

**ORIGINAL
TEAM ROPING
ASSOCIATION, Inc**

**RULE
BOOK
2013**



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SECTION 1 -- MEMBERSHIP

1. All membership applications and dues must be sent to the Amarillo office or submitted at a District or OTRA sanctioned Roping. Standard Fee: \$60.00 ~ Ropers from 13 to 69 years of age. One classification number is assigned. Roper can head & heel on this one number. Youth/Senior Fee: \$30.00 ~ Youth -12 years of age & younger. Senior - 70 years of age & older. One classification number is assigned. Double Number Fee: \$30.00 ~ 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.
2. To compete at any OTRA sanctioned roping, a roper must be a current member with the OTRA. 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.
3. Membership applications can be submitted to the Amarillo office via mail, telephone, fax or email. Checks, cash or credit cards are accepted. (Credit Cards: Visa, MC & Discover). Applications will be processed as soon as possible. If a card or any other correspondence is not received within three weeks, contact the Amarillo office. Ropers are responsible for contacting the Amarillo office any time an address change is necessary. 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. The appearance of the card will be changed each year so current members are easily identified. Membership cards will be valid from January 1 to December 31 of the year for which the card was purchased. The Amarillo office will provide each Producer with a current classification list for the appropriate District(s).

SECTION 2 -- CLASSIFICATION

1. Final approval on classifications will be made through the Amarillo office. A Producer may assign a temporary classification when a roper purchases a new membership at any OTRA 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 \$800, or after observation during competition, his/her classification number will be reviewed & adjusted according to the roper's ability. At the end of the second calendar year of being a .25, a .25 roper will be assigned the next appropriate classification regardless of money won. Once a .25 roper has 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 immediately moved from a .25 to a .5 and the Beginner Graduate buckle is not awarded. 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.
 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 OTRA, 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 and letter via first class mail. The old card should be sent to the Amarillo office or given to an OTRA Producer. Classification number changes will be posted on the website and notification will be sent to OTRA Producers. If a roper competes with a number from an old/outdated card, that roper will be subject to suspension from the OTRA.
5. A roper may appeal his/her classification. An Appeal Form must be submitted to the Amarillo office. All information on the form must be completed. It can be mailed or faxed. The Appeal Form can be requested from the Amarillo 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 OTRA Finals. Professionalism must be maintained at all times. The Producer is required to obtain the roper's membership card and submit it along with an appropriate explanation to the Amarillo 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; so the roper must be qualified in a particular category to be eligible for prizes in that category. Any team submitting an entry for qualification purposes only, will be charged a turn out fee equal to the amount of the entry fee. Any roper from any district that is qualified by attendance is eligible to win the prizes. 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 qualifying District roping events and must offer the following 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.
 - ◁> **1.5 with a 1.0 Incentive** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 1.5. If a team's classification is less than a 1.5, then that team will be considered Incentive and will be eligible for both Incentive and non-incentive winnings. Incentive winnings will be paid on a 3 head average.
OR the 1.5 and 1.0 may be run separately. In this case, #1.0 will be a 3 head roping & the team's classification cannot exceed 1.0
 - ◁> **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.
 - ◁> **40 plus 2.5** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 2.5 AND each member of the team must be 40 years of age or older by July 1 of the membership year.
 - ◁> **3.5** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 3.5.
 - ◁> **4.5** - The classifications of the two partners roping together cannot exceed 4.5.
 - ◁> **Open** - The classifications of the two partners roping together has no limit.

