

THE UNITED STATES TEAM ROPING CHAMPIONSHIPS

2009 RULES

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

20 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

Team roping is the only sport unique to rodeo in which two people compete together as a team. One member of the team known as the header ropes a steer around the horns and the other member, the heeler, moves in and ropes the steer by both hind feet. The sport came into inception from the competitive nature of ranch cowboys as they had to head and heel cattle on the ranch to doctor or brand the bovine creatures. Soon they began to drum up competitions to see which cowboys were the best ropers and the best were deemed champions.

The United States Team Roping Championships (USTRC) was founded in 1989 with the guiding principle of creating a National Championship where ropers of every skill level would have a chance to compete for the title of United States Champion. After nineteen years of crowning hundreds of champions that very concept remains the focus of the USTRC. Now in its twentieth year, the USTRC continues to elevate the sport to a new level, allowing anyone from anywhere to become a champion team roper. With the TRIAD (Team Roping Information and Data) Classification System, team ropers are grouped together to compete against and with other ropers of the same skill set and ability level.

Over the past nineteen years USTRC has classified more than 150,000 ropers and they literally come from all facets of life. They are children, parents and grandparents and they come from virtually every background and line of work in the world. These people all have one common ground however, and that is the sport of team roping. Each one of them wants to be a champion team roper and the USTRC provides the platform for each one of them to reach that very goal.

Each year the USTRC sanctions some 90 events and affiliates an additional 400 ropings across the United States. To participate in these events you must be a member of the USTRC. These events allow team ropers to qualify and compete in the sport's crown jewel, the USTRC National Finals of Team Roping (NFTR). The NFTR is held each October and every year the National Champions of the Sport are determined at this event held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The USTRC invites you to embark on one of the greatest thrills known to western culture and that is to experience team roping at its best through the sports only national organization. The rewards are endless and the opportunity to take hold of your western roots is extremely fulfilling. Come along with USTRC as it celebrates Twenty Years of Champions.

SECTION 2

CLASSIFICATIONS

2.1 TRIAD CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

USTRC ropers will be rated from a #1 to a #10 based on their ability level using the TRIAD classification system. The following are the general classification definitions for each team roper ability level.

- #1 TRUE BEGINNER** - This person is learning to ride and swing a rope. Learning is priority over competition.

- #2 BEGINNER NOVICE** - Inexperienced riders with little roping experience. Uncomfortable roping from a horse, this roper has difficulty controlling their horse and rope at the same time. This roper is new to competition.
- #3 MID LEVEL NOVICE** - This roper is competing more and catch percentages have increased. Comfortable roping from a horse, but limited horsemanship skills prevents control over any aspect of the run. This instability prevents making necessary adjustments during the course of a run, which leads to inconsistency from one run to the next.
- #4 UPPER LEVEL NOVICE** - Better rope handling mechanics allow for more catches. Better horsemanship skills afford control on slow moving steers but this roper still lacks the necessary rope skills and horsemanship to adjust to fast moving steers. Headers do not handle cattle very well and heelers lack ability to time feet. Both are inconsistent at putting runs together for the average.
- #5 LOW LEVEL AMATEUR - (HEADER)** Catches more than misses and handles cattle with more consistency. This roper rides a conservative barrier so most of his/her catches are well down the arena. This roper stands out in novice class roping.
- (HEELER)** This roper can sense being in time with the steer, which allows for a better catch to miss ratio. Reaction time is slow making it difficult to adjust to speed in the run. He/She has developed a pattern from one run to the next but struggles to catch many steers in succession. This roper stands out in novice class roping.
- #6 MID LEVEL AMATEUR - (HEADER)** Catches the majority of steers around the horns. Better at riding the barrier, this roper is turning steers where the heart of the roping is taking place. Skilled at handling steers through the corner, allows heelers to catch more easily and more frequently behind them. Typically rides to the hip of the steer before taking a throw and therefore does not take time out of the run.
- (HEELER)** This roper knows when they are in time with the steer. Better horsemanship and better rope handling skills allow them to make adjustments during the course of the run in order to time up with the steer. This roper rides a conservative corner and usually tracks the steer several jumps to find a throw. Timing is more automatic, so this roper will seldom completely miss a steer, however, he/she will frequently rope one leg. Focused more on catching than dictating the speed of the run.
- #7 SEMI PRO - (HEADER)** This roper can dictate the speed of the run. Skilled at riding the barrier, he/she will catch most steers in the upper 1/3 of the arena. This group consists mostly of the better headers in the amateur ranks of rodeo.
- HIGH LEVEL AMATEUR - (HEELER)** Sound horsemanship and sound rope skills allow this roper to catch most of their cattle by two feet. This roper sets the run up using a wide angle relative to the steer and rides aggressively through the corner. A solid catcher with intermittent ability to speed up the run. Typically this roper will hold slack overhead, thus allowing more rope to extend between them and the steer. The inability to quickly shut the run down on a consistent basis prevents a higher classification. Competitive jackpot heeler.
- #8 PROFESSIONAL - (HEADER)** This roper rides a barrier extremely well regardless of the length of score. They consistently rope their steers on the gain (a stride back of the steer) and with excellent horsemanship skills they control both the steer and the speed of the run. Rodeos both amateur and professional.
- SEMI PRO - (HEELER)** This roper rides higher and tighter horse position relative to the steer and consistently catches their steers on

the third or fourth jump. Quicker at handling their slack, this roper can take time out of the run by dallying on a shorter rope. Competitive jackpot heeler with skills suited for the amateur ranks of rodeo.

- #9 ELITE - (HEADER)** Regardless of the roping conditions, this header has the unique calculated ability to control the run. They ride superior horses, which allow them to make the most of any steer they draw. This is a NFR quality header. This header generally ropes for a living and /or is among the best in the world.

PROFESSIONAL - (HEELER) This roper rides the corner looking for position that enables him to rope as the steer leaves the corner. This aggressive position allows him to rope most of his steers by two feet on the second or third jump. The skill set of this group is well suited for the professional and amateur ranks of rodeo.

- #10 ELITE - (HEELER)** This roper rides corner looking to rope the steer on the first legal jump and has the calculated ability to make up time on any given run. Superior horsemanship and rope handling skills allow him to rope most of his steers by two feet on the first or second jump. Ropes for a living and /or is among the best in the world. NFR quality heeler.

The purpose of the classification system is to provide for ropers a handicap system, which will allow them the opportunity to compete throughout the country against those of similar skills. The USTRC acknowledges that there is no such thing as a perfect classification system.

2.2 CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM - A classification system is used to limit the margin of error in setting roping categories. Each roper is classified or rated with a number 1 through 10, according to his or her ability to rope. No roper will be numbered higher than 10. Your classification number is your ability rating as judged by your peers and/or performance based. If you are a number 4, you can rope with number 5 or less in the number 9 roping. The sum of your classification number and your partners' classification number, cannot exceed the number of the roping. This procedure closely defines the caliber of each roping division.

2.2.1 CLASSIFICATION CAPS AND FLOORS - The use of a "Cap", i.e., capping a roping in an effort to eliminate participation of higher classified ropers, and a "Floor", i.e., establishing a minimum handicap requirement for ropers entering any specific division will be in use as a means by which to further define the caliber of ropers that are eligible to compete in a given roping.

National Finals - U.S. Open of Team Roping - At the USTRC National Finals, there will be a Floor instituted in the U.S. Open of Team Roping. No header with a classification number less than seven (7), or heeler with a classification number less than eight (8), will be eligible to enter the U.S. Open of Team Roping. The purpose of this is to insure the sanctity of the level of professionalism of the event.

#9 Division - At all USTRC sanctioned events, the #9 division and the #9 Incentive in the #10 division, will be "Capped" at a #5. No roper with a TRIAD classification higher than a #5 is eligible to compete in the #9 division. Those ropers who are classified higher than an #5 which compete in this division, will be disqualified, and forfeit their entry fees.

#8 Pick/Draw Division - At all USTRC sanctioned events, the #8 Pick/Draw will be "Capped" at a #4. No roper with a TRIAD classification higher than a #4 is eligible to compete in the #8 Pick/Draw. Those ropers who are classified higher than an #4 which compete in this division, will be disqualified, and forfeit their entry fees.

2.3 BALLOTING - Online (ustrc.com) ballots will be submitted to USTRC members three times each year for voting purposes; November,

March and June. The results of the ballot voting will be announced and put into effect following ballot submission, i.e. January, May and July, respectively. Ropers will only be placed on a ballot as a result of one or more of the following conditions. *(A) All ropers under the age of 25 will automatically be placed on a ballot twice each year. *(B) All ropers over the age of 50 will automatically be placed on a ballot once each year. (C) Ropers who have been the recipient of protests against their classification handicap will be placed on the ballot. In addition, between these ballot cycles smaller interim ballots may be submitted.

2.4 ONLINE BALLOTING ELIGIBILITY AND

REQUIREMENTS - Only current members who are 18 years of age and older, classified as a #4 or higher and in good standing with the USTRC will be allowed access to online balloting. USTRC members shall vote on general ballots; appeals and double number ballots and first time classifications. Any member may be excluded from voting by the USTRC if it is determined the member has no concept of USTRC classification criteria, or if the member conspires to help or do harm to any particular group of ropers or individual roper.

