

2026 NFR OPEN GROUND RULES
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
July 14-18, 2026



I. GENERAL

A. CONTESTANTS

- i. Circuit Presidents must confirm entries by calling PROCOM (1-800-234-7722) between 11:00 a.m. MT on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, and 11:00 a.m. MT on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026. Callbacks will be at 4:00 p.m. MT, Wednesday, June 10th, 2026.
- ii. NFR OPEN Contestants, in order to be eligible, must have their 2026 PRCA /WPRA membership paid in full no later than **Midnight (MT time), Monday, June 8th, 2026**. Contestants must also meet all competition and financial eligibility requirements.
- iii. Entries for the NFR Open will be taken from each of the thirteen (13) PRCA/WPRA geographical circuits. The Year-End Event Champion and the Circuit Finals Rodeo Average Champion have the opportunity to advance to the NFR OPEN. The Mexican Federation of Rodeo Champion will also be accepted.
 1. 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.
 2. Should the Year-End qualifying contestant(s) (per event) in a Circuit decide not to, or be ineligible to, advance to NFR OPEN, 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 and competed in all go-rounds in that event.
 3. Should the Average Champion qualifying contestant(s) (per event) in a Circuit be ineligible to advance to NFR OPEN, the advancement opportunity will be passed onto the next highest ranked eligible (by ranking in the Circuit Finals Average Results and the Required Participation Rodeo Rule) contestant in that

event, in that Circuit, who entered his/her respective Circuit Finals Rodeo in that event and competed in all go-rounds. If that contestant is also the Year-End Champion, contestant will advance as the Average Champion and the advancement opportunity for the additional position will be filled by the next qualified individual in the Year-End standings.

4. **Should the Average Champion qualifying contestant(s) (per event) in a Circuit choose not to advance to the NFR OPEN, the advancement opportunity will be passed onto the next highest ranked eligible (by ranking in the Circuit Year-End standings, who entered and competed in his/her respective Circuit Finals Rodeo).**
 5. 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.
 6. If there is a tie in the average, and one of the contestants is not a year-end winner, the contestant with the most money in the final year-end standings, who met the participation requirement, will advance.
 7. Maple Leaf Circuit qualifiers will be as determined by CPRA Rules & Policies.
- iv. Contestant entry fees will be \$550.00 p/ event. PRCA Contestant entry fees will be paid by PRCA. WPRA Contestant entry fees will be set and paid as approved and printed by the WPRA. Entry Fees for FMR Contestants will be paid for by the PRCA.
 - v. Each PRCA contestant (from the 12 U.S. & Maple Leaf Circuit) will receive a Guarantee Award of \$1,000. This will be a guarantee PER PRCA contestant, not per entry (in the case of multi-event contestants). PRCA contestant Guarantee Award paid by PRCA. WPRA Contestant Guaranteed Awards will be as approved and printed by the WPRA. Contestant must compete in ALL go-rounds to receive. FMR Contestants will not receive a Guarantee Award.
 - vi. Contestants will be permitted to trade positions at the NFR OPEN 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 NFR OPEN. Position changes must be made by notifying Procom prior to 5:00 p.m. MT, Wednesday, July 10th, 2026.** 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.

Any NFR OPEN 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 R11.4.6 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 thereafter.

- viii. Money won at the NFR OPEN **WILL** count towards PRCA/WPRA World Standings and for limited entry rodeos. NFR OPEN will **not** count toward 2026 Playoff Series standings.
- ix. NFR Open Champion will automatically be qualified to the NFR Playoff Series Finale in Puyallup, WA.
 1. If the NFR Open Champion is seeded into the NFR Playoff in another qualification category, the 2nd place/Top 9 contestant will be accepted. This will continue through Top 9 Final Contestants until the position is filled. Advancement to the NFR Playoff Finale will not drop past the NFR Open Top 9 Final Contestant.
 2. In the bull riding, only those contestants who are “qualified” per II.B. will be eligible to advance to the NFR Playoff.
- x. The PRCA Rulebook will be enforced for the NFR Open in addition to these ground rules. Specifically, Chapters 8 and 9 referencing the PRCA Circuit System or the National Circuit Finals Rodeo.
- xi. If a contestant’s actions are deemed detrimental to the PRCA, WPRA, the NFR Open, or rodeo in general, that contestant will not be accepted as an entry to the 2026 Playoff Series Finale or the 2026 NFR Open.

