ORIGINAL TEAM ROPING

RULE BOOK

2027

REV. 11/02/2026

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SECTION 1 -- MEMBERSHIP

1. All membership applications and dues must be sent to the Home Office or submitted at a District or sanctioned Roping.
   Standard Fee: ***$65.00*** ~ Ropers from 13 to 69 years of age. One classification number is assigned. Roper can head & heel on this one number.
   Youth/Senior Fee: $35.00 ~ Youth -12 years of age & younger. Senior - 70 years of age & older. One classification number is assigned.
   Double Number Fee: $10.00 ~ Paid in addition to the Standard or Youth/Senior Fee.
   Required if roper wants to be eligible for different heading & heeling classification numbers.
   Family Discount: $10 off *EACH* roper when *3 or more immediate family members in same household* purchase memberships at the same time.
   Military Discount: $5 off any military personnel; must provide military ID number on membership application form.

2. To compete at any sanctioned roping, a roper must be a current member. A member must present his/her card to the roping secretary or Producer upon request to receive any money or prizes awarded. If a member is unable to present a card, all money and prizes may be held until current membership is verified. If a roper competes without paying membership dues, all efforts will be made to collect the fee for the membership year; in the event the fee is not collected, the roper must pay a $40 fine before being allowed to purchase a membership for the next membership year. *For the Open Roping only*, roper has the option to purchase a full membership or pay an office fee of $10 on each different date of competition.

3. Membership applications can be submitted to the Home Office via mail, telephone or email. Checks, cash or credit cards are accepted. Applications will be processed as soon as possible. If a card or any other correspondence is not received within three weeks, contact the Home Office. Ropers are responsible for contacting the Home Office any time an address, email or phone number change occurs. The roper is responsible for being able to prove current membership in order to collect winnings.

4. Membership cards will display member name, classification number(s), district number, date of birth and current membership year. Membership cards will be valid from January 1 to December 31 of the year for which the card was purchased. The Home Office will provide each Producer with a current classification listing.

SECTION 2 -- CLASSIFICATION

1. Final approval on classifications will be made through the Home Office. A Producer may assign a temporary classification when a roper purchases a new membership at any OTR sanctioned roping. Classifications are always subject to change based on a roper's ability. If a roper is not double-numbered, the assigned classification applies to both heading and heeling.

2. Classifications are: .25(Beginner) 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 .
   .25 (Beginner) Has not been roping for more than two years. Has never won a career total of $500 in money and/or prizes in any roping competitions. This is a temporary classification. Once a Beginner roper has won at least $1200, or after observation during competition, his/her classification number will be reviewed & adjusted according to the roper's ability. At the end of the fourth calendar year of being a .25, the roper will be assigned the next appropriate classification regardless of money won. Within the first *three years only* of being classified as a .25, when a roper has won $1200 or more in the OTR, they will be awarded a trophy buckle. If a Beginner Roper is awarded a buckle at any sanctioned OTR event, that roper is no longer eligible for the Beginner Buckle. If a beginner wins $1200, but is still lacking in skill level to advance to a .5, the Producer has the option to complete and submit an Appeal Form to the Home Office for approval, allowing the roper to continue as a .25 until the 4th year is completed or when the roper's skill level increases – whichever comes first. If a .25 roper has not won more than $500 in 4 years, a Producer can appeal on their behalf to the Home Office. If a new member is given a .25 and wins the limit on the first day of competition, that roper will not receive a beginner buckle and will advance immediately to the next appropriate classification. A Beginner roper will be 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.
   0.5 Has not established a skilled pattern of consistency. Catches LESS THAN 50% of the time.
   1.0 Catches with some consistency. Has difficulty controlling a run.
   1.5 Can control a run. Has difficulty roping quickly and consistently.
   2.0 Has accomplished basic timing and control. Speed is inconsistent.
   2.5 Can combine speed, timing and control under most circumstances.
   3.0 Rides good position and easily combines speed, timing and control.
   3.5 Rides excellent position and controls the pace of the run.
   4.0 Highly skilled at riding aggressive position and dictating the pace of the run - Professional caliber ropers.

