**Rodeo Events**

### **Saddle Bronc**

Considered rodeo’s “classic event”, the cowboy rides in an association saddle with his feet in the stirrups and holds on with just one hand to a “bronc rein”, which is a thick rope connected to a halter on the horse’s head. There is a mandatory “markout rule,” requiring the cowboy to exit the chute with his spurs in contact above the horse’s shoulders until it makes its initial jump hitting the ground with its front two feet. Failure to do so results in disqualification. The cowboy must ride for 8 seconds to get a score out of 100 points. The highest point ride wins.

### **Bareback**

In this event however, the cowboys ride bareback, or in other words with no saddle on the horse. In place of a bronc rein, they hold onto a “riggin” with one hand. Connected to a belt-like strap wrapped around the horse, its handle resembles that of a suitcase — which is all that the cowboy has to hold onto. This event requires the “markout rule”. The cowboy must ride for 8 seconds to get a score out of 100 points. The highest point ride wins.

### **Bull Riding**

Just like saddle bronc and bareback riding, bull riding requires the cowboy to remain aboard the animal for at least eight seconds and only have one hand to hold on with. In this event, however, the markout rule does not apply. Instead, the contestant holds on to a thick braided rope with one hand with the other hand in the air. The cowboy must ride for 8 seconds to get a score out of 100 points. The highest point ride wins.

**Steer Wrestling**

2 cowboys run side-by-side horseback with the steer in between them. While running nearly full speed, the wrestler then slides off of his horse, grabbing and turning the steer by the horns, with the objective of laying it flat on the ground with all four legs facing in the same direction, which is when the clock stops. The fastest time wins.

### **Team roping**

This is one of the events that require two competitors: a header and a heeler. Once the steer leaves the chute and reaches its head start point, both cowboys come out of the boxes horseback. The header is in charge of roping the horns, and the heeler is in charge of the feet. Once the steers horns and heels are roped they face their horses towards each other to stop the clock. The fastest time wins.

### **Tie down roping**

The calf is first released from the chute. The cowboy then runs up behind the calf with the goal of roping the animal. Once his loop catches the calf, he quickly dismounts, “flanks” the animal, or lays it on the ground, and ties three of its legs together with a rope called the “pigging string”. As soon as he completes the tying, he throws his hands in the air to stop the clock. The calf must remain tied on the ground for six seconds after it is tied. The fastest time wins.

### **Barrel racing**

In this event, there are three barrels set up in a triangle inside of the arena. The rider must perform a cloverleaf pattern horseback, looping around each of the three barrels without knocking any of them down. The fastest run wins, but a knocked barrel results in a five-second penalty added onto their time.

### **Breakaway roping**

Like in other roping events, the breakaway rider waits for the calf to have its head start before leaving the box. They then run horseback, rope the calf around the neck, and stop their horse. At the other end of the rope, there is a nylon string which fastens it to the saddle. As the calf continues to run and the rope comes close to tightening, the nylon string breaks (which is where the name “breakaway” comes from) and the clock is stopped, marking the end of a run. The fastest time wins.

**Steer Roping**

Event in which a [mounted](https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/mounted) [cowboy](https://www.britannica.com/topic/cowboy) pursues a full-grown [steer](https://www.britannica.com/animal/steer); lassos it with his rope, catching the animal by the horns; fastens the rope to his saddle; and stops his horse suddenly, throwing the steer to the ground. The cowboy then quickly dismounts and ties three of the steer’s feet, raising both hands to signal completion. As in [calf roping](https://www.britannica.com/sports/calf-roping), the steer must stay tied for six seconds. The event is timed, and the contestant with the fastest time wins.

**Animal Welfare in Rodeo**

In each of these beloved competitive parts of a rodeo, very specific penalties and rules are enforced to ensure the safety of both the animal and the contestant. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has a book of over 60 rules simply revolving around the proper treatment and care of the animals. Rodeo stock are considered animal athletes which are trained to execute their jobs just as the cowboys and cowgirls are. They are often the most well-cared-for of any live and roughstock. Even aside from the fact that their good performance ensures a contestant’s earnings, these animals are loved with deep care and compassion.

