

Newsletter - April 2018



We often get questions regarding our Beginner Classification and Beginner Graduate Buckle, so we'd like to take this opportunity to review these topics. First of all, they are truly for **Beginners** - someone who is just starting to rope and compete and whose skill set is still very much at a low level. So, this classification is true to the definition of the word "beginner." If someone has roped and competed in the past, even though it may have been years ago, this person is no longer considered a beginner. Also, if someone has only been roping a short time but has the ability to catch more consistently and be competitive at the next level, that person would also not be classified as a beginner.

To determine the initial classification of a roper, we define a beginner roper as follows: A .25 (Beginner) has not been roping for more than two years and has never won a career total of \$500 in money and/or prizes in roping competitions.

There are stipulations about being a Beginner roper. This is a temporary classification. A Beginner roper is considered a .25 for both heading and heeling. A .25 classification cannot be allowed as a double number with a higher classification on one end or the other. Once a Beginner roper has won at least \$800, **OR** after observation during competition, his/her classification number will be reviewed & adjusted according to the roper's ability.

There is a time limit for being a Beginner roper. If a roper is still a .25 at the end of the fourth calendar year of being a .25, that roper will be assigned the next appropriate classification regardless of money won.

There is a time limit for being eligible for the Beginner Graduate Buckle. Within the first TWO calendar years ONLY of being classified as a .25, when a roper has won \$800 or more in the OTRA, the OTRA will award the roper a trophy buckle and will have their classification adjusted.

There are conditions for being awarded the Beginner Graduate Buckle. If a Beginner Roper is awarded any buckle at a sanctioned OTRA event, that roper is no longer eligible for the Beginner Graduate Buckle and will have their classification adjusted.

One of the reasons we made number changes across the association prior to this 2018 season is because we want there to be a fair step up to a .5 from ropers that graduate from being a beginner. We hope you find this information helpful!

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