

# Member's Guide



**S.O.C.S.**

**ASSOCIATION**

*Affordable Family Fun*

*A practical guide to SOCS Association  
Regulations and Rules*

**OFFICE COPY Please do not take**

Copy available on web site

<http://socsassociation.tripod.com>

We can arrange to provide a copy upon request

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## Welcome Message

Welcome to SOCS and thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with our association's Regulations and Rules.

Being a not-for-profit, membership-based organization, SOCS is committed to an atmosphere of *Affordable Family Fun*, while encouraging camaraderie, fair competition, and respect for the welfare of all animals and other Members.

We are much more than just competitors chasing cattle for money, points, and awards.

We are a group of horse enthusiasts that value the opportunity for all riders, from expert to novice, to work together and advance our knowledge of each other, our animals and further develop skills through lessons learned from riding as teams and taking ownership of our results.

Occasionally conditions may dictate that SOCS adjusts various rules to accommodate unforeseen situations. In such cases, the addendums will be well publicized and made available in hard copy to be considered a part of the Member Handbook.

We hope you will find this handbook to be a useful resource throughout the year.

Distribution of information to our members will be posted to our website, <http://socsassociation.tripod.com>.

SOCS also has a Facebook presence. If you would like to join the SOCS Association Facebook group or page, just ask.

*Thank you, your SOCS Association committee*

## Memberships

Annual Membership year is January 1 to December 31 and include the inherent right to compete at any SOCS Association Regular Event, Special Events, and qualify for the winnings of any event or series.

Membership includes group liability insurance covering incidents related to the Association's running of events. Additional personal insurance is required for incidents that may occur outside of actual competition. Proof of said personal insurance must be recorded on Registration and Liability Waiver Forms

Members are required to fill out the Annual SOCS Registration Form, which includes a Liability Waiver **and provide proof of third party liability insurance. (Policy Number is sufficient)**

Annual Memberships Levels

Adult Member \$20

Youth Member \$10

(Under 18 as of January 1st in the current year.)

## Day Pass

A Day Pass is valid for one event only, and the cost for a Day Pass is equal to half the regular membership cost.

A Day Pass permits competition for the day's event.

If you have purchased a Day Pass and return for a subsequent event, the balance in difference from a full membership and Day Pass becomes due. This would make you a Full Member.

**\*\*ALL Membership fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable\*\***

## Conditions of Membership

SOCS Association Registration and liability release forms are required to be completed by all members annually.

Participation in SOCS Association events requires membership, with all Fees and Fines paid up to date.

Any rider under the attained age of 18 years must wear ASTM/SEI or BSI/BS EN approved protective headgear while on horseback any time at all events. This applies to spectators as well, with or without membership.

Use of protective headgear by all riders is recommended for safety irrespective of age.

### **SOCS Dress Code Mandatory as Of May 1, 2016**

SOCS members are to adhere to a Western Dress Code during competition, and on the grounds in the vicinity of sorting arena at public facilities.

1. Western hat or helmet (no ball caps)
2. A long or short sleeve collared button shirt, cuffs and shirt buttoned appropriately, and tucked in
3. Cowboy or riding boots with a "riding" heel
  - a. Flat, low heel, open toed footwear discouraged for safety and not permitted.

Violations in Dress Code are subject to Fines for each incident.

**No Hat = \$10 Fine      Non-conforming Shirt = \$10 Fine**

Fines will be assessed for each incident, are payable prior to further competition and collected Fines will be used as added money at future events.

Dress code may be adjusted at events based on weather.

\*ASTM approved helmets are mandatory for competitors under 18.

## Code of Conduct

SOCS utilizes and enforces a basic code of conduct.

Members are to conduct themselves according to the specifics of all categories in the Member Handbook as well as any municipal, provincial, or federal bylaws that may be in effect during events. For example, the Liquor Control Act of Ontario (specifically Alcohol in public venues).

All SOCS participants should govern themselves accordingly at events.

Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct may lead to verbal warnings, disqualifications, or ejections for an event.

Repeat violations are subject to expulsion for the current season and or Membership.

Expelled members forfeit all winnings, points and rights to compete at future events.