2.4.1 FIRST TIME CLASSIFICATION - First time applicants are encouraged to seek first time classification recommendations from references such as producers, instructors or well-known ropers within their area when applying. Upon receipt of applications from first-time applicants, which are not accompanied with references, ropers will receive a temporary classification card, which will allow them to be classified based on input from his/her roping peers. Every effort will be made to prevent setting official handicaps by phone.

First-time classifications are deemed to be temporary until the first full vote of the balloting process and/or until performance data is obtained. Any temporary classification number is subject to change or correction by the USTRC in the event of an inaccurate first time determination.

2.4.2 DOUBLE CLASSIFICATION NUMBER - Application for double number may be made in two different forms depending on the ropers' level of membership. Gold Plus members may apply for double number by phone with no additional cost.

Gold Spur members may request a double classification number application from the USTRC National Office and submit the application accompanied by a \$40 Double Number fee. The application is then turned over to an administrator for further action through the balloting process and/or review of performance data. If the applicant had applied and received a double number in the previous year there is a \$20 fee to renew a Double Number each year.

2.4.3 APPEALS - To be eligible for an appeal, roper's must meet one of the following requirements: (a) Performance profile suggests the roper is struggling to compete. (b) No current performance data on file. (c) Ropers with medical conditions that affect their ability to compete (must provide medical records and a doctor's release).

If a roper meets the above requirements, he/she will be placed on an appeal ballot for peer review and performance information will be gathered by the Classification office to complete the process. If an appeal is granted to lower a roper's classification and the result of doing so allows the roper to become dominant, the USTRC retains the right to immediately return the roper to the previous classification. The first appeal is free, however, a \$20 appeal fee, must accompany each additional request for an appeal in a calendar year.

2.4.4 INTERIM CHANGES - **Final judgment in all classification disputes shall rest with the USTRC. USTRC reserves the right to**

change the classifications of ropers anytime throughout the year, where by performance data suggests the roper is miss-classified, or where by the roper exhibits a dominance or clear advantage at the assigned classification or for punitive reasons outlined to in Sections 8 and 9 of the USTRC rules. A USTRC representative will notify by phone, certified mail, regular mail service, or in person any roper who receives a classification change during the term of their membership.

2.5 PRODUCERS USE OF TRIAD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (Non-USTRC Roping)

Any roping producers may use the TRIAD classification system by advertising that ropers must produce a current USTRC membership card to receive their winnings. If they do not have a card or the sum of the team's classifications do not fit the division entered, the team forfeits winnings and entry fees. If an unclassified roper enters a roping advertising TRIAD numbers, then the producer has the prerogative to assign a temporary number, provided the producer forwards the personal data on ropers to the National office immediately following his roping. If for any reason a roper does not have a CURRENT USTRC card, including those requesting temporary numbers, the producer is requested to hold all winnings and verify classifications with the USTRC, then if verified, mail winnings to ropers. (USTRC will verify classification for non-members only once.) **If the roping producer, who advertises TRIAD classifications, takes it upon himself to lower a classification number, USTRC will still hold the roper responsible for using the wrong classification.** Use of the system obliges the producer to advise USTRC of any incorrectly classified ropers, high or low, that attend their roping. In the event that a producer abuses the use of the system by advertising its use then not using it correctly, or abusing it, they shall be notified to cease and desist.

SECTION 3

MEMBERSHIPS

3.1 USTRC MEMBERSHIP CARDS - Membership cards will be issued for the calendar year and expire on December 31, of the year purchased with the exception of 15-month memberships. Issuance of the card does not guarantee that a classification number shall remain the same for the entire year. A USTRC representative will notify by phone, certified mail, regular mail service, or in person any roper who receives a classification change during the term of their membership. Membership cards are the exclusive property of USTRC. USTRC has the right to take possession of membership cards at any time.

3.2 USTRC MEMBERSHIPS

3.2.1 FIRST-TIME MEMBERSHIP - A first time membership fee is \$80 and is valid from January or from the time of purchase, to December 31, of the year purchased with the exception of 15-month memberships. All rights, privileges, conditions and terms are the same as the Gold Spur Membership (see below).

3.2.2 GOLD SPUR MEMBERSHIP - The annual membership fee is \$80 and is valid from January 1, or from the time of purchase, to December 31, of the year purchased, with the exception of 15-month memberships. Memberships accepted after August 31, of each season shall be good for the remainder of the season and the next full season (15 months). Membership privileges include; a classification card; subscription to SuperLooper Magazine; NO office or grounds fees at USTRC ropings by contractors (does not apply to facility owners and managers); check acceptance for

entry fees at Pre-Enter ropings; and many additional features.

3.2.3 GOLD PLUS MEMBERSHIP - The yearly Gold Plus membership fee is \$300 and is valid from January 1, or the time of purchase, to December 31, of the year purchased. Memberships accepted after August 31, of each season shall be valid for the remainder of the season and the next full season (15 months). This is the USTRC premier value added membership level and the additional privileges will be outlined each year on the membership brochure. Gold Plus memberships are only available to adults 18 years or older; however you must be 21 years or older to compete in any Gold Plus roping. Any Gold Spur or first time member will be allowed to upgrade at any time to a Gold Plus membership.

Gold Plus membership can be used as a family membership. Additional family members may include spouse and children. Eligible children must live at home and must be 20 years old or younger. Children are not eligible to compete in the Gold Plus ropings. Gold Plus Membership, all its privileges and renewal eligibility are forfeited by any Gold Plus member, which issues two "Insufficient Funds" checks within any one-year period.

3.2.4 LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP - This one-time membership fee is \$100 and is available to ropers 70 years of age and older. The non-transferable membership provides members with all the benefits of the standard Gold Spur membership, for a one-time only fee.

3.2.5 JUNIOR LOOPER MEMBERSHIP - This free-of-charge membership is available to ropers 12 years of age and younger and is automatically renewed until the child turns 13 years old. Junior Looper members who turn 13 years old within the calendar year will be eligible to compete at any event requiring USTRC memberships, under the Junior Looper card; however, upon turning 13 years of age they are ineligible to compete in Junior Looper ropings. This membership will entitle holders to all the benefits of the standard Gold Spur membership except for receipt of SuperLooper Magazine.

JUNIOR LOOPER PROGRAM- The Junior Looper Program is for any child 12 years or younger. Children will receive a free Junior Looper Membership with copy of their birth certificate confirming age. The Junior Roping is one of the benefits of the Junior Looper Membership.

Junior Looper Rules

1. Must bring Junior Looper Card or copy of birth certificate to receive prize.
2. Four Age Groups: 10-12, 8-9, 6-7, and 5 years and under.
3. Junior Loopers may not enter below their age division.
4. No Junior Looper may win more than 1 buckle in a USTRC season at sanctioned events (National Finals excluded). Season is defined as those events between November 1 and October 1 of any year.
5. Any Junior Looper that has ever won a USTRC Trophy saddle or Junior Looper Trophy saddle will not be eligible to compete at the USTRC Finals in the Junior Looper ropings.

Remember the Junior Looper Program is a free program put together for the youth of the sport of team roping. The USTRC staff appointed conductor of the roping will ensure to the best of their ability that the event is conducted fairly. Please comply with the requests and suggestions of the conductor(s) of the event. Junior Looper parents are advised to watch, but not participate. Thanks for being involved in the growth and future of the sport of Team Roping.

3.3 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT - Participation in a USTRC event requires being a member of the USTRC to collect winnings. A roper must have in their possession and be able to present a current USTRC mem-

bership card when asked, or shall have submitted a First Time Membership or Renewal Membership application, including appropriate fees, to the National Office or the roping producer, prior to the event or division he or she is entering. Ropers will be permitted to purchase their First-Time or Renewal Memberships anytime during the year. Memberships can be purchased at event offices.

Participation in a USTRC event by a roper who does not have a current membership classification card or has not submitted a First Time Membership or Renewal Membership application as specified, will result in disqualification of the roper and ropers' teammate. The member of a disqualified team, who has a current membership, shall be entitled to receive a refund of his or her entry fees. The disqualified roper that is not current shall not receive a refund of entry fees and neither member of a disqualified "Pick" team is eligible for any prize or prize money. However, should a current member by "computer draw" be teamed with a non current partner, the current member is entitled to receive his or her share of the prizes and prize money. The non current member is disqualified and therefore forfeits entry fees, prizes and prize money.

By entering a USTRC event, the roper is representing that he or she is in compliance with the membership requirements. Acceptance of an entry at an event by USTRC 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 classification or rule disagreements.

SECTION 4

USTRC SANCTIONED ROPINGS

4.1 SANCTIONED ROPINGS - USTRC sanctions two types of ropings nationwide with regards to entry procedures, On-Site entry and Pre-Entry. On-Site entry ropings are those ropings where ropers may enter at the event, prior to the start of the roping they wish to enter. Contractors may require "Cash Only" at On-Site entry ropings, however, checks will be accepted from Gold Plus members. All Pre-Entry ropings require entries be mailed directly to USTRC Central Entry prior to the event.

