



# TEXAS

## HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ASSOCIATION

TO: All THSRA State Qualifiers  
FROM: Susan Baldwin, THSRA Secretary  
RE: 2026 Texas High School Rodeo Finals  
DATE: April 29, 2026

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 7th 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, pick up your back number, wrist band 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 have until 1:00PM SHARP 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 that has been pre-approved by the Executive Board. 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 check in on **Wednesday, June 3rd from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM** in the Rodeo Office on the West side of Taylor Telecom Arena. You will check in with the event secretaries, Angie Key and Charlotte Odom. You must bring

the same 2 items listed above with you. The 1st go round will be Thursday, June 4th, starting at 9:00 AM and the 2nd go round will be Friday, June 5th, starting at 9:00 AM. Cutting will take place in the Guitar Arena and Reined Cow Horse in the First Financial Pavilion. The Short Go rounds will be Saturday, June 6th, starting with the cutting at 9:00 AM followed by Reined Cow Horse. Working order will be drawn after the 3:00 PM deadline Wednesday. Girls will cut first Thursday, boys first on Friday and girls 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 (by rock gate) and will be taken to your hookup location by a member of the Taylor County personnel. Cutters, reiners and shooters may start arriving Wednesday, June 3rd at 8:00 AM. All other contestants may start arriving on Friday, June 5th 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 6th 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 FOR PICTURES!!!**

**OFFICER CANDIDATES & VOTING DELEGATES** - You will have a meeting on Thursday, June 11th in the Ranch House at noon. 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 Thursday 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 and wrist band. Any rifle contestants not able to check in on Thursday, there will be a THSRA representative at the shooting range Friday before the shoot starts. Trap contestants can check in at the rodeo office through Friday. If unable to check in before the shoot, a THSRA representative will be at the range Saturday before the shoot starts. Both contests will be held at the Callahan County 4-H range.

**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! There will be **ZERO TOLERANCE** for any golf cart infractions.

**JACKPOT & WARM UP ARENAS** - contestants, parents and guardians are expected to abide by all pertinent rules in the 2024-2026 NHSRA rulebook.

**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!!!!**

**NEW THIS YEAR** - anyone needing handicapped parking or parking closer to Taylor Telecom for any elderly family members, you will need to contact the Expo office prior to arriving or go to the Expo office upon arrival to make these arrangements. Upon validation, passes will be given to accommodate accessible parking. Personnel at the gates will honor these passes **BUT THEY WILL NOT HAVE THESE PASSES AT THE GATES**. You **MUST** see the Expo Office ladies to get them!!! Expo Office # is (325)795-6706.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me either at the number listed above or by email at [texahighschoolrodeo@gmail.com](mailto:texahighschoolrodeo@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 11th 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 7th on the coliseum floor. You must be in FULL dress code (this includes your back# and wrist band) 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. During performances, 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 BRIGHT CLOTH** with minimum dimensions of 6" by 6" (6X6).

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

**BREAKAWAY** - One loop only in all go rounds according to the NHSRA rules.

**TEAM ROPING** - Two loops only for all go rounds.

**SADDLE BRONC** - ONLY dry resin may be used on chaps and saddles.

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.

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

Once contestant enters the arena, nods to start the ride (roughstock), or asks for the stock (timed event), the contestant(s) accept the arena **AS IS!**

## NHSRA PATCH PROGRAM

### For all NHSRA sanctioned events:

- **Illegal/Inappropriate Signage:** No person, animal, tack or equipment can display any form of signage while on grounds during any NHSRA sanctioned event promoting alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, vaping or any other product or service which is illegal for a minor to use or be in possession of.
- **Exclusivity:** any advertisement competing with NHSRA exclusive sponsors cannot be used. The exclusive sponsors are in the following categories: Jeans & Shirts (Cinch) and Boots (Hyer).

### For all NHSRA State/Provincial/National Finals and any televised or livestreamed events:

- **National Sponsors Advertising:** All NHSRA National Sponsors can have any type of garment, vest, hat, tack or helmet advertising in any size, including stick-on, sew-on or embroidered patches.
- **Non- National Sponsor Advertising in the arena and at awards presentation areas:**
  - Non-sponsor advertising may not be larger than a 2.5"X3.5" area. This includes garments, hats, protective vests, helmets and tack. There will be no stick-on or sew-on patches for non-national sponsor advertising.
  - Garments, protective vests, hats: advertising must be embroidered into the fabric.
  - Advertising on tack must be permanently carved or pressed into the item and meet the same size requirements. A saddle may have a larger sponsor area but must be pressed or carved into the area. A saddle pad may have the standard branding on the wear leather.
  - Protective helmets: no non-sponsor advertising on helmets.
  - No more than one non-sponsor embroidered area per garment per sponsor.

Penalty for violating these policies will be disqualification from this event. The NHSRA will not be responsible for covering or taping unauthorized advertising.

### FOR A FULL CURRENT LIST OF NHSRA SPONSORS:

<https://nhsra.com/national-sponsors/>

