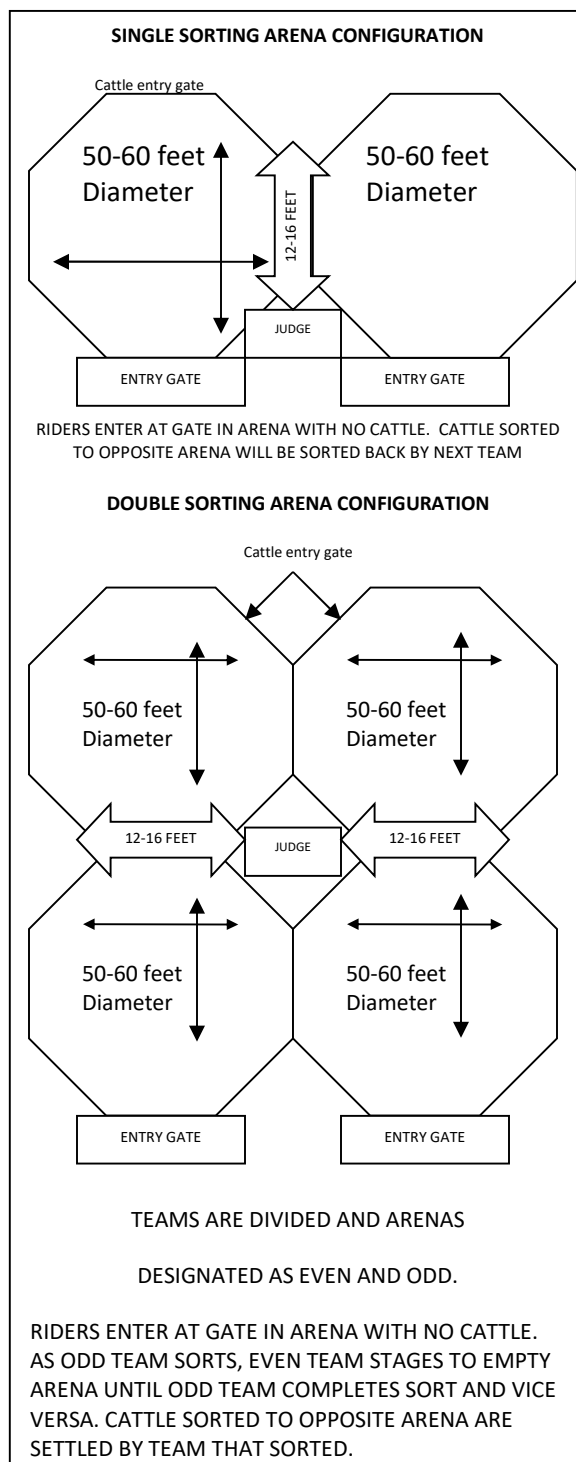
1. Cattle may be settled on one side every time and sorted one way for that go round or class.
2. Cattle may be settled on one side for the first run of each herd and then alternated to the opposite side each consecutive run.
3. Cattle may be settled on one side for the first run of each herd and then resettled on the side with the most cattle remaining.
4. Cattle may be settled on the side of choosing by the team entering the arena.

For determining number of runs on each herd, a producer 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 Cinch RSNC 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 OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE in regards to already sorted cattle- When a team is running and it is determined by the judge that interference from outside the arena adversely affect the run, the judge will give the team an option of a re ride from scratch or time and cattle sorted when the infraction occurred.

## 7.9 PEN DIAGRAM



The optimum sorting pen is 50'-60' diameter with corners cut at 45'.  
The opening between the two pens will be 12'-16'.

## 7.10 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.

## 7.11 RIDE LIMIT

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

All classes are required to be up to a 5-ride limit with a maximum of 4 picks, with the exception of Ranch Hand classes with a 9-ride limit, maximum of 8 picks and minimum of 1 draw. Special sanctioning may vary from this rule.

