

+ 2027 Ground Rules

**National Western Stock Show – WPRA Barrel Racing
January 14-24, 2027**

1. Only actual contestant and one companion allowed gate access. Contestant parking will be for contestants only.
2. ALL EVENTS - The "30-hour replacement" policy will be in effect. See Rodeo Entry Information page of the business journal.
3. TRADE DEADLINE, (). All confirmed trades will be final and will be processed immediately after both involved parties have confirmed through PROCOM.
4. ALL QUALIFYING CONTESTANTS - Will have a grace period to change preferences and/or buddy groups (). No draw outs will be accepted during their grace period.
5. ALL CONTESTANTS - Must check-in at the trailer located in the contestant parking area and sign a release of liability and pick up back number before competing. Each contestant will be given a back number, which must be worn/or displayed at all times in the competition area and surrounding backstage areas.
6. ALL CONTESTANTS - Each contestant will be given a back number which must be worn and/or displayed at all times while in competition area or backstage area.
7. ALL CONTESTANTS WITH HORSES - Must have proof of current health papers and negative Coggins test. Health papers to be checked at the stalling office, prior to unloading horses, and will be asked to fill out a Participation Declaration. No exceptions.
8. STALLS - All stalls will be available to contestants at \$20 per night (includes one bag of shavings) for Jan. 13-24 beginning Wed. evening after 4 PM. First come first serve. Parking of contestant's vehicles and horse trailers must be in area designated by the NWSS parking lot operator.
9. The National Western Stock Show is hosting a qualifier for contestants not already pre-seated based on the 2026 standings in the rodeo. The National Western Stock Show will consist of a total of 80 contestants– 40 from pre-determined standings (see below) and then 40 from the qualifier. Entries from the pre-determined standings into The National Western Stock Show will be filled in the following order:
 - The top 28 contestants from the 2026 Pro Rodeo World Standings (drop down until filled)
 - The top 2 from the 2026 WPRA Tour Standings (drop down until filled)
 - The top 5 from the 2027 Pro Rodeo World Standings based on winnings seven days prior to the National Western Stock Show entry closing (drop down until filled)



- The top 5 from the 2026 Pro Rodeo Mountain States Circuit Standings as of Sept. 23, 2026 (drop down until filled)
 - The contestants who are among the top 28 in the 2026 Pro Rodeo World Standings will not be accepted as entries for the Qualifier. All others may enter the Denver Qualifier on October 19.
- 10. FORMAT: 40 qualifying contestants from the qualifier will be placed in the performances at the National Western Stock Show, along with the 40 contestants qualifying through standings.
- 11. FORMAT - Two go-rounds, back-to-back, performance-to-performance, plus a semi-finals and a finals.
 - Eight brackets with 10 contestants in each bracket, competing in two go-rounds, back-to-back, performance-to-performance, will account for the first 16 performances.
 - The top three contestants from each bracket based on the average after the two go-rounds in each of the eight brackets will advance to the semi-finals.
 - If ties result in more than three to advance from a bracket to the semi-finals, the tied contestant with the single fastest time will advance.
 - If still tied, the tied contestant with the highest ranking in the 2026 WPRA World Standings in that respective event will advance.
 - If there are less than 3 qualified times in one or more of the brackets, the contestant with the fastest time in her section of brackets who has not already qualified in the top 3 of her respective bracket will advance. The brackets will be divided into two sections. Section one includes brackets 1, 2, 3, and 4, and section two includes brackets 5, 6, 7 and 8.
 - The semi-finals will include 24 contestants competing in the 17th, 18th, and 19th performances (8 per performance) all occurring on Saturday, January 23. A contestant must compete in all go-rounds in order to advance to the semi-finals or the finals (does not include VIR's and DR's). The contestants for the three semi-finals performances will be placed as follows: A contestant will be allowed to trade with a contestant from the same bracket who is placed in a different semi-final's performances.
 - Semi-finals #1 (17th performance) Saturday morning, Jan. 23 will compete in the following order: #1 in the average from Bracket 4, #3 in the average from Bracket 2, #2 in the average from Bracket 6, #1 in the average from Bracket 7, #3 in the average from Bracket 5, #1 in the average from Bracket 1, #3 in the average from Bracket 8, #2 in the average from Bracket 3.
 - Semi-finals #2 (18th performance) Saturday matinee, Jan. 23 will compete in the following order: #2 in the average from Bracket 1, #1 in the average from Bracket 5, #1 in the average from Bracket 8, #3 in the average from Bracket 6, #3 in the average from Bracket 3, #2 in the average from Bracket 7, #1 in the average from Bracket 2, #2 in the average from Bracket 4.
 - Semi-finals #3 (19th performance) Saturday evening, Jan. 23 will compete in the following order: #1 in the average from Bracket 3, #2 in the average from Bracket 8, #2 in the average from Bracket 2, #1 in the average from Bracket 6, #3 in the average from Bracket 1, #3 in

