



2025 NDHSRA State Finals Ground Rules

1. Mandatory contestant meeting to be held 2 hours prior to the start of the first performance Friday morning. Roll call will be taken. Contestants not in attendance will be drawn out of the State Finals. Those **only** competing in the Rifle and Trap Shooting contests are welcome to attend, but not required. Rifle and Trap contestants are required to attend any meeting for the shooting events.
2. A State Finals entry fee has been implemented. Each contestant will be charged \$45 per event and a \$5 committee fee covering all performances. Jackpotting your events is optional. If they jackpot it is \$30 per event which includes \$10 per go = \$20 + \$10 for the average = \$30.
3. Contestant numbers shall be split evenly between morning and evening performances. Performance order for contestants shall be Friday morning/Saturday evening and Friday evening/Saturday morning.
4. Bareback, Saddle Bronc and Bull Riding contestants will compete in the evening performances only.
5. The order of events will be the same as a regular qualifying rodeo. Cow Cutting's first go will be girls then boys; second go will be boys then girls; short go will be girls cutting then boys cutting.
6. Should a calf/steer fail to break the neck rope string or change directions prior to breaking the string, that animal shall be considered a sulking animal and removed from the draw and the contestant given a new animal. It will be the judge's discretion whether the contestant beat the barrier.
7. **State Finals Points System:** The top 24-point earners, in each event, will bring into the State Finals all their points accumulated from the seasons qualifying rodeos. More contestants may be eligible due to ties for 24th place. In addition to the points brought into State, contestants will be awarded ten points for 1st place down to one point for 10th place in each event for the 1st Go, 2nd Go, Average and the Short Go. The average points will be determined after the first two go rounds.

The only variance to the above is for Team Roping. Because there are two contestants competing together, going into the State Finals, the points from the header and heeler are combined to create team points. For Team Roping, the points awarded for each go are: 20 points for the 1st place team down to 2 points for the 10th place team. For All-Around purposes, each header and heeler is awarded the normal 10 points down to 1 point.

State Finals Short Go: The top 12 contestants in the standings are eligible to compete in the short go round. If there is a tie for the 12th spot, the ties will compete in the Short Go too.

8. Competition Order for the 1st and 2nd Go's:
Cow Cutting and Reined Cow Horse will be a random draw for both go rounds.
Remaining Rodeo Events: The order for the 1st Go will be a random draw. The order will then be reversed for the 2nd Go.
9. Competition Order for the Short Go:

The order will start with the last position in the standings down to first person in the standings. The rough stock events will also compete in this order: Barrel racing, pole bending, cow cutting, and reined cow horse will be a random draw.

10. There will be a thirty-second time limit on cattle timed events, not to include cutting. Catch pen gate shall remain closed until time limit expires or contestant calls for time.
11. Because the State Finals has an average, in the 1st and 2nd Go, team ropers are given 3 loops. Tie down and breakaway ropers are given 2 loops but must be carrying both loops. In the Short Go, team ropers are limited to 2 loops, tie down and breakaway ropers to 1 loop.
12. Refer to the State Finals Schedule of Events for all the activity's locations and start times.
13. **Contestants are required to be in full western attire** when in the arena/grandstand area, regardless of when they compete. Contestants must always wear their back number from Friday morning to Sunday following awards.
14. The barrier will be re-tied for each contestant.
15. There will be a 5 second penalty added in the breakaway if it is not a clean bell collar catch. All breakaway rules still apply, loop must go over the nose.
15. Barrel racing, pole bending, and goat tying shall be staked so each contestant has a straight run from the center gate.
16. The contestant on deck, in Barrel Racing, Pole Bending and Goat tying, will be in the holding pen behind the center gate.
17. The number of rakes for barrels and poles will be determined by the ground conditions.
18. There will be no more than 5 runs on each goat.
19. Grievance Policy: Be sure to review the policy as stated in NHSRA Rule Book on page 27 item 7 and page 28 items 14 through 17. On a state level, the NDHSRA Board of Directors has determined the following people will be involved in a grievance meeting: The contestant, event director involved of the event in question, arena director, judge(s) involved and the National Director. If the National Director is not at the rodeo the NDHSRA Board President or Vice President will take the place of the National Director. The details of the grievance and outcome is to be reported to the NDHSRA Secretary. Parents are NOT to speak to the judge in any manner regarding contestants.
20. No pet animals shall be brought into the rodeo/grandstand area.
21. **Alcohol**: This is an association made up of minors. The NDHSRA has a zero tolerance for underage drinking. Individuals over 21 years of age: It is allowed by law if you choose to drink in your living quarters/campers. Alcohol cannot be visible in or around the rodeo arena or in the camping area. If any parent or other non-contestants of legal age consume alcohol and become disruptive, those individuals may be asked by any member of the board of directors to go and remain in their vehicle for the duration of the event. If the disruption is excessive, the board of directors in their sole discretion, may require that such individuals leave the rodeo grounds for the duration of the event and may take other actions barring the participation in future events including disqualification of the contestant(s) associated with such individuals.
22. All-Around and Rookie Awards are determined using the same point system as outlined above. All points earned, at all qualifying rodeos and the state finals in all events in which a contestant competes are

totaled to determine year-end rankings. (Points from the RCH qualifying events are not included in the year-end All Around or Rookie Awards).

23. All National Finals paperwork must be completed on Sunday following the awards ceremony. The National office requires both custodial parents to sign all documents in front of a notary. The top four-point earners qualify to compete in the NHSR Finals. If a contestant cannot go to Nationals, then the 5th place will move up to the National Team. We are allowed to roll up as low as the 8th place winner. Fourth place ties all qualify and are eligible to compete at the NHSR Finals.
24. NDHSRA licensed logo can only be on merchandise sold by North Dakota High School Rodeo Association. Host committee may sell merchandise that does not contain the official NHSRA nor NDHSRA logos. Fundraisers, such as raffles, 50/50 etc., to be sold are to be preapproved by the NDHSRA Board.