Northern NRA Rodeo Alliance

Rulebook

THE NORTHERN RODEO ALLIANCE FINALS IS A STAGE BUILT BY THE CONTESTANTS THEMSELVES - POWERED BY MEMBERSHIP, DRIVEN BY NORTHERN PRIDE AND SHAPED BY THE COMMUNITIES THAT STAND BEHIND THEM.

EVERY MILE, EVERY HORSE, EVERY PRACTICE PEN, EVERY QUIET MOMENT OF WORK THAT NOBODY SEES - IT ALL SHOWS UP HERE.

THIS RULEBOOK EXISTS TO SUPPORT THE ATHLETE- NOT POLICE THEM. THE RULES ARE CLEAR, SIMPLE AND CONSISTENT SO ATHLETES KNOW WHERE THEY STAND AND WHY.

THERE ARE NO CONTRADICTIONS, NO TECHNICAL TRAPS, AND NO POLICIES WRITTEN TO MICROMANAGE CONTESTANTS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE & AUTHORITY
2. MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY
3. FINALS FORMAT
4. CONDUCT & APPEARANCE
5. PAYOUTS & ADDED MONEY STRUCTURE
6. ENTRYFEES, TURNOUTS & SUBSTITUTIONS
7. PRODUCTION RULES
8. STALLING, PARKING & ONSITE LOGISTICS
9. GROWTH CLAUSE / STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT
10. SPONSOR RECOGNITION
11. MEDIA & VISIBILITY
12. CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICS
13. ROUGHSTOCK RULES (GENERAL)
14. TIMED EVENT RULES (GENERAL)
15. STOCK CONTRACTOR & LIVESTOCK WELFARE
16. JUDGES, DISPUTES & REVIEW PROCESS
17. ARENA OPERATIONS, SAFETY & GROUND RULES



1. PURPOSE & AUTHORITY

1.1 SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

THE NORTHERN RODEO ALLIANCE FINALS IS THE OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT OF THE NORTHERN RODEO ALLIANCE AND REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF COMPETITION UNDER THE NORTHERN RODEO ALLIANCE BANNER.

THE NORTHERN RODEO ALLIANCE IS NOT A SANCTIONING BODY AND DOES NOT REGULATE, GOVERN OR IMPOSE RULES ON ANY INDEPENDENTLY PRODUCED RODEOS, ASSOCIATIONS, TOURS, OR COMMITTEES. THIS RULEBOOK APPLIES EXCLUSIVELY TO THE NORTHERN RODEO ALLIANCE FINALS EVENT AND GOVERNS ONLY COMPETITION, CONDUCT, PRODUCTION, SAFETY AND ELIGIBILITY WITHIN THE FINALS ITSELF.

ALL NOMINATED, RECOGNIZED, OR PARTNERED RODEOS OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY UNDER THEIR OWN RULES, SANCTIONING STRUCTURES, AND GOVERNANCE.

1.2 THESE RULES GOVERN ALL COMPETITION, CONDUCT, PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS, CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY, LIVESTOCK HANDLING, AND ARENA PROCEDURES DURING THE FINALS. BY ENTERING THE FINALS, ALL CONTESTANTS AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS RULEBOOK AND ACCEPT THE AUTHORITY OF THE NORTHERN RODEO ALLIANCE TO INTERPRET AND ENFORCE IT.

1.3 THE NRA FINALS ARE INVITATION-ONLY. A CONTESTANT MAY ONLY PARTICIPATE BY QUALIFYING THROUGH AN APPROVED PATHWAY, BACKFILL POSITION, OR WILDCARD ENTRY PROCESS AS OUTLINED IN THIS RULEBOOK.

1.4 THE NRA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO INTERPRET RULES IN THE SPIRIT OF FAIRNESS AND SAFETY. IN THE EVENT OF A SITUATION NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED BY THIS BOOK, THE NRA HAS THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE A RULING CONSISTENT WITH COMPARABLE CANADIAN AND NORTH AMERICAN RODEO STANDARDS.

1.5 JUDGES AND OFFICIALS ARE EMPOWERED BY THE NRA TO ENFORCE ALL COMPETITION RULES. THEIR RULING IN THE ARENA IS FINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED BY AN OFFICIAL PROTEST CLAUSE (IF ANY).

1.6 THE NRA HAS AUTHORITY TO REMOVE OR DISQUALIFY A CONTESTANT FOR:

- CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO LIVESTOCK WELFARE
- CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE FINALS, STAFF, SPONSORS, OR THE PRODUCTION
- DELIBERATE RULE VIOLATION
- UNSAFE OR RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR

- NO FINE SCHEDULE IS IMPLEMENTED IN YEAR ONE; HOWEVER, DISQUALIFICATION OR REMOVAL MAY BE USED WHEN NECESSARY.

1.7 THE NRA HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DELAY, MODIFY, OR ADJUST COMPETITION FORMATS IN RESPONSE TO WEATHER, SAFETY CONDITIONS, LIVESTOCK CONCERNS, OR OTHER UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

2. MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY

2.1 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT:

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NRA FINALS, CONTESTANTS MUST HOLD A CURRENT NRA MEMBERSHIP. MEMBERSHIPS ARE:

$100 FOR OPEN CONTESTANTS

$50 FOR JUNIOR CONTESTANTS

$25 FOR PEEWEE CONTESTANTS

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.

2.2 ACTIVATION DATE:

EARNINGS COUNT FROM THE DATE MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE SUBMITTED AND PAYMENT IS MADE. MONEY WON PRIOR TO MEMBERSHIP ACTIVATION DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD FINALS STANDINGS.

2.3 ELIGIBILITY THROUGH RECOGNIZED EVENTS:

ONLY MONEY WON AT EVENTS OR TOURS RECOGNIZED BY THE NRA FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINALS STANDINGS WILL BE COUNTED.

2.4 NO NOMINATION REQUIREMENT:

CONTESTANTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PRE-SELECT OR NOMINATE A QUALIFYING PATHWAY. MONEY WON IN ANY RECOGNIZED TOUR OR QUALIFYING EVENT COUNTS TOWARD FINALS ELIGIBILITY.

