

FHSRA 2026 – 2027 GROUND RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY
DEADLINES POSTED..... NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

It is every member's responsibility to know the Ground Rules as well as the rules of the National High School Rodeo Association rulebook. Any rule that is NOT covered in these Ground Rules and additional rules can be found in the NHSRA rulebook.

MEMBERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISERS

The membership fees for the 2026-2027 are to be paid upon joining the Florida high School Rodeo Association. The State membership fee is \$130.00 to be paid when registering for the contestant's first rodeo of the season and is in addition to the National fee, that must be paid online when joining the NHSRA.

MANDATORY FUNDRAISERS:

1. Each member is required to sell 25 raffle tickets (\$20.00 each) Total of \$500.00 – ½ of ticket sales are due at check in at the November rodeo and ½ due at check in at the February rodeo.
2. **New and returning members who join FHSRA after the fundraising deadlines will still be required to pay all monies due.**

RODEO, CUTTING, RCH, & SHOOTING CALL IN

Rodeo entry is online via www.equestevent.com. Entries will begin Monday 3 weeks before the rodeo and will stay open until ~~the~~ the following Tuesday. Any exception to this will be posted on the official FHSRA website. Contestants will be required to enter online for each rodeo/show every month. **ALL** entry enrollment **MUST** be done via www.equestevent.com. Late entries will only be accepted Wednesday – Friday AFTER the books close. For example for the September rodeo: Call in Monday, Aug. 24th – Tuesday, Sept. 1st. Late Call In, Wednesday, Sept. 2nd through Sept. 4th until 11:59 pm. All late entries **MUST** be through www.equestevent.com. There is a \$100.00 fine for all late entries. State Finals late fee is \$250.00. Late fees are to be paid with entry fees during rodeo registration.

All turn-outs, doctor releases, or vet releases must be called in /text to 954-931-6463 by 9 am on the Friday prior to the rodeo.

BAD CHECKS

There is a \$50.00 charge for all returned checks. After one returned check, you will be on a cash only basis.

BACK NUMBERS

You will be issued your back number at the first rodeo you attend. Student Officers will be issued the following numbers: President-1; Vice President-2; Secretary-3; Queen-10. You are required to wear your back number (**on your back**), in the arena, and on or off the rodeo grounds whether competing or not. This also means traveling to and from home. If you lose your back number, see the State Secretary to purchase a replacement back number for \$5.00. There will be no refunds given. **Do not get caught without your back number on. This is a requirement of dress code and you will be penalized the same as for dress code rule violations.**

SAT / ACT TESTING

Special accommodations will not be offered for any SAT/ACT, or equivalent testing that may be required for graduation or college preparations. Be sure to look over the schedule and plan your testing accordingly. **THERE WILL BE NO SLACK.**

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees must be paid online during call in.

Entry fees are listed below. If you enter the rodeo and do not show up, you are responsible for paying the entry fees before you can compete in another FHSRA rodeo.

- All rough stock events: \$55.00 per event
- All timed events: \$55.00 per event
- Cutting and Reined Cow Horse: \$55 per go plus grounds fee if not participating in other events
- Shooting events: \$45 per event plus grounds fee if not participating in other events
- Grounds fee: \$25.00 **per contestant, per weekend.**

GROUND'S FEES

All grounds fees will be set aside for a travel fund to be used for the National Team members. **Each qualifier will receive his/her own money.**

TURN OUT RULE

Please see the NHSRA Rulebook. In addition, any contestant that turns out, without giving notification, from an event without visible injury to themselves or their horse must pay all their entry fees for that rodeo. An additional \$100.00 penalty fine for each event at said rodeo must also be paid. If notification of the turnout is given, you will be assessed the entry fees, but not the turnout penalty fee. This includes Cutting, Reined Cow Horse, and Shooting. The PRCA rule concerning this will be followed except for the "out time" pertaining to entering subsequent rodeos. For FHSRA purposes, the Rodeo Secretary must be notified 24 hours prior to the first performance. A contestant or horse with a visible injury may turn out of any event at a rodeo without a doctor's/veterinarian's written excuse provided notification of such turn out is authorized by two directors at that given rodeo. A visible injury turn-out authorization form must be completed and turned in to the Rodeo Secretary. The rodeo secretary will have the form. Contestant may turn out of one event and does not have to turn out of all their events. Failure to attend will result in the above fees and penalty, no excuses, unless complied with as outlined above. These monies must be paid before competing in subsequent rodeos. For all rodeos, the Rodeo Secretary, in addition to the appropriate Directors, must be notified of visible injury turnouts.

