

To: Members of the Canadian Team Cattle Penning Association

I would like to first introduce myself as the new rating chair for Canada. My name is Brad Richardson and live in Strathmore Alberta. I have been penning since 1996 in the Canadian association and been active in the sport since. I served on the Central Alberta association board for a combined 15 years in all positions, from President to their rating chair.

With 2020 penning season being almost completely written off due to COVID 19, there was not a whole lot done in terms of ratings or the ability to watch people. I thought this was a good time to have a reset for the entire Canadian numbering and put in place a system as to where we could tell someone and discuss why they are the number they are. So let me lay out the process for you in how each individual person will be numbered going forward. (Not a whole lot different from before)

The way the Canadian rating system works is I am the chair of Canada and am charged with ratings across all clubs under the Canadian banner. Each club has its own rating chair that is in charge of the individual club. Under that chair there is a committee consisting of anywhere between 4-6 members. As a committee they rate the members that ride in their association. In a typical year all the rating chairs submit a watch list after their respective finals for Nationals. After that the chairs and myself have a conference call in November and go club by club and discuss the people on the watch lists and anyone else that has stood out that was missed. There is a vote on each person as to whether the number moves either up or down. This was a lot of discussion and sometimes has taken 4-5 hours to accomplish,

So I have developed a spreadsheet in which most of you have seen into 37 different aspects of what I think I have looked at when rating a rider. You will be rated out of 10 on each of these aspects. This will help myself and anyone involved in rating penners be able to have a discussion with our fellow competitors on what makes you the number you are. The process is as follows:

You rate yourself as a look into what you are being rated on. I know it can be tough to give yourself a number as we all have a different idea on what a 10 or 1 is, but that is no different than when your committee is doing it for all its members.

Your rating chair will rate you and has asked each person on your committee to rate each of you as well.

Your sheet will come to me and I will input into a master spreadsheet. Your committees will sit down and take the average of what each one rated you on each line. This will now make it much less of ones opinion and even out the difference on what we think is a 10 or 1. When they have that complete we will insert into the spreadsheet next you're your own evaluation of yourself.

Once all clubs are done we will be having a conference call again to go through club by club on any people other clubs may feel are numbered incorrectly. The ratings will be available for any chair to look at any time.

By doing this I am hoping to make the rating process more transparent and visible to the membership. If you wonder what makes you the number you are, you are more than welcome to sit down with your rating chair or myself and we can now show you why you are rated the way you are.

There are a few boxes that are not on your self-rating form and that is because they are calculations based on how many times you enter, to how many times you place and to how many times you make the top 10. So winning % and top ten finish %

Hopefully this clears up the new rating process and helps everyone understand the work that is put into giving each and every one of you a rating.

Regards

Brad Richardson

Attached you will find the rating sheet with a little explanation beside the box as to what is meant.

Riding Skills

Balance- Do you have balance and stay in the saddle while riding at speed

Agile- Can you move with the horse

Body position- is your body in position while competing, do you throw your horse off?

Horse positioning- Can you put your horse where it needs to be?

Rider Fitness- are you in riding shape?

Extra skills (legs/hands) - Can you direct your horse with both your legs and hands at the same time?

Other discipline rider- For every other discipline you have rode in give yourself 2 points. Ex cutting, jumping, Reiner

Horse Power

Fitness of horse- Is your horse in penning shape or does it run out of wind after one run?

Training- Is your horses been trained to be a penner? Open horse 9-10, 7 class horse 5-6

Horse suitability- Does your horse fit your riding style and suitable for penning?

Herd work- Can your horse enter and work in the herd?

Turn back work- Can your horse turn back on the line?

Pen work- Can your horse work at the pen without getting lost or frazzled, when something goes wrong?

Confident Horse- Is your horse confident in the team penning game?

Penning Skills

Team

Confidence- Do you have confidence in a team environment, can you pen with more than a few select people

Leadership skills- Can you lead a team and direct other people in a run

Sportsmanship- Do you treat your team mates, judges and the sport as a whole they way you want to be treated?

Consistent- Are you for the most part consistent, you know what you're going to get when a run happens?

Communicates- Do you talk during a run?

Competent- Are you competent in all aspects of penning?

Respectful- Are you respectful to your partners when things don't go right?

Reliable- Are you reliable in the pen to do what your job is?

Individual

In position- Are you in the right position for the right job at the time?

Big picture- Do you see the whole arena or get tunnel vision?

Reactive- When problems arise can you react to them or do things tend to get worse?

Cattle sense

Understands cattle- Do you understand how and why a cow moves the way they do?

Moving cattle- Can you move a cow where you want it or do you just chase it?