

**2017-2018 NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RODEO ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL STAFF**

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**National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association
2016- 2017 Rulebook**

I. ORGANIZATION

A. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. It is referred to hereinafter as the NIRA.

B. MISSION, GOALS AND PURPOSES

1. The mission of the NIRA is to foster and develop rodeo at the college level so that it will provide educational and competitive opportunities for students.
2. The goals and purposes of the NIRA are:
 - a. To maintain a national organization for the governance of the sport of rodeo at the collegiate level through the development, continual review, and adoption of uniform and fair rules of competition, eligibility and conduct for its members;
 - b. To emphasize the importance of scholastic advancement and to provide, encourage, and promote opportunities for student members to pursue and complete post-secondary degrees at member institutions;
 - c. To encourage the development of sportsmanship and humane treatment of livestock through training and by adoption and application of rules of conduct;
 - d. To develop citizenship and leadership values and skills by encouraging active participation of student members in the governance of the organization and the rules of competition at the member institutions, the individual regions, and nationally;
 - e. To encourage prospective college students to enroll in member schools by providing funding and competition opportunities related to the sport of rodeo;
 - f. To encourage rodeo programs that enhance the missions of their member educational institutions;

- g. To provide opportunities and training to enable student members to achieve excellence in skills and competition, and to compete with other student members for regional and national championships;
- h. To promote competent and ethical coaching of student members;
- i. To stimulate and develop public awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the sport of rodeo as well as its heritage and lifestyle;
- j. To promote rodeo on a national scale as an organized, standard collegiate sport, with teams representing member educational institutions on individual campuses throughout the nation and to strive for advances that will enhance rodeo as a sport that will facilitate the mission of the NIRA.

II. MEMBERSHIP

A. GENERAL

1. Compliance with By-Laws and Rules.

All members will abide by the governing by-laws and rules of the NIRA and will so affirm when memberships are purchased.
2. Intellectual Property Rights of Members Assigned to NIRA.

As a condition of membership, each NIRA member, regardless of the category of membership, assigns to the NIRA all of the member's right, title, and interest in and to intellectual property rights arising in connection with all NIRA events, including the full right to use the member's name, words, image, and likeness, regardless of the form or medium, reflecting participation in all NIRA events. Each member acknowledges that the rights described herein may be used by the NIRA for any purpose in connection with the commercial exploitation of these rights, and may be conveyed by the NIRA, in whole or in part, for use by such persons or entities as may be selected by the NIRA in its sole discretion. Each member further agrees to abide by the terms and conditions of any agreement between the NIRA and such persons or entities regarding advertising and promotion in connection with the use of such rights.
3. Fixed Year.

The fiscal year of the NIRA shall begin July 1 and will continue through June 30 of the following year. All membership cards will be issued on this basis and expire after the CNFR of each year regardless of when they are issued.
4. Commencement of Membership.

New members may join at any time. Their membership shall commence upon compliance with any requirement for membership. A student who applies for a membership card and is declared ineligible to obtain a NIRA card may void their NIRA membership, but will receive no refund of membership dues.
5. Membership Cards.

Each member shall be issued an official NIRA membership card. Duplicate membership cards will be issued at a cost of Five Dollars (\$5) per card.

B. SCHOOL MEMBERS

1. Eligibility

Any member school or rodeo association of any junior or senior college or university that is a recognized organization of said college or university and in good standing may petition for NIRA membership. Schools petitioning for NIRA membership must be listed as FULLY ACCREDITED in the current ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION: PROGRAMS/CANDIDATES. Colleges or Universities belonging to the NIRA as of June, 1967, may remain as institutional charter members as long as they pay dues and abide by the by-laws and rules of the NIRA.

2. Requirements

a. Dues

Each NIRA school membership shall be Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) per NIRA year [One Hundred Ninety-two Dollars (\$192) dues; Eight Dollars (\$8) for subscription to the NIRA publication; Fifty Dollars (\$50) Rawhide program fund; Fifty Dollars (\$50) NIR foundation]. Medical insurance coverage (excess) is also offered at an additional cost of One Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$145) per individual.

b. No Team Points Until Dues are Paid

No team points will be counted until member school dues are paid. For competition purposes all NIRA members from school in question will be considered off the team until such dues are paid in full. For team points to count, payment of school dues will be set according to the eligibility deadline for each rodeo in the region. School dues must be paid before the CNFR regional entry deadline in order to compete as a team at the CNFR. Students attending a NIRA member school may not compete as independents.

c. Officers of Member School

The officers of a member school shall keep in contact with the NIRA National Office at all times. The member school officers are honor bound to carry out the rules and regulations as set forth in the NIRA By-Laws and Rules.

d. Publicity Director

The publicity director of a regional member school should keep in contact with the NIRA Commissioner to publicize events of the regional member school.

e. Faculty Advisor or Sponsor

Each member school shall be required to have a faculty advisor or representative. This person is the official representative of the school. The permanent address of this sponsor must be sent to the NIRA National Office each year. All correspondence from the NIRA will be mailed to this address.

- f. No member school shall deny the right of a student who is in good standing with the NIRA and his/her college/university to become a member of the NIRA subject to the action of the NIRA Board of Directors.
- g. Approval from the NIRA Commissioner must be obtained for institutions sponsoring two (2) separate NIRA teams on two (2) separate campuses.

C. STUDENT MEMBERS

1. Dues

- a. Individual Member Dues
Each NIRA individual membership shall be Two Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$260) per NIRA year [Ninety Five Dollars (\$95) dues; One Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$120) mandatory medical insurance coverage (excess; all NIRA sanctioned practices and all NIRA sanctioned rodeos); Two Dollars (\$2) premium; Eight Dollars (\$8) NIRA Publication; Twenty Five Dollars (\$25) award assessment; Ten Dollars (\$10) NIR Foundation].
- b. Student Director Dues
All student directors of the NIRA Board of Directors will be required to pay only the yearly insurance premium and NIR Foundation assessment.
- c. Students attending a non-member college or university will pay an additional \$5 to support the Rawhide program. (If college/university is not listed on the back of the current NIRA Individual Membership Application and/or a current member school.)
- d. Paid in Advance of First Rodeo
All individual dues must be paid in advance of the first (1st) rodeo of the respective region.

2. Students at Non-Member Schools

- a. In order to encourage intercollegiate rodeo activity at non-member schools the following provisions will apply:
 - 1. No more than four (4) individuals who are students at a non-member school which did not have a NIRA membership the previous year may join the NIRA as individual members. They must meet all eligibility requirements as stated in this rulebook.
 - 2. The individual's school must sign the official NIRA Individual Membership Application which states that the student is in good standing and has been granted permission to represent the school at NIRA.

sanctioned rodeos. Such members may compete as individuals only, and are not eligible to compete for team championships. If the individual's school does not sign, the individual will not be granted membership status and will not be allowed to compete in NIRA sanctioned rodeos.

3. The first four (4) individuals from a non-member school who petition the NIRA for membership will be allowed to join under the above stated rule. When the fifth (5th) individual applies for NIRA membership, the school will be notified and will have thirty (30) days from receipt of fifth (5th) individual application in the NIRA National Office to pay NIRA member school membership dues. Failure to pay member school dues will result in team membership privileges being denied (team points, recognition, and team scholarship benefits).

D. VOIDING MEMBERSHIP

1. If a student is injured before completion of the first (1st) twenty-five percent (25%) of rodeos in his/her region during the year in question, he/she may request that his/her NIRA card be voided by petitioning NIRA Commissioner. The Petition must be submitted in writing to the NIRA National Office no later than May 31 of the year in question. The petition must contain the following:
 - a. Written recommendations of student's coach and/or regional faculty director;
 - b. Written verification of injury by a qualified physician on the physician's letterhead; and
 - c. Student's written explanation of injury and request to void the NIRA membership card.
2. If a student competes without personal injury, in one (1) or more NIRA rodeos in his/her region during the year, he/she may not void his/her NIRA card. "Compete", for purposes of this sub-paragraph, is defined as competing on all stock and all runs in the sequence of the rodeo.
3. No membership dues will be refunded under any circumstances.
4. DOES NOT COMPETE DURING CURRENT YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP. If a member does not compete during the year of his/her current membership, his/her card will be automatically voided. This will allow the student to retain one (1) year of eligibility. No membership dues will be refunded under any circumstances.

E. OTHER MEMBERS

1. Stock Contractor Members

a. Membership Required

All stock contractors who supply stock for a NIRA rodeo must be a member of the NIRA, unless specific approval is granted by the NIRA Board of Directors. Any person or company owning stock used at a NIRA rodeo will be deemed to be a Stock Contractor of Record or Timed Event Stock Contractor for that rodeo. Schools providing their own timed event stock for their rodeo must have a timed event stock contractor membership.

b. Membership Eligibility Requirements

All PRCA approved stock contractors are eligible to become NIRA members. Stock contractors who are not approved by the PRCA must obtain approval from the regional Faculty and/or Student Director, for the region in which they are located, in order to become eligible for NIRA membership.

c. Dues

The dues for Stock Contractor membership shall be One Hundred (\$100) per NIRA year. Dues must be received by the NIRA National Office at least thirty (30) days prior to the first (1st) performance of the stock contractor's first NIRA rodeo of the year. Stock Contractor dues will be increased by One Hundred Dollars (\$100) if not submitted within the time stated above. A stock contractor will not be allowed to provide stock at any NIRA rodeo until dues are paid.

