



OFFICIAL GROUND RULES

2026 WPRA National Breakaway Finals | Fort Worth, TX December 18-19, 2026

I. ENTRIES:

- A. The top 15 Breakaway Ropers in WPRA Pro Rodeo Breakaway World Standings, as of September 30, 2026, qualify to enter.
- B. Contestants must confirm entry by completing the official Docusign document sent by the WPRA to include but not limited to ground rules, participation agreement, stalling needs, ring size, jacket size, etc. Document will be sent on October 13 and will be due back by 12 p.m. (Mountain Time) on October 15.
- C. Qualified contestants who do not confirm their intent to compete by returning the completed DocuSign by Oct. 15 at 12 p.m. (Mountain Time) will be called to confirm entry and may be fined \$250.
- D. A WPRA NBF contestant or NBF official/personnel, or any animal used at the NBF, may not compete at or participate in any other rodeo or jackpot from the date of WPRA NBF contestant check-in through and including the date of the final performance of the WPRA NBF. Failure to adhere to this will result in immediate disqualification.

II. CONTESTANT INFORMATION:

- A. Every contestant must check-in with the WPRA NBF Officials December 17 by 1:15 p.m. CT at Will Rogers Memorial Center. There will be a meeting following check-in, followed by running calves.
- B. Stalls will be available beginning December 17 at 9 a.m. CT. Each contestant will be provided with two (2) stalls for three (3) nights for horses remaining on-site, providing the horses are subject for use at the WPRA National Breakaway Finals. Any horse found not being used for competition at the WPRA NBF or not belonging to the contestant assigned to the stall, will result in a \$1,000.00 fine assessed to the contestant assigned the stall. This fine will progressively double for every 24-hour period, the animal remains in the stall. All stalls will be managed by Tibba Smith (254-595-1109). Anyone not checking into their assigned stall or stalls by December 17 at 4 p.m. (Central Time) or notifying Tibba Smith to release their stall or stalls by the deadline specified above, may be subject to a \$250 fine. All horses MUST be removed from the grounds no later

than noon (Central Time) December 20. Any horse remaining in a stall after this deadline will be relocated at the contestant's expense and a \$1,000 fine will be assessed, progressively doubling every 24-hours the horse remains on site, to the contestant assigned to the stall.

- C. Shavings may not be brought anywhere on the WRMC campus. Anyone caught violating this policy will be assessed a fine of \$100 for each occurrence. Four (4) bags of shavings will be provided initially for each stall. Additional shavings can be purchased at the stall office.
- D. NO PETS will be allowed in the arena.
- E. The WPRA NBF Contestant back number will be the credential for admission to all areas.
- F. Each WPRA NBF Contestant will receive one (1) complimentary spectator ticket. Each contestant will be allowed to purchase up to seven (7) additional tickets for a total of eight tickets per performance. Payment for purchased tickets will be deducted from the guarantee funds for each contestant.
- G. Each WPRA NBF Contestant will receive one (1) complimentary hotel room at the Home2Suites. Check-in will be on December 17. Check-out will be on December 20. Contestant complimentary room check-in or check-out times cannot be adjusted. Any contestant wishing to relinquish their hotel room must do so by December 1 by emailing Hannah Miller at hannahk@wpra.com. Failure to either check into the complimentary room or to release the room by the deadline specified above shall subject that person to a \$500 fine and room cancellation.

III. GENERAL:

- A. ALL CONTESTANTS WITH HORSES - Must have Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued within thirty (30) days and negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test, also known as a "Coggins" test, within the past twelve (12) months. Proof of Coggins test must be presented in either the original document or copy of the original document that has been approved by the Texas Animal Health Commission. Test date, accession number and name of laboratory must be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Exemption: Equine may enter shows, fairs, exhibitions or assemblies without a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection when accompanied by a valid equine interstate passport or equine identification card and a completed VA form 10-11 showing negative results to an official EIA test within the previous six (6) months.
- B. All participants by their participation in the WPRA NBF agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the WPRA Bylaws and Official Rodeo Rules and these Ground Rules.
- C. Enforcement and interpretation of the WPRA Bylaws and Official Rodeo Rules and these Ground Rules during the WPRA NBF shall be handled by the Judges.
- D. No WPRA NBF participant may wear or display in the competition arena of the

WPRA NBF any Patch of Signage of a Conflicting Rodeo Association as defined under WPRA Rule 19.1.