2.5 WILDCARD ELIGIBILITY
A CONTESTANT WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY THROUGH A TOUR PATHWAY MAY ENTER THE WILDCARD ROUND AT FINALS IN THE TIMED EVENTS ONLY.

WILDCARD ENTRY FEE: $150

IF AN OPEN CONTESTANT QUALIFIES THROUGH THE WILDCARD, AN ADDITIONAL $100 (TO EQUAL THE FULL $250 FINALS ENTRY FEE) MUST BE PAID BEFORE COMPETITION.

IF CONTESTANT QUALIFIES THROUGH ANY OTHER PATHWAY AFTER ENTERING THE WILDCARD, THEIR WILDCARD FEE IS REFUNDED.

2.6 QUALIFICATION PATHWAYS
OPEN FINALISTS MAY QUALIFY THROUGH:

TOUR 1 (3 SPOTS)
TOUR 2 (3 SPOTS)
TOUR 3 (3 SPOTS)
NRA WILDCARD (2 TIMED-EVENT SPOTS)
HARD 8 BRONC MATCH (1 ROUGHSTOCK CHAMPION SPOT, ALL MONEY EARNED COUNTS TOWARDS TOUR 2 STANDINGS)
IREA SPRING CLASSIC (1 ROUGHSTOCK CHAMPION SPOT, ALL MONEY EARNED COUNTS TOWARDS TOUR 1 STANDINGS)
NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE (1 SPOT TO NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE RODEO CHAMPION IN ALL ELIGIBLE EVENTS)

JUNIOR BARREL RACING:
TOUR 1, 2, 3 - 2 SPOTS EACH

JUNIOR STEER RIDING:
TOUR 1, 2, 3 - 2 SPOTS EACH

JUNIOR BREAKAWAY ROPING
TOUR 1, 2, 3 - 2 SPOTS EACH

PEEWEE BARREL RACING
TOUR 1, 2, 3 - 1 SPOT EACH
WILDCARD - 2 SPOTS

2.7 BACKFILLING OF QUALIFYING POSITIONS

A CONTESTANT MAY ONLY HOLD ONE QUALIFYING POSITION IN AN EVENT.
A CONTESTANT'S QUALIFYING POSITION IS DETERMINED BY THE FIRST TOUR IN WHICH THEY QUALIFY TO CONCLUDE.

IF THAT CONTESTANT LATER FINISHES IN A QUALIFYING POSITION IN ANOTHER TOUR, THE ADDITIONAL POSITION WILL ROLL DOWN TO THE NEXT HIGHEST ELIGIBLE MONEY EARNER IN THAT TOUR.

IF A TOUR DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH ELIGIBLE CONTESTANTS TO FILL ITS ALLOCATED POSITIONS, THE VACANT POSITION WILL BE OFFERED TO THE NEXT HIGHEST ELIGIBLE MONEY EARNER FROM TOUR 1, 2 OR 3.

FOR BACKFILLING PURPOSES, EACH TOUR IS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY. EARNINGS FROM MULTIPLE TOURS ARE NOT COMBINED.

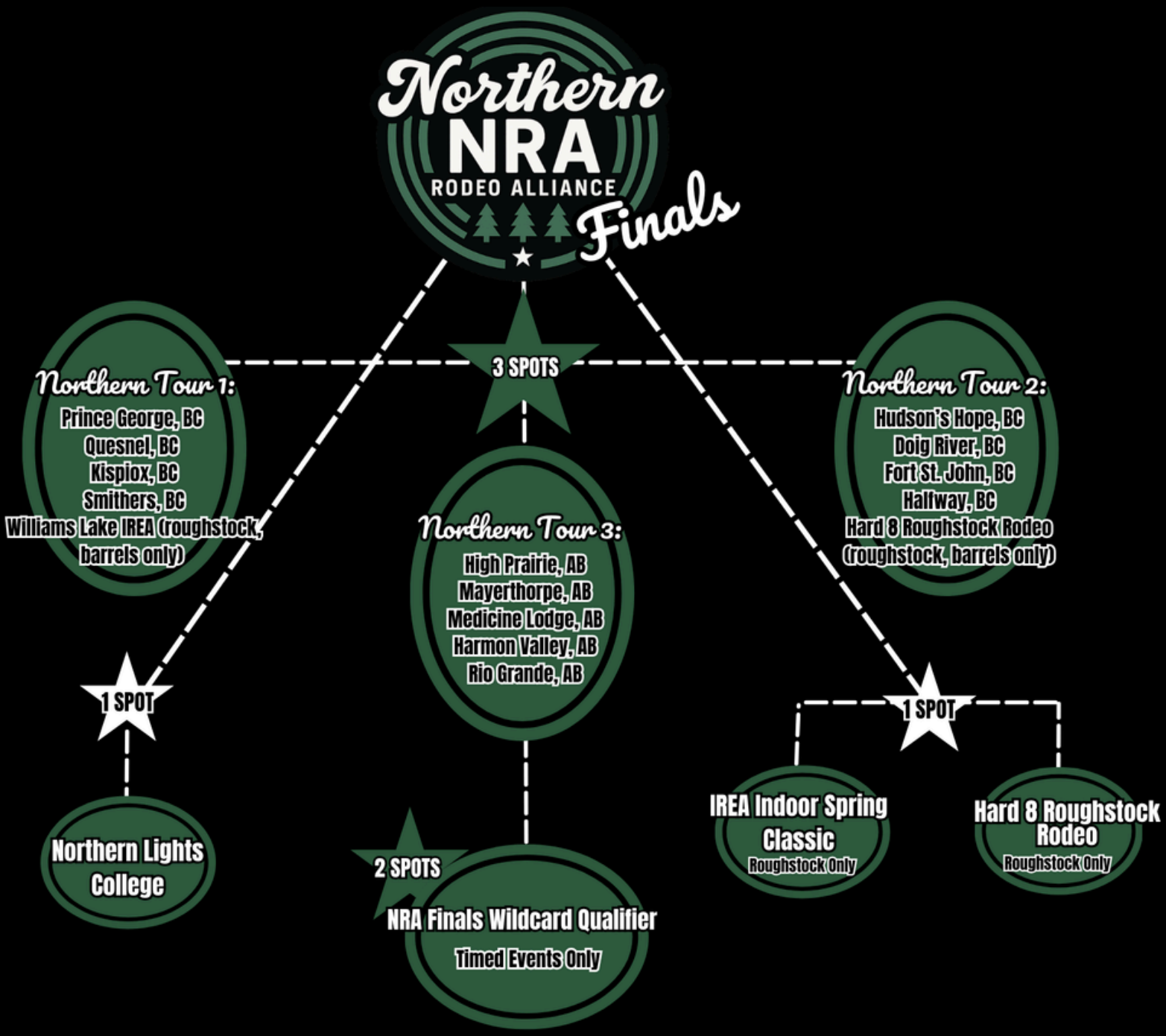
ANY CONTESTANT ACCEPTING A BACKFILLED POSITION MUST HOLD A VALID NRA MEMBERSHIP AND PAY THE APPLICABLE FINALS ENTRY FEE.