2. Regional Secretaries

Regional secretaries shall be NIRA secretarial members in good standing. The NIRA has no set price for salaries of regional secretaries.

a. Regional Secretary membership dues shall be Thirty Dollars (\$30) per NIRA year. Dues must be paid in advance of the first (1st) rodeo of the respective region.

b. Regional secretary will be responsible for errors made by the arena secretary or secretarial representative, and be responsible for correcting any errors.

c. Rodeo secretaries shall furnish bond coverage if required by the respective region or the CNFR.

d. Arena secretaries are responsible for submitting correct membership card numbers and all other entrance status on all forms being submitted to the NIRA office.

3. Judges

All judges and flagmen must be NIRA approved and in good standing. Judges who attend the officials seminar regularly will receive a preference on rodeo assignments.

a. The sponsoring school must pay a minimum of \$200.00 per performance to each judge. In addition, the school(s)/region must pay each judge \$1 for each run in slack. The school must

also provide a complimentary hotel/motel room for each judge.

- b. All NIRA rodeos will be included in the scheduling of judges.
- c. Rodeos with 365 total contestant entries or less will use the two (2) judge system. It will be a regional option whether or not to use the three (3) judge system.

4. Contract Personnel

All contract personnel who serve as announcer, pickup men, judges, bullfighters, and barrel men must be listed on every rodeo approval form. Personnel listed on rodeo approval form will be subject to the rules set forth in this rulebook. The NIRA has no set price for salaries of contract performers, announcers, labor, etc., but the NIRA expects the rodeos to pay fair salaries in keeping with the size of the rodeo. The NIRA may require rodeos and/or rodeo personnel handling money and entry fees to be bonded. This would include both the committee and the arena secretary.

5. Honorary Members

- a. A Regional Governing Board may, by majority vote, nominate any person or organization for honorary membership in the NIRA. The nomination shall be sent to the NIRA Executive Committee, along with a written explanation of the reasons for the nomination and the results of the vote by the Regional Governing Board. The person nominated shall become an honorary member upon the approval of the NIRA Executive Committee.
- b. The NIRA National Board of Directors may, by majority vote, confer honorary membership in the NIRA on any person or organization it deems proper for their support of the NIRA and the sport of rodeo.
- c. Honorary members shall be exempt from fees and dues.
- d. Honorary membership shall be for the life of the honorary member, unless terminated sooner by the majority vote of the Governing Board of the Region that nominated the honorary member and the approval by the NIRA Executive Committee, or upon the majority vote of the National Board of Directors.

F. RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

A member school or individual may resign from the NIRA by letter to the NIRA National Office. The resignation shall be effective on the date specified in the letter, or, if no such date is specified, upon receipt of the letter.

III. **REGIONS**

A. NIRA REGIONS

- 1. The member schools shall be divided into the following regions for purposes of competition and election of representatives for purposes of governance:
 - a. Big Sky Region Consisting of colleges and universities in Montana and Northwest College, Powell, WY;

- b. Central Plains Region Consisting of colleges and universities in Kansas, Oklahoma and the northwest corner of Missouri, west of I35;
 - c. Central Rocky Mountain Region Consisting of colleges and universities in Wyoming, Colorado, and Chadron State College, Chadron, NE;
 - d. Grand Canyon Region Consisting of colleges and universities in Arizona and New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, Mesalands Community College, Tucumcari, NM, San Juan College, Farmington, NM, Navajo Technical College, Crownpoint, NM, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico, and Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM;
 - e. Great Plains Region Consisting of colleges and universities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin;
 - f. Northwest Region Consisting of colleges and universities in Oregon, Washington, the northern panhandle of Idaho, bound by the Salmon River to the south, and that part of Southern Idaho within the boundaries of Canyon County and College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID;
 - g. Ozark Region Consisting of colleges and universities of Arkansas, that part of Louisiana north of the Red River and the Mississippi River, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Michigan, Georgia, Indiana, Eastern Louisiana, Ohio, and Illinois;
 - h. Rocky Mountain Region Consisting of colleges and universities in Utah and Idaho, south of the Salmon River;
 - i. Southern Region Consisting of colleges and universities in East Texas (all member schools east of I35, Denton, Fort Worth, Waco, Austin, Uvalde, and down Eagle Pass) and that part of Louisiana south of the Red River and the Mississippi River;
 - j. Southwest Region Consisting of colleges and universities in New Mexico and West Texas (all member schools west of I35, Denton, Fort Worth, Waco, Austin, Uvalde, and down Eagle Pass);
 - k. West Coast Region Consisting of colleges and universities in California and Nevada.
2. Colleges and universities not listed above shall be placed in the nearest region to them as determined by the national office.

B. CHANGES IN COMPOSITION OF REGIONS

- 1. The purpose of a proposal of this nature is to move a school from one (1) NIRA region to another because of hardship characteristics. The format for such a proposal must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. Be placed on the agenda at a regular scheduled Summer or Winter Board of

Directors Meeting thirty (30) days prior to said meeting;

- b. Proposal must be submitted in typewritten form and passed out to each NIRA Board of Directors member;
 - c. Written proposal must contain the following information and research:
 - (1) Name of school wanting to be moved from one (1) region to another, and the regions involved;
 - (2) Statement of reasons for the move;
 - (3) List of all approved NIRA rodeos in both regions in question and the mileage to each individual rodeo (calculate total mileage traveled from school in question to NIRA rodeos in present region and proposed region);
 - (4) A letter from each NIRA region in question stating full regional approval or disapproval of proposed move (letters should be signed by Faculty and Student Director);
 - (5) Indicate number of NIRA members at school proposing region change;
 - (6) Indicate if school in question sponsors an approved NIRA rodeo;
 - (7) List any additional facts and research indicating reasons for making the move from one (1) region to another.
2. The NIRA reserves the right to make any change in the future for the best interest of the NIRA.

C. CREATION OF NEW REGIONS OR SPLITTING OF CURRENT REGIONS

- 1. Any proposal presented to the NIRA Board of Directors for the formation of new regions must adhere to the following format:
 - a. Be placed on the agenda at a regular scheduled Summer or Winter Board of Directors Meeting thirty (30) days prior to said meeting;
 - b. Proposal must be presented by faculty and student representative of proposed new region;
 - c. Proposal must be submitted in typewritten form and passed out to each NIRA Board of Directors member;
 - d. Written proposal for formation of non-established geographical regions must

contain the following information and research:

- (1) Proposed plan for new formation
- (2) A letter from at least six (6) schools stating their intention of joining the NIRA as member schools if a new region is formed
- (3) A petition with a least one hundred (100) signatures of currently enrolled students from proposed new region who intend to join the NIRA if a new region is formed
- (4) Statistics listing the number of accredited schools in proposed region
- (5) List any information that would show positive interest in the formation of the new region

e. Written proposal for splitting currently established regions must contain the following information and research:

- (1) Proposed plan for region split
- (2) A letter from each NIRA member school within region to be split stating approval or disapproval of proposed split (letters should be signed by the member schools' faculty advisor and student officer)
- (3) Indicate how many NIRA approved rodeos each region will have
- (4) Indicate all facts and objectives for splitting region

2. Decision of Board of Directors

The NIRA Board of Directors will study all proposals at length before voting, and inform the representatives of their decision within sixty (60) days of presentation.

IV. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NIRA

A. NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Except for the business and affairs of the Regions specifically reserved to the Regional Boards of Director, the affairs and business of the NIRA shall be managed and controlled by a National Board of Directors pursuant to this rulebook
2. Composition

The National Board of Directors shall be composed of the following:

National Faculty President
National Student President
Regional Faculty Directors
Regional Student Directors
NIRA Commissioner

a. National Faculty President There shall be one (1) National Faculty President who shall serve as advisor to the NIRA Board of Directors and the National Student President. The National Faculty President shall be a faculty member of a member college or university. He/she shall be responsible for coordinating all NIRA administrative policies with member institutions through regional Faculty Directors and local member school advisors. He/she shall preside over all national meetings of Faculty Directors.

b. National Student President There shall be one (1) National Student President who shall be the presiding officer at the NIRA Board of Directors Meetings and enforce rigid observance of the NIRA By-Laws. He/she shall assist the NIRA Commissioner in preparing agenda and reports for NIRA Board of Directors meetings, appoint standing and ad hoc committees as needed, and see that all other officers understand and perform their official duties.

c. Regional Faculty Director There shall be one (1) regional Faculty Director from each region. The duties of the regional Faculty Director are to preside at meetings of faculty advisors of member institutions of their respective region; to coordinate the NIRA By-Laws and rules with university and college administration; to be responsible for official transcripts from each respective dean of students; to verify, at the beginning of each semester/quarter, that each member is enrolled in the minimum number of academic hours; and work with the regional Student Director in approving rodeo dates and judges. The regional Faculty Director shall act as advisor to the Regional Governing Board.