Infractions are at the discretion of the Judge/Flagger.

Appeals for review accepted but will not be dealt with during sorting at an event.

**Grievances in any and all sections of this guide, actions taken or decisions made will be accepted and reviewed.**

**Grievances will not be handled during competition.**

**NO refund of monies paid in the case of disqualification, ejection, or withdrawing from competition or membership.**

*No beating of officials permitted at any time please.*

## Sportsmanship

Members are to participate utilizing good sportsmanship, non-aggressive and non-abusive behavior.

This includes, but is not limited to, running over of cattle with a horse; running through the herd in such a manner to knock cattle down; continuing to unnecessarily chase cattle after time has been stopped; excessive foul language; throwing of equipment or objects of any kind; abusive or disrespectful actions toward animals, other members, officials, contractors, facility owners, personal effects, etc.

Unsportsmanlike conduct by a team and/or rider may result in disqualification.

Any actions of a team or rider perceived to be unsportsmanlike behaviour by others may be acted upon.

Infractions are at the discretion of the Flagger/Announcer.

**NO refund of monies paid will be made in the case of disqualification or ejection.**

## Animal Welfare

Actions considered cruel, abusive, or inhumane treatment toward any animal in the show arena, warm-up area, stall, runway, or elsewhere on the show grounds, is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated.

.....Continued on page 8

## **Animal Welfare Cont.**

The treatment of any horse will be considered cruel, abusive, or inhumane if a reasonable person, educated in accepted equine training techniques, could perceive the conduct of an individual to be abusive or an attempt to abuse the horse.

Furthermore, any behavior by an exhibitor, trainer, or rider that could be *perceived* by the general public to be harmful to any horse should also be avoided.

It is the responsibility of each member to report every incident that may be perceived as an abusive act toward a horse during a SOCS Event.

All reports will be investigated and anonymity provided to reporting individual(s).

Violations of the Animal Welfare Guideline will be subject to ejection of the event during the infraction, and possible expulsion from Membership.

There will be no refund of monies paid and any earnings at an event are forfeited.

SOCS Association emphatically desires to avoid all cases of cruelty and inhumane or abusive treatment of any animal.

## **Members Have A Say**

SOCS Member's always have a say regarding SOCS protocol.

We will be glad to take your suggestions, feedback or constructive criticism and make changes that benefit all members. In person or you can contact us through the website, <http://socsassociation.tripod.com>

*And if you want, we will keep it anonymous...*



## Roughing

Roughing of cattle will cause a disqualification and receive a score of No Time.

Roughing Includes, but is not limited to:

- running over cattle with the horses
- stepping on cattle while in pursuit
- entering the pen or running through the herd in such a manner that the cattle are knocked down, collide with the back pen panels or attempt to escape the pen through or over panels
- Contact with the cattle by hands, rope, hats, rommels or any other equipment
- Hazing with whips, hats or ropes, rommels or reins or any object
- horses consistently biting the cattle

Repeated Roughing at an event will cause disqualification for the day.

Multiple event infractions are subject to suspension from membership.

**NO refund of monies paid in the case of disqualification, ejection, expulsion, or withdrawing from competition or membership.**

# SOCS Pointing

## Pointing Scale

Number of Teams 1st go	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3 -4	1/2									
5-9	1	1/2								
10-14	2	1	1/2							
15-19	3	2	1	1/2						
20-24	4	3	2	1	1/2					
25-29	5	4	3	2	1	1/2				
30-34	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2			
35-39	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2		
40-44	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2	
45 & more	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2

To coincide with the RSTPA, RSNC and the AQHA SOCS will be adapting the AQHA Pointing System as of May 2018. The number of points is dependent on the number of teams at an event. When there are more than 100 Teams in the First Go points are doubled.

## Suspension Policy

Any member may be suspended, or otherwise ejected or expelled from an event, series or season competition and membership benefits suspended for the current year.

To return after ejection, expulsion or suspension a SOCS Association Infractions Acknowledgment Form may be required. Refusal to sign the Acknowledgment Form will result in immediate expulsion of SOCS Association Membership with NO REFUNDS of all monies paid.