Each District has the choice of offering an **All-Girl Roping**. Only female ropers can compete. The classifications of the two partners roping together has no limit (an incentive is optional). At the District level, this roping may be run within another roping. In the upper numbered ropings (3.5 & above) when there is *very* low attendance at the district level, it is acceptable to have a 3.5 slide* to account for any combination of those with insufficient attendance; then, the one roping can be held and attendance can be counted for multiple categories; the requirement is if there are 3 or more headers AND/OR 3 or more heelers, then a roping must be held. Round Robins are not allowed. *For the 3.5 slide, format MUST BE Bring 1 / Draw 1 for \$120 per man, enter one or two times. Producer has the option to allow a roper without a partner to enter; however, only #1.0 & above ropers are eligible for this option (.5 ropers must enter with a partner.) To determine times in the slide roping, a 3.5 team has a straight time and there will be a 1 second per half number difference applied (added or subtracted as applicable) on a team's third round time. Under the circumstance that there is less than the required number of ropers to hold the roping, then the producer MUST collect \$20 *per roper, per roping* for each roper to be qualified. For each \$20 qualification payment collected, the producer will keep \$7 and then will send \$13 to OTRA. It is mandatory that qualification payments be accepted *only* on the day the roping is offered and the roper(s) must be on site that day for the roping.
3. No more than two roping categories can be run together. For any ropings that are run together, entries, qualifications and pay-outs are separate. (The only exception is for the 3.5 and above in order to have one combined roping due to lack of participation in the upper numbered ropings.)
4. Standard entries on all categories from the 2.5 and below are **\$60.00 OR \$80.00** per team, progressive on 1; enter up to 8 times. The Beginner is a 3 header. The 1.0 Incentive is paid on a three head average. No First Go Fast Time is paid in the Incentive. The 1.5 and above are all 4 headers. Entries on the 3.5 & 4.5 are **\$120.00** per team; enter up to 4 times **OR** the producer has the option to make the 3.5 & 4.5 entries **\$80.00** per team; enter up to 8 times. The Open is Bring 1, draw 2 for \$180 a man; enter once.
5. In the 2.5 and higher ropings, Producers have the option to implement a 16 second cut-off time in the first round. When the cut-off time is implemented, a team that has a time of 16 seconds flat or greater does not advance to the second round.
6. Ropers 10 years of age and younger are allowed to rope free two times in the 1.0 Incentive and two times in the 1.5. The partner also ropes for free. After winning a total of \$250 in the OTRA, a 10 and under roper must pay entry fees from that point forward.
7. The OTRA 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 sent to all current members. Producers are required to notify members of the specific schedules, formats and other general District information. OTRA recommends that each Producer mail postcards or flyers prior to the district's first date. The Amarillo office will print and send District member listings to the Producers. The Amarillo office can also provide mailing labels to a Producer upon request or can assist in coordinating a mail out.
11. Producers may advertise in any roping magazine. Dally Times is the official magazine of the OTRA. OTRA will submit dates/schedules, results and any winner's photos to the Dally Times as provided by the Producer.
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 from the OTRA for writing a check resulting in insufficient funds. OTRA is not liable to cover these checks. OTRA recommends that Producers employ a check-collecting agency to address these situations.
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, a by the roping listing of all participants, team count money (\$2 per team in Regular Season & \$1 per team in the Off-Season) and any membership applications with accompanying fees to the Amarillo office. All entry listings during the Regular Season must be submitted so OTRA Finals qualifications can be determined. When submitting payments, send a check or money order, not cash.

SECTION 3 -- DISTRICTS & ROPING CATEGORIES - continued

15. Each Producer is responsible for making sure prizes are awarded at District Finals. OTRA 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 OTRA 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 heeling barrier is optional at District Ropings.
A ten second penalty is applied for any broken barrier. A heeling barrier will be used at the OTRA 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 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 OTRA Home Office.) OTRA 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 announced.
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. 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 at 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 OTRA 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 OTRA 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 OTRA will immediately result in suspension from the OTRA for one year or more. The OTRA may contact the appropriate law enforcement officials if the need arises.
20. All Districts must have a qualified flagman. The 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.
If a rerun is given on a run in which the barrier was obviously broken, the barrier penalty will be applied to the rerun.
There will be no reruns allowed in the short round; the producer/stock contractor is responsible for providing an even set of cattle. The only exception is if a horn is broken and it is not noticed prior to the steer being let out of the chute.
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 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.

SECTION 4

ROPING RULES *continued*

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.
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 OTRA *recommends* the following options 1) a simple coin flip - -
2) 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 - -
3) determine the winner by the following criteria, in the following order: money won, then number of entries, then number of dates attended.
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 OTRA 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 OTRA has no designated dress code; however, each roper is required to dress safely and respectfully. OTRA 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 OTRA personnel.