**Added money:** rodeo is different from most other sports in that it’s pay-to-play: at most rodeos, every contestant pays an entry fee, and those entry fees are part of the prize money for that event. Added money (also called the committee purse) is what the local rodeo committee may put in for each event, which in the long run usually comes from sponsors

**Average:** usually used to describe the aggregate score for a contestant who competed in more than one round, e.g., “He had times of 9.3 and 9.8 seconds in the two rounds and placed third in the average with 19.1 seconds on two head”

**Barrelman:** an entertainer who, after a bull ride, uses a barrel to distract the bull and protect the cowboy

**Barrier:** in timed events, a line at the front of the box that the contestant and his horse cannot cross until the steer or calf has a head start, usually marked with a rope and a flag so the timers can see it drop and start the clock

**Box**: in a timed event, the area a horse and rider back into before they make a roping or steer wrestling run

**Breaking the barrier**: in the timed events, if the roper or steer wrestler leaves the box too soon – failing to give the animal enough of a head start – he or she is assessed a 10-second penalty

**Bronc rein**: a saddle bronc rider holds onto a bronc rein, a six-foot braided rope, at a specific position that he determines based on the size and bucking habits of the horse he’s about to ride. Bronc riders often give each other advice about the best position for that handhold to allow the horse its best performance, e.g., “Give him 3½ fingers”

**Bulldogger:** a steer wrestler

**Bullfighter:** an athlete who protects the bull rider after he dismounts or is bucked off by distracting the bull and directing its attention to the exit gate, sometimes stepping between the bull and the bull rider

**Calf roper:** a tie-down roper

**Chute**: a pen that holds an animal safely in position

**Covering:** in the roughstock events, staying on for at least the minimum time, eight seconds: “He covered all three broncs he rode last weekend.”

**Crossfire penalty:** in team roping, if the header doesn’t change the direction of the steer before the heeler catches, the run is disqualified

**Dally:** in team roping, each roper, after throwing his loop, wraps the loose rope around his saddle horn – dallies – and the two ropers move their horses to face each other, pulling the ropes taut to stop the clock

**Day money**: a portion of the roughstock (usually bull riding) contestants’ entry fees that may be used as a separate per-performance payoff for a multi-performance rodeo. All bull riders who make a qualified ride during a paid performance are paid an equal share of the day money. If they also placed, they get prize money in addition to day money. If there are no qualified rides during a performance, the day money is added to the total payout for that event; day money counts toward the world standings

**Draw:** each roughstock competitor who enters a PRCA rodeo is assigned a specific bucking horse or bull in a random draw conducted at PRCA headquarters three days before the rodeo; each timed-event contestant is assigned a calf or steer in a random draw on site, shortly before each performance of a rodeo begins

**Drop:** in roughstock events, the way a bucking horse or bull may lower its front end suddenly while kicking out in back, creating a more difficult ride; in timed events, the way a calf or steer may lower its head to avoid a catch

**Equal money:** many PRCA rodeos offer equal money in the team roping event, meaning that the committee adds the same amount to the purse for headers and heelers as for other contestants (rather than adding the same amount as the other events, to be shared by the two-person team)

**Flags**: judges in the arena drop flags to signal the timers to stop the clocks

**Flankman:** a cowboy or cowgirl who works behind the bucking chutes, adjusting the flank strap around the animal before the ride. The best flank men and women are familiar with each individual animal and know exactly how much flank to give that animal to encourage optimal bucking

**Flank strap:** a soft sheepskin- or Neoprene-lined strap placed in the area where a human’s belt would go, it encourages the animal to kick out behind itself rather than rear up, providing a safer, showier ride

**Go-round**: many rodeos have more than one round of competition. Each is called a go-round, and all cowboys entered in that rodeo compete in each go-round unless there is a semifinal, final or progressive round

**Gold Card member,** life member: a 10-year, dues-paying member of the PRCA who has reached their 50th birthday, or a 20-year dues-paying member of any age

**Ground money**: if not enough contestants qualify for the number of places to be paid, the money that would have been awarded for the remaining places is divided evenly among those contestants who did qualify (have a score or time). That money is considered ground money; in the bull riding only, it counts toward standings

**Hazer**: in steer wrestling, the cowboy who rides on the right side of the steer to make sure the steer runs straight

**Header/heeler:** the two partners in team roping – the header throws the first rope, over the animal’s head or horns, and the heeler throws the second rope to catch both the steer’s hind legs; roping only one leg results in a five-second penalty