Suspensions of membership may take place if:

- Fees for Membership or events are unpaid and/or in arrears
- Violations occur in the Dress Code, Code of Conduct, Roughing, Animal Welfare or any infraction of specifics in the Member Guide.

Infractions are subject to the following disciplinary actions:

1. First offence will receive a verbal warning.
2. Second offence in the same day will receive a no time for the run during the infraction.
3. Additional infractions may cause disqualification for the remainder of the day, subjecting the member to the Infractions Acknowledgment Form.
4. Multiple warnings at multiple events will result in ejection from the Membership, subjecting the member to the Infractions Acknowledgment Form.

**Severe infractions may result in immediate expulsion from current and/or future SOCS Association Membership.**

**NO REFUNDS of Membership Fees, Ring Fees and Ride Fees  
In case of Event Suspension, event winnings will be forfeited and  
used for a future event Added Money.**

# Ranch Sorting Basics

The objective is to sort the herd from one pen to the other, in sequential order, in as little time as possible.

## Pens and Gate

Sorting takes place between two 50-60 feet in diameter pens, with no 90 degree corners, (i.e. 60 foot round pen or octagonal “stop sign” design) connected by a 12 foot opening between them forming the start/foul line, called the Gate or Hole.

Cattle are worked in the same sort direction for each run.

At the conclusion of each run, the team in the ring will settle the cattle to the satisfaction of the flagger and next team.

Before each new herd entering the pen is worked they need to be moved to the opposite pen and back.

## Cattle

Eleven head of cattle form the Herd, Numbered 0 – 9 with one un-numbered cow. If a cow is deemed unfit, or becomes unfit after sorting starts the herd size may be adjusted as needed by the organizers or Host to ensure animal and rider safety, removing numbered cattle keeping a blank in the herd maintaining the objective of the game.

When a herd size is reduced, all herds will be adjusted to have the same number of cattle in each herd. If the herd size is reduced, all runs on a full herd will stand and payouts adjusted to reflect Full Herd and Reduced Herd sizes. (In essence, creating a division for each herd size with payouts divided by the percentage of runs for the day.

Hypothetically: 60 teams, 20 Full Herd, 40 Reduced Herd results in payouts indicted in the chart below.

			Payouts	Pays to
Total Teams	60	100%	5	5th
Full Herd Runs	20	33%	1.7	2nd
Reduced Herd Runs	40	67%	3.3	3rd

## Time Limit/Timer Clock

Each run has a 90, 75 or 60-second time limit to sort as many cattle as possible. Time will be made public prior to the start of each series.

A split timer system, with a buzzer (when available), is used to record all times.

A split timer allows for a total time count up and the time that each cow is sorted to be recorded.

When 10 cattle are sorted, the time the last cow is sorted will be the recorded time for the run.

If time expires, with no Trash or DQ, the number of cattle sorted and the time the last cow is sorted forms the score recorded. No cattle sorted is scored as a No Time.

Announcements are made, “30-seconds remain” and when time expires indicating “time expired”. There may or may not be a buzzer at both warning and expired times.

The time and cattle count will follow.

When a spectator display is used, the Line Official Timer is the official time for recording purposes. Display is for viewer entertainment only and does not constitute the official time.

**\*Reducing Clock** Time allotted may be adjusted to a lower time when there are more than 10 teams with a lower time.

For example, on a 75 second clock, if there are more than 10 teams with full sorts and the highest of the 10 times is 59 seconds, the time allotted may be reduced to 60 from 75 seconds, since any time greater than 60 will not place. Time Allotted reductions would take place in the case where weather conditions are a concern; there are a large number of teams and less time on the cattle would help preserve their vitality.

## Dismounted Riders

If a rider either falls or dismounts their horse and influences cattle in any way, the team is disqualified.

All team members must be on their mount to receive a time.

If time expires before the riders are on their mount, they receive a No Time.

## Rider Substitutions

Substitutions of riders on any team will only be permitted if the substitute rider has not exhausted their entry of maximum runs for the day.

## Restarts vs Re-Runs

Re-starts and Re-runs will take place immediately on the same herd.