- E. All cattle must be ear-tagged before they arrive.
- F. The extra animals which may be run after the performance cannot be run by contestants in that event. Violation of this ground rule will constitute, to the contestant in violation, an initial \$500 fine and will be progressively doubled for each violation thereafter.
- G. No horses used in WPRA NBF competition can be used to run the extra animals after each performance. Violation of this ground rule will constitute, to the contestant(s) competing on the horse in violation, an initial \$500 fine and will be progressively doubled for each violation thereafter. Any contestant or member designated to run extras taking excessive time to exit the arena will be fined \$250 for the first occurrence, with that fine progressively doubling with each additional occurrence.
- H. The Breakaway Roping Director(s) will designate person or persons to run the extras.
 - 1. Horses used to run extras cannot be later used in WPRA NBF competition.
 - 2. Those persons roping the extras will be subject to all rules and regulations of the WPRA, as well as any WPRA NBF ground rules.
- I. If in the opinion of the Chute Boss and/or the Judges if a contestant is not "ready when called" the contestant will be subject to a penalty. By definition, "ready when called" shall mean that the contestant must be riding into the box when the previous animal leaves the arena.

Contestants must take their stock within 45 seconds of receiving 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, she 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 (2) minutes in the box, the result will be disqualification from that go-round.

- J. Contestant must come straight from the back pens to the holding pen on the timed event end and then straight from holding pen to the box when called. Any contestant who circles in the arena at any time will be fined \$100.
- K. Rattling the gates (to get horse to score), will constitute a \$250 fine to be progressively doubled thereafter to the person doing the rattling and/or the contestant involved.
- L. Contestants will enter arena through the back of the timed event box. Contestants cannot go past the plane of the barrier once pulled. Fine for failure

to enter arena accordingly, unless otherwise approved by the WPRA NBF Committee, will be \$100 for first offense and progressively doubled thereafter. Contestants must exit arena immediately after competition. Any contestant taking excessive time to enter or exit the arena will be fined \$250 for the first occurrence, with that fine progressively doubling with each additional occurrence.

- M. No more than one person (entered contestant) in the box if so requested by contestant.
- N. Only one horse in the box.
- O. A contestant must have their hat on their head while in box, with no assistance in keeping it on or taking it off by another person.
- P. The judges have the authority to designate a replacement for an animal fighting or sulking in the chute.
- Q. If a timed event animal escapes or a rerun is awarded for any other reason, the extra will be used. Only escaped animals go back to the herd. The escaped animal will replace the extra that was used.
- R. Reruns will be taken during the same go-round for which the rerun is given except in the case of injuries to contestants as ruled on by the judges. Rerun must be taken before the start of the next-go-round, during a performance.
- S. The roper cannot throw her rope prior to contestant's horse breaking the plane of the barrier.
- T. The following conduct by any WPRA NBF participant may be punishable by fine of no less than \$250, ineligibility, suspension, suspension of WPRA privileges and/or expulsion, unless otherwise stated:
 - 1. Influencing a Pro Official. Attempting to bribe or influence through physical intimidation any Pro official at any time, in or out of the arena, or talking with a judge at a time when an event is in progress. WPRA Rule 9.3.11 & 9.3.3-9.3.5
 - 2. Harassing a Pro Official or Spectator. Engaging in, or attempting to engage in, any action threatening, berating, harassing, or intimidating a rodeo official, a rodeo spectator, any official representative or employee of the PRCA, WPRA or any Member. WPRA Rules 9.3.14 & 9.3.17
- U. Unruly or unmanageable animals, including contestants' horses that endanger WPRA NBF personnel, contestants, or spectators, or that disrupt the production of the WPRA NBF, may be disqualified by the Judges from further use.
- V. Any contestant using foul language in the arena, either audibly or by obviously mouthing the words, will be fined in accordance with WPRA Rule 9.3.17 Conduct Detrimental to Public Image and will be assessed a minimum initial fine of \$250.