(1) To be eligible to serve on the NIRA Board of Directors, the person elected must be legally associated full-time faculty or staff with his/her institution of higher learning. He/she must have a degree and institutional responsibilities at their institution.

d. Regional Student Director There shall be one (1) regional Student Director for each region. It shall be the duty of the regional Student Director to direct the functions of the NIRA in his/her region and together with the Faculty Director, approve rodeo dates and judges; keep members in the region informed; work with event directors on complaints, disputes or controversial matters at regional rodeos; and to preside at Regional Governing Board meetings.

(1) To be eligible to hold office on the NIRA Board of Directors, the student member must be eligible to compete in regional rodeos. A student must have at least one (1) year of eligibility left to run for the full term of that

office. [It is suggested that candidates who run for the directorship have completed at least one (1) year as a NIRA contestant.] The student must attend school and meet the above requirements for the length of time required to meet the obligations of office.

3. Election of Officers

- a. When electing officers for the NIRA, both student and faculty members of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to vote for National Faculty President and for National Student President.
- b. When electing Regional Faculty Director and Regional Student Director, each Regional Governing Board can elect to use either of the following procedures:
 - (1) Faculty shall vote for faculty and students for students; or
 - (2) Both student and faculty members of the Regional Governing Board shall be eligible to vote on all issues before the Board including election of Regional Student Director and Regional Faculty Director.

4. National Faculty President The National Faculty President will take office at the end of the summer board meeting and shall be elected from the board, after having served one (1) year as a regional faculty director. He/she is to be elected at the summer board meeting and serve a one (1) year term. He/she will remain faculty director of his/her respective region for the elected term and must, therefore, have one (1) additional year remaining of board tenure.

5. National Student President The National Student President will take office at the end of the summer board meeting, and shall be elected in the same manner as the National Faculty President. He/she will remain student director of his/her respective region for the elected term.

- a. The NIRA Student President will receive a fifth (5th) year of eligibility by completing at least one (1) year as a regional student director, and one (1) year as National Student President. Any National Student President awarded a fifth (5th) year of eligibility must use that year of eligibility at a senior college or professional school and comply with the requirements of the six (6) year rule. The NIRA Student President may compete as an on-team member during his/her fifth (5th) year of eligibility.

6. Duties

- a. The NIRA Board of Directors shall have supervision over the business and affairs of the NIRA, with the power to make, adopt, alter, or amend the By-Laws and rules of the NIRA. The NIRA Board of Directors may make all By-Laws and rules which it considers necessary to carry out the purposes of the organization.

- b. The NIRA Board of Directors may change the By-Laws in accordance with this rulebook.

7. Committees

a. Executive Committee

- (1) Composition
The NIRA Executive Committee shall be composed of:

The National Student President;
The National Faculty President;
The Commissioner;
The Chairman of the Rules Committee;
The Chairman of the Budget Committee

- (2) Duties

- (a) In consultation with the Commissioner, the Executive Committee shall function as an advisory committee with respect to the conduct of the affairs of the NIRA between semi-annual Board of Directors meetings.

- (b) Ultimately, the Commissioner shall have responsibility and authority to conduct the business of the NIRA between Board of Directors meetings consistent with his/her delegated responsibility.

- (3) Meetings

The National Faculty President shall function as the chairman of the Executive Committee, and call such meetings, in person or by telephone, as he/she may deem appropriate to provide guidance and assistance in reaching executive decisions.

- (4) Voting

Each member of the Executive Committee, including the Commissioner, shall have one (1) vote.

- (a) The Chairman of the

Rules Committee shall have one (1) vote when sitting as a member of the Executive Committee, and in the event of a deadlock, when the issue concerns a rule, the tie will be broken by a Student Director member of the Rules Committee.

(b) The Chairman of the Budget Committee shall have one (1) vote when sitting as a member of the Executive Committee, and in the event of a deadlock, when the issue concerns a budgetary matter, the tie will be broken by a Student Director member of the Budget Committee.

b. Rules Committee

(1) Composition

(a) The National Student President and National Faculty President shall appoint the members of the Rules Committee.

(2) Purpose and Duties

The NIRA Rules Committee shall study all proposed rule changes in depth and make its recommendations to the NIRA Board of Directors.

(a) Proposed rule changes can be submitted to the Rules Committee at any time, and can be implemented at the Summer or Winter Board meeting, subject to the

following limitations:

(b) No rules may be passed or implemented at the Winter Board meeting that would be a detriment to the NIRA structure in effect that fiscal year; and

(c) No rule changes may be made unless the Rules Committee studied the proposed change and provided the NIRA Board of Directors with a recommendation on the change.

(3) Meetings

(a) The Rules Committee will meet during the Summer and Winter Board Meetings.

(b) If necessary, a special meeting can be called at the discretion of the Chairman of the Rules Committee if approved by the NIRA Executive Committee.

(c) The appointed Faculty Director shall function as the chairman of the Rules Committee.

c Budget Committee

(1) Composition

(a) The National Student President and National Faculty President shall appoint the members of the Budget Committee.

(2) Purpose and Duties

The NIRA shall study all financial statements and budget proposals in depth and make budgetary

recommendations to the NIRA Board of Directors.

(3) Meetings

- (a) The Budget Committee shall meet during the Summer and Winter Board Meetings.
- (b) If necessary, a special meeting can be called at the discretion of the Chairman of the Budget Committee if approved by the NIRA Executive Committee.
- (c) The appointed Faculty Director shall function as the Chairman of the Budget Committee.

8. Meetings

- a. There shall be an NIRA Board of Directors meeting each year in conjunction with the College National Finals Rodeo.
 - (1) Any NIRA member in good standing may attend this meeting and take part in discussions and business of the meeting, but he/she shall not vote.
 - (2) A specific meeting time shall be scheduled for the purpose of appealing decisions of the NIRA Board of Directors and/or requesting a national referendum on a specific issue. National referendum voting rights are limited; each member school shall have two (2) votes, one (1) to represent the faculty and the other the students.
 - (3) Visitors may be placed on the agenda thirty (30) days prior to such meetings or as invited by the NIRA Executive Committee.
- b. There shall be a second NIRA Board of Directors meeting to be held in December of each year, in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo.
- c. Each regional faculty and student director shall prepare a list of items of business to be included on the agenda of the meetings and submit it to the NIRA National Office at least thirty (30) days prior to each meeting of the NIRA Board of Directors. Copies of the Agenda will be provided to the NIRA Board of Directors, by the Commissioner, prior to the meeting.

- d. The National Student President shall preside at all meetings of the NIRA Board of Directors. In the absence of the national student president, a substitute shall be appointed by the NIRA Executive Committee.
- e. A majority of the duly elected NIRA Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Each member of the NIRA Board of Directors, with the exception of the Commissioner, shall have one (1) vote.
- f. Robert's Rules of Order or similar rules shall govern the procedure at all meetings.

9. Travel Expenses

- a. Each board member shall be reimbursed for travel, when traveling on official NIRA business. Each board member may receive an amount equal to the price of an airline ticket at the lowest available rate or mileage at the maximum rate allowable by Internal Revenue Service regulations or at such a rate as the Board of Directors deems proper.
- b. Lodging and meals will be reimbursed on a per diem basis beginning twelve (12) hours prior to and ending twelve (12) hours after the scheduled meeting. The rate of per diem is to be established by the NIRA Board of Directors.
- c. Reimbursement for travel, lodging and meals while attending the summer and winter board meetings will be made upon receipt of reimbursement form and all receipts for travel. Lodging reimbursement will be based on stated lodging fees. Reimbursement will be conditioned on a director's attendance at the meeting.

B. REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARDS

1. Composition

- a. The NIRA Regional Governing Boards shall be composed of the regional student and faculty directors for the region; faculty advisors of each member school within the region; two (2) students from each member school [one (1) man and one (1) woman]; and the elected event directors.
- b. The Regional Student Director will be the presiding officer at all Regional Governing Board meetings.

2. Powers and Jurisdiction

The NIRA Regional Governing Board shall supervise and direct the business and affairs of the region in compliance with the By-Laws and Rules of the NIRA. The regional governing board may bring matters of a controversial nature before the NIRA Executive Committee through elected or appointed representatives.

3. Election of Regional Directors

- a. Regional Faculty Directors There shall be one (1) regional faculty director from each region. The regional faculty directors will

be elected by and from the advisors of member schools. Faculty directors will be elected for a two (2) year term. The Central Plains, Grand Canyon, Ozark, Southern, Southwest, and West Coast Regions shall elect faculty directors on even calendar years. The Big Sky, Central Rocky, Great Plains, Northwest, and Rocky Mountain Regions shall elect faculty directors on odd calendar years.

