



Official United States National Ranking Competition System



The Mounted Archery Association of the Americas (MA3), the recognized governing organization for the sport of horseback archery in the United States and designated representative to 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 Competitors, Courses, and 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.
 - 1.1.1 For 2021, the National Team will be selected from the two highest scores from qualifying Raid events and qualifying Tower events.
 - 1.1.2 Qualifying Scores on the Hunt course will be collected in 2021. However, the Hunt course scores will not be added to National ranking until the beginning of 2022. These 2021 Hunt scores will be used for the 2022 National Championships, so they are still important to get done. Two Hunt track scores, at a national ranking event, which achieve a minimum score of 30% of total points will be combined with the 2 Raid and 2 Tower scores.
 - 1.1.3 Beginning in 2022, a two tier National Ranking System will be created.
 - Tier 1 will require six qualifying scores: Hunt (2) Raid (2) and Tower (2).
 - Tier 2 will consist of Raid (2) and Tower (2).
 - 1.1.4 When selecting the National Team, for 2022, Tier 1 takes priority over Tier 2. Tier 2 may be phased out on January 1st, 2024 pending review by the MA3 Board of Directors.
- 1.2. Qualifying Raid courses are R123; R23; R125; HBAE R233; and HBAE R235.
- 1.3. Qualifying Tower Courses are Tower T110, T90, and T60.
- 1.4. Qualifying Hunt Course.
 - 1.4.1 The Hunt track distance is 350 to 500 Meters. Course design is flexible and may vary depending on available land and target placement on the track. **There needs to be a minimum of two turns which will cause the average horse to perform a lead change both times.**
 - 1.4.2 Par time is calculated at 350 Meters per minute.
 - 1.4.3 Time bonuses are gained at 0.5pt/s for every second under the par time or deducted at 0.5pt/s over this par time. Time bonuses are only awarded if 3 targets are hit.
 - 1.4.4 The width of the track is 3–5m and may vary depending on terrain conditions. The track doesn't have to be fenced along its full length; in places it may consist of open fields.
 - 1.4.5 The **minimum** distance between shots is 30m. Targets themselves may be closer. However, the placement of proper shots count (30 m along the track).
 - 1.4.6 The first target must be 15 m or more from the starting line. The last target must be no more than 15 m before finishing line.
 - 1.4.7 All of the 80 CM **ROUND** targets can be hit multiple times. However, only the highest scoring arrow counts.
 - 1.4.8 **The 122 CM FITA ROUND paper target (large target)** shall be placed a minimum of 30 meters from the track, with enough distance on the track so a competitor has the opportunity to hit it a **minimum** of three times. Although more than three scoring arrow hits are encouraged and will count.



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1.4.9 The Hunt course will be run two times for score. The scores will be added to determine the total. One Hundred Percent (100%) for this course is **118 points**. Scores over 100% may be achieved with time bonuses and additional shots on the multi-shot 122CM Round FITA Paper target.

1.4.10 Eight (8) **ROUND** targets will be utilized for the track. They may be placed in any order depending on track design.

	TARGET SIZE	DISTANCE	POINTS
Target 1	80 CM Backshot	8M	1-2-3-5-7
Target 2	80 CM Front shot	8M	1-2-3-5-7
Target 3	80 CM Side shot	5M	1-2-3-5-7
Target 4	80 CM Side Shot	7M	1-2-3-5-7
Target 5	80 CM Side Shot	10M	1-2-3-5-7
Target 6	80 CM Offside Angled	3M	1-2-3-5-7
Target 7	80 CM Ground Shot	0M *Next to track	1-2-3-5-7
Target 8	120CM FITA ROUND	30M	10 pts per hit

1.4.11 Photographers or spotters on the Hunt track must be standing or seated in their designated, visible positions for the competitor practice run. *The spotter or photographer should be positioned a minimum of 15' from the track edge, safe from any stray arrows.

1.4.11 All other rules, for hunt track setup, will follow IHAA guidelines.

1.5. Only scores equivalent to an IHAA Horse Archer level 1 (HA1) or greater shall be included in the United States National Ranking Competition Rules.

1.6. When more than one Raid, Tower or Hunt style course is run at an event, only the first scored course of each style during the competition will be considered eligible. 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.

1.6.1. 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.

1.7. 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. Mounted practice is not allowed on the course prior to the warm-ups runs on the day of the event, even if a period of rest is observed. This applies to all competitions whether one-day or multi-day events.

1.7.1. Raid style: The archer is allowed 2 test runs in canter before a scored competition or grading. **One non-shooting and one shooting run. At the judge's/organizer's discretion a walk/jog on the track prior to the canter runs may be permitted to check for soundness.**

1.7.2. Tower style: The archer is allowed 2 test runs in canter before the scored competition runs. **One non-shooting and one shooting run. At the judge's/organizer's discretion a walk/jog on the track prior to the canter runs may be permitted to check for soundness.**

1.7.3. Hunt style: The archer is allowed 1 non-shooting test run (walk, trot, canter, or gallop) before the scored competition runs.



