

Standard Operating Guidelines

Settling the Herd

1. Team Penning

- a. A single pen of cattle in the arena (18-27 head) with visible numbers.
 - i. 3 of each number for each herd
 - ii. Numbers, where applied, must remain easily visible; not folded or obscured
- b. Herds will be settled by riders on horseback for a minimum of 3 minutes
 - i. Cattle will be bunched in the center of the fence farthest from the pen
 - ii. Prior to starting the actual settling, the cattle will stand bunched on the fence briefly allowing them to settle down and relax (not attempting to escape).
 - iii. There will be no more than 4 line holders and only one horse and rider in the herd
 - iv. The “settler” will begin settling by arcing around the herd holding the cattle in a bunch, then they will enter the middle of the herd at an easy pace, pushing the cattle to the corner, where the line man will roll the cattle back to the herd.
 - v. The “settler” will then repeat this on the opposite side.
 - vi. This will be repeated on each side 2-5 times depending on how “wild” the cattle are.
 - vii. The cattle then will be re-bunched on the fence and slowly driven (at a walk) down the arena into the pen (the back side of which is to be open).
 - viii. The cattle will be allowed to drift back to the fence, then re-bunched, then removed from the arena.
- c. The same procedure will be followed for all herds.

2. Sorting

- a. Each new herd must be familiarized with both sides of sorting pens before the first team runs on a herd.
- b. Cattle will be settled prior to a run at judge’s discretion.
 - i. It is the judge’s responsibility to see that cattle herds are settled as long as needed.
- c. Each arena and set of cattle are different and for that reason, the district/state Board in partnership with the cattle provider, should determine the most fair and necessary process for the athletes and for the well-being of the cattle, to determine the final settling process. These options are available:
 - i. Cattle may be settled on one side every time and sorted one way for that go.

- ii. Cattle may be settled on one side for the first run of each herd and then alternated to the opposite side each consecutive run.
- iii. Cattle may be settled on one side for the first run of each herd and then resettled on the side with the most cattle remaining.