



Midwest Ranch Sorting Association Member Handbook

A Member Guide to Rules and Regulations

MRSA Mission Statement

The purpose of this corporation is to educate the public about the sport of ranch sorting.

From MRSA Board

It is with great honor that we welcome you to the MRSA and thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with our association and rules. The MRSA is committed to creating a fun and family-oriented atmosphere that supports fair competition. The camaraderie and good will displayed at our events by our members is the ultimate reflection of the mission of our association. MRSA will also keep records of your earnings. We hope you will find this handbook to be a helpful resource to you throughout the show year. We encourage you to use these sources and to contact your Board of Directors should you need more information. MRSA is committed to serving its members, bringing about innovative and positive change, and providing representation of our sports within the equine and cattle industries.

Best Regards,
MRSA Board

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MRSA OFFICIAL Rules and Guidelines

Membership Categories

- 1. Membership Dues** - Members are eligible to compete or officiate in any MRSA sanctioned show. Annual membership dues are valid for the competition year (November 1st – October 31st). Membership dues as outlined below shall be paid in U.S. funds in these amounts:
 - a. \$35 for Individual
 - b. \$50 for Family (includes husband, wife, and children in household)
 - c. Free Day Pass is available for those riders who do not want to join the MRSA but want to participate in a single day each competition year.
- 2. Member Eligibility and Benefits** - All contestants in a MRSA sanctioned show must be a current member in good standing to compete in a sanctioned show and be eligible for any regional year-end awards. All members can vote in general elections and to hold office. All members, no matter their age, are subject to MRSA rules and bylaws and will be treated equally.
- 3. Rider Rating Classifications** - Accurate ratings for each member are extremely important to provide a level and fair playing field. It is each new or renewing member's responsibility to answer the application form accurately and completely. The MRSA has ratings starting with N for Novice, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 for classifications.
- 4. Rider Ratings Procedure** - Each new member of the MRSA must be given a rating classification in ranch sorting to participate in MRSA sanctioned events. It is the member's responsibility to answer all questions accurately and completely on the membership application. When a rider joins the MRSA at a sanctioned event and if no-one from the Rating Committee is at the show, the Director-In-Charge will be responsible for giving a rating evaluation and classifying the rider that day. MRSA board asks the Director-In-Charge to error on the side of a higher rating. When a new member joins the MRSA by mail, the member will be given a rating classification by the rating committee including the directors in the region where the new member resides.

The Rating Committee will review the ratings of all new members and may assign a rating classification of N through 6 in accordance with these rules. Any member who believes he/she has been incorrectly rated may appeal in writing to the MRSA Board of Directors and the Rating Committee. The rating committee will then explain why they were changed. All ratings maybe adjusted up to 60 days prior to regional finals. For new members; within the 60-day window prior to the regional finals, they can be adjusted after three shows. Examples of ways ratings can change; horsemanship, arena awareness, gate awareness, win/loss ratio, reading cattle, horse quality, etc.

- 5. Forfeiture of Money Won** - Event producers will not be responsible for checking team ratings prior to the show sorting. That responsibility lies with the teams. At pay-off time, however, the event producer will check team members' ratings. In any class, any team exceeding the number or combined rider classifications will forfeit all monies won. In the

event a team forfeits, all places and monies will be distributed to each of the next place teams, in descending order, regardless of if any of those teams did not ride in the short or final go. For example, if the class pays 10 places and the 3rd place team is eliminated, the 4th place team moves to 3rd place, 5th to 4th, etc. through the 11th place team which moves to 10th.