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- 1.8. 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.
 - 1.8.1 The National Ranking Hunt Track may be the second course of the day (90 Meter track course going first). Warmup for the hunt course is outlined in 1.7. Other Hunt track's may be run on prior days of the competition to help familiarize riders with this style of track (3D animal targets adjacent to NR Hunt course targets would be acceptable).
- 1.9. A Competitor's six 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.
- 1.10. A Competitor's scores will remain valid for twenty-four (24) months from the date and time the score was achieved.
- 1.11. For greatest transparency, National Ranking results will be publicly available, including Ranked archer name, styles and courses, scores, competitions, dates, and conversions.

2. Qualifying Events

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. There must be at least twelve (12) actual competitors participating at the canter level in any given event or course style for its scores to be considered toward a competitor's National Ranking.

~~2.2.1 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there must be at least nine (9) actual competitors participating at the canter level in any given event or course style for its scores to be considered towards a competitor's National Ranking. This addendum will stay in effect until the MA3 Board determines event attendance is not affected by COVID.~~
- 2.3. **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.**
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. 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 flyer or online event page. It is required to be able to demonstrate that the event had 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 message 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,



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course modifications, or other efforts by organizers. All National Ranking events are to be open to all eligible competitors.

- 2.6** Select competitions held by official MA3 Partners (e.g. IHAA, Canadian Federation of Mounted Archery, Villa Cavalcare Brasil, Asociación Mexicana de Arquería Montada) may be considered Qualifying Events. These include European Grand Prix events, IHAA Official World Championships, and other international worldwide events. Scores from these events may be submitted by the individual competitor for approval by MA3.
- 2.7** 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.
- 2.8** All qualifying events must have a competent and knowledgeable non-competitor scorekeeper.
- 2.9** All Qualifying events must have a Certified Track Marshal present.
 - 2.9.1.** For MA3 Qualifying events, the Track Marshal will ensure the event meets with MA3 Competition Rules, IHAA guidelines and the National Ranking Competition Rules.
 - 2.9.2.** For Non-MA3 Qualifying events, the Track Marshal will ensure the event meets with their host organizations rules, IHAA guidelines and the National Ranking Competition Rules.
 - 2.9.3** **For both MA3 and Non-MA3 qualifying events, the Track Marshal's checklist will be completed and forwarded to the MA3EGR@gmail.com email on the practice day of the competition.**
- 2.10** **The first day of any National Ranking event will be a practice day. Each competitor is allowed a minimum of SIX 90M track runs and THREE hunt track runs (1 Non Shooting and 2 shooting).**
 - 2.10.1** **If a competitor does not make it to practice day, that competitor is ineligible to compete in the competition.**
 - 2.10.2.** **If a horse does not make it to practice day, that horse is ineligible to participate in the competition.**
 - 2.10.3** **During practice, the Track Marshal will ensure each horse and rider combination can complete each course safely.**

3. Process and Fees

- 3.1.** The National Ranking Competition System took effect on January 1, 2019. Initial National Rankings were calculated based on competition events held in 2018 whose courses and scores were verified by the MA3 Board of Directors. These Rankings were first published during the month of January 2019, with the form and forum for posting announced at that time.
- 3.2.** Approved MA3 competitions may advertise as an “Official MA3 National Ranking Qualifying Event” upon written approval by MA3. Scores from these Qualifying MA3 National Ranking Events may be submitted by the competition organizer (if using online scoring), or by the individual competitor, at no cost.
- 3.3.** 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” and the competition organizer may, if they choose, submit scores for their event’s competitors. Under no circumstances may an



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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.

- 3.4. Individual competitors will be able to submit their own scores to the system. However, it is recommended that the Event Organizer submit all qualifying scores.
- 3.5. Scoresheets must be submitted to MA3 or designated committee for all eligible scores. Exceptions can be made for select events outside the US per MA3 discretion.
- 3.6. Scores achieved at pre-approved Qualifying Events will be processed at no additional fee.
- 3.7. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the individual competitor to ensure that their scores or score sheets are, or have been, submitted in a timely manner.
- 3.8. If submitted score is determined to be ineligible, for any reason except violation of the guidelines set herein, no fee shall be assessed, and if paid, shall be refunded.
- 3.9. 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 ma3egr@gmail.com, with the subject line "National Ranking"; items sent by text, verbally discussed, or posted on social media, will not be considered.

4. **Equine Welfare** - No more than 3 competitors (preferably 2) shall be assigned a given horse in any one competition.

~~It is recommended that No more than 2 competitors shall be assigned a given horse in any one competition. Three competitors may share a single horse in the case of a necessary switch for safety or soundness reasons per Track Marshal discretion. No more than 3 competitors shall ride a given horse for the canter division, never more than 4 competitors for the trot division, and never more than 5 competitors for the walk division in any one competition for any reason.~~

4.1 The maximum number of runs (to include warm up runs) offered for a multiple day competition is TWENTY FOUR (24) per day per HORSE. NO HORSE WILL EXCEED 24 RUNS PER DAY AT ANY NATIONAL RANKING COMPETITION.

4.1.1 If the Horse is shared with 2 people, that is 12 total runs per person.

4.1.2 If the Horse is shared with 3 people, that is 8 total runs per person per day. (2 warmup 6 runs).

4.2 A walk/jog on the track prior to the start on practice day is mandatory to check for soundness. It will be up to the equine's owner to determine soundness unless a qualified veterinarian is present.

~~There should be no more than 12 runs per day offered for a single day competition. (Example: There can be a 6-run course and another 6-run course per day maximum).~~