

2014 RNCFR GROUND RULES

Guthrie, OK

April 10-12, 2014

I. CONFIRMATION:

- A. Circuit Presidents must confirm entries by calling PROCOM (1-800-234-7722) between 11:00 a.m. MT on Friday, March 7, 2014 and 11:00 a.m. MT on Monday, March 10, 2014. Callbacks will be at 4:00 p.m. MT, Monday, March 10, 2014.
- B. RNCFR Contestants, in order to be eligible, must have their 2014 PRCA /WPRA membership paid in full no later than 5:00 PM MT, Tuesday, March 4th, 2014. Contestants must also meet all competition and financial eligibility requirements.
- C. Entries for the RAM National Circuit Finals Rodeo will be taken from each of the twelve (12) PRCA/WPRA geographical circuits. The Year-End Event Champion and the Circuit Finals Rodeo Average Champion have the opportunity to advance to the RNCFR. If the Year-End Event Champion and Circuit Finals Rodeo Average Champion is the same individual, the second qualifier will be determined by the highest ranked eligible (by the Dollar-Won and the Required Participation Rodeo Rule) year-end contestant in that event, in that Circuit, who entered his/her respective Circuit Finals Rodeo in that event. Should either of the qualifying contestants (per event) in a Circuit decide not to, or be ineligible to, advance to RNCFR, the advancement opportunity will be passed onto the next highest ranked eligible (by the Dollar-Won and the Required Participation Rodeo Rule) year-end contestant in that event, in that Circuit, who entered his/her respective Circuit Finals Rodeo in that event. In the event that there is a tie in the average, and one of the contestants is also the year-end champion, that contestant will advance as the year-end champion. The remaining contestant that tied for the average will advance as the average champion.
- D. Contestant Entry fees will be \$550 p/ event. PRCA Contestant Entry Fees will be paid by PRCA Properties. WPRA Contestant Entry Fees will be paid by WPRA Administration.
- E. Contestants will be permitted to trade positions at the RNCFR with the contestant from the same circuit, **within the same event, and only if agreed upon by both contestants. No other changes, substitutions or parameters will be accepted when making an official entry for the RNCFR. Position changes must be made by notifying Procom prior to 2:00 MT p.m. Friday, April 4, 2014.** You will receive a confirmation number for that position trade. When making a trade, a contestant will only be allowed ONE (1) trade and that trade will include both go-rounds. No on-site or 2nd go-round only trades will be allowed.

- F. Any RNCFR Participant or official using foul language in the arena, either audibly or by obviously mouthing the word, or using any obscene gesture, will be fined in accordance with **PRCA Bylaw B10.3.6 Conduct Detrimental to Public Image or WPRA Bylaw 9.3.17**, as appropriate, and will be assessed a minimum initial fine of \$250, that fine doubling progressively for each offense there after.
- G. Money won at the RNCFR will NOT count towards PRCA/WPRA World Standings however it will count as money won for limited entry rodeos.

II. FORMAT:

- A. The RNCFR format shall include two long go-rounds, semi-final (Top 8), and final (Top 4) rounds. All RNCFR contestants will compete in both go-rounds. Eight contestants with the highest total scores/times from rounds previous to the Semi-Finals/Finals performance in each contest event shall compete in the Semi-Finals round. The top four contestants in each event in the Semi-Finals shall advance to the Finals. In the Finals the four contestants with the highest scores or fastest times in each event will compete for placing and the RNCFR Championship. Contestants advancing to the Semi Finals and the Finals will not carry forward scores or times. Average scores/times will not be calculated in the semi-finals/final rounds. Scores for advancement to the Final round shall be determined on a single score or time from the Semi-Final round, unless not enough qualifiers, then revert to the tie breaker to fill remaining position(s). In the semi-finals/finals, where a contestant is disqualified, injured **or turns out for any reason**, the next highest score(s) or fastest time(s) will then advance. Where a tie occurs, advancement to and within the semi-finals / finals will be determined as follows:

FILLING OF SEMI-FINALS / FINALS POSITIONS

SEMI-FINALS

AVERAGE SPLITS TIE BREAKER (advancement and awards): If 8th place is split, ties will be taken up to 10 places. If ties for 8th place result in more than 10 places, drop all ties and go to Top 7. If 7th place is split, ties will be taken up to 10 places. If ties for 7th place result in more than 10 places, drop all ties and take Top 6. If ties for 6th place result in more than 10 places, advance all ties.

