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The National and Regional Rating Committees of the USTPA have completed their first round of rating evaluations for 2015. All current members with rating changes will have been notified by 12/24/14 and rating changes will have been updated in our competition database and online. The next review of ratings by the National Rating Committee is scheduled for April 21, 2015.

Below is a detailed explanation of the USTPA rating process that answers the most common member questions about the process. Descriptions of rider ratings and rules regarding rating changes can be seen in the USTPA member handbook at:

<http://www.ustpa.com/attachments/2014MemberHandbookWebV9.pdf>

Understanding the USTPA Rider Rating System

Last year, the USTPA launched a new rider rating system to improve the accuracy of rider ratings based on quantitative evaluation of a rider's success in competition (win/loss ratio), riding ability and quality of steed (horsemanship) and competition and cattle reading skills (arena awareness). In November, the National Rating Committee of the USTPA (NRC) began evaluating rider ratings based on this rating system. The NRC met again in early December and will have another meeting in mid December. Below is a summary of the rating process.

What is the NRC?

The National Rating Committee (NRC) of the USTPA is composed of one representative from each USTPA region. The regional representative should be a rider who regularly attends national shows and is well-versed on riders in his/her region and the abilities of riders nationally. The NRC representative is a member of their Regional Rating Committee (RRC) and reports between the RRC and NRC. During the rating process, only NRC members who are very familiar with a member as a competitor are allowed to vote on the member's rating.

What is the Win/Loss Ratio and Matrix?

After the 2014 World Championship, the USTPA show earnings for all members in the last 3 years were calculated and divided into ratings in Penning and Sorting. All riders of a rating and in each discipline, were grouped and sorted highest to lowest based on their competition earnings versus entry fees in the last 3 years. The highest earning 25% of each rating was designated as being in the 4 quadrant (highest), the next highest 25% in the 3 quadrant, the second to lowest 25% in the 2 quadrant and the lowest 25% in the 1 quadrant. These quadrant numbers are referred to as their "Win/Loss Matrix Number".

About Horsemanship and Arena Awareness

During the ratings review, the RRCs and the NRC go through all rider ratings and review each matrix number. Riders who are in the 4 and 1 quadrants are reviewed and discussed as they are the most likely candidates to be raised (if a 4) or lowered (if a 1). If anyone on the NRC expresses a concern about the accuracy of a rider's rating, the NRC votes on their Horsemanship and Arena Awareness. NRC members who are familiar with the riding ability of the member in question are asked to rate the rider from 1 to 3 on Horsemanship and Arena Awareness with 1 being below the average rider of a comparable rating, 2 being average and 3 above average. Each ranking (1-3) is calculated and averaged in each category. These two final numbers (each between 1 and 3) are then added to the Win/Loss Matrix Number for a final total

score. The result is the Win/Loss Matrix Number counting for 40% of a rating, Horsemanship 30% and Arena Awareness 30%.

About Triggers to Move a Member Rating

When the Win/Loss Matrix Number, Horsemanship score (average) and Arena Awareness score (average) are added together, the total is a rider's final matrix number. If this total number is below 4.0, the rider's rating in that discipline will be lowered. If it is above 8.5, the rider's rating in that discipline will be raised.

Exceptions

At least 3 members of the NRC must be familiar with a member's competition ability in order for there to be a vote on the rider's Horsemanship and Arena Awareness. If there are less than 3 members eligible to vote, evaluation of the rider's Horsemanship and Arena Awareness is deferred to the RRC.

Members with a Win/Loss Matrix Number of 2 or 3 may be reviewed by the NRC if specifically requested by the RRC or an NRC member.

In addition to the possibility of being moved up by the NRC, "N" rated riders are automatically moved to 1's when they earn \$1,000 in lifetime earnings in Penning and \$500 in Sorting.

Appeals

In December and April, the NRC will review rating appeals from riders who believe they should have a lower rating. Riders with Win/Loss Matrix Numbers of 3 or 4 are not eligible to appeal unless the NRC determines that they were originally rated in error. Even if both the Arena Awareness and Horsemanship scores are 1, a 3 or 4 would not have a total matrix number of 4.0 or less.

With the exception of "N" rated riders who meet the lifetime earning thresholds, rider ratings will not be adjusted by the NRC after April 30 of each competition year.