



Information Guide

A MUST Read

Updated December 2025

Website: Our official website, ndhsra.org, is where information and details regarding high school rodeo can be found. The [Rodeo Schedule](#) page receives the most visits. The week prior to the rodeo, the Committee provides an information sheet regarding their rodeo. Some rodeos may use a different event order. Read this information sheet for details specific to that rodeo. If committees are offering stalls, those forms will also be attached to this page a month or more prior to the rodeo. The [Draw/Results](#) and the [Standings](#) pages are updated after each rodeo.

Rule Book: The National Rule Book is posted on the website and the NDHSRA Secretary has hard copies available at each rodeo.

Rodeo Entry Deadline Fee: Contestants who fail to meet the entry deadline (11:59 pm online) but notify the State Secretary on or before the 5:00 pm CST Monday draw-out deadline will incur a late fee of \$50.00. Late entries are only accepted if there is a secretary error. There is a one-time grace period for a missed deadline for new members.

Entering Rodeo Events: All entries must be submitted via our online entry system. Entry fees are required to be paid at each rodeo and may be remitted by cash or check.

Entry Fees: All entry fees must be remitted directly to the rodeo committee prior to participation in any events. Failure to submit fees before competing will result in a **\$50 fine per event**. If your parents cover your fees and you travel to rodeos on your own, make sure you have a plan for handling your entry payments. The sole exception to this rule occurs when either the cow cutting event or RCH is scheduled for the evening prior to the rodeo. Cutters and RCH participants are required to pay all entry fees in advance of their competition in the rodeo. Additionally, the \$50 fine must be settled in full prior to participation in the subsequent rodeo event.

Team Roping – Draw Partner: According to the Rule Book, if a team roping contestant does not have a partner, they may ask for one to be provided by selecting from a volunteer list of contestants who have already entered team roping. No points will be awarded to the draw partner. The Rule Book no longer specifies any restriction on how many times you can use a Draw Partner. This applies if your roping partner is injured, absent from a rodeo, or you are seeking a full-time partner. If you need a partner drawn, you must enter team roping through the NDHSRA Secretary. Partners will be randomly drawn from a pool of ropers, with no hand-picked selections allowed. Draw partners are not permitted at the State Finals.

Draw Partner Selection: At the season's start, a list is created of contestants willing to be drawn. Partners are drawn prior to the rodeo and will be posted by official draw sheets. If you can't rope again at the rodeo, notify the Secretary immediately for a redraw. As a draw partner, you don't have to pay entry fees. If you do decide to pay and finish in the top three, you'll earn the prize for that position. Draw partners do not receive points.

Draw Outs (Rodeo and Jackpot): Participants may withdraw from a rodeo without penalty by notifying the Secretary via **e-mail** no later than 5:00 pm CST on the Monday preceding the event. If you do not receive a confirmation, please follow up. If you miss the draw out deadline, you must pay your entry fees from the missed rodeo before competing again, unless you submit a doctor or vet release before the next rodeo.

Rodeo Draw: Contestants will receive the pre-draw by email on Monday evening after draw-outs close to confirm their entries. You must check the pre-draw Monday and promptly inform the NDHSRA secretary if you find any entry errors. The official draw will be on the website Wednesday before the rodeo. The stock draw will be available at the rodeo office one hour before each event.

Jackpotting (JP): Participation in jackpotting is optional for all contestants. The entry fee is \$10 per event and must be paid at each rodeo. Team roping partners should agree on whether they will participate in JP. The payout distribution depends on how many contestants choose to jackpot in each event. Payout checks are distributed at the conclusion of both the fall and spring rodeos. If a contestant decides to enter the jackpot for an event, they may only withdraw before the draw-out deadline.

Contestant Meetings: Rodeo contestant meetings provide updates on rule changes and other Association news at both national and local levels. Members are expected to be present, while parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Contestant meetings will take place at Mandan, West Fargo, and New Salem; participants will receive notification regarding the specific time and location of each meeting. Western attire is required for all attendees.