EXAMPLE
CONTESTANT A FINISHES:
- 2ND IN TOUR 1 — $2,000
- 1ST IN TOUR 2 — $3,000

IF TOUR 1 CONCLUDES FIRST, CONTESTANT A QUALIFIES THROUGH TOUR 1, REGARDLESS OF EARNING MORE MONEY IN TOUR 2.

WHEN TOUR 2 CONCLUDES, CONTESTANT A'S TOUR 2 QUALIFYING POSITION ROLLS DOWN TO THE NEXT HIGHEST ELIGIBLE MONEY EARNER IN TOUR 2.

IF THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH ELIGIBLE CONTESTANTS IN TOUR 2 TO FILL ALL OF ITS QUALIFYING POSITIONS, THE VACANT POSITION IS THEN OFFERED TO THE NEXT HIGHEST ELIGIBLE MONEY EARNER FROM TOUR 1, 2 OR 3.



3. FINALS FORMAT

3.1 NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS

TWELVE (12) CONTESTANTS QUALIFY IN THE 8 MAJOR EVENTS (BB, SB, BR, TDR, SW, LBR, TR, BAW)

SIX (6) CONTESTANTS QUALIFY IN EACH JUNIOR EVENT (JR BARRELS, JR STEER RIDING, JR BAW)

FIVE (5) CONTESTANTS QUALIFY IN PEEWEE BARREL RACING.

3.2 NUMBER OF ROUNDS

THE FINALS CONSIST OF THREE (3) FULL GO-ROUNDS IN ALL OPEN AND JUNIOR EVENTS. THE FINALS CHAMPION WILL BE DECIDED BY THE AGGREGATE OR AVERAGE.

3.3 PERFORMANCE ORDER

PERFORMANCE ORDER MAY BE DETERMINED BY RANDOM DRAW, RIDE ROTATION, OR EVENT ROTATION, AS DETERMINED BY THE PRODUCTION TEAM FOR SHOW FLOW AND FAIRNESS.

3.4 TIMED EVENT CATTLE

CATTLE MUST BE OF SUITABLE CONDITION AND REASONABLY EVEN. ANY ANIMAL THAT REPEATEDLY CAUSES UNFAIR DISADVANTAGE MAY BE REPLACED. JUDGES MAY RULE AN UNFAIR RUN “NO TIME, RERUN AWARDED” IN CASES OF CHUTE MALFUNCTION, BROKEN BARRIER EQUIPMENT, OR INTERFERENCE.

3.5 ROUGHSTOCK DRAWS

ALL LIVESTOCK SHALL BE DRAWN BY JUDGES/OFFICIALS USING FAIR DRAW PROCEDURES. A RE-RIDE MAY BE AWARDED FOR CHUTE FOULS, EQUIPMENT FAILURE NOT CAUSED BY THE CONTESTANT, OR STOCK THAT DOES NOT PERFORM TO STANDARD.

3.6 RUN ORDER & DRAG (BARREL RACING)

DRAG SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED PRIOR TO THE FIRST ROUND. STANDARD IS EVERY 5 OR 6, DEPENDING ON GROUND CONDITIONS. THE NRA RESERVES AUTHORITY TO ADJUST DRAGS FOR SAFETY OR FOOTING INTEGRITY.

3.7 ARENA SETUP

THE ARENA CONFIGURATION, SCORELINE LENGTH, BARREL PATTERN MEASUREMENTS, AND START/FINISH LINE PLACEMENTS WILL BE POSTED BEFORE THE FIRST ROUND AND MAY NOT BE ALTERED EXCEPT FOR SAFETY REASONS.

3.8 TURNOUTS AFTER A ROUND HAS BEGUN

ONCE A ROUND HAS COMMENCED, A CONTESTANT WHO DOES NOT APPEAR FOR THEIR TURN IS CONSIDERED A TURNOUT UNLESS APPROVED BY AN OFFICIAL FOR LEGITIMATE EMERGENCY REASONS.

3.9 RE-RUNS / RE-RIDES

RE-RUNS OR RE-RIDES WILL BE AWARDED ONLY AT THE DISCRETION OF JUDGES IN CASES OF:

- BARRIER MALFUNCTION
- GATE OR CHUTE MALFUNCTION
- LIVESTOCK INTERFERENCE
- UNSAFE OR COMPROMISED COMPETITION CONDITIONS

4. CONDUCT & APPEARANCE

4.1 WESTERN DRESS CODE

ALL CONTESTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR WESTERN ATTIRE WHILE IN THE ARENA OR COMPETITION AREA:

- LONG SLEEVE CUFF & COLLAR SHIRT
- JEANS
- BOOTS
- COWBOY HAT

THE ONLY EXEMPTION TO THE RULE IS THE LADIES IN BARREL RACING ARE NOT REQUIRED TO WEAR A BUTTON-DOWN, BUT MUST WEAR A LONG SLEEVE COMPETITION SHIRT.

4.2 BACK NUMBERS

BACK NUMBERS MUST BE WORN AND VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE GROUNDS, DURING PUBLIC-FACING EVENTS, GRAND ENTRY, AND COMPETITION.

