

2014 FINALE EVENT GROUND RULES

Wrangler Champions Challenge *presented by Justin Boots*

1. QUALIFIERS

- A. All qualified contestants are required to complete a Champions Challenge Contract in order to be eligible to enter and compete at any 2014 Champions Challenge Event. Contracts will be available online at www.prorodeo.org under member self-services and are available for online submission. Qualified contestants, with the exception of the 11th and 12th position qualifiers, will also be required to confirm competition participation by calling PROCOM for the 2014 Champions Challenge Finale Event to be held in Omaha, NE on September 27, 2014 (FINALE) as listed in the Pro Rodeo Sports News Business Section and 1.B. of these ground rules.
- B. COMPETITION CONFIRMATION: Contestants qualified for positions 1 – 10 in each event must confirm intent to compete by calling PROCOM from 12:00 PM (Mountain Time) Wednesday, September 3, 2014 to 12:00 PM (Mountain Time) Thursday, September 4, 2014. Contestants must be Financially Eligible and must be Competition Eligible at time of entry closing.
- C. Contestants who qualify in positions 1-7 who are not confirmed by the listed entry closing time as printed in the PSN Business Section for the FINALE will be automatically entered by PROCOM and fined \$150 per occurrence.
- D. Contestants who qualify in the positions 8, 9, and 10 who do not confirm their intent to compete for the FINALE by the listed entry closing time, will be contacted by PROCOM. If said contestants accept and confirm entry at that time, they will be subject to a \$50 fine.
- E. By the receipt of a signed contract to compete in the FINALE, contestants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of these ground rules, the **PRCA Properties Patch Sponsorship Rules and Regulations** and all other addenda and exhibits to these ground rules, the PRCA Bylaws and Official Rodeo Rules, and for barrel racers, the WPRA Bylaws and Official Rodeo Rules, and any other applicable rules, **including all releases of liability set forth in those documents**. In addition, All FINALE contestants will be required to sign a FINALE specific liability waiver prior to receiving their contestant back number.
- F. Twelve qualifiers (12 teams) in each event for the FINALE shall be the top 7 contestants (7 teams) in the 2013 PRCA World Standings and the WPRA pro rodeo standings. The eighth qualifying position will be filled by the 2013 host PRCA Rodeo event winner. The ninth qualifying position will be filled by the 2014 Season PRCA World Standings Leader for each standard rodeo event (to be determined 30 days prior to each Champions Challenge event). The tenth qualifying position will be filled by the 2014 Wrangler Million Dollar Tour standings leader (to be determined 30 days prior to each Champions Challenge event). The eleventh qualifying position will be filled by the contestant with the fastest time/highest score in each respective competition event from the Thursday, September 25 performance. The twelfth qualifying position will be filled by the contestant with the fastest time/highest score in each respective competition event from the Friday, September 26 performance.
 - a. If the contestant(s) who qualifies to advance to the FINALE is unable to compete or declines the position, the contestant(s) with the next fastest time/highest score may advance.
 - b. In the case of a tie or if there are no qualified scores/times, the qualifying position will be determined as follows:
 - 1. Ranking coming into the CHAMPIONSHIPS (see paragraph 1.D. and 1.E. for rankings)

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After entries have closed for the FINALE, if a contestant qualified in position 1-7 resign from Champions Challenge participation, that position, for each champions challenge season event, will be filled by the next highest ranking contestant in the 2014 PRCA World Standings/WPRA Pro Rodeo Standings (as of 30 days prior to the Champions Challenge Event). Should, a qualifying position be invalid due to an injury or resignation from participation or a prior qualification, that qualifying positions will be filled by the 2014 PRCA World Standings/WPRA Pro Rodeo Standings (as of 30 days prior to the Champions Challenge event). Each person who qualifies and confirms his/her intent to compete must also complete and sign a "Choice of Venue" form, and for barrel racers, the "WPRA Release and Waiver and Choice of Venue" (contained in Addendums B and C respectively), and these documents must be received by the Rodeo Secretary prior to the first scheduled competition in order to be eligible to compete.