- (1) The newly elected regional faculty director will work with the retiring faculty director and will officially assume office at the close of the Summer Board Meeting.

b. Regional Student Directors There shall be one (1) regional student director from each region. The regional student director will be elected by the students in their respective region in the spring and will serve two (2) years. The Central Plains, Grand Canyon, Ozark, Southern, Southwest, and West Coast Regions shall elect student directors on odd calendar years. The Big Sky, Central Rocky, Great Plains, Northwest, and Rocky Mountain Regions shall elect student directors on even calendar years.

- (1) The newly elected student directors will work with the retiring student directors and will officially assume office at the close of the summer board meeting. A NIRA Student Director may work any regional rodeo in his/her region if he/she is eligible regardless of team membership.

- (2) Each newly elected student director will receive a fifth (5th) year of eligibility providing he/she completes their entire two (2) year term. In the case of a director not being able to serve their full term, the newly elected director who completes the remainder of the term and fulfills all obligations connected with the position will be awarded the fifth (5th) year of eligibility. Any regional student director awarded a fifth (5th) year of eligibility must use this year of eligibility at a senior college or professional school and comply with the requirements of the six (6) year rule. NIRA Regional Student Directors may compete as on-team members during their fifth (5th) year of eligibility. Upon acceptance into a Master's program and competing for a fifth year of eligibility, a student must compete for the school from which they are

receiving their Master's degree.

- c. If a Board member is to be replaced before the end of their term, the individual region will elect the replacement. The Commissioner, Student President, or Faculty President of the NIRA will initiate the process.
- d. Each Regional Governing Board shall have the authority to remove and replace the Regional Faculty and Student Director for their region for failure to perform the duties of his/her office. Removal of a student or faculty director must be by unanimous vote of the Regional Governing Board.

4. Voting

- a. Each member school shall have two (2) votes; one (1) vote to be cast by the member school advisor, one (1) vote to be cast by the male student delegate, and/or the female student delegate.
- b. The regional faculty director will vote only as a member school advisor.
- c. The regional student director will vote only as one of the member school student representatives.
- d. Elected event directors shall have voting power within their region.

C. COMMISSIONER

The NIRA Board of Directors shall appoint a chief executive officer who shall carry the title of Commissioner. The Commissioner shall serve for a term of four (4) years. The appointment of the Commissioner shall be upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and subsequently approved by the entire Board of Directors. The Commissioner shall have such duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors from time to time, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Direct and administer the day-to-day business of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.
- b. Supervise and direct all NIRA employees.
- c. Serve as NIRA's primary liaison with other professional organizations such as the PRCA and NHSRA.
- d. May, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, serve as NIRA's enforcement officer and, as such, investigate any alleged violation of NIRA rules and regulations.
- e. Serve as a member, ex officio, on all standing NIRA committees, except as specified hereafter.
- f. Establish the agenda, in consultation with the Executive Committee, for all annual and special meeting of the NIRA Board of Directors.
- g. Serve as the Chairman of the College National Finals Rodeo Committee (CNFR

Committee) and function as a voting member thereof.

- h. Receive and disburse all NIRA monies and maintain financial records consistent with responsible accounting practices and IRS regulations. In this regard the Commissioner shall prepare or cause to be prepared an annual report and budget information for approval by the Board of Directors. The Commissioner shall work closely with NIRA accountants in the preparation of such materials.
- i. Keep NIRA funds in approved banking institutions and invest such monies for a maximum return on surplus funds, if any. An independent audit of NIRA financial activities shall be conducted by licensed and accredited accountants and a full report provided to the Board of Directors.
- j. Function as the corporate secretary of NIRA and shall cause to be prepared minutes of all meetings and distribution of such minutes to board members.
- k. Function as NIRA's scheduling coordinator, requesting data and site scheduling information from the membership. The Commissioner shall cause the full schedule of NIRA rodeos to be published.
- l. Interpret and implement NIRA By-Laws and legislative decisions regarding the conduct of NIRA rodeo programs. The Commissioner shall defer to the Executive Committee or to the full Board of Directors when interpretations of NIRA By-Laws or rules present particularly difficult issues.
- m. Supervise and direct the officiating programs of NIRA relating to all NIRA-approved events.
- n. Coordinate and direct all matters pertaining to public relations and media for NIRA. This includes but is not limited to television contracts, sponsorship contracts, promotion, and marketing of NIRA events and supervision of NIRA publications.
- o. The NIRA Commissioner shall generally have the responsibility of a chief executive officer of a corporation to perform all tasks necessary to conduct the business of NIRA consistent with the purposes and philosophies of the NIRA organization and the directives of its Board of Directors. The Commissioner shall have the legal authority to enter into contracts on behalf of NIRA in furtherance of these purposes.
- p. The NIRA Commissioner shall have the authority, (subject to ratification by the Board of Directors), to enter into contracts for sponsorship and contracts for recording and broadcast of NIRA events. The Board of Directors shall ratify all such contracts, unless the contract is not in the best interests of the NIRA.
- q. The Commissioner shall be required to furnish a performance bond in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) upon taking office. Such bond is to be

purchased from a reliable bonding company and paid for by NIRA.

D. **INDEMNIFICATION**

Any past or present member of the NIRA National Board of Directors or any national or regional officer of the NIRA who was a defendant in any proceeding because of his/her status as a director or officer of the NIRA, shall be indemnified by the NIRA for reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with the proceeding, only if the NIRA National Board of Directors finds that indemnification is warranted.

E. **STANDARD OF CONDUCT**

All members of the national and regional officers and directors shall discharge their duties as directors and officers:

1. In good faith;
2. With the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances; and
3. In a manner the director or officer reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the NIRA and its members.

F. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

1. A conflict of interest transaction is a transaction with the NIRA in which a director of the NIRA has a direct or indirect interest.
2. The director has an interest in the transaction if the director stands to benefit personally from the transaction, either directly or indirectly, whether the gain is monetary or otherwise. A director has an interest in the transaction if the NIRA director is an officer, director, shareholder, partner, or member of the entity that proposed to transact business with the NIRA.
3. A director who has a conflict of interest concerning a transaction to be discussed and voted on the Board of Directors must declare the conflict prior to the discussion of the proposed transaction at a meeting of the NIRA Board, or as soon thereafter as the director becomes aware that there is a conflict. The director may participate in discussions concerning the proposed transaction, but shall not be present for a vote on the transaction.
4. If a director votes on a transaction in which he has a conflict of interest, the transaction is voidable unless the Board of Directors had knowledge of the material facts of the conflict and approved the transaction in good faith and with the reasonable belief that the transaction is fair and in the best interests of the NIRA.

G. **DOCUMENT RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION POLICY**

1. The NIRA Commissioner shall work with the NIRA staff, legal counsel, and accountant to develop a document retention and destruction policy that will comply with legal requirements and good business practices, taking into consideration the nature of the documents generated by the NIRA and the ability of the NIRA to retain and destroy those documents.

V. **STUDENT MEMBER PROVISIONS**

A. **ELIGIBILITY- GENERALLY**

1. All contestants must meet all eligibility requirements and must be a member of the NIRA. Errors or mistakes by a coach or by regional or national officers, directors, or office personnel cannot confer eligibility.

2. To be eligible to compete, a student must be in good standing with his/her school and the NIRA.
3. Documentation Requirements
 - a. All member applications, all official transcripts from each institution attended (including the most recent transcripts), high school affidavit or official high school transcript, certificate of clearance, official document signatures, dues and other documents, as required, must be verified as being in the NIRA National Office by the NIRA Commissioner or his designee prior to any determination of eligibility, and before regional and CNFR deadlines.
 - b. Eligibility will be determined only by official transcripts. Official transcripts and high school affidavit will not be accepted by fax.
 - c. A condition of membership in the NIRA is to have a current official transcript of grades from all colleges/universities attended on file in the NIRA National Office when the membership card is purchased each year. To be eligible for succeeding terms of NIRA competition, an official transcript must be on file with the NIRA National Office, also. To be eligible for the College National Finals Rodeo, an official transcript, which includes all of the previous year's grades must be on file with the NIRA National Office.
 - d. A student who applies for a membership card and is placed on hold for academic ineligibility or a transfer penalty must resubmit a current official transcript to the NIRA National Office for re-evaluation when requirements are satisfied.
4. Students With Documented Learning Disabilities

A student with a documented learning disability may apply to the NIRA National Office to reduce the required academic hours pursued/completed and total hours required to purchase a second, third, and fourth card; as stated in this rulebook. These requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and must include supporting documentation, of the disability, from qualified (licensed/certified) individuals. This application must be made prior to the beginning of the fall semester/quarter. A student will also be required to submit a statement from the college being attended about their policy pertaining to reduced course load equivalency and a description from the disability office outlining accommodations being provided to the student for the current semester/quarter.

B. TIME RESTRICTIONS

Six (6) Years To Complete Four (4) Years of NIRA Eligibility

Each prospective NIRA member will have six (6) consecutive NIRA years, from the date of his/her graduation from high school, to complete four (4) years of eligibility.

