



Ground Rules

Updated August 2025

Standard Event Order: Bareback Riding, Breakaway Roping, Tie Down Roping, Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling, Saddle Bronc Riding, Goat Tying, Team Roping, Pole Bending and Bull Riding. Cow Cutting order for double cuts: Girls Cutting, Boys Cutting, Boys Cutting and Girls Cutting.

Rodeo committees may be approved to change the event order. It is important to review the information page for each rodeo as posted on the schedule page of the NDHSRA website in case of a change to the order of events.

Western Attire: The dress code can be found in the 2024-2026 NDHSRA Rulebook on page 35, 6a Attire. At the 2025 NHSRA Mid-Winter Meeting there were two additions made to the rulebook: 1) Shirts must be tucked in; and 2) Western boots must have a minimum of 1" heel height.

Stock Draw: The stock draw will be two hours prior to the rodeo and posted one hour before the rodeo. All livestock will be drawn until there are no more cattle. This will be considered the first draw. There will be a pause in the action during the rodeo to do a second draw of livestock. The board does not allow parents or kids to huddle for the redraw. The event director will write the stock redraw numbers on a separate set of judge's sheets and take them to the crow's nest to be announced.

Cow Cutting: Cutting may not be held at the same location or same time as all qualifying rodeos. This allows the committees the opportunity to pool resources with another rodeo committee. If a cutting is held at a different location the same day as a rodeo, there will be adequate time allocated for you to travel to the rodeo grounds to compete in your remaining events.

Reined Cow Horse: RCH is not a standard event and will be offered a minimum of three times at the qualifying level. Ten points will be awarded for 1st place down to one point for 10th place. Because this is not a standard event, All-Around points are not awarded for the qualifying competitions. Only points earned at the state finals rodeo will apply towards All-Around.

Rough Stock Contestants: Be sure to review the safety checklists that are posted on the Entering a Rodeo page of the website.

Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, and Goat Tying: Once your name is called, you are allowed 30 seconds to enter the arena to compete in your event. The judges have the authority to give you three calls prior to giving you a no time.

Raking the Arena for Barrels and Poles: As stated in the NHSRA rulebook, all turnouts, and releases (medical and vet) will be included in the count. The rakes will be marked on the official draw that's posted at each rodeo. When arena conditions allow, the NDHSRA rakes every six runs or less at the discretion of the arena director and judges. **It is an NDHSRA ground rule at every rodeo, that if you have broken the pattern, you must exit the arena.**

Breakaway: You must have a clean bell collar catch or it will be a no time.

Breakaway, Tie Down, Team Roping and Steer Wrestling: You are given 30 seconds to get your horse backed in the box. The judges have the authority to start the stopwatch giving you an additional 30 seconds prior to assessing your run with a no time.

Rough Stock: A judge has the authority to put a rough stock contestant on a 30 second clock if they are not making a valiant effort to get out on the animal.

Mandatory Meetings: Are mandatory!! Roll call may be taken.

Nationals: If a contestant decides for any reason not to go to the National Finals rodeo, he/she will not receive a National Team clothing/jacket.

Harassment of an Event Director: The 2024-2026 NHSRA Rulebook, page 37, (7) states: Any contestants, or parents attempting to fix, threaten, bribe, influence, harass or coerce any rodeo official at any time between opening and closing of a rodeo will be disqualified. **The Board elaborated on this rule to include Rodeo official means, Student Event Directors, Volunteers, Board Members, State Secretary, Timers, basically any rodeo personnel. And to be clear, the disqualification is for all of your events that day. Any harassment of a rodeo official will not be tolerated. No warnings will be given.**