B. CONTRACT PERSONNEL

- i. Selected Contract Personnel must sign-in with Rodeo Secretary in accordance with PRCA Bylaw B2.5.1.8.

II. FORMAT:

- A. The NFR OPEN contestants will be seeded into three sets. Each set shall be two long go-rounds, back-to-back. The Top 3 contestants in the average, from each set, shall compete in a Top 9 Final Round. All NFR OPEN contestants will compete in both go-rounds. The top nine contestants in each event will compete for placing and the NFR OPEN Championship. Contestants advancing to the Finals will not carry forward scores or times. Average scores/times will not be calculated in the final rounds. In the 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 finals will be determined as outlined in II.B.

B. FILLING OF FINALS POSITIONS

FINALS ADVANCEMENT

AVERAGE SPLITS TIE BREAKER: If 3rd place in the average of a set is tied, the contestant or team with the highest score/fastest time in any go round will advance. If still tied, the contestant/team with the most money won will advance. If still tied, the judges will determine advancement with the flip of a coin

IF LESS THEN 3 QUALIFIED CONTESTANTS IN A SET (EXCEPT

BULL RIDING): If there are less than 3 qualified contestants based on fastest average time or highest average score from a set to advance to the finals, the contestant with the next highest score/fastest time in the average from any other set will advance to the Top 9 Finals. This will repeat until all 9 positions are filled. If there is a tie for the 9th spot, the contestant with the most money won will advance. If still tied, the contestant with the highest score/fastest time in any go-round will advance. If still tied, the contestant with the highest score/fastest time in any other go-round will advance. If still tied, the tie will be broken by the flip of a coin.

If there are less than three contestants to advance from a set, and there are no other contestants with a score or time to fill the position(s), then there will be a random draw of contestants without a score or time, from that set, to advance to the Final Round. Contestants who are randomly drawn into the Finals are eligible for finals go-round money only and are **not** eligible for Championship awards, titles, or bonuses.

FINALS TIE BREAKER: If there is a tie for 1st place, the tie-breaker will go to the contestant with the most money won from the long-go rounds coming into the finals. If still tied, then the tie breaker goes to the contestant with the highest score/fastest time in the average coming into the finals. If still tied, then go to the highest score/fastest time in any go-round. If still tied, then the next highest score/fastest time in any go-round.

FILLING OF POSITIONS IN THE BULL RIDING:

Prior to the start of the NFR OPEN a random list of bull riders will be posted at the secretary's office.

MINIMUM OF 9 QUALIFIED RIDES

If a contestant has a long-go round ride(s) and qualifies for the Top 9 finals, contestant will be considered 'qualified'. Qualified contestants will be eligible for Championship title, awards, and bonuses.

If there are less then 3 qualified contestants based on highest average score from a set to advance to the finals, the contestant with the next highest score in the average from any other set will advance to the Top 9 Finals. This will repeat until all 9 positions are filled. If there is a tie for the 9th spot, the contestant with the most money won will advance. If still tied, the contestant with the highest score in any go round will advance. If still tied, the contestant with the highest score in any other go-round will advance. If still tied, the tie will be broken by the flip of a coin.

If there are less than three contestants to advance from a set, and there are no other contestants with a score to fill the position(s), then there will be a random draw of contestants without a score, from that set, to advance to the Final Round.

Contestants who are randomly drawn into the finals are eligible for finals go-round money only and are **not** eligible for Championship awards, titles, or bonuses.