- 6. Member Suspension** - Any member, sanctioned event producer, or non-member may be suspended and denied privileges and membership benefits of MRSA by the Board of Directors or any designated committee by the Board of Directors for good cause; for failure to pay any obligations when due to MRSA; for failure to pay any obligations to an approved show; for giving a worthless check or credit card information for entry fees, stall fees, office charges, or any other fees, fines, or charges including bank charges for returned checks; or for failure to timely file with MRSA any reports required by the rules of MRSA. Each returned check and/or declined credit card is subject to a \$50 fine that is due to the MRSA. After 30 days, all outstanding debt will be subject to a 10% APR and a \$100 membership reinstatement application fee will apply for all suspended persons applying for membership reinstatement. MRSA shall maintain and publish a suspended persons list on the official website, effective until the next opportunity after suspension and may be communicated to any competitor member, all sanctioned event producers, and membership benefit providers. Upon full payment or filing of requisite report due MRSA, membership category privileges and membership benefits may be reinstated if approved by the MRSA Board of Directors. For this to occur, the suspended entity must request reinstatement in writing.

Standard MRSA Classes

- 1. 3 Man-2 Gate** – Any combination of rated riders. Five picks and one draw.
- 2. Colt Class** – Horse cannot be over four years old as of January 1st of the year shown. The person sorting cattle on a team must be on horses four years or younger, may ride up to three horses, ride limit is six times per contestant, may ride one horse with two picks and one draw, or ride two horses with two picks and one draw for each horse, or enter up to three horses with one pick and one draw. This class is two full go rounds.
- 3. Open Handicap Class** – Handicap provides one second off per round for each total team rating below 12. A rider must draw at least one team to pick one team. “N” rated riders are not eligible to complete in this class. Unlimited number of rides but must change partner every time.
- 4. Youth Class** – Youths must not be older than 17 January 1st of that season. Five riders or less will be a round robin. Six riders or more will be a three-ride limit, all draws. Flat fee of \$25 per rider.
- 5. Ranch Hand** – #1 cap sorter. Two #1’s or ‘N’s can switch back and forth if drawn together. If they pick, one must hold the hole and one must sort. Five picks and one draw.
- 6. #2 Class** – Any combination of riders rating cannot exceed over two. Five picks and one draw.
- 7. #3 Class** – Any combination of riders rating cannot exceed over three. Five picks and one draw.

8. **#4 Class** – Any combination of riders rating cannot exceed over four. Five picks and one draw.
9. **#5 Class** – Any combination of riders rating cannot exceed over five. Five picks and one draw.
10. **#6 Class** – Any combination of riders rating cannot exceed over six. Five picks and one draw.
11. **#7 Class** – Any combination of riders rating cannot exceed over seven. Five picks and one draw.
12. **#8 Class** – Any combination of riders rating cannot exceed over eight. Five picks and one draw.

Team Sorting Class Description

1. All MRSA Sanctioned Sorting's must have at least three of the above classes, and one of the classes must be the Open class.
2. Producer decides class order and must post the order.
3. Producer sets class fees.
4. Riders must change partner every time you choose a team partner.
5. The only time you can ride with the same person twice in a class is if you were drawn together.
6. Rider may throw all your tickets in the draw if you choose to.
7. Horses may be any breed and not registered.

Team Sorting Rules

1. **The Object of Team Sorting** – The basic concept of team sorting is that there are ten numbered cattle, 0-9, and up to two unnumbered cattle (if the producer chooses) at the beginning of a run behind a foul line in an arena with two riders mounted on the opposite side.
2. **Team Sorting Guidelines** – Sanctioned sorting includes two-man team sorting and open arena sorting. Sanctioned team sorting classes and shows will be required to use an electronic display clock with a lap timer. Current MRSA rider ratings will be used for team sorting.
3. **Sorting Pens** – Team sorting will take place between two pens of approximately equal size with the event producer's option of working cattle back and forth or only one way. Two

ranch sorting arenas may be placed side by side with teams alternating odd and even numbers.