All sanctioned ropings guarantee Regional and National Finals Shoot-Out positions and minimum prize lines determined by the size of the previous year's event. Sanctioned ropings will follow Format 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, guidelines, and will reflect the USTRC philosophy of limited entry and leveraged payouts.

4.2 ENTRIES - CENTRAL ENTRY - All entries for Pre-Entry ropings will be taken through the USTRC Central Entry office. Entries with combined classification totals that exceed the maximum rating of the division entered will not be entered. Open, or to-be-announced "TBA" entries will not be accepted unless both sides are paid.

To participate in a USTRC sanctioned event, each roper (1) must have, and be able to present, a current USTRC membership card, or (2) must have submitted prior to the event an application with membership fee or application with membership fee for renewal of a membership card that has expired.

Ropers will be permitted to purchase their membership anytime prior to the start of the roping in which they are entered. Participation in the event by a roper who does not have a current USTRC membership card or has not submitted an application for a new card or for renewal of a card that

has expired prior to an event, will result in disqualification of roper and the roper's teammate. No member of a disqualified team shall be entitled to receive any prize or winnings, however, the member of the disqualified team that has a current membership shall be entitled to a refund of entry fee. The member of the disqualified team without a current membership shall not be entitled to receive a refund of his/her entry fee. By submitting an entry for an event, the roper is representing that he/she is in compliance with this rule. Acceptance of entry form for this event by USTRC shall not constitute a waiver of the requirement set forth in this rule.

4.2.1 PAYMENT OF FEES - Team Ropers may pay with a personal check for Pre-Entry ropings, however, with the exception of Gold Plus members, contractors may require "cash only" from ropers at On-Site entry events. Checks will not be accepted from ropers that have previously written bad checks. After the postmark deadline (late entry), payments must be made with cashiers check or money order. Absolutely no two party checks will be accepted. Entry fees should be payable to USTRC, and mailed to: USTRC Central Entry, PO Box 1198, Stephenville, TX 76401. Express deliveries: USTRC Central Entry, 148 County Rd. 437, Stephenville, TX 76401. USTRC reserves the right to obtain payment electronically for any check or other instrument that you send us by initiating an ACH (Electronic) debit in the amount of your check or instrument to your account. Your check or instrument will not be returned to you by us or your bank. Your bank account may be debited as early as the same day we receive your payment.

4.2.2 LATE ENTRY - A late entry is any entry postmarked for a pre-enter roping after the postmark deadline (Friday two weeks prior to the roping). Central Entry may, at its discretion, accept an entry within a few days following the postmark deadline, provided the entry is complete and accompanied by a \$40 per team (\$20/roper) late fee for each entry. A late fee is also due for the portion of any entry that is incomplete when the books are mailed from Central Entry to the respective producers.

Postmark deadline is interpreted to mean as postmarked by the United States Postal Service and not as indicated by a private postal meter.

Contractors will be allowed to take late entries at any qualification roping provided: 1) each team pays a \$40 late fee, for each time a team enters late; 2) The producer has discretion in placing incomplete entries at the end to avoid creating a special rotation; 3) the entry information and associated late fees be must turned over to the USTRC representative or National Office within 7 days following the roping.

4.2.3 LATE FEES - Any team entering late will be required to pay a \$40 late fee (\$20/roper). Late fees are non-refundable, even in the event of a draw-out.

4.2.4 INCOMPLETE ENTRIES AND LATE FEES - Any team that is deemed to be incomplete at the date Central Entry sends the books to the respective qualification roping will be withdrawn from the roping roster. Their names will be placed on an incomplete list. In dealing with incomplete entries the producer may either: 1) allow the incomplete entry to become complete at the roping, which will require the team to pay the appropriate late fee due for the completed entry, or; 2) Refund the roper the incomplete entry fee.

Ropers who have paid on time but have an incomplete entry as a result of an unpaid partner or a partner that drew out, will pay NO late fees for pairing with another partner that has the same situation.

4.2.5 ENTERING INCOMPLETE OR TBA - To-Be-Announced entries will not be accepted unless both sides are paid. Any entry activity at the roping that requires a money transaction and subsequent book keeping to take place, will be required to pay a late fee. Any roper filling an incomplete entry will be required to pay the \$20.00 late fee if a money transaction takes place.

4.2.6 RE-ENTRY OF INCOMPLETE TEAMS - If the producer decides to let teams that were placed on the incomplete list re-enter at the roping, those teams must be re-entered no later than 1 hour before the roping in question begins. These teams will be placed in the roping at the producers discretion.

4.2.7 ENTRY CLOSING DATE - Entries must be postmarked no later than the Friday two weeks prior to the event. Entries from Gold Plus members must be received by phone or mail no later than 5:00 pm CST, the Friday before the start of the event. Entries for Regional and National Finals, may be required more than two weeks prior to the event. If this is to be the case, the entry deadline will be announced in the SuperLooper Magazine.

4.2.8 UP AND BACK - In ropings where ropers are allowed to enter more than once, ropers are NOT permitted to enter "Up and Back" - (switching ends with same partner). This applies to incentive teams as well.

4.2.9 ENTERING WITH SAME PARTNER - Ropers cannot enter the same division at an event with the same partner more than once. Exception to this rule are the Regional and National Shoot-Out divisions.

4.3 DRAW-OUT AND REPLACEMENT - Any team may draw-out of any event with notice prior to the start of that event with no draw out charge. A draw-out message may be left on the answering machine at the National Office (254) 968-0002. If no notice is provided then entry fees are forfeited to the roping pot. If an individual team roper draws out, the roper entered with him may draw out or replace the partner. If a team roper's partner fails to notify USTRC or the roping producer of a draw-out, and does not appear prior to first go-round of a competition, the roper entered with him may get a substitute partner or draw out of the competition. In no instance may a roper use another ropers entry fee.

If a substitute team roper is replacing a roper 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.

4.3.1 DRAW-OUT - OVERPAYMENT REFUNDS - Ropers must notify Central Entry of draw-out of an event or overpayment of an event, and request a refund of fees. All refund requests must be made within 10 days following an event or the fees become non-refundable. Refunds owed are the obligation of the Event producer, however, refunds will be issued from the USTRC office until the event producer has been issued all event monies. If roper does not request a refund from USTRC prior to final event money distribution, roper waives any and all claims against the USTRC. Claims and requests should then be addressed directly to the event contractor.

4.3.2 EMERGENCY DRAW-OUT - In the event of an emergency involving a competing roper, his family or his horse, the contractor may draw that team out and refund their money, even though they may have already competed and taken some of their runs.

4.4 AFFILIATE ROPINGS - These ropings are not sanctioned USTRC ropings. Affiliate ropings are local ropings where contractors have made a commitment to members of the USTRC to use the TRIAD handicap system and make a contribution to the Regional Finals and National Finals Shoot-Out Fund. The USTRC, for its part, is providing an avenue for ropers to participate at the USTRC Regional and National Shoot-Out program by way of the accumulation of applied earnings at these ropings, which can be used to acquire Shoot-Out positions.

4.4.1 AFFILIATE DISCLAIMER - These team roping events will be awarded to reputable and professional contractors on a case by case basis. Although Affiliate contractors are selected based on their reputations and schedule availability, Affiliates are not required to completely follow

USTRC standards. USTRC will sign agreements with contractors that make an effort to run above average operations, but assumes NO responsibility for quality of affiliate operations. Affiliate status may be withdrawn if USTRC members point out specific ethical or other violations.

SECTION 5

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FINALS

5.1 NATIONAL FINALS - Shall be held the last week of October each year.

5.1.1 NF ROPING FORMAT - A Preliminary roping will be provided in each division for USTRC members, offering one final opportunity to earn National Finals Shoot-Outs. Any USTRC member is eligible to compete in the National Finals Preliminary. After completion of the Preliminary, all eligible teams qualified to the short round will advance to the Shoot-Out Finals to join the teams who have earned National Finals Shoot-Out positions from regular season sanctioned ropings, and through applied earnings. Entry fees of ropers advancing from the Preliminaries to the National Finals Shoot-Out will have their entry paid as a part of their winnings in the Preliminaries. Winners of the Shoot-Outs at the Finals will be crowned United States Champions.

Complete description of the formats, payouts and distribution of added monies at the National Finals will be announced prior to the event in SuperLooper Magazine, or in publications prior to the occurrence of the USTRC National Finals. In no instance does the description of a Format #1 roping apply to the National Finals format.

5.1.2 NF - U.S. OPEN OF TEAM ROPING RESTRICTIONS - At the USTRC National Finals, there will be a Floor instituted in the U.S. Open of Team Roping. No header with a classification number less than seven (7), or heeler with a classification number less than eight (8), will be eligible to enter the U.S. Open of Team Roping. The purpose of this is to insure the sanctity of the level of professionalism of the event.