ALL FILLER POSITIONS

Should there be no qualified rides to the Top 9: Positions will be filled from the original random draw list. Contestants with a Top 9 qualified ride will be considered qualified. In this case, only contestant(s) with a qualified Top 9 ride will be eligible to receive Championship title, awards and bonuses. If all Top 9 Contestants are 'filler' contestants and there are no qualified Top 9 rides, Championship will NOT be awarded. Any money won will count toward PRCA World Standings.

III. PAYOFF

- A. There will be a payout for each long-go performance and the Final round. There will not be an average payoff.

Each of the six long-go performances will pay out \$7,500.00 as follows:

1st - \$3,000.00
 2nd - \$2,250.00
 3rd - \$1,500.00
 4th - \$750.00

The Final round will payout \$41,000 as follows:

1st - \$13,000
 2nd - \$10,000
 3rd - \$7,000
 4th - \$3,500
 5th - \$1,500
 6th - \$1,500
 7th - \$1,500
 8th - \$1,500
 9th - \$1,500

- B. The payoff for each PRCA/WPRA event will be the same, including the team roping.

- C.** Nine places will be paid in the Finals based on highest score or fastest time. If there are less than 9 qualified rides or times in the Finals, the remaining places to be paid to contestants with no score or no time in the Finals will be based on highest scores or fastest times in the average after the first two go-rounds (also see Tie Breaker procedures II.B). All money paid out to contestants for the Finals will count towards World Standings (exception for Filler Contestants. See II.B).

IV. SUBSTITUTIONS and DRAWING OUT

A. Turn Outs (prior to the start of competition), Visible Injury, Doctor Releases, & Vet Release: If for any reason (**including valid doctor release**) a contestant is unable to compete, the next qualified contestant (based on ground rule I.A.) from that circuit which the contestant is T.O., V.I., D.R., or V.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" (Section V.).

B. In the Team Roping, any team entered at the NFR OPEN suffering disabling injury to either partner, while competing, may be allowed to continue roping with any NFR OPEN 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, VISIBLE INJURY, DOCTOR & VET RELEASES

- A.** Contestant must compete in the first go-round to be eligible for further competition at the NFR OPEN.
- B.** Contestant who enters the NFR OPEN 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 NFR OPEN.
- 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 fines will apply (to include turn out, visible injury, doctor release, vet release):

Notification prior to 30-hour deadline as stated in section IV.A. \$250.00
if and only if a substitution is found.

Notification prior to 30-hour deadline if **NO** substitution is available. \$ 500.00

Notification after 30-hour deadline. \$ 750.00

Non-notification. \$ 950.00

The contestant stipend, if distributed, must be repaid to the PRCA for any Non-notified turn out.

Notifications 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.
- E. Contestant receiving a valid Visible Injury during the NFR OPEN may not compete at any other rodeo or event during the course of the NFR OPEN. Failure to abide by this rule will result in the forfeiture of any advancement, title(s), recognition, and/or awards. In addition, Contestant will be fined \$1,500.

VI. CONTESTING POSITIONS

- A. In order to provide the opportunity for the Circuits to have equal representation, separation of contestants from every circuit, among all performances, has been established.
- B. Contestant first go-round competition order will be random draw. Second go-round competition order will be reverse of first go-round.
- C. Advancement from the circuits will be seeded into the sets as follows:

1st Go / 1st PERF., TUESDAY JULY 14th and 2nd Go / 2nd PERF., WEDNESDAY JULY 15th (back-to-back):

- Columbia River (Average)
- Mountain States (Average)
- Prairie (Year End)
- California (Year End)
- First Frontier (Average)
- Badlands (Average)
- Maple Leaf (Year End)
- Montana (Average)
- Turquoise (Year End)

1st Go / 3rd PERF., THURSDAY JULY 16TH and 2nd Go / 4th PERF., FRIDAY JULY 17TH MATINEE (back-to-back):

