



North Carolina



High School and Junior High

Rodeo Association

Contestant and Parent

Handbook

2011 – 2012

[WWW.NCHSRA.COM](http://WWW.NCHSRA.COM)



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## GROUND RULES

1. Contestants should be at the rodeo and checked in one (1) hour before the rodeo is scheduled to begin. Sometimes bulls can be bucked at the beginning of a rodeo and being there early will ensure someone not being turned out.
2. Contestant meetings are mandatory thirty minutes before the rodeo is scheduled to begin. Dress code is in effect for this meeting. Roll call will be taken.
3. The 30-second rule is in effect for all roping events, steer wrestling, chute dogging and goat tying at all North Carolina rodeos.
4. A \$10.00 membership fee will be due, yearly, from each Board Member. Only working Board Members, whose names are on the gate list are allowed in free.
5. Each contestant can get one guest in free to each rodeo. The guest MUST be with the contestant when he/she comes in the gate to get their hand stamped.
6. In the NCHSRA, mouthpieces are also mandatory for all contestants in the steer wrestling and chute dogging events.
7. It is mandatory for all NCHSRA rookie members to attend one safety seminar during each year to be eligible to compete in the State Finals. (Refer to page 8 in this handbook)
8. A contestant must compete in 50% of the rodeos to be eligible to apply for a state scholarship and an equal share of travel money.
9. Contestants must ride in the State Finals Rodeo to be eligible for all year-end awards.
10. No late call-ins will be accepted for any rodeo for any reason.
11. A contestant must compete in a least one rodeo per event to be able to compete in the State Finals.

## ORDER OF EVENTS

JR. BULLS  
 BAREBACK  
 GOAT TYING  
 SADDLE BRONC  
 CALF ROPING  
 BREAKAWAY ROPING  
 RIBBON ROPING  
 STEER WRESTLING  
 CHUTE DOGGING  
 BARRELS  
 TEAM ROPING  
 POLES  
 BULLS

On occasion, some bulls may be bucked at the beginning of the rodeo to fit the needs of the rodeo promoter and/or high school rodeo. Because of this, ALL contestants must be at the rodeo one hour before the rodeo begins. Failure to be there early and not being ready to compete when called upon will result in a turn out.

The order of events can change rodeo to rodeo, if necessary. Any changes will be announced before the rodeo. Out-of-state rodeos could also have different order of events.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to North Carolina High School and Jr. High Rodeo! As the rodeo starts the season, we are looking forward to the largest increase in membership we have ever seen. Hopefully, this handbook will be helpful to our new and returning contestants. Also, we encourage all parents and guardians to read this book. A lot of things about grades, financial matters, and State and National Finals are explained and all of these subjects will be helpful to our adult membership.

## **PURPOSE AND GOALS**

The purpose of the North Carolina High School Rodeo Association (NCHSRA) is to provide an activity for high school and Jr. High School students that promotes our Western heritage and creates an opportunity to further their education.

## **ORGANIZATION**

NCHSRA and the Jr. High Division are members of the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA), and are organized under a constitution and set of bylaws that are available upon request. The student members of the NCHSRA are led by a set of Student Officers. The adult membership is represented by an Adult Board, which is elected from the adult membership. This Board includes adult officers and at-large Board members. Both the Student Officers and the Adult Board are elected at the annual open state board meeting held each year during the month of June.

## **NHSRA RULEBOOK**

Each Contestant is given a national rulebook when they join. The rulebook covers event rules, conduct rules, protest procedures, point systems, and miscellaneous rules. It is the responsibility of everyone to read and know the rulebook. This is probably the most important regarding re-runs, re-rides, protests and conduct. In some cases, NCHSRA has made a ground rule that will be consistent with, but more workable than the subject rule in the rulebook. A good example of this is our grade policy that will be covered later. We have a stricter policy on grades so that we can be consistent with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. The grade standards in the rule book are minimums only, and many states have chosen to use higher standards to be inline with their local high schools.

## **DUES AND FEES**

The membership dues for the High School Division are \$188.00 per year. This amount includes \$50.00 for NC dues, \$14.00 for the Roping Pen magazine, and \$124.00 for NHSRA Division Dues which includes the Western Horseman magazine plus insurance.