**Hooey:** the knot that a cowboy uses to finish tying the calf’s legs together in tiedown roping

**Hooking**: a generic term for any contact a bull makes with his horns to a person, object or another animal

**Hung up**: when a bull rider or bareback rider cannot remove his hand from the rope or handle before he dismounts or is thrown off the bull’s or horse’s back. His hand is “hung up” – a dangerous situation – and the pickup men or bullfighters will move in to help dislodge his hand so he can get clear of the animal

**Judges:** as in other sports, trained PRCA judges ensure that all participants follow PRCA rules. They determine times for runs in the timed events and scores for rides in the roughstock events, record penalties for any infractions of the rules, and inspect the arena, chutes and livestock before each competition

**Left (or right) delivery**: many bucking animals prefer to stand in the chute facing a particular direction, so they can leave the chute in the direction they prefer

**Mark out**: in the bareback and saddle bronc riding, a cowboy’s feet must be above the point of the horse’s shoulders when the horse’s front feet hit the ground – if so, he “marked the horse out,” but if not, he “missed the horse out” and the ride is disqualified

**Nodding**: in the roughstock events, a cowboy nods when he is ready for the gateman to open the gate and the ride to begin. In the timed events, a cowboy nods when he is ready for the calf or steer to be released from the chute and get its head start

**Penalty**: in timed events, common penalties include 10 seconds for breaking the barrier and in team roping, five seconds for a one-hind-leg catch

**Permit holder**: a PRCA contestant who has not yet won their first $1,000 at PRCA rodeos and successfully applied to become a card-holding member of the organization

**Pickup men**: two mounted cowboys who help riders dismount, release a bucking horse’s soft flank strap, and escort bucking horses and bulls to the exit gate after a ride

**Piggin’ string**: in rodeo’s tie-down roping and steer roping events, the small rope used to tie the animal’s legs together. In the pasture, this technique immobilizes the animal so it can be “doctored”

**Pigtail**: a piece of string attached to the barrier that breaks if a timed-event contestant’s horse exits the box too soon, not giving the calf or steer enough of a head start according to PRCA rules. This is called “breaking the barrier”

**Rank**: an adjective of praise and respect used to describe especially challenging roughstock

**Reride**: if a cowboy’s score is affected by equipment failure or a horse or bull that doesn’t buck to performance specifications, the judges may offer the cowboy a clean-slate chance on a different horse or bull

**Riggin’:** a suitcase-style handhold customized to a rider’s grip and attached to a molded piece of leather that is cinched, with a pad, around the horse’s girth

**Rookie:** a cowboy in his first year of card-holding PRCA membership

**Ropes:** the correct term is rope, not lasso, lariat or riata. Most ropes used in ProRodeo timed events are made of strong yet flexible braided materials such as nylon/poly blends, and a cowboy may change his rope selection depending on the weather and the cattle. Bull ropes and bronc reins are often made of sisal or poly blends

**Roughstock**: the bucking horses and bulls used in bareback riding, saddle bronc riding and bull riding. They are bred and raised for the job

**Score**: in roughstock events, the points awarded for the difficulty of the ride (bucking) and the cowboy’s skill in riding. In timed events, the length of the head start given to the calf or steer, which the judges calculate based on PRCA rules. When used to describe a timed-event horse (“That mare scores well”), it refers to the horse’s obedience in staying in the box until the cowboy signals it to start the pursuit

**Slack:** excess entries at some rodeos may be scheduled for preliminary (slack) competition, usually before the rodeo opens to the public

**Spurs**: the spurs used in PRCA rodeos have several dulled rowels that do not penetrate the animals’ skin, which is several times thicker than human skin. See the PRCA and Livestock Welfare chapter for more information

**Standings**: a professional cowboy’s success is measured in earnings. Cowboys may keep track of where they rank in yearly earnings in several sets of standings

**Stock contractors:** the companies that bring livestock to the arena for rodeos – bucking horses and bulls for the roughstock events and steers and calves for the timed events

**Timed events:** steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping and steer roping – events in which the contestant(s) who make the fastest qualified runs win

**Triple Crown winner**: a multi-event cowboy who wins three world championships in the same year. The most recent cowboy to do so was Trevor Brazile in 2008 and 2010

**Try:** a noun used for both cowboys and livestock, denoting grit, determination, fitness, stamina and resilience: “Give that cowboy a hand – he had a lot of try.”

