

Newsletter - February 2021



There are often questions about our Beginner classification rules. So we would like to take time to review this special category. First of all, this classification was created to be a fun, fair and rewarding division for ropers to compete in with others at the same level. It is meant to encourage those just starting out and get them more familiar with roping competitively in a relaxed atmosphere. In our association, a Beginner is truly by definition, some one who has just begun to rope. It doesn't apply to someone who has decided to rope again after not competing for several years.

A Beginner roper is defined as follows: A roper who has not been roping for more than two years AND has never won a career total of \$500 in money and/or prizes in any type of mounted roping competitions. Both of these conditions must be met for a roper to be considered for a .25 classification. It is important to note that this is a *temporary* classification. Once a Beginner roper has won at least \$800 in our association OR after being observed and evaluated during competition, his/her classification number will be reviewed & adjusted according to the roper's ability. If a roper does not advance out of the .25 classification by either money won or by competitive ability by the end of the 4th calendar year from which they were first assigned the .25 classification, they will then be assigned the next classification.

The Beginner Buckle Program is very specific about earning the award. Within the first TWO calendar years ONLY of being classified as a .25, when a roper has cumulatively won \$800 or more in the OTRA, the OTRA will award the roper a trophy buckle.

If a Beginner Roper is awarded a buckle at any sanctioned OTRA event, that roper is no longer eligible for the Beginner Graduate Buckle (an also gets moved out of the .25 classification). The goal is to have a beginner win their first buckle whether they win it by reaching the \$800 mark or by winning at the district level.

A Beginner roper is considered a .25 for both heading and heeling. A .25 is not allowed as a double number with a higher classification on one end or the other. For example, if a roper advances out of the .25 classification as a header, they also advance out of the .25 classification as a heeler.

Hopefully this information is helpful and encouraging to all our Beginner Ropers!

All our best to all of you,
Tim & Whitney McCright
Original Team Roping, Inc.