



2025/2026 Member Handbook

Tennessee High School Rodeo Association is a not for profit, 501c3, organization that was formed to promote the sport of rodeo to High School aged students. It is the goal of TNHSRA to teach participants sportsmanship, horsemanship, and character through their participation in rodeo events both as contestants and student event directors.

TNHSRA accomplishes these goals through the promotion of rodeo performances for its contestant members as well as community outreach throughout the competition year. Contestants have the opportunity to compete in events including barrel racing, pole bending, bull riding, goat tying, steer wrestling, breakaway roping, team roping, calf roping, saddle bronc, bareback, cutting, reined cow horse, light rifle shooting and trap shooting.

TNHSRA relies on the standards and rules adopted by the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA) as a basis for its events. However, as with all associations, TNHSRA does have a few rules, policies, and procedures that are unique. This handbook is the association's effort to put those unique policies in writing and communicate them to its members.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual student/contestant membership in TNHSRA runs from August 1 to July 31. Members of TNHSRA must also be members of the National High School Association. In order to compete in TNHSRA rodeos, membership in both TNHSRA and NHSRA is required.

In order to become a student member of TNHSRA, follow the procedures as outlined on the TNHSRA.com website under the "Membership" tab. Before competing at any TNHSRA rodeo, a member must have paid all membership fees and submitted ALL required documents, including report cards.

We also offer Adult Membership. The adult membership year is also August 1 to July 31. The annual fee is \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple. An Annual Adult Membership meeting is held at State Finals each year. Anyone can attend that meeting, but you must be a paid member before the Annual Adult Membership Meeting in order to vote or to serve on the board. The form is available to print from our website on the "form/documents" page; it is also available in the rodeo office.

GRADES

As required by the NHSRA rule book, all contestants are required to submit report cards for the preceding semester before the first rodeo in the fall AND

spring. The report cards should be uploaded to their membership profile account and/or provided to the TNHSRA secretary or treasurer.

Contestants are required to be passing a minimum of 70% of classes taken.

NON-MEMBERS

Non-members may obtain a permit through NHSRA to participate in 1 rodeo weekend per year. (Points will not accrue.) Otherwise, non-members are not allowed to compete or exhibition at a TNHSRA rodeo.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

TNHSRA has a Facebook page to help efficiently disseminate information to all interested parties. You are encouraged to “like” the Facebook page to help stay informed of any news you may need to know. The information and announcements posted on Facebook are kept to a minimum and are limited to TNHSRA related posts. Any information posted on the Facebook page is not “official”. The website remains the only “official” information site. In the event of a discrepancy between the website and Facebook, the information on the website will prevail.

Each rodeo will have an information sheet posted on the website along with the link to the entry form as well as a link for stalls/hooks. Please read the information sheet. It provides the performance start times, schedules, addresses, and all other necessary information about each rodeo.

When “mandatory meetings” are held, we will have roll call. If a contestant is not present when their name is called, the name will be called one more time at the end of roll call. If the contestant is not present at that time, the contestant will be marked absent and will not be allowed to compete in that rodeo.

ENTRIES

All rodeo entries for TNHSRA are online. Entries are generally available 3-4 weeks before a scheduled rodeo. The deadline for entries is approximately two weeks before the rodeo, at midnight Monday 12 days prior to the rodeo. Late entries will be accepted through that Tuesday until midnight with a \$25 late fee. Entry fees will be paid with a credit card online at the time one submits their entry. Fees for entries will not be paid at the rodeo.

Hookup and Stall requests will be a separate form/link than the rodeo entries and those fees will be paid (with cash or check) onsite at check-in of the rodeo. If availability is limited, these are assigned based upon the time stamp of request.

It is the contestant's responsibility to confirm their entry is accepted through the online entry system. When one logs into their Equest Event Portal, there is a section that denotes what the member has entered as well as all registered in that event.

As long as entries are open, a contestant may make any changes necessary, including drawing out without any penalty. In that case, you will be reimbursed your entry fee minus the Equest Event fees incurred to the association for the entry.

ENTRY FEES

Per performance, Entry fees for barrels and poles are \$35 each, \$45 for roping, goat tying, and steer wrestling, \$75 per rough stock. \$22.50 of the entry fee will be put into the jackpot for each event. A portion will be used to pay stock fees and the remainder will go toward our awards fund. The number of places paid will depend on the number of entries.