## 7.12 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.

## 7.13 INSTANT REPLAY REVIEW

When instant replay cameras are in use a contestant will have the option to request a review under the following rules.

### 7.13.1. Reviewable Items

- Number of cattle sorted
- Official time on cattle sorted
- Order of cattle sorted
- Duplicate number called

### 7.13.2. Allotted time for protest.

- For number of cattle sorted and official time of cattle sorted the protest must be made before the next go or class starts.
- For order of cattle sorted, duplicate number called, the protest must be made before the team leaves the arena.

### 7.13.3. Review fee: \$75

- If review is found in favor of contestant, there will be no fee charged and correction will be made.
- If review is not found in favor of contestant the fee will be charged to contestants bill.
- If there is no conclusive evidence due to obstructions or camera failure, etc., there will be no fee charged and judge's ruling stands.

## SECTION VIII

### 8.1 GUIDELINES FOR EVENT PRODUCERS

- 8.1.1 Any reputable person who can furnish proof that he or she is capable through ability or experience may act in the capacity of an Event Producer.
- 8.1.2 Event Producers must submit the required Cinch RSNC Producer contract pages with requested show dates a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the first requested date.
- 8.1.3 Event Producers must have Cinch RSNC Approved Judges and RSNC Approved Show Secretaries for their events. The Event Producer must request that Judge tests and Show Secretary tests/software be sent to selected individuals so that those individuals have adequate time to apply and submit the required documentation/files for RSNC approval a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the Event Producer's first scheduled event.
- 8.1.4 Event Producers must contact the Cinch RSNC Headquarters to request event insurance a minimum of 2 weeks prior to each scheduled event if insurance is needed.
- 8.1.5 The Event Producer shall have authority and responsibility to enforce all rules pertaining to the show. He or she may excuse any horse or exhibitor from the show prior to or during the judging for any infraction of rules or misconduct.
- 8.1.6 The Event Producer shall have the authority and responsibility to enforce all ratings and rating rules. Any suggested rating changes will be confirmed by the Cinch RSNC office.
- 8.1.7 Pay for judges-timekeepers-announcers-show secretaries are up to the Event Producer's discretion. There is no suggested amount. These shall be paid for by the Event Producer.
- 8.1.8 The Event Producer must be present on the show grounds for the duration of the show. In the event an emergency arises and the Event Producer is unable to fulfill his duties, he or she may appoint an acting Event Producer in his/her absence. The acting Event Producer must also remain on the show grounds for the duration of the show. The Event Producer shall at all times extend every effort to satisfy the comfort of the horses, cattle, exhibitors, spectators, and officials. He or she shall be held responsible for maintaining clean and orderly conditions throughout the show.
- 8.1.9 The Event Producer shall receive written complaints from exhibitors, trainers, owners, show participants, and other Cinch RSNC members of incidents of cruel, abusive or inhumane treatment of livestock on show grounds and shall forward such complaints to Cinch RSNC for possible disciplinary action under the Cinch RSNC rules pertaining to unsportsmanlike conduct.

8.1.10 Shall an emergency arise, on behalf of an injured contestant the event producer shall have the authority to make an emergency 911 call for assistance.

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

8.2.1 The Event Producer may select any reputable person to apply to become an Cinch RSNC Approved Judge. The selected individual must become familiar with Cinch RSNC rules and submit a written rulebook test with a score of 90% or better to the Cinch RSNC Headquarters Office a minimum of 2 weeks prior to their first event as an Approved Cinch RSNC Judge. In order for a judge to remain current, they must renew their certification every two years by taking and passing a judge's test.

8.2.2 The Judge is responsible for enforcing the Cinch RSNC rules and class procedures as outlined in the Cinch RSNC 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 All approved Judges will be placed on a Cinch RSNC Approved Judges list on the Cinch RSNC website and will also be eligible to submit application for AQHA special event judging status through Cinch RSNC.

8.2.4 Designation as a Cinch RSNC Approved Judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by Cinch RSNC according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals whose expertise and personal character merits the honor. An individual's conduct and ability as a member/participant/judge must be exemplary.

