



Maryland High
School Rodeo
Association, Inc.

High School, Jr. High,
Mustang Division
Contestant and Parent
Handbook
2021-2022

www.mdhsra.org

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to Maryland High School, Jr. High and Elementary (Mustang) 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 Maryland 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 Maryland High School Rodeo Association (MDHSRA) is to provide an activity for High School, Jr. High and Elementary School students, promoting the sport of rodeo, sportsmanship, and education while preserving our Western heritage.

ORGANIZATION:

MDHSRA and MDJHSRA 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 MDHSRA 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 State Finals or within 30 days of State Finals.

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 by the board members in advance).
3. 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.**
4. The 30-second rule is in effect for all roping events, steer wrestling, chute dogging and goat tying at all Maryland rodeos. The 60-second rule is in effect for the Mustang Division in these events.
5. There will also be a 30-second 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".
6. In the MDHSRA, mouthpieces are also mandatory for all contestants in the steer wrestling, chute dogging, and all rough stock events.
7. It is mandatory for all MDHSRA rookie rough stock members attend one safety seminar during each year to be eligible to compete in the State Finals. (Refer to Seminar and Clinics section: in this handbook)
8. A contestant must be in good standing and compete in 50% of the rodeos to be eligible for the year end state awards.
9. Contestants must ride in the State Finals Rodeo to be eligible for High School and Jr. High National Finals.
10. A contestant must compete in one rodeo per event to be able to compete in that event at State Finals.

MDHSRA 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 MDHSRA has made a ground rule that will be consistent with, but more workable than, the subject rule in the rulebook.

DUES AND FEES

A CONTESTANT WHO HAS NOT PAID DUES OR FEES ON TIME WILL BE UNABLE TO COMPETE IN RODEO EVENTS.

NHSRA Membership Fees:

Every MDHSRA member must pay **NHSRA membership fees** by the first rodeo of the season.

- High School Division = \$175.00 per season
- Jr. High School Division = \$131.00 per season
- Mustang Division = \$75.00 per season.

Membership fees must be paid with cash, personal check, cashier's check, money order or credit card. Membership fees cover MDHSRA and MDJHSRA membership, NHSRA membership, Supplemental medical insurance, Subscriptions to The Times and Western Horsemen. 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. Membership fee for Mustang Division covers membership. Membership dues must be paid by the first rodeo of the season.

MDHSRA Annual Dues:

In addition, MDHSRA and MDJHSRA contestants must submit **annual MDHSRA dues** totaling \$250.00 throughout the season. The first installment of the \$125.00 is due by October 1 and the second installment is due by April 1. Members joining after November 1 are only responsible for the spring dues.

Event Entry Fees:

Entry fees (for all divisions) are posted on the event sheet before each rodeo. Entry fees are paid at each rodeo, before the rodeo begins and **MUST BE PAID IN CASH AND CORRECT CHANGE.**

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.
- **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.**
- **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. 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 29; 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.**"
- **EVENT DIRECTORS:** If you 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 fine -1st Offense verbal warning, 2nd Offense \$10.00 fine. Keep in mind if the performance has slack and you do not show up for performance or slack that is a double fine (\$20).

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 MDHSRA for grades and academics. All MDHSRA members must be in good standing at school and must have at passing grades in at least 70 percent of the classes taken, or met the state activity requirements. See page 25-26 of the National Rulebook for more information.

MDHSRA 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** must turn in their most current 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 Members must turn in a report card by May 1 to the state secretary. Only official report cards (or official reports on home school letterhead) are acceptable. Progress reports will NOT be accepted. 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!

Many 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 MDHSRA. Fighting, alcohol, drugs, cheating, tobacco use, animal abuse and profanity are all grounds for possible disqualification from an individual rodeo and/or from the MDHSRA 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. Further disciplinary action may be determined by the MDHSRA Board of Directors.

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 **\$15 fine** will be given for **no shows and those not in dress code (unless otherwise approved by the adult board member.)** No horses are allowed during the contestant meetings.

GRAND ENTRY:

All contestants that have horses at the rodeo are encouraged 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 MDHSRA 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 MDHSRA 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 President 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 MDHSRA rulebook, (page 34-37, 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 or A TIMER.** Only contestants may appeal. We do not look at videos and do not hear appeals on mark outs or rough stock scores. The MDHSRA will follow the national rulebook in handling hearings and appeals (General Rules for Contestant 14--20).

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:

MDHSRA 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 MDHSRA awards scholarships to deserving seniors planning to further their education, based on academics, years of membership and letters of recommendation. 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 MDHSRA
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. Awarded scholarships will be held in trust for a maximum of two (2) years from the time of award.
5. 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. Please see the NHSFR Website for more information and available scholarships.

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. MDHSRA 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
- 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 MDHSRA 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 least (2 ½ hours) during the rodeo season.** For those families that have an able bodied family member and do not volunteer we will ask you to make a \$50 donation to the association in the place of not volunteering. All Volunteers must be in dress code if in the arena.

TRIAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Any interested in participating in a rodeo is welcome to do so. A one- time only trial membership can be purchased for \$25. Regular event fees then apply. Trial members are not eligible for points as defined in the MDHSRA rulebook. Trial members may also participate in State Finals events, but are not eligible for year-end awards.

MEDICAL SUPPORT:

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

FUNDRAISERS:

MDHSRA relies heavily on the fundraising efforts throughout the year. We use the money to finance rodeos and purchase awards. 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 MDHSRA is always open to new ideas for fundraising. **Please refer to the Fundraising and Donation Guidelines Policy and Procedure on the MDHSRA Website.** Please contact MDHSRA Adult Board Members with any ideas.

Some MDHSRA fundraisers are mandatory, meaning that each contestant must raise a certain amount of money or pay the required amount themselves. For example, for a raffle fundraiser, the contestant must either sell a required 10 tickets at \$10 a piece or pay \$100 to MDHSRA, if tickets are not sold. For families with multiple contestants, MDHSRA requires participation from only two contestants.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

A lot of money comes into the MDHSRA 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. 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. The best situation is for sponsors to try to have the rodeo paid for with ads, etc. Each stock contractor has their own fee schedule. We have a list of approved contractors and will be glad to share this information with anyone interested in producing. If you have a facility in your area, please see the website for the Rodeo Prep Check list to submit to the MHSRA Board of Directors.

RODEO POINTS:

For the season we will have 14 rodeos. ALL rodeos that are MDHSRA sanctioned will be pointed. If MDHSRA offers choices for rodeos that must be declared, MDHSRA will post the options and procedures at the beginning of the rodeo season.

*****CONTESTANTS HAVE 10 DAYS AFTER POINTS HAVE BEEN POSTED By THE STATE SECRETARY TO SUBMIT A GRIEVANCE****STATE FINALS:**

MDHSRA State Finals will be held in May. There are three go-rounds for all contestants in each event. There will be awards for Event 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. Mustang Division will receive awards at this time. Queens's contest will also be held during this time.

Members MUST enter and compete in all three (3) go rounds at state finals in order to be eligible for State and National awards.**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 a competitor chooses to not compete in all events, for any reason other than a med-out or vet-out while at Nationals, they will be responsible for giving back that portion of their travel money to MDHSRA.

THE FUTURE:

MDHSRA 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.



Maryland High School Rodeo, Inc.
High School, Jr High and
Mustang Rodeo Association

I hereby attest that I have read the Maryland High School Rodeo, Inc. Contestant and Parent Handbook. Therefore, I understand and am aware of the contents of this handbook.

Contestant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Good Luck this season!