1. If a prospective NIRA member did not graduate from high school, but did obtain his/her general education degree, he/she will have six (6) consecutive NIRA years from the date of his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday to complete four (4) years of NIRA eligibility. The NIRA fiscal year will be the formula used.

- a. Example- If a student attains his/her 18th birthday prior to July 1, 1992, the graduation date will be 1992; If attained after June 30, 1992, the graduation date will be 1993.

2. Extensions for NIRA participation:

- a. Active military duty. Any member that is called to active duty shall have the right to appeal for additional eligibility. They are required to have the proper documentation (DD 214) and must submit a letter of petition to the NIRA National Office. If a contestant's unit is activated, causing him/her to leave school to fulfill his/her military obligation, their card will be voided and they will be able to retain that year of eligibility.
- b. Religious or humanitarian service. Any member that participates in religious or humanitarian service shall have the right to appeal for additional eligibility. They are required to submit a letter of petition to the NIRA National Office and a letter from respective clergy or organization leader to verify the service performed.

C. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

1. High School Graduate

All NIRA members must be a high school graduate or have obtained a general education degree.

2. Verification of Eligibility

The NIRA National Office will verify each student member's academic eligibility at the beginning of each new semester or quarter.

3. 4.0 Grading System

The grade point average requirements will be based on a 4.00 grading system with F=0, D=1, C=2, B=3, A=4. This formula is to be used by any school on a different grading system. Grade points may not be rounded off to meet scholastic requirements; i.e., 1.99 is not acceptable as 2.00.

4. Required Grade Point Average

To be eligible to participate, a student must meet the minimum grade point average (GPA) requirement of a 2.00 GPA accumulation based on all college courses completed or a 2.00 GPA based upon the previous term (12 hours) of enrollment during which twelve (12) academic credit hours must be completed.

5. Twelve Hours of Credit

Twelve (12) hours academic credit must be COMPLETED each term that a student has competed in NIRA rodeos to be eligible for competition for the following term. A student must pass at least nine (9) academic hours each term. Rodeo (activity, production, judging or similar courses), work experience, and/or physical education activity courses do not count as academic credit hours. If a student is taking classes at two institutions, they must pass nine academic credits at the institution for which they are competing.

- a. All courses to be used for COMPLETED numbers of credit hours must generate a course title and number, grade, and credit hours within the 4.00 grading system. The grades of P (Passing), S (Satisfactory),

and CR (Credit) may be used as passed hours of credit for both completed and passed hours and not generate grade points. Repeat courses must document hours of credit for at least one term the course was taken. Repeat classes will be counted every time they are taken. A grade is never dropped, no matter how many times the same class is taken.

- b. Passing means a "D" grade or better in a letter grade course and an "S", "P", or "CR" in a pass/fail course.

7. Nine Hours on Main Campus

A student must attend the main campus of the school for which they are competing and must take at least nine (9) hours of classes, of the twelve hours required on that campus. The student must be enrolled in at least twelve (12) hours of academic credit during the entire term that he/she is competing.

8. Regional Rodeo Between Terms

If a regional NIRA rodeo is scheduled between terms, the student must have COMPLETED twelve (12) academic credit hours during his/her previous term or previous term of competition and meet all other eligibility requirements. Anyone found to be ineligible will forfeit all money, awards, scholarships, and points. The NIRA reserves the right to investigate and levy appropriate penalties not to exceed a \$500 fine and loss of two (2) years eligibility.

9. Courses Counted to buy Next Card

All passed hours of credit will be counted. This applies to first (1st), second (2nd), third (3rd), and fourth (4th) year eligibility. In order for a course to count it must be taken from a school that is listed as FULLY ACCREDITED in the current ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION: PROGRAMS/CANDIDATES, and be documented on an official transcript.

10. Courses Used for Completed Hours

All courses to be used for COMPLETED number of credit hours must generate a course title and number, grade, and credit hours within the 4.00 grading system. The grades of P (Passing), S (Satisfactory), and CR (Credit) may be used as passed hours of credit for both completed and passed hours and not generate grade points.

- a. Repeat courses must document hours of credit for at least one term the course was taken. Repeat classes will be counted every time they are taken. A grade is never dropped, regardless of the number of times the same class is taken.
- b. A grade of "U" on an official transcript will not be counted toward passed hours, but will be counted as completed hours. It will not be used when figuring a student's GPA.

11. Remedial Courses

For students that are required to complete remedial courses, and the institution grading policy differs from the 4.00 grading system, official transcripts are required to document the course title and number, grade, and credit hours.

12. Intersession, Short Courses, Interim, Summer Courses, Etc.
Courses taken during an intersession, interim, short course, or under a similar time frame, or the summer, will only count toward accumulation of hours or to raise a grade point average. These credits cannot be used toward previous or current term hours.

13. Online Courses
Online courses will count for enrollment.

14. College Courses Taken While In High School
College courses taken while a student is still in high school will be included when calculating his/her overall GPA.

15. Proof of Academic Eligibility Within Each Region
a. Regional Faculty Director
Each Regional Faculty Director shall have discretion to decide if he/she will require an official transcript or a Work-In-Progress form.

(1) The Work-In-Progress form must carry the signature of the Registrar, the advisor or coach, and official school seal.

b. Faculty Director and Hardship Cases
It is recommended that the NIRA Regional Faculty Director work with the NIRA Regional Student Director and the NIRA Commissioner in determining eligibility problems that may arise within their region. The NIRA Commissioner will maintain final responsibility for determining the eligibility for all students, subject to the provisions of the "Hardship Case" section.

D. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS - BY YEAR

1. Freshman And/Or First Year Eligibility
a. New Members
New members are defined as first time card holders. New members (including foreign students) will be immediately eligible provided that they have a 2.00 GPA on ALL college work "or" a 2.00 GPA based upon the previous term of enrollment.

(1) For a student to use the previous terms' GPA to purchase their first NIRA card, twelve (12) credit hours must be completed, and student must be within six (6) years of their high school graduation date.

b. Beginning Freshman
Beginning freshman are immediately eligible unless they have taken college courses while in high school. To establish

eligibility, a student must provide an official transcript from each institution attended along with an official high school affidavit or official high school transcript, and current membership application with official document signatures to the NIRA National Office before membership is approved.

2. Second Year Eligibility

a. Hour and GPA Requirements

A student must have **PASSED** thirty-six (36) quarter hours of credit or twenty-four (24) semester hours of credit prior to the term of application.

- (1) Grades of F, incomplete, In Progress, and grades that are similar, are not included in the calculation of number of **PASSED** hours of credit.

3. Third Year Eligibility

a. Hour and GPA Requirements

A student must have **PASSED** seventy-two (72) quarter hours of credit or forty-eight (48) semester hours of credit prior to the term of application.

- (1) Grades of F, Incomplete, In Progress, and grades that are similar, are not included in the calculation of number of **PASSED** hours of credit.

4. Fourth Year Eligibility

a. Hour and GPA Requirements

A student must have **PASSED** one hundred and eight (108) quarter hours of credit or seventy-two (72) semester hours of credit prior to the term of application.

- (1) Grades of F, Incomplete, In Progress, and grades that are similar, are not included in the calculation of number of **PASSED** hours of credit.

b. Used at Four Year Institution

The fourth (4th) year of competition must be used while enrolled in an accredited four (4) year school.

- (1) A student may petition to attend a two-year institution during their fourth (4th) year of competition. The petition must be submitted, in writing, to the NIRA National Office before each rodeo season.

- (2) The following criteria will be used for the Board to make a determination:

- (a) The student must have completed one AA, AS, AGS, or AAS or a

two-year certificate during three years of attendance at a junior college. Students will be required to provide that documentation at the time of petition.

(b) Students that receive approval for a fourth year at a junior college will be required to enroll in ten (10) hours of degree courses, and maintain twelve (12) hours of credit each term. They must pass all ten hours of degree courses.

(c) Students will be required to provide the NIRA Board of Directors with a letter declaring a degree or certificate program and a letter of acceptance into the program from the registrar. The degree the student is seeking must be different from the first Associate's earned.

(d) No repeat classes will be accepted for credit unless they are determined to be necessary to complete the student's major.

5. Graduate Student Eligibility

a. Graduate Enrollment

A student who is enrolled in the graduate or a professional school of an institution the student attended as an undergraduate, or who is enrolled and seeking a second (2nd) baccalaureate or equivalent degree at the same institution, may participate in NIRA events provided the student has eligibility remaining, and the student satisfies the applicable provisions listed in this rulebook.

