

Florida Junior High School Rodeo Association

2025-2026

GROUND RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY

It is every member's responsibility to know the Ground Rules as well as the rules of the National High School Rodeo Association rulebook. Any rule that is NOT covered in these Ground Rules and additional rules can be found in the NHSRA rulebook.

MEMBERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISERS

The membership fees for the 2025-2026 are \$190.00 and are required to be paid upon joining the Florida Junior High School Rodeo Association. This includes NHSRA-Jr High Division membership dues are paid online (\$95.00), a state family membership for all immediate family members, contestant insurance, and contestant state membership (\$95.00) to be paid at 1st rodeo check-in, publishing fees, and a subscription to join both the NHSRA Times and Western Horseman Magazine. This fee is updated each season and can be found on the NHSRA application.

MANDATORY FUNDRAISER

Each rodeo contestant family is required to sell \$300.00 worth of raffle tickets which will be due by the **November** rodeo and the drawings for raffle prizes will be at State Finals.

New and returning members who join FJHSRA after the fundraising deadlines will still be required to pay all monies due.

RODEO CALL IN

Online call in via Equestevent.com will be implemented this year. **Call in will be available until the deadline is reached for each rodeo.** Late entries will only be accepted on the next day (Tuesday) starting at midnight after the regular call-in deadline and will continue until 11:59 pm. There is a \$100.00 fine for all late entries. Entry fees may be paid with credit card or check. All entry fees must be paid 30 minutes prior to the rodeo.

All regular season rodeos will be available on Equestevent.com. Contestants may enter any rodeo up until the regular call-in deadline posted on the FJHSRA website. Call in will not be reopened after the deadline.

The entry enrollment for Shooting will be posted prior to these events. All details including the entry procedure will be posted on the FJHSRA website at a future date.

BAD CHECKS

There will be a \$50.00 charge for all returned checks. After one returned check, you will be on a cash only basis. Contestant's points will be held until the account is paid in full.

BACK NUMBERS

You will be issued your back number at the first rodeo you attend. You are required to wear your back number (on your back), in the arena, and on or o the rodeo grounds whether competing or not. This also means traveling to and from home. If you lose your back number, see the State Secretary to purchase a replacement back number for \$5.00. There will be no refunds given. Do not get caught without your back number on. This is a requirement of the dress code and you will be penalized the same as for dress code rule violations.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are listed below. If you enter the rodeo and do not show up, you are responsible for paying the entry fees before you can compete in another FJHSRA rodeo. Entry fees are \$40.00 per event, per rodeo.

- Grounds fee: \$25.00 per contestant, per weekend.

TURN OUT RULE

Please see the NHSRA Rulebook. In addition, any contestant that turns out, without giving notification, from an event without visible injury to themselves or their horse must pay all their entry fees for that rodeo. An additional \$25.00 penalty fine for each event at said rodeo must also be paid. If notification of the turnout is given, you will be assessed the entry fees, but not the turnout penalty fee. This includes Cutting, Reined Cow Horse, and Shooting. The PRCA rule concerning this will be followed except for the "out time" pertaining to entering subsequent

rodeos. For FHSRA purposes, the Rodeo Secretary must be notified 24 hours prior to the first performance. A contestant or horse with a visible injury may turn out of any event at a rodeo without a doctor's/veterinarian's written excuse provided notification of such turn out is authorized by two directors at that given rodeo. Contestant may turn out of one event and does not have to turn out of all their events. Failure to attend will result in the above fees and penalty, no excuses, unless complied with as outlined above. This monies must be paid before competing in subsequent rodeos. For all rodeos, the Rodeo Secretary, in addition to the appropriate Directors, must be notified of visible injury turnouts.

TURN OUT FINES

Visible injury: No fees and no fines

Vet release: No fees and no fines

Doctor's release: No fees and no fines

Notified turn out: Fees and no fines

Non-notified turn out: Fees and fines

PERMIT (ONE TIME) RIDERS

Any Junior high school student enrolled in an accredited school who is in the 5th,6th,7th, or 8th grade, may enter one FJHSRA Rodeo. The student must follow all FJHSRA rules, including the following:

- o Contestant will receive no points
- o Must have notarized release form prior to competing
- o Must pay \$30.00 for insurance and handling of paperwork in addition to entry fees and grounds fees (\$15.00 may be applied towards full membership, provided they join prior to next rodeo)
- o Must enter during entry enrollment and check back to verify time to perform (members will have preference of performances)

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Please refer to the National High School Rodeo Association rule book under Contestant Qualifications items 2-3. Contestants must turn in proof of "Good Standing" with at least 70% of classes taken meeting the minimum proficiency required by the State of Florida with their Membership application AND prior to the State Finals Contest. In addition to NHSRA requirements, there will be a 4-week enrollment requirement for any student that withdraws from or enrolls in another school for proof of good standing to be issued/accepted. If you have any questions, please contact the report card secretary listed on the website.