3. Several areas of input contribute to a roper's classification being changed. These include, but may not be limited to: Riding and roping ability level, Experience and horsemanship skills, Average times and Fast times, Multiple call-backs to the short round in one roping category, Winning three or more places in one roping category, Request from any roping producer for a classification review, Consistency in placing in each home District Roping, Results from OTR, other associations, & other non-sanctioned ropings (number of teams considered), Consistently outperforming others with the same classification.

4. Any time a classification is changed, the roper will be sent a new card via text or email. The old card should be discarded. Classification number changes will be sent to OTR Producers. If a roper competes at an incorrect and/or outdated classification, that roper will be subject to suspension from the OTR.

5. A roper may appeal his/her classification. An Appeal Form must be submitted to the Home Office. All information on the form must be completed. It can be mailed or emailed. The Appeal Form can be requested from the Home Office; it is also posted on the website. A written explanation of the decision on the appeal will be sent once a conclusion has been reached.

6. Under the "Coyote Clause," a Producer has the right to immediately raise a roper's classification. This applies only when a roper is substantially under numbered. This rule is in effect at all ropings including the OTR Finals. Professionalism must be maintained at all times. The Producer is required notify the roper immediately and provide an appropriate and timely explanation to the Home Office.

7. At District Finals, a roper cannot purchase a double number that would allow a lower number.

SECTION 3 -- DISTRICTS & ROPING CATEGORIES

1. Members must designate a Home District. Any member can participate in any District roping. Qualification requirements for District Finals prizes will be *the same for all districts*. To be qualified for a district's finals' prizes, a roper must have competed on two dates during the regular season in that district prior to the district finals date. Qualifications are by the roping category; the roper must be qualified in a particular category to be eligible for prizes in that category. If a roper's number gets changed after the 3rd district roping, that roper can have their qualification status moved up to the next higher category. Payment for turn outs is not accepted. Use of a medical release for qualification must be submitted directly to the Home Office for review and approval. Any roper from any district that is qualified by attendance is eligible. Any roper with a current membership can compete at a district's finals, but only those qualified can win the prizes.

2. Each District must have a minimum of 5 regular season District events & **MUST** offer the following required categories:
   - <> **Beginner .25** – Only ropers with a .25 classification can compete. ***This is a 3 head roping. This roping should be held even with just a couple of teams. If due to lack of participation, for example there are no beginner heelers, to receive attendance credit for the Beginner, ropers must submit their name for the Beginner THEN, must compete in the #1.0 Roping; qualifications then count for both the Beginner and #1.0 – *this is ONLY acceptable IF there is NO Beginner roping held.*
   - <> **1.0** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 1.0. **This is a 3 head roping at District level.**
   - <> **1.5** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 1.5. It can be run separately or as a 3 head Incentive in the 2.0.
   - <> **2.0** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 2.0.
   - <> **2.5** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 2.5.
   - <> **3.5** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 3.5. Can be held as a slide.

   OPTIONAL categories a producer may *choose* to offer include:
   - > ***Mixed-Jr/Sr*** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 3.5 *AND* one partner of the team must either be female OR 12 years of age or younger OR 60 years of age or older. Age requirement must be met by July 1 of membership year.
   - > ***40 &Over*** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 3.5 *AND* each must 40 years of age or older during the membership year.
   - > ***4.5*** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 4.5. Can be held as a slide. Producer can opt to allow entry only to ropers classified as a 1.0 and higher.
   - > ***Open*** - The classifications of the two partners roping together has no limit.
   - > ***All-Girl*** - Only female ropers can compete. The classifications of the two partners roping together has no limit (an incentive is optional).

   Round Robins are not allowed.

   For calculating times for a slide, OTR recommends that the base category teams have a straight time & there will be 1 second per half number added on to teams higher than the base and 1 second per half number subtracted from teams lower than the base.