8.2.5 After acceptance of a judging commitment, a Judge shall endeavor, with all reasonable effort, to Judge the show, and shall timely communicate to show management any inability to do so, as to allow the show management maximum time in which to seek a suitable replacement.

8.2.6 During an approved show, a Judge shall be present to meet their responsibilities under Cinch RSNC rules, and shall be available to assist show management in meeting its responsibilities to rule compliance including calling 911 in case of an emergency.

8.2.7 All Judges at a Cinch RSNC sanctioned show must wear western attire: a western hat is optional, long or short sleeved western shirt tucked-in and buttoned properly, and boots. Tank tops, tee shirts and ball caps will not be allowed.

8.2.8 When a participant makes a request through the Arena Director or other show official for the Judge's opinion, it is urged that the Judge will give his opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the Arena Director or other show official.



- 8.2.9 A Cinch RSNC Approved Judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and no person shall direct abuse or threatening conduct toward him or his family on or off show grounds, either in the furtherance of his judging duties, or as a result thereof, whether or not the conduct occurs during an approved show or on show grounds.

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

All Cinch RSNC Announcers must be familiar with Cinch RSNC rules & general guidelines.

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

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

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

- 8.5.1 The Event Producer may select any reputable person to become a Cinch RSNC Show Secretary. To become a Cinch RSNC Show Secretary, the selected individual must become familiar with both the Cinch RSNC rules and Cinch RSNC software and successfully run and submit the files from a completed Virtual Show run on the Cinch RSNC Ranch Sorting software to the Cinch RSNC Headquarters office a minimum of 2 weeks prior to their first event.
- 8.5.2 Designation as a Cinch RSNC Show Secretary is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by Cinch RSNC, to individuals whose expertise and personal character merits the honor. An individual's conduct as a member/participant/show secretary must be exemplary.
- 8.5.3 The show secretary shall be the primary person responsible for the correctness of the entries and show results, including verifying exhibitor eligibility. The show secretary shall post the results of each class within one hour of the end of the class.
- 8.5.4 It shall be the responsibility of the show secretary to maintain and record both entries and show results. The show secretary must submit the electronic show results, sanctioning fees and membership forms and fees to Cinch RSNC within five (5) days of the last day of the show. Failure to do so will subject the Event Producer to being fined and disallowed any further sanctioning by Cinch RSNC. The show secretary shall keep a set of the results on file for at least one (1) year from the date of the show. The show secretary and Producer shall be held responsible for the entry fees, office charges, etc., and for all fees that should be collected for membership or sanctioning on behalf of Cinch RSNC. In addition, it is strongly recommended that any cash payments made to the show secretary for these fees be converted to a money order or check before being sent to Cinch

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

## **SECTION IX**

### **MANDATORY EVENT GUIDELINES**

#### **9.1 CONDUCT**

9.1.1 Each Cinch RSNC member shall follow the Cinch RSNC rules at all sanctioned shows.

9.1.2 Any contestant who is guilty of misconduct may be fined \$20 to \$250 or be expelled from the contest and/or the Association. Cinch RSNC reserves the right to revoke or refuse membership for proper cause. Misconduct includes, but is not limited to, abusive or foul language toward other individuals in or outside the arena and abuse of livestock.

9.1.3 If a person is fined, the fine will be determined and assessed by the Judges and producer.

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

9.1.5 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.

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

#### **9.2 GENERAL EVENT GUIDELINES**

9.2.1 There will be at least one (1) sorting judge approved by the Cinch RSNC and compensated by the Event Producer. The announcer may function as timekeeper. Decisions of the judges are final. The Cinch RSNC Arena Director will cast the tiebreaker.

9.2.2 All classes are required to be a pick 1, automatically draw 1. You can pick up to 4 or draw all 5. All classes may have up to a 5-ride limit with a maximum of 4 picks.