TURN OUT FINES

- Visible injury: No fees and no fines
- Vet release: No fees and no fines
- Doctor's release: No fees and no fines
- Notified turn out: Fees and no fines
- Non-notified turn out: Fees and fines (\$100)

PERMIT (ONE TIME) RIDERS

Any high school student enrolled in an accredited school whose age is under 20 on August 1, may enter one FHSRA (2 performances) the student must follow all FHSRA rules, including the following:

- Contestant will receive no points
- Must have notarized release form prior to competing
- Must pay \$35.00 for insurance and handling of paperwork in addition to entry fees and grounds fees (\$15.00 may be applied towards full membership, provided they join prior to next rodeo)
- Must enter during entry enrollment and check back to verify time to perform (members will have preference of performances)

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Students must be in good standing; not ruled undesirable for misconduct at school. Students must have a 2.0 GPA to be eligible to compete. Refer to the NHSRA Rulebook for complete rule. At FHSRA, contestants must turn in a report card, transcript, or certified teachers testing results (for home schooled members) from last year to prove enrollment in school. **There is no GPA requirement to start the new 2026-2027 rodeo year. No screenshots will be excepted!**

Report cards to be submitted to the members portal with membership forms at the time of registering as a member and with finals entry for State Finals rodeo by ALL contestants. REPORT CARD DEADLINES WITH STATE FINALS ENTRY IS MANDATORY WITH 2.0 GPA TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RODEO.

- **Home schooled students must submit a typed report card or use the *FHSRA CONTESTANT REPORT CARD INFORMATION/GRADE VERIFICATION (form found on website)*. NO HAND-WRITTEN REPORT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED**
- ***FHSRA CONTESTANT REPORT CARD INFORMATION/GRADE VERIFICATION (form found on website)***

DRESS CODE

When required, members, directors, officers, and helpers must be in complete western attire, approved pants, hat, boots which must have a heel and cannot be riding sneakers, belt, and long-sleeved western shirt. Members may remove their belt while competing, but it must be on at all other times. All shirts must have a collar. Shirt sleeves are to be worn rolled down. (See the NHSRA Rulebook for the only exception to this rule). Girls wearing low rise jeans must make sure shirt stays tucked in. Contestants must be in dress code for the State Finals Banquet and all mandatory meetings. We will be abiding by the NHSRA Patch Program.

The above described dress code is required as specified in the NHSRA Rulebook. FHSRA members must be in official dress when in the stands or within 50 feet of the arena, whether competing or not. Contestants must be in official dress 30 minutes prior to rodeo starting and until the last contestant has completed. **Back numbers must be worn on your back at all times, whether competing or not.** Members will be given a warning for the first offense. If they are caught out of dress code again, they will be assessed a \$200.00 fine. Fine to be paid at check-in the following rodeo. After third offense, the executive committee will decide the reprimand.

Dances/Socials: Contestants are required to wear back numbers at all contestant dances except for PROM. T-shirts with crew neck collars and sleeves may be worn, but no low-cut shirts are allowed. NO CUT-OFF, MIDRIFF, or SLEEVELESS SHIRTS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED. Shirts MUST be tucked in. Any messages on clothing must be positive and cannot advertise alcohol or tobacco products. Western boots and hats are optional. Queen must wear banners and numbers to contestant dances. Any attire deemed inappropriate by an adult chaperone or director/officer must be changed before admittance to the dance will be allowed.