5.1.3 ROPER WITH MULTIPLE NF SHOOT-OUT POSITIONS National Shoot-Outs - No roper may earn more than two National Finals Shoot-Out positions in any one division. Once a roper has earned two NF Shoot-Outs in a division, he may continue to compete in the division, but will only be competing for cash and prizes. A roper who enters with a partner who has already won two NF Shoot-Out positions in the division entered, will receive a NF Shoot-Out position and be allowed to bring a substitute partner. The substitute partner must be a current USTRC member and have attended a USTRC sanctioned or affiliate event during the current season. NF Shoot-Out positions must be used in the order won. In other words, if you win multiple NF Shoot-Out positions, only the first two are valid.

5.2 REGIONAL FINALS - Regional Finals shall consist of Lonestar, Eastern Finals, Southwestern Finals, Southeastern Finals, West Coast Finals, High Plains Finals and Northwestern Finals, with the potential for the addition of other events. Regional Finals formats will be nearly identical to NF formats with Preliminaries and Shoot-Outs.

Any USTRC member is eligible to compete in the Regional Finals Preliminary. Ropers may compete in the Preliminaries at a Regional Finals event, even if they have already filled their National Finals Shoot-Out posi-

tions in the division entered. If either member of a team has two NF Shoot-Outs in the division, the team will be competing for money and prizes only.

Ropers may compete in Regional Shoot-Out ropings even if they have already filled their National Finals Shoot-Out positions in the division. However, they will be competing for cash and prizes only.

5.2.1 REGIONAL PAYOUT STRUCTURE - As a result of the payout structure at the Regional Finals, extended payout will not be instituted at these events.

5.3 NATIONAL & REGIONAL SHOOT-OUT

DISTRIBUTION - the following is a breakdown of how National and Regional Shoot-Out positions will be awarded at regular season sanctioned events. When a team earns three Regional Shoot-Outs, those three Regionals may be converted into one National Finals Shoot-Out position.

OPEN DIVISION - NO SHOOT-OUTS AWARDED, STANDINGS ONLY -

US Open Tour Points awarded 1st thru 10th place in the average.

NF SHOOT-OUTS/ RF SHOOT-OUTS

FORMAT 1

#15 HANDICAP, #13, #12, #11, #10 & #9 DIVISIONS

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Guaranteed | 1st Avg | 2nd-3rd Avg |
| 201-300 tms | 1st-2nd Avg | 3rd-4th Avg |
| 301-400 tms | 1st-3rd Avg | 4th-6th Avg |
| 401+ tms | 1st-4th Avg | 5th-8th Avg |

INCENTIVE - OPEN, #13, #12 #11 & #10 DIVISIONS

| | | |
|------------|------|---------|
| Guaranteed | none | 1st Avg |
|------------|------|---------|

INCENTIVE - #9 DIVISION

| | | |
|------------|---------|------|
| Guaranteed | 1st Avg | none |
|------------|---------|------|

FORMAT 2 & 3

#15 HANDICAP, #13, #12, #11, #10 & #9 DIVISIONS

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Guaranteed | 1st Avg | 2nd-3rd Avg |
| 201-400 tms | 1st-2nd Avg | 3rd-4th Avg |
| 401+ tms | 1st-3rd Avg | 4th-6th Avg |

INCENTIVE - OPEN, #13, #12, #11 & #10 DIVISIONS

| | | |
|------------|------|---------|
| Guaranteed | none | 1st Avg |
|------------|------|---------|

INCENTIVE - #9 DIVISION

| | | |
|------------|---------|------|
| Guaranteed | 1st Avg | none |
|------------|---------|------|

FORMAT 4 & 5

#15 HANDICAP, #13, #12, #11, #10 & #9 DIVISIONS

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1-400 tms | 1st Avg | 2nd-3rd Avg |
| 400+ tms | 1st-2nd Avg | 3rd- 4th Avg |

INCENTIVE - OPEN, #13, #12, #11 & #10 DIVISIONS

| | | |
|------------|------|---------|
| Guaranteed | none | 1st Avg |
|------------|------|---------|

INCENTIVE - #9 DIVISION

| | | |
|------------|---------|------|
| Guaranteed | 1st Avg | none |
|------------|---------|------|

#8 Pick/Draw 1st- 5th Avg none

#12 Gold Plus 1st-3rd Avg - Gold Plus Shoot-Out

#10 GP Incentive 1st-3rd Avg - Gold Plus Shoot-Out

5.3.1 REGIONAL FINALS SHOOT-OUT DISTRIBUTION - All eligible teams placing in the top 5% of the overall Average of a Regional Preliminary roping, will automatically be awarded Regional Shoot-Out positions. Entry fees of ropers advancing from the Regional Preliminaries to the Regional Finals Shoot-Out will have their entry paid as a part of their winnings in the Preliminaries. Under no circumstances shall the number of teams progressing to the Regional Shoot-Outs be less than the number of paid Average positions in a Regional Preliminary.

Every Regional Finals Preliminary shall award five (5) National Finals Shoot-Out spots per division. In the Regional Shoot-Out, the top ten teams will receive National Finals Shoot-Out spots.

5.3.2 ROPERS WITH MULTIPLE REGIONAL SHOOT-OUT POSITIONS - A roper may win multiple Regional Shoot-Outs. However, a roper may not use more than two Regional Shoot-Outs per division, per each Regional Finals. For example: two #10 at Southwest, two #10 at Northwest, etc.

5.3.3 APPLIED EARNINGS - Earnings a roper acquires as a result of placing at approved USTRC sanctioned and/or affiliate events. Every \$2000 in applied earnings results in a Regional Finals Shoot-Out position and every \$6000 in applied earnings results in a National Finals Shoot-Out position. *When using applied earnings to enter a National Finals Shoot-Out division, you must be a current member and have competed at a USTRC sanctioned event during the current season.* Applied earnings may be used toward any Shoot-Out division including Gold Plus Shoot-Outs (membership rules apply) and may be taken with a partner of choice. The chosen partner does not need to have applied earnings to compete but must be a current USTRC member in good standing and have competed at a USTRC SANCTIONED event during the current season.

Excluding the National Finals of Team Roping, all earnings from USTRC sanctioned and affiliate ropings count toward applied earnings provided the earnings did not come as a result of the outright awarding of a Regional or National Finals Shoot-Out position. (Exception: All earnings from USTRC sanctioned Gold Plus ropings are eligible for applied earnings regardless of the awarding of a Gold Plus Shoot-Out position.)

Earnings are tabulated by request only and ropers may be asked to provide proof of winnings in some instances. ROPERS MAY CARRY OVER UNUSED APPLIED EARNINGS FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

5.3.4 REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SHOOT-OUTS - When Classification Increases - In the event that either member of a Shoot-Out team's classification increases during the year, that team must compete in a higher division if the new combination of their number adds up to exactly the number of an existing division. If they move to a higher division, the position they vacate shall not be filled by any other team. If the combination of both handicaps including the number increase does not add up to the number of an existing division, then the USTRC may grant the right to bring a substitute partner to the Regional or National Finals. If a substitution is made, the team must rope in the same division in which the Shoot-Out was won, or any other higher division. In the event that a member of a #15 Shoot-Out team receives a handicap change, they may be permitted to split. In the event that a member of a #13 Shoot-Out team receives a single handicap increase that raises the team combination to #15, and they do not desire to compete in the #15, they may be permitted to split.

5.3.5 REPLACEMENT SHOOT-OUT PARTNERS - Replacement partners in a Regional or National Shoot-Out must be a current member in good standing and have competed in a USTRC sanctioned event during the season.

SECTION 6

DIVISIONS AND FORMATS

6.1 DIVISIONS - Roping divisions for the 2009 season will be a #8 Pick/Draw, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #15 Handicap and Open. USTRC reserves the right to sanction events with limited parts of these formats or make changes in these divisions during the course of the year. Any event held in conjunction with a USTRC sanctioned event must be approved by the USTRC.

Approval or denial of such events will be determined on a case by case basis. Open ropings will be scheduled at the option of any roping contractor at all USTRC qualification events.

6.1.1 OPEN DIVISION - Option 1: The following are the parameters for all Open Ropings regardless of the specified format of the event. Five-steer Average (Incentive will be determined on 4-steer Average), progressive after two. Entry fee: \$150/roper. May enter 2 times any combination of Incentive and/or Non-Incentive. Option 2: Open Pick / Draw \$250 per roper or \$200 per roper (producer's preference), Enter with one partner and one will be computer drawn. No Header with a classification number less than 6 or no heeler with a classification number less than 8 may enter. Depending on draw, ropers may have 2 open runs, 2 incentive runs or one each. Ropers may enter as open team or incentive team for a maximum of one entry. Five head average with the Incentive determined on 4-head. Always progressive after 2-head.

Open Tour points to Average winners in open ropings awarded for 1st thru 10th place in the Average. **Must qualify to short round to be eligible for points.** Points will be awarded to #7 headers and above and #8 heelers and above.

| PLACES | US OPEN | NATIONAL PRELIM | REGIONAL POINTS | SANCTION ROPINGS |
|--------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1st | 30 | 20 | 20 | 10 |
| 2nd | 27 | 18 | 18 | 9 |
| 3rd | 24 | 16 | 16 | 8 |
| 4th | 21 | 14 | 14 | 7 |
| 5th | 18 | 12 | 12 | 6 |
| 6th | 15 | 10 | 10 | 5 |
| 7th | 12 | 8 | 8 | 4 |
| 8th | 9 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| 9th | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| 10th | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

Must qualify to short round to be eligible for points.