The payback will be determined by the following schedule:

1-3 contestants – 1st 100%

4-8 contestants – 1st 60%, 2nd 40%

9-15 contestants – 1st 50%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%

16-30 contestants – 1st 40%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%, 4th 10%

31-50 contestants – 1st 30%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 20%, 4th 15%, 5th 10%

51+ contestants -1st 28%, 2nd 22%, 3rd 18%, 4th 14%, 5th 10%, 6th 8%

Jackpot money will not be paid if there are no qualified times/scores in an event at a rodeo. The exception to this will be at finals where the jackpot money will roll to the next go round. If there are no qualified times/scores in the final go, the money will roll to the average.

DRAW OUTS

Once entries close, a contestant may not draw out without penalty. Any draw out or no-show will still owe entry fees and office fees for that rodeo and will not be reimbursed those fees. The only exception is to turn in a vet note or doctor's note by midnight the Wednesday prior to the rodeo. In that case, you will be reimbursed your entry fee minus the Equest Event fees incurred to the association for the entry. You will not be responsible for charges for stalls or hook-ups that have not been used.

Please note, in the event a contestant provides a doctor's note to draw out of a rodeo, they must provide a release from the doctor in order to participate in the next rodeo.

A contestant may be prevented from competing due to condition/health of a horse or contestant if at least two of the following, National Director, Arena Director, and/or Judge, determine that the condition/health of a horse or contestant would endanger the life or safety of the animal or contestant or others in the arena.

CHECK-IN

All contestants are required to check-in with the rodeo office before competing at the first rodeo on each weekend. Check-in is not required for the rodeo on the second day of a weekend IF the contestant checked-in for the first day.

The check-in period will be open for a minimum of 30 minutes but in any event will CLOSE 1 hour before the slack or perf starts. For example, if slack begins at 2PM, check-in will open no later than 12:30PM and will close at 1:00PM. If you are not checked-in, you will be removed from the draw and not allowed to compete in that rodeo.

A contestant is not considered checked-in until they are in full dress code, including their back number, and have paid their fees.

Stall and Hookup charges will be paid when you check in with cash or check made payable to the producer.

Bad Checks – Anyone whose check is returned will be assessed a \$35 fee and must pay the returned check fee and all other outstanding fees before entering the next rodeo. After two returned checks, all fees must be paid in cash or money order.

DRESS CODE

All contestants must be in dress code for check-in. Dress code includes a hat, long sleeve collared shirt (tucked in with sleeves rolled down and buttoned/snapped), jeans (may be colored), boots, and back number. During a performance or slack, all contestants must be in dress code if they are in the arena, grandstands or rodeo viewing area, arena building, whether competing or not. Back numbers must be worn at all times during the rodeo weekend from the time a contestant checks-in until the last rodeo is finished. This applies whether you are at the rodeo facility or away from it. Back numbers

must be worn on the back and must be visible. A contestant may temporarily wear a jacket over his/her back number if they are not competing. Anyone entering the arena during a performance or slack must be in full dress code or they will immediately be asked to leave the arena.

BACK NUMBERS

Contestants will be given 1 paper back number at their first rodeo. It is his/her responsibility to keep up with the back number and have it for every rodeo. The rodeo office will have 1 extra back number in the case of a lost or damaged one. If both back numbers are lost, a \$10 fee will be assessed for a replacement. You are encouraged to have the paper back numbers laminated to make them last longer. Felt back numbers will be available for order for a fee.

INSURANCE/INJURIES

If a contestant is injured or may have been injured at a rodeo that could require medical attention, the Secretary, Arena Director, or National Director must be notified before the contestant leaves the venue. If the Secretary, Arena Director, or National Director are not notified, we will not sign the accident report for insurance. Only one accident report will be completed and signed. The contestant is responsible for keeping up with it and properly filing and handling the claim.

TEAM ROPING

Team Ropers may draw a partner throughout the year and earn points, with the exception of state finals. A partner will be drawn from the entered headers or heelers for that rodeo. A drawn partner has the right to refuse the draw and another partner will be drawn. Drawn partners are NOT eligible for points. Draw partners ARE eligible for payout IF they notify the office and pay a \$25 fee prior to the team roping to be eligible for the jackpot. At state finals, a team roper must declare a partner and their combined team points will consist of each of their individual points combined.