The membership dues for (NCHSRA) Jr. High Division are \$144.00 per year. This amount includes; \$50 for NC dues, \$14.00 for the Roping Pen magazine, and \$80.00 for the NHSRA Jr. Division Dues which includes the Western Horseman magazine plus insurance.

Membership fees must be paid with cash, personal check, cashier's check, or money order.

The insurance is with a company, (Specialty Program Insurers) that specializes in rodeo claims. The policy is a supplemental injury policy that can be used with other injury policies or by itself.

Entry fees, (for both divisions), \$25.00 per event per rodeo with the exception of rough stock events, which are \$30.00 per event per rodeo.

Entry fees are paid at each rodeo before the rodeo begins and **MUST BE PAID IN CASH AND CORRECT CHANGE.**

This money is used to buy awards, pay for seminars, finance rodeos and for some of the travel money given to our National Finalists.

The entry fees include a **\$10.00 jackpot fee per event**. The payoff will be one place per 8 contestants. This will apply to all qualifying rodeos during the year sponsored by the NCHSRA. This may not be applicable to out-of-state rodeos.

**FINES** - All fees and fines must be paid before you can compete in the next rodeo.

**NO-SHOW AND TURN-Out fines are \$25.00 per event per rodeo. This is in addition to entry fees.**

**NO SHOW:** When a contestant is called in for a rodeo and fails to show up.

**TURN OUT:** When a contestant is called in for a rodeo; comes to the rodeo but refuses to take his/her ride or animal.

**DRAW OUT:** (not a med out) must pay entry fees but will not be assessed a fine. A draw out is when a contestant is called in for a rodeo and before the rodeo begins, discovers he/she cannot be at the rodeo. **The contestant must let the Rodeo Secretary know at least 24 hours in advance of the rodeo.**

This lets us plan with the stock contractor and event personnel so that the rodeo goes on smoothly. **If you do no let us know you cannot be there, the no show fees and fines will be charged and you cannot compete until all fees and fines are paid in full.**

**MED OUT:** Your entry fees will be returned but not your jackpot fees.

When a contestant or the contestant's horse has an injury that prevents competition in one event or there is any type of sickness. The Arena Director must be notified before that event begins. To avoid losing points for the entire rodeo, a doctor's or vet's excuse must be presented to the State Secretary within five working days of that rodeo.

If it is a visible injury, occurring at the rodeo, refer to the NHSRA rulebook, page 26; Section: Contestant Disqualifications; subsection "c" which states: "A contestant with a visible injury or illness may turn out of any event at a rodeo with out a doctor's written excuse provided notification of such turn out is authorized by a judge or National Director at that given rodeo. **If a contestant has drawn out with a visible injury, he/she must have a doctor's release to resume competition.**"

**HAT FEE:** When you are called to compete your Hat must remain on prior to entering designated arena. If your Hat falls off for any reason prior to entering arena a \$25.00 fine will be assessed and must be paid prior to next rodeo. Once entered into the arena there is not a penalty.

**GRADES AND ACADEMICS: NO PHONE CALLS WILL BE MADE TO REMIND ANYONE TO TURN IN A REPORT CARD.**

The following is the policy of the NCHSRA for grades and academics. This rule closely follows the standard for grades that is used for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. A contestant must have passed a minimum workload during the preceding grading period to be eligible to participate in any rodeo during the present grading period. The following is a description of a minimum load:

Contestant must pass:

- Three out of four subjects if you are on the block scheduling format;
- Four out of five or six subjects;
- Five out of seven subjects; and
- Six out of eight
- Less than four courses must have 100 percent passing grades

This is a higher standard than the NHSRA rulebook states. That is a minimum and NCHSRA has voted to follow the guidelines required by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

NCHSRA recognizes **home schooling** as long as the student is meeting the guidelines for taking the qualifying and standardization tests that are required by the State. Home schooled contestants must turn in a document, on school letterhead, signed and date, with grades at least four times during the year and a report of cumulative grades at state finals.

