

TO: All THSRA State Qualifiers  
FROM: Susan Baldwin, THSRA Secretary  
RE: 2023 Texas High School Rodeo Finals  
DATE: May 1, 2023

First of all, let me congratulate you on qualifying for the Texas High School Finals Rodeo. It is truly an accomplishment just to get to this level of competition. Please read this letter in its entirety so you are aware of all rules and time frames for the Finals.

**CHECK-IN ---** The contestant check-in will be **Sunday, June 4th from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM**. Just because you enter the rodeo grounds before 1:00 PM on Sunday does not mean that you are checked in. Every contestant must come to the **Capital Farm Credit Display Building** between those hours to check in with your region secretary to pick up your back number and to vote for student event directors. When you come to check-in, you must bring the following:

- a) final report card or a letter on school stationery that states report cards have not been issued but that student has passed at least 70% of his/her **2nd semester classes**. Even if you graduated early, you must bring a copy of your final report card; and,
- b) coggins papers on each horse that you brought onto the grounds.

If you show up without your report card or letter from the school, you will only have until 1:00 PM on Sunday to have either one of these faxed to the rodeo office. **NO REPORT CARDS OR LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 1:00 PM -- NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!** If fax is needed, please fax to (832) 553-7232. The report card will come directly to my computer. Any contestant that does not meet this requirement will be disqualified.

**ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE PRESENT AND CHECK IN ON SUNDAY!!**

If you think you will have a problem making the check-in deadline, you **MUST** call the State office at (936)590-4447 ahead of time to make arrangements. The only excuse for a late check-in is a school related function. If you run into problems on that Sunday and think you may miss the check-in deadline, you **MUST** call the State Secretary at (936)332-4011.

**CUTTERS & REINERS ---** If you are entered in the cutting horse and/or Reined Cow Horse competition, you will have until 4:00 PM Wednesday, May 31st to check in with the secretaries, Angie Key and Anne Dollery. You must bring the same 2 items listed above with you to the rodeo office. The 1st go round will be Thursday, June 1st, starting at 9:00 AM and the 2nd go round will be Friday, June 2nd, starting at 9:00 AM. Cutting will take place in the Guitar Arena and Reined Cow Horse in the First Financial Arena. The Short Go rounds will be Saturday, June 3rd, starting with the cutting at 9:00 AM followed by the Reined Cow Horse. Working order will be drawn after the 4:00 PM deadline Wednesday. Boys will cut first Thursday, girls first on Friday and boys first again for the Short Go.

To try to save some confusion at the entrance gate, I am asking for everyone entered in either of these events

to call or email me the names of anyone who will be coming to help you -- trainers, turnback help, etc. I will be giving this list of names to Rochelle Johnson, General Manager of the Taylor County Expo, to try to expedite their entrance to the rodeo grounds.

**SEASON PASSES** --- all prepaid season passes will be given to you by the event secretaries or by your region region secretary at the Sunday check-in along with your back number. You will still be able to buy season passes during check-in on Sunday. There will be an "Information Booth" table set up in the Display Building. All Event and Buckle Sponsors will pick up season passes and programs there as well.

**STUDENT EVENT DIRECTOR VOTING** --- cutters and reiners will vote for student directors when you check in on Wednesday. All other student event directors will be voted on during Sunday check-in. There will be a specific table set up just for voting. Contestants only vote for event directors in the event(s) you are a state qualifier in. Student directors are a very important position so please vote for who you think will do the best job!

**POSITION DRAW** --- The draw has been sent to the region secretaries and posted on the THSRA website. You should know by now what day(s) you have drawn up. Due to unforeseen circumstances, there could possibly have been some changes once the daysheets were sent to the printer. The official position draw along with the stock draw will be posted at the Information Booth. The booth will be located on the west side of Taylor Telecom arena. **CONTESTANTS** - it is your responsibility to make sure you know which day you are to compete!!!! The daysheets are provided as a courtesy only and are not the Official Draw.

**HOOKUPS** - When you arrive at the Taylor County Fairgrounds, you will enter the facility through Gate G (rock gate) and will be taken to your hookup location by a member of the Taylor County personnel. Cutters and reiners may start arriving Wednesday, May 31st at 8:00 AM. All other contestants may start arriving on Friday, June 2nd, but please note that gates will close at 5:00 PM daily so you **MUST** arrive before that time or you will have to wait outside the gates until they are opened back up the next morning. Starting Saturday, June 3rd at 8:00 AM, the gates will be open around the clock.

The Expo personnel has the list of contestants with the type of RV hookup each one has so please do not try to make any variations to their list!!! Your RV site will have already been assigned by the Expo personnel. They will try their best to honor requests.

**NOTE FROM THE EXPO** - The 30 amp RV plugs are GFI (ground fault interrupter) - if your trailer/camper does not work on GFI, you will need to have this corrected in advance of you parking on the grounds.

**STALLS** - all stalls will be locked when you arrive and will not be unlocked until the horse is actually on the grounds. Stalls will be preassigned.