4.3 PROFESSIONALISM

CONTESTANTS ARE EXPECTED TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES RESPECTFULLY TOWARD STAFF, FELLOW CONTESTANTS, OFFICIALS, SPONSORS, FANS, AND MEDIA. ABUSIVE LANGUAGE, HARASSMENT, OR HOSTILITY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

4.4 ANIMAL WELFARE EXPECTATION

ALL LIVESTOCK AND TIMED-EVENT HORSES MUST BE HANDLED HUMANELY AT ALL TIMES. MISTREATMENT, EXCESSIVE FORCE, OR NEGLIGENT CARE IS GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL FROM THE FINALS.

4.5 ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCES

NO CONTESTANT MAY COMPETE WHILE IMPAIRED. ANY VISIBLY INTOXICATED OR IMPAIRED CONTESTANT MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE ARENA OR DISQUALIFIED FOR SAFETY REASONS.

5. PAYOUT & ADDED MONEY STRUCTURE

5.1 OPEN PURSE BASE

MINIMUM ADDED MONEY PER OPEN EVENT IS $750 PER ROUND PLUS CONTESTANT ENTRY FEES.

5.2 MEMBERSHIP ESCALATOR

THE PURSE IS CONTESTANT-DRIVEN. ONCE 200 MEMBERSHIPS ARE SOLD, ADDED MONEY BEGINS INCREASING IN TIERS UP TO A MONETARY CAP AT 350 MEMBERSHIPS OR $1500 ADDED/ROUND FOR YEAR ONE.

5.3 SURPLUS

AT 350 MEMBERS, ADDED MONEY REACHES $1,500 PER ROUND. ANY FUNDS FROM MEMBERSHIP SALES BEYOND THIS CAP ARE REDIRECTED TO PRODUCTION UPGRADES, HOSPITALITY, FACILITY QUALITY, ATHLETE EXPERIENCE, AND SHOW GROWTH.

5.4 JUNIOR PAYOUTS

JUNIOR NRA ADDED MONEY WILL BE MIN $350/ROUND. PEEWEE ADDED MONEY WILL BE MIN $250/ROUND.

5.5 PAYOUT STRUCTURE
THE NORTHERN RODEO ALLIANCE FINALS WILL USE A GRADUATED PAYOUT STRUCTURE BASED ON THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED COMPETITORS IN EACH EVENT, WITH A MAXIMUM OF FOUR (4) PAID PLACES PER ROUND.
OPEN EVENTS

- 9–12 COMPETITORS: PAY 4 PLACES — 40%, 30%, 20%, 10%.
- 7–8 COMPETITORS: PAY 3 PLACES — 50%, 30%, 20%.
- 4–6 COMPETITORS: PAY 2 PLACES — 60%, 40%.
- 1–3 COMPETITORS: PAY 1 PLACE — 100%.

JUNIOR & PEEWEE EVENTS

- 5+COMPETITORS: PAY 3 PLACES — 50%, 30%, 20%.

PAYOUTS WILL BE CALCULATED INDEPENDENTLY FOR EACH OF THE THREE FINALS ROUNDS USING THE APPLICABLE EVENT PURSE.

6. ENTRY FEES, TURN OUTS & SUBSTITUTIONS

6.1 ENTRY FEES

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST PAY THE FULL FINALS ENTRY FEE PRIOR TO THE OUTLINED DATE/DEADLINE.

OPEN: $250
JUNIOR: $100
PEEWEE: $50

THE NRA ADMIN WILL REACH OUT BEFORE THE DEADLINE AS A REMINDER BY PHONE AND EMAIL TO COLLECT ANY FEES. FAILURE TO PAY BY DEADLINE CONSTITUTES THE LAST RESORT OF FORFEITURE OF POSITION.

6.2 ACCEPTED TURNOUTS
A CONTESTANT MAY RECEIVE AN EXCUSED TURNOUT ONLY FOR:

WRITTEN VETERINARY RELEASE (HORSE OR STOCK)
MEDICAL RELEASE
EMERGENCY APPROVED BY THE NRA

6.3 NON-NOTIFIED TURNOUTS

A CONTESTANT WHO FAILS TO APPEAR WITHOUT NOTIFICATION IS CONSIDERED A NON-NOTIFIED TURNOUT AND MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THIS EVENT AND/OR FUTURE FINALS INVITATIONS.

6.4 INJURY REPLACEMENT / BACKFILL

IF A FINALIST CANNOT COMPETE BEFORE THE START OF THE FINALS, THE NEXT ELIGIBLE CONTESTANT FROM THE STANDINGS WILL BE INVITED TO FILL THE POSITION. REPLACEMENT MUST MEET ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND PAY APPLICABLE FEES.

6.5 NO RE-ENTRY

ONCE A CONTESTANT FORFEITS THEIR POSITION OR WITHDRAWS WITHOUT VALID RELEASE, THEY MAY NOT RE-ENTER THE FINALS.

7. PRODUCTION RULES

7.1 CONTESTANT MEETING

A MANDATORY CONTESTANT MEETING WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO THE FIRST ROUND. FAILURE TO ATTEND MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION UNLESS EXCUSED BY AN OFFICIAL.

7.2 GRAND ENTRY / INTRODUCTIONS

CONTESTANTS MAY BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN GRAND ENTRY, INTRODUCTIONS, SPONSOR RECOGNITION, OR MEDIA FEATURES UNLESS UNSAFE TO DO SO.

7.3 ARENA CALL

CONTESTANTS MUST BE READY WHEN CALLED. A “NO SHOW” WHEN NAME IS CALLED IS CONSIDERED A TURNOUT.

7.4 PRODUCTION TIMING

THE NRA IS A PRODUCTION-BASED EVENT; CONTESTANTS MUST RESPECT SHOW FLOW, IN-ARENA CUEING AND MEDIA POSITIONING.

8. STALLING, PARKING & LOGISTICS

8.1 STALLING

STALLS OR PENS WILL BE PROVIDED OR ASSIGNED AS AVAILABLE. CONTESTANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF THEIR HORSES AND EQUIPMENT.

8.2 PARKING

TRAILERS MUST PARK IN DESIGNATED AREAS FOR SAFETY AND PRODUCTION TRAFFIC FLOW.

8.3 VETERINARY ACCESS

A VETERINARIAN WILL BE ON-SITE OR ON-CALL. UNSAFE OR INJURED HORSES MAY BE EVALUATED FOR WELFARE REASONS.