All **New Members (grades 9 and up, High School Division, and grades 6 – 8<sup>th</sup>, Junior High Division)** must turn in their last report card to the State Secretary along with the application for membership before they can compete. No grade check is required at the beginning of the season for members that participated in the previous State Finals.

**ALL CONTESTANTS** must turn in their report card by mail or fax, to the State Secretary, immediately following the issuance of the report card. NCHSRA will allow a contestant five (5) working days, from the date of the rodeo, to get their report card mailed in to the State Secretary if it is forgotten. Failure to do this will cause the contestant to lose any points earned at the previous rodeo and prevents the contestant from competing in future rodeos. **Only official report cards, (or official reports on home school letterhead) are acceptable.**

If a contestant is not academically eligible at the beginning of a grading period, then he/she is not eligible at any time during that grading period.

**Progress reports will be accepted**

A contestant who receives an **incomplete** in a subject which causes him/her not to meet minimum scholastic requirements is **ineligible** until the course is satisfactorily made up and his eligibility is restored at that point.

If a contestant lies or cheats about grades, they are out for the rest of the season and they may be permanently expelled depending on the circumstances. This suspension means that the contestant will not be allowed in or around the arena. He or she may not work with or help any participant at a rodeo.

## **CONDUCT**

The NHSRA is very clear concerning contestant conduct. Please read the rules concerning disqualifications in the National rulebook. Alcohol, drugs, profanity, animal abuse and bad sportsmanship have no place in high school or junior high rodeo. All of these will result in disqualification. If you have to think, "Should I do it?" just don't do it!

A lot of contestants do not realize they can be disqualified just for being around where alcohol or drugs are being used. Association with non-members or members that are doing something wrong is considered the same as doing it yourself. Contestants, you are responsible for your parents. Do not let them get you in trouble. Drinking, fighting, arguing with judges and officials is not allowed and you are expected to keep your parents in line. Smoking in the arena is not allowed by either contestants or adults. Tobacco and alcohol patches cannot be worn in the arena by contestants or workers. Fighting at a rodeo is grounds for disqualification for the NCHSRA.

## **DRESS CODE**

All contestants need to be in western attire at least one hour before a performance begins. You need to stay in western attire during the complete rodeo, even if you are not competing, until you are leaving the grounds. Western attire is a western shirt that has wrist length sleeves with a collar and cuffs, a western belt, western jeans, and western boots. The shirt must be tucked in – no short or cropped shirts. You may remove the belt while you are competing and rough stock riders may roll up the sleeve on their riding arm while they are competing. At MULTI-STATE rodeos, you must be in western attire during the entire slack. At local qualifying rodeos, only competing personnel have to be in western attire during slack.

Athletic shoes designed to look like western boots are not western attire and are not allowed. This includes "racer-lacers" and other brands that are similar.

**Your back number is part of your dress code.** Two back numbers will be assigned to you at the beginning of the year. If you lose a back number, there is a \$10.00 fee to replace it. **The back must be worn on you back and visible at all times.**

This means if you wear a jacket or vest, the back number must be on the outside. According to the rule in your national rulebook, the back number must be on your back when at the rodeo, on rodeo grounds or rodeo functions and at a motel.

If you have parents that come in the arena to help you in anyway, they have to follow our dress code. Baseball caps, short sleeves, etc. are not allowed. The visitor will be asked to leave the arena and return to the spectator area.

No tobacco or alcohol patches, stickers or advertising is allowed on contestants' attire or equipment.

## **CONTESTANT MEETINGS**

Contestant meetings are held before our rodeos. These meetings usually begin about thirty minutes before the rodeo and are used to give out information about upcoming rodeos, event changes or ground rules. It is mandatory that you attend the meeting if you are on the rodeo grounds and attendance is taken by roll call before the meeting begins. You must be in western attire for the meeting. No horses are allowed during the contestant meetings.