**Turn out:** a cowboy may turn out of a rodeo if, for example, he has a scheduling conflict. This is different from “doctor-releasing” due to injury

1. Where was the rodeo believed to be established? When?
2. What does PRCA stand for?
3. When was the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) established?
4. What was the first name of the PRCA? Why?
5. What are the 3 names the PRCA has been known as?
6. When did the name change? To what?
7. When did they adopt the word ‘Professional' to the name?
8. What rodeo did the cowboys protest because their entry fees were not being added to the total payout?
9. What is the oldest continuous rodeo?
10. Who is the CEO of the PRCA?
11. How do cowboys enter rodeos in the PRCA?
12. Who is the PRCA vet of the year? Who sponsors the Vet of the Year?
13. Who is the title and presenting sponsors of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo?
14. How many PRCA circuits are there?
15. Which is the most recent to join?
16. Which circuits only have one state?
17. Which 2 US states are not a part of a circuit?
18. Which circuits are only made of one state?
19. What circuit is your state in?
20. What are the states in the Great Lakes Circuit?
21. When was the circuit system established?
22. Where are the Ram National Circuit finals held?
23. What is the new name of the Ram National Circuit finals and where is it held?
24. When was the first year of the finals?
25. Why were the circuits established?
26. What is the WPRA?
27. Who is the President of the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA)?
28. What events are sanctioned by the WPRA?
29. Who was the the person to win the Linderman award most recently?
30. What is the Linderman Award?
31. Who is the Linderman Award named after?
32. When was it established?
33. What is the Top Gun Award and who won?
34. When was it established?
35. Who sponsors the award?
36. When was the first Miss Rodeo America Pageant held?
37. Who was the first Miss Rodeo America?
38. Who is the current Miss Rodeo America?
39. Who are the last 5 Miss Rodeo America’s?
40. What was the first year the pageant was televised?
41. Brief history about the pageant.
42. When did the pageant start giving away scholarships?
43. What hotel is the pageant held in?
44. What is the average temperature of a horse?
45. What are the vital signs of an average adult horse?
46. What is the respiratory rate of the horse?
47. What percent of body weight should a horse eat daily?
48. What are common horse illnesses? Strangles, Equine Influenza, Colic, West Nile, Sand Colic, EPM, etc.
49. What are the 3 types of colic?
50. What is the gestation length of a horse?
51. How many bones does a horse have?
52. How many bones make up each section of the vertebrae?
53. Where is the gallbladder on a horse?
54. What organ do horses lack that aid in the digestion of fat?
55. How many inches are in a hand when measuring a horse?
56. What are the 6 parts of the digestive tract of a horse?
57. What are the parts of a horse?
58. What are the three types of muscles horses have?
59. What are the 5 sections of the vertebra of a horse?
60. What are the parts of the hoof?
61. Where are the bars located on the horse?
62. What are the different types of teeth in horses?
63. What is the most common fatal horse illness?
64. What are common vaccines for horses?
65. What are common illnesses for horses?
66. What is the purpose of the frog?
67. How often should an average horse be vaccinated?
68. What is the capillary refill time in a horse?
69. How can the age of a horse be determined?
70. What does the Coggins test for?
71. What are some common types of bits?
72. What bit do you ride in? Why?
73. Where is the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame?
74. What is the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame?
75. Where is the PRCA Headquarters located?
76. Who are some inductees?
77. When was the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame Established?
78. Who are some inductees from this year?
79. What is the highest score you can get in a “rough-stock” event?
80. What year was the rough stock score 210? How many years did that last? How many points were for stock? How many for rider?
81. What was the Top Bareback Horse, Saddle Bronc Horse and Bull of the year for the PRCA?
82. What does MRCA Stand for?
83. Where are the Missouri Rodeo Cowboy Association (MRCA) finals held?
84. How many ropes are tie-down ropers allowed to have?
85. What is the bulldoggers partner in steer wrestling called?
86. How long does a calf need to stay tied for to earn a qualified tie-down run?
87. What is the penalty for one hind leg catch in team roping?
88. What type of pattern is the barrel pattern?
89. How long do roughstock riders have to stay on to cover the animal?
90. What is the purpose of the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund?
91. What is the weight range for livestock used in each event? TD SW TR SR Breakaway
92. How does a cowboy become a triple crown winner? Who was the last triple crown winner?
93. What is the mark out rule? Which event does not have the mark-out rule?