Columbia River (Year End)
 First Frontier (Year End)
 Wilderness (Year End)
 Great Lakes (Year End)
 California (Average)
 Mountain States (Year End)
 Texas (Year End)
 Southeastern (Average)
 Maple Leaf (Average)

1st Go / 5th PERF., FRIDAY, JULY 17TH and 2nd Go / 6th PERF., SATURDAY, JULY 18TH MATINEE (back-to-back):

Mexico (Year End)
 Texas (Average)
 Southeastern (Year End)
 Great Lakes (Average)
 Badlands (Year End)
 Prairie (Average)
 Turquoise (Average)
 Montana (Year End)
 Wilderness (Average)

C. Top 9 Final Round: Contestant positions will be based on the Average scores/times coming into the Finals. Refer to Tie-Breakers if positions are tied. If a tie cannot be broken, it will be determined by the flip of a coin. WPRA Barrel racing will be a random draw. Contestants will compete in the order drawn.

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

- i. Qualification for NFR OPEN stock shall be the same as for the NFR, except that an animal must have five (5) outs.
- ii. Pickup Men
 1. Positions will be designated which the Pickup men must use as starting points by the NFR OPEN Chute Boss. Pickup men shall not give assistance until the eight second time has elapsed or contestant has been disqualified, whichever comes first.
- iii. Bullfighters and Barrelman
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
- iv. The length of the flank latigo on horse flanks shall be no longer than nine feet (9'). Flanks MUST be checked by the ProOfficials 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.
- v. If a contestant is not ready when called, either the chute boss (in agreement with the judges) or the judge(s), may fine a contestant \$250 for the first offense, that fine progressively doubling with each subsequent offense, and/or may be disqualified by the judges. If an individual is taking advantage of the contestants in that event and/or the livestock and/or the rodeo production and/or not cooperating with the chute boss's and judges' instructions resulting in an attempt to cheat or influence the results of the event, to include but not limited to causing an animal to act up or be unruly in the chute in order to receive a re-ride, that individual will be disqualified by the judges from that round and for subsequent offenses will be disqualified by the judges from that event for the remainder of the rodeo.

For contestants, the definition of "ready when called" shall be:

Bareback Riding: The contestant must be over the horse with his hand in the rigging when the previous horse leaves the arena. If the contestant is first to compete, this would be when the flag horse leaves the arena or as instructed by the chute boss and/or judges. If a contestant has a fair opportunity to compete and does not call for his competition animal, delaying the production of the rodeo, the same ruling will apply.

Saddle Bronc Riding: The contestant must have the horse cinched (front & rear) with the rein measured, and be in the chute, mounting the horse when the previous horse leaves the arena. If the contestant is first to compete, this would be when the flag horse leaves the arena or as instructed by the chute boss and/or judges. If a contestant has a fair opportunity to compete and does not call for his competition animal, delaying the production of the rodeo, the same ruling will apply.

Bull Riding: The contestant must be pulling the rope when the previous bull leaves the arena. If the contestant is first to compete, this would be when the flag horse leaves the arena or as instructed by the chute boss and/or judges. If a contestant has a fair opportunity to compete and does not call for his competition animal, delaying the production of the rodeo, the same ruling will apply.

- vi. If in the judge's opinion, a contestant has made two honest attempts on a chute fighting/sulking animal, the judge(s) shall designate a replacement animal for the contestant.

B. DRAWING STOCK

- i. **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 NFR OPEN (NCFR) Rough Stock Representative or his representative, and the Director of Rodeo Administration or his representative by **10:00 a.m. MT, Monday, July 13th, 2026**. No fewer than two persons can finally determine the pens.
- ii. Riding event stock draw:
 - 1. Stock for all long go-rounds will be drawn on Monday, July 13th.
- iv. Stock position and draw for the Top 9 Finals will be completed after the 6th performance.
- v. Stock contractors will be represented by the NFR OPEN Stock Contractor Representative.
- vi. 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 NFR OPEN Official Veterinarian and/or PRCA Judge. Stock Contractors will be responsible for any veterinarian bills.
- vii. 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.vi.
- vii. In the Final round, contestants will be allowed to compete on an animal which they have competed on in either of the long go-rounds.