**Re-starts** If a restart is called for, timer is reset and a new cow # will be used and may be called for if:

- A team is given a number that has already been used within a given herd. If a wrong number is called but there has been any cattle sorted, the re-start will be waived.
- In the event of mechanical, equipment failure or official error.

**Re-Runs** If a re-run is called for, Teams have a choice to take the time for the run or take a re-run. In a re-run, teams cannot better their time. Re-runs may be called for if:

- a. A cow falls and does not return to its feet.
- b. A cow attempts or escapes either through or over the pen.
- c. A number falls off or becomes unreadable and verbal identification cannot be made in a quick and clear manner.
  - In a. or b. Roughing may apply in which case no-time is evaluated and there will be no re-run.

## Music

At SOCS events there will be background music playing over the PA system. Any rider wishing to not have music during their run will be accommodated by requesting no music as they enter the pen for their run. Feel free to make requests for music you would like to hear at events. Inappropriate language exception applies.

## Special Announcements

Any special announcements you would like to have made please let us know. No occasion is too insignificant to hear a shout out at events.

## SOCS Payout Structure

Any Ring Fees go to the Host as a stipend for facility use.

Ride fees, less cattle fee and Judge/Admin fee are jackpotted with the following payouts based on 1<sup>st</sup> go number of teams:

- 39 or less teams payout to 3<sup>rd</sup> (50/30/20 %)
- 40 - 49 teams payout to 4<sup>th</sup> (40/30/20/10 %)
- + 50 teams payout to 5<sup>th</sup> (30/25/20/15/10 %)

Events with more than 100 teams subject to a 5% admin fee assed on winnings.

## \*Weather Related Issues

Weather related cancelations will reduce the number of “Regular Series Events”, with no makeup dates. Summer event cancelations will be posted to Facebook by 7 am the day of. Winter cancelations will be posted by 7pm the day prior to the event.

## Rules of Play Summary

1. Riders will receive 3 calls to the ring, the 3<sup>rd</sup> being “Last Call”. Teams with all riders not in the ring 5 seconds after last call will be disqualified and score no time.
2. When the ring is set, the Flag Up indicates sorting may start.
3. Time begins when the first horse breaks the plane of the foul line, or 5 seconds elapses from when the flag is raised. The announcer will provide notice when start is delayed.
4. When time begins the announcer immediately calls a start number, cattle are then sorted in sequential order. Teams are given a specified time limit, with a 30 second warning before time expires.
5. When sorting 10 cattle, the time when the total body, less the tail, of the last numbered cow crosses the plane of the foul line.
6. When time expires, the number of cattle and the time the last cow is sorted will be the recorded time.
7. The team with the most cattle sorted in the least amount of time will be deemed the winner.
  - a. Subsequent placing to 6th will follow the most sorted/least time format.
8. For any cattle to be considered cleanly sorted, its total body less the tail must clear the plane of the gate.
9. NO TRASH rule is in effect.
10. Trash is assessed, ending the run and scoring a “No Time” if any part of a cow, out of sequence breaks the plane of the gate, any part of any sorted cow breaks the plane of the gate, or the un-numbered cow breaks the plane of the gate prior to the 10th cow being cleanly sorted.



## Rules of Play Summary continued

11. Once committed to the cattle, the team is completely responsible for their animals. It is the team's responsibility before working the cattle to pull up and call for a judgement, if in their opinion; there is an injured or unusable animal in their herd of cattle. Once the cattle are worked, no excuses are accepted.
12. In the case of a grievance, the judge/flagger MUST be notified before the team leaves the pen.
  - a. Only the team involved in the run may lodge a grievance
  - b. The judge/flagger may consult with other riders, SOCS Officials, or cattle contractor prior to issuing a decision.
13. In the case of a disqualification, or withdrawing from competition, all subsequent runs will be deemed a no time.
  - a. \*If feasible, team members of disqualified or withdrawn members will be reassigned so that non-DQ'd riders do not miss out. This may result in duplicate teams.
14. Disqualified riders forfeit all points and monies won for the day's event.
15. Substitutions of riders on any team will only be permitted if the substitute rider has not exhausted their entry of maximum runs for the day.
16. The judge/flagger's decisions in all matters are final.
17. **All fees paid for membership, ring fee, or ride fees are non-refundable and non-transferable**
18. Top 10 callback will be used and accumulative results to determine placings.