the average from Bracket 4, #3 in the average from Bracket 7, #2 in the average from Bracket 5.

- The top 4 from each of the semi-final's performances will advance to the finals on Sunday, January 24th (20th performance).
 - The contestants for finals performance Sunday afternoon at 2:00pm will be placed as follows:
 - #4 from semi-finals 2, #1 from semi-finals 1, #1 from semi-finals 2, #4 from semi-finals 1, #1 from semi-finals 3, #2 from semi-finals 1, #3 from semi-finals 1, #2 from semi-finals 3, #2 from semi-finals 2, #3 from semi-finals 2, #3 from semi-finals 3, #4 from semi-finals 3.
 - If ties in a semi-finals performance results in more than 4 contestants qualified to advance to the finals, the tied contestant with the fastest time in the average from the brackets will advance.
 - If still tied, the tied contestant with the single fastest time from the brackets will advance.
 - If still tied, the tied contestant with the highest ranking in the 2026 WPRA Pro Rodeo World Standings will advance.
 - If there are less than 4 qualified times in one or more of the semi-finals performances, the contestant with the next fastest time from the other semi-finals performances, who has not already qualified among the top 4 of her respective performance, will advance.
 - If there are less than 12 qualified times in the 3 semi-finals performances, the remaining positions in the finals (not to exceed 12) will be filled by the contestant with the fastest time in the average from the two go-rounds in the brackets. If tied, the contestant with the single fastest time from the brackets will advance. If still tied, the contestant with the highest ranking in the 2026 WPRA Pro Rodeo World Standings will advance.
12. ALL EVENTS - If a contestant notifies a TO, VIR, or DR through PROCOM her position in the semi-finals will be filled by the contestant with the fastest average time in the same bracket as the contestant that TO, VIR, or DR that has not already advanced into the semi-finals. The replacement contestant will be placed in the same semi-finals position & draw as the contestant that is no longer competing.
- If there are no contestants eligible to replace the non-competing contestant within her same bracket, her position will be filled by the available contestant with the fast average time from ANY bracket that has not already advanced.
 - If there are no contestants eligible to replace the non-competing contestant from ANY bracket based on the average, the position will be filled by the contestant with the single fastest time in any bracket performance that has not already advanced.
 - If there are still no contestants to replace the non-competing contestant from the single fastest time, the position will be filled by the contestant with the highest ranking in the 2026 WPRA Pro Rodeo World Standings that has not already advanced.
 - This replacement process will be repeated until all positions in the semi-finals have been filled.
13. ALL EVENTS - If a contestant notified TO's, VIR's, VR, or DR her position in the finals will be filled by the available contestant with the fastest time in the same semi-final performance as the contestant that TO, VIR, VR, or DR that has not already advanced into the finals. The replacement contestant will be placed in the same finals position & draw as the contestant that is no longer competing.



