

Valley Penning Association © 2007
General Rules

1. Each member will receive a copy of VPA's General, Penning, Sorting and Tie Breaker rules.
2. Initial Membership Fee is \$100 (includes current year's dues) for regular members and is credited to the calendar year it is received. A Junior Member must be a child of a regular member. No additional initial fee will be charged if a member has renewed their membership after an absence.
3. Dues will run from January 1st through December 31st. Dues must be current to enter VPA events.
4. Dues per year are \$50 for adult (regular) members, and \$5 for junior members (16 years of age or younger and at least 10 years of age on January 1st of the current year), due on January 1st of the current year.
5. A signed Liability Release form is required from each member or day member, and any rider whether participant or not.
6. A signed Ratings Application form is required from all new members.
7. A newsletter will be circulated at least every two months.
8. Riders are limited to the arena, warm-up and parking areas. Use of the facilities is limited to VPA events only!
9. No children are allowed in arena on foot, in with cattle, or riding in arena unless participating.
10. No stallions or unleashed dogs are permitted at VPA events.
11. Heeled riding boots are required when riding, no tennis shoes.
12. Helmets are strongly recommended for participating children. Helmets may be used in lieu of western hat by any participants.
13. The VPA Adopted Dress Code [cowboy hat, long or short sleeve (female riders may wear sleeveless) collared shirt with buttons or snaps, heeled riding boots (no tennis shoes), and western pants] is mandatory in all VPA Penning & Sorting Events where prizes are offered. Protective head gear may be substituted. The hat rule may be waived by the officials in the event of wind. The team shall be awarded a "no time" for non-compliance.
14. No re-rides due to tack breakage.
15. The Flagger(s) is the final authority in all situations. However, the flagger(s) must consult the President or Rule Committee Chair prior to modifying any rule.
16. If there is a tie, the official will refer to the tie breaker rules in effect.
17. Events start at 9:00 AM SHARP! (unless otherwise stated).
18. Team reservations are required by 5:00 PM the Wednesday prior to a scheduled event. (Revised 12/8/2011).
 - The VPA member who calls in a reservation is responsible for payment. If there are extenuating circumstances, members can appeal to the Board. Fee to be paid prior to further participation. *Adopted 4/12/07*
 - Teams may call in with two members if a regular team member cannot attend. Those requesting the draw are responsible for payment of the drawn member. However, if the drawn member is only entered on one team, that member would be responsible for payment if he/she wants to receive credit for the score. Any member drawn as a replacement may decline to ride on that team, and another member's name will be drawn. *Adopted 6/5/02.*

- Clinics must have a minimum of 15 paid participants and VPA has a net loss of no more than \$250. *Adopted 4/14/06.*
19. Members are responsible for paying bank penalties for bounced checks. Any VPA member writing two (2) bad checks to VPA will be required to pay in cash in future events and may not receive any awards until all bad checks and penalties are made good. Two-party checks will not be accepted.
20. Team Penning and Sorting Events and Annual Party scoring rules are as follows:
- A. Must be a VPA member or junior member, and current in dues.
 - B. Scores will be kept in five (5) divisions:
 - Open (more experienced)
 - Limited (moderate experience)
 - Novice (beginning)
 - Junior (10-16 years of age on January 1st of year) - Ratings committee may approve younger members.
 - Mixed (one (1) or more Novice riders, not more than one (1) Open rider)
 - C. Maximum team sign-up is:
 - Penning and Sorting Events:

Limit each rider, at any one event throughout the year, to two division teams and two mixed teams for a maximum of four (4) teams. *Adopted 4/13/06*

 - Open, Limited & Novice Teams: change two (2) partners.
 - Junior Teams: change two (2) partners (if feasible).
 - Mixed Teams: change two (2) partners.
 - Annual Party:

The Annual Party will be held between the Penning and Sorting seasons beginning in summer 2008. *Adopted 4/12/07*
 - D. Teams are rated by the highest rider on the team (except Mixed & Junior Divisions), and teams compete only in the division entered. A team may elect to ride in a higher division.
 - E. Awards:
 - Single day events (teams): Buckles to 1st place in all divisions.
 - Annual Awards (individuals): Division Rider of the Year and Gerald Williams Sr. Memorial Rider of the Year.
21. Winners in the Limited and Novice Division will be automatically reviewed by the Ratings Committee. The Ratings Committee shall review the individual ratings of the membership during the Spring Penning Season and present any recommendations to the Board by July 1st of each year. The Ratings Committee shall also make recommendations during the year if it becomes apparent that a member is not rated appropriately. Questions should be directed to the Ratings Committee chairman.
22. Mailing lists will not be released due to privacy issues with one exception: The Lippman annual penning as it is a long standing joint venture. *Adopted 2/9/05.*

Revised 1/1/2009; 12/8/2011.