- G. In the team roping, the 7 qualifying headers from the 2013 PRCA World Standings must rope with the top 7 qualifying heelers from the 2013 PRCA World Standings. Any team roping qualifier 1-7 without a designated partner will have a partner assigned by Rodeo Administration, that determination made by a random drawing. The 8th qualifying header position must rope with the 8th qualifying heeler and so on to the 12th qualifying position with the exception as listed in 1.H. of these ground rules. The team ropers who qualify in positions 1-7, based off of 2013 PRCA World Standings, are to designate partners by completing a partner pledge by the conclusion of the 2013 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.
- H. In the Team Roping Event, if 1 partner of a team that has qualified to the FINALE from the 2014 Justin Boots Championships in Omaha, NE, be previously qualified as a 1-10 contestant, that partner who has already qualified **MUST** rope with their respective Wrangler Champions Challenge team partner. The remaining qualified partner will rope with the header/heeler who had the next fastest time in the respective performance.
- I. Should there be a tie in any event for position #8, the previous year event venue champion, that position will be determined by a random draw conducted by PROCOM. Should there be a tie for the remaining final qualifying spot(s), with the exception of spot #11 and #12, in any event, only 12 will qualify, and the tie will be broken in favor of those with the highest total **official** money won at PRCA and, for barrel racers, WPRA sanctioned rodeos in that event during the 2014 Rodeo Year at PRCA-sanctioned rodeos which end on or before **30 days prior to the event**. If still tied, the tie will be broken in favor of those with the highest total (official & unofficial) money won at PRCA and, for barrel racers, WPRA sanctioned rodeos in that event during the 2014 Rodeo Year at PRCA-sanctioned rodeos which end on or before 30 days prior to the event. If still tied, PROCOM will do a random draw to determine the qualifier for the position.
- J. Contestants will not be ranked for competition position as each position will be determined by random draw.
- K. Current health papers and coggins papers are required for all contestant horses and will be checked by FINALE staff prior to entry onto grounds.
- L. All those who are not residents of Nebraska will be subject to Nebraska State Withholding Tax.

2. CONTESTANT INFORMATION

- A. **Check-In:** FINALE Contestants, FINALE Stock Contractors and FINALE Officials are required to check in with the Rodeo Secretary for the FINALE. **Specific Location and time will be published for each event in the long listings of the PSN Business Section.** All Champions Challenge personnel with the

exception of FINALE contestants will be required to have an arena specific credential to be allowed on the competition arena floor. Failure to attend contestant check-in will result in a fine of \$250 per occurrence.