Event Turnout (Rodeo Day): If you have paid your entry fees but cannot compete, please inform the NDHSRA Secretary. If you decide to turn out of an event and fail to let the Secretary know, you'll be fined \$10 for each event missed. The fine must be paid before you attend your next rodeo. Turning out does not affect the points you've earned in your other events.

Points System: Each event awards ten points for 1st place, down to one point for 10th. Points are totaled across all qualifying rodeos.

State Finals: The 24 contestants with the highest points in each event qualify for the State Finals Rodeo. If there are any ties, additional contestants will be allowed to compete in the Finals.

State Finals Short Go: The top 12 contestants after two rounds and the state average qualifies for the short go-round. The average points will be determined after the first two go-rounds of the State Finals. A maximum of 12 contestants may participate in the short go, with exceptions made only in the case of ties.

The exception to the above rule applies to Team Roping, as this event involves two contestants. Before the State Finals, the points earned by both the header and heeler are added together to form the team's total score. In the Finals, teams earn points for the 1st Go, 2nd Go, Average, and Short Go, with the top team receiving 20 points and the tenth-place team getting 2 points. For All-Around purposes, each contestant is awarded the normal 10 points down to 1 point.

Reined Cow Horse (RCH) at State Finals: Points earned in the RCH competition at the State Finals are included in the calculation of All-Around points.

Fundraising Requirements: Participation in fundraising is mandatory. All members must meet a designated fundraising amount to qualify for rodeo participation. The specific amount may change annually and will be communicated at the fall rodeo event.

Queen Contest: This is open to any young lady who is a member of the NDHSRA and in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade. The competition is held each year during the State Finals. If you are interested, contact Lindsey Miller for further details at 701-339-2281 or at lindseymiller19@gmail.com.

Rifle and Trap Shoot Contest: Qualifying shoots will be held throughout the year, with a final event at the State Finals Rodeo. Further information will be available on the website. All participants must register for shooting contests online and follow the same entry deadlines as rodeo events. The top four scorers will earn a spot at the National High School Rodeo Finals. Note that points from the shooting contest do not count toward All-Around points.

Back Numbers: Participants will be issued a new back number upon payment of their entry fees at both their first fall and spring rodeo, as well as at the State Finals. The back number must be worn at all rodeo events.

Adopt-A-Rodeo: This initiative was developed to support rodeo committees that have volunteered to host an event but require extra assistance on the day. We encourage members, including parents who aren't part of a rodeo committee, to volunteer at one or more rodeos. Tasks can include working at the gate, setting up barrels or poles, retrieving hats, and more. Please fill out this section on the NDHSRA Membership Form.

Grievance Policy: It is important to familiarize yourself with the policy outlined in the NHSRA Rule Book General Rules for Contestants, specifically items 7 and 14 through 17. For state-level grievances, the NDHSRA Board of Directors has established that a meeting will include the contestant, the director of the event in question, the arena director, any judges involved, and the National Director. If the National Director is absent from the rodeo, the NDHSRA Board President or Vice President will serve in their place. The NDHSRA Secretary will document both the grievance details and its resolution.

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 nor in the camping area. Should any parent or other non-contestant of legal age consume alcohol or exhibit disruptive behavior, such individuals may be instructed by a member of the board of directors to remain in their vehicle for the remainder 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 contestants associated with such individuals.

Child Abuse Reporting: Under North Dakota law N.D.C.C. Chapter 50-25.1 board members or administrators who directly interact with minors in a supervisory capacity are considered mandated reporters. The NDHSRA is committed to providing a safe environment for all youth participants.

Social Media: The NDHSRA values youth privacy and works to balance recognition, privacy, and safety for members. All members must review and sign the NDHSRA Social Media Consent Form each year and upload the completed document to the National Portal.