



RHRA ETIQUETTE & COMMUNITY CONDUCT INFO

****PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING****

Cowboys & Cowgirls, Parents & Families,

We are looking forward to the upcoming 2024 Season and we want to share a few friendly reminders about some of the uniqueness's of RHRA as well as some general rodeo etiquette, arena safety & Code of Conduct!

- **Remember this is a “Volunteer Organization!”** The individuals and families who produce RHRA, including board members, judges, arena help and more, are here out of the kindness of their heart and are 100% volunteers! Some people helping to produce the event may be new or have limited knowledge so be patient and ask questions politely if something is confusing or seems to be incorrect. *If you think you can improve an event, help by volunteering at the next event!*
- **Know the Rules!!!** As a contestant, or parent of a contestant, be sure to know the rules and expectations of the association and all of your events. Remember to be patient and read the rule book. This is your responsibility to know the general association rules as well as the rules for your personal events & keep in mind that modifications and amendments happen from year to year and it's up to you to remain up-to-date. ***Not knowing or understanding the rules will not be an excuse! If you are unclear – Ask Questions!***
- **Seek Clarification!** Before you question or contest a call, make sure you know the rules! They are available online to all contestants. If you need clarification of a rule, you believe a violation occurred, or simply need to understand why a call was made ... By all means, please ask – But be Respectful!! Ask questions and seek clarification immediately; once any given event is complete, changes are rarely made to the results. Be certain to seek clarification or ask for a review before the end of an event. Remember, WE ARE ALL HUMAN, even judges, secretaries, producers and helpers make mistakes. Being a judge isn't always easy and they have to make tough calls. Sometimes those calls work in your favor and sometimes they don't. Be kind -- these things always come full circle in time.
- **Be Prepared!** If you or your child are competing, know who is competing ahead of you and be ready when it's your turn. Everyone including producers, stock contractors and helpers are trying to be efficient; Do your part and be ready when your name is called.
- **Get Involved & “Before You Complain, have you Volunteered?”**
REMEMBER, the volunteers working these events are doing their best to help YOU and YOUR KIDS for absolutely nothing. Return the favor!!! Many hands make light work and prevent people from “burning out!” Volunteering is technically optional but is required to qualify for RHRA year-end awards. Help wisely! Also, we have several committees who would love to have your help – Fundraising, Saturday Events, Education, and Volunteer – So jump on in!
- **Stay Clear of the Gate!** Make sure contestants can enter and exit the arena when they are called, without your interference. The gate is not the place to un-cinch/untack, hang out or warm up!
- **Train practice at home!** The event is not the place to fix your horse or begin your practice. Don't expect people to clear a path for you from a mile away, reset the barrier multiple times, or wait an untimely amount for you to get your horse in for your run. When you struggle, take responsibility for your horse and how it acts. Apologize for the inconvenience and do your best to fix the problem at home. *With that said, RHRA is focused on growth and safety and some grace will be given in this circumstance, however, this is not the place to begin or perfect your training and practice.*
- **Keep a positive attitude & maintain good sportsmanship!** This is a “Family Tradition” and we are here to compete but to also keep the values and heritage of our sport and family as the top priority. One of the unique things about RHRA is the community and extended family feel. This is up to YOU to help maintain! ***Remember you aren't the only one there!*** You don't have to be best friends with everyone and you are certainly allowed your disappointments but remember, kindness matters!!! If it went great, smile and wish

the next person good luck. If it didn't go well, shake it off, smile, and wish the next person good luck. No matter what, stay positive! There is always another chance and success are never guaranteed! **WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THE RELATIONSHIPS YOU WILL BUILD AND THE MEMORIES YOU WILL CHERISH!**

- **Keep It Classy!** Contestants, Parents/Guardians, Immediate and Extended Family Members, Friends/Supporters and Associates of Contestants shall be well versed in the conduct section of the rule book found starting on page. 8 of the 2024 Official RHRA Rule Book.