Regional Shoot-Out position awarded to 1st in the average of the #15 Incentive in the Open.

6.1.2 #15 HANDICAP - Fees and entry parameters will be determined by the selected format of the roping (see Formats).

This division will be determined on a 5-head average. #14 team will receive a 2 second handicap; #13 and under team will receive a 4 second handicap. These "seconds off" will be subtracted after the fourth run.

6.1.3 GOLD PLUS #12 DIVISION - Only Gold Plus members are eligible to compete. At Format One and Regional Finals events, ropings will be a four steer average (Incentive will be determined on 3-steers) progressive after one. Entry fee will be \$150/roper, enter two times any combination of Incentive and/or Non Incentive teams. Incentive will be a #10. At Format 2, 3, 4, and 5 events, ropers may enter three times any combination of Incentive and/or Non-Incentive for \$100/roper. Gold Plus Shoot-Outs will

be awarded to teams placing 1st through 3rd in the average and 1st through 3rd of the Incentive average. All winnings in the Gold Plus Divisions count towards Applied Earnings for Shoot-outs.

6.1.4 #13, #12, #11, #10, #9 DIVISIONS - Fees and entry parameters will be determined by the selected format of the roping (see Formats). These divisions will be determined on a four-head Average. There will be Incentives in these divisions at all regular season USTRC events. The Incentive in the #13 will be a #12, Incentive in the #12 will be a #11, the Incentive in the #11 will be a #10, the Incentive in the #10 will be a #9, the Incentive in the #9 will be a #8,(the #9 division and the #9 incentive of the #10 are capped at a #5). Incentive winners will be determined on a three-head Average.

6.1.5 #8 PICK/DRAW DIVISION - The following are the parameters for all #8 Pick/Draw ropings regardless of the specified format of the event: This roping will be a three-head Average, progressive after one. Entry fee for this roping will be the producers discretion. Option 1: \$150 per roper. Ropers enter with one partner, and two more will be computer drawn or draw all three for a total of three runs in the roping. Option 2: \$100 per roper. Ropers enter with one partner, and one more will be computer drawn or draw two for a total of two runs in the roping. This roping will be capped at a #4. No roper with a classification higher than a #4 is eligible to enter. The computer draw will insure that no team higher than a #8 or lower than a #6 will be drawn together. A #7 team will receive 2 seconds off and a #6 and under team will receive 3 seconds off. These "seconds off" will be subtracted after the second round. There is no incentive in this division. 1st - 5th in the Average will receive National Shoot-Outs

6.2 FORMATS - The following format types will be available during the 2009 season: Format 1, Format 2, Format 3, Format 4, Format 5. Format type is selected by the producer of the event. Ropers cannot enter the same division at an event with the same partner more than once. During the 2008 season, the number of teams that progress to the short round shall be thirty in #10, #9, #8 or five (5) more teams than the total number of places paid in the Average, whichever is greater. Based on this, the maximum number of teams that will ever progress to the short round is thirty-five (35) teams. No team shall compete in the short round based on two steers except in the #8 Pick/Draw division.

6.2.1 FORMAT 1

A producers option to go progressive after 2 or progressive after 1 Producers will be allowed to go progressive after one in ropings that exceed 250 teams.

Open, See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.1. All USTRC Open Ropings will follow the same parameters regardless of the USTRC format of the event.

#15 Handicap- Entry fee \$150 per roper - Enter 2 times - 5-head average - Progressive after one. Guaranteed National Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to 1st place Average winners. Regional Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to teams placing 2nd and 3rd in the Average. A #14 team will receive a 2-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run. A #13 and under team will receive a 4-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run.

#13, #12, #11, #10, #9 - Four-steer Average, progressive after one. Entry fee: \$150/roper. Enter 2 times any combination of Incentive and/or Non-Incentive (Maximum of 2 Entries) 4-head average with the Incentive determined on 3-head, #12 Incentive in the #13 -- #11 Incentive in the #12 -- #10 Incentive in the #11 - #9 Incentive in the #10 - #8 incentive in the #9. (#9 and #9 incentive in the #10 are capped at a #5)

Guaranteed National Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to 1st place

Average winners and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #9. Regional Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to teams placing 2nd and 3rd in the Average and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #13, #12, #11 and #10.

Gold Plus #12 - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.3.

#8 Pick/Draw - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.5.

6.2.2 FORMAT 2

Open, See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.1. All USTRC Open Ropings will follow the same parameters regardless of the USTRC format of the event.

#15 Handicap - Entry fee \$100 per roper, Enter 3 times, 5-head average, Progressive after 1. 1st in Average – National Shoot-Out positions. 2nd – 3rd in Average – Regional Shoot-Out positions. A #14 team will receive a 2-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run. A #13 and under team will receive a 4-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run.

#13, #12, #11, #10, #9 - Four-steer Average, progressive after one. Entry fee: \$100/roper. May enter any combination as Incentive team or as Non-Incentive team for a maximum of three entries in each roping.

Guaranteed National Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to 1st place Average winners and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #9 Regional Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to teams placing 2nd and 3rd in the Average and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #13, #12, #11 and #10.

Gold Plus #12 - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.3.

#8 Pick/Draw - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.5.

6.2.3 FORMAT 3

Open - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.1. All USTRC Open Ropings will follow the same parameters regardless of the USTRC format of the event.

#15 Handicap - Entry fee \$80 per roper, Enter 3 times, 5-head average, Progressive after 1. 1st in Average – National Shoot-Out positions. 2nd – 3rd in Average – Regional Shoot-Out positions. A #14 team will receive a 2 second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run. A #13 and under team will receive a 4-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run.

#13, #12, #11, #10, #9 - Four-steer Average, progressive after one. Entry fee: \$80/roper. May enter any combination of Incentive or Non-Incentive for a maximum of three entries in each roping. Guaranteed National Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to 1st place Average winners and to Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #9. Regional Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to teams placing 2nd and 3rd in the Average and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #13, #12, #11 and #10.

Gold Plus #12 - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.3.

#8 Pick/Draw- See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.5.

6.2.4 FORMAT 4

Open - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.1. All USTRC Open Ropings will follow the same parameters regardless of the USTRC format of the event.

#15 Handicap - Entry fee \$60 per roper, Enter 3 times, 5-head average, Progressive after 1. 1st in Average – National Shoot-Out positions. 2nd – 3rd in Average – Regional Shoot-Out positions. A #14 team will receive a 2-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run. A #13 and under team will receive a 4-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run.

#13, #12, #11, #10, #9 : 4-steer Average, progressive after one. Entry fee: \$60/roper. May enter as Non-Incentive teams, as Incentive teams or any combination of Incentive/Non-Incentive teams, for a maximum of three entries in each roping. Guaranteed National Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to all Average winners and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #9. Regional Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to teams placing 2nd and 3rd in the Average and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #13, #12, #11 and #10.

Gold Plus #12 - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.3.

#8 Pick/Draw - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.5.

6.2.5 FORMAT 5

Open - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.1. All USTRC Open Ropings will follow the same parameters regardless of the USTRC format of the event.

#15 Handicap - Entry fee \$60 per roper, Enter 4 times, 5-head average, Progressive after 1. 1st in Average – National Shoot-Out positions. 2nd – 3rd in Average – Regional Shoot-Out positions. A #14 team will receive a 2-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run. A #13 and under team will receive a 4-second handicap to be deducted after the 4th run.

#13, #12, #11, #10, #9 - Four-steer Average, progressive after one. Entry fee: \$60/roper. May enter 4 times any combination of Incentive and/or Non-Incentive (Maximum of 4 Entries). Guaranteed National Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to all 1st place Average winners and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #9. Regional Finals Shoot-Out positions will be awarded to teams placing 2nd and 3rd in the Average and to the Incentive 1st place Average winners of the #13, #12, #11 and #10.

Gold Plus #12 - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.3.

#8 Pick/Draw - See description outlined in "Divisions" section 6.1.5.

SECTION 7

PAYOUTS

Extended payout structure (any payout in the Average equal to 2X the entry fee) will not be implemented in the #10, #11, #12, #13, #15 Handicap, and Open Roping. Only regular Average checks will be issued, i.e., no checks will be issued for positions that pay double entry fees in the Average.

Note: All Average and Incentive payoffs will be paid in progression backward if necessary (best 4, best 3, best 2). If an Average is to be paid on one head, progression dictates that the one head will be paid in the first round.

7.1 SHORT ROUND QUALIFICATION- The number of teams that qualify to the short round shall be a minimum of twenty (thirty in the #10, #9, and #8). However, if a roping has a 301-400 teams, 25 will advance and 401- plus teams, 30 will advance to the short round. No team shall compete in the short round based on two steers except in the #8 division.

7.2 OPEN PAYOUT

7.2.1 GO-ROUNDS - The number of Fast Time Overall checks paid will be based on a maximum of 10% of the ropers pot not to exceed four places. Under no circumstances will the Go-Round payout exceed 10% of the ropers pot. A Fast Time Overall will be paid at a minimum of 3X the entry fee for first place. All additional places paid for Fast Time Overall (2nd, 3rd, etc.) will be a minimum of 2X the entry fee based on the 10% of the pot

allocated for Go-Round payout. Left over funds from the 10% Go-Round allocation will be added back to the Average Payout.