4. **Settling Each Herd** – If cattle are to be worked back and forth then they need to be moved to the opposite pen and back before each new herd entering the arena is worked.
5. **Readable Numbers** – All cattle must have MRSA approved back numbers. Neck numbers are not acceptable unless waived by the board.
6. **Recommended Pen Sizes** – Sorting area shall be 50-60 feet in diameter with NO 90-degree corners (i.e., “stop sign” design).
7. **Gate Opening** – The start foul line will be a 12–16 foot opening between the two pens.
8. **Time Limits** – There will be a 90, 75, or 60 second clock for each class, at the option of the event producer.
9. **Stopping Time** – Time will continue until all cattle are sorted in the correct order or the time limit is reached, either of which becomes the official time for that team.
10. **Official Clock** – The official clock for sorting is the display lap timer. A display lap timer is to be used in all sorting classes to designate the placing of the class.
11. **Bunching Cattle** – All cattle will be bunched on the cattle side of the gate within the designated area before the time begins. Judges will designate the need to bunch cattle.
12. **Starting the Run** – The judge will announce by signal when the cattle are ready. Time will start when the nose of the first horse crosses the start/foul line, and the announcer will provide the number to be sorted first. The riders will be given their number instantly. Any delay in crossing the foul line may result in a "no-time" for the team. The next team has 30 seconds to enter the arena and cross the timeline after the previous team sorts, and after the announcer calls the team to ride. Upon the decision by the judges, the announcer will call the team a no-time unless waived for a good cause. No team member may enter the arena after the time has started.
13. **Roughing** – Includes, but not limited to, running over cattle with horses, stepping on cattle while in pursuit, running through the herd in such a manner that the cattle are knocked down or off stride, horses consistently biting the cattle, and entering the pen with such force on the cattle causing them to collide with the back pen panels. A judge’s or producers call for “roughing” will result in immediate disqualification of the team.
14. **Order of Sorting** – The cows are sorted in numerical order; if any part of a numbered cow crosses the start/foul line prior to its correct order, then the team receives a no time. If any part of a sorted cow re crosses the start/foul line the team receives a no time. If any part of any unnumbered cow crosses the foul line before the tenth cow is cleanly sorted, it will result in a no time.
15. **Random Start Number** – The order of sorting is determined by the picking of a random number by the announcer/timer and then that cow must be sorted first; for instance, if 7 is drawn as the first number, then the 8 cow must be sorted after the 7 cow, 9, 0, 1, etc.

- 16. Must Sort Clean to Advance** – Teams must sort cleanly to advance to the next go-round. Producer has the option of implementing progressive time when the number of teams' cattle sorted can be used, being the highest time and lowest number of cattle available to progress to the next round.
- 17. Calculating Placing by Clean Sorts** – Sorting in two goes; teams sorting in two goes place higher than teams sorting in one go, no matter how many cattle were sorted, or time accrued.
- 18. Cow Considered Sorted** – A cow is considered sorted when the entire cow is completely across the start/foul line.
- 19. Cow Leaving the Arena** – If there is a malfunction of the sorting pen, or a numbered cow jumps any fence and either leaves the arena, or ends up in the opposite pen willingly, but did not pass through the gate, it will result in an automatic re-ride for that team immediately, assuming either instance was not caused by roughing of the cattle. In the instance of a re-ride, riders will receive a full 90, 75 or 60 second clock and the number will be the same number called.
- 20. Injured, Unnumbered or Unfit Cattle** – Prior to a team crossing the start/foul line the team must notify the judge of any unnumbered, injured, or unfit cattle. Once brought to the judge's attention, the judge (not the riders) 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 to the cattle by crossing the start/foul line unless the cattle become injured or unnumbered during the run. Then at the judge's discretion the judge may stop the run and the riders 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 the injured or unnumbered cattle are replaced.

Possible reasons for a judge to remove cattle:

- a. Lamé
- b. Sick
- c. Exhausted
- d. Blind
- e. 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.