## **GRAND ENTRY**

All contestants that have horses at the rodeo are required to ride in the grand entry. This event sets the tone for the rest of the rodeo and is a good way to show our sponsors how much we appreciate them putting on the rodeo. The NCHSRA queen is in charge of the grand entry but she will greatly appreciate all of the help you can give her. You will be asked to carry a flag or banner and if you can, it will certainly be appreciated. Please cooperate with our queen and do your part. Only NCHSRA members are permitted to ride in grand entries except at Multi-State rodeos when the other states are participating.

## **EVENT DIRECTORS**

At the Mandatory Meeting before each rodeo contestants will elect an event director for each event. It is the director's duty to be in the arena during that event for the rodeo. This is an important job. The event director must know the rulebook and must be present for a contestant to contest a call.

## POINT SYSTEMS

The National High School Rodeo Association has implemented one point system to be used for the State Finals by all associations. Points for qualifying rodeos are explained in the NHSRA rulebook, (page 31, paragraph 4). Any questions concerning the point system should be directed to the National Director. State Finals points: 15% of the contestant's points will be classified as "bonus points" and the remaining points will go to the rounds and average.

## APPEALS AND PROTESTS

Any contestant that wishes to appeal a decision must do so through the event director. **DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO A JUDGE.** Only contestants may appeal. We do not look at videos and do not hear appeals on mark outs or rough stock scores. The NCHSRA will follow the national rulebook in handling hearings and appeals, (page 6, Article II, Membership Associations Membership, paragraphs 12 and 13).

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Beginning in August 1995, approved safety vests are required for the rough stock events. At this time, helmets are not required. Mouthpieces are mandatory in all rough stock events, steer wrestling and chute dogging events.

## SEMINARS AND CLINICS

NCHSRA provides a mandatory safety seminar each year for Rookie members. The seminar will be held in the fall or spring. If a rookie member cannot be at the first safety seminar, he/she must notify the safety committee chairperson. The rookie member can then attend the make-up safety seminar. Rookie members must attend a safety seminar during the year to be eligible to ride in the State Finals.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available to qualifying students on both the state and national levels.

State Level: At the end of each rodeo year, the NCHSRA awards several scholarships to deserving students based upon their academic achievements. An application, which you will receive from the State Secretary, must be filled out and turned in along with a copy of your school transcript. The transcript must be contained within a sealed envelope and can be mailed after final grades are issued at the end of the school year. **The application must be turned in at state finals.** This must be done promptly because the scholarships are awarded at the NCHSRA State Finals Awards Banquet. Scholarships are awarded based on the following:

1. Must be a member in good standing of the NCHSRA
2. Must be a full-time student and enrolled in a full schedule of classes.
3. Scholarships will be awarded based on consideration of the following:
  - a. Number of college preparatory courses
  - b. Minimum 3.0 or higher GPA
  - c. Year-end report card accumulative grades; and
  - d. SAT and ACT scores (helpful but not mandatory)
4. All high school students will be eligible for scholarship awards regardless of class year.
5. Scholarships will award on basis of year-end report card accumulative grades.
6. Scholarship fund will be a separate account, which will not be used to promote NCHSRA or association rodeos.
7. Awarded scholarships will be held in trust for a maximum of seven (7) years, depending on class of winner at the time of award, i.e. a Junior award would be held five (5) years, one (1) for a senior and four (4) years for college.
8. Scholarships will be paid on receipt of application showing proof of enrollment in college or approved trade school. Checks will be made payable to the student and college of choice.

National Level: Any senior that goes to the NHSRA is eligible to apply for financial aid. This form can be found in the "NHSRA Times" and needs to be accompanied with a copy of your transcript. The National Director will turn in seniors' scholarship applications, but he must receive them at the State Finals.

The exception to these scholarships on both the state and national levels are contestants that are in home-school programs. The criteria used to award these scholarships are not available from home school programs.

All event winners at the NHSFR also receive a scholarship and it is held for them until they graduate.

Anyone calling before or after these hours, except rookie members for their first rodeo, will not be accepted.

**LATE CALL INS ARE NOT ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON.**

Because of problems we have had in the past, you can only call yourself in or out for a rodeo with the exception of contestants that haul horses for one another and request to be up on the same night. Team ropers may call in their partners for team roping only. If the partner competes in other events, he/she must enter themselves for those events. Please let the Rodeo Secretary know if someone else is using your horse or equipment at the rodeo.