- B. **Autographs:** All FINALE Contestants after competition will be required to attend an autograph session to be determined 30 days prior to each event. Contestants will be notified of the autograph session location at the FINALAE contestant meeting. Failure to attend the autograph session will result in a fine of \$250 per occurrence.
- C. **Contestant Stock Draw:** FINALE Riding and Timed Event contestants may be required to participate in the contestant stock draw to be held following the contestant check-in and contestant meeting. Riding Event Contestants will draw their stock from a set pen selected by the respective Event Representative. Timed Event Contestants will draw their stock from a set pen selected by the respective Event Representative. Failure to participate in the contestant stock draw will result in a fine of \$250 per occurrence.
- D. **Contestant Meeting & Group Photo:** A Contestant meeting and Group Photo will follow contestant check-in and is a required event function. Contestant Back Numbers will be distributed at the contestant meeting. All other personnel credentials will be available at the rodeo grounds with the rodeo secretary. *Contestants are to be dressed in PRCA/WPRA-rodeo-arena attire for photographs taken during and immediately following the contestant meeting.* Failure to attend the meeting or participate in the group photo will result in a fine of \$250 per occurrence.
- E. **Tickets:** Contestants and stock contractors will receive no more than one free ticket for each performance to be picked up at the rodeo secretary's office.
- F. **Hazers:** Steer Wrestling contestants are to report the name of their hazer to the Rodeo Secretary at the time of check-in. Any hazer who is not already a contestant must have a back number and is required to sign all releases and any other required documents. The back number entitles only that person access to the arena area.
- G. **PRCA & Event Patches:** Two PRCA patches and Two FINALE patches will be distributed at the time of check-in and at least 1 PRCA patch and 1 FINALE patch must be worn at all times in the arena and at all FINALE related functions. For the barrel racers, two WPRA patches and two FINALE patches will be distributed at the time of check-in and at least 1 WPRA patch and 1 FINALE patch must be worn at all times in the arena and at all FINALE related functions. Failure to wear and both the PRCA & FINALE Patch will result in a fine of \$250 per occurrence.
- H. **Team Sponsor Patches:** All Team Sponsored qualifiers are required to wear a minimum of (2) two Team Sponsor patches as well as a designated Team Sponsor shirt. Team Sponsor patches may be worn in any available position that is approved under the PRCA Patch Program Rules and Guidelines. All FINALE and Team Sponsor patches will not count against the qualifiers allotment of regular PRCA Patch Program sponsors. Failure to wear Team Sponsor patches will result in a fine of \$250 per occurrence.
- I. **Stalls:** Stalls will not be provided onsite. Stalls are available in several locations in the greater Omaha area. See PSN for exact locations. All contestant horses must be removed from the grounds no later than 11:30 p.m. each night following each performance. Failure to do so shall constitute a \$500 fine per horse left on the grounds past the deadline.

- J. **Parking: One parking pass per FINALE contestant will be provided. All vehicles improperly parked on property (on sidewalks, grass or in fire lanes as deemed by facility management or the Omaha Police) will be towed at owner's expense.**
- K. Horses: All horses must be removed from the CenturyLink Center Omaha Arena no later than 11 p.m. each day. Failure to do so shall constitute a \$500 fine per horse left in the building past the deadline. An outdoor warm-up arena will be provided for contestant horses. Per facility management, horses are not allowed on sidewalks or grass areas.

3. LIVESTOCK

- A. CHAMPIONSHIPS Stock contractors must arrive with livestock at livestock housing facility after 1 PM on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 and no later than 12 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2014. If livestock arrives after the deadline, the stock contractor who is supplying that stock will be assessed a single fine of \$500.
- B. Stock must be inspected by the Livestock Superintendent at time of arrival and must be accompanied by current certified veterinary health papers and certificates as required by the law of the state in which the FINALE is being held. No sick, sore, lame, or injured animal will be accepted or paid for. This includes any animal with a wound which, at the PRCA's sole discretion, is cosmetically questionable. Any bull requiring tipping of horns shall subject stock contractor to a fine of \$100 per horn needing attention.
- C. In accordance with Rule R8.13.1.3 of the PRCA Rulebook, all riding event livestock must have an ownership brand of the PRCA-member Stock Contractor furnishing the livestock. Failure to do so will result in a fine for each animal not so branded.
- D. Stock contractors are to provide their own feed and watering containers and are responsible for feeding and watering their own livestock.
- E. All livestock must be removed by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 28, 2014 which is the day immediately following the last performance. Failure to abide by this deadline will result in a \$500 fine.
- F. No horse or bull on which a bareback rigging, saddle, or bull rope normally cannot be placed and/or cinch pulled prior to being loaded in the chute will be eligible for the FINALE. If such animal is brought, and thus causes a delay in production, the stock contractor may be fined.
- G. Each respective Event Representative shall notify PROCOM of the Selected Livestock Pens no later than 5:00 PM (Mountain Time) of the day of each entry closing. Contestants will draw their animals at the contestant stock draw as reference in 2.C.
- H. **Top Stock Bonus:** Wrangler will be awarding a bonus of \$1000 to the top scoring livestock in each of the riding events. This bonus will be paid directly to the PRCA Stock Contractor of Record from PRCA Properties following the event.