21. Re-Ride Situations

- a. Should a herd be miss-numbered or have too many or too few non-numbered cattle, only the team that is in the arena at the time the problem is identified will receive a re-ride. The re-ride will be a clean slate and will be done immediately.
- b. If a team observes an unfit, injured, or unidentified animal before committing to the cattle; the team must notify the judge. Once the team is committed to the cattle, no re-ride will be given.
- c. If a team rides out of order, their time and number of cattle will stand. No re-ride will be given for teams riding out of order. Once the problem is identified, the going forward teams will be correctly aligned, and in the case of sorting, placed in the

proper arena and follow the order as posted. All go's must be posted before the round starts.

22. Dismounted Rider – If a rider becomes dismounted for any reason during a run, the run can be completed by the other teammate that is on his/her horse. If the teammate on the ground directs the cattle in any way, it will be a disqualified ride.

23. Spotting Cattle – Spotting cattle in the herd for any team in the arena, by any person outside the arena, is prohibited. Any form or manner of assisting a team in the arena with finding the location of any of their assigned cattle on the herd side of the foul line, may, at the judge's discretion, subject the team in the arena to disqualification on any run. Any team disqualified by a judge for spotting will receive a no time.

24. Following MRSA General Guidelines – For general guidelines on team sorting, follow MRSA rules on all other issues not covered in this section.

Disputes

1. **Initiating a Protest (No Camera, No Dispute)** – When a team has a dispute about a run, a protest must be lodged with a judge before the team leaves the sorting pen. The team will then immediately file the protest with the Director-In-Charge.
2. **Presenting the Dispute Findings** – If a protest is filed, the Director-In-Charge shall present said dispute to the judges. The Director-In-Charge shall immediately present the findings and reasons to the protesting parties. Protest results should be decided and announced after the last team but prior to that set of cattle exiting the arena.

Mandatory Event Guidelines

1. Conduct

- a. Each MRSA member shall follow the MRSA rules at all sanctioned shows.
- b. Any contestant guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct will be fined and/or suspended and/or expelled from membership. MRSA reserves the right to revoke or refuse membership.
- c. If a person is fined; the fine will be determined and assessed by the judges, Director(s) present or Board of Directors.
- d. Fines must be paid before contestant rides again.
- e. An approved judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect. No person shall direct abuse or threatening conduct toward any judge or a judge's family, either in furtherance of his judging duties or as a result thereof, whether the conduct occurs during an approved show, on the show grounds, or off the show grounds.
- f. By virtue of paying an entry fee and/or competing in a sanctioned MRSA competition, whether a paid MRSA member, permission is granted by each contestant to the MRSA to use his or her photographic image for the promotion of the sport of team sorting.

2. General Guidelines

- a. **Judges** – Decisions of the judges are final. No judge may enter any class that he/she judges.
 - b. **Timely Submission of Show Results** –The event producer shall remit all fees and dues to the MRSA treasurer and show reports of all participants to the MRSA secretary within ten working days from the last day of the event. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$25 per day for results not received within 10 days after the last day of this show and affect future show approvals. All fees and results must be turned in for the show to count toward the rider's regional finals qualifications. This will be strictly enforced.
 - c. **Cancellation Before Completion** – In the event a show is cancelled due to weather or other extenuating circumstances before the final go-round, the last fully completed go-round will decide the winners of the event. Decision to stop the event shall be a joint decision of the event producer, the MRSA Director(s) present, and the judges.
 - d. **Access to Show Results** – A Director or Director-in-Charge shall have access to the results any time after the conclusion of that class.
 - e. **Finals Herd** – The finals herd for the class may be a herd that was used in the first go round. This herd will be picked after the first go-round and before the second go-round, by the event producer and/or Director-In-Charge.
 - f. **Rider Substitutions** – In extreme instances, substitution of a rider after a team has made its original ride may be allowed at the discretion of the judge for compassionate reasons. The show secretary must be notified to ensure that monies are awarded to the appropriate rider in each go. Substitute riders must have available rides in order not to exceed the ride limit in that class. Substitute rider must be the same rating or less.
3. **Dress Code** – All contestants must wear western attire. In the event of extreme temperatures, the Director-In-Charge and the judges could waive it. Western hat or optional protective helmet; riders may choose to wear a properly fitting protective head gear which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. Helmet harnesses should be worn securely and be properly fitted. Youth riders are especially encouraged, though not required, to wear protective helmets.

