

2026 CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO

GROUND RULES

Membership & Eligibility

1. Contestant members should refer to PRCA Rule B9.3-B9.3.1.
 - a. A PRCA member who is a non-US citizen will be eligible to participate in the PRCA Circuit Finals Rodeo of his Circuit designation for the 2026 dues paying year providing such member meets the Required Participation Rodeo Rule as approved by the Director of Rodeo Administration and printed in the PRCA Business Journal.
 - b. WPRA members, refer to rules 8.4-8.5 and 8.8.2. of the WPRA rulebook.
2. Contract personnel members should refer to PRCA rule B9.4.6.
 - a. Circuit Finals Rodeo Contract Personnel are eligible to accept any one Circuit Finals Rodeo of his/her Choosing.
 - b. Contract personnel must meet all eligibility requirements per rule B9.4.6.1-B9.4.6.4.
 - c. Permit holder contract personnel members are not eligible to work a Circuit Finals Rodeo, per Rule B2.5.1.2.
 - d. Participation in more than one Circuit Finals Rodeo by contract personnel will constitute an automatic \$1,000 fine to the individual accepting his/her second Circuit Finals Rodeo contract, as well as forfeiting all bonus money and advancement to the NFR OPEN (NCFR) and/or NCFSR per B9.4.6.1.
 - e. Contract personnel to be eligible to work a circuit finals rodeo:
 - i. Must have submitted an application for that circuit in accordance with bylaw B9.4.6.4.
 - ii. If they wish to be considered for the NFR OPEN (NCFR) or NCFSR, they must also have submitted an application and worked a circuit finals rodeo.
 - iii. If a Circuit finals rodeo does not allow participation from a specific category of contract personnel, personnel from that category will be allowed to advance to the NFR OPEN (NCFR) or NCFSR provided

they submitted an application and they are chosen by the NFR OPEN (NCFR) Committee.

- f. Bullfighters & Pick-up Men:
 - i. Each Circuit Finals Rodeo will have 2 bullfighters, no exceptions.
 - ii. The potential Circuit finals bull riders will vote for the bullfighters, provided they do so a week before the selection deadline of the Circuit Board of Directors for contract personnel.
 - iii. If the bull riders do not notify the Circuit Board of Directors, the Circuit Board of Directors then will make the selection.
 - iv. The potential Circuit finals bareback and saddle bronc riders will vote for the pick-up men, provided they do so a week before the selection deadline of the Circuit Board of Directors for contract personnel.
 - v. If the bareback and saddle bronc riders do not notify the Circuit Board of Directors, then the Circuit Board of Directors then will make the selection.
3. For Circuit Finals Rodeos that are held during the month of January:
 - a. Circuit Finals Rodeo contestants, contract personnel, stock contractors, timed event cattle providers, and labor will be accepted on last year's card.
 - b. Contestants, contract personnel, stock contractors, timed event cattle providers, and labor, who have not bought a current year membership card, must purchase PRCA's or WPRA's insurance policy prior to first Circuit Finals Rodeo performance.
4. Should a contestant qualify for the NFR OPEN (NCFR) or NCFSR, contestant must renew their current year membership by the NFR OPEN (NCFR)/NCFSR member dues deadline as listed in the PRCA Business Journal or as published on the WPRA Website. As such, if a contract personnel member is selected to work the NFR OPEN (NCFR) or NCFSR, they must renew their membership prior to the start of either event.

Entries & Substitutions

1. Official Entry Rodeo:
 - a. All Circuit Finals Rodeos will be considered an official entry rodeo, unless contestant declares otherwise at time of entry.

- b. Money won at all 2026 season Circuit Finals Rodeo will count towards 2027 PRCA/WPRA World Standings and qualification for 2027 limited entry rodeos per R1.2.14 and R1.2.15 (WPRA rules as applicable). For WPRA members, Circuit Finals money won will count towards applicable 2026 standings upon the completion of the last 2026 Circuit Finals Rodeo.
 - c. Positions will be filled per B9.4.5 (WPRA 8.8.1).
 - d. If a contestant has not met the required participation requirements, per PRCA rule B9.4.5.1 (WPRA rule 8.8.3.1):
 - i. Money won at a circuit finals rodeo will not count toward PRCA or WPRA World Standings or qualifications for limited entry rodeos.
 - ii. Rodeo will be considered an unofficial entry.
 - iii. No year–end awards or advancement to NFR OPEN (NCFR) or NCFSR.
- 2. Entries for all Circuit Finals Rodeos will be listed in at least two (2) issues of the PRCA Business Journal (as published on the WPRA Website for WPRA members).
 - 3. All contestants must make an official entry through Central Entry Office (PROCOM) prior to entry closing time.
 - 4. Qualification Cut-off:
 - a. Qualification cut–off will be regular PRCA or WPRA year–end (September 30, 2026) unless Circuit Finals Rodeo is scheduled within thirty (30) days of this cut–off date.
 - b. In this case (or anytime a Circuit Finals Rodeo is held prior to year–end cut–off), cut–off date will be thirty (30) days prior to the First performance of the Circuit Finals Rodeo. Any exception to the cut-off date for a particular circuit must be approved in writing by the Director of Rodeo Administration.
 - c. Any rodeo which has its last performance after the cut–off date will be recorded for the following year. Rodeo in question must end on or prior to the cut–off date to count for current year.
 - d. Any variation of cut–off dates must be approved by the PRCA and listed in two (2) issues of the PRCA Business Journal. For WPRA members, any