In the event a partner fails to enter a rodeo, show up for a rodeo, is injured, or otherwise can't compete, the remaining partner may request a draw partner or choose another partner from the contestants entered in another event at that rodeo, but may not choose a partner, already entered in Team Roping at that rodeo. The request must be made before check-in closes. If a contestant chooses another partner, that partner may pay the entry fee to be eligible for points, jackpot, and to count towards the minimum required rodeos to be eligible for finals. Otherwise, the chosen partner may elect to pay \$25 and be eligible for the jackpot only or pay no fee with no eligibility for points, jackpot, or to count towards finals qualification.

Team ropers are allowed two (2) loops per team in every performance with the exception of the 3rd Go Round of the State Finals where three (3) loops will be allowed. The partner using the 3rd loop must rebuild and the team is still subject to a 30 second time limit.

BREAKAWAY AND CALF ROPING

Breakaway is bell collar catch only (no legs or tail; the rope must go around the head of the calf and come tight around the calf's neck). If not a bell collar catch, the contestant will be given a no time. There will be only one (1) loop in all performances of the breakaway roping including state finals. There will be an adult spotter in the arena to assist the judge in seeing the correct loop.

Calf ropers are allowed only one (1) loop in all performances with the exception of the 3rd Go Round of the state finals where two (2) loops may be carried. The second loop must be tied on. A contestant may not rebuild his loop. All runs remain subject to a 30 second time limit.

BARRELS AND POLES

Barrel racers and pole benders are asked to exit the arena in the event of a broken pattern. Please consult the NHSRA rulebook regarding rules about forward motion and hat penalties. The arena director and judges will determine the plane of the gate for the arena at each location. If you are not informed of the decision determining the plane of the gate, it is your responsibility to ask the arena director or the student event director before you run.

ROUGH STOCK

Must have equipment safety check by event director before the 1st rodeo of the fall season and before the 1st rodeo of the spring season and before state finals, or any time during the season before allowed to ride in a rough stock event for the first time; but the ultimate responsibility of safe equipment lies with the contestant.

CONDUCT

The NHSRA rulebook provides guidance to the TNHSRA Board of Directors and the National Director on the definition of inappropriate conduct. All contestants and parents are expected to read and understand the expectations of conduct and be aware of what is and is not acceptable behavior. Examples of inappropriate behavior that may result in disqualification include property damage, fighting, rowdy behavior, alcohol or drug use, association with or in possession of alcohol or drugs, conduct or speech that is not appropriate or

harmful to the association or its purpose. This includes conduct or speech outside of the arena or rodeo grounds and electronic forms of communication.

As a condition of membership in Tennessee High School Rodeo Association each contestant understands that TNHSRA requires student, parent and adult non-parent members to agree not to post online any comments about the National High School Rodeo Association, TNHSRA, and/or its official representatives that are threatening, harassing, or detrimental to the Association, as well as to agree not to create unauthorized websites and social media accounts utilizing the Tennessee High School Rodeo Association name, whether directly or indirectly.

All members and parents further understand that failure to abide by this policy by **either** adult members, parent(s) **or** student member(s) may result in immediate revocation of all memberships in TNHSRA, including any points awarded in the current rodeo season by the Board of Directors or the National Director.

MISTREATMENT OF ANY ANIMAL WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Any director, event director, or officer has the authority to recommend disqualification to the National Director and/or Board of Directors for any act that is harmful, hurtful, or inhumane to any livestock on the rodeo grounds at any time.

The conduct of contestant's parents, family, and guest is the responsibility of the contestants. If the conduct of a family member or guest of a contestant is deemed inappropriate by the same standards a contestant is held, the National Director or Board of Directors may disqualify the contestant and ask all persons to leave the grounds.

PARENTS

Parent involvement is vital to the success of the contestants and our organization. All parents are encouraged to be involved and assist in whatever way they can to help the rodeos run smoothly and efficiently. However, be reminded that once a contestant enters the arena, he/she is responsible for their actions and the actions of their parents. If a judge's call is questionable, the contestant is the only person allowed to raise a question and it **MUST** go through the channels described in the NHSRA Rule Book. Neither a parent nor contestant is ever allowed to go directly to a judge.

DIRECTORS

TNHSRA board of directors consists of directors from 2 regions, East and West (split at I-65); each region is made up of up to 4 directors and an alternate

whose terms are voted upon at the annual adult membership meeting. 'Out of state' adult members may be elected to the board and represent the division with which they most closely associate. If a contestant or adult member has a problem, issue, or question about the association, they should first contact a board member from their division and attempt to address the problem first. The list of the board members is provided on the website.