- If no contestants are eligible to replace the non-competing contestant within their same semi-final, their position will be filled by the contestant within their same semi-final, their position will be filled by the contestant with the fastest time from ANY semi-final that has not already advanced.
 - If there are no contestants eligible to replace the non-competing contestant from ANY semi-final, the position will be filled by the semi-final contestant with the highest ranking in the 2026 WPRA Pro Rodeo World Standings that has not already advanced.
 - This replacement process will be repeated until all positions in the finals have been filled.
14. ALL CONTESTANTS - No contestant will be held past her bracket for any reason.
15. PATTERN: The barrel pattern will be set before the event begins on January 9th.
- The barrel pattern will be set using a laser eye in place of ground stakes.
 - This pattern may be used for the NWSS Colorado vs. the World and the NWSS Horse Show.
16. RAKE: In ALL Performances the ground will be hand raked after each run. NWSS will drag the barrel pattern after 5 runs (not entries) during the go-round performances, 4 runs in the semi-finals and 6 runs in the finals.
17. PAYOFF: After the 6% is retained for the PRCA, 45% of the remaining amount will be allotted for the first two go- rounds (22.5% for each go-round) and each go-round will play 8 places. 30% will be allotted to the semi-finals (10% for each of the three semi-finals performances) and will each pay 4 places. 25% will be allotted to the finals which will pay 8 places. There will be no average payoff. If there are less qualified times in the semi-finals than there are places to be paid, ground money will be paid to contestants who did have a qualified time (in accordance with R5.5.3). If there are less qualified times in the finals than there are places to be paid, the remaining places will be paid to contestants with no score in the finals based on highest score in the semi-finals. All money paid out for the semi-finals and the finals will count towards WPRA Pro Rodeo World Standings.
18. ALL CONTESTANTS - Must compete in all go-rounds in order to advance to the semi-finals or finals (does not include DR's or VIR's)
19. Entry fee & Procom fees to be determined by the WPRA and approved by the National Western Stock Show.
20. All participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the WPRA and PRCA Bylaws and Official Rodeo Rules and these Ground Rules.
21. The management reserves the right to refuse the competition of any contestant who has violated the general rules or has been dishonest in the competitions of the National Western Stock Show.



22. DOGS - It is recommended by the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) that pets are left at home. If pets do travel with you, owners assume all liability for pets brought to the show. Pets are not permitted to be loose on competition grounds and all pets must be on leashes or otherwise contained. No dogs will be allowed in the barns or arenas at any time. Any pet found loose will be detained by the show until a fine is paid. Any pet owner whose pet disrupts the show will be required to pay a \$100.00 fine to NWSS (Exception: service animals aiding individuals or those dogs under contract with the NWSS). As a courtesy, pet owners are required to pick up and dispose of all animal waste in the appropriate areas.
23. All PRCA/WPRA cards and Gold cards will grant ground access only. Not a seat ticket.
24. Each contestant will be given a back number, which must be worn and/or displayed at all times in the competition arena and surrounding backstage areas.
25. Coats and jackets must be removed before entering the arena so that the back number is visible at all times.
26. When a contestant is finished competing she should exit the arena.
27. Friends and families of contestants are not allowed to enter the arena at any time.
28. Arena is to be clear of non-competing contestants at all times.
29. All contestants may receive one ticket per performance in the performances in which they are competing (limited number of tickets). Contestant tickets must sit in designated areas.
30. Contestant may receive one helper pass. Helper must display pass at all times when in arena or behind chutes. Helper will abide by same ground rules as contestant. All helpers must sign a release to receive a pass. Anyone who transfers back number or helper pass will be subject to a \$500 fine.
31. Contestants with family or friends traveling with them must visit the check-in trailer to sign a waiver and receive a companion general admission ticket in order to gain access to rodeo hospitality and other restricted areas.
32. Contestants must be ready when called by judges and/or Chute Boss (in agreement with judges).
33. Parking of contestant's vehicles and horse trailers must be in area designated by the NWSS parking lot operator. NWSS will issue a parking pass to each contestant, granting them access to the parking lot during their drawn bracket. Contestant must revisit the check-in trailer to receive a new parking pass should the contestant progress to the semi-finals.