- ix. All riding event Livestock selected for the NFR OPEN 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.vi, provided Livestock selection procedure remains the same as it currently being used.
- x. Event representatives must have at least a minimum of 3 head of the 9 head to be bucked of one delivery or the other, per each performance (excluding re-rides).
- xi. Any drawn animal that is turned out/visible injured will become the first available re-ride for that performance.

C. RE-RIDES/RERUNS

- i. A contestant shall be given a re-ride/re-run if the animal escapes the chute before the contestant calls for animal.
- ii. 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 NFR OPEN then the re-ride/re-run order will be set by the NFR OPEN Riding Event or Timed Event Director. If either the NFR OPEN Riding Event or Timed Event Director are unavailable or unwilling to set the re-ride/re-run order the NFCR/NFR Open Board of Directors will appoint an individual to do so.
- iii. 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/rerun.
- iv. 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.
- v. The judges have the authority to replace a chute fighting or sulking animal.

VIII. TIMED EVENTS

A. GENERAL

- i. Timed event contestants will be furnished a stall, provided horse is used in rodeo competition. Shavings may be available on site for purchase. Additional stalls may be available for non- competitive horses. Stalls will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, July 12th thru noon Sunday, July 19th.
- ii. Stock draw will be in order of position for that go-round.

- iii. **CONTESTANTS AND HORSES USED IN COMPETITION ARE NOT TO BE USED TO RUN EXTRA ANIMALS AFTER EACH PERFORMANCE.**
- iv. NFR OPEN Timed Event Representative will designate person or persons to run extra cattle.
- v. Any contestant who circles in the arena after being allowed to enter for competition, will be **fined \$100, with that fine progressively doubling.**
- vi. Contestants must take their stock within 45 seconds of receiving the “all clear” from the designated judge. If the contestant exceeds the time limit, except in case of mechanical failure or a problem with the competition animal in the timed event chute in the opinion of the judges, contestant will receive a penalty of \$250. For every 20 seconds over the 45 second limit, the fine will be progressively doubled. If a contestant exceeds two minutes in the box it will result in disqualification from the round. By definition, “ready when called” shall mean that the contestant must be riding into the box when the previous animal leaves the arena. If a contestant is the first contestant in team roping, tie-down roping, or breakaway roping they shall be riding into the box, and in steer wrestling, riding into the arena when the flag (sponsor) horse leaves the arena or as instructed by the chute boss and/or judges. In the barrel racing, contestant must be ready to run into the arena as soon as called by the chute boss and/or judge.
- vii. If in the judge’s opinion, a contestant has made two honest attempts on a chute fighting/sulking animal, the judge(s) shall designate a replacement animal for the contestant.
- viii. Contestant must have hat on head while in box, with no assistance in keeping it on or taking off said hat by another person.
- ix. **Tie down calves may be tied prior to each 1st go-round and/or 7th performance at the discretion of the NFR OPEN (NCFR) Timed Event Representative, or his designee.**
- x. Once the pens of cattle are determined by draw, they will remain the same through the first two go-rounds. The pens can be set by the timed event representative or his designee in the final round.
- xi. Animals that are used for competition during the Saturday Matinee performance on July 18th, will be eligible to be used in the Finals on July 18th.

B. RERIDES/RERUNS

- i. 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.
- ii. 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 NFR OPEN then the

reride/re-run order will be set by the NFR OPEN (NCFR) Riding Event or Timed Event Director. If either the NFR OPEN (NCFR) Riding Event or Timed Event Director are unavailable or unwilling to set the re-ride/re-run order the NFR OPEN Board of Directors will appoint an individual to do so.