3. For any ropings that are run together (not including incentives), entries, qualifications and pay-outs are separate. It is mandatory that ropers compete in the roping categories offered for qualification/attendance requirements to be met.

4. Producers can select from the following District entry fees for all categories: $60/man OR $65/man at 35% Stock Charge OR $60/man OR $65/man @ 40% Stock Charge. For the only the #3.5 and/or #4.5 (as either a Slide or not), fees can be set to $100/man @ 30% Stock Charge. All ropings progressive on 1; enter up to 10 times. Beginner and the #1.0 are both 3 headers. The 2.0 & above are all 4 headers. If an Open is held, format can be Bring 1 / Draw 1 for $200/Man at 80% payback. Enter 1 or 2 times.

5. At Producer discretion, a cut-off time (in the first round only) can be used in the #2.0 & above roping divisions.
   A cut-off time in the #2.0 & the #2.5 can be implemented ONLY when the team count is 150 or more.
   In the #2.0 roping, the Producer can select a cut-off time between 15 to 18 seconds.
   In the #2.5 roping, the Producer can select a cut-off time between 13 to 17 seconds.
   For the #3.5 and higher ropings, no minimum team count is required; Producer can select a cut-off time between 12 to 16 seconds.
   When the cut-off time is implemented, a team that meets or exceeds the cut-off time does not advance to the second round.

5. Ropers 10 years old & younger get a total of 4 free runs; BUT can ONLY use them on a maximum of 2 runs per roping in either the 1.0, 1.5, or 2.0. The partner also ropes for free. After winning $250 or more, the roper is NO LONGER eligible for the free runs.

7. The OTR Home Office reserves the right to change a roping category at any time, due to lack of interest or other reasons.

8. Producer has the authority to make a roping format a draw pot, a pick/draw, or pick only. Under a draw format, entry limit may be exceeded *only* if additional paid runs are used to fill the draw. If any type of draw format is used, fees must equate as noted above. If extra draw runs are used to fill a draw, Producer is responsible for setting the rules and informing the ropers of how the runs will be managed.

9. Prior to winnings being awarded, the Producer is required to verify the ropers' classifications. If a team's classification exceeds the roping category, the winnings are forfeited and awarded to the next eligible team. No one is allowed to enter more times than the entry limit; this will result in disqualification. Under any disqualification, entry fees are forfeited; no refunds are given.

10. Dates of District ropings will be made available to all current members. Producers are required to notify members of the specific schedules, formats and other general District information. OTR recommends that each Producer mail postcards or post flyers prior to the district's first date. The Home Office can assist in coordinating a mail out and social media posts.

11. Producers may advertise in any type of advertising format. OTR will post dates/schedules, results and any winner's photos provided on selected social media platforms.

12. Producer's are responsible to collect and act on returned checks received from their District ropings. Producers have the right to refuse checks for fees and operate on a cash only basis. Producers have the discretion to suspend a member for a check resulting in insufficient funds. OTR is not liable to cover these checks. OTR recommends that Producers use a check-collecting agency.

13. Each Producer is responsible for securing insurance as required by the facility where the ropings are being held.

14. After each roping, Producers must submit: result sheets, time sheets, a by the roping entry listing of all participants, team count money ($2 per team) and membership applications with fees to the Home Office. (Do not send cash in the mail.)

15. Each Producer is responsible for making sure prizes are awarded at District Finals. OTR will provide each District with a minimum of four buckles for District Finals. Additionally, two more buckles will be provided for every 75 members in the District.

16. Any roper, Producer or anyone employed by a Producer shall not at any time consume alcohol in the arena while a roping is in progress. Alcohol is forbidden in the arena. The OTR may suspend any member or Producer not abiding by this rule.

