



2020/2021 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, and other events.

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.

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.

ENTRIES

All rodeo entries for TNHSRA are online. Entries are generally available 3-4 weeks before a scheduled rodeo. The deadline for entries is 8AM on Monday, two weeks before the Saturday rodeo. Late entries are prohibited.

It is the contestant's responsibility to confirm their entry is accepted through the online entry system. Once accepted in the system, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address provided on the entry form. The confirmation is usually received in less than 5 minutes. If a contestant does not receive e-mail confirmation, send an e-mail to TNHSRA@yahoo.com and ask for confirmation of the entry. If the contestant is not in the draw and does not have a confirmation e-mail, the contestant will not be allowed to enter after books have closed.

As long as entries are open, a contestant may make any changes necessary, including drawing out without any penalty.

A contestant may request to be placed in slack or performance if they have a conflict that would prevent them from being at one or the other. The request must be made before entries close and there must be slack in the event if placement in slack is requested.

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. 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.

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.

Fees may be paid by cash, check, or by card (credit or debit) if there is sufficient cell service to allow the use of the processing service. All credit or debit card payments will be assessed a 3% convenience fee to cover the cost to the association for the transaction.

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 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 area, 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 2 paper back numbers at their first rodeo. It is his/her responsibility to keep up with the back numbers and have one for every rodeo. A \$10 fee will be assessed for a lost or forgotten back number. If

both back numbers are destroyed, you may bring a damaged back number to the office for a replacement. Felt back numbers will be available for order for a fee. You are encouraged to have the paper back numbers laminated to make them last longer.

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 must pay those fees before being allowed to enter the next rodeo. In addition, there is a \$25 draw out penalty fee. You will not be responsible for charges for stalls or hook-ups that have not been used. However, a contestant may draw out without paying the draw out fee if they produce a doctor's or vet's note to the secretary before check-in closes. Entry fees are still due with a doctor's or vet's note.

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.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are \$30 per event, per performance for the 2019/20 year. \$17.50 of the entry fee will be put into the jackpot for each event. 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+ contestants – 1st 30%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 20%, 4th 15%, 5th 10%

In addition to the entry fee a stock charge will be assessed for each entry. The stock charge will be \$35 per rough stock entry and \$5 per calf, steer, or goat event entry.

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.

NON-MEMBERS

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

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 no more than 4 times during the year (a weekend consists of 2 rodeos). A partner will be drawn from the entered teams 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 or jackpot winnings.

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 as long as he/she has not had 4 draws for the year. The request must be made before check-in closes.

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 and 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/her 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.

FUNDRAISING

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

In addition, each contestant is responsible for a \$300 contestant fee. The fee is capped at \$400 per family for families with more than one child in TNHSRA. This fee is due by January 31 of each year and must be paid in order to compete in the State Finals. Fees will not be accepted after January 31. If the contestant fee is not paid in full by January 31, the contestant will not be eligible for State Finals. Contestants may have the option to raise his/her own fee through opportunities provided by NHSRA or through the sale of arena banners. Arena banners are a minimum of \$500 for the year.

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 elects up to three directors from the East, Middle, and West grand divisions. 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.

STATE FINALS

The TNHSRA state finals are generally held on Thursday through Saturday on the first weekend in June. 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) paid your contestant fee before the deadline
- 5) have no outstanding fees due to the organization
- 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.)

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 Reigning, Cutting, or Shooting who pay their Contestant Fee by the January 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.

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.