Sanctioning

1. **Sanctioning Process** – Applications for approval of either sanctioned or co-sanctioned shows must be postmarked or electronically dated no later than 30 days prior to the first date of the event to be approved.
 - a. Priority dates may be awarded to MRSA sanctioned shows held the previous year; however, all priority show dates are determined by MRSA. Priority dates will not be awarded if: 1) show results and fees are not submitted to the MRSA office within ten (10) working days; 2) a request for new dates is received for the same show; 3) show location is moved from the previous year; 4) show is not held in consecutive years; 5) show management or producer is suspended at any time during the previous year.
 - b. The open class is a required class at MRSA sanctioned sorting.

- c. Team sorting classes may be sanctioned. Sanctioned sorting includes two-man team sorting and open arena sorting.
2. **Compliance and Fines** – If an event producer does not follow MRSA rules and any exhibitors are disqualified; the event producer may be fined \$20 per disqualification. If an event producer allows anyone who is not a MRSA member to compete, the event producer will be liable to pay \$20 per infraction. Failure to comply with any MRSA rules could result in forfeiture of future sanctioning by the event producer, including any shows already sanctioned or pending sanctioning. The event producer will pay the MRSA for all fines and/or monies collected.
3. **Liability** – Each event producer operating a show under the MRSA's sanctioning shall be solely responsible for all liability and shall hold MRSA and its Officers and Directors harmless from any liability.
4. **Cattle Approval** – The number of cattle must be approved by the Board.
5. **Use of Approved Cattle Numbers** – The event producer must use over-the-shoulder cattle numbers approved by MRSA. No neck numbers unless waived by the Board.
6. **Sanctioning Fees** – The event producer will pay MRSA a sanctioning fee per team of \$3.00 per rider. All funds will be forwarded to the MRSA treasurer within ten days of the last day of the show. The event producer must pay for all teams entered in sanctioned classes.
7. **Governing Rules** – All sanctioned shows will be governed by MRSA By-Laws, rules, and guidelines.
8. **Show Flyer** – Show flyers with all scheduled classes, dates, and fees should be posted at least two weeks prior to the show. Show flyers should be posted during an event.
9. **Liability Release** – Both MRSA and the event producer of a sanctioned show shall have the right to require any contestant, or in the case of a youth rider, the contestant's parent or guardian to sign a liability release form holding the MRSA and the event produce, harmless for any and all injury incurred as a result of the sorting.
10. **Designated Director-In-Charge** – A MRSA Director or designated official must attend all MRSA sanctioned shows and be designated as the "Director-In-Charge."

Co-Sanctioning

1. **Sanctioning Process** – All co-sanctioned events must be approved by MRSA no less than thirty days prior to the first day of the event to be approved.
2. **Compliance and Fines** – The event producer shall remit all fees and dues to the MRSA treasurer and show reports of all participants to the MRSA secretary within ten working days from the last day of the event. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$25 per day for results not received within 10 days after the last day of this show and affect future show

approvals. All fees and results must be turned in for show to count toward the rider's regional finals qualifications. This will be strictly enforced.

3. **Membership Fees** – Show secretaries must provide a receipt to new competitor members for membership fees received at their MRSA co-sanctioned show.
4. **Liability** – The event producer operating a show under the MRSA's co-sanctioning shall be solely responsible for all liability and shall hold MRSA and its officers and Directors harmless from any liability.

Animal Welfare Rules and Guidelines

Inhumane treatment of any animal in the show arena, warm-up arena, stall, runway or elsewhere on the show grounds is strictly forbidden. Likewise, any cruelty to or the abuse of any horse is a violation of MRSA rules emphatically desires to avoid all cases of cruelty and inhumane or abusive treatment of any horse. Treatment of any horse will be considered cruel, abusive, or inhumane if a reasonable person, educated in accepted equine training techniques, could perceive the conduct of an individual to be abusive or an attempt to abuse the horse.