IF LESS THEN 4 QUALIFIED CONTESTANTS: If there are less than 4 qualified contestants based on fastest average time or highest average score to advance to the semi-finals, a random draw will be done of remaining contestants to fill positions. Contestants who are randomly drawn into the semi-finals are eligible for semi-finals/finals go-round money only and are not eligible for Championship awards, titles, or bonuses.

FINALS TIE BREAKER: Highest score or fastest time in the semi finals. If still tied, the tie-breaker goes to the highest ranking contestant in the average standings coming into the semi-finals. If still tied, then revert to the fastest time/ highest score in any of the long-go rounds.

III. PAYOFF

- A. Sixty percent of the total prize money will be paid in the first two go-rounds and average. The remaining 40% will be paid in the Semi-Final and Final performance. There will be six places in each go-round and average (split 33%, 25%, 18%, 12%, 7%, 5%); There will be four places paid in the Semi-Finals and Finals (split 40%, 30%, 20%, and 10%), 20% of the total payoff goes into each.

1st Go	20% - Pays 6 places
2nd Go	20% - Pays 6 Places
Average	20% - Pays 6 Places
Semi-Finals	20% - Pays 4 Places
Finals	20% - Pays 4 Places

- B. The payoff for each PRCA/WPRA event will be the same, including the team roping.
- C. In the Top 8 Round Semi Final and Top 4 Final Round, if fewer than the number of places to be paid qualify in the payoff, the tie breaking procedure will be used to determine the remaining places with the remaining places receiving ground money equivalent to that place, however this will not be posted as money won. If no one qualifies, the money will be divided evenly among all who competed; this money shall be considered **ground money** and will not be posted as money won.

IV. SUBSTITUTIONS and DRAWING OUT:

- A. Turn Outs (prior to the start of competition), Visible Injury, & Doctor Releases: If for any reason (including valid doctor release) a contestant is unable to compete, the next qualified contestant (based on ground rule I.C.) from that circuit which the contestant is T.O., V.I., or D.R. from, in that PRCA/WPRA Circuit season's standings, in that event will be substituted. Substitutions will not be allowed after the first go-round is completed. Substitutions will be handled as outlined under "TURN OUTS" (V.B.).
- B. In the Team Roping, any team entered at the RNCFR suffering disabling injury to either partner, while competing, may be allowed to continue roping with any RNCFR contestant from his circuit not already competing in team roping. If this happens, the newly-formed team is eligible for go-round money only; money won will be counted toward circuit trophy. Once a substitution is made, the original team cannot be reformed.

V. TURN OUTS:

- A. Contestant must accept first head of livestock to be eligible for further competition at RNCFR.

- B. Contestant who enters the RNCFR and fails to compete **in any go-round** will be **fined as follows**. Fine may be waived only if contestant is injured in a previous go-round at the RNCFR.
- C. Substitutions may not be allowed after the 30 hour deadline. If no replacement is found, the original contestant will be responsible for entry fee(s) and fines.

Once contestant entry has been made, the following turn out fines will apply:

Notified turn out prior to 30 hour deadline as stated in section II. B. if and only if a substitution is found.	\$500.00
Notified turn out prior to 30 hour deadline if NO substitution is available.	\$ 1,000.00
Notified turn out after 30 hour deadline.	\$ 1,250.00
Non-notified turn out.	\$ 1,500.00

Notification of turn outs must be called into PROCOM during their regular business hours.

- D. A multi-event contestant injured in one event may, at the discretion of the judges, be held back in following event(s) if he is unable to compete during that performance. In that instance, that contestant must take stock for those events in which he was held back prior to the next go-round.

VI. **CONTESTING POSITIONS:**

- A. **First go-round:** In order to provide the opportunity for the Circuits to have equal representation at each performance, a separation of contestants from every circuit, by performance, has been established.

One entry from each circuit in every event will compete during the first four performances. PROCOM shall cause the selection of the entry to be made using a format similar to a flip of a coin to decide which contestant of the two qualifiers in an event will compete in the first and fourth or second and third performances. A random draw will be completed as to the order of contestants in each performance in all events.

- B. **Second go-round:** Reversed from first go-round.
- C. **Top 8 Semi Final Round:** Competition positions will be in reverse order of the average scores/times recorded. The WPRA Barrel Racing competition order will be a random draw.
- D. **Top 4 Final Round:** Positions will be in reversed order of the scores/times recorded in the Semi Finals. The WPRA Barrel Racing competition order will be a random draw.