4. GENERAL

- A. **Official Rodeo:** Per Rule R1.6.2.1 of the PRCA Rulebook and, for barrel racers, WPRA rule 10.4.1.8 the FINALE will be counted as an "Official Entry" rodeo unless contestant designates it as an "Unofficial Entry Rodeo" at time of competition confirmation or unless contestant has previously met the maximum number of allowable "Official Entry" rodeos.

- B. **Championship Points.** All prize money earned at the FINALE will count as Championship Points in accordance with Bylaw B12.1.1 of the PRCA Rulebook and, for barrel racers, rule 14.1 of the WPRA Rulebook and will be applied to 2014 PRCA World Standings and, for barrel racers, 2014 WPRA pro rodeo standings, unless contestant designated the FINALE as an "Unofficial Entry Rodeo" at time of entry.
- C. **No Circuit Points.** Dollars won at the FINALE will not count toward circuit standings.
- D. **Conflict.** If a contestant is placed in a PRCA Rodeo or event that has a same day conflict as the FINALE, before he has accepted a position at the FINALE, he will be allowed to draw out (by contacting PROCOM) or find a trade at the conflicting rodeo. If a contestant enters a PRCA rodeo or event after he has accepted a position at the FINALE, he will be guaranteed no conflict as long as he does not create the conflict by giving a conflicting preference.
- D. **Doctor Releases: ONLY** Valid doctor releases will be accepted. Should it be necessary to doctor release, contestants are to follow procedures outlined in Part 7 of the PRCA Rulebook and, for barrel racers, Chapter 10 of the WPRA Rule Book. Failure to follow those procedures will result in fines pursuant to Section 5B of these Ground Rules. A contestant using the doctor release procedure shall also be subject to the ineligibility periods as set forth in the PRCA Rule Book.
- E. **Determination of Event Champion/Event Winners:** The FINALE Champion will be that person who has the highest score or fastest time at the conclusion of the FINALE. In case of a tie the Event Champion will be determined from crowd/audience selection.
- F. **Victory Lap:** The event winner for each performance should be prepared to take a victory lap following their event. Failure to take the victory lap or to be available for introduction following the performance may result in a fine of \$250 per violation.
- G. **All Contestants Introduced:** All contestants should be prepared to be introduced during opening ceremonies or during closing ceremonies immediately following the introduction of the winners of each event. Failure to be available for this contestant introduction will subject contestant to a fine of \$250 per occurrence.
- H. **Patch Sponsorships:** No FINALE participant may wear or display in the Competition Arena or anywhere during the promotion of the FINALE (including the areas behind the chutes and the moat, any special event, autograph session or interviews, etc.) any patch or Signage (as defined in the "Rules and Regulations Governing Advertising in an Arena") which is in conflict with PRCA's and/or Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Properties, Inc.'s National Sponsors.
- I. **Back Numbers:** Each contestant will be furnished with a FINALE back number, which must be worn and displayed in its entirety at all times when in the Competition Arena. If a contestant has an existing patch sponsorship involving the cantle/yoke of the shirt, then that contestant may wear the FINALE back number immediately below the existing cantle/yoke patch. If a contestant elects to wear a protective vest or jacket, then that contestant must wear the FINALE back number in the same location on the vest or jacket. Failure to wear the assigned FINALE back number will result in a fine of \$250 per occurrence and/or disqualification from the FINALE.
- J. **Buckle Presentation:** Event winners will be required to attend a buckle presentation ceremony at 10:30 P.M. on Saturday, September 27 at the Hilton Omaha. Failure to participate shall result in an initial fine of \$250.00 to progressively double for each violation thereafter.