CONDUCT OF CONTESTANTS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, IMMEDIATE AND EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS/SUPPORTERS AND ASSOCIATES OF CONTESTANTS:

1. No contestant, who in the opinion of the Judge, Arena Director or Board, shall be under the influence of / impaired by alcohol, marijuana or drugs while in the arena.
2. No person, who in the opinion of the Judge, Arena Director or Board, who is under the influence of / impaired due to alcohol, marijuana, or drugs may assist a contestant in the arena.
3. For any contestant in violation of sections A through W below, whether in whole or in part, the discretion of the Association or RHRA Board and judges, may withdraw their name and entry, disbar the contestant from any and all events, and withhold any money &/or prizes due, forfeit points, be suspended or disqualified, and/or expelled from an event and be subject to expulsion from future events and/or the Association.
 - A. Violating the governing rules of the Association.
 - B. Nonpayment of entry fees; Including returned payments, insufficient funds, closed accounts, etc.
 - C. Violating the western dress rule.
 - D. Not being ready to compete when called upon.
 - E. Using illegal substances, including performance enhancing substances or being under the influence of liquor or drugs.
 - F. Quarreling with the judges or officials.
 - G. Mistreatment of stock.
 - H. Physical or verbal altercation with other contestants, directors, or grounds help.
 - I. Failure to comply with direct requests of board members or judges.
 - J. Failure to give assistance when requested to do so by the Arena Director, or for any reason deemed sufficient by the Association.
 - K. Cheating or attempting to cheat.
 - L. Practicing on official/set patterns or lanes in the arena at any time.
 - M. Conduct or speech of any kind at the discretion of the board determined to be detrimental to the best interest of the Association.
 - N. Theft of any kind.
 - O. Unsportsmanlike conduct; at the discretion of the board.
 - P. Refusing to compete in position drawn by the Rodeo Secretary, unless other arrangements have been made with said Secretary.
 - Q. Physical or verbal altercation with other contestants, directors, or grounds help. Failure to give assistance when requested to do so by the Arena Director, or for any reason deemed sufficient by the Association.
 - R. Verbal abuse, intimidation or threats, physical abuse, intimidation or threats towards any other contestant, parent/guardian, immediate or extended family or friends/supporters and associates of a contestant or any spectator or member of the public, or Association member of official.
 - S. Engaging in physical or verbal confrontations in the arena or on the grounds of the RHRA event.
 - T. Any illegal activity.
 - U. Failure to abide by or disobedience of Articles and Rules of this Association.
 - V. Failure to abide by the dress code during performance or slack.
 - W. **For any rules not covered above, the Board of Directors will be called in to make the final decision.**

- **Nothing is Guaranteed!** As the old' saying goes "*only bet on a sure thing!*" There's only one sure thing and that is "*everything changes!*" As previously stated, this is an all-volunteer organization and it is funded through community support. While RHRA works hard to grow our annual budget year over year; RHRA makes no implied or explicit representation of what awards may be given at the end of the year. This includes, but is not limited to, saddles, buckles or any other prizes. Work hard for your own success and let the prizes be the cherry on top!!!

- **Be Thankful!** All of the people running this association and its events, are volunteers! If it wasn't for them, you wouldn't have an event to attend. As a youth contestant, appreciate every time your parents load your horses in the trailer and give you an opportunity to participate in RHRA events. It's a privilege, not a right – Be thankful! Treat them accordingly and do your part!
- **MOST IMPORTANT... Have Fun. Smile. Laugh. LEARN. Help. Be thankful every time you load the trailer! Each-and-every one of us blessed to be a part of this awesome lifestyle. Cherish it!**

MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL CONTESTANTS AND PARENTS / LEGAL GUARDIANS.

NO NOTARY NEEDED

Contestant / Guardian #1

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

Contestant / Guardian #2

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

Contestant / Guardian #3

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

Contestant / Guardian #4

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

Contestant / Guardian #5

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

Contestant / Guardian #6

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

Cheers to a fun and fabulous upcoming season!

Sincerely,

RHRA 2024 Board of Directors