SECTION 4 -- ROPING RULES

1. A heading barrier is mandatory in all ropings. A "quick start" barrier system will be used at all ropings. A FIVE second penalty is applied for any broken barrier. A heeling barrier will be used at all Districts & the OTR Finals.
2. A five second penalty is applied if the heeler catches only one hind leg.
3. There are only three legal head catches:1. Around the horns(slick horns) 2. Around the neck 3. Half head (around one horn and the nose).
4. An automatic "no time" is applied if the header ropes a front leg of the steer. No allowance is made for attempting to get a front leg out of the loop.
5. If any part of the steer's body enters the stripping chute, an automatic "no time" is applied. No allowance is made for attempting to pull the steer out of the stripping chute.
6. The heeler is not allowed to cross-fire. The steer's body must be completely turned *and* be in tow by the header before the heeler throws his rope.
7. An automatic "no time" is applied if a roper removes a rope from a steer in the arena - unless the flagman has given permission.
8. Only heelers can tie on. If a tied-on rope creates a hazard or dangerous situation, a field official or flagman has the discretion to cut the rope at the expense of the heeler. Under no circumstances is a header allowed to tie on. Only the following heelers are allowed to tie on: 1) all females, 2) any roper 12 years of age or younger, 3) any roper 50 years of age or older, 4) there may also be exception given to a roper with a medical handicap (approval must be given by OTR Home Office.) OTR recommends that any heeler tying on use a quick release.
9. All ropers must follow their steers out of the arena. Both the header and the heeler are responsible for getting the steer to the stripping chute.
10. The arena should be kept clear of congestion in consideration for all of the teams. Headers should make sure the arena is clear before calling for the steer.
11. A dropped rope that must be recoiled is considered a thrown rope and will result in a "no time."
12. Both ropers must be mounted for the flagman to give a time. If a roper comes off his horse during a run, he cannot remount and receive a time.
13. The steer must be standing upright when either headed or heeled. The flagman makes the final decision on any questionable catches. The flagman may determine a "no time" is appropriate after the time has been stopped due to an illegal catch or other factor that was not apparent when the time was declared.
14. Time will be taken after the steer is roped, secured between the ropers with both ropes, dallied and tight. Both horses must be facing each other with front feet on the ground. A dally is one full wrap of the saddle horn; nothing else is acceptable except when a heeler is tied on. Time is stopped when the flag is dropped. The flagman has discretion on when to drop the flag for time in the low numbered ropings. Consistency must be exercised and safety should have priority.
15. If there is any malfunction of equipment (including a barrier malfunction), or a discrepancy of any kind, the team must address it with the flagman immediately. If, in the opinion of the flagman, the malfunction hindered the run, the team shall be entitled to a rerun considering the team declares the malfunction immediately. All re-runs will be made up prior to the end of the go round.
16. There will be no tolerance of cruel treatment to any livestock. The flagman has discretion on handling this type of situation if it occurs. Mistreatment of livestock may result in a roper being removed from the premises; it could also result in suspension from the OTR for one year or more.
17. No dogs are allowed in the arena. Any dog on the premises must be on a leash. Some facilities do not allow dogs on the premises at all; rules of the facility must be followed.
18. Unsportsman-like conduct, fighting or cursing will not be tolerated. This type of behavior may result in a roper being removed from the premises; it could also result in suspension from the OTR for one year or more.
19. Engaging in or attempting to engage in any action threatening, berating, harassing, intimidating, assaulting or striking a roping official, a roping spectator or a producer/representative/employee of the OTR will immediately result in suspension from the OTR for one year or more. The OTR may contact the appropriate law enforcement officials if the need arises.
20. All Districts must employ a qualified flagman who is 18 years of age or older. Flagman is not allowed to compete in a roping and flag it also. Passing the flag is not allowed.
21. The flagman (not the Producer) is to determine if a re-run is to be given. The flagman is also responsible for cutting off any dragging, head ducking, stopping and other such steers. The Producer must make every effort to remove this type of stock from the herd. If a steer is cut in the middle of a round *and* in the opinion of the flagman the characteristics of the steer itself hindered the run, the team shall be entitled to a rerun considering the team declares the hindrance immediately. The producer and stock contractor are responsible for providing an even set of cattle. If a rerun is given on a run in which the barrier was obviously broken, the barrier penalty will be applied to the rerun. Reruns in the short round will be allowed only in extremely rare circumstances such as if a horn is broken and it is not noticed prior to the steer being let out of the chute **OR** an equipment, arena or other malfunction occurs that eliminates a fair chance for the team to perform the run – in this circumstance, a combined and unanimous decision of both the arena judge & the flagman must be made on whether a rerun in the short round will be given or not.
22. Each Producer determines when to open and close the books close for a roping. When the books close after the roping starts, the announcer must inform the ropers when the books close. When books close before the roping starts, the recommended standard run order for the first round should be first to enter, last to rope as applicable.
23. Each team will be assigned a team number. The announcer will call each team by name and number. The announcer will call out several teams in advance to allow the ropers time to prepare. Each Producer determines the run order of the roping from one go round to the next. The announcer should inform the ropers of the run order with adequate time for the ropers to prepare for their runs.
24. A team's names and number will be called three times. If both partners are not in the box by the third call, the team will be turned out, a "no time" will be given and the entry fees will be forfeited.