WORK ASSIGNMENTS

All contestants who are entered in the weekend qualifying rodeos, and are present to compete, must work at least one assigned event per weekend. Failure to work an assigned event will result in a \$200 fine. Roughstock contestants are required to work an assigned event when they are entered in a qualifying rodeo performance. Roughstock contestants are exempt from this rule when they compete in a different location than the weekend qualifying rodeo.

HAT RULE

All contestants must wear a western hat or helmet when they compete. Barrel racers, pole benders, and goat tiers will receive a 5 second penalty if they enter the plane of the arena without their hat on their head. Barrel racers and pole benders, will receive a \$10.00 fine, if their hat comes off at any time after the plane of the arena. If you are not sure where the plane of the arena starts, you will need to ask the arena director or event director for clarification. Any contestant that shows intentional placement of hat or shaking of head causing loss of hat will result in a 10 second penalty issued by the judge. Judge keeps record. To be paid at announcer stand before the next event.

POINTS SYSTEM

If you have any questions or complaints regarding points at a rodeo, you have until the final performance of the following rodeo to get this straightened out with the Point Secretary. FHSRA will count all points from 100% of the rodeos to qualify for the State Finals and National Finals in each event. The top 15 in each event will qualify for State Finals. Contestants must compete in 1/2 of the qualifying rodeos in a particular event and received points in that event to be eligible to compete at State Finals in that event. Average points will be awarded to the top 10 contestants in each event at State Finals. The All-Around Cowboy and Cowgirl will be determined for the year by total points earned in all events throughout the season, plus points earned at Finals, regardless of whether they have entered those events in their State Finals, provided they have entered their State Finals.

ROOKIE AWARDS

Rookie Cowboy and Cowgirl will be chosen on points the same as All Around. To be eligible for rookie, it must be your first year competing in NHSRA. Rookie buckles will be given at the year-end awards banquet.

ROUGH STOCK

A safety vest and mouthpiece are to be worn in all rough stock events. NO EXCEPTIONS. All contestants are required to complete a safety inspection with the adult event director prior to competing. The adult event director has the authority to mandate if equipment is unsafe to compete with and require a replacement prior to competing. All rough stock riggings must conform to NHSRA standards. **Bull riders are required to wear a helmet.**

TIMED EVENTS

Any contestant knowing, they need to be split during the performance and the slack must notify the rodeo secretary during entry enrollment. A contestant has a 30 second time limit to compete. There will be no rattling of chute or gates in timed events. The contestant and/or person rattling the chute will be disqualified. ***Contestants cannot draw the same stock in a weekend rodeo.***

STEER WRESTLING

For safety reasons, steer wrestlers will only get 1 jump at all rodeos.

CALF ROPING

A contestant will receive a five second penalty for the run if he brings the animal over backwards (between 10 and 2 on a standard clock) with the animal landing on his back or head with all four feet in the air. If cattle are weighing more than 200 pounds the jerk down rule is waived.

TEAM ROPING

You will be allowed two loops in team roping with a 30 second time limit, with the exception of state finals which will allow for three loops. If the front foot is in the loop when the header dallies, turns off, and changes direction of the steer, there will be an automatic NO TIME. If your partner fails to show up or is injured and cannot compete in the team roping, you will be drawn a partner from within the team ropers entered at that rodeo. The drawn partner will not earn points. Each contestant in team roping will receive individual points earned of the same value as contestants in other events. Partners points will be added together to form a team at State Finals. Champions will be the end of the year high point header and heeler. If either partner is disqualified at State Finals, both are out of team roping.

GOAT TYING

The arena will ~~receive~~ be dragged before the goat tying event starts. The goats provided will have horns no longer than 8". If the contestant's horse crosses over the rope or goat, or the contestant's horse comes in contact with the goat or rope at any time, a 10 second penalty will be assessed. If the goat should breakaway because of the fault of the horse, the contestant will receive a no time. Arena help will not catch the contestant's horse until the flag has been dropped. To qualify as a legal wrap, there must be at least one complete wrap around at least 3 legs and a half hitch, hooey, or a knot. Goats will be divided by the number of contestants. Goats will remain on the stake for the number of runs that is necessary.