8.4 PASSES / BACK NUMBERS

CREDENTIALS MUST BE DISPLAYED WHERE APPLICABLE. BACK NUMBERS ACT AS CONTESTANT IDENTIFICATION.

9. YEAR ONE CLAUSE & FUTURE GROWTH

9.1 YEAR-ONE PROVISIONS

THIS FINALS RULEBOOK GOVERNS THE 2026 SEASON AND REPRESENTS THE INAUGURAL MODEL FOR THE NRA FINALS.

9.2 GROWTH CLAUSE

THE NRA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXPAND PURSE STRUCTURE, QUALIFICATION FORMATS, ADDED EVENTS, OR STOCK POLICIES IN FUTURE SEASONS BASED ON GROWTH.

9.3 RULEBOOK REVISION

THE RULEBOOK MAY BE REVIEWED AND AMENDED PRIOR TO SUBSEQUENT FINALS.

10. SPONSOR RECOGNITION

10.1 CONTESTANTS AGREE TO REASONABLE SPONSOR VISIBILITY (BACK NUMBERS, INTERVIEWS, PHOTO OPS)

10.2 CONTESTANTS MAY BE ASKED FOR MEDIA CONTENT FOR SPONSORS.

10.3 COOPERATION WITH SPONSOR FEATURES IS PART OF REPRESENTING THE FINALS.

11. MEDIA & IMAGE USE

11.1 MEDIA PERMISSIONS & USE

BY ENTERING THE NRA FINALS, CONTESTANTS GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE NRA TO PHOTOGRAPH, FILM, AND RECORD VIDEO AND AUDIO OF COMPETITION, BEHIND-THE-SCENES CONTENT, AND ATHLETE FEATURES FOR FINALS PROMOTION, MARKETING, AND FUTURE ADVERTISING RELATED TO THE EVENT OR THE ORGANIZATION.

11.2 ATHLETE VISIBILITY

THE NRA FINALS IS A PRODUCTION-BASED RODEO. CONTESTANTS ARE PART OF THE OVERALL PRESENTATION OF THE EVENT AND MAY BE HIGHLIGHTED IN PROMOTIONAL CONTENT, LIVESTREAMS, SOCIAL COVERAGE, PROFILE FEATURES, OR SPONSOR INTRODUCTIONS.

11.3 MEDIA REQUESTS

CONTESTANTS MAY BE ASKED FOR SHORT INTERVIEWS, CLIPS, PHOTOS, OR PRE/POST-RUN COMMENTARY AT REASONABLE TIMES. THESE REQUESTS WILL BE RESPECTFUL OF PREPARATION TIME AND COMPETITION FOCUS.

11.4 SPONSOR & PUBLIC RELATIONS INTERACTION

CONTESTANTS MAY BE INTRODUCED TO SPONSORS, PARTNERS, OR SUPPORTERS OF THE FINALS WHERE APPROPRIATE. THIS IS PART OF ATHLETE RECOGNITION AND GROWTH OF THE EVENT, NOT A CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION.

11.5 CONTENT SHARING

CONTESTANTS ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT NOT REQUIRED, TO SHARE FINALS-RELATED POSTS OR CONTENT ON THEIR PERSONAL SOCIAL PLATFORMS TO HELP GROW VISIBILITY OF NORTHERN RODEO AND THE FINALS.

11.6 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN MEDIA SETTINGS

CONTESTANTS ARE EXPECTED TO PRESENT THEMSELVES IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER DURING MEDIA INTERACTIONS. DISRESPECTFUL OR HOSTILE BEHAVIOR TOWARD MEDIA PERSONNEL OR PRODUCTION STAFF MAY RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM MEDIA FEATURES OR, IN EXTREME CASES, DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE EVENT.

11.7 SHOW FLOW PRIORITY

MEDIA OPERATIONS ARE PART OF THE OVERALL FINALS PRODUCTION. CONTESTANTS MUST RESPECT MEDIA ZONES, ARENA POSITIONS, AND TIMING CUES WHEN CREWS ARE FILMING OR CONDUCTING PROMOTIONAL COVERAGE.

12. CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICS

12.1 CONTESTANTS REPRESENT THE FINALS AND ARE EXPECTED TO ACT WITH INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM.

12.2 ABUSE, THREATS, HARASSMENT, OR AGGRESSIVE CONDUCT TOWARD JUDGES, STAFF, SPONSORS, OR CONTESTANTS IS PROHIBITED.

12.3 HUMANE TREATMENT OF ALL STOCK AND TIMED EVENT HORSES IS MANDATORY.

12.4 EXCESSIVE FORCE, ROUGH HANDLING, OR INTENTIONAL HARM IS GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL.

12.5 JUDGES HAVE AUTHORITY TO DISQUALIFY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS.

13. GENERAL ROUGHSTOCK PROVISIONS

13.1 JUDGING FORMAT

ALL ROUGHSTOCK EVENTS SHALL BE JUDGED ON A COMBINED SCORE OF HORSE/BULL PERFORMANCE AND CONTESTANT CONTROL/SPURRING EFFORT. STANDARD SCORING IS 0–100 SYSTEM (50 ANIMAL / 50 RIDER).

13.2 MARK-OUT RULE

THE STANDARD SPUR-OUT RULE APPLIES IN BAREBACK AND SADDLE BRONC. THE CONTESTANT MUST HAVE BOTH FEET OVER THE BREAK OF THE SHOULDERS IN THE FIRST JUMP OUT OF THE CHUTE. FAILURE RESULTS IN A DISQUALIFICATION UNLESS THE ANIMAL STALLS OR FAILS TO BREAK CLEANLY, IN WHICH CASE THE MARK-OUT MAY BE WAIVED AT THE JUDGE'S DISCRETION.

13.3 EQUIPMENT

ALL EQUIPMENT MUST MEET APPROPRIATE SAFETY STANDARDS. RIGGING, SADDLES, AND SPURS MUST BE FREE OF SHARP OR INJURIOUS EDGES AND CANNOT INTENTIONALLY HARM LIVESTOCK.

13.4 CHUTE PROCEDURE

CONTESTANTS MUST CALL FOR THEIR ANIMAL WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME ONCE THEY HAVE PULLED EQUIPMENT AND HAVE CONTROL OF THE ANIMAL. DELAYS OR UNSAFE HANDLING MAY RESULT IN A WARNING OR DISQUALIFICATION.