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS** - we will have a virtual sponsor scholarship presentation again this year. Recipients will receive the actual scholarship certificate in Abilene. We ask all scholarship winners to pick up your certificate at the manned table by the state finals backdrop during check-in on Sunday. **YOU WILL NEED TO BE IN FULL DRESS CODE WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR CERTIFICATE!!!**

**OFFICER CANDIDATES & VOTING DELEGATES** - You will have a meeting on Thursday, June 8th in the Ranch House right after the morning performance. The Ranch House is located directly behind the West Texas Fair office. Delegates will meet the candidates at this time and voting will take place right after all the introductions.

**SHOOTING CONTESTANTS** - if you arrive before 5:00 PM Friday afternoon, please come check in with me at the Rodeo Office in the Taylor Telecom arena to turn in your report card and pick up your back number. Any

shooters not able to check in on Friday, there will be a THSRA representative at the shooting range Saturday before the shoot starts. Both contests will be held at the Callahan County 4-H range. Details are still being worked out so more information will be emailed to the shooters once finalized.

**GOLF CARTS** - golf carts are available for rent again this year. A flyer was sent to the region secretaries to pass along to all contestants. You **MUST** be a licensed driver to rent the golf carts and **ONLY** licensed drivers are allowed to drive them. You **MUST** adhere to the seating capacity of the golf cart rented!!!

**SPONSOR PATCHES** - the patch policy is attached to this letter. Please make sure you read it and adhere to it the entire week of state finals. It is **YOUR** responsibility to know the patch rules!!!! State directors will be busy with running the rodeo and will not have time to be Patch Police!!! If you have any questions on the policy, please feel free to contact the state office at (936)590-4447.

**NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED IN TAYLOR TELECOM FACILITY!!!!!!**

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me either at the number listed above or by email at [texashighschoolrodeo@gmail.com](mailto:texashighschoolrodeo@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing familiar faces and to meeting new ones!!! Again, congratulations on making it this far and good luck to each and everyone of you. Here's to bringing that National Team Trophy back to Texas for the 8th consecutive year!!!!!!

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## NOTES FROM THE JUDGES

The judges will be going over a few things during the General Membership Meeting Sunday afternoon starting at 2:30 PM but wanted to send a few highlights to you so you will be prepared.

**ROUGH STOCK RIDERS** - mandatory equipment check and safety seminar starting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 4th on the coliseum floor. You must be in **FULL** dress code (this includes your back#) and you must bring every piece of equipment with you: helmet, vest, glove, mouth piece, spurs, chaps, bull rope, bareback rigging and/or saddle bronc saddle. Judges say you must be ready when called upon - not start getting ready when called upon.

**BREAKAWAY** - rope must be tied to your saddle horn at the end of your rope and must be tied tightly so it cannot come off when throwing your slack. **FLAG MUST BE A SOLID COLOR! NO SCROLL OR WRITING MAY BE VISIBLE!**

**TIEDOWN** - after tying the calf and mounting your horse, ride up at least one step (would prefer the rope to touch the ground) for the six (6) seconds. If the rope is already on the ground when mounting, you must still take a step forward. Please do not back your horse up and drag the calf as this will result in a **NO TIME!**

**The jerk down rule will be in effect - five (5) second penalty!**

**TEAM ROPERS** - this is not a jackpot. You must be dallied and faced with ropes tight and all four legs of your horse on the ground. Make sure to hold dally until you get a flag. **NO UNNECESSARY PULLING BACK!!** No throwing heel loops after the header has missed. PRCA crossfire - make sure the steer has completed his switch. This is a judgment call. Judges will call what they see from the position they are in.

**STEER WRESTLING** - no hitting horse on the head with your bat.

**ALL ROPING EVENTS & STEER WRESTLING** - there can be NO contact from the helper after the contestant has nodded/asked for cattle or contestant will be disqualified.

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## **GROUND RULES**

### **BARREL RACERS, POLE BENDERS & GOAT TYERS:**

--forward motion will be at the plane of the rollup door and you may pivot or turn once in the alley.

--hat must stay on until you reach the plane of the rollup door. Failure to keep your hat on will result in a 5 second penalty.

--all helpers must be in full dress code and may provide assistance up to the plane of the rollup door.

One helper per contestant.

--contestants will have 60 seconds to enter the arena from the time your name is called.

--make sure all metal and/or wire is completely covered where it touches your horse.

**GOAT TYING** - There must be a wrap around all three (3) legs of the goats and then a hooey. The hooey is not considered a wrap. Please step back three (3) feet as soon as you can. If the rope is around your leg, you may remove it and step back.

**BREAKAWAY** - the only legal catch in the Breakaway Roping will be a **BELL COLLAR** catch. No appendages may be in the loop including the tail head. Catches that are not bell collar will result in a no time.

**TIEDOWN & BREAKAWAY** - One loop only in the 1st and 2nd go rounds. Two loops may be used in the Short Go if two loops are carried.

**TEAM ROPING** - two loops only may be used in the 1st & 2nd go rounds. Three loops may be used in the Short Go only.

No one is allowed to ride in the competition arenas after the event has begun with the exception of personnel conditioning the stock and at a Rodeo Official's direction.

Contestant must clear the competition arena promptly upon the completion of his/her run regardless of the success of the run.