94. Name all 5 second penalties.
95. Name all 10 second penalties.
96. How can one receive a 15 second penalty?
97. How thick is the average bull's hide?
98. The horns on steer wrestling cattle must be blunted to what size? Why are the horns blunted?
99. What are the 3 legal head catches in team roping?
100. What does “Catch as catch can” mean? What event does it refer to?
101. What is a bell collar catch? Which event does it refer to?
102. Blunting of bull horns must be to at least the diameter of?
103. How does a rodeo qualify to be and All-America ProRodeo? Where are the finals held?
104. At least how many judges are needed at a PRCA sanctioned rodeo?
105. What year was the first time that the PRCA hosted Breakaway roping during the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo? Who won the first year? Who won in last year?
106. What is the only legal head catch in breakaway roping?
107. What are two ways Jacobs Crawley is involved with the PRCA?
108. Who makes up the PRCA Board of Directors?
109. What are the 4 divisions of the PRCA Board of Directors?
110. Who is on the PRCA Executive Council?
111. What 7 divisions make up the PRCA Executive Council?
112. Who is your circuit system contact as found in the Business Journal?
113. What is the number of required rodeos for both a resident and non-resident of your circuit?
114. What is the PSN?
115. Who was on the latest cover of the Pro Rodeo Sports News magazine?
116. Name last years Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifiers from Missouri and their event.
117. What is known as rodeo’s “Classic Event”?
118. What determines who wears the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo #1 back tag at the finals?
119. Who is Miss Rodeo America and what state is she from?
120. Who are the Troy Rodeo Queens?
121. Who was the first Troy Queen?
122. What is the pageant website?
123. What is the history of the pageant?
124. Who is Austin Roper? What is the Austin Roper Award?
125. List the PRCA events of the rodeo:
126. Where does the money from the Troy FFA Alumni and Lincoln County Relay for Life Rodeo go?
127. Who is the stock contractor? Announcer? Barrelman?
128. What time does the rodeo start tonight?
129. How much do tickets cost? At the gate or in advance.
130. List the current Wrangler National Finals Rodeo World Champions and their event.
131. Who is currently leading the standings?
132. What is the PRCA’s website?
133. What is the Austin Roper Sportsmanship Award?
134. What is the PRCA board of directors? Who is on the committees?
135. What is the PRCA Executive council? Who serves on it?
136. Where has the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo been held besides Las Vegas? What year did it move there?
137. What is the Clem McSpadden National Finals Steer Roping? Where is it held? Who won?
138. Who was Clem McSpadden?
139. Who are the oldest and youngest Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifiers?
140. Who has qualified the most for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in one event?
141. Name the current Wrangler National Finals Rodeo Average winners. What is the difference between Average winners and World Champions?
142. What is the Cowboy Channel + and how much does it cost?
143. What is the National Finals Rodeo Open? What did it replace this year?
144. What are the annual PRCA permit dues? How many times can a permit be filled?
145. Do you know the process for a PRCA contract personnel to earn their PRCA pro card? How much are annual card member dues/
146. What is the Coors Man in the Can program? When was it established? Who won Coors Man in the Can?
147. Who were last years Wrangler National Finals Rodeo announcers? Specialty Acts? Barrelman? Bullfighters? Pick up men?
148. How many PRCA Pro Officials are there this year? What year did it change to its current amount?
149. What is the new name of the Ram National Circuit Final Rodeo? Why did it change?
150. What events are sanctioned by the PRCA?
151. What events are sanctioned by the WPRA?
152. Who is currently leading the PRCA World Standings in all events? (Keep up with that)
153. Current events in PRCA, WPRA, and rodeo news!

Answers can be found at prorodeo.com in the “Media Guide”. The AQHA offers free e-books on horse anatomy and information at AQHA.com There are many “rodeo Queen” study cards available for free on Quizlet.com

We will be posting study questions on our social media story as the pageant gets closer along with tips! Other great resources to study are Next Level Rodeo Queen Coaching, Rodeo Queen 101: Study tips & tricks, Calling All Cowgirls, and Past the Sash on Facebook & Instagram!

ORGANIZATION NAMES TO KNOW

MRCA- Missouri Rodeo Cowboys Association

PRCA- Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association

WPRA-Women's Professional Rodeo Association

IPRA- International Professional Rodeo Association

URA- United Rodeo Association

NHSRA-National High School Rodeo Association

PBR-Professional Bull Riders

NLBRA- National Little Britches Rodeo Association