- 9.2.3 All proceeds and records of show must be submitted to the Cinch RSNC National Office within five (5) days of the last day of the show. For each day late after five (5) days, an Event Producer will be fined \$100 per day. This rule is in effect to allow Cinch RSNC to publish results in a timely manner. Any fine must be paid before the Event Producer's next scheduled show. Failure to do so will subject the Event Producer to being disallowed any further sanctioning by Cinch RSNC.
- 9.3 EVENT CANCELLATION - In the event a show is cancelled due to weather or other extenuating circumstances before the final go-round, the last fully completed go-round will decide the winners of the class. The decision to stop the sorting shall be a joint decision of the Event producer, and the judges.
- 9.4 SUBSTITUTE RIDERS - In extreme instances, substitution of a rider after a team has made its original ride may be allowed at the discretion of the producer 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.
- 9.5 DRESS CODE - All contestants at a RSNC sanctioned show must wear western attire: a western hat is optional, long or short sleeved western shirt and boots. Tank tops, tee shirts and ball caps will not be allowed. Any member who is in violation of the dress code rule will be given a warning the 1<sup>st</sup> time and a "no time" after that for that ride.

## SECTION X

### FORMS FOR OFFICE USE

#### 10.1 EXPLANATION OF HANDICAP:

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

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

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

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

### Quick Reference Handicap Chart

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

## 10.2 RECOMMENDED PAYOUT SCHEDULE

PLACES		PERCENTAGE SPLITS
1	1- 15 teams	100 %
2	16- 30 teams	60% - 40%
3	31- 45 teams	50%-30%-20%
4	46- 60 teams	40%-30%-20%-10%
5	61-75 teams	34%-27%-20%-10%-9%
6	76-100 teams	32%-24%-17%-10%-9%-8%
7	101-150 teams	28%-22%-17%-10%-9%-8%-6%
8	151-200 teams	26%-22%-14%-10%-9%-8%-6%-5%
9	201-250 teams	26%-19%-13%-10%-9%-8%-6%-5%-4%
10	251 & Above	25%-18%-13%-10%--8.5%-7%-6%-5%-4%-3.5%

### Recommended Payout Schedule

- a) At all RSNC Sanctioned events the % payback will be the producers' option. All classes will have an additional \$3 per ride per person Sanctioning Fee.
- b) Suggested split of the purse: 7.5% to the Fast Go in the first go round after 50 teams, with 92.5% to the average.
- c) In the Fast Go, no places are paid for the 1<sup>st</sup> 50 teams, 2 places are paid from 51-100 teams, 3 places are paid 101+ teams.
- d) The average will pay one place for every 15 teams or part thereof (see chart above) up to a total of five places (see chart above for payouts beyond 5 places).

## 10.3 ENTRY FORM INSTRUCTIONS

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

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



### Cinch Ranch Sorting National Championships



~~~Please confirm partners BEFORE turning in this form.~~~

Class Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Draws (Including Auto Draw) : \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number Of Rides In This Class: \_\_\_\_\_



### Cinch Ranch Sorting National Championship



~~~Please confirm partners BEFORE turning in this form.~~~

Class Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Draws (Including Auto Draw) : \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number Of Rides In This Class: \_\_\_\_\_