- E. Changes must be authorized by the timed event representative to split horses in the timed events and by the Riding Event chute boss, where it is not possible to load bucking stock in that order.

VII. RIDING EVENTS:

A. General:

1. Qualification for RNCFR stock shall be the same as for the NFR, except that an animal must have five (5) outs.
2. Pickup Men
 - a. Positions will be designated which the Pickup men must use as starting points by the RNCFR Chute Boss.
 - b. Pickup men shall not give assistance until the eight second time has elapsed or contestant has been disqualified, whichever comes first.
3. Bullfighters and Barrelman
 - a. Bullfighters must stay away from the bulls until the rider is bucked off or the whistle blows. Bullfighter may not make any attempt to turn back a bull or take a bull out of a spin. If in the opinion of the judges any bullfighter makes any attempt to turn back a bull or take him out of a spin, he will be fined \$250 with the fine progressively doubling with each offense.
 - b. The chute boss will designate the position of the barrel. If in the opinion of the judges the barrelman interferes with the competition, he will be fined \$250 with the fine progressively doubling with each offense.
4. The length of the flank latigo on horse flanks shall be no longer than nine feet (9'). Flanks MUST be checked no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the performance. Failure to adhere to this shall result in the stock contractor being fined \$100 for the first offense, that fine doubling progressively for each offense thereafter.

B. Drawing Stock:

1. **Riding event pens are to be set by the PRCA Event Representatives or their designee. If neither are available then pens will be set by the RNCFR Rough Stock Representative or his representative, and the Director of Rodeo Administration or his representative by 12:00PM MT, Monday, April 7st, 2014. No fewer than two persons can finally determine the pens.**
2. Riding event stock for the first go-round will be drawn by PROCOM on **Monday, April 7st, 2014**. Stock draw will be posted in the Secretary's office at the arena by 6:00 CT p.m. on Wednesday, April 9th, 2014.

3. Second go-round stock will be drawn on-site after the completion of first go-round.
4. Stock position draw will be completed prior to the Final Round. Contestant order and stock draw will be determined from placing in the Semi-Final Round.
5. Stock contractors will be represented by the RNCFR Stock Contractor Representative.
6. Once pens have been set, animals will not be changed unless an animal is injured/sick prior to performance. Any injury or illness must be verified by the RNCFR Official Veterinarian (at the stock contractor's expense) and/or PRCA Judge.
7. If an animal is in the draw and is not made available by the stock contractor, that stock contractor will be fined an amount equal to the rent of the animal. Exception to an injured/sick animal as outlined in VII.B.6
8. In the Semi-Finals/Finals round, contestants will be allowed to compete on an animal which they have competed on in either of the long go-rounds.
9. In the Semi-Final/Finals round, contestants will be drawn to the stock.
10. All riding event livestock selected for the RNCFR are obligated for two trips, if needed, however all selected stock must be bucked at least once. The only exception will be for those animals which maybe injured or sick in accordance with rule VII.B.6, provided livestock selection procedure remains the same as it currently being used.
11. Event representatives must have at least a minimum of 4 head of the 12 head to be bucked of one delivery or the other, per each performance (excluding re-rides).

C. Rerides/Reruns:

1. A contestant shall be given a re-ride/re-run if the animal escapes the chute before the contestant calls for animal.
2. The order of re-ride/re-run animals will be set prior to each performance by the PRCA Event Representative; however the order will not be posted. Should the PRCA Event Representative also be a contestant at the RNCFR then the re-ride/re-run order will be set by the RNCFR Riding Event or Timed Event Director. If either the RNCFR Riding Event or Timed Event Director are unavailable or unwilling to set the re-ride/re-run order the RNCFR Board of Directors will appoint an individual to do so.
3. If re-rides/re-runs are given, animals will be used as determined by the prior draw. Contestants shall notify chute boss immediately of his decision.

Judges shall announce markings of the contestant which allows him the option of the re-ride/re-run.

4. Re-rides in the rough stock events or reruns in the timed events will be given during the same performance for which the re-ride or re-run is awarded, except in the case of injury to contestant as ruled on by the judges.
5. The judges have the authority to replace a chute fighting or sulking animal.

