

2020 Woman of the Year Nomination

Robin Sanchez

- Robin Sanchez is in the trenches teaching, umpiring, helping as a Lieutenant Governor in her circuit, and was recently elected as a Governor at Large. She is all over the continent either teaching or umpiring and has been instrumental in organizing the Fall Fandango tournament near Dallas, TX, where college, military and high school students, play and I/I umpires are trained. Robin also helped train umpires at Mustang Madness, a similar tournament on the west coast. Robin constantly strives to improve polo and umpire instruction and to bring new players into the game.
- I most strongly nominate Robin Sanchez for the 2020 USPA Woman of the Year Award!

I have known Robin Sanchez since 2006 when I went to The University of Texas at Austin, as Naval ROTC Instructor and Associate Professor. While at UT I played polo with the UT Polo Club, then located on I-290 in Dripping Springs.

At that time Robin was working for the Polo Training Foundation as the head instructor at the PTF's Brushy Creek Facility. This was my first introduction to this fantastic person, polo instructor, horsewoman and mentor.

One summer I even was able to convince Robin to let me volunteer as one her "Cabin Monitors" for one of the Brushy Creek weeklong arena polo clinics for interscholastic and collegiate kids. I worked closely with Robin during this clinic and my impression of her skills as I/I coach, instructor and mentor soared.

When the Navy transferred me from UT at Austin to Cairo, Egypt I thought my experiences with Robin had come to an end. However, three years later, in 2011, I returned to Texas this in San Antonio. I was able to start my own Polo Club and eventually become a founding member of a local polo association. Of course, Robin was there again as mentor on player development, club management and everything else polo.

During this period from 2012 to the present Robin and I interacted on a number of polo events: USPA Arena Committee; USPA SW Circuit events; the formation and development of the Central Texas Polo Association an association of three local polo clubs; Polo Clinics for beginners and intermediate and more experienced players of all ages; Fall Fandango events; Umpire Clinics; the development and management of the Texas Arena League which in 2020 will be entering its third year; a new Women's tournament series and other events too numerous mention or that I have forgotten. Throughout all these events past the mentorship, guidance and support on all things polo three things always came to mind:

- 1) Take care of the horses

- 2) Take care of the players
- 3) Love the sport

Robin has devoted her life to polo: polo instructor, making polo horses, the only female professional umpire, Vice Chair of Arena Polo Committee, SW Circuit assistant governor and now a Governor-at-Large.

Robin Sanchez's tremendous dedication to improving polo, providing opportunities for our players and otherwise being a tremendous ambassador of our great sport makes her an incredible choice for the 2020 USPA Woman of the Year.

- Robin contribution to polo especially arena polo has been invaluable to the association. As Lt. Governor for the Southwest Circuit she has revived a dying circuit to make it one of most vibrate in the USPA.
- No one does more for low goal polo, club polo, and II Polo than Robin. From Brushy Creek in the 90s to the Board of Governors today. Robin is a very deserving recipient
- Tireless, countless hours of supporting arena and grass polo in the central circuit. Puts on clinics and completely runs the fall Fandango arena tournament for I/I polo. Only woman professional umpire full time in the USPA. Once again puts all her energy in every event she umpires.
- Robin has done a lot for polo in general and continues to do so. As the only woman professional umpire and as a successful clinician, Robin has elevated the profile of women in the sport with her professionalism and enthusiasm.
I've known Robin for many years and have the highest admiration for her and am confident that she will represent the USPA well as Woman of the Year.
- She was the manager of Brushy Creek that assisted so many leaders in the polo industry. Since then she has been on most all the USPA committees. She volunteers her time to help any player or club. She we recently elected to the Board of Governors. She is an invaluable asset to the polo community
- Robin has served and contributed in many areas of the USPA. From umpiring, to coaching, to instructing. Her ability to help all levels of players and all levels of management and all size of clubs make her well rounded and versatile. She spends time with 'boots on the ground' and helps all grass roots levels of players and sponsors get a good feeling of the game and of the community of polo players. She gives back as an administrator, as a volunteer and as a paid professional that umpires, trains horses, trains players and teams. She can also train managers and presidents. Her ability to work in large groups, in small groups and help create working solutions and systems that support real clubs is invaluable to all. She is a networking professional. She knows when good ideas can work at both ends of the country. She knows horses and knows her polo. Her ability to encompass all the good training and teaching skills that she has experienced and then pass them on to others makes her generous and gracious and someone that brings people together. Making connections and bringing people together, she makes players and spectators feel valued and that is what makes her deserving of the Woman of the Year award.

