



# Official United States National Ranking Competition System



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The Mounted Archery Association of the Americas (MA3), the recognized governing organization for the sport of horseback archery in the United States and designated member association of the International Horseback Archery Alliance (IHAA), is pleased to introduce the Official United States National Ranking System. The National Ranking Competition Rules are intended to rank the best United States horse archers based on standard Raid, Tower, and Hunt course scores achieved in live competition. The National Ranking System is open to all horse archers based in the United States, regardless of affiliation, according to the guidelines and rules outlined herein.

## 1. Qualifying Scores

- 1.1. A competitor's two (2) highest scores from qualifying Raid events, two (2) highest scores from qualifying Tower events, and two (2) highest scores from qualifying Hunt events achieved in approved live competitions, will count toward their National Ranking.
  - 1.1.2 The National Team will consist of 4 competitors and 1 alternate. The team will be selected, from Tier 1, on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year based on the last two years of National Ranking competition results.
- 1.2. US Ranking scores are intended to be “pressure scores” and as such qualifying courses (Raid or Tower styles) must be the first mounted course of the day, to avoid excessive competitor warm-up through running another style course first.
  - 1.2.1 The Hunt Track may be the second course of the day (Raid or Tower track course going first).
- 1.3. A Competitor's qualifying scores will be equally weighted, regardless of which qualifying Raid, Tower or Hunt style courses were run to achieve such scores. Scores shall be normalized by converting competitor's actual points scored to a percentage-based Ranking Score based on current USA National Course Records for the Tower and Raid. The Hunt score 100% will be determined by the current method used in IHAA World Ranking.
- 1.4. A Competitor's scores will remain valid for twenty-four (24) months from the date and time the score was achieved.
- 1.5. For greatest transparency, National Ranking results will be publicly available, including Ranked archer name, styles and courses, scores, competitions, dates, and conversions.
- 1.6. Only scores achieved at National Ranking Approved Events or qualifying events as described below will be included on the United States National Ranking list.
- 1.7. When more than one Raid or Tower course is run at an event, only the first scored course of each style during the competition will be considered eligible.
- 1.9. In general, the eligible course shall be planned, scheduled, or otherwise announced prior to the event date. Courses run for practice, entertainment, or as last-minute additions will not be eligible for ranking.
  - 1.9.1. If at a pre-approved Qualifying Event: One or more qualifying courses shall be determined at the time the competition is approved as a Qualifying Event.

## 2. Qualifying Courses



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- 2.1. Qualifying Raid courses are R233; R234; R235
- 2.2. Qualifying Tower Courses are Tower T110 and T90
- 2.3. Qualifying Hunt Courses must follow IHAA rules and guidelines.

## 3. Qualifying Events

- 3.1. Official Qualifying events must be pre-approved by MA3 no later than 2 Months prior to the event start date, following the standard MA3 competition approval process. A competition is considered a qualifying event if it meets the requirements outlined in both the IHAA Competition Rules and the United States National Ranking Rules.
- 3.2. The competition must be open to 12 or more competitors. There must be no fewer than six (6) Competitors participating at the center in any given event or course style for its scores to be considered toward a competitor's National Ranking.
- 3.3. When there are 2 courses per day, National Ranking Events are limited to 30 competitors. When there is only 1 course per day, National Ranking events are limited to 45 competitors.
- 3.4. No club or facility will be able to hold more than four Qualifying Events per calendar year. These events must be at least fourteen (14) days apart.
- 3.5. Qualifying competition events must be publicly designated as and understood to be a Competition in advance of the event itself. This must be verifiable through some form of dated flier or online event page. It is required that the event has a formal registration process. This must be verifiable through online registration or copy of paper/PDF registration with dates and shown to have been opened to registration four weeks prior to the event. Registration through casual private messages does not qualify as a formal registration process. Casual get-togethers, Club Practices, Clinics, Demonstrations, Postal Matches, and other non-approved events shall not be considered Qualifying Events, regardless of 'spur-of-the-moment' changes such as number of competitors, course modifications, or other efforts by organizers. All National Ranking events are to be open to all eligible competitors.
- 3.6. Any IHAA World Record and Ranking Event scores can be submitted by individual competitors for approval by MA3.
- 3.7. Non-MA3 competitions held in the United States must be pre-approved as Qualifying Events through the standard United States National Ranking approval process administered by MA3 and payment of a processing fee.
  - 3.7.1 Non-MA3 Entities must provide an insurance certificate for Mounted Archery with MA3 listed as additionally insured. Specific language will be provided by MA3.
- 3.8. All qualifying events must have a competent and knowledgeable non-competitor scorekeeper.
- 3.9. All qualifying events must have a IHAA Level 2 Judge presiding.
  - 3.9.1. For MA3 Qualifying events, the Head Judge will ensure the event meets with MA3 Competition Rules, IHAA rules, and the National Ranking Competition Rules.



