

2023 Texas Circuit Finals Rodeo

October 10-13, 2023

GROUND RULES

I. QUALIFIERS

- A. Only 12 contestants per event (12 headers and 12 heelers) will be able to compete in the 2023 Texas Circuit Finals Rodeo (“FINALS”) based on the Texas Circuit Standings as of September 25, 2023.

II. GENERAL

- A. By confirming your intent to compete in the FINALS to be held at the Extraco Events Center in Waco, TX, October 10 – 13, 2023, you agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of these ground rules, and any other Addenda and Exhibits to these Ground Rules, the PRCA and the WPRA Bylaws and Official Rodeo Rules, and any other applicable rules, including all releases of liability set forth in those documents.
- B. Each person who qualifies to compete must also complete and sign the “PRCA/WPRA Release and Waiver and Choice of Venue” form, and this document must be received by the Rodeo Secretary prior to the first scheduled competition in order to be eligible to compete.
- C. The event winner for each performance must be prepared to take a victory lap following his/her event at the Texas Circuit Finals Rodeo. In addition, immediately following the last bull rider all event winners for each performance are to be prepared to walk to a designated location (set by the Production Manager) for introduction. Failure to participate in any one of these functions will result in a \$100.00 fine for each violation.
- D. Nightly event winners are required to attend an autograph session immediately following each performance at a designated area. Unless excused due to injury, failure to participate in the autograph session shall result in an initial \$250.00 fine, that fine doubling progressively for each reported offense thereafter.
- E. No FINALS participant may wear or display in the Extraco Events Center or competition arena of the FINALS (including the areas behind the chutes and the grounds) any patch or signage (as defined in the PRCA “Rules & Regulations Governing Advertising in an Arena”) which is in conflict with, or opposed to, PRCA’s and/or Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Properties, Inc. National Sponsors, unless registered by PRCA Properties in the 2023 PRCA Patch Program. WPRA contestants see WPRA Rule 19.1.1.
- F. A contestant in each event will be chosen to represent a sponsor team. Sponsor team participants will be selected prior to the first performance. There will be teams and each contestant will be designated to a sponsor team. Each team member will be required to wear a back number during the FINALS.
- G. Each contestant will be furnished a FINALS back number, which must be worn and displayed in its entirety at all times when in the competition arena. If a contestant has an existing patch sponsorship involving the cantle/yoke of the shirt, then that contestant may wear the FINALS back number immediately below the existing cantle/yoke patch. If a contestant elects to wear a protective vest or jacket, then that contestant must wear the FINALS back number in the same location on the vest or jacket. Failure to wear the FINALS back number in its entirety as outlined above will result in a fine of \$1,000.00 for the first offense, \$2,000.00 for the second offense, \$4,000.00 for the third offense, and disqualification for the fourth and subsequent offense. A contestant may be fined without warning and may be subject to immediate disqualification.

H. All contestants competing in a performance must give an honest effort. If it is determined by a unanimous vote of all PRCA Judges assigned to officiate that event that a contestant did not give an honest effort, he will be (i) disqualified from the go-round in which the violation occurred and any remaining go-rounds and (ii) assessed a fine in the amount of \$5,000. For purposes of this ground rule, whether a contestant gives an honest effort will be determined as follows:

- i. **Riding Events:** In the riding events, a contestant who fails to ride, using appropriate equipment, his horse or bull out of the chute (except in the case of a chute stalling animal or unless the Pro Officials rule the contestant was fouled coming out of the chute) shall automatically be deemed not to have given an honest effort. Specifically, the bareback riding contestant must have his hand in the rigging until the inside shoulder of the horse crosses the plane of the chute gate; the saddle bronc riding contestant must have feet in the stirrups, seat in the saddle and rein in his hand when the inside shoulder of the horse crosses the plane of the chute gate; and the bull riding contestant must have his hand in bull rope when the inside shoulder of the bull crosses the plane of the chute gate. Once the contestant has ridden the horse/bull out of the chute, it is the sole responsibility of the PRCA Judges to determine whether a contestant gives an honest effort. In making this determination, PRCA Judges should consider whether the contestant has made a good faith effort to complete his ride.
 - ii. **Timed Events:** In the timed events, a contestant who fails to ride, using appropriate equipment, his horse across the score line (unless the PRCA Judges rule he was fouled leaving the box) shall automatically be deemed not to have given an honest effort. Once the contestant has ridden his horse across the score line, it is the sole responsibility of the PRCA Judges to determine whether a contestant gives an honest effort. In making this determination, PRCA Judges should consider whether the contestant has made a good faith effort to successfully complete the event and record a time.
 - iii. **Barrel Race:** In the barrel race, a contestant who fails to ride, using appropriate equipment, her horse through the electric eye (unless the PRCA Judges rule the contestant's horse refuses beyond the contestant's control) shall automatically be deemed not to have given an honest effort. Once the contestant has ridden her horse through the electric eyes, it is the sole responsibility of the PRCA Judges to determine whether a contestant gives an honest effort. In making this determination, PRCA Judges should consider whether the contestant has made a good faith effort to successfully complete the event and record a time.
- I. Any contestant using foul language in the arena, either audibly or by obviously mouthing the words, or using inappropriate gestures will be fined in accordance with Bylaws, of the PRCA Rulebook or the WPRA Rulebook, Conduct Detrimental to Public Image and will be assessed a minimum initial fine of \$500.00, that fine doubling progressively for each offense thereafter.