13.5 FREE HAND CONTACT

CONTACT WITH THE ANIMAL, EQUIPMENT, OR CONTESTANT'S OWN BODY WITH THE FREE HAND RESULTS IN A DISQUALIFICATION.

13.6 FALL OF CONTESTANT

IF THE RIDER IS BUCKED OFF OR THE RIDING HAND DISENGAGES PRIOR TO THE REQUIRED TIME LIMIT (8 SECONDS), A NO SCORE IS RECORDED.

13.7 TIME REQUIREMENT

ALL ROUGHSTOCK RIDES REQUIRE 8 SECONDS TO QUALIFY FOR A SCORE. TIME BEGINS WHEN THE ANIMAL'S SHOULDER OR HIP BREAKS THE PLANE OF THE CHUTE.

13.8 RE-RIDES

A RE-RIDE MAY BE AWARDED FOR:

- CHUTE FOULS
- EQUIPMENT FAILURE NOT CAUSED BY THE CONTESTANT
- LIVESTOCK THAT DOES NOT PERFORM TO STANDARD
- INTERFERENCE
-

ALL RULINGS MADE IN THE ARENA ARE FINAL FOR THAT PERFORMANCE AND MAY NOT DELAY THE EVENT. JUDGES HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO CALL PENALTIES, NO-TIMES, DISQUALIFICATIONS, RERUNS, AND RE-RIDES.

HOWEVER A CLARIFICATION REQUEST CAN BE MADE AFTER THE PERFORMANCE (SEE SECTION 22)

13.1 BAREBACK RIDING RULES

13.1.1 RIGGING

RIGGING MUST MEET INDUSTRY-APPROVED SPECIFICATIONS. D-RINGS AND HANDLE MUST BE SMOOTH AND SAFE.

13.1.2 MARK-OUT

RIDER MUST MARK THE HORSE OUT WITH BOTH FEET SET PRIOR TO THE FIRST JUMP.

13.1.3 SPURRING MOTION

THE CONTESTANT IS EXPECTED TO SPUR IN RHYTHM WITH THE ANIMAL. INTENTIONAL DRAGGING OR LOCKING FEET WITHOUT EFFORT MAY RESULT IN A MARKED-DOWN SCORE.

13.1.4 LOSS OF STIRRUP/HANDLE

IF THE RIDER LOSES CONTROL OF THE RIGGING, DISQUALIFICATION APPLIES.

13.1.5 STOCK WELFARE

USE OF SHARP ROWELS, ALTERED SPURS, OR EXCESSIVE FORCE ON THE NECK OR WITHERS IS PROHIBITED.

13.2 SADDLE BRONC RIDING RULES

13.2.1 SADDLE
APPROVED BRONC SADDLE ONLY. NO HOBBLING OR ALTERING TO GAIN UNFAIR LEVERAGE.

13.2.2 REIN

THE REIN MUST BE USED CORRECTLY WITH FAIR REIN LENGTH. TOO LONG OR TOO SHORT MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF CONTROL AND A NO SCORE.

13.2.3 MARK-OUT

STANDARD MARK-OUT RULE APPLIES UNLESS HORSE STALLS.

13.2.4 DISQUALIFICATION

DALLYING, LOSING A STIRRUP, OR TOUCHING THE HORSE/EQUIPMENT WITH THE FREE HAND RESULTS IN A NO SCORE.

13.3 BULL RIDING RULES

13.3.1 ROPE & BELL

BULL ROPE MUST HAVE A BELL ATTACHED THAT HANGS BELOW THE BODY OF THE BULL. NO BELL = NO SCORE.

13.3.2 CONTROL

CONTESTANT MUST REMAIN IN CONTROL OF THE ROPE AND STAY FORWARD IN THE MIDDLE. NO FREE HAND CONTACT.

13.3.3 NO SPUR-OUT RULE

THERE IS NO MARK-OUT RULE IN BULL RIDING.

13.3.4 BULLFIGHTERS & SAFETY PERSONNEL

BULLFIGHTERS, PICK-UP MEN, AND SAFETY STAFF ARE PART OF COMPETITION SAFETY AND MUST NOT BE INTERFERED WITH.

13.4 STOCK STANDARDS & RE-RIDES

13.4.1 LIVESTOCK CONDITION

STOCK MUST BE HEALTHY, PROPERLY CONDITIONED, AND FIT FOR COMPETITION.

13.4.2 DRAW PROCEDURE

ANIMALS ARE DRAWN FAIRLY AND PUBLICLY BY THE JUDGES OR DESIGNATED OFFICIALS.

13.4.3 RE-RIDE STOCK

IF A RE-RIDE IS AWARDED, CONTESTANT MAY ACCEPT OR DECLINE. IF DECLINED, ORIGINAL SCORE STANDS (IF APPLICABLE).

13.4.4 UNFIT OR UNSAFE STOCK

JUDGES MAY REMOVE AN ANIMAL FROM THE DRAW IF LAME, SICK, OR CONSISTENTLY UNDERPERFORMING.

14. GENERAL TIMED EVENT PROVISIONS

14.1 BARRIER & START

A BARRIER SHALL BE USED IN ALL ROPING AND STEER WRESTLING EVENTS UNLESS EXPLICITLY WAIVED BY FINALS OFFICIALS FOR SAFETY OR ARENA LIMITATIONS.

14.2 TIME

TIME BEGINS WHEN THE BARRIER IS RELEASED (ROPING/STEER WRESTLING) OR WHEN THE HORSE CROSSES THE TIMER LINE (BARRELS).

14.3 NO TIMES
ANY RULE VIOLATION DEFINED IN THE EVENT SECTION BELOW RESULTS IN A NO TIME.

14.4 HORSE WELFARE

TIMED EVENT HORSES MUST BE HANDLED HUMANELY AT ALL TIMES. EXCESSIVE JERKING, SPURRING, STRIKING, OR MISTREATMENT OF HORSES OR CATTLE MAY RESULT IN A DISQUALIFICATION.

14.5 ARENA PREP

THE ARENA MUST BE GROOMED AND MAINTAINED AS NECESSARY FOR SAFETY AND FAIRNESS. JUDGES MAINTAIN DISCRETION TO DELAY STARTS FOR FOOTING OR STOCK INTEGRITY.

