



## RHRA ETIQUETTE & COMMUNITY CONDUCT INFO

**Cowboys & Cowgirls, Parents & Grandparents:** As we look forward to our upcoming competitive season, we want to wish you all of the best of luck this year and to share a few friendly reminders of Equine event etiquette and arena safety.

- **Remember this is an “Volunteer Organization!”** The individuals and families who produce RHRA, including board members, judges, arena help and more, are here out of the kindness of their heart and are 100% volunteers! Some people helping to produce the event may be new or have limited knowledge so be patient and ask questions politely if something is confusing or seems to be incorrect. If you think you can improve an event, help by volunteering at the next event!
- **Know the Rules!!!** As a contestant or parent of a contestant, be sure to know the rules and expectations of the association and all of your events. Remember to be patient and read the rule book. This is your responsibility to know the general association rules as well as the rules for your personal events & keep in mind that modifications and amendments happen from year to year and it's up to you to remain up-to-date. Not knowing the rules will not be an excuse!
- **Seek Clarification!** Before you question or contest a call, make sure you know the rules! They are available online to all contestants. If you need clarification of a rule, you believe a violation occurred, or simply need to understand why a call was made ... By all means, please ask – But be Respectful!! Ask questions and seek clarification immediately; once any given event is complete, changes are rarely made to the results. Be certain to seek clarification or ask for a review before the end of an event. Remember, WE ARE ALL HUMAN, even judges, secretaries, producers and helpers make mistakes. Being a judge isn't always easy and they have to make tough calls. Sometimes those calls work in your favor and sometimes they don't. Be kind -- these things always come full circle in time.
- **Be Prepared!** If you or your child are competing, know who is competing ahead of you and be ready when it's your turn. Everyone including producers, stock contractors and helpers are trying to be efficient; Do your part and be ready when your name is called.
- **Get Involved!** Like the saying says, “Before You Complain, have you Volunteered?” REMEMBER, the volunteers working these events are doing their best to help YOU and YOUR KIDS for absolutely nothing. Return the favor!!! Many hands make light work and prevent people from “burning out!” Volunteering is technically optional but is required to qualify for RHRA year-end awards. Help wisely! Also, we have several committees who would love to have your help – Fundraising, Saturday Events, Education, Volunteer – So jump on in!
- **Stay Clear of the Gate!** Make sure contestants can enter and exit the arena when they are called, without your interference. The gate is not the place to un-cinch/untack, hang out or warm up!
- **Train practice at home!** The event is not the place to fix your horse or begin your practice. Don't expect people to clear a path for you from a mile away, reset the barrier multiple times, or wait an untimely amount for you to get your horse in for your run. When you struggle, take responsibility for your horse and how it acts. Apologize for the inconvenience and do your best to fix the problem at home. *With that said,*

RHRA is focused on growth and safety and some grace will be given in this circumstance, however, this is not the place to begin your training and practice.

- **Keep a positive attitude & maintain good sportsmanship!** This is a “Family Tradition” and we are here to compete but to also keep the values and heritage of our sport and family as the top priority. One of the unique things about RHRA is the community and extended family feel. This is up to YOU to help maintain! **Remember you aren’t the only one there!** You don’t have to be best friends with everyone and you are certainly allowed your disappointments but remember, kindness matters!!! If it went great, smile and wish the next person good luck. If it didn’t go well, shake it off, smile, and wish the next person good luck. No matter what, stay positive! There is always another chance and success is never guaranteed! **WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THE RELATIONSHIPS YOU WILL BUILD AND THE MEMORIES YOU WILL CHERISH!**
- **Keep It Classy!** Contestants, Parents/Guardians, Immediate and Extended Family Members, Friends/Supporters and Associates of Contestants shall be well versed in the conduct section of the rule book found starting on page. 8 of the 2022 Official RHRA Rule Book.
- **Nothing is Guaranteed!** As the old saying goes “only bet on a sure thing!” There’s only one sure thing and that is “everything changes!” As previously stated, this is an all-volunteer organization and it is funded through community support. While RHRA works hard to grow our annual budget year over year; RHRA makes no implied or explicit representation of what awards may be given at the end of the year. This includes, but is not limited to, saddles, buckles or any other prizes. Work hard for your own success and let the prizes be the cherry on top!!!
- **Be Thankful!** All of the people running this association and its events, are volunteers! If it wasn’t for them, you wouldn’t have an event to attend. As a youth contestant, appreciate every time your parents load your horses in the trailer and give you an opportunity to participate in RHRA events. It’s a privilege, not a right – Be thankful! Treat them accordingly and do your part!
- **MOST IMPORTANT!!! Have Fun. Smile. Laugh. LEARN. Help. Be thankful every time you load the trailer! Each-and-every one of us blessed to be a part of this awesome lifestyle. Cherish it!**

**Contestant / Guardian #1**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant / Guardian #2**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant / Guardian #3**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant / Guardian #4**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant / Guardian #5**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant / Guardian #6**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL CONTESTANTS AND PARENTS / LEGAL GUARDIANS.**