



North Carolina
High School and Junior
High
Rodeo Association

Contestant and Parent
Handbook
2017-2018

www.nchsrodeo.com

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to North Carolina High School and Jr. High Rodeo Association! As the season begins this year, we are looking forward to a great increase in membership and a season that provides quality rodeos for our membership to compete at. We hope to build strong teams to represent North Carolina at both the Junior High and High School National Finals. Hopefully, this handbook will be helpful to our new and returning contestants, and we encourage all parents and guardians to read this handbook. A lot of things about grades, financial matters and State and National Finals are explained, and all of these subjects will be helpful to both our student and adult membership this season.

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 lead 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.

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 1 hour before the rodeo is scheduled to begin, unless an earlier meeting time is announced. **Dress code is in effect for this meeting. Roll call will be taken.** Fines will be given for missing meeting and/or not being in dress code. (unless otherwise cleared with a board member in advance).
 3. The 30-second rule is in effect for all roping events, steer wrestling, chute dogging and goat tying at all North Carolina rodeos. There will also be a time limit in the barrel racing and pole bending events if contestant is not able to get their horse in the arena. It will be at the discretion of the judges if the contestant and their equine partner are "put on the clock".
 4. 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.
 5. In the NCHSRA, Mouthpieces are also mandatory for all contestants in the steer wrestling, chute dogging, and all rough stock events.
 6. 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)
 7. A contestant must be in good standing and compete in 50% of the rodeos to be eligible to apply for a state scholarship and an equal share of travel money for Nationals.
 8. Contestants must ride in the State Finals Rodeo to be eligible for all year-end awards.
 9. One (1) late call-in will be accepted for the entire rodeo season after that no late call-ins are allowed for any rodeo for any reason.
 10. A contestant must compete in at least two rodeos per event to be able to compete in that event at the State Finals.
 11. Back numbers are mandatory on rodeo grounds from 1 hour prior to the rodeo performance until the last contestant of the weekend competes. **1st Offense, \$25 fine. 2nd Offense. \$50 fine.**
- We suggest you make copies of your number for your coat/vest.

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 in-line with their local high schools.

DUES AND FEES

The membership dues for the High School and Jr. High Division are \$189.00 per year. Membership fees must be paid with cash, personal check, cashier's check, or money order. Membership fees cover NCHSRA membership, National membership, Supplemental medical insurance, Subscriptions to The Times, Western Horsemen, and The Roping Pen magazines. 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) are \$35.00 per event, per rodeo, with the exception of rough stock events, which are \$45.00 per event, per rodeo. Cutting and reined cow may be subject to additional cattle fees. Entry fees are paid at each rodeo, before the rodeo begins and **MUST BE PAID IN CASH AND CORRECT CHANGE**. The entry fees include a **\$15.00 jackpot fee per event**. The payoff will be one place per 5 contestants. This will apply to all qualifying rodeos during the year, sponsored by NCHSRA. This may not be applicable to out-of-state rodeos. The entry fees for the Queen will be offered at 50% discount in return for the extra responsibilities the Queen title requires.

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 not 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 them from 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 without a doctor's written excuse, provided notification of 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 the arena a **\$25.00 fine** will be assessed and must be paid prior to the next rodeo. Once entered into the arena there is not a penalty.

EVENT DIRECTORS: If are an Event Director you are to be on the arena floor at the time of your designated event. If for some reason you cannot be present you must find someone to fill in for you. Not showing up for your event during the performance and in slack will result in a \$25 fine. Keep in mind if the performance has slack and you do not show up for performance or slack that is a double fine (\$50).

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 subjects
- 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. All **New Members (grades 9 and up, High School Division, and grades 6-8th, 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 to the State Secretary at the first rodeo 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 prevent 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 the 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

CONDUCT/SCHOOL FORM MUST BE TURNED IN AT EACH RODEO.

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. Fighting, alcohol, drugs, cheating, tobacco use, animal abuse, profanity, are all grounds for possible disqualification from an individual rodeo and/or from the NCHSRA entirely. In the case of illegal activity, law enforcement will be involved. Social media is a part of our association. We maintain a

Facebook group and an Instagram account. These will be monitored. Inappropriate comments/posting may also result in disqualifications.

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 all other brands that are similar.

Your back number is part of your dress code. A back number 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 number must be worn on your 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 any way, 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 alcohol or tobacco patches, stickers or advertising is allowed on contestants' attire or equipment.

CONTESTANT MEETINGS

Contestant meetings are held before our rodeos. These meetings are going to begin one (1) hour 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 and attendance is taken by roll call before the meeting begins. You must be in western attire for the meeting. A **\$25 fine** will be given for **no shows and those not in dress code (unless otherwise approved by a board member)** 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 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 beginning of the year, the rodeo contestants will elect an event director for each event. It is the director's duty to be in the arena during the 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. **If the elected event director cannot attend a rodeo, it is their responsibility to arrange a suitable replacement and notify the Arena Director prior to the rodeo.**

The Student Officers will oversee this process.

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). For State Finals: Points coming in to the finals plus points for each go round and in the average will determine the event champions. Bonus points will be added only to determine All-Around Champions and Rookies. These points will be awarded based on where you finished for the season. (Event champion gets the most bonus points) The number of points available at state finals will be dependent on the number of regular season rodeos. Please direct any questions to your National Director.

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. Also, beginning 2014, industry approved helmets are required for both bull riding and steer riding. Mouthpieces are mandatory in all rough stock events, steer wrestling and chute dogging events. A contestant will be subject to disqualification for failure to utilize proper safety equipment.