The Rodeo Secretary must draw for positions for each rodeo beginning this year. Immediate family and team roping partners are the only ones who can request to be placed in slack if their partners or family is in slack. This request does not mean you will get slack. The show must be filled first. If there are not enough contestants to have slack in an event, then all contestants in that event will be in the show. This is a National rule. To request slack or show is considered "setting" the rodeo. Drawing for positions will prevent this from happening. This could mean on 2 day 2 go rodeos, a contestant can be in slack both nights if that is how it is drawn.

**SIGN-IN** – You must be in dress code when you sign in.

The sign-in books open at least one (1) hour before the rodeo starts. Each contestant needs to come pay their fees and check-in. **THE BOOKS WILL CLOSE TEN (10) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED START OF THE RODEO.** This is also where you pay your jackpot fees.

If there are two rodeos in one weekend, you can sign in for both days at the same time before the first rodeo.

**PAY IN CASH AND CORRECT CHANGE**

**RODEO PERSONNEL**

It takes a lot of people to make a rodeo go smoothly. There are many duties and jobs that go on behind the scenes and in the arena. Most of this work is done by parents and friends who receive no pay for their time. NCHSRA always needs and welcomes volunteers, and we will be happy to train anyone for any job.

The following is a partial list of the many positions that are required for each rodeo:

|                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rodeo Secretary              | Barrel and Pole Spotters |
| Timers and backup assistants | Arena Assistants         |
| Sign-in Assistants           | Grand Entry Assistants   |
| Goat Handlers                | Cattle Handlers          |

This is not a complete list, but as you can see, there are many slots to be filled. Please volunteer if you feel that you have the time. The paid personnel at the rodeo are the stock contractor, judges, bullfighter(s), pickup men and the announcer. Many times the stock contractor will furnish all of these in a package deal or the NCHSRA will have to pay them.

**MEDICAL SUPPORT**

It is the policy of the NCHSRA to always hire a paramedic or higher qualified medical personnel to be at each rodeo.

**FUND RAISERS**

It is a requirement for all **High School level and Junior High Division** contestants to raise \$100.00 each year in ads for our State Finals program. Since this is our major fund raising project for the year, the more you sell the better it is for the association. We use this money to finance rodeos, support the scholarship fund, purchase awards and provide travel money for the Nationals.

The prices for the ad program are as follows:

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| \$200.00 Inside covers/back page |
| \$100.00 Full page               |
| \$65.00 One-half page            |
| \$35.00 One-quarter page         |
| \$20.00 Business card ad         |

These programs are given out at the State Finals each year. The letter at the end of this handbook may help you in introducing the NCHSRA to sponsors.

**The deadline for ads to be turned in is April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Anyone joining after April 1<sup>st</sup>, including Rookie's will be required to pay a \$100.00 fund-raiser fee before State Finals or they will not be allowed to compete in State Finals.

Incentive: We give **50% payback** to everyone who sells ads in excess of their required \$100.00. The deadline, to turn ads in, for this incentive payback is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Anyone can purchase an ad in this program. Many contestants have pages wishing them best wishes from friends, relatives and other members.

This association usually has a **raffle** each year. Each contestant **MUST** sell a minimum of 20 tickets to be eligible to ride in the State Finals.

State Sponsorships: Anyone can sell a state sponsorship for \$1500.00. This includes a banner and flag (provided by the sponsor) and announcers spot at each rodeo during that season. The sponsorship can also be broken down and sold in \$500.00 increments (ex. Flag \$500.00, banner \$500.00, announcers spot \$500.00). The exception is you cannot sell a sponsorship that is in direct conflict with **CINCH**.  
**CINCH IS AN EXCLUSIVE SPONSOR.**

State Finals Sponsorships: Sponsorships for buckles are \$450.00 per event. This purchases buckles for first through fourth places at the State Finals. Contact the NCHSRA President for additional information and pricing.

Periodically throughout the year, we will hold auctions. Contestants are asked to bring new or used items to be sold. Each contestant will be asked to participate.