TNHSRA also has officers consisting of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, whom are voted upon at the annual meeting each year. They also work with the National Director who is the liaison between the state association and the national association and whose term is 5 years following a 2 year probationary term. Each of these officers are listed on the website.

STUDENT OFFICERS

Members wanting to run for a student office (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer) will notify the rodeo secretary prior to State Finals. Elections are held during State Finals weekend. Those elected will serve the following year. Job responsibilities include but aren't limited to putting up/taking down banners at each rodeo. Officers are encouraged to attend the TNHSRA Mid-Winter Meeting in January. They also will work with the TNHSRA Queen to have a fundraiser(s) to help pay for mid-winter meeting travel.

QUEEN

Members wanting to run for TNHSRA Queen, will notify the secretary prior to the State Finals. The Queen Contest will take place over State Finals weekend. The crowned queen will compete at the NHSFR in July after State Finals, representing TNHSRA to the best of her ability. During the following year, she will be responsible for ALL grand entries at all the TNHSRA rodeo events. She must have approval from the Queen Coordinator prior to representing TNHSRA at other events. She is responsible for 2 fundraisers throughout her reign, including working with fellow student officers with mid-winter meeting fundraiser(s). She is encouraged to attend the NHSRA Mid-Winter Meeting in January.

FUNDRAISING

TNHSRA raises funds throughout the year to provide end of the year awards and provide travel money to the national finalists. Funds raised come from residual entry fees (after jackpot, stock charges, other expenses are paid), fundraising activities throughout the year, and donations. All contestants are encouraged to participate in fundraising activities.

In order to compete at State Finals, each contestant must raise \$500.00 for the association which can be fulfilled by selling raffle tickets (BY THE FIRST SPRING RODEO IN MARCH).

In order to also receive a Qualifier Award at state finals, each contestant must sell an additional \$200.00 for a TOTAL of \$700.00 by the first spring rodeo in March.

An alternative to selling raffle tickets for fundraiser is to get Sponsorships for the TNHSRA. Sponsorship info will be handed out at the first rodeo of the season or you can get a copy from the State Secretary.

STATE FINALS

The TNHSRA state finals are held over 3 days (generally the first weekend of June on a Thursday through Saturday or Friday through Sunday).

In order to qualify for the finals, a contestant must:

- 1) be a member in good standing with TNHSRA and NHSRA
- 2) meet the grade and school conduct requirements
- 3) submit your entry for finals before the deadline
- 4) meet the fundraiser requirements by the deadline
- 5) have no outstanding fees due to the association
- 6) have entered the specified event a minimum of 4 rodeos held during the regular season. (Any cancelled rodeos or medical issues will be addressed by the board.) (For Cutting and RCH, the minimum shows to enter is 2 to qualify for State Finals.)

Points at finals will be awarded for each round. 1st through 10th place will receive 10 points down to 1 point. The top 10 placings in the average for all three rounds will be awarded 30 points down to 3 points (30-27-24-21, etc). The points earned at finals will be added to points earned during the year to determine the top 4 in each event who will be qualified for the National Finals. Points may be subject to change at the direction of the board with the intent being to award 30% of the available points during the year through the rounds and average at the finals.

YEAR END AWARDS

Saddles will be awarded to the Queen, All Around Boy and Girl, and All Around Rookie Boy and Girl, and Event Champions in Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Goat Tying, Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Steer Wrestling, Tie Down Roping, Bull Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, and Bareback Riding. Buckles will be awarded to the Queen, All Around Boy and Girl, and All Around Rookie Boy and Girl, and first through fourth place in Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Goat Tying,

Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Steer Wrestling, Tie Down Roping, Bull Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, and Bareback Riding. Contestants in Reined Cow horse, Cutting, or Shooting who meet all the above criteria including fundraiser deadline will also qualify for buckles at the finals award presentation.

After the finals, the Board of Directors will review the financial position of the Association and determine the amount of travel money that will be awarded on a per qualified event basis. The amount will be determined based on the amount of fundraising for the year, all expenses for finals have been paid, and sufficient funds to start the next year are reserved. The amount to be awarded will be communicated to the qualifiers as quickly as the amount can be determined. Please note, travel money is not guaranteed. Travel money is not awarded to qualifiers in cutting, reining, or shooting, or reined cow horse.

The information in this handbook is accurate as of the beginning of the year. Please note the Board of Directors may make changes or add new policies during the year in the event the need arises. In the event there is a discrepancy between the information in this handbook and the NHSRA rulebook, the NHSRA rulebook will prevail.