III. CHECK-IN

- A. Contestants, FINALS Officials, and FINALS Contract Personnel are required to check-in at the Rodeo Secretary's office (or designated area determined by the Extraco Events Center President/CEO or his designee) at the Extraco Events Center in Waco, TX between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. prior to the first go round of competition. At that time, each contestant will receive a packet of information and credentials. Failure to check-in during this time will result in a \$250.00 fine.
- B. Contestants will receive no more than one free ticket for each performance. PRCA/WPCA companion passes will not be honored for admission to the grounds or the Extraco Coliseum (rodeo venue).
- C. Stalls will be on a first come, first served basis. All contestant horses must be removed from the stalls no later than Noon on Sunday, October 15th, 2023. Failure to do so shall result in a \$500.00 fine per horse left in the stalls past the deadline.

- D. Steer wrestling contestants are to report the name of their hazer and their PRCA card number to the Rodeo Secretary at the time of check-in. Any hazer who is not already a contestant must have a back number, which entitles only that person access to the arena area. Hazers for the FINALS must have been active PRCA members in the 2023 Rodeo Year.

IV. MEETING/REHEARSAL

- A. All contestants (scheduled to compete in that night's performance), stock contractors, FINALS Officials, and FINALS Contract Personnel are required to attend a meeting and rehearsal **PRIOR TO THE FIRST PERFORMANCE**, scheduled at 2:30 p.m., in the rodeo arena in the Extraco Coliseum in Waco, TX.

- i. First Performance: Meeting & Rehearsal Tuesday, October 10th at 2:30 p.m.**

- B. All rehearsals/meetings will require all contestants to sign-in and attend the meeting/rehearsal until dismissed. Any contestant failing to sign-in and/or attend a meeting or rehearsal as required may result in a \$250.00 fine for each event missed.

V. FORMAT

- A. The FINALS will be a four-performance rodeo. Each performance will consist of a full go round of 12 contestants.

- i. Steer Roping will be 4 go-rounds of 12 contestants held in one day beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, in the Extraco Coliseum.

- B. Tie Breakers:

- i. FINALS Winner: If there is a tie refer to the Texas Circuit Finals Standings.
 - ii. Nightly Winners: If a tie exists for nightly event winners in first 3 performances, one set of prizes will be given by the Committee and the winner will be determined as listed above in B1.

VI. TIMED EVENTS

- A. All contestants with animals must have the following documents for their animals in order to participate in the FINALS:

- i. Necessary and required admission and travel documents based on current Texas Animal Health Commission including, but not limited to:

- 1. Current Coggins test

- B. Cattle used in the timed events shall be selected by the Texas Circuit Event Directors. Selected timed event stock contractors will provide one animal for every contestant plus extras.

- C. Any contestant who circles in the arena at any time will be fined \$100.00.

- D. Rattling the gates in the timed event chutes (to get a horse to score) will result in a \$250.00 fine which will progressively double for each violation thereafter.

- E. If a contestant is not ready when called, the Chute Boss, in agreement with the PRCA Judges, or the PRCA Judges, may fine a contestant \$250.00 for the first offense, that fine progressively doubling thereafter. For purposes of these ground rules, "ready when called" shall be defined as the following: contestant must be riding into the box as directed by the Chute Boss or Production Manager when previous animal is excused from the arena. A 45 second time limit will be enforced on ready when called. Contestant and horse must promptly exit the arena or return immediately to the timed event end once run is complete.

- F. Timed event contestants will enter and exit the arena as directed by the Manager of Production.

- G. There shall be no more than one man in the box if so requested by the contestant. Only one horse in the box will be permitted.

- H. A contestant must have their hat on while in the box, with no assistance in keeping on or taking off said hat by another person.
- I. The PRCA Judges have the authority to designate a replacement for an animal fighting or sulking in the chute.
- J. Time Limits are as follows (not including penalties):
 - i. Tie Down Roping: 25 seconds
 - ii. Steer Wrestling: 60 seconds
 - iii. Team Roping: 30 seconds
 - iv. Ladies Breakaway: 30 seconds
 - v. Steer Roping: 30 seconds
- K. Calves will be tied prior to the first go-round of competition.
- L. The FINALS Committee shall designate a time for extras in each of the timed events to be run.
- M. If a timed event animal escapes the chute prior to the contestant calling for him, that contestant will automatically receive the first extra and will compete on that animal in the performance. The escaped animal will be put back into the herd.
- N. A contestant may not compete on the same animal in a round that he competed on in one of the previous go-rounds.
- O. Headers who drop their rope after completing competition will be fined \$100.00 for the first offense, with that fine progressively doubling thereafter.
- P. In the team roping, only two loops will be allowed.