- J. Honest Effort:** All contestants competing in a performance must give an honest effort. If it is determined by a unanimous vote of all Officials assigned to officiate that event that a contestant did not give an honest effort, he/she will be (i) disqualified from the go round in which the violation occurred and any remaining go rounds, (ii) disqualified from contention for the average payoff in the event for which that contestant did not give an honest effort and (iii) assessed a fine in the amount of \$500. For purposes of this ground rule, whether a contestant gives an honest effort will be determined as follows:

1. **Riding Events:** In the riding events, a contestant who fails to ride, using appropriate equipment, his horse or bull out of the chute (except in the case of a stalling animal or unless the Officials rule the contestant was fouled coming out of the chute) shall automatically be deemed not to have given an honest effort. Specifically, the bareback riding contestant must have his hand in the rigging and seated on the horse until the inside shoulder of the horse crosses the plane of the chute gate; the saddle bronc riding contestant must have feet in the stirrups, seat in the saddle and rein in his hand when the inside shoulder of the horse crosses the plane of the chute gate; and the bull riding contestant must have his hand in bull rope with wrap taken and seated on the bull when the inside shoulder of the bull crosses the plane of the chute gate. Once the contestant has ridden the horse/bull/ out of the chute, it is the sole responsibility of the Officials to determine whether a contestant gives an honest effort. In making this determination, Officials should consider whether the contestant has made a good faith effort to complete his ride.
2. **Tie-Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping:** In the timed events a contestant who fails to ride, using appropriate equipment, his horse across the score line (unless the Officials rule he was fouled leaving the box) shall automatically be deemed not to have given an honest effort. Once the contestant has ridden his horse across the score line, it is the sole responsibility of the Officials to determine whether a contestant gives an honest effort. In making this determination, Officials should consider whether the contestant has made a good faith effort to successfully complete the event and record a time.

- K. Foul Language:** Any contestant using foul language in the arena, either audibly or by obviously mouthing the words, will be fined in accordance with Bylaw B10.3.6, of the PRCA Rulebook, Conduct Detrimental to Public Image and, for barrel racers, the WPRA Rule book will be assessed a minimum initial fine of \$1,000, that fine doubling progressively for each offense thereafter.

- L. Misuse of Syringes:** Anyone found misusing syringes and/or needles and/or not placing them in the provided disposal containers will be fined \$1,000 for the first offense, that amount progressively doubling with every offense thereafter.

5. TURN OUT OR DOCTOR RELEASE SUBSTITUTIONS PRIOR TO COMPETITION

- A. If after confirmation of event participation a contestant is unable to compete due to a valid doctors release, the next contestant in the 2014 PRCA World Standings and, for barrel racers, the 2014 WPRA pro rodeo standings (as referenced in 1.C of these ground rules) in the event will fill the position. Contestants must notify PROCOM of any doctors release.
- B. If after confirmation of event participation a contestant is unable to compete due to a valid emergency such as a cancelled flight, extreme weather conditions preventing travel, etc., the next

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contestant in the 2014 PRCA World Standings and, for the barrel racers, the 2014 WPRA pro rodeo standings (as referenced in 1.C of these ground rules) in the event will fill the position. Contestants must notify PROCOM of any emergency release.

- C. If after confirmation of event participation a contestant turns out of the FINALE, that contestant will not be eligible to compete for the remainder of the Champions Challenge current season. In this case, the competition position will be filled by the next contestant in the 2014 PRCA World Standings and, for barrel racers, the 2014 WPRA pro rodeo standings (as referenced in 1.C of these ground rules) in the event.

- D. Once confirmation of intent has been made the following release consequences/fines will apply:

<i>Notified turn out</i>	<i>Disqualification from participation for 2014 CC Season AND \$1000.00 fine</i>
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<i>Non-Notified turn out</i>	<i>Disqualification from participation for 2014 CC Season AND \$3000.00 fine</i>
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<i>DR prior to 30 hour deadline (if NO substitution is found)</i>	<i>\$250.00 fine</i>
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<i>DR after 30 hour deadline</i>	<i>\$500.00 fine</i>
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Notification of turn outs or doctors releases MUST be called into PROCOM during their regular business hours. All turnout deadline times are Mountain Time. ***Any Doctors Release that removes a contestant from competition at the FINALE will result in that contestant's ineligibility from all PRCA Sanctioned Events per the PRCA Rulebook.**

6. FORMAT

- A. The FINALE will be a one go-round, 1 performance event. Contestants will be placed using the random draw procedure by PROCOM.