Furthermore, any behavior by an exhibitor, trainer, or rider that could be perceived by the public to be harmful to any horse should also be avoided. It is the responsibility of each member to report each incident which could be perceived as an abusive act toward a horse during a MRSA Sanctioned Event.

The following is a list of criteria specifically prohibited at MRSA Sanctioned Events:

1. Excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping, or kicking while on the ground, or any other act with the intent to cause trauma to the horse.
2. Slapping or hitting a horse in the head with hands or any other object.
3. Using a bit in a manner that causes a horse to bleed from its mouth or face.
4. Using any object held in the rider's hand, other than the bridle reins, to hit a horse.
5. Repeatedly and excessively pulling on one or both reins.
6. Riding a horse that is visibly lame, sick, or emaciated.

If any of the above actions are observed, they should be reported to a MRSA director, judge or show management. In the case where the soundness or health of a horse is in question, the decision should be based on the assessment of a veterinarian. In the event one is not available, it shall be at the sole discretion of either the show judge(s) or a MRSA Director-in-Charge to decide whether an animal is fit to be used. Each person found to be in violation of this rule may be subject to receiving the following penalty:

- 1st Offense: \$10-\$500 fine and six-month probation
- 2nd Offense: \$500-\$1,000 fine and twelve-month probation
- 3rd Offense: \$500-\$1,000 and six-month suspension

These penalties can be increased as appropriated by the MRSA board depending on the circumstances and nature of the violation. Inhumane treatment to horses, including, but not

limited to, physical abuse towards the animal by the rider or owner to cause the animal further injury or competing on an animal that is visibly hurt or lame.

A \$500 fine will be assessed by the judges, after the teams run has ended, if a team member continues to work cattle other than to gather the herd for the next team, or a team member exhibits any unnecessary roughness or contact with cattle. If excessive roughness continues, any team or team member may be assessed an additional fine and/or disqualification by the judge.

MRSA Sportsmanlike Conduct Guidelines

If a person is fined the fine will be determined and assessed by the judges, director(s) present, or the MRSA boards of directors after consulting all current directors in that region. Any contestant guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct will be fined and/or suspended and/or expelled from membership. MRSA reserves the right to revoke or refuse membership for proper cause.

Unsportsmanlike conduct by an exhibitor, trainer, rider, or spectator will not be tolerated. Activities and behavior that shall be considered unsportsmanlike are listed below:

1. Any act of abuse or an attempt to abuse any horse.
2. Any person who threatens another person or inflicts injury to another person.
3. Any individual who is not on the team currently riding in the arena that 'spots' cattle.
4. Any public display of outrage that could tarnish the image of MRSA.
5. Any person who approaches any Official in a threatening manner.

Any MRSA director or judge shall determine a violation of the rules listed herein. Immediate removal of the offending individual from the premises will occur. The MRSA board of directors will then determine the severity of the disciplinary action, which may be taken including, but not limited to, possible expulsion from the MRSA.

MRSA Regional Finals Qualifying

1. **Minimum Regional Show Requirements for Year-End Awards** – All members must have a minimum of five sanctioned shows and thirty rides to qualify for regional year-end award funds provided by MRSA. Note: a show constitutes 6 rides. For youth, if you are only riding the youth, you do not need to qualify for the finals. **NO buy-in fees allowed**, you must qualify.
2. **Regional Finals Classes** – All regional finals classes will include classes as determined by the respective board of directors.
3. **Publishing Standings** – MRSA will publish point standings. Please note that these are suggested payout schedules. Event producers may submit any other payout schedules for approval with their sanctioning request. However, any payout schedule other than these suggested splits and percentages should be openly posted by the event producer at the show for competitors to see.

Payout Schedule

Please note that these are suggested payout schedules. Event producers may submit any other payout schedules for approval with their sanctioning request. However, any payout

schedule other than these suggested splits and percentages should be openly posted by the event producer at the show for competitors to see.