### Cinch Ranch Sorting National Championships



~~~Please confirm partners BEFORE turning in this form.~~~

Class Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort/Gate Partner #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Draws (Including Auto Draw) : \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number Of Rides In This Class: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 10.4 Cinch RSNC Sort for the Saddles 2018-2019

**The purpose of the Cinch RSNC sort for the saddles contest is to serve as an incentive for participation in sanctioned events. The 2018-2019 National Saddle Race points earning season started June 17, 2018 and ends June 8, 2019 (for all shows received with paperwork, payment, and files from the Producer.)** The top 20 point earners from each state, as well as all frozen contestants, in seven separate categories will enter the World Finals with 40 points to 2 point respectively. Masters division will enter with 20 points down to 1 point respectively. There is a minimum of 5 shows requirement to attend the World Finals and to be eligible for prizes. It's anyone's game – *come play!*

|                                                            |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                            |                                                   |
| All 2018-2019 Graduating Rookies<br>And all top 20 Rookies | Automatically Qualified<br>Top 20 from each State |
| Novice (#3)                                                | Top 20 from each State                            |
| Amateur (#4, #5 & #6)                                      | Top 20 from each State                            |
| Open (#7, #8 & #9)                                         | Top 20 from each State                            |
| Masters 50 & Over                                          | Top 20 from each State                            |
| Western Heritage                                           | Top 20 from each State                            |
| Youth (Rated 4 and below and age 12 and below)             | Top 20 from each State                            |

The AQHA point system will be used to award points to contestants placing in the top ten of any division for which they are eligible. Classes with **more** than 100 teams will award double points. Points will be awarded to the top 10 places regardless if they made a time in the final go or not.

#### Points Chart

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

# Sort for the Saddles

## 2018-2019 Official Contest Rules



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**The purpose of the Cinch RSNC sort for the saddles contest is to serve as an incentive for participation in sanctioned events. The 2018 National Saddle Race points earning season started June 17, 2018 and ends June 8, 2019 (for all shows received with paperwork, payment, and files from the producer.) The top 20 point earners from each state, as well as all frozen contestants, in four separate categories will enter the World Finals with 40 points to 2 point respectively. Masters and Youth divisions will enter with 20 points down to 1 point respectively. There is a minimum of 5 shows requirement to attend the World Finals and to be eligible for prizes.**

1. Contestants must be a current member to earn points for the saddle race.
2. The Masters' Division will have a class of its own and the points will be kept separately, and contestants will enter the finals with 20 to 1 points respectively. Eligible contestants must compete in the Masters class at the Finals to be able to win Masters High Point awards.
3. The Youth Division will have a class of its own at the World Finals and the points will be kept separately. Contestants will enter the finals with 20 to 1 points respectively. Eligible contestants must compete in the Youth #8HC (12 & Under ) class at the Finals to be able to win Youth High Point Awards.
4. A contestant will represent his/her home state. Points earned at shows outside a contestant's home state will be added to his/her total in the state in which he/she resides.
5. In addition to the Todd Jeys saddle, the top 20 point earners from each state will be eligible for other year-end prizes. Contestants must have attended 5 shows, and compete at the World Finals and may only claim one year-end award in the Sort for the Saddle contest.
6. In the event that a contestant's rating is changed from a 2 to a #3 his/her points will be carried with him/her to the next division unless moving those points improves the contestant's standing in the points race. In this case, only the points that will put the contestant in the same standing as in the prior division will be carried over. Example: A NOVICE has 50 points and is in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the standings when she becomes an AMATEUR. The current 4<sup>th</sup> place AMATEUR has 30 points. In this case, the rider that is graduating from NOVICE to AMATEUR can only transfer 30 of her 50 points to the new division. The two riders will now be in a tie for the 4<sup>th</sup> place AMATEUR position.