variation of cut-off dates must be approved by the WPRA and published on the WPRA website.

5. Team Roping:

- a. Top qualifying headers who satisfy the Required Participation Rule must rope with the top qualifying heelers who satisfy the Required Participation Rule at the Circuit Finals Rodeo.
- b. If a team member enters the Circuit Finals Rodeo and has not satisfied the Required Participation Rule or does not qualify due to the order of his ranking, after entries close, that team member will be drawn out and the next qualifier in order of the standings who enters the Circuit Finals Rodeo will be added.
- c. Teams who wish to compete at the Circuit Finals Rodeo must enter together through PROCOM.
- d. A team of ropers qualifying in the last position that chooses not to rope as a team at their Circuit Finals Rodeo will flip a coin to determine which will be the qualifier.
- e. If a team member has roped as a header and a heeler during the rodeo year, his count will be combined but his money will remain separate.

6. Entries to Fill Open Position(s):

- a. There will be an established re-entry period for any open positions.
 - i. Positions will be filled in accordance with B9.4.5.
 - ii. Re-entry contestants will not displace any originally entered contestant regardless of money won or participation requirements.
- b. Entries to fill open position(s) after re-entries may be accepted by Circuit President(s).
 - i. Step one, in order of Required Participation Rodeo Rule with money won from those who had not entered.
 - ii. Step two, by contestants who did not meet the Required Participation Rodeo Rule with money won from those who had not entered.
- c. In the WPRA Barrel Racing, open position after the original entry period will be filled by the circuit president (there will not be re-entries in the WPRA barrel racing).

- i. Step one, in order of Required Participation Rodeo Rule with money won from those who had not entered.
 - ii. Step two, by contestants who did not meet the Required Participation Rodeo Rule with money won from those who had not entered.
 - d. Contestant entries accepted by the circuit presidents must be financially eligible and in good standings at the time of entry closing to be eligible to fill open position(s).
7. Substitutions:
- a. Prior to the First go-round, a substitute entry will be allowed.
 - b. Substitutes will be the highest ranked eligible contestants available who have made an official entry through PROCOM.
 - c. PROCOM and/or the Circuit President will contact highest ranked eligible contestant who entered. Procom will only recognize circuit president making substitute entry.
 - d. Team roping substitutions:
 - i. Any team entered in the team roping event at the Circuit Finals Rodeo suffering disabling injury or illness to either partner during the time period of the Circuit Finals Rodeo may be allowed to continue roping with a substitute partner chosen from among the following options: (i) the non-injured/non-ill partner (the “original partner”) may choose to add the next highest ranked contestant who is not already participating in the Circuit Finals Rodeo team roping and who has not declined to participate in the Circuit Finals Rodeo team roping due to injury or illness, who is in the same category of competitors as the injured or ill partner (i.e., header or heeler), who is Financially Eligible and Competition Eligible, and has satisfied the requirements of the Required Participation Rule (as defined in the PRCA Bylaws) and who has confirmed entry in the Circuit Finals Rodeo; or (ii) any contestant entered in the Circuit Finals Rodeo but not already competing in team roping.
 - ii. If the next highest ranked individual who qualifies under option (i) is not available or is unwilling to participate, the original partner must choose a replacement from category (ii). If the original partner chooses the next highest ranked header or heeler under