- b. Full Academic Load

A graduate student must be carrying a full academic load as defined by the graduate or professional school in which the student is enrolled. If fewer than twelve (12) hours are required for a minimum full time graduate program, the student's eligibility must be approved by the NIRA Commissioner. All graduate students must provide official documentation that provides satisfactory evidence that they have been accepted in to and have enrolled in the graduate program. All graduate students must be enrolled in at least nine academic credits and pass all nine to be eligible for the next term. Upon acceptance into a Master's program and competing for a fifth year of eligibility, a student must compete for the school from which they are receiving their Master's Degree.
- c. Graduates Before CNFR

A graduate student may compete in the CNFR if the student graduated before and in the same calendar year as the CNFR in which the student wishes to compete and fulfills all other eligibility requirements.
- d. Graduate School Transfer Exemption

A student who enrolls in a graduate or a professional school of an institution other than the one attended as an undergraduate shall not be treated as a transfer student, subject to compliance with this rulebook.
- e. Fifth Year of Eligibility for Graduate Students

A student will receive a fifth year of eligibility upon completing a bachelor's degree and having earned acceptance into a fully accredited graduate program. Students will be responsible for providing acceptance documentation to the NIRA National Office with all required membership documents. If a student is granted a fifth year of eligibility, they can compete as an "on" team contestant.

E. TRANSFERS

- 1. Generally
 - a. Transfers Within And Outside Of Region-Points
 - (1) If a student transfers within the mid-year within the region, they take their individual points, but leave their team points with the previous institution.
 - (2) If the student transfers mid-year outside of the region, they leave both individual and team points with the previous region and school.
- 2. Transfer Eligibility

a. Transfer Student Defined

A student shall be considered a transfer from an institution at which the student was officially registered and enrolled on the opening day of classes in the current term, or the student attended a class or classes in the current term, or the student was officially enrolled on the opening day of classes in the current term, or the student reported for regular rodeo team practice prior to the beginning of the current term.

b. Transfer Rule

A student who transfers from one (1) institution to another institution is subject to the requirements of this rulebook. The twenty-five percent (25%) rule shall not be applied until after a student has become academically eligible.

c. Twenty-Five Percent (25%) Transfer Rule

Except as provided below, a transfer student shall not be eligible until the student has missed twenty-five percent (25%) of the rodeos held within the region during the previous year.

(1) The following shall be used to determine the twenty-five percent (25%) transfer rule penalty:

Rodeos Previous Year
Number of Rodeos - 25%

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1-5 | 1 |
| 6-9 | 2 |
| 10 | 3 |

d. Number Of Rodeos To Be Missed

If a student transfers from one region to another, the number of rodeos to be missed will be based on the number of previous years' rodeos in the region to which the student has transferred.

e. Transfer Student Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the student that transfers to notify the faculty director of the region in which he/she plans to compete, and the NIRA National Office. Further, it is the student's responsibility to provide all information and documentation required for determining eligibility to the regional faculty director and the NIRA National Office.

f. A Student Shall Not Be Considered A Transfer Student After

(1) Summer School, Night School, or Extension Course

Enrollment or attendance only at classes in a summer school, night school or extension course, as long as the student returns to his/her original school, will not be considered a transfer.

- (2) Institution Does Not Sponsor Competition

Enrollment or attendance at a non-member school, and the student did not compete in NIRA sanctioned events at that institution, will not be considered a transfer.
- (3) Is Not A Member For Previous Fiscal Year

A student shall not be considered a transfer student if the student was not a NIRA member the previous NIRA fiscal year.

3. Waiver of Transfer Penalty From a Junior College

- a. Junior College Defined

For purposes of this rule, a junior college is defined as an institution, university branch, or extension center not having a regular four (4) year academic degree program and includes both one (1) and two (2) year post high school institutions.
- b. Two Year College Which Offers A Four Year Degree

A student who graduates from a two (2) year college which also gives a four (4) year degree in his/her field is not subject to the junior college transfer exemption rules, but to the rules regarding transfer from one (1) four (4) year institution to another.
- c. Penalty Waiver

A student who transfers from a junior college shall be immediately eligible under the following conditions:
 - (1) Hour and GPA Requirements

The student presents a minimum of forty-eight (48) semester or seventy-two (72) quarter hours of **passed** degree credits from previously attended junior colleges with a cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.00; or
 - (2) AA Degree

The student is a graduate with an **AA Degree** from the junior college, and the student meets the requirements of this rulebook. If a student receives an AA Degree in less than two (2) years, he/she may transfer without penalty.

4. Waiver of Transfer Penalty From A Four (4) Year Institution

- a. A student who transfers from a four (4) year institution shall be immediately eligible under the following conditions:

- (1) Attendance At Another College And Did Not Participate In NIRA

Upon return to his/her original college or university after attendance of one (1) academic year at another institution in a cooperative education exchange program in accordance with the program recommended by the appropriate academic officer at the original college or university, provided the student was in good standing at the time the student left the original college or university and did not purchase a NIRA card while attending the institution to which he/she transferred.

- (2) Original Institution Discontinued The Academic Program

If the NIRA Commissioner concludes that the student changed institutions in order to continue the student's major course of study because the original institution discontinued the academic program of the student's major.

- (3) Transferring From A Four-Year Institution To A Two-Year Institution.

A student must have a four year degree to transfer from a four-year institution to a two-year institution without a transfer penalty.

- (4) Transferring from a four year institution to another four Year institution:

A student who transfers from one four year institution to another will be given a waiver of the transfer penalty if they have received a four year degree from the four year school from which they are transferring,

- b. Independent Students Transferring to Member School

Independent students competing for non-member schools who wish to transfer at the end of the semester/quarter, will receive a waiver of the transfer penalty if they are transferring to a NIRA member school. The NIRA member school must be a member school as of the date of the transfer.

- c. Transferring Mid-Semester After Graduation

If a student who has graduated from one institution requests to transfer mid-semester to another institution, a written request must be submitted to the NIRA Commissioner for his determination.

VI. LETTER OF INTENT, SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AWARDS

A. Letter of Intent

All students at NIRA member schools who receive financial aid from the rodeo program and participate in the NIRA are recommended to sign a *Letter of Intent* with the institution he/she is attending or plans to attend. If a *Letter of Intent* is signed, a copy may be filed with the NIRA National Office. A *Letter of Intent* is any document in which a prospective student expresses his/her intent to attend an NIRA member school and to participate in NIRA events, and which sets forth the name of the NIRA member school, sets forth the amount of financial aid the student is to receive, is signed by the coach of the member school, and is signed by the student and a parent or legal guardian of the student.

1. The NIRA Letter of Intent applies only to NIRA affiliated institutions.
2. By signing a Letter of Intent, the prospective student certifies that he/she has not signed another Letter of intent.
3. The Letter of Intent may be terminated by the written consent of all parties herein.
4. The NIRA Letter of Intent must be signed and dated by the coach before submission to the prospective student and his/her parents/guardians for their signatures.
5. A NIRA Letter of Intent may not be signed prior to March 1 of the prospective student's senior year in high school.
6. The parent/guardian is required to sign the Letter of Intent if the prospective student is under twenty-one (21) years of age, since the intent of the requirement is to prevent pressure or coercion on the prospective student to sign.
7. If a prospective student has knowledge that either his/her parent's/guardian's signature is forged, the student shall forfeit his/her first (1st) year of eligibility at the institution in which he/she enrolls.
8. The NIRA Letter of Intent must be returned to the coach or postmarked for return not later than fourteen (14) days after the date tendered by the coach.
9. It is presumed that a student is eligible for admission and financial aid at the institution for which he/she signed a NIRA Letter of Intent until information is submitted to the contrary. This means that, when requested, it is mandatory for the student to provide a transcript of his/her previous academic record and an application for admission to the institution where he/she signed a NIRA Letter of Intent.
10. In case a prospective student fails to meet the requirements for admission to the institution for which he/she has signed a NIRA Letter of Intent or its academic requirements for financial aid to athletes and the NIRA requirements, he/she shall be so notified immediately by the institution involved. The institution shall also immediately notify the NIRA Commissioner of the student's failure to meet either of these requirements, the date on which the notification of such failure was sent to the student, and a statement that the NIRA Letter of Intent signed by this individual has been rendered null and void.
11. After signing a NIRA Letter of Intent with one institution, should a prospective student elect to enroll at another institution which is a member of the NIRA, his/her athletic eligibility at the institution in

which he/she enrolls will be limited in accordance with the regulations of the NIRA.

12. This agreement may be cancelled for failure of the student to comply with the rules and regulations of his/her institution, to cooperate fully with its officials and teachers, or voluntarily withdrawal from the sport of rodeo.
13. It is recommended that a Letter of Intent be signed by a student participating in college rodeo who is to receive financial aid from the rodeo program.
14. Failure to comply with provisions of the NIRA Letter of Intent will result in the loss one (1) year's eligibility.
15. Any school not fulfilling the commitment to the student as spelled out in the NIRA Letter of Intent will be subjected to a minimum penalty of the loss of good standing of (1) year with the NIRA.
16. The NIRA Letter of Intent is limited to a one year term.

B. Scholarship Amounts

Scholarships and financial awards given to NIRA members by their respective college/university shall not exceed the total amount of money required for tuition, general fees, books, room and board as indicated in that college/university's current catalog. Board and room shall not exceed normal and prevailing costs in a given location.