VIII. TIMED EVENTS:

A. General:

1. Timed event contestants will be furnished a stall, provided horse is used in rodeo competition. Shavings will be available on site for purchase. Additional stalls will be available for non- competitive horses at \$35 per stall for the duration of the rodeo. Stalls will be available beginning at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, April 8th thru 10:00 a.m. Sunday April 13th.
2. Stock draw will be in order of position for that go-round.
3. **CONTESTANTS and HORSES USED IN COMPETITION ARE NOT TO BE USED TO RUN EXTRA ANIMALS AFTER EACH PERFORMANCE.**
4. RNCFR Timed Event Representative will designate person or persons to run extra cattle.
5. Any contestant who circles in the arena after being allowed to enter for competition will be **fined \$100, with that fine progressively doubling.**
6. Contestant must have hat on head while in box, with no assistance in keeping it on or taking off said hat by another person.
7. Steer Wrestling, team roping cattle, and tie-down calves will be run, thrown, and roped (as appropriate) prior to the first performance (**Wednesday, April 9th, 2014. SW steers 1:00-2:00PM; TD calves 2:00-3:00PM; TR steers 3:00-4:00PM, Central Time).** Tie down calves may be tied prior to each 1st go-round and/or semi-finals/finals at the discretion of the RNCFR Timed Event Representative, or his designee.
8. There will be a designated warm-up area. Any contestant warming up horse in an unauthorized area will be **fined \$100.**
9. All tie down and team roping contestants must enter from the back of the roping box. Steer Wrestling Contestants may enter from the front of the roping box.
10. In the Semi-Finals/Finals round, contestants will be allowed to compete on an animal which they have competed on in either of the go-rounds.

B. Rerides/Reruns:

1. If a timed event animal escapes or a rerun is given for any other reason, the extra will be used. Only escaped animals go back into the herd.
2. The order of re-ride/re-run animals will be set prior to each performance by the PRCA Event Representative; however the order will not be posted. Should the PRCA Event Representative also be a contestant at the RNCFR then the re-ride/re-run order will be set by the RNCFR Riding Event or Timed Event Director. If either the RNCFR Riding Event or Timed Event Director are unavailable or unwilling to set the re-ride/re-run order the RNCFR Board of Directors will appoint an individual to do so.
3. If re-rides/re-runs are given, animals will be used as determined by the prior draw. Contestants shall notify chute boss immediately of his decision. Judges shall announce markings of the contestant which allows him the option of the re-ride/re-run.

C. Tie Down Roping:

1. Extra calves shall be roped from a horse and tied down after the second performance (2 extras in each performance). The timed event representative will be responsible to have, at all times, at least two extra calves that were roped and tied no later than the previous run on that pen.
2. Contestants wishing to use two loops in the tie-down roping must carry two ropes, one of which is made up and tied on, and must throw the rope made up and tied on for a second loop.
3. Time limit is **25 seconds** (PRCA Rule R11.6.3) (not including penalties).
4. One pen of 30 usable calves will be cut to 24 with extras before the rodeo.
5. The "No Jerk Down" Policy will be in effect. All Calves will be prepared in accordance with the policy.
6. At the conclusion of each competition, the contestant must follow his tie-down animal out of the arena, thorough the center-out gate on the roughstock end.

D. Steer Wrestling:

1. Extra steers will be bulldogged from the horse and thrown down after the second performance (2 extras in each performance). The timed event chute boss will be responsible to see that at all times there are at least two extra steers available that have been so bulldogged no later than the previous run on that pen.
2. Time limit is **30 seconds** (not including penalties)

3. One pen of 30 usable steers will be cut to 24 with extras before the rodeo.

E. Team Roping:

1. One pen of 30 usable steers will be cut to 24 with extras before the rodeo.
4. Time limit is **30 seconds** (not including penalties), **with a 2 loop maximum per team.**
5. Qualification:

Year-End Team Roping Header Champion must rope with the Year-End Team Roping Heeler Champion. If either champion chooses not to compete at the RNCFR or he has qualified as the Average Rodeo Champion, the next year-end qualifier will be allowed to compete.

Average champion shall rope with the same partner he competed with at circuit finals. The only exception is to an injured contestant in which his partner would be able to pick up another contestant within his circuit who would qualify for the team roping under the ground rules set forth, with consideration to money won and qualified number of rodeos, **with no exceptions.**

A team winning both year-end and circuit finals average will advance as the average champions. The second qualifying team will be determined by the highest ranked eligible (by dollar-won and the required participation rodeo rule) year-end contestant in the heading and heeling standings respectively in that circuit, who entered the circuit finals. All team ropers must enter and compete at the RNCFR in the same manner as entry for their circuit finals (i.e. if contestant entered circuit finals as a header, they must enter RNCFR as a header).