- W. 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. If available, patches will be distributed at check-in. Failure to adhere to this rule shall result in a \$100 fine for the first offense, with that fine progressively doubling for each offense thereafter.

IV. DRAWING OUT:

- A. A WPRA NBF contestant may not compete at or participate in any other rodeo or jackpot from the date of WPRA NBF contestant check-in through and including the date of the final performance of the WPRA NBF.
- B. If for any reason a contestant is unable to compete, the next contestant in the WPRA Pro Rodeo Breakaway World Standings season standings will be substituted. Substitutions will not be allowed after the first go-round is completed. The qualified contestant will receive 50% of the guaranteed prize money, the jacket, the back number and 50% of the contestant tickets available. The remaining 50% of the guaranteed prize money, the hotel room, an additional back number, the complimentary ticket and 50% of the tickets available for purchase will go to the replacement.
- C. If a contestant qualifies for the WPRA NBF, accepts the guaranteed prize money and does not compete in the WPRA NBF in the year of her qualification, said contestant shall immediately become ineligible with the WPRA and will remain ineligible until such guaranteed money is returned. In addition, the WPRA may determine further offenses which would subject the member to additional fines, ineligibility, suspension, suspension of WPRA privileges and/or expulsion unless otherwise stated.

V. FORMAT:

- A. Ten go-rounds. The first five go rounds will be run on December 18, starting at 7 p.m. The sixth through tenth go-rounds will be run on December 19, starting at 7 p.m.
- B. There will be a designated pusher for all contestants.
- C. There will be an additional liner past the score line.

VI. TURNING OUT STOCK:

- A. Contestant must accept and compete in first go-round to be eligible for further competition at the WPRA NBF.
- B. An injured contestant may, with proper doctor's release from a medical doctor on the official WPRA NBF medical staff, turn out. Contestant must notify a judge of her intention to turn out prior to the next go round and provide him with the

official doctor release from the WPRA NBF medical staff, no later than two (2) hours prior to the performance or prior to the start of the next go-round if the contestant is injured during a performance. Failure to abide by this deadline will result in a \$250 fine.

- C. All contestants competing in a performance must give an honest effort. Failure to give an honest effort as defined herein will result in a fine of \$500 per occurrence, progressively doubling thereafter. Additionally, if it is determined that a contestant did not give an honest effort, she will be disqualified from the go-round in which the violation occurred. For purposes of this ground rule, whether a contestant gives an honest effort will be determined as follows:
- D. A contestant who fails to ride, using appropriate equipment, her horse across the score line (unless the judges rule she was fouled leaving the box) shall automatically be deemed not to have given an honest effort. Once the contestant has ridden her horse across the score line, it is the sole responsibility of the judges to determine whether the contestant gives an honest effort. In making this determination, judges should consider whether the contestant has made a good faith effort to successfully complete the event and record a time.

VII. PAYOFF:

- A. Each of the ten go-rounds will pay six places with eight to be paid in the ten-head average. Average will pay three times the go-round.
- B. All go-round monies and average money will be paid following the final go-round.
- C. Each contestant will receive a \$1,500 stipend.
- D. Total prize money: \$350,000