## Series Pointing

SOCS uses the AQHA Pointing System

See Pointing Scale on [page 10](#)

High point winners will receive awards determined at the start of the series.

A rider's standings are determined by:

1. Points
2. Total Cattle Sorted
3. Total Time To Sort

ONE top point award per rider, per series.

There are no "Minimum" participation levels to compete at a Series Finals.

## Sponsorships

SOCS Association has many sponsors throughout the year.

It is because of our gracious sponsors that SOCS is able to provide Buckles, Added Money for payouts and various merchandise prizes.

We acknowledge our sponsors through public address at events, Web site shout outs and any publicity that we can provide.

We encourage all members to show appreciation through patronage and mention SOCS as the source.

Our sponsors will be grateful and future considerations might come our way, meaning more advantages for SOCS and you, the members.

## Contacts

**Greg O'Brien, Event Host** 519-236-7486  
15 East St, Zurich

**Jacquie Gowing, Event Host** 519-887-9248  
42054 Browntown Rd, Bluevale

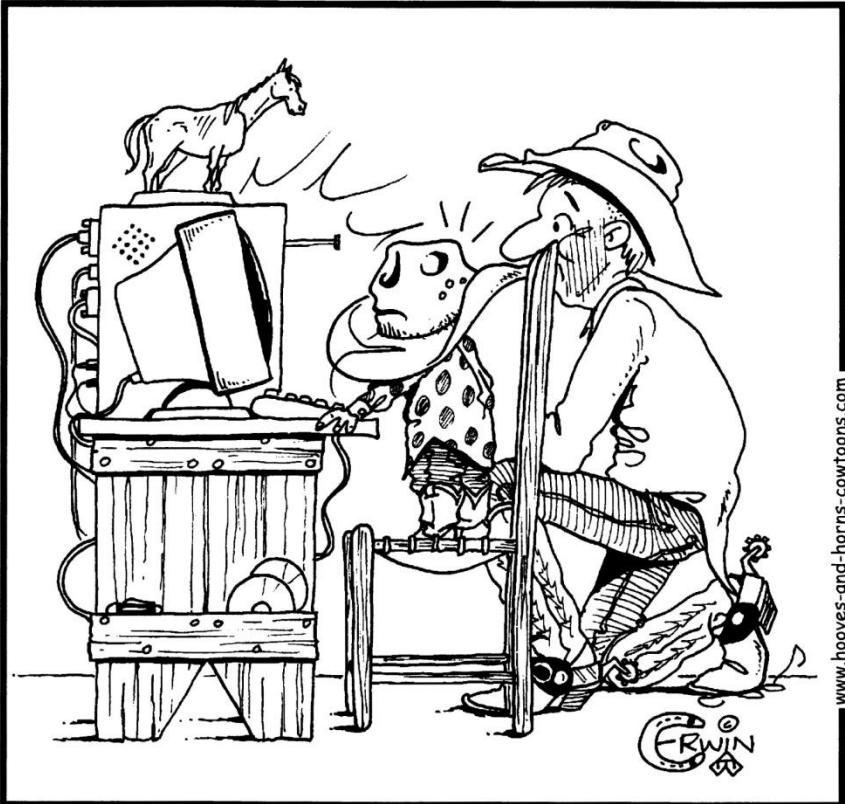
**Sylvia Neeb, Administration**  
519-236-4042 neeb@ezlink.on.ca  
\*TEXT Cell 519-872-8629 (See "Running Late?" on back cover.)

**Pete Shirley, Announcer/Line Official/Timer**  
519-236-4042 pjshirley62@ezlink.ca



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**Running late?** Preregister by TEXT 519-872-8629 with Names, and ETA. Letting us know will avoid missing registration. Excessive Pre-registrations MAY result in disqualification for the event. Preregistered members **MUST** be ready to go by start time or face disqualification for the event or missed runs prior to arrival. **FULL FEES DUE UPON ARRIVAL. NO REFUND FOR MISSED RUNS.**