DRESS CODE

When required, members, directors, officers, and helpers must be in complete western attire, approved pants, hat, boots which must have a heel and cannot be riding sneakers, belt, and long-sleeved western shirt. Members may remove their belt while competing, but it must be on at all other times. All shirts must have a collar. Shirt sleeves are to be worn rolled down. (See the NHSRA Rulebook for the only exception to this rule). Girls wearing low rise jeans must make sure shirt stays tucked in.

Contestants must be in dress code for the State Finals Banquet and all mandatory meetings. We will be abiding by the NHSRA Patch Program. The above-described dress code is required as specified in the NHSRA Rulebook.

FJHSRA members must be in official dress when in the stands or within 50 feet of the arena, whether competing or not. Contestants must be in official dress 30 minutes prior to rodeo starting and until the last contestant has completed. Back numbers must be worn on your back at all times, whether competing or not.

Members will be given a warning for the first offense. If they are caught out of dress code again, they will be assessed a \$25.00 fine or the option to work it off Sunday afternoon during the Pole Bending event and the breakdown of the arena.

Dances/Socials: Contestants are required to wear back numbers at all contestant dances except for PROM. T-shirts with crew neck collars and sleeves may be worn, but no low-cut shirts are allowed. NO CUT-OFF, MIDRIFF, or SLEEVELESS SHIRTS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED. Shirts MUST be tucked in. Any messages on clothing must be positive and cannot advertise alcohol or tobacco products. Western boots and hats are optional. Queen must wear banners and numbers to contestant dances. Any attire deemed inappropriate by an adult chaperone or director/officer must be changed before admittance to the dance will be allowed.

HAT RULE

All contestants must wear a western hat or helmet when they compete. Barrel racers, pole benders, and goat tiers will receive a 5 second penalty if they enter the plane of the arena without their hat on their head. If you are not sure where the plane of the arena starts, you will need to ask the arena director or event director for clarification. Any contestant that shows intentional placement of hat or shaking of head causing loss of hat will result in a 10 second penalty issued by the judge.

POINTS SYSTEM

Option:2

Points may be contested until the final performance of the following rodeo. Please contact the Points Secretary directly with questions or concerns about points. FJHSRA will count all points from 100% of the rodeos to qualify for the State Finals and National Finals in each event. The top 15 in each event will qualify for the State Finals. Contestants must compete in 5 out of 9 qualifying rodeos in a particular event and receive points in that event to be eligible to compete at State Finals in that event. Average points will be awarded to the top 10 contestants in each event at the State Finals. The All-Around Cowboy and Cowgirl will be determined for the year by total points earned in all events throughout the season, plus points earned at Finals, regardless of whether they have entered those events in their State Finals, provided they have entered their State Finals.

ROOKIE AWARDS

Rookie Cowboy and Cowgirl will be chosen on points the same as All Around. To be eligible for rookie, it must be your first year competing in NHSRA. Rookie buckles will be given at the year-end awards banquet.

YEAR END AWARD REQUIREMENTS

For a saddle or saddle voucher to be awarded for an event there must be 3 or more contestants in that event for the association to be responsible for event saddle. The contestant must have received a minimum of 1 point, and in the top 15 in their event to qualify for State finals.

The contestant must attend the banquet, National meeting to receive awards. This is MANDATORY.

ROUGH STOCK

A safety vest and mouthpiece are to be worn in all rough stock events. NO EXCEPTIONS. All contestants are required to complete a safety inspection with the adult event director prior to competing. The adult event director has the authority to mandate if equipment is unsafe to compete with and require a replacement prior to competing. All rough stock riggings must conform to NHSRA standards. Bull riders are required to wear a helmet. Bareback steer riding and Saddle Bronc steer riding are considered rough stock. A qualified ride in the Bull riding consists of 8 seconds. A qualified ride in the Bareback Steer riding and Saddle Bronc Riding consists of 6 seconds.

Barrier Equipment

The use of a quick connect barrier can be used in the timed events.

RIBBON ROPING

Contestants will be allowed 1 loop in the ribbon roping with a 30 second time limit. This will apply in all state rodeos. Any catch is legal, catch as catch can rule. Rope must hold calf until roper is touching the calf. Each contestant in ribbon roping will receive individual points earned of the same value as contestants in other events. Partners points will be added together to form a team at state finals. End-of- the year champions will be the high point roper and runner. If your partner fails to show upon is injured and cannot compete in the ribbon roping a draw partner from the ribbon roping will be made for you. This is a boy/girl event. Either a boy or girl can rope.