- option (i) above and that substitute partner is willing to participate but is unable to arrive in time for the next scheduled performance, the original partner may turn out of the next scheduled performance.
- iii. If the original partner chooses a replacement partner under option (i), the replacement partner shall be eligible to win the Circuit Finals Rodeo Champion in the team roping header or heeler category but shall not be eligible for All–Around points. If the original partner chooses a replacement partner under option (ii), the replacement partner will not be eligible for the team roping Circuit Finals Rodeo Champion, nor will the replacement partner's points earned in the team roping apply to the All–Around Standings.
 - iv. For replacement partners chosen under option (i), the Circuit Finals Rodeo will be considered an official entry and money won will count toward PRCA World Standings and qualifications for limited entry rodeos.
 - v. For replacement partners chosen under option (ii), the Circuit Finals Rodeo will be considered an unofficial entry and money won will not count toward PRCA World Standings or qualifications for limited entry rodeos.
 - vi. Regardless of whether the replacement partner comes from category (i) or (ii), the newly formed team will be eligible for go–round money, but will only be eligible for the average pay–off if this newly formed team competes in all go–rounds. The original member of the newly formed team will be eligible for the team roping Circuit Finals Rodeo Championship, and points won will be applied to the All–Around Standings for the original partner if he meets the criteria outlined in Bylaw B13.2 and other applicable sections of the PRCA Rulebook.
 - vii. Once a substitute has competed, the original team cannot be reformed.
- e. If not enough eligible contestants enter, then PROCOM and/or the Circuit President will contact highest ranked eligible contestant according to Circuit standings.
 - f. The substitute entry will take the original position of the contestant being replaced.

Entry Fees & Payoff

1. Minimum of \$75 entry fee per go-round.
 - a. Stock charge in the Steer Roping will not be allowed unless approved with special ground rules at the time the Circuit Finals Rodeo becomes approved.
2. All Circuit Finals Rodeos will pay four (4) places in all go-rounds and the average.
3. No Circuit Finals rodeo will be allowed a short-go round.
4. All contestants will compete in the same number of go-rounds, in all events.

Competition Positions

1. First go-round:
 - a. PRCA and WPRA Breakaway Contestants will compete in the reverse order of the qualifier standings.
 - b. WPRA Barrel Racing contestants will compete in order of the qualifiers standings.
2. Second and subsequent go-rounds:
 - a. PRCA and WPRA Breakaway contestants will compete in the reversed order of the fastest time/highest marked score in the average in previous go-round(s). Or qualifying standings if no time or score in previous rounds.
 - b. WPRA Barrel Racing contestants second go-round will be reverse order of the qualifiers standings coming into the circuit finals rodeo. Third go-round will be a random draw at the rodeo by the secretary. Fourth go-round will be reverse.

Riding Events

1. Stock Draw:
 - a. Will be in accordance with PRCA Rule R3.2.5.
 - b. In accordance with rule B9.4.7.4, livestock pens will be set by the Circuit Finals Stock Selection Committee.
 - i. The Circuit Finals Stock Selection Committee can designate the re-rides and re-ride order.

- c. Stock will be drawn for the first go-round in reverse order of the qualifiers standings prior to the Circuit Finals Rodeo.
 - d. Stock Draw in Second and Subsequent Go-rounds:
 - i. Start drawing with contestant that is three positions lower than contestant where stock was drawn in previous go-round.
- EXAMPLE: 1st Go: 12-1; 2nd Go: 9-1 then 12-10; 3rd Go: 6-1 then 12-7

Timed Events

1. Stock Draw:
 - a. Timed Event Stock Draw will be according to competition position in that round.
 - b. Drawing procedure will be determined by the PRCA Rule Book.
2. Score lines will be set by the PRCA Rule Book.
3. Team Roping will be limited to two (2) loops.
4. All hazers must have been an active 2026 PRCA member in good standings to be eligible to haze at a circuit finals rodeo.
 - a. Failure to designate an active, eligible PRCA member will result in a \$500 fine per occurrence.
5. If provided, all WPRA contestants will be required to wear a WPRA patch at all times in the arena and during competition on their competition shirt. WPRA patch must be worn on the upper front half of shirt or shoulder.
 - a. If available, patches will be distributed at check-in.
 - b. Failure to adhere to this rule shall result in a \$100 fine for the first offense, with that fine doubling progressively for each offense thereafter.

Tie Breakers

1. Tie Breaker for determining position order where times or scores are identical.
 - a. First tie breaker will be single fastest time or highest marked score in any go-round.
 - b. Second tie breaker will be single fastest time or highest marked score in any other go-round.
 - c. Third tie breaker will be the qualifiers standings prior to Finals competition.

2. Tie breakers for Title:
 - a. In case of a tie for Year–end Champion, winner will be the contestant finishing highest in the average at the Circuit Finals Rodeo.
 - b. If still tied, go to tie breakers:
 - i. First tie breaker will be single fastest time or highest marked score in any go-round at the Finals.
 - ii. Second tie breaker will be the second single fastest time or highest marked score in any other go–round at the Finals.
 - iii. Third tie breaker will be the qualifier's standings prior to Finals competition.
 - c. The same tie breaking procedures will be used in determining the Circuit Finals Rodeo average winner or for any continued qualifications including the NFR Open and National Circuit Finals Steer Roping.
 - d. 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.
 - e. If there is a tie in the average, and neither of the contestants is the year-end champion, tie-breakers will be used to determine who advances. If the contestant advancing to the NFR Open, or National Circuit Finals Steer Roping, chose not to advance, or turnout for any reason, the replacement opportunity will revert to the year-end standings.