- 1 place 1st 3X Entry Fee
- 2 places 1st 3X Entry Fee, 2nd 2X Entry Fee
- 3 places 1st 3X Entry Fee, 2nd, 3rd 2X Entry Fee
- 4 places 1st 3X Entry Fee, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 2X Entry Fee

7.2.2 AVERAGE - A maximum of six places will be paid in the Average. The number of places paid in the Average will be based on the amount of money in the ropers pot, providing that no less than 3x entry fees will be paid to the last place paid in the Average. The following is a breakdown of the number of places paid.

- 1-10 Teams 1 Place
- 11-25 Teams 2 Places
- 26-50 Teams 3 Places
- 51-100 Teams 4 Places
- 101-150 Teams 5 Places
- 151+ Teams 6 Places

Under no circumstances will the number of places paid in the Average of an Open roping, exceed six (6) places.

7.3 GENERAL PAYOUT - (All USTRC formats)

Payoffs for go-rounds fall into two separate categories; With Rotations and Without Rotations.

Payoffs for Regional and National Finals may vary from these formats.

7.3.1 Without Rotations (under 151 tms)

Fast Time Payoff: Fast time payout is based on the number of teams entered in the roping.

1-75 Teams Pay 1 fast time overall (short round included) 3x Entry Fee (not to exceed 10% of roper pot)

76-150 Teams Pay 2 fast times overall (short round included)
3x Entry Fee, 2x Entry fee (not to exceed 10% of roper pot)

Average Payoff: Average payout is based on the number of teams entered in the roping.

- 1-10 Teams 1 place
- 11-25 Teams 2 places
- 26-50 Teams 3 places
- 51-100 Teams 4 places
- 101-125 Teams 5 places (5th not less than 2X entry fee)
- 126-150 Teams 7 places (6th & 7th, 2X entry fees)

7.3.2 FORMAT ONE - With Rotations (more than 151 tms)

Go-Round Payoff: In each rotation, payout will be made to the team with the fastest time.

1st place 3X Entry Fee

Short-Round Payoff: the team with the fastest time in the short round will receive a payout equal to 2X the entry fee.

Average Payoff: Average payout is based on the number of teams entered in the roping.

- 151-200 Teams 5 places; 6-10 place-triple entry fees;
11-15 place-extended, double entry fees
- 201-250 Teams 6 places; 7-10 place-triple entry fees;
11-18 place-extended, double entry fees

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 251-300 Teams | 8 places; 9-10 place-triple entry fees; 11-20 place-extended, double entry fees |
| 301-400 Teams | 10 places; 11-15 place-triple entry fees; 16-25 place-extended, double entry fees |
| 401+ Teams | 12 places; 13-15 place-triple entry fees; 16-30 place-extended, double entry fees |

7.4 INCENTIVE PAYOFF: Incentive payoff is a guaranteed payoff. Places paid in the Incentive will be based on the number of Incentive teams entered. If there is less than 50 teams entered in the roping, and the number of Incentives is greater than the number of non-Incentive teams, Incentive winners will receive a payout equal to **double** the entry fee. Incentive winners will receive guaranteed Regional Shoot Out positions, and advertised Incentive prizes.

Incentive payout is based on the number of teams entered in the roping.

Failure to declare an entry as incentive until after the roping is over will result in an ineligible incentive team. Ropers must declare incentive teams in order to be considered for the incentive payoff.

| | | |
|--------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 1-10 Teams | 1 place | 1X Entry Fees |
| 11-25 Teams | 1 places | 3X Entry Fees |
| 26-50 Teams | 2 places | 5x, 4x, Entry Fees |
| 51-75 Teams | 3 places | 5x, 4x, 3x, Entry Fees |
| 76-100 Teams | 4 places | 5x, 4x, 3x, 2x, Entry Fees |
| 101+ Teams | 5 places | 5x, 4x, 3x, 2x, 1x Entry Fees |

7.4.1 GOLD PLUS ROPING INCENTIVE PURSE ONLY!

The percentage of the incentive purse paid to the incentive teams will be equal to percentage of incentive teams entered, not to exceed 50%. The percentage is on the total purse less go-round money. The number of places paid in the incentive purse is based on the number of incentive teams entered.

| | |
|--------|----------|
| 1-10 | 1 Place |
| 11-25 | 2 Places |
| 26-50 | 3 Places |
| 51-100 | 4 Places |
| 101+ | 5 Places |

7.5 PAYOFF PERCENTAGES - The following percentages will be used for USTRC payoffs in 2008:

| #Places | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1st | 60% | 50% | 40% | 36% | 33% | 30% | 24% | 24% |
| 2nd | 40% | 30% | 30% | 24% | 22% | 19% | 15% | 15% |
| 3rd | | 20% | 20% | 19% | 17% | 13% | 12% | 12% |
| 4th | | | 10% | 14% | 12% | 11% | 10% | 9% |
| 5th | | | | 7% | 9% | 9% | 9% | 8% |
| 6th | | | | | 7% | 8% | 8% | 7% |
| 7th | | | | | | 6% | 7% | 6% |
| 8th | | | | | | 4% | 6% | 5% |
| 9th | | | | | | | 5% | 4% |
| 10th | | | | | | | 4% | 4% |
| 11th | | | | | | | | 3% |
| 12th | | | | | | | | 3% |

Note: Exception to these percentages will be the Shoot-Outs and the U.S. Open at the National Finals of Team Roping.

7.6 BREAKING OF TIES - All ties for money will result in an equal split. Ties that involve prizes and money will result in an equal split in money, and at the producers discretion a rope off for prizes. Any rope off

will be a four-steer Average with four full rounds. Failure to bring any run to completion will result in a sixty second penalty on that run. The winner will be determined by the team, which has the lowest cumulative time on all four head.

7.7 ROTATIONAL (ANTI-MARATHON) DRAW - The rotational draw or anti-marathon draw will be implemented in any roping that exceeds 150 teams. Normally fifty teams equals one rotation, however, the size of rotations may vary based on the size of ropings and availability of multiple arenas. Ropers in one rotation shall rope all three, or both (depending on format), of their steers before the next rotation begins. Estimated times for each rotation will be posted at the event.

7.8 ESTIMATED ROTATION TIMES - The estimated rotation times are approximate and do not release the roper from the obligation of being at the event and prepared one hour before the scheduled rotation time. Any team making the short round will have to wait until the end of the roping for their fourth or short round steer.

7.9 ADDED MONEY - The USTRC National Finals Shoot-Out added money shall be made up of the 5% of the purses from all sanctioned events, plus 1.7% contributed from producers commission, in addition to Affiliate contributions and sponsorship monies where applicable.

7.10 COMMISSION AND PRIZES - Producers may charge a commission to ropers (to be withheld from entry fees), which shall not exceed 33.3% of the total entry fees. Prizes such as trailers, saddles, buckles, etc., shall be paid for by the producer. Ropers should understand that although initial commission is no more than 33.3%, actual net cash and prize pool to team ropers should be in the range of 79% to 87%, based on prizes added back into the roping.

SECTION 8

ROPING RULES

8.1 LOOPS - Only two loops per team shall be allowed. Roping steers without turning loose the loop will be considered no catch. Roper must dally to stop steer. If steer is roped by one horn, roper is not allowed to ride up and remove loop or put loop over other horn or head with his hands.

8.2 LEGAL CATCHES - There are only three legal head catches: 1) Around both horns; 2) Half a head; 3) Around the neck. If hondo passes over one horn and the loop over the other, catch is illegal. If a loop crosses itself in a head catch, it is illegal. This does not include heel catches. Any heel catch behind both shoulders is legal if rope goes up heels. All bridle catches are considered illegal.

8.2.1 QUESTIONED CATCH - Any questioned catches will be decided by the judges. If a field judge tells the header to hold the steer so the flagger may inspect the head catch, and the header does not do so, the team may receive a no-time.

8.3 TIME TAKEN - Time will be taken when the steer is roped, secure between both partners, both horses are facing steer with ropes dallied and tight. Horses front feet must be on the ground and ropers must be mounted when time is taken. Steer must be standing up when roped by head or heels.

Time is taken when flag is dropped, however, that time is not official until indication is given by flagger or field judge to the timer or secretary. Flagger may flag a team out after time is taken on a run, based on an illegal head catch or illegal heel catch, steer was not secure or any other factor that was not clear when time was taken.

8.4 TIE ON RULE - Any heeler 60 years or older may tie on regardless of classification number. Any heeler with a classification of TRIAD 6 or less will be permitted to tie on as of their 55th birthday. Ladies who heel may tie on. Under no circumstances will any header be permitted to tie on. Children 12 years or younger may NOT tie on. It is illegal to dally over the top of a tied on rope or tie on device, the result is an automatic disqualification.

Furthermore, should a tied on rope inadvertently come loose from the saddle horn or otherwise become detached during the course of a run, the team will be disqualified. In other words, the roper may not reattach his/her rope or dally with a loose tied on rope. USTRC encourages tie on ropers to use a quick release for tied on ropes. USTRC reserves the right to grant special tie on permission.