7. A Beginner that graduates to a Rookie and then to a Novice will be eligible to ride in the Graduated Rookie and the Novice divisions at the 2019 Finals. Contestants graduating from Rookie to Novice will be automatically qualified for the World Finals in the Graduated Rookie division with a minimum of 20 points. Graduated Rookie contestants are eligible to compete for paybacks in every division for which they are qualified, but may only claim one year-end award in the Sort for the Saddle contest. Contestants will claim the prize in the Division in which they place the highest at the end of the World Finals. Beginning in 2019 Graduated Rookies will only be qualified to graduate and compete at the World Finals as a Graduated Rookie one time. No longer will their points be frozen as a #2 Rookie if they have previously been a Graduated Rookie. All contestants that go up to a 3 and then back to a #2 for \$500 will move directly to the Novice division. Their maximum number of points depending on their standing will be moved to the #3 Novice race. This means they can still compete in the Graduated Rookie (3 and below rider) class as a #3 but cannot qualify for Graduated Rookie prizes at the World Finals more than one time.
8. In the event that there is a tie on points for the Saddle and other top 10 prizes there will be a Tie Breaker. Total # of cattle sorted in all events that points were applied to is 1<sup>st</sup> tie breaker. If this does not solve the tie then we will go to the shortest amount of time it took to sort that amount of cattle.
9. Additional points earned at the World Finals will count towards year-end prizes. For classes that are not completed Thursday & Friday, points will be applied based on rider standings going into the final round. Then on Saturday morning the #11 Ranch Hand (w/4 cap on sorter) will run to completion; final points from this class will be used to award prizes. The results from Saturday nights classes will not be used to determine prizes.

**The Cinch RSNC World Finals has a 5 show requirement for all riders that wish to compete for pay-backs as well as other prizes. For an event to count as a qualifying show for the 2019 World Finals, contestants must enter a minimum of 5 times in each show. Only the top 20 point earners from each state that have attended 5 shows are eligible for the saddle or other year-end awards.**



# 2019 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (or the first show after the previous State Championships in 2019), all Cinch RSNC contestants will have the opportunity to compete in a State Championship at the end of the RSNC season for that state. Producers from your state, starting with the producer that submitted the most sanctioned teams, will be offered the opportunity to host a State Championship Finals. Numbers of teams are determined from World Finals to World Finals and the previous State Championship shows do not count towards team count. This gives producers ample time to prepare for the event. If a producer accepts the State Championship event, Cinch RSNC will help furnish awards. For every state that sanctions at least 5 Cinch RSNC shows in 2019, Cinch RSNC will contribute up to 7 Trophy State Championship awards. For every state that sanctions 10 or more shows Cinch RSNC will contribute prizes through 5<sup>th</sup> place in each of the 7 rating categories.

The points system through the year will be identical to the current Cinch RSNC World Finals point's race with the addition of a #1 state points race. First place contestants will earn ½ point for 3-4 teams, 1 point for 5-9 teams, 2 points for 10-14 teams, 3 points for 15-19 teams, 4 for 20-24, 5 for 25-29, 6 for 30-34, 7 for 35-39, 8 for 40-44, 9 for 45 and over up to 100 teams. If more than 100 teams in a class then the points will be doubled. These accumulated points will determine the contestant's placing in the Top 20 of each division for their state. Only top 20 contestants that have competed in a minimum of 4 shows prior to the State Finals in that state's point race are eligible for prizes and the winners will be determined by total points won throughout the year and at the State Finals for each of the following categories: Beginner, Rookie, Novice, Amateur, Open, Masters and Youth.

All Cinch RSNC, State & County Fairs, plus the following events (Congress Super Sort, and Cheyenne Frontier Days) will be awarded double points and participation credit. In addition, all shows except the Regionals with 1,000 teams or more will be awarded double points and participation credit for show count to attend State or World Finals. Additionally, if a state or county fair is scheduled as a 2, or more, day event, it will not count more than double participation.

Each First-Place winning member from each rating category from each state will permanently be listed in the Cinch RSNC HALL OF FAME! The state high money winner and the high money horse from each state will additionally be enshrined into the Cinch RSNC HALL OF FAME!

Contestants must attend at least 4 shows prior to the State Finals in the state in which they wish to compete and also compete at that State Finals event to qualify in the points race for that state and for that state's State Finals prizes. For an event to count as a qualifying show for the 2019 State Finals, contestants must enter a minimum of 5 times in each show. If a contestant qualifies in more than one state, they have a chance to compete in more than one State Finals event. If a contestant qualifies in 2 divisions, they have the chance to win a prize in both of the divisions. In the event that there is a tie on points for the State Finals prizes there will be a Tie Breaker Rule: Total # of cattle sorted in all classes at the finals that points were applied to will be the 1st tie breaker. If this does not solve the tie then we will go to the shortest amount of time it took to sort that amount of cattle.

Good Luck to all!