- iii. 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/rerun.
- iv. **The Top 9 Finals shall have 3 re-ride animals in each riding event available.**

C. TIE DOWN ROPING

- i. Extra calves shall be roped from a horse and tied down after the 1st, 3rd, & 5th performances (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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Time limit is **25 seconds** (PRCA Rule R10.6.3) (not including penalties).
- iv. One pen of 36 usable calves will be cut to 27 with the remaining calves being available as extras

D. STEER WRESTLING

- i. Extra steers will be bulldogged from the horse and thrown down after the 1st, 3rd, & 5th performances (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.
- ii. Time limit is **30 seconds** (not including penalties)
- iii. One pen of 33 usable steers will be cut to 27 with the remaining steers being available as extras.

E. TEAM ROPING

- i. Extra steers shall be roped after the 1st, 3rd, & 5th performances. The timed event representative will be responsible to have, at all times, at least two extra steers that were roped no later than the previous run on that pen.
- ii. Time limit is **30 seconds** (PRCA Rule R10.8.10), not including penalties, **with a 2 loop maximum per team.**
- iii. One pen of 33 usable steers will be cut to 27 with the remaining steers being available as extras.
- iv. 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 NFR OPEN 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 (so long as both met all qualification requirements). 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 Rodeo 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 NFR OPEN in the same manner as entry for their circuit finals (i.e. if contestant entered circuit finals as a header, they must enter NFR OPEN as a header).

F. BARREL RACING

- i. A “pattern drag” will take place at the ½ way mark of each performance.
- ii. Barrel racers will enter the arena through the center alley gate, after which gate will close. Exit will be through Northwest gate.

G. BREAKAWAY ROPING

- i. Extra calves shall be roped from horseback after the 1st, 3rd, & 5th performances (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 from horseback, no later than the previous run on that pen.

- ii. Time limit is 30 second (WPRA Rule 12.10.4), not including penalties.
- iii. One pen of 33 usable calves will be cut to 27 with extras before the rodeo.
- iv. In the Breakaway, there will be a designated pusher

IX. AWARDS

- A. The NFR OPEN Event Champion is the Top 9 Final Round Event Champion who qualified with a score or time and will be the recipient of the NFR OPEN championship buckle. Bull Riding, refer to II.B of these ground rules.
- B. At the conclusion of the Top 9 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 NFR OPEN 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.
- D. Any NFR Open contestant winning an award voucher must have a valid U.S. driver's license and be able to comply with all state, local, corporate and/or dealership requirements for award redemption. Any contestant not willing or able to comply with all requirements will forfeit any award voucher. This will include Polaris Ranger vouchers.

X. REPORTING TIME

- A. All contestants must attend a mandatory check-in and orientation meeting as follows. Contestants should be in western attire as headshots will be taken.
 - i. Contestants scheduled to compete in the 1st and 2nd performances: check in will be on **Tuesday, July 14th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** Any contestant not in line by 3:30 p.m. will be subject to a fine of \$250.
 - ii. Contestants scheduled to compete in the 3rd and 4th performances: check in will be on **Thursday, July 16th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** Any contestant not in line by 3:30 p.m. will be subject to a fine of \$250.
 - iii. Contestants scheduled to compete in the 5th and 6th performances: check in will be on **Friday, July 17th from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Any contestant not in line by 3:30 p.m. will be subject to a fine of \$250.

- B. Any contestant missing this deadline may receive a fine of **\$250**, however, if any contestant willfully or purposely missed the deadline, contestant may be disqualified from NFR OPEN competition by action of the NFR OPEN Committee.
- C. All check-in and orientation meetings will be at the Norris Penrose Event Center (contestant hospitality tent), Colorado Springs, Colo.
- D. There will be a mandatory meeting for the Top 9 Finals Qualifiers prior to the start of the Finals Round. This will be at 6:00 p.m. MDT, at the Production Meeting tent.

