

## RCC SADDLE CLUB TEAM SORTING RULES

Team sorting consists of 2 people on horseback sorting 10 cattle numbered 0-9. There may or may not be 1 or 2 unnumbered cows. A run starts with team members on opposite side of start line from cattle.

The judge will indicate when the pen is ready. The judge will start the time when the nose of the first horse crosses the start/foul line and at the same time will announce the number of 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

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. If there is a blank cow, the 10th numbered cow must be completely across the line before a blank cow starts across or the team will receive a no time.

**SORTING PEN SIZE:** The optimum sorting pen is 50'-60' diameter with corners cut at 45'.

The opening between the two pens will be 12'-16'.

**TIME LIMIT:** A 60 second time limit will be allotted to competitive runs and a 90-second time limit will be allotted to "practice" runs. If a competitive run is disqualified, the competitors must exit the ring. Practice run participants can use up their full 90 seconds even if the

round is disqualified. Practice runs must be declared *before* entering the ring or they will automatically count as competitive. Practice runs will not qualify for awards or place standings even if they make a qualifying time.

**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.

**SPOTTING OF CATTLE:** Spotting of cattle is permissible and encouraged. It brings more excitement to the sport and equals the playing field for all participants

**RIDER FALLS OFF:** If a rider falls off his horse he can get back on and continue sorting.

**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.

## **REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

**UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** RCC Saddle Club 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.

**INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE:** All contestants must wear heeled boots and jeans to participate. Riding helmets are not required but are recommended. Participants may be asked to cover, remove, or change clothing that is considered unsafe, inappropriate, or disrespectful.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**ROUGHING:** A team will be disqualified for roughing the cattle, which consists of any physical contact by horse or rider at the judges' discretion.

**WORKING CATTLE WHILE DISMOUNTED:** Any rider working cattle must be mounted on horseback. Working cattle on foot is reason for disqualification.

**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.

**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.

## **REASONS FOR RE-RIDES**

**OFFICIAL OR MECHANICAL ERRORS:** Re-rides may be given for official or mechanical errors. Examples: Clocks, timers, or buzzer errors. Panels, gates etc.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## **TEAM SORTING CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

RCC Saddle Club welcomes all to participate regardless of race, religion, sex, or political affiliation. RCCSC also expects participants to adhere to our code of conduct and ethics.

While not every concern will be addressed, we strive to uphold family values and sportsmanlike behavior.

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. Arguing with the judge or other ring officials will not be tolerated.

We ask that all members display sportsmanlike behavior, which means recognizing 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 they may not. We realize this is true in all sports and we accept that risk.

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 event hosts will have the final say on any given day. If you feel that it needs to be brought to the attention of the RCCSC board, please do so in the same respectful manner.

We have the duty and obligation to treat all livestock humanely, and treat our horses with compassion and dignity.

Any individual not adhering to the standards set forth may be asked to leave the RCCSC grounds and refunds will not be issued. RCCSC further reserves the right to terminate membership for any member who refuses to behave according to the code of conduct and ethics.