C. Travel Expenses

Travel expenses paid by any college/university for NIRA members shall be restricted to travel specifically related to NIRA activities and shall not exceed real travel expenses as established by the school's travel policy or state and local governments. Entry fees shall not be considered as travel expenses.

D. No Cash Awards

No cash awards shall be given, or payments made to, or for, any student member of the NIRA by his/her college/university or private benefactor for any purpose other than for expenses listed in B and C of this Section including entry fees. Any payment for employment, work study or grants must be included in the Financial Aid Report. See E below.

E. Financial Aid Report

Colleges and universities awarding scholarships for financial aid of any type to NIRA members shall be required upon the request of the regional Faculty Director and/or investigating committee to file a financial aid accountability report with the regional Faculty Director and the NIRA Commissioner no later than twenty-one (21) days following the date of the request. Information requested shall not exceed the previous five (5) year period. This report shall contain the total amount spent on scholarships and financial aid for NIRA members and shall also show the exact amount awarded to each NIRA member. Travel expenses paid, in total and to each member, shall also be included. The scholarships accountability report shall be signed by the faculty advisor or coach, college or university president, and business manager, and shall be notarized. Any school submitting a false report may be suspended from team and/or individual competition for a maximum of five (5) years at the discretion of the NIRA Board of Directors. A college or university that fails to submit a report, as requested, shall not be allowed to compete in team or individual competition until the report is submitted.

VII **PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND STUDENT MEMBERS**

A. NIRA Members Subject to Disciplinary Action

Each NIRA individual member, NIRA member school, and NIRA member school representative agrees, as a condition of membership, to be subject to disciplinary action for violation of the by-laws in this Section which prohibit certain conduct. A member school or individual

may be declared ineligible or dropped from membership in the NIRA in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws pertaining to disciplinary action.

B. Prohibited Conduct

Conduct which may subject NIRA members to disciplinary action includes the following:

1. Financial impropriety, including but not limited to failure to pay valid obligations, in dealings with the NIRA, an NIRA approved rodeo, and/or any business or vendor which the member deals with as a result of the member's competition at or participation in an NIRA approved rodeo.
2. Conduct, speech, or appearance detrimental to the public image, reputation, or well being of the NIRA or to college rodeo, including but not limited to fighting, quarreling, or rowdiness in the arena, use of profane language or gestures, conduct which constitutes a crime under the laws of the jurisdiction where the conduct occurs, being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs while participating in an NIRA event or while wearing any article of clothing that indicates a relationship with the member and the NIRA, mistreatment of livestock, and physical endangerment.
3. Conduct which is dishonest and which is intended to give an NIRA member an advantage not permitted by the NIRA By-Laws or Rules relating to competition, eligibility, and membership.
4. Any conduct that may subject the member or member school to disqualification, as listed.

C. Potential Disciplinary Action

1. Specific disciplinary action for a violation of prohibited conduct will be determined by the NIRA Commissioner, NIRA Board of Directors, or by action of an officer or committee to whom the NIRA Board of Directors has delegated such authority, but may include reprimand, fine, suspension, expulsion, or any other reasonable disciplinary action deemed appropriate for the violation.
2. If the violation occurs during an NIRA approved rodeo, the member may be disqualified immediately for the remainder of the current rodeo, in addition to being subject to the disciplinary action set forth in the preceding paragraph 1, for the following conduct:
 - a. Non-payment of entry fees
 - b. Fighting, quarreling, or rowdiness in the arena
 - c. Attempting to threaten, bribe, influence, harass, or coerce the rodeo judges or officials at any time, in or out of the arena
 - d. Engaging in any conduct that is threatening, berating, harassing, intimidating. In addition to disqualification, the member may be subject to an additional fine of \$500.
 - e. The use of profane language, either audibly or through the use of gestures. In addition to potential disqualification, the member will be fined \$100, and the fine will be doubled for each additional offense thereafter. Additionally, the member may be fined an additional \$500.

- f. Striking or assaulting any other person, inside or outside of the arena.
- g. Being under the influence of alcohol or prohibited drugs, and/or consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs in the arena
- h. Mistreatment of stock
- i. Refusing to contest on an animal drawn for him/her
- j. Not being ready to compete when called upon
- k. Intentional violation of any rules of competition with the apparent intention of attempting to gain an advantage not permitted by the Rules

3. Member School Involvement

- a. Any of the foregoing offenses that may have been committed by an individual member shall not affect the individual member's school unless it is proven that:
 - (1) The member school condoned such activities; or
 - (2) The member school took no action to remedy the situation.
- b. When a school member appears to be involved or appears to condone the activity, the member school may be subject to:
 - (1) A warning; or
 - (2) When the infraction is serious, the member school may be disqualified from the rodeo in question
 - (a) This may only be done by a 2/3rd vote of the member schools present at the rodeo; and
 - (b) The action must be immediately reported to the NIRA National Office

D. Procedures for Imposing Disciplinary Action

- 1. The following disciplinary procedure shall be applied in the event that the member or member school's violation or misconduct occurs in the arena and may result in disqualification from an in-progress rodeo.
 - a. The infraction must be reported to the regional faculty member who represents the NIRA Board of Directors
 - b. The regional faculty director will then meet with the members of the regional board that are participating in the rodeo. The board may:

- (1) Vote to disqualify the member with a 2/3rds vote; or
 - (2) Determine that disqualification is not necessary.
 - c. If the board votes to disqualify the member from the rodeo, the decision is final, with no opportunity to appeal
 - d. Regardless of the boards decision, the NIRA Commissioner shall be immediately notified of the infraction and the board's decision so that it may be determined if further discipline is necessary.
 - e. If it is determined that further discipline may be necessary, the proceeding shall commence as if it were not subject to disqualification, as set out below.
- 2. The following disciplinary procedure shall be applied in the event that the member or member school's violation or misconduct occurs inside or outside of the arena and will not result in disqualification.
 - a. The infraction must be reported to the NIRA Commissioner.
 - b. The member and member school shall be notified by mail, at the address that appears on the official books at the NIRA National Office, of:
 - (1) The nature of the charge against the member
 - (2) The potential disciplinary action
 - (3) The member's right to make an appearance in front of the NIRA Commissioner during the investigation, including the date and time of the appearance
 - c. After completing the investigation, the NIRA Commissioner shall notify the member, in writing, of the decision.
 - (1) The NIRA Commissioner's disciplinary authority shall be limited to imposing a reprimand, fine, declare a member ineligible for not more than three years, or any combination of the three
 - d. Within the decision, the member shall be also notified of his/her right to appeal the NIRA Commissioner's decision to the Chairman of the Grievance Committee, as set forth in Section 5. A.
 - (1) In the event of an appeal, the member shall bypass Step 1 of the Grievance Procedures and proceed immediately to Step 2.
 - (2) If a suspension or expulsion was imposed, the member may be permitted to contest

or participate in NIRA events pending the outcome of his grievance if the member posts a cash bond in an amount determined by the NIRA Commissioner, but in no case less than \$250

- (3) If the NIRA Commissioner believes expulsion is appropriate, the issue must be presented to the NIRA Board of Directors. The Board may expel a member by a unanimous vote.

VIII. HARDSHIP & GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

A. Hardship Cases

1. Right of Petition

In the event of exceptional circumstances that cause the application of any eligibility rule to result in an unintended hardship or injustice to a student, a petition may be submitted for waiver of the rule, provided that the waiver does not create an unfair advantage to the student or a disadvantage to other NIRA members not intended by the eligibility rules.

2. Procedure

The petition for waiver shall describe in detail the exceptional circumstances relied upon and the relief requested, shall be accompanied by appropriate documentation supporting the petition, and shall be sent to the NIRA Commissioner. The Commissioner shall submit the petition and any accompanying documentation to the NIRA Executive Committee for review and action. The NIRA Executive Committee shall have complete discretion to grant the petition, to deny the petition, or to grant the petition in part.

3. Review of Executive Committee Decision

The student submitting any petition which is denied in whole or part by the NIRA Executive committee, may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the NIRA Grievance Committee in accordance with Rule VIII D. 3. and 4.

B. Grievance Procedures

1. The purpose of the grievance procedure is to provide a method of appealing and resolving disputes concerning disciplinary and the other action affecting the rights and privileges of NIRA members to participate in NIRA events and to exercise the rights of membership in the NIRA.

2. The grievance process will be conducted in a non-adversarial atmosphere with emphasis on discovery of the relevant facts and achieves a resolution consistent with the mission, goals, and purposes of the NIRA and the provisions contained in the NIRA rulebook.

3. The grievance process shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for all disputes and other actions described above.

4. The member may be represented by an attorney at any or all steps of the grievance process, provided that the member notifies the Commissioner at least ten (10) days

prior to any hearing that the member will be represented by an attorney.

5. The Commissioner may require that any grievance hearing and/or deliberations may be conducted by telephone conference call.