8.5 CROSS FIRE - The header must have control of the steers head and the steers head must be bent before the heeler can legally deliver his or her rope. In other words, the heeler may rope the steer in the switch, but not before. Any heel loop delivered before the switch is considered a crossfire and illegal. In the instance where a steer sets up, at no fault of the roper, the heel loop can be thrown at any time once the header has control of the steer.

8.6 HEELER ROPES FRONT FOOT - If the heeler ropes a front foot or feet in the heel loop, this is a foul catch. Should the front foot or feet come out of the heel loop prior to the team calling for time, the time will be counted. Judge will not allow any extra time for a front leg to come free.

8.7 HEADER ROPES ANY LEG - Should a header rope any leg, it's an automatic no time. Under no circumstance will the header be allowed to fish-out the leg.

8.8 DROPPED ROPE - A dropped rope that must be recoiled is considered a thrown rope.

8.9 ARENA CLEAR - Should a team call for a steer before the arena is clear, and are subsequently interfered with by the steer or team still in the arena, this will not be recognized as interference and they shall NOT receive a rerun.

SECTION 9

OFFENSES

9.1 BAD DEBTS - Bad checks made payable or declined credit card to the USTRC, USTRC vendors, SuperLooper Magazine or USTRC producer holding an official USTRC sanctioned or affiliate event will result in immediate ineligibility. A state allowed collection fee and state tax will be charged for each returned check. After all collection efforts are exhausted, the returned check(s) will be turned over to the county attorney for collection. Non-payment shall result in punitive action, which may include classification number increase, and/or legal action.

Ropers that have competed on entry fees paid with a bad check or declined credit card are responsible for the debt, regardless of who made payment.

9.2 DRESS CODE - Ropers must wear a cowboy hat or no hat. Caps will not be permitted, nor are they permitted to be tied on, or attached in any way during the course of a run. Cowboy attire required, which includes shirts with a sewn on collar, full buttoned front styling, with short or long sleeves (sleeveless shirts not permitted) and cowboy boots, or approved laced cowboy shoe with a heel. Unless a medical exemption is made, heeled or any type tennis shoes will not be permitted. Failure to observe dress code will result in a no-time on any steer qualified.

SECTION 10

MAJOR OFFENSES

10.1 MAJOR OFFENSES - Quarreling or fighting in the arena. Mistreatment of livestock. Misrepresenting or falsifying a classification number. Attempting to fix, threaten, bribe, influence or harass any USTRC official at any time, in or out of the arena, or talking with a judge at a time when an event is in progress. Engaging in, or attempting to engage in, any action threatening, berating, harassing, intimidating, assaulting or striking a roping official, a roping spectator, any official representative or employee of the USTRC or any USTRC Contestant.

10.1.1 PENALTY FOR MAJOR OFFENSES - Ropers attempting to fix, threaten, bribe, influence or harass any USTRC official at any time, in or out of the arena, or talking with a judge or timer while an event is in progress will automatically be disqualified, forfeit entry fees, and face potential disqualification from future events at the discretion of the USTRC internal board.

If a roper uses any excuse to enter a roping advertising **USTRC TRIAD** numbers, at a number lower than his official **USTRC TRIAD** classification, and this dishonesty results in winning a check, upon verification, the USTRC will immediately add one number to that individual's official classification for a period of not less than one year. This also applies to any roper falsifying information on another ropers behalf.

10.2 CONTESTANT DISQUALIFICATIONS - A. Being under the influence of liquor and/or illicit drugs in the arena; consuming alcoholic beverages and/or illicit drugs in the arena; B. Rowdyism or quarreling within the arena; C. Mistreatment of stock; D. Not being ready to compete when called upon; E. Horse becomes excessively uncontrollable in roping box.

10.2.1 FAILURE TO COMPETE IN SHORT ROUND - A team which fails to compete in any short round is automatically disqualified from the average and thereby forfeits all money, prizes, points and shoot-out positions related to the average.

10.2.2 A team that ropes out of order in a short round will automatically receive a no time.

10.2.3 *A team will be disqualified if at any time during the course of a run a roper touches the ground.*

SECTION 11

JUDGING

11.1 JUDGES PARTICIPATION - Flag passing is not permitted. Producer shall not permit flaggers to rope in a roping event he/she is flagging, unless the event is using rotations and more than one flagger is in use. The Producer shall provide each flagger with a USTRC rule book and shall require that each flagger conduct the event in accordance with USTRC rules.

11.2 JUDGES DECISION - The decision of the judge will be final. However, USTRC officials or contractor may appeal to the judge on behalf

of the team for review of the call in question. A judge has the authority to request that any person be excused from the arena if that person, in the judge's opinion, is interfering with the contest event.

11.2.1 QUESTIONING A CALL - Questions may be addressed to the event producer immediately. No roper may question a judge while an event is going on. Questions may be addressed to a judge not sooner than at the end of the event.

Contestant does have the right to explain his side of the story or to clarify a situation to the judge at the proper time and place. However, if the contestant is using abusive language or does not use good judgment in the time and place, the judge should, at that time, inform said contestant that any further action will lead to disqualification and forfeiture of fees.

11.2.2 EXCEPTIONS TO QUESTIONING A CALL - Should communications concerning the issuance of a penalty or lack of penalty between the judge and time keeper be incorrect, either team roper may immediately point out the mistake to the judge. In addition, if the ability of the team to compete was impaired by physical conditions in the arena or physical condition of the steer, they may appeal to the judge immediately. Upon making this appeal, the judges' decision concerning the matter is final at that point. Should the appeal not be upheld, the team is required to leave the arena immediately following the decision, and may make an additional appeal to the sanctioned producer. If the sanctioned producer overrides the decision of the field judge, at any time for any reason, the producer is required to inform the USTRC National Office of that decision and the circumstances surrounding that decision.

11.3 JUDGES PARAMETER - The field flagger or judge has an obligation to control the domain within the boundaries of the arena.

11.3.1 SURRENDERING A RUN - If in the opinion of the field judge one or both members of a team stops competing during the course of a run, the judge has the right to stop the run and disqualify the team.

11.3.2 PROBLEM HORSES/3 STRIKE NOTICE - If a roper has had the opportunity to enter the box and can neither get his horse in the box, nor bring his horse under control while in the box, and in the opinion of the judge this situation has become excessive a 3 strike notice will be given and if the roper does not call for the steer on the 3rd attempt the judge has the option of calling for the steer and declaring a no time on the run. Should this occur on the first steer, the team will receive their entry fees back. If this occurs on the second or third steer (or on the fourth steer in a five-steer Average), the team may receive their fees back, only if they qualified the previous steer or steers. The refund rule is not valid for any short-round.

11.3.3 GROUND CONDITIONS - If the arena conditions are deemed by the field judge to be unsafe, competition can be stopped until the unsafe conditions are remedied.

11.4 CALLING FOR A STEER - Steer belongs to the ropers when called for by the header. Except for mechanical failure the team accepts the situation "as is" regardless of what happens.

11.5 DECLARING A STEER - If the contestant is visibly fouled or he can visibly see that he is, or will be fouled, he must declare by pulling up or attempting to pull up and not try to go on with the contest. If he does not declare, he accepts the situation the way it is.

11.6 BARRIER

11.6.1 BARRIER FOULS ROPER - Steer belongs to the ropers when they call for it regardless of what happens, except for mechanical failure and if, in the opinion of the judge, the roper is fouled by a rope barrier. If,

in the opinion of the judge, contestant is fouled by a rope barrier, ropers shall get the steer back providing contestant declares himself by pulling up immediately.

11.6.2 BARRIER/TIMER MALFUNCTION - Should a barrier/timer malfunction during the natural course of a competition either for the roper or against the roper, the field judge may offer the option of awarding a rerun or removing the barrier penalty. (The steer need not be qualified on to receive a rerun.) However, there shall be no question or disagreement that this situation occurred.

11.6.3 HEIGHT OF BARRIER - Height of barrier shall be from 32 to 36 inches, measured at the center of the box.

11.6.4 LENGTH OF BARRIER - All scoreline lengths are to be set by the Producer in accordance with arena conditions. Every effort should be made to avoid 5 second runs, and at the same time every effort should be made to avoid allowing any team to be outrun.

11.6.5 BROKEN BARRIER - A 5-second penalty will be added for beating the barrier. However, when a rope barrier is used (US Open) a 10-second penalty will be added for beating the barrier. In any case, the penalty for beating the heel barrier will always be the same as the penalty for beating the head barrier.

11.6.6 BARRIER PIGTAIL - If a pull barrier is in use and the pigtail is carried more than 10 feet from the pin, the barrier may be waived, providing the contestant did not obviously beat the barrier. However, if the contestant has obviously broken the barrier the judge may still impose the penalty.

11.6.7 QUALIFYING A STEER - When a pull barrier is used and a contestant is fouled and has no visible way of knowing if chutes or barriers functioned correctly, he must qualify in order to get a rerun.

11.6.8 LINE JUDGE - If a pull barrier is in use, there shall be a line Judge. The Line Judge shall have a USTRC rule book and understand the rules.