SEMINARS AND CLINICS

NCHSRA provides a mandatory safety seminar each year for Rookie rough stock 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 scholarships to deserving seniors planning to further their education, based on academics, years of membership and letters of recommendation. 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 in by the advertised deadline for consideration.**

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. Must be a graduating high school senior at the time of application.
4. 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)
5. Scholarship fund will be a separate account, which will not be used to promote NCHSRA or association rodeos.
6. Awarded scholarships will be held in trust for a maximum of two (2) years from the time of award.
7. 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 NHSFR is eligible for scholarship monies. This form can be found in the "NHSRA Times" and needs to be accompanied with a copy of your transcript. The student applying is responsible for turning in the scholarship applications at Nationals, according to the instructions provided by the National Scholarship Committee. The National Director will be available for assistance when asked. You are responsible for having the National Director sign your application. The exceptions 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. **JAY HINSON SCHOLARSHIP:** An amount to be determined annually will be awarded to a graduating senior. Winner to be chosen by Jay Hinson.

AWARDS

Jeff Hinson Memorial Top Hand Award

Each year a High School Member will be nominated by the student membership and chosen by the Board of Directors to receive the Jeff Hinson Memorial Award. This Top Hand Buckle award is to be given to a high school member that has shown great sportsmanship and integrity in and out of the arena.

Leslie Allen Chamberlain Christian Sportsmanship Award

The member receiving this award will be nominated and voted on by the membership, and will be an individual who best represents the values of Christian sportsmanship both in the sports arena and the arena of life. The award recipient will have their name engraved on a memorial which will be displayed at Lone Hickory Arena. They will also receive an engraved medal and a \$500 educational scholarship.

RODEO PERSONNEL

It takes a lot of people for a rodeo to 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 need volunteers for each rodeo:

Barrel and Pole Spotters

Sign-in Assistants

Grand Entry Assistants

Goat Handlers

Gate / Admission

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, bullfighters, 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. This season we have put in place Volunteer Committees. We will have sign up for volunteers in the areas that are needed. Since we are growing, we have decided this year to follow what some of the other states are doing. We are encouraging our parents to come out and help and get to know the kids of the association and in turn, we want the kids to meet the parents. **This year we are asking that a member of each family volunteer at at least one (1) rodeo during the season.** For those families that have an able bodied family member and do not volunteer we will ask you to make a \$100 donation to the association in the place of not volunteering.

MEDICAL SUPPORT

It is the policy of the NCHSRA to always have an EMT or higher qualified medical personnel to be at each rodeo.

FUNDRAISERS

NCHSRA relies heavily on the fundraising efforts throughout the year. We use the money to finance rodeos, support the scholarship fund, purchase awards and provide travel money for National Finals. It is a requirement for all High School and Junior High Division contestants to raise \$400.00 in sales for the State Finals. The \$400 can be raised by the one or more of the 3 options that are outlined in the fundraising flyer in your membership packet. Since this is our major fund raising project for the year, the more you sell the better it is for the association, and you! **Please refer to the cover letter and forms detailing this fundraiser in your membership packet.**

The State Finals programs are given out at the State Finals each year. We have enclosed a letter that may help you in introducing the NCHSRA to sponsors. Anyone can purchase an ad in the program. Many contestants have pages wishing them best wishes from friends, relatives and other members.

There will be early turn-in date for the first \$200 of fundraising at the February Rodeo held at Lone Hickory. The final deadline for ad sales is April 1, 2016, so that we can get all ads to the publisher in time. Other fundraisers which may include but are not limited to, may include: 50/50 sales, t-shirt sales, jackpot roping, barrel racing jackpots, etc.. The NCHSRA is always open to new ideas for fundraising **that will work better for you.** Please contact **Amy Colvard** with any ideas.

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

PRODUCING RODEOS

We are often 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 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 RODEO

We have been invited again to attend the Southeast Showdown in Perry, Georgia. The board feels this is an outstanding event! It is a great opportunity to get the feel of National competition close to home. Members will meet fellow contestants from all over the southeast. Any points earned at this rodeo will have the option to be counted in the NCHSRA. You are not required to attend this rodeo. Like any other rodeo on our schedule, it is a choice. We would like to strongly encourage attendance, as it is a great experience. Please do not hesitate to ask any board member questions about this rodeo.

We have also, again, been invited by the state of Virginia to attend their Multi-State rodeo. This year they will be holding their Multi-state rodeo in Rural Retreat, Va. Like last year, this rodeo and Perry, Ga will be the rodeos that you have the option to point. **You can point one or the other but NOT BOTH.**

STATE FINALS

NCHSRA State Finals will be held in May. There are three go-rounds for all contestants in each event, that have met their fundraising requirements. There will be awards for Go-Round winners and Average winners. The top four winners in the high school division and junior high division will receive awards and the right to compete at the National Finals. There will also be awards for all-around cowboys, all-around cowgirls, all-around rookie cowboys and all-around rookie cowgirls.

NATIONAL FINALS

If any of the top four winners cannot go to the NHSFR or NJHFR, we can "roll down" to eighth place to fill the slots. 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. Travel monies are given to our national finalists based upon availability of funds. In the case that we are able to award travel monies to contestants going to National finals, the money will be given to them at Nationals after the Mandatory Contestant meeting. If for some reason, other than a med-out or vet-out while at Nationals, a competitor chooses to not compete in all events they have been given travel money for, they will be responsible for giving back that portion of their travel money to NCHSRA.

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, as well as our ability to offer more money, scholarships and awards.

North Carolina High School and Jr High School
Rodeo Association
Attestation

I hereby attest that I have read the North Carolina High School and Jr High School Rodeo Association's Contestant and Parent Handbook. Therefore, I have made myself aware of the contents of the handbook.

Contestant Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Good Luck this season!