SECTION 5

STANDARD PAY-OFF CALCULATIONS

1. 35% of Entry Fees paid in is held out for stock charge. An additional \$2 per team is held out and submitted to the OTRA for Finals prizes. (Unless advertised otherwise *and* OTRA approved.) At District Ropings, the Producer has the option to hold out \$1 per team for prizes; the Producer is responsible for informing the ropers when this option is exercised.
2. Number of places to be paid is determined by number of teams entered in a roping.

NUMBER of TEAMS	PLACES in <u>FIRST GO ROUND</u> (Fast Time)	PLACES in <u>AVERAGE</u>
1 to 25	1	1
26 to 50	1	2
51 to 75	2	3
76 to 100	2	4
101 to 150	2	5
151 and up	3	6

3. For the 1.0 Incentive Payout, 20% of the total after stock charge will be paid in the Incentive and number of places will be paid based on the number of incentive teams in the roping. After the Incentive payout is deducted from the overall total, then the main roping payout is calculated.

Prize Money Pay-Off is divided as follows:

80% of Prize Money to be paid out in the Average
20% of Prize Money to be paid out in the First Go Round for Fastest Time(s).

4. Based on the divisions noted above, 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

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 team.

SECTION 6 OTRA FINALS

1. The 2013 OTRA Finals will be held in Abilene, Texas beginning July 3rd 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 flat fee of \$25 will be charged to a roper if he/she draws out of any roping. Entry fees are higher at the Finals than at the District level; the fees will be advertised along with all the other 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. 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. For the All Girl (if not held at District level) and any Add On Ropings, roper must qualify in any roping from the 3.5 and below. For the 4.5, roper must have competed in the specific roping category on any 3 different dates in any combination of districts. For the Open Roping, ropers must have competed on any 2 different dates in any combination of districts. *IN THE OPEN ROPING ONLY, any Open roper can compete (\$20 fee to be paid by nonmembers), but only those qualified receive points & prizes.*
Regarding Finals qualifications in the upper numbered ropings (#3.5 & above) when there is very low attendance at the district level, it is acceptable to have one roping to account for any combination of those with insufficient attendance; then, one roping can be held and attendance can be counted for multiple categories; the requirement is if there are 3 or more headers AND/OR 3 or more heelers, then a roping must be held. Round Robins are not allowed. If there is less than the required number of ropers, then the producer will collect \$20 *per roper, per roping* for each roper to be qualified. For each \$20 qualification payment collected, the producer will keep \$7 and then will send \$13 to OTRA. It is mandatory that qualification payments be accepted *only* on the day the roping is offered and the roper(s) must be on site that day for the roping.
4. Points awarded for High Point prizes will be determined by the number of first go fast time and average places paid in each of the designated Finals event ropings.
5. Jack Pot Ropings will also be held. Having a current OTRA membership is the only requirement for roping in the Jack Pots. Jack Pot Ropings will not be run in rotations and will follow standard OTRA rulebook payout.

6. **OTRA Finals Pay-Out Calculations:** Stock charge 35%.

Prize money distribution in Ropings with Rotations:*

20% in Rotations, 10% in First Go Fast Time & 70% in Average.

Prize money distribution in Ropings *without* Rotations:*

20% in First Go Fast Time & 80% in Average.

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.

Each Rotation will pay 3 places to the fastest times on a three head average.

The 20% of total prize money allocated to Rotations is divided by the number of rotations,

then paid in the following percentages: 1st – 50%, 2nd – 30%, 3rd – 20%.

Number of places paid in the Go & Average is determined by number of teams entered in a roping.

NUMBER of TEAMS	PLACES in 1st GO ROUND (Fast Time)	PLACES in AVERAGE
1 to 25	1	1
26 to 50	1	2
51 to 75	2	3
76 to 100	2	4
101 to 150	2	5
151 to 425	3	6
426 to 699	3	8
700 & up	3	10

Based on the 70/10* OR 80/20* allocation to Average & Fast Time 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 & 1.5 for ropers 10 years of age & under are not included in team counts when figuring payouts.