Penalties & Exceptions

1. Contestants who enter Circuit Finals Rodeo and fail to compete in all go-rounds may be fined \$300 (WPRA fines are payable to the WPRA).
 - a. Fine may be waived only if contestant notifies Circuit President and/or PROCOM thirty (30) hours prior to the First performance **and** a substitute entry is found.
 - b. All year–end award(s), titles, or qualification for other compensation including advancement to the NFR Open (NCFR), will be forfeited by contestant failing to enter and compete in all go–rounds at the Circuit Finals Rodeo.
 - c. Championship title, recognition and awards will go to next qualified contestant who competed in all go–rounds at the Circuit Finals Rodeo.

2. Exception for contestant who has entered and has a valid Doctor, Vet, or Visible Injury Release:
 - a. In order for doctor/vet release to be valid at Circuit Finals Rodeo, contestant must be entered then doctor/vet released. Previous doctor/vet release does not constitute accepted release.
 - b. Visible Injury Release must be due to injury received at Circuit Finals Rodeo.
 - c. If a valid Doctors Release, Vet Release or Visible Injury is granted, that contestant will be eligible for Championship title, recognition/awards, and advancement.
 - d. Contestant may not compete at any other rodeo or stand-alone event during the duration of the Circuit Finals Rodeo.
 - i. If any contestant is found to have a fraudulent Doctors Release, Vet Release or Visible Injury release, that contestant will forfeit any money or awards won and be ineligible to advance to the NFR OPEN (NCFR).
 - ii. Additional fines may be levied per the PRCA/WPRA rulebook.

Livestock

1. Stock not selected and agreed on by the "Selection Committee" that was substituted by Stock Contractor will not be used, housed, or paid for.
2. A final list of stock must be provided to the PRCA.
 - a. 1st go-round Stock draw for all circuit finals will be done by Procom in accordance with the PRCA rulebook.
 - b. Once a final stock list has been submitted to the PRCA, the list cannot be changed for any reason. Exceptions must be approved by the PRCA.
 - c. Subsequent go-rounds will be drawn at the circuit finals rodeo.
3. Selection of any livestock outside the Circuit must be approved by PRCA Rodeo Administration.
4. A predetermined budget for stock must be made available to all applicants upon request. Bidding for Circuit Finals Rodeo selection is not allowed.

5. Circuit Finals Rodeo budget and all agreements made by each Circuit are required ninety (90) days in advance of Circuit Finals Rodeo.
6. The Stock Selection Committee may deem any animal unsatisfactory for competition at the Circuit Finals Rodeo.

Advancement

1. Money won at Circuit Finals Rodeo will be added to circuit year-end standings for that event.
2. Per B9.7.2 (WPRA 8.14.2.1) the year-end money winner in that event (by dollar won and required participation requirements and who competed in all go-rounds of the circuit finals rodeo) will advance to the NFR Open (NCFR).
3. Per B9.7.2 the Circuit Finals Rodeo average champion in that event will advance to the NFR Open (NCFR) (so long as the required participation count was met, and contestant competed in all go-rounds of the circuit finals rodeo).
 - a. Should the Average Champion be ineligible to advance due to not meeting the required participation count, the advancement opportunity will fall to the next qualified contestant (by money won and required participation) in the Circuit Finals Rodeo average standings for that event.
 - b. If the next qualified average contestant is also the Year-End Champion, that contestant will advance as the Average Champion. The next qualified contestant in the year end standings (by money won and required participation and who competed at the Circuit Finals Rodeo) will advance to the National Circuit Finals Rodeo.
 - c. If the Circuit Finals Rodeo Average Champion is qualified to advance to the National Circuit Finals Rodeo but chooses not to participate, the position will go to the next qualified contestant (by dollar won and required participation and who competed in all go-rounds of the Circuit Finals Rodeo) in the Year-End Standings for that event.
4. In the WPRA events, when the average winner cannot/is not qualified to advance to the NFR OPEN (NCFR), the replacement will be based on WPRA rule 8.14.2.1

Circuit Finals Awards

1. The PRCA will provide a championship Montana Silversmiths buckle to the year-end and average champion in each event.
2. Each circuit may provide additional circuit finals rodeo awards.
 - a. These may be specific with no limit as to the value or type of award given.
 - b. These awards must be approved by each circuit board of directors.