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. OPENING, AUTOGRAPH, & MEDIA SESSION

- A. Some performance opening ceremonies may include contestants. Should a contestant be asked to participate in an opening ceremony and refuse, that contestant shall be fined \$250.
- 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.
- C. An autograph session will be held after each of the first six (6) performances. The **two (2)** highest scores or fastest times from that night's performance will be required to attend the autograph session. There will not be an autograph session after the final performance. **Failure to attend an assigned autograph session will result in a \$500 fine.**
- D. NFR Open Champions will be required to attend a Sponsor & Media session for 30 minutes immediately following the Final Performance. Failure to attend may result in a fine of \$1,000.

XIV. PASSES

- A. Each stock contracting company, and contract person will be given one Companion pass. Each contestant will receive one companion pass for the performance in which they are competing only. Companion pass will only be valid for the Companion seating area. Individuals receiving a companion pass will NOT be able to move to the ticketed seating area. PRCA Membership cards or PRCA membership companion passes will not be accepted for admittance.
- B. Contestants needing additional tickets will need to purchase those from the arena box office.
- C. PRCA members who are not entered will not be given free admission, nor may they enter any area restricted only to contestants without proper credentials.

XV. PARKING

- A. There will be a separate parking area for NFR OPEN contestants and personnel. Each contestant, stock contracting firm, and contract personnel will receive 1 parking pass. Additional passes will not be available.

XVI. NFR OPEN OFFICES

- A. The NFR OPEN production office is located at the Norris Penrose Arena, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- B. All operations (rodeo secretary, media, and Production manager's offices) will be coordinated together.

XVII. STOCK CONTRACTORS AND LIVESTOCK

A. LIVESTOCK SELECTION

- i. There will be seventy (70) head of bareback, seventy (70) head of saddle bronc, and fifty (50) head of bulls selected for the NFR OPEN.
- ii. All selected horses will be drawn for competition once. Stock contractors must make 1/3 of their selected bareback and 1/3 of their selected saddle bronc horse to be available as re-rides.
- iii. Bulls may be used twice; Either in the draw or as re-rides.
- iv. All selections will be made by the PRCA Event Representative (Livestock Selection Committee) per PRCA Bylaw B9.4.7.5 of the PRCA Rulebook.

B. STOCK CONTRACTORS

- i. All stock contractors (or their designated representative) must attend a mandatory check-in at the Norris Penrose Arena and will be notified of date and time. Stock contractors will receive their NFR OPEN jacket, credentials, and parking passes at this time.
- ii. Stock contractors will be required to verify all stock chute delivery information during livestock unloading on Sunday, July 12th. **Delivery information CANNOT be changed After Stock Contractor orientation meeting.**
- iii. No consideration will be given for freight expenses, insurance, death, loss or injury and obligation to get animals to and from the NFR OPEN site. Feed and housing of Livestock will be furnished from check-in time to the conclusion of the NFR OPEN.

C. STOCK DELIVERY/LOADING / USE

- i. Stock must be delivered to the Norris Penrose Arena on Sunday, July 12th, 2026 between 9:00 a.m. MT and 6:00 p.m. MT. All livestock must be either on the grounds or in-line to be unloaded by 6:00 p.m. MT. Arrival after the deadline will constitute a late arrival. Livestock will NOT be permitted to arrive prior to the stated delivery times. For special circumstances contact the NFR Open Livestock Superintendent.
- ii. **Livestock will NOT be permitted to arrive prior to the stated delivery times. Should stock arrive early, contractor will be responsible for locating off-site accommodations for stock.**
- iii. All stock must be removed from the Norris Penrose Arena no later than 12:00 p.m. MT on Sunday, July 19th, 2026. Stock contractor should work with the NFR OPEN Livestock Superintendent to coordinate loading time. Failure to remove stock by the established deadline will result in a fine of \$250 per riding event animal and \$50 per timed event animal. Fine will progressively double each day thereafter until. “No stock may leave or be loaded prior to the last performance without permission of the Livestock Superintendent”.
- iv. All Livestock must be inspected by the Official Veterinarian and the Livestock Superintendent at the time of arrival and must be accompanied by certified veterinary health papers and certificates as required by state law. Livestock will not be accepted until all required health papers are presented.
- v. Animals that are unfit, sick, or lame prior to delivery (“delivery” defined as having completely exited the trailer upon arrival during designated stock delivery time frame) will not be accepted or paid for. This includes any animal with wounds which are

cosmetically questionable. Heavy mares or mares with colts will not be accepted without pre-approval from the Livestock Superintendent.