VII. RIDING EVENTS

- A. Two Judges will be used to score each ride.
- B. Stock for the FINALS will be selected by the Texas Circuit Event Directors. Any performance pens set are subject to the final approval of the Director of Rodeo Administration, Texas Circuit Event Representatives and the Rodeo Committee.
- C. If a contestant is not ready when called, the Chute Boss, in agreement with the PRCA Judges, or the PRCA Judges, may fine said contestant \$250.00 for the first offense, that fine progressively doubling thereafter. Likewise, if a Stock Contractor or Stock Contractor's flank man is not ready when called, the Chute Boss in agreement with the PRCA Judges may fine said Stock Contractor \$250.00 for the first offense, that fine progressively doubling thereafter. For purposes of these ground rules, "ready when called" shall be defined as follows:
 - i. Bareback Riding: Contestant must be over horse with hand in rigging when previous horse leaves the arena.
 - ii. Saddle Bronc Riding: Contestant must have horse cinched (front & rear) with rein measured, and be in the chute, mounting the horse when the previous horse leaves the arena.
 - iii. Bull Riding: Contestant must be pulling rope when previous bull leaves the arena.
 - iv. Stock Contractor/Flank Man: Flank man must have the flank adjusted, gloves on if used, and ready when previous animal leaves the arena.
- D. The Chute Boss has the authority to assign a flank man in the absence of the livestock owner or his/her designated flank man.
- E. Should an animal refuse to be loaded into the chute, thus putting the production in jeopardy, the Livestock Superintendent can declare that animal unruly and dismiss it from that performance. In that case, the contestant who drew the unruly animal will be given a re-ride.

- F. If a drawn animal is turned out for any reason, that animal will become part of the re-ride pen for that performance and if necessary to use, that animal will be the first re-ride in the re-ride order.

VIII. BARREL RACE

- A. Barrel Racers must run in and run out. Running in means the horse must be running prior to entering the arena through the center gates. No walking into the arena. Venue specific ground rules will be posted in the secretary's office. Failure to adhere to these ground rules will result in a \$100 fine.
- B. All contestants with animals must have the following documents for their animals in order to participate in the FINALS:
 - i. Necessary and required admission and travel documents based on current Texas Animal Health Commission including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Current Coggins test
- C. If a contestant is not ready when called, the Arena Director, in agreement with the PRCA Judges, may fine contestant \$250.00 for the first offense, that fine progressively doubling thereafter. For purposes of these ground rules, "ready when called" shall be defined as the following: contestant must be ready to ride into alley when the "side" alley gate is opened.
- D. Barrel Racing contestants will enter and exit the arena directed by the Arena Director.
- E. Arena crew will drag with a tractor each barrel after every 4th contestant in the barrel race.

IX. LIVESTOCK

- A. Stock must be inspected by the Livestock Superintendent at the time of arrival and must be accompanied by current certified veterinary health papers and certificates as required by Texas Law. No sore, lame, sick, or injured animal will be accepted or paid for. This includes any animal with a wound that, in the PRCA's sole discretion, is cosmetically questionable.
- B. All bull horns must be tipped per PRCA Rule R7.10.5. Any bull delivered for the FINALS that require tipping of horns shall subject the stock contractor that is supplying that livestock to a single fine of \$250.00 per horn.
 - i. The bull must be tipped according to PRCA Rule R7.10.5 by the supplying stock contractor or their designee before the animal can be competed upon. Failure to tip the animal before competition will result in the animal being pulled from competition for the FINALS. The animal will not be considered acceptable and will not be paid for and a fine of \$1000.00 can be assessed to the supplying Stock Contractor's firm.
- C. In accordance with Rule R7.2.1 of the PRCA Rulebook, all riding event livestock must have an ownership brand of the PRCA-member Stock Contractor furnishing the livestock. A number brand is also required on all riding event livestock furnished for the FINALS. All brands must be readable and permanent. Failure to abide by the conditions of this ground rule may result in a fine of \$500 per animal, assessed to the supplying Stock Contractor's firm.
- D. Riding event livestock must be removed no later than 12:00 Noon, Sunday, October 15th, 2023. Failure to do so will result in a single \$500.00 fine.
- E. No horse or bull on which a bareback rigging, saddle, or bull rope normally cannot be placed and/or cinch pulled prior to being loaded in the chute will be eligible for the FINALS. If such an animal is brought, and thus causes a delay in production, the Stock Contractor will be fined \$250.00 for the first offense, with that fine progressively doubling.