Payout Schedule for Regular Season Shows and Finals

0-19	Teams = 2 Holes
20-49	Teams = 3 Holes
50-75	Teams = 4 Holes
76-99	Teams = 5 Holes
101-125	Teams = 6 Holes
126-150	Teams = 7 Holes
151-175	Teams = 8 Holes
176-200	Teams = 9 Holes
201+	Teams = 10 Holes

With the exception of Youth and Colt class
Youth Class = 1 hole per 3 teams
Colt Class = 1 hole per 5 teams

Number of Go's

0-60	Teams = 10 teams for the final round
61-100	Teams = 20 teams for the 2 nd go
101+	Teams = 30 teams for the 2 nd go

PI Percentage Splits

1 spot - 100%
2 spots - 60% - 40%
3 spots - 50% - 30% - 20%
4 spots - 40% - 30% - 20% - 10%
5 spots - 30% - 25% - 20% - 15% - 10%
6 spots - 29% - 23% - 18% - 12% - 10% - 8%
7 spots - 28% - 22% - 16% - 11% - 9% - 8% - 6%
8 spots - 26% - 21% - 15% - 10% - 9% - 8% - 6% - 5%
9 spots - 26% - 19% - 13% - 10% - 9% - 8% - 6% - 5% - 4%
10 spots - 25% - 18% - 13% - 10% - 9% - 7% - 6% - 5% - 4% - 3%

Guidelines for Event Producers

- 1. Who May be an Event Producer** – Any reputable person who can furnish proof that he/she is capable through ability or experience may act in the capacity of an event producer.
- 2. Positions Held** – The event producer shall be the person in charge of the MRSA show but may not hold the position of show secretary or Director-In-Charge at a show where he or she is the event producer.
- 3. Closing of Entries** – No teams may be added after the starting position draw has been completed for that class. Books will close for the next class after the 1st go of the previous class.

4. **Grant of Rule Enforcement Authority** – The event producer shall have authority and responsibility to enforce all rules pertaining to the show. He/she may excuse any horse or exhibitor from the show prior to or during the judging for any infraction of rules or misconduct.
5. **Responsibilities of Event Producer** – The event producer must be present on the show grounds for the duration of the show. In the event an emergency arises, and the event producer is unable to fulfill his duties, he/she may appoint an acting event producer in his absence. The acting event producer must also remain on the show grounds for the duration of the show. The event producer shall always extend every effort to satisfy the comfort of the horses, exhibitors, spectators, and officials. He/she shall be held responsible for maintaining clean and orderly conditions throughout the show.
6. **Process for Handling Comments** – The event producer shall receive written complaints from exhibitors, trainers, owners, show participants, and other MRSA members of incidents of cruel, abusive, or inhumane treatment of livestock on show grounds and shall forward such complaints to the MRSA for possible disciplinary action under the MRSA's rules pertaining to unsportsmanlike conduct.
7. **Display Clock Required** – All MRSA shows must have a readable electronic display clock.

Guidelines for Judges

All judges should be totally familiar with all MRSA rules and general guidelines.

1. **Judges' Privilege** – Designation as an association approved judge is a privilege, not a right.
2. **Membership Requirement** – Judges must be a member in good standing of MRSA.
3. **Judging Commitment** – After acceptance of a judging commitment, a judge shall endeavor, with all reasonable effort, to judge the show, and shall communicate in a timely manner to show management any inability to do so, as to allow the show management maximum time in which to seek a suitable replacement. A judge shall, always, act in a professional manner.
4. **Presence and Availability** – During an approved show, a judge shall be present to meet his responsibilities under MRSA rules and shall be available to assist show management in meeting its responsibilities to rule compliance.
5. **Dress Code** – Refer to general guidelines dress code.
6. **Inability to Compete and Judge** – While judging a class, a judge shall not ride in the class they are judging.
7. **Conflict of Interest** – Association approved judges should be sensitive to any conflict of interest between MRSA's objectives and their own personal business or pecuniary interests. Each judge should refrain from using his or her official status to further personal or financial purposes. When such conflict of interest arises, the judge is required to either

withdraw the personal objective from the transaction in question or resign from the MRSA's approved judge's list.