11.6.9 HEELER BARRIER - A heeler barrier shall be encouraged at all USTRC ropings. The heeling barrier shall not exceed the heading barrier by more than five feet.

11.7 ANIMAL ESCAPES - If any animal escapes from the arena, flag will be dropped and time stopped. Contestants will get animal back for a lap-and-tap start (no-barrier), and time already spent will be added to time used in qualifying. If time is not recorded, the decision of the flag judge shall be final.

11.7.1 ANIMAL ESCAPES HEADGATE - If the gate fails to open in the first attempt, gateman must stop and wait for another nod from the roper. Whatever happens prior to his nod is not to be considered, (horse cannot break a barrier before the roper calls for the animal). If a chute hand inadvertently spills a steer, the header has the option of taking the next steer into the chute, or burning that steer and taking the next.

11.8 VISIBLY INJURED ROPING STOCK - If the roping stock is visibly injured as the run begins, including a broken horn, the team must declare themselves by pulling up immediately.

11.9 BROKEN HORN - If in the opinion of the judge a non-visible broken horn existed prior to the beginning of a run, he has the option to declare a rerun. However, no rerun shall be awarded where clearly the broken horn was caused by the run itself, or if the judge suspects the broken horn occurred during the run. If run is completed and time taken, even though a broken horn is clearly visible, time shall stand and field judge will remove that animal from the draw.

SECTION 12

LIVESTOCK

12.1 ROPING STOCK - All roping stock shall be either native, long-horn, or Mexican corriente. Weight for cattle shall be a minimum of 350 pounds, maximum of 500 pounds. Due to rising concerns of cattle availability heifers will be allowed to be used, so long as, they are held to the same quality standards.

12.1.1 NUMBER OF CATTLE - Stock contractors are required to have a minimum number of cattle equal to one-third the number of teams in the largest day of the competition.

12.1.2 REMOVAL FROM DRAW - USTRC, or USTRC official(s), reserve the right to withdraw any steer from the herd at any time. Head duckers, draggers, stoppers, eliminators, unusually slow cattle and cattle that turn back into the corners shall be pulled from the herd immediately as they surface during the USTRC qualification roping.

Removal from draw does not result in a rerun for the team roping a steer removed from the herd. However, a rerun may be awarded if in the opinion of the producer, supported by the opinion of the field judge and/or officials working the roping, that a steer in question did not afford a team the opportunity to compete.

12.1.3 INSPECTION - Roping Stock will be inspected by the producer prior to the first event. No sore, lame, sick or injured animal, or animal with defective eye sight shall be permitted in the draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or crippled during the course of the roping, that animal shall be removed from the competition immediately. Animals removed from the arena pursuant to this section shall be placed in a situation as isolated and comfortable as possible to reduce stress.

12.2 HUMANE TREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK - If a USTRC roper excessively abuses an animal by any unnecessary non-competitive or competitive action, he shall be disqualified and forfeit all entry fees. The judge shall immediately inform the announcer that the contestant has been disqualified and announcer will immediately announce the disqualification due to unnecessary roughness of livestock.

12.2.1 HORNWRAPS - All Roping Stock will have horn wraps, which offer protection for both the ears, and the base of the horns.

12.2.2 ROPES - USTRC strongly discourages the use of 3/8 scant ropes.

12.2.3 PRODDING - No animal shall be treated inhumanely or prodded excessively. Standard electric prods shall be used as little as possible. Animal shall be touched only on the hip and shoulder area with prod.

12.2.4 FAILURE TO HEED WARNING - Any contestant who fails to heed an initial warning from a field flagger that he is mistreating an animal will forfeit his entry fees in all divisions for the remainder of that event.

12.2.5 RUN STOPPED BY THE JUDGE - Judge may stop a run at anytime he observes an injured animal, to remove that animal from competition. This action will result in a rerun for contestants.

SECTION 13

MISCELLANEOUS RULES

13.1 SPORTSMANSHIP - USTRC reserves the right to disqualify any roper who does not act in a sportsmanlike, reasonable, or professional manner. Disqualified ropers forfeit all fees.

13.2 GO-ROUND NO TIME - As a result of the USTRC full round format, any team that is out of the Average will receive an automatic no-time as a result of a broken barrier.

13.3 HOME VIDEOS - Recording for personal use will be permitted, however, unauthorized reproductions, or commercial sales of home videos is strictly prohibited.

13.4 CALCUTTAS - The USTRC prohibits any Calcutta's or any other organized gambling with USTRC ropings without prior written consent.

13.5 DOGS - No dogs allowed in spectator area or arena. Dogs on premises must be leashed.

13.6 PEDDLERS - There will be no unauthorized sales conducted on the roping grounds.

13.7 BACK UP CLOCK - Any Roping using automatic electronic timers shall be required to use a minimum of one hand stopwatch as a backup. Back up clock is used to catch timing problems of automatic timing systems, failures to start correctly, and failures to stop correctly. Use of back up clock shall not override barrier malfunction rules.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADDED MONEY - Money added to the purse that was not derived from entry fees.

AFFILIATE - Refers to USTRC approved ropings around the country, where USTRC members can compete, and acquire applied earnings that can be used towards the acquisition of Regional and National Finals Shoot-Out positions.

APPLIED EARNINGS (PERSONAL EARNINGS) - Earnings acquired as a result of competing at approved USTRC sanctioned and/or affiliate events.

BRIDLE CATCH - Is a catch where the rope hangs in the steers' mouth.

CAP - Refers to the maximum handicap classification number that a roper can have in a particular roping. Example: If a roping is capped at a #5, no roper with a handicap greater than #5 is eligible to compete in the roping.

CORRIENTE - Breed of cattle originating in Mexico especially suited for team roping.

DALLY - Rope crossed on saddle horn – 1 full turn.

DOUBLE NUMBERS - A classification where a roper has a different classification for heading and heeling.

DRAGGER - Steer that drag their hind legs and will not hop.

ELIMINATOR - Steer that is nearly impossible to rope and eliminates a roper from the Average of a roping.

FLOOR - Refers to the minimum classification number a roper must have in order to participate in a specific roping. Example: If a roping has a #6 floor, no roper who has a classification less than a #6 is eligible to compete.

FULL GO-ROUNDS - A full go-round is a round where every roper entered gets the opportunity to rope.

GROUND MONEY - Is a term that originally meant competitors received their entry fees back as a prize consideration. Has in recent years been interpreted to mean multiples of the entry fee.

INCENTIVE - As it relates to team roping, an Incentive is a roping within a roping. A separate pool of money is set aside from the regular payout pool of money in a roping. This money can only be won by those ropers, which meet the stated Incentive criteria of a roping. A typical "Incentive" would be a case where a #10 roping is stated to have a #9 Incentive. In this case, a portion of the fees from all the #9 teams entered is set aside, and can only be won by those teams which are classified as #9 or less. While these teams (#9) are the only ones eligible to win the Incentive pool of money, they are eligible to win money in the overall #10 payout as well.

LAP-AND TAP START - The term means roping without a barrier.

LIMITED ENTRY - Refers to enter one time and enter twice ropings as opposed too more traditional multiple entry ropings where ropers have numerous partners.

PIGTAIL - Is the short part of a rope barrier that breaks away when the barrier is broken.

PROGRESSIVE AFTER - Is another term for sudden death that means, when you miss you are eliminated. Progressive after one means that from the very beginning of the roping, when you miss you are eliminated. Another example would be progressive after two, which means that a roper is guaranteed to rope two steers, however, anything beyond two steers is sudden death.

PULL BARRIER - Refers to a rope barrier that must be "pulled" or stretched across the opening of the box.

ROTATION - Is another term for "heat". This would be a set number of ropers that rope all rounds prior to the short round, before the next "rotation/heat" has the opportunity to compete.

SCORELINE LENGTHS - This term refers to how much of head start the steer is given before the roper is allowed to the leave the box.

TBA - Is an abbreviation for the term "To Be Announced". Many ropers who do not have partners before the draw have the option to pay for both sides and put "TBA", in the vacant position.

TIE ON - Refers to practice of tying the heeling rope to the saddle horn, versus dallying.

TURNOUT - Refers to a steer being released from the chute at the request of a judge when a team is not present to compete.

UP AND BACK - This is the practice of two ropers entering with "A" heading and "B" heeling, then entering again in the same roping with "B" heading and "A" heeling.

USTRC CONTACTS

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Kirk, USTRC CEO, appreciates your feedback on events
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GOLD-PLUS MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE:

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Inquiries and services for gold plus members only: Shawn
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changes, stall reservations and general questions.

ROPING STATS/ SHOOT-OUTS:

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Judy can give you information on money won from
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EVENT SCHEDULING:

Ben Clements, bclements@ustrc.com
Ben assists contractors and producers with schedule additions,
changes, becoming an affiliate or sanctioned event producer and
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PRODUCTION/ FACILITY ASSISTANCE/ CATTLE:

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Mike assists contractors and producers with their on-site
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contracts, arena layout, coordination of facility locations,
and facility contracts.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

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Bill can assist with any of USTRC's automated systems,
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