BARRELS

Barrel racing contestants may not ride the same horse. Barrel drags will be determined by the management of the rodeo which consists of the event director, judges, vice president, national director, and rodeo host committee. **If time fails to work for 3 or more riders you have the option of a rerun-penalties will carry to new run.**

POLES

Pole bending contestants may not ride the same horse. If running pattern towards stock pens, no stock will be loaded. Pole drags will be determined by the management of the rodeo which consists of the event director, judges, vice president, national director, and rodeo host committee. **If time fails to work for 3 or more riders you have the option of a rerun-penalties will carry to new run.**

CUTTING

Information can be found on the website regarding the schedule, locations, and entry information. Entry will be the same call -in date as the rodeo. Cutting may be held in conjunction with the rodeo or held at a different time and location for each rodeo. ***Only points awarded at State Finals will be applied towards the All Around.*** No two boys or girls can ride the same horse in this event. Contestants must compete in at least 1/2 of the scheduled cuttings to be eligible to compete in the event at State Finals

BREAKAWAY ROPING

Breakaway ropers may only carry 1 loop.

REINED COW HORSE

Reined cow horse may be held on weekends separate from the rodeo. Information can be found on the website regarding the schedule, locations, and entry information. The reined cow horse competition will be offered at a minimum of 3 times at the qualifying level. This event is coed. No two contestants can ride the same horse in this event. **Only points earned at the state finals will count towards all around.** Contestants must compete in at least 1/2 of the scheduled reined cow horse events to be eligible to compete in the event at State Finals. Reined cow horse contestants and/or director must raise money for awards for state finals.

SHOOTING

Information can be found on the website regarding the schedule, locations, and entry information. Shooting points are separate from the rodeo. Shooting points will follow the same point system at the rodeo except they DO NOT apply to the rodeo. Contestants must compete in at least 1/2 of the scheduled matches in a particular event (trap, rifle) to be eligible to compete in the event at State Finals.

ALL EVENTS

In all events, **only the arena director & judges** may disqualify a contestant if they cannot compete in a timely manner for safety reasons. All contestants will be given 2 attempts to enter the arena or start their run, at the discretion of the Judge time will be placed on a 1-minute clock.

All chain, metal, and wire tiedowns, nosebands, and bosals must be covered.

STATE FINALS

State Finals stock will be drawn with one stock per contestant, plus three extras in all events. **Finals run order will be Performance one-draw; Performance two-reverse from Performance one; and Performance three- Bottom to top based points (15-1). Performance three- for barrels, poles, and cutting random draw.**

TIES AND TIE BREAKERS

All ties will be handled as follows:

Points will be split equally between the contestants. Awards/buckles awarded at rodeos throughout the year and at State Finals will be duplicated, except for the Champion. There will only be one champion in each event for the end of the year awards. **Therefore, these ties will be a runoff after the regular competition according to PRCA or college rodeo guidelines.** Contestants will draw to see who goes first. In the rough stock competition, two animals will be drawn from a minimum of three animals, by the event director, stock contractor, and judges. No animal will be bucked back to back. If no score will be based off longest length of time for the ride. For barrel and pole another run will be made fastest time wins, for other timed events two head of stock will be drawn and each competitor will make a run on both head of stock.

NATIONAL MONEY DISTRIBUTION

Timed events contestants and the FHSRA Queen receive a larger percentage of expense money for National Finals than rough stock and shooting contestants.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The FHSRA is conducted by the NHSRA rulebook and the FHSRA ground rules. It is the contestants and parent's responsibility to know and understand the rules. If you do not understand the rules, ask a director or officer of the FHSRA. If you are disqualified for breaking any of the association rules, you are entitled to a hearing before the board of directors. Refer to the NHSRA Rulebook by-laws, and rulebook for all rules pertaining to conduct and levels of disciplinary action. Refer to the new NHSRA rule book.