IX. AWARDS:

- A. The RNCFR Event Champion is the Top 4 Round Event Champion who qualified with a score or time and will be the recipient of the RNCFR championship buckle.
- B. At the conclusion of each event during the Top 4 Round, the event champion must be available for in-arena recognition (which may include a victory lap) and presentation. During the presentation, the contestant will receive their champion buckle and have photos taken.
- C. The RNCFR Champion Circuit title and bronze trophy will be awarded to the high money-winning Circuit. In case of a tie, co-circuit champions will be acknowledged on the trophy and monies awarded will be split among circuit champions.

- D. The RNCFR All-Around champion will be awarded to the contestant entered in two or more events who wins the most money. Should an eligible contestant turn out of any go-round, said contestant is no longer eligible for the All-Around title.

X. REPORTING TIME:

- A. All contestants must attend a mandatory check-in and orientation meeting on **Wednesday, April 9th**.
 - a. Check-in will be from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Contestants must be checked-in by 5:30 p.m.
 - b. Mandatory Contestant Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
Contestant RNCFR jackets will be distributed immediately after the Contestant meeting.
- B. Any contestant missing this deadline may receive a fine of **\$100**, however, if any contestant willfully or purposely missed the deadline, contestant may be disqualified from RNCFR competition by action of the RNCFR Committee.
- C. All check-in and orientation meetings will be at the Lazy E Arena, Guthrie, Okla.

XI. CONTESTANT NUMBERS:

- A. Contestants must wear his/her number on their back at all times while competing. Contestant failing to wear his/her number while competing will be **fined \$100**.

XIII. AUTOGRAPH & MEDIA SESSION:

- A. An autograph session will be held after each of the first four (4) performances. The highest score or fastest time from that night's performance will be required to attend the autograph session. There will not be an autograph session after the Semi-final/final performance. **Failure to attend an assigned autograph session will result in a \$100 fine.**
- B. Media Interviews: Any requests for media interviews either during a performance (after the individual's competition) or immediately after a performance which is declined, or contestant fails to appear, **will be fined \$500**. Fine will progressively double with each subsequent failure to grant/attend interview. This only applies to official event media staff requests. Fine may be waived in the case of contestant injury.

XIV. PASSES:

- A. Each contestant, stock contracting company, and contract person will be given one companion ticket for each performance. The RNCFR Committee has ruled these tickets will be marked **"NOT FOR EXCHANGE OR RESALE."** They can be exchanged among contestants themselves, but not at the box office. Membership cards or companion passes will not be accepted for admittance.

XV. PARKING:

- A. There will be separate parking area for RNCFR contestants and personnel. Each contestant, stock contracting firm, and contract personnel will receive 1 parking pass. Additional passes, or replacement of lost passes, can be purchased at the cost of \$5 per pass.

XVI. RNCFR OFFICES:

- A. The RNCFR production office is located at the Lazy E Arena, Guthrie, Okla.
- B. All operations (rodeo secretary, media, and general manager's offices) will be coordinated together.

XVII. STOCK CONTRACTORS:

- A. All stock contractors (or their designated representative) must attend a mandatory check-in at the Lazy E Arena and will be notified of date and time. Stock contractors will receive their RNCFR jacket, credentials, and parking passes at this time. Stock contractors will be required to verify all stock chute delivery information during this time. At the conclusion of this check-in, delivery information CANNOT be changed. **If a stock contractor or their designated representative fails to attend this meeting, the opportunity to change stock delivery information will be forfeited.**
- B. All terms of the 2014 RNCFR Livestock Pledge will be enforce.

C. STOCK DELIVERY/LOADING

1. Stock must be delivered to the Lazy E Arena on Tuesday, April 8th between 12:00 CT p.m. and 8:00 CT p.m.
2. Best efforts will be made to accommodate the unloading of livestock where arrangements have been made for stock to arrive prior to stated times. However, this is **not** guaranteed. **Should stock arrive early, stock contractor will be responsible for providing own feed, water and care for the stock.**
3. All stock must be removed from the Lazy E Arena no later then 10:00 CT a.m. on Sunday, April 13th, 2014. Stock contractor should work with the RNCFR Livestock Superintendent to coordinate loading time.