SECTION 4
ROPING RULES *continued*

25. Short rounds for each roping are to be run "fast back." The team with the best time ropes first and so on. To determine all the average winners, roping will continue until all places are filled. The fastest time in the first round will serve as the cut-off time in the short round. A team cannot rope in the short round if it's cumulative time plus the cut-off time exceeds the time of the team filling the last place to be paid.

26. In the event of a tie for prize money, the money is to be divided out equally to the ropers.
In the event of a tie for high point/high money prizes, the OTR *recommends* the following options
1) determine the winner by the following criteria, in the following order: money won, then number of entries, then number of dates attended
2) a simple coin flip
3) a rope off to be agreed upon by the ropers or by the Producer selecting an appropriate roping number category, each roper chooses a partner eligible for that category and the team with the best average on four head determines the winner of the tie.

27. A roper must be ready to compete when called upon and must not impede the progress of the roping. If a roper's horse becomes unmanageable in the box, the flagman has the option to give the roper three times to get the horse set and call for the steer and if the roper fails on the third attempt; the flagman can call for the steer and determine a "no time" for the team.

28. At any OTR sanctioned event, the horn length of the cattle being used must extend past the end of the horn wrap. The Producer must ensure that the cattle being used meet this criteria.

29. The OTR has no designated dress code; however, each roper is required to dress safely and respectfully. OTR personnel have the right to enforce that any roper make any change necessary to accommodate safety and sensibility. A roper may be disqualified or suspended if they do not follow a dress code adjustment determined as necessary by OTR personnel.

30. All ropers, regardless of age, must use a standard sized head or heel rope; diameter must be 3/8" or more. No 'kid' or 'goat' ropes allowed.

SECTION 5
STANDARD PAY-OFF CALCULATIONS

1. 35% or 40% of Entry Fees paid in is held out for stock charge based on roping categories and producer's options implemented. An additional $2 per team is held out and submitted to the OTR for Finals prizes. (Unless advertised otherwise *and* OTR approved.) At District Ropings, the Producer has options to hold out $1 per team for prizes. The Producer is responsible for informing the ropers when these options are implemented.

2. Number of places to be paid is determined by number of paid teams in a roping.

# of Teams	# Places Paid
1 to 10	1
11 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 250	8
251 & up	10

3. For an Incentive Payout, 15% of the total after stock charge will be paid in the 3 head Incentive. Number of places will be paid based on the number of incentive teams as follows:
1 to 50 teams – 1 place, 51 to 100 teams – 2 places, 101 to 200 teams – 3 places, 201 to 250 teams – 4 places, more than 250 teams – 5 places.