14.1 BARREL RACING

14.1.1 PATTERN & MEASUREMENT
THE PATTERN WILL BE SET AND STAKED PRIOR TO COMPETITION. ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE MADE ONLY FOR SAFETY.

14.1.2 TIMER MALFUNCTION
TIMER FAILURE RESULTS IN A CLEAN RERUN.

14.1.3 KNOCKED BARREL
EACH BARREL KNOCKED OVER RESULTS IN A NO TIME.

14.1.4 OFF-COURSE
CROSSING THE START/FINISH LINE EARLY OR RUNNING AN INCORRECT PATTERN RESULTS IN A NO TIME.

14.1.5 GROUND CONDITIONS

DRAG INTERVALS WILL BE POSTED PRIOR TO ROUND ONE AND MAY BE MODIFIED FOR SAFETY.

14.1.6 ATTIRE

WESTERN ATTIRE IS REQUIRED: JEANS, BOOTS, LONG SLEEVES, AND WESTERN HAT. LADIES BARREL RACERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO WEAR BUTTON-DOWN BUT MUST WEAR A LONG SLEEVE WESTERN SHIRT.

14.2 BREAKAWAY ROPING

14.2.1 CATCH

A LEGAL CATCH IS A BELL-COLLAR CATCH AROUND THE NECK.

14.2.2 ILLEGAL CATCH

ANY CATCH INVOLVING THE NOSE, LEG, OR JAW IS A NO TIME.

14.2.3 ROPE & FLAG

THE ROPE MUST BE TIED TO THE SADDLE HORN WITH AN APPROVED STRING AND VISIBLE FLAG.

14.2.4 BARRIER

BREAKING THE BARRIER RESULTS IN A 10-SECOND PENALTY.

14.2.5 RERUN

CHUTE OR STOCK INTERFERENCE MAY RESULT IN A RERUN.

14.3 TIE DOWN ROPING

14.3.1 BELL COLLAR CATCH
THE CALF MUST BE CAUGHT WITH A BELL COLLAR CATCH, AND ONE FRONT LEG IS ALLOWED. IF THE CONTESTANT CATCHES ONLY A LEG OR AROUND THE BELLY THEY ARE ASKED TO DISMOUNT, FLANK AND RELEASE THE CALF.

14.3.2 FLANK & TIE METHOD
MUST BE TIED BY HAND WITH AT LEAST ONE WRAP AND A HALF HITCH AND REMAIN TIED DOWN UNTIL THE CONTESTANT REMOUNTS AND WALKS THEIR HORSE AHEAD.

14.3.3 JERK DOWN

INTENTIONAL JERK-DOWN WILL RESULT IN A NO TIME.

14.3.4 BARRIER

BREAKING THE BARRIER = 10-SECOND PENALTY.

14.3.5 WELFARE

ROUGH HANDLING OR EXCESSIVE DRAGGING IS PROHIBITED AND WILL RESULT IN A NO TIME.

114.4 STEER WRESTLING

14.4.1 FAIR START

THE STEER MUST BE GIVEN A HEAD START FROM THE BARRIER.

14.4.2 HAZER

THE HAZER MUST NOT INTERFERE BEYOND POSITIONING ASSISTANCE.

14.4.3 FALL

THE STEER MUST BE ROLLED TO ITS SIDE WITH ALL FOUR FEET AND HEAD FACING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

14.4.4 EARLY THROW

DOGGING BEFORE THE BARRIER RELEASES RESULTS IN A NO TIME.

14.5 TEAM ROPING

14.5.1 LEGAL HEAD CATCHES
ONLY THE FOLLOWING ARE LEGAL:

- AROUND THE NECK
- HALF-HEAD
- BOTH HORNS

14.5.2 ILLEGAL CATCH

ANY CATCH INVOLVING A JAW OR LOSS OF CONTROL = NO TIME.

14.5.3 HEELING

THE STEER MUST BE CONTROLLED BEFORE HEEL LOOP IS THROWN; ONE-LEG CATCH = 5-SECOND PENALTY.

14.5.4 BARRIER

BREAKING THE BARRIER = 10-SECOND PENALTY.

14.5.5 CROSSFIRE

ILLEGAL CROSSFIRE = NO TIME.

14.6 JUNIOR EVENTS

14.6.1 ALIGNMENT

JUNIOR RULES MIRROR OPEN EVENTS UNLESS MODIFIED BY SAFETY.

14.6.2 WELFARE PRIORITY

JUDGES MAY STOP A RUN FOR SAFETY WITHOUT PENALTY.

14.6.3 STOCK SELECTION

LIVESTOCK MUST BE SUITABLE FOR JUNIOR EXPERIENCE.

14.6.4 CONDUCT

ROUGH HANDLING OR FEAR-INDUCING PRACTICES = NO TIME OR REMOVAL.

15. STOCK CONTRACTOR & LIVESTOCK WELFARE

15.1 GENERAL WELFARE EXPECTATION

ALL LIVESTOCK USED IN COMPETITION MUST BE HEALTHY, PROPERLY CONDITIONED, AND FREE FROM INJURY, ILLNESS, OR EXCESSIVE FATIGUE. WELFARE OVERRIDES PERFORMANCE.

15.2 CONTRACTOR CONDUCT

STOCK CONTRACTORS MUST SUPPLY ANIMALS SUITABLE FOR THE EVENT, FREE OF INTENTIONAL DISADVANTAGE OR HAZARD TO CONTESTANT OR HORSE.

15.3 UNSOUND OR UNSAFE STOCK

IF AN ANIMAL IS VISIBLY LAME, OVERHEATED, INJURED, OR UNFIT TO COMPETE, JUDGES HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO PULL IT FROM THE DRAW. JUDGES WELFARE RULINGS ARE FINAL.

15.4 DRAW FAIRNESS

ALL TIMED-EVENT CATTLE AND ROUGHSTOCK MUST BE DRAWN FAIRLY. A CONTESTANT MAY REQUEST A CLARIFICATION REVIEW IF STOCK DRAW IS QUESTIONED, BUT FINAL AUTHORITY RESTS WITH THE OFFICIALS.