- vi. Any stock contractor who arrives with one or more riding event animal after the designated delivery time, who are deemed 'Late', shall be fined one-half of the amount paid by the NFR OPEN for each head of riding event livestock that is late. In addition, the Stock Contractor may be ineligible to participate in the 2027 NFR OPEN.
- vii. **Any stock contractor who fails to deliver a selected riding event animal or fails to make an animal available without veterinary documentation will be fined one-half of the amount paid by the NFR OPEN/NCFR Committee and will not be paid for said animal.**
- viii. Any animal(s) delivered after the delivery deadline may not be housed, used, or paid for without approval from the NFR OPEN/NCFR Committee.
- ix. All riding event livestock must be delivered with a readable permanent ownership and number brand in accordance with the PRCA Rulebook. Failure to have an acceptable, legible brand in accordance with PRCA Rule R7.2.1 will result in a fine of \$250 per animal.
- x. All bulls must be tipped in accordance with PRCA Rule R7.10.5 prior to delivery to Norris Penrose Arena. Failure to have bulls tipped will result in a \$100 fine per animal. All bulls required to be tipped, must be done before competition if delivered in violation of Rule R7.10.5, failure to comply upon notification that a bull requires to be tipped, will result in a fine of \$250 per head.
- xi. Stock not selected and agreed on by the Livestock Selection Committee that is substituted by the stock contractor will not be used, housed, or paid for.
- xii. The NFRO Committee will provide feed and hay for selected livestock. Feeding will begin Sunday evening, July 12th through the livestock's departure from the grounds. Stock contractors will not be permitted to remove any feed or hay from the grounds. Should a stock contractor provide their own feed or hay, they will not be compensated or refunded.

D. MEDICAL PROCEDURES

- i. If any riding event or timed event animal are found to be sick or injured, the NFR OPEN Livestock Superintendent will consult with the Official NFR OPEN Veterinarian.

- ii.** If it is determined that medication is needed:
 - 1. If administration of the medication is 3 hours prior to the start of the performance, the animal may still be used in competition with the approval of the Livestock Superintendent, Official veterinarian, and the animal's owner. If the owner is not available, the NFR OPEN Stock Contractor Representative or Timed Event Representative will be consulted as appropriate.
 - 2. If it is determined that medication is needed and if administration of medication is within three (3) hours of performance start, the animal will not be competed on. The re-ride/extra procedure will be used.
 - 3. If it is determined that medication is not necessary, the animal may still be competed on with the approval of the Livestock Superintendent, Official Veterinarian, and the animal's owner. If the animal's owner is not available, the NFR OPEN Stock Contractor Representative or Timed Event Representative will be consulted as appropriate.
- iii.** The Livestock Superintendent may administer medication only under the direction of the NFR OPEN Official Veterinarian. The Livestock Superintendent or the Official Veterinarian are the only individuals authorized to provide medication to any riding event animal or timed event cattle once animal is on the NFR OPEN grounds and accepted for competition
 - 1. Violation of this will result in a \$500 fine to the individual administering the medication for the first occurrence, with that fine progressively doubling for each additional violation.
 - 2. Administration of medication will only take place in the animal housing area. At no point will medication be administered in the back-pen area.
 - 3. If in the case of an extreme circumstance, if an animal in the back-pen area requires medication, only the NFR OPEN Official Veterinarian is authorized to administer.
- iv.** All medical expenses will be the responsibility of the animal's owner.