8. **Inability to Manage and Judge** – Any MRSA approved judge involved in the management of a show cannot officiate as a judge at that show.
9. **Judges Demeanor** – When an exhibitor makes a request through the Director-In-Charge or other show official for the judge's opinion, it is urged that the judge give his/her opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the Director-in- Charge or other show official and always act in a professional manner.
10. **Treatment of Judges** – An approved judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and no person shall direct abuse or threatening conduct toward him or his family on or off show grounds, either in the furtherance of his judging duties, or as a result thereof, whether the conduct occurs during an approved show or on show ground.

Guidelines for Show Secretaries

1. **Who May be Show Secretary** – Secretaries may be any reputable person who is capable through ability and experience and is familiar with MRSA rules.
2. **Approved List** – Show secretaries must be a member in good standings of MRSA. Any show secretary not in good standing may be removed from the list of approved secretaries and will be required to reapply for inclusion to the list of approved secretaries.
3. **Other Positions Prohibited** – The show secretary may not hold the position of event producer or Director-In-Charge at a show at which he/she serves as show secretary.
4. **Show Secretary Responsibilities** – The show secretary shall be the primary person responsible for the correctness of the entries and show results, including verifying exhibitor eligibility. The show secretary shall post the results of each class within one hour of the end of the class.
5. **Show Records Responsibilities** – It shall be the responsibility of the show secretary to maintain and record entries and show results behalf of MRSA.

Guidelines for Timekeepers

Who May Be a Timekeeper – Any reputable person may be a timekeeper. He/she must be capable of serving as timekeeper through ability and experience and is familiar with MRSA rules.

Guidelines for the Director-In-Charge

1. **Familiarity with Rules** – The Director-In-Charge shall be well informed as to the rules and guidelines of the MRSA and have a copy of the rules.

2. **Communications During Show** – The Director-In-Charge shall have a discussion with the event producer and announcer regarding specific announcements regarding new and ongoing MRSA programs, sponsors, upcoming events, and other items of member and prospective member interest during show.
3. **Cattle Handling** – The Director-In-Charge shall discuss with the event producer the cattle holding pens, rotation of cattle, and proper cattle numbering.
4. **Checking Each Herd** – The Director-In-Charge is responsible for checking each herd as it enters the arena for correct head count, proper numbering, and number readability. The Director-In-Charge shall also watch for lame or crippled cattle.
5. **Availability to Member Questions** – The Director-In-Charge shall be available for questions pertaining to the goals and directions of MRSA.
6. **Director-In-Charge Demeanor** – The Director-In-Charge shall settle all problems that may arise in a professional manner. A Director-In-Charge should not be afraid to say, "I don't know but I'll get you the right answer."
7. **Requirements** – A Director-In-Charge is required at all approved shows. The Director-In-Charge must be appropriately attired as per MRSA rules. The Director-In-Charge may not hold the position of event producer or show secretary at a show at which he or she serves as the Director-In-Charge.
8. **Presence and Availability** – After acceptance of a show commitment, the Director-In-Charge should endeavor, with all reasonable effort, to be at the show, and shall communicate, in a timely manner, with the event producer any inability to attend the show for which he or she has committed.
9. **A Non-Judging Official** – The Director-In-Charge must keep in mind that he/she has been selected to help the judge, not advise. The Director-In-Charge shall not take part, or seem to take part, in any of the judging, however, he/she may cast a tie-breaking vote if the judges are deadlocked on a protested call.
10. **Role of the Director-In-Charge** – The Director-In-Charge has charge of the activity in the arena. He or she should act as mediator between the judge and the exhibitor.