Three (3) hand written thank you letters to a current sponsor. Each member will be assigned sponsors to write letters to. Letters must be submitted in a **self-addressed and stamped envelope, not sealed.** Thank you, letters must be submitted **by February 2027** rodeo at check-in. If this is not adhered to, you will forfeit any end of year prizes as well as you will not be able to compete in the State Finals.

No double riding on horseback at any place or time permitted, \$25.00 penalty fee.

In the event of a pandemic that effects the ability of a rodeo to take place, the board of directors reserve the right to implement a plan of action in conjunction with the NHSRA guidance.

CONDUCT: Parents misconduct will result in disqualification and/or points taken. * No cussing at directors, including national director. Your child will have points taken and held accountable for their actions.
No alcohol or parties by contestants – you will be disqualified, this includes tobacco, any nicotine products, vape pens for LIFE per NHSRA Rulebook.

Duration of rodeo is from the time you leave your residence headed to the rodeo until the time you return to your residence following the rodeo.

Deadlines posted are mandatory “no exceptions” to anyone will be allowed.

STUDENT OFFICERS / QUEEN JOB DESCRIPTION

QUEEN

- The Queen shall coordinate a Grand Entry with the student members. The Grand Entry should include the American Flag, sponsor flags, National Anthem, prayer, introduction of student officers, followed by the rest of the student participants.
- The Queen shall wear her banner/sash when required to be in official dress code. She is also required to be in western attire during rodeos, whether competing or not.
- The Queen is responsible for care, cleaning, and transportation of the flags to all rodeos, expenses for maintenance to be reimbursed by FHSRA, with receipts provided.
- The Queen is responsible for selling \$500.00 in raffle tickets, in addition to her required \$450.00 for regular membership.
- The Queen will plan and attend at least 2 community service projects during the rodeo season. Coordination with the directors will be needed to ensure a coordinated event.
- The Queen will be responsible for other duties as determined by the Board of Directors to be in the best interest of the FHSRA.
- Members may not run for Queen and a student office.
- The Queen will pay \$15.00 of each entry fee, with the association covering the remainder of the entry fees. All other expenses such as hook-ups, stall fees, etc. are the responsibility of the Queen.
- The Queen is required to sign and follow a code of conduct and will be held to a higher standard than other members.
- The Queen will be allowed to keep her crown

STUDENT PRESIDENT

- Must be present at rodeo’s Grand Entry.
- Call for and conduct all student meetings and coordinate nominations and elections of Student Event Directors.
- Will attend director’s meetings when requested.
- Will be responsible for other duties as determined by the Board of Directors to be in the interest of FHSRA.
- Must be in western attire at all rodeos whether competing or not.
- The Student President will oversee all banner coordination and placement at each rodeo.
- Will assist the Queen with community service projects and promote the FHSRA to the youth and adults alike throughout the state.
- The Student President is required to sign and follow a code of conduct and will held to a higher standard than other members.

STUDENT VICE PRESIDENT

- Assume the duties of the Student President when they are unavailable.
- Must be present at rodeo's Grand Entry.
- Will attend director's meetings when requested.
- Will be responsible for other duties as determined by the Board of Directors to be in the interest of FHSRA.
- Assist in fund raising events for the FHSRA and student fund.
- Assist arena director with all duties.
- Must be in western attire at all rodeos whether competing or not.
- The Student Vice President is required to sign and follow a code of conduct and will held to a higher standard than other members.

STUDENT SECRETARY

- Must be present at rodeo's Grand Entry.
- Assist in fund raising events for the FHSRA and student fund.
- Send appropriate correspondence to rodeo sponsors, members, etc.
- Will attend director's meetings when requested.
- Will be responsible for other duties as determined by the Board of Directors to be in the interest of FHSRA.
- Assist State Secretary in retrieving score sheets and communication with Rodeo Secretary during rodeos.
- Must be in western attire at all rodeos whether competing or not.
- The Student Secretary is required to sign and follow a code of conduct and will held to a higher standard than other members.