7. PAYOFF

- A. Should there be fewer qualified rides or times than the number of places to be paid, the payoff, shall be handled according to Rule R5.5.3 of the PRCA Rulebook.

- B. Payoff, per event \$20,000.00 (except the Saddle Bronc Event)
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|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | \$6,800.00 | (per man in TR) |
| 2 nd | \$5,200.00 | (per man in TR) |
| 3 rd | \$3,800.00 | (per man in TR) |
| 4 th | \$2,600.00 | (per man in TR) |
| 5 th | \$1,600.00 | (per man in TR) |

- C. Payoff, Saddle Bronc Event \$11,800.00
- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1 st | \$5,168.00 |
| 2 nd | \$3,952.00 |
| 3 rd | \$2,888.00 |

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4 th	\$1,976.00
5 th	\$1,216.00

Saddle Bronc Contestants will receive a \$400 appearance fee.

8. TIMED EVENTS

- A. Stock selection: Cattle used in the timed events shall be selected by the FINALE host PRCA Rodeo Committee, with the approval of the respective Event Representatives. For each pen of cattle, 2 extras must be designated.
- B. Timed Event contestants will enter and exit the arena as directed by the Arena Director.
- C. No more than one man in the box if so requested by contestant.
- D. Only one horse in the box.
- E. A contestant must have hat on head while in box, with no assistance in keeping on or taking off said hat by another person.
- F. The judges have the authority to designate a replacement for an animal fighting or sulking in the chute.
- G. Time limits (not including penalties):
 - Tie-Down Roping: 25 seconds
 - Steer Wrestling: 60 seconds
 - Team Roping: 30 seconds
- H. Tie-down animals may be tied prior to the performance to be determined by the Arena Director, the Event Representative and the Director of Rodeo Administration.
- I. If a timed event animal escapes the chute prior to the contestant calling for him, that contestant will automatically receive the first extra and will compete on that animal in the performance. The originally drawn animal will remain in the herd.
- J. In the Tie-Down Roping Event, only 1 loop per contestant will be permitted.
- K. In the Team Roping Event, only 2 loops per team will be permitted.
- L. In the Steer Wrestling, only 1 jump per contestant will be permitted.

9. RIDING EVENTS

- A. Two judges will be used to score each ride and half points will be used.
- B. Stock selection: Stock for the FINALE will be selected by each respective Event Representative, the host PRCA Event Committee, the Primary Stock Contractor and the Stock Contractor Executive Council. Selected stock must be submitted to PROCOM no later than 5PM (Mountain Time) on the day of entries closing for the FINALE.

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- C. Pens must be set to have a minimum of 4 animals with the same delivery designation.
- D. No bareback or saddle bronc with a history of having to be pulled out of the chute will be used for the FINALE.
- E. If a Stock Contractor or Stock Contractor's flankman is not ready when called, the Chute Boss (in agreement with the Judges) or the Judges may fine the Stock Contractor. **For flankmen**, the definition of "ready when called" means he/she must have the flank adjusted, gloves on if used, and ready when previous animal (flag/sponsor horse) leaves the arena or as instructed by the chute boss and/or judges.
 - 1. The Chute Boss has the authority to assign a flankman in the absence of the livestock owner or his designated flankman.
- F. Once pens have been set, there will be no changing of those pens unless the changes conform to the FINALE Ground Rules. Any changes on delivery must be by mutual agreement of a Riding Event Representative, livestock owner, or his representative and the chute boss or arena director.
- G. Any turned-out animal shall be considered the first re-ride animal. Should there be more than one turned-out animal, an order will be drawn. If more re-rides are required, the designated re-ride(s) will be used. Should more re-rides be needed than those available, 1/3 of the animals from the short go-round pen can be featured and additional re-rides necessary will be drawn from that finals pen.