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**3.9.2.** For Non-MA3 Qualifying events, the Head Judge will ensure the event meets with their host organizations rules, IHAA rules, and the National Ranking Competition Rules.

- 3.10** The first day of any National Ranking event will be a practice day.
- 3.10.1** At the discretion of the organizer, practice day is optional for participants, however, organizers must still offer practice day to all competitors.
- 3.10.2** A horse trial day must be available for participants riding a borrowed or shared horse.

## 4. Process and Fees

- 4.1.** Approved MA3 competitions may advertise as an “Official MA3 National Ranking Qualifying Event” upon written approval by MA3.
- 4.2.** Non-MA3 Qualifying Events may be submitted to MA3 for approval at least 60 days prior to event dates accompanied by a USD \$50.00 Processing Fee. Once approved, such non-MA3 competitions may publicly advertise as a “US National Ranking Qualifying Event”. Under no circumstances may an approved, non-MA3, Qualifying Event use the MA3 brand, name, or logo in its statements or published materials. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in immediate revocation of approval.
- 4.3.** Scores from these qualifying MA3 or non-MA3 National Ranking Events will be entered into the IHAA.EU website (RADEK system) by the competition organizer.
- 4.4.** Scoresheets may be requested by MA3 or designated committee for all eligible scores. Exceptions can be made for select events outside the US per MA3 discretion.
- 4.5.** All decisions regarding National Rankings, including courses; discrepancies; eligibility; fees; qualification; scoring; and/or team selections shall be at the sole discretion and determination of the MA3 Board of Directors, or a committee delegated by the MA3 Board of Directors, and may be amended at any time. Any issues or questions should be submitted in writing, via email, to [Events@mountedarchery.org](mailto:Events@mountedarchery.org), with the subject line “National Ranking”; items sent by text, verbally discussed, or posted on social media, will not be considered.

**5.0 Equine Welfare** - No more than 2 competitors shall be assigned a given equine in any one competition. Exceptions can only be made as per IHAA Equine Welfare Rules.

- 5.1.** No competitor shall exceed the amount of shooting warm-up runs from horseback in a given competition day as dictated by the course rules. These rules apply for the entire competition day.
- 5.1.1.** Raid & Tower style: The archer is allowed 2 test runs in canter before a scored competition or grading, shooting is allowed on both runs. **At the judge’s/organizer’s discretion warm up runs on the track at walk or trot, with no shooting, may be permitted prior to these.**
- 5.1.2.** Hunt style: At the judge’s/organizer’s discretion, up to 1 **non-shooting** test run (walk, trot, canter, or gallop) before the scored competition runs is allowed.
- 5.1.3** **Shooting on the competition hunt course either from a horse or from the ground at any time before a scored run may lead to disqualification from the event as per IHAA rules.**



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- 5.2 The maximum number of runs (to include warm up runs) offered for a multiple day competition is TWENTY-FOUR (24) per day per EQUINE (((THIS INCLUDES ALL PRACTICE DAYS))). NO HORSE WILL EXCEED 24 RUNS PER DAY AT ANY NATIONAL RANKING COMPETITION.
- 5.3 A walk/jog on the track or similar footing prior to the start of competition is mandatory to check for soundness.
- 5.3.1 All horses should be presented in-hand and unsaddled.
  - 5.3.2 A ground jury of 2-3 individuals (of appropriate experience, including a member of the judging team with/without a veterinarian; who have been appointed by the organizer) will examine the horse at rest then observe it walking and trotting.
  - 5.3.3 The ground jury should check for: a) sores or injury, b) signs of illness, c) lameness, d) that the horse is in an appropriate condition for ridden work. The ground jury may recommend to the Head Judge that a horse is excluded from competition if they feel that participating would compromise its health or welfare.

[IHAA rules and guidelines](#)

**Definitions:**