Guaranteed Prize money: \$22,500

Competition prize money: \$327,500

Each go-round: \$25,217.50

Average: \$75,325

1. \$7,313.08

1. \$19,961.13

2. \$6,052.20

2. \$16,194.88

3. \$4,791.33

3. \$12,805.25

4. \$3,530.45

4. \$9,415.63

5. \$2,269.58

5. \$6,779.25

6. \$1,260.88

6. \$4,896.13

7. \$3,389.63

8. \$1,883.13

VIII. CONTEST RULES:

- A. Only clean bell collar catch will be legal.
 1. The calf's whole head must pass through the loop or contestant will be disqualified. The loop must be drawn up around the neck with no extremities in the loop and in front of the tail head, when string breaks.
 2. If any extremities are in the loop when the string breaks, ex. Figure 8, a tail or leg, rope dropped below tail head, etc. the run will be considered a no time. If the string breaks with the extremity in the loop and then goes back around the neck of the calf, the run will still be a "no time." If an extremity gets in the loop after flagger has dropped the flag, run will be legal.
 3. One or more spotters will be positioned on the opposite side from the flag judge, to watch for extremities in the loop when the string breaks.
- B. Breaking Plane of Barrier/Neck Ropes
 1. Neck ropes must be tied with string. Adjustable slide shall be used on all neck ropes for cattle used in the breakaway roping.
- C. Drawing to follow WPRA Rule 13.6.
- D. Barrier malfunctions will be handled in accordance with WPRA Rule 13.4.
- E. The following rules in the WPRA Rulebook will also be enforced.
 1. 12.10.2.-12.10.11.– Only one loop will be permitted.
 2. 13.1.2.2.
 3. 13.2.2.1.1.
 4. 13.5.2.-13.5.3.
- F. When a specific WPRA rule does not apply and no approved ground rules are posted, the appropriate PRCA ruling as interpreted by the contest judge shall apply. The decision of the judge shall be final. (Rule 13.1.5)
- G. Contestants must use string provided by the WPRA NBF committee to tie rope to contestants' saddle horn.
- H. There will be five pens of cattle.
- I. After completion of a competition, contestant must exit through the riding event end of the arena, as directed by the Production Manager. Failure to exit as directed will constitute a \$500 fine, progressively doubling with each offense.

IX. COMPETITION ORDER:

- A. First through ninth go-rounds: Reverse of Season Standings coming into the WPRA NBF, dropping down two contestants to begin the competition of each go-round.
 - 1. 1st go-round: Reverse of season standings
 - 2. 2nd go-round: Start with woman in 13th position through 1st; pick up 15th through 14th
 - 3. 3rd go-round: Start with woman in 11th position through 1st; pick up 15th through 12th
 - 4. 4th go-round: Start with woman in 9th position through 1st; pick up 15th through 10th
 - 5. 5th go-round: Start with woman in 7th position through 1st; pick up 15th through 8th
 - 6. 6th go-round: Start with woman in 5th position through 1st; pick up 15th through 6th
 - 7. 7th go-round: Start with woman in 3rd position through 1st; pick up 15th through 4th
 - 8. 8th go-round: Start with woman in 1st position; pick up 15th through 2nd
 - 9. 9th go-round: Start with woman in 14th position through 1st; pick up 15th
- B. Tenth go-round: Reverse of WPRA Pro Rodeo Breakaway World Standings following ninth go-round World Standings coming into the WPRA NBF + WPRA NBF earnings.
- C. Changes to split horses must be authorized by the Chute Boss. The Chute Boss shall notify the WPRA NBF Arena Secretary prior to the start of each go-round if splits occur.

X. DRAWING STOCK & RUNNING CATTLE:

- A. The order of the draw will be the same as the competition order.
- B. The following procedure will be in place for running the calves at Will Rogers Memorial Center:
 - 1. Entire herd will be run through the chutes once.
 - 2. Then calves will be run through one more time in groups of five without being pushed.
 - 3. Contestants will breakaway rope the calves one (1) time. The chute boss will determine the time and establish the order.

4. Calves may be lined on right and left side during run through.

XI. REQUIRED EVENTS:

Contestants who are not present at functions where gifts are presented will not be allowed to receive the gifts at a later time unless approved by the WPRA.

A. Thursday, December 17, 2026

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| 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Stall check-in at Will Rogers Memorial Center (WRMC) |
| 1:15 p.m. | Contestant Orientation meeting - Any contestant missing this deadline will receive a cash fine of \$250 which must be paid to official secretary before she can compete. |
| 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Run breakaway calves |

Saturday, December 19, 2026

- | | |
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| 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. | Official headshots and top 15 group photo (western attire required). |
| 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. | Official autograph session Will Rogers Memorial Center |

- B. An official back number ceremony will be held Thursday, December 17 starting at 7 p.m. Failure to attend and receive contestant back number will result in disqualification unless otherwise approved by the WPRA.
- C. All contestants are required to attend an official autograph session at Will Rogers Memorial Center (WRMC) on December 19 from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Failure to attend will result in a \$1,000 fine.