### **WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?**

A lot of money comes into the NCHSRA and all of it goes back out to our contestants in one form or another. Some of our expenses are awards, stock contractors, workers, insurance, advertising and operating expenses.

Money is also paid out in scholarships. If the money is available, the national finalists will be given travel money to help defer the costs of going out west.

The money to finance all of these expenses comes from entry fees, ad sales, donations and sponsorships.

No adult in NCHSRA benefits financially from any of the contestants' money.

### **PRODUCING RODEOS**

We are constantly asked what it takes to put on a rodeo. There are so many different situations that it would be impossible to have one answer for this question. But, generally, you need an arena or field large enough to run our events. You need a sponsor to pay the stock contractor's fee and you need some way to draw a crowd of paying spectators. Saddle clubs, social and service clubs do very well by selling program ads and chute gate signs to help pay for their rodeo expenses. The best situation is for sponsors to try to have the rodeo paid for with ads, etc. before they begin trying to sell tickets. This way, they are not subject to weather and other competitions. Each stock contractor has their own fee schedule and the NCHSRA does not get into trying to price their rodeos. We have a list of approved contractors and will be glad to share this information with anyone interested in producing a rodeo.

### **MULTI-STATE RODEOS**

We are invited to attend the Perry, Georgia rodeo in November. Virginia and South Carolina may invite us to participate with their teams throughout the year. At the time of these rodeos, we keep our points separate; so point wise, these are not different from any local rodeo. While at an out of state rodeo, we will go by their ground rules.

### **STATE FINALS**

NCHSRA State Finals will be held in May. There are three go-rounds for all contestants in each event. The top four winners, in the high school division, in each event win buckles; all-round cowboy and cowgirl; rookie cowboy and cowgirl and the right to compete at the National Finals. The junior high division presents awards to the top two (2) winners in each event. Junior high division awards have not been determined at this time but will be announced at a later date. (Please refer to your National rulebook, page 96, Junior Division Rules, to clarify any questions). If a contestant raises money for a saddle for first place in their event and turns the money in to the Treasurer, they can receive a certificate for that amount to order a saddle of their choice.

There will be a grade check at State Finals. Anyone not passing will not be allowed to ride. Call-in for the State Finals will be held two weeks prior to that rodeo. An administration charge of \$20.00 per one day's event is paid once at State Finals. Fees will include a \$5.00 jackpot for each go-round and average at State Finals. It is mandatory to ride in the State Finals to receive year-end awards. Contestants must ride in one (1) rodeo per event to compete in State Finals. Each contestant can get one guest in free at the State Finals. The guest must be with the contestant when he/she comes in the gate to get their hand stamped.

Board members may enter at no charge only when working and on the workers list.

Student officers and event directors are elected during the State Finals. Our state's annual meeting is held during this weekend in May. Adult officers are elected for the coming year at this meeting. All parents and members are urged to be at this meeting. Time and place will be announced.

### **NATIONAL FINALS**

The National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) will be held this year in Rock Springs, Wyoming from July 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. High School Division – The top four contestants in each event are invited to compete. If any of the top four cannot go to the NHSFR, we can “roll down” to eighth place to fill the slots. The National Junior High Division finals will be held in Gallup, New Mexico from June 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Junior High Division – If any of the top two cannot go to National Finals, we can “roll down” to fourth place to fill the slots. (Please refer to your National Rulebook to clarify questions). This has no effect on state standings or awards at State Finals. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT AT THE STATE FINALS MEETING TO BE INVITED.**

Travel monies are given to our national finalists based upon availability of funds.

Any contestant placing in the top ten on the state level and not qualifying for the NHSFR can attend the Silver State Rodeo in Nevada. For more information on this rodeo, contact your National Director.

### **THE FUTURE**

NCHSRA is growing each year. These are exciting times to be involved in the sport of rodeo, especially with the high school rodeo. Our contestants are the future of rodeo and the furthering of Western heritage. As we grow in numbers, we will grow in ability. With increased membership and the higher level of competition, we should see our teams improve each year.