15.5 REPLACEMENT STOCK

IF NECESSARY, REPLACEMENT STOCK SHALL BE SELECTED FROM THE DESIGNATED RERUN OR RERIDE PEN.

15.6 LIVESTOCK HANDLING

ALL STOCK MUST BE HANDLED QUIETLY AND WITH MINIMAL STRESS. EXCESSIVE HITTING, SHOCKING, YANKING, OR AGITATION BY CONTRACTORS, PICKUP MEN, HAZERS, OR HANDLERS IS PROHIBITED.

15.7 CHUTE PROCEDURE

ANIMALS SHALL NOT BE HELD IN THE CHUTE EXCESSIVELY OR DELIBERATELY “SET BACK” TO MANIPULATE PERFORMANCE.

15.8 RE-RIDE STOCK QUALITY

IF AN ANIMAL IS USED FOR A RE-RIDE, IT MUST BE OF EQUAL CALIBER TO THE ORIGINALLY DRAWN ANIMAL.

15.9 EVENT DELAY FOR WELFARE

JUDGES MAY DELAY A RUN OR EVENT SEGMENT IF FOOTING, FATIGUE, WEATHER, OR INJURY PREVENTION REQUIRES IT.

15.10 RIGHT TO REMOVE CONTRACTORS

THE NRA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY FUTURE INVITATIONS TO ANY CONTRACTOR SUPPLYING UNSAFE, UNFIT, OR REPEATEDLY PROBLEMATIC STOCK.

16. JUDGES, DISPUTES & SUBCOMMITEE REVIEW

16.1 IMMEDIATE JUDGE AUTHORITY

ALL RULINGS MADE IN THE ARENA ARE FINAL FOR THAT PERFORMANCE AND MAY NOT DELAY THE SHOW.

16.2 CLARIFICATION REQUESTS

CONTESTANTS MAY REQUEST CLARIFICATION AFTER THEIR RUN OR RIDE. CLARIFICATION IS NOT AN OFFICIAL PROTEST.

16.3 FORMAL REVIEW ELIGIBILITY

IF UNRESOLVED, THE CONTESTANT MAY REQUEST A REVIEW AFTER THE PERFORMANCE HAS ENDED — NOT DURING ACTIVE COMPETITION.

16.4 SUBCOMMITTEE STRUCTURE

ALL REVIEWS ARE HANDLED BY A 3-PERSON GROUP:
- TWO (2) JUDGES
- ONE (1) CHUTE BOSS / ARENA OPERATIONS OFFICIAL

16.5 SCOPE OF REVIEW

THE SUBCOMMITTEE MAY REVIEW:

- RULE INTERPRETATION
- LIVESTOCK INTERFERENCE
- BARRIER/TIMER MALFUNCTION
- ELIGIBILITY FOR RERUN/RERIDE
- CONDUCT/WELFARE DECISIONS

16.6 RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY STANDARD

A RULING MAY BE CORRECTED RETROACTIVELY ONLY IN CASES OF CLEAR RULE ERROR (EXAMPLE: WRONGFUL DISQUALIFICATION, INCORRECT INTERPRETATION OF A MARK-OUT, OR FALSE CONTACT CALL).

JUDGMENT CALLS (SCORES, STYLE DEDUCTIONS, ETC.) ARE NOT RETROACTIVE. COMPETITION PLACEMENTS ARE ONLY ALTERED IF THE REVIEW PROVES THE ORIGINAL RULING WAS INCORRECT UNDER THE RULEBOOK.

16.7 LOSS OF REVIEW PRIVILEGE FOR PRODUCTION INTERFERENCE

ANY CONTESTANT WHO ATTEMPTS TO CHALLENGE, DELAY, OR DISPUTE A RULING INSIDE THE ARENA OR IN A MANNER THAT DISRUPTS COMPETITION FLOW FORFEITS THE RIGHT TO A FORMAL REVIEW. CLARIFICATION MUST BE REQUESTED RESPECTFULLY AFTER THE RUN/RIDE AND WITHOUT INTERRUPTING PRODUCTION. CONTESTANTS WHO INTERFERE WITH SHOW OPERATIONS CANNOT SEEK SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

16.8 FINAL AUTHORITY

IF A REVIEW IS REQUESTED BY AN ATHLETE AND ACCEPTED FOR EVALUATION, THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S DECISION IS FINAL AND MAY EITHER UPHOLD OR OVERTURN THE ORIGINAL RULING IF A RULE ERROR IS CONFIRMED.

17. ARENA OPERATIONS, SAFETY & GROUND RULES

17.1 ARENA INTEGRITY
THE NRA MAY PAUSE, HALT, OR ADJUST COMPETITION ORDER FOR SAFETY, FOOTING, LIVESTOCK HANDLING, OR PRODUCTION NEEDS.

17.2 GROUND PREPARATION
DRAG SCHEDULES AND ARENA MAINTENANCE WILL BE POSTED IN ADVANCE AND MAY BE ADJUSTED FOR SAFETY OR WEATHER.

17.3 CHUTE & GATE SAFETY

GATES MUST BE OPENED CONSISTENTLY AND FAIRLY. UNSAFE OR DELAYED GATE OPERATION MAY RESULT IN RERIDE ELIGIBILITY.

17.4 BARRIER MALFUNCTION

BARRIER MALFUNCTION BEYOND CONTESTANT CONTROL RESULTS IN A RERUN.

17.5 TIMER MALFUNCTION

TIMER FAILURE RESULTS IN A RERUN. DECLINING A RERUN RESULTS IN A NO TIME.

17.6 INTERFERENCE

LIVESTOCK, EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTION, OR PERSONNEL INTERFERENCE MAY WARRANT A RERUN.

17.7 UNSAFE CONDITIONS

OFFICIALS MAY STOP COMPETITION DUE TO FOOTING FAILURE, WEATHER, INJURY RISK, OR LIVESTOCK FATIGUE.

17.8 PRODUCTION PRIORITY

AS A PRODUCTION-FORWARD FINALS, MEDIA PLACEMENT, CAMERAS, LIGHTING, AND PRESENTATION FLOW ARE PART OF COMPETITION OPERATIONS AND WILL BE RESPECTED UNLESS SAFETY IS COMPROMISED.