4. Based on the divisions noted above, the percentages for paying the number of places are as follows:

# Places Paid	% to be awarded
1	100
2	60/40
3	50/30/20
4	40/30/20/10
5	30/25/20/15/10
6	29/24/19/14/9/5
8	23/20/17/14/11/8/5/2
10	19/17/15/13/11/9/7/5/3/1

5. Rounding to the nearest whole dollar amount is required. Rounding to the closest 5 or 0 dollar amount is allowed.

6. In any roping, if no team catches a steer, the prize money to be paid out is distributed equally to each paid team.

SECTION 6
OTR FINALS

1. The 2027 OTR Finals will be held in Abilene, Texas the end of June/first of July at the Taylor County Expo Center.

2. A Finals Entry/Information form will be mailed to all current members. Entry deadlines will be enforced. Any special requests must be received prior to the pre-entry deadline. No phone in entries accepted. A roper will be charged if he/she draws out of any roping. Entry fees are higher at the Finals than at District level; fees will be advertised with all the Finals information.

3. All contestants competing in the Finals Main Event ropings must be qualified in the appropriate roping category. Each team is responsible for knowing if it is qualified for a roping. Disqualification will result if a roper enters a roping that he/she is not qualified in. If a roper has perfect attendance in 3 categories at district level, they will receive a qualification waiver for OTR Finals qualification in 1 other category; roper must compete on each date (for the category) held in the district. OTR Producers, Special Legacy members and Major Loyalty sponsors are the only exemptions to qualification requirements. For the 3.5 and below, a roper must compete in the specific roping category – either in 3 Home District ropings or in 4 ropings in any combination of Districts. If a roper's number gets changed on or after the 3rd district roping, that roper can have their qualification status moved up to the next higher category.
   Any .25 Roper qualified for the Beginner Roping will automatically be qualified for the #1.0.
   For the All Girl, Mixed-Jr/Sr, Century and #4.5 roper must qualify in any roping from the 3.5 and below.
   Any additional ropings held with no qualifications required will not award points for any high point prizes. Other categories may be added with instructions included in Finals advertising.

4. Regarding flagman assignments at the Finals: The flaggers will be assigned as needed based on arenas used and number of teams in the roping. There will be consistency between the flaggers in each round and rotation. In a smaller category, it is possible that one flagman will work the entire roping.

6. Points awarded for High Point prizes will be determined by number of teams & places paid in each of the designated Finals ropings. *First place will not earn more than eight points*. ***In a roping that pays more than eight places***, first place will receive eight points, second place receives seven points & so on through eighth place, then every place after eighth will be awarded *one point*. ***In a roping that pays eight places or less***, points will be awarded on a descending scale determined by the number of places paid (for example, in a roping that pays four places--first place would get four points, second place gets three points, and so on).
   If a High Money specialty award is offered, roper must be qualified in and must compete in at least two categories at the Finals.

7. Rotations will be run if 200+ teams are entered in a roping. Each Rotation will have approximately 100 teams or will be evenly divided based on total team count. There will be no money paid in rotations.

7. ***OTR Finals Pay-Out Calculations*:** Stock charge as stated on Finals advertising and adjusted by format.
   Number of places paid may increase based on team count AND/OR a set dollar amount may replace the percentages in the last places paid. In ropings run with rotations, a minimum payout per team will be determined – *places to be paid will be based on number of teams and number of rotations – standard OTR places and percentages will be calculated then adjusted considering the minimum payout amount.*

Number of places paid in the Average determined by number of paid teams in a roping.

NUMBER of TEAMS	PLACES in AVERAGE
1 to 10	1
11 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 425	6
426 to 699	8
700 & up	10

Based on the allocation to payout distributions, the percentages for paying the number of places is as follows:

Number of Places to be Paid	Percentage to be awarded
1	100
2	60/40
3	50/30/20
4	40/30/20/10
5	30/25/20/15/10
6	29/24/19/14/9/5
8	23/20/17/14/11/8/5/2
10	19/17/15/13/11/9/7/5/3/1

Each place paid may be rounded to the closest 5 or 0 dollar amount.
Free teams allowed in the 1.0 & 2.0 for ropers 10 years of age & under and any unpaid extra or other free runs are not included when figuring payouts.

GENERAL NOTE: ANY OTR SPECIAL EVENT ROPINGS HELD MAY OFFER DIFFERING FORMATS AS DETERMINED PER EVENT.