GIRL'S/BOY'S BREAKAWAY

Contestants will be allowed 2 loops in breakaway. If the contestant intends to use 2 loops, they must carry 2 loops/ There will be a 30 second time limit at all state rodeos. The calf's head must pass through the loop. Boys who compete in the breakaway are not allowed to tie-down. TIE-DOWN Contestant will be allowed 2 loops in tie-down. If the contestant intends to use 2 loops, they must carry 2 loops. There will be a 30 second time limit at all state rodeos. Boys who compete in breakaway are not allowed to tie- down.

CHUTE DOGGING

There will be a 30 second time limit at all state rodeos. Dogger must keep right hand in front of or behind shoulder until the steer crosses the score line.

TEAM ROPING

You will be allowed three loops in team roping with a 60 second time limit. If the front foot is in the loop when the header dallies, turns o , and changes direction of the steer, there will be an automatic NO TIME. If your partner fails to show up or is injured and cannot compete in the team roping, you will be drawn a partner from within the team ropers entered at that rodeo. The drawn partner will not earn points. Each contestant in team roping will receive individual points earned of the same value as contestants in other events. Partners points will be added together to form a team at State Finals. Champions will be the end of the year high point header and heeler. If either partner is disqualified at State Finals, both are out of team roping.

GIRL'S/BOY'S GOAT TYING

There will be a 30 second time limit at all state rodeos. arena help will not catch the contestant`s horse until the flag has been dropped. Goats will be divided by the number of contestants. The goats will remain on the stake for the number of runs that is necessary. (EX: If there are 40 contestants and 10 goats, then each goat will go 4 times in a row.)

BARRELS

Barrel racing contestants may not ride the same horse. Barrel drags will be determined by the management of the rodeo which consists of the event director, judges, vice president, national director, and rodeo host committee.

POLES

Pole bending contestants may not ride the same horse. If running pattern towards stock pens, no stock will be loaded. Pole drags will be determined by the management of the rodeo which consists of the event director, judges, vice president, national director, and rodeo host committee.

SHOOTING

Information can be found on the website regarding the schedule, locations, and entry information.

Shooting points are separate from the rodeo. Shooting points will follow the same point system at the rodeo except they DO NOT apply to the rodeo. Contestants must compete in at least 75% of the scheduled matches in a particular event (rifle) to be eligible to compete in the event at State Finals.

ALL EVENTS

In all events, the adult event director may disqualify a contestant if they cannot compete in a timely manner for safety reasons. All contestants will be given 2 attempts to enter the arena or start their run, at which time they will be placed on a 1-minute clock. All chain, metal, and wire tiedowns, nosebands, and bosals must be covered.

STATE FINALS

If available, State Finals stock will be drawn with one stock per contestant.

TIES AND TIE BREAKERS

All ties will be handled as follows: Points will be split equally between the contestants. Awards/buckles awarded at rodeos throughout the year and at State Finals will be duplicated, except for the Champion.

There will only be one champion in each event for the end of the year awards. Therefore, these ties will be a run of after the regular competition according to PRCA or college rodeo guidelines. Each timed event contestants will compete on two head average swapping livestock, except for barrels and pole bending. The arena director and event director will pick the stock for the two head average. Contestants will draw to see who goes first. In the rough stock competition, 2 animals will be drawn from a minimum of 3 animals, by the event director, stock contractor, and judges. No animal will be bucked back-to-back.

NATIONAL MONEY DISTRIBUTION

Timed events contestants receive a larger percentage of expense money for National Finals than rough stock & shooting contestants.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The FJHSRA is conducted by the NHSRA rulebook and the FJHSRA ground rules. It is the contestants and parents' responsibility to know and understand the rules. If you do not understand the rules, ask a director or officer of the FJHSRA. If you are disqualified for breaking any of the association's rules, you are entitled to a hearing before the board of directors. Refer to the NHSRA 2024-2026 Rules, by-laws, and rulebook for all rules pertaining to conduct and levels of disciplinary action. Duration of rodeo is from the time you leave your residence headed to the rodeo until the time you return to your residence following the rodeo.

CONSEQUENCES OF MISCONDUCT

Please refer to the National High School Rodeo Association rule book Contestant Disqualifications Item 7.

STUDENT OFFICERS / JOB DESCRIPTION

FJHSRA Directors, Officers, and Secretaries are volunteering their time to help make the FJHSRA a great organization. We are hoping the FJHSRA will better prepare you for the next level of High school rodeo. We wish all members good luck and safety this year. We are all looking forward to a great rodeo season!

Whitney Savoie

Florida Junior High School Rodeo-State Secretary

Revised 8-10-2025