C. Grievance Committee

1. The Grievance Committee shall consist of five individuals selected by the NIRA Board of Directors at the annual Summer Board meeting. Each committee member shall serve a two year term
2. The Committee shall serve as a "court of review", thus, the Committee shall not have the authority to alter or revoke the By-Laws and Rules of the NIRA
3. A quorum for action by the Grievance Committee shall be three (3) members. A majority vote of the members participating shall be required to overturn the action appealed to the Grievance Committee.

D. Procedure

1. Step 1
 - a. The grieving member shall bring the subject matter of his/her grievance to the attention of the NIRA Commissioner in writing. The letter shall set forth:
 - (1) The subject matter of the dispute; and
 - (2) The proposed action requested by the grieving member
 - b. Within ten days following receipt of the grievance letter, the NIRA shall reply in writing to the grieving member, setting forth his/her decision on the matter. The decision shall be final unless appealed by the grieving member to the Executive Committee in Step 2, below.
2. Step 2
 - a. Within ten days after receipt of the NIRA Commissioner's decision letter, the grieving member may appeal that decision by letter to the Chairman of the NIRA Executive Committee (which includes the Faculty President, Student President, Rules Chairman, Budget Chairman, and Commissioner). The letter shall:
 - (1) Briefly summarize the position of the grieving member; and
 - (2) The reasons for his/her belief that the NIRA Commissioner reached an improper decision in Step 1
 - b. Within ten days of the Step 2 letter, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, or NIRA representative, shall issue a letter notifying the grieving member of the decision.
3. Step 3

- a. Upon receipt of the NIRA Executive Committee decision, the grieving member shall be allowed to present their appeal to the NIRA Grievance Committee.
 - b. The NIRA designee will then forward all written correspondence and petition materials to the NIRA Grievance Committee for decision.
 - c. Within ten days following receipt of a letter from the grieving member, the Grievance Committee shall issue a written decision on the matter. The decision shall be final unless appealed to the NIRA Board of Directors in Step 4, below.
4. Step 4
- a. Within ten days after receipt of the written decision of the Grievance Committee, the grieving member must notify the NIRA Board of Directors, in writing, of his/her desire for an appeal hearing in the matter.
 - (1) The letter must be addressed to the NIRA Commissioner; and
 - (2) Briefly summarize the position of the grieving member
 - b. Within ten days of receipt of the Step 4 letter, the NIRA Commissioner shall, in writing, notify the grieving member of the next regularly scheduled NIRA Board meeting, at which time the grieving member shall be afforded an opportunity for a full hearing of his/her grievance.
 - c. Following the hearing, the Board shall notify the grieving member of its decision in writing. The decision shall also appear in the minutes of the NIRA Board meeting. The decision shall be final.

IX. PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR STOCK CONTRACTORS

A. DISCIPLINE

- 1. Stock Contractor Members Subject to Disciplinary Action

Each Stock Contractor of Record and Timed Event Stock Contractor agrees, as a condition of membership, to be subject to disciplinary action, as provided for in the by-laws and rules of the NIRA.

- 2. Regional authority

A stock contractor may be declared ineligible upon the recommendation of three-fourths (3/4ths) of the NIRA Regional Governing Board for violating the by-laws and/or rules of the NIRA only if the rule violated does not provide for a violation penalty. Said stock contractor shall be placed on the ineligible list for a period of six (6) months enrolled school time, excluding summer semester/quarter. At the end of this suspension period, said stock contractor may be fined a minimum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) and may only be reinstated in the NIRA upon a three-fourths (3/4ths) vote of the Regional Governing Board. The decision to impose a fine and the amount imposed will be made by the Regional Faculty and Student Directors. The Regional Governing Board may impose the above procedure,

regardless of the penalty provisions of the rule violated, in instances where the board, in its discretion, finds that the severity of the violation warrants the harsher penalty.

3. Commissioner's Authority

The Commissioner of the NIRA shall have discretionary authority to impose disciplinary measures, including but not limited to reprimand, fine, suspension, expulsion, other reasonable disciplinary action deemed appropriate for the violation, or any combination thereof, on a stock contractor for its actions or those of its agents or employees that violate this rulebook, or for conduct, speech or appearance that would be reasonably likely to reflect on the NIRA and that would be detrimental to the public image, reputation, or well-being of the NIRA or the sport of rodeo. The Commissioner shall have complete and sole authority in stock contractor disciplinary matters in connection with the CNFR.

4. Procedure

The disciplinary procedures set forth in this rulebook shall be followed in all cases where the disciplinary measures are being imposed by the Commissioner of the NIRA. In cases where the disciplinary measures are imposed by a Regional Board of Directors all regional rules shall be imposed.

5. Appeals of Disciplinary Decisions

Appeals of disciplinary decisions shall be made using the hardship and grievance procedures. If appeal of NIRA Commissioner and/or NIRA Executive Committee decision is sought, the affected stock contractor member shall bypass Step 1 of the Grievance Procedures and proceed immediately to Step 2.

X. **COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO (CNFR)**

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE CNFR

1. To provide an opportunity for teams and individuals who are leading the nation at the end of the school year to meet in a common arena under as fair and equal conditions as possible to decide the national champions.
2. To provide an opportunity for favorable national recognition of the NIRA and its champions through the press, radio, and television.

B. CONDITIONS FOR MEETING OBJECTIVES

To meet the objectives of the CNFR, the following must be considered:

1. There should be enough stock of championship caliber to give every contestant as equal an opportunity as possible and to provide the number of go-rounds as specified by the NIRA Board of Directors and a finals in each event. All stock should be carefully selected to insure that they are even. Bucking stock should be even and of sufficient quality to provide a meaningful challenge. Bucking stock from three (3) or more contractors should be used;
2. The procurement of awards will be the responsibility of the NIRA and the sponsoring organization;
3. The CNFR, event directors shall be appointed by the NIRA National Student President and Arena Director. The event director's duties prior to the first (1st) performance shall be:

- a. Careful inspection of chutes, chute gates, barriers, and boxes to insure that they are in perfect working condition;
 - b. Discuss with the arena director and judges the ground rules, score lines, starting lines for girl's events, and exact location of barrels and goat stakes;
 - c. Discuss in detail with the judges the rules for the girl's events;
 - d. Check timed event stock for consistency, and be certain that fresh stock is properly prepared for the first (1st) performance;
4. The event director's duties after the rodeo begins will be to:
- a. Mediate any complaints or disputes that arise involving their event. They should seek the advice of other NIRA Board members on controversial matters;
 - b. The event directors will be introduced at a contestant meeting just prior to the start of the rodeo. Arena rules will be announced at this time.

C. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1. If a college or university has a non-Sunday competition policy that will not allow their team members or individuals to compete in a Sunday performance at the CNFR, the college or university shall annually file their written policy with the NIRA National Office prior to receiving their annual membership. If the NIRA Board of Directors is considering having a CNFR performance on a Sunday, they must notify the college/university, in writing, a minimum of 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting to inform them that this proposal will be considered. The college/university will have a representative appear before the NIRA Board to appeal the change. Their appeal will include a legitimate alternate proposal for competition. The NIRA Board of Directors will have discretion to accept or reject the alternative proposal.
- 2. All regional rodeos will end on the last full weekend of May, or earlier as approved by the Board of Directors, to allow sufficient time to compute national standings and develop advertising and information.
- 3. The Top 12 qualified contestants in each event (Top 12 teams in the team roping event) will compete in the CNFR finals. Should the rodeo be lacking qualified contestants in any event for the finals, the next highest ranked available contestant may take his/her place before stock is drawn. All ties will be allowed to compete in the short go at the CNFR.

D. ELIGIBILITY

- 1. All contestants must meet all eligibility requirements outlined in this rulebook.
- 2. All CNFR eligibility will be checked by the NIRA National Office. No contestant will compete prior to eligibility approval.
- 3. All CNFR contestants must provide an official transcript after completion of the spring semester/quarter in question.

4. Students from the Northwest and West Coast regions will be allowed to provide the following documentation prior to the availability of official transcripts:
 - a. An official *Proof Of Enrollment* form must be completed by the registrar, including the school seal, for the spring semester/quarter prior to the CNFR. (This form may not be completed prior to the final add/drop date.)
 - b. Attached to the *Proof Of Enrollment* form must be an official transcript reflecting all spring semester/quarter "In-Progress" course work.
5. No money, awards, scholarships, or points will be issued prior to receiving official transcripts.
6. Anyone found to be ineligible will forfeit all money, awards, scholarships, and points. The NIRA reserves the right to investigate and levy appropriate penalties not to exceed a \$500 fine and loss of two (2) years of eligibility.
7. For institutions who compete at the CNFR under Work-In-Progress status, official transcripts must be provided to the NIRA National Office two weeks after the conclusion of the CNFR. There is a fine of \$250 per incident to the student or school when official transcripts are not received in the NIRA National Office within this time frame. This fine is in addition to the \$500 fine instituted if a student is found to be ineligible for competition at the CNFR after they have already competed.

E. TEAM QUALIFICATION

1. To qualify for team competition at the CNFR, a school must have placed first or second at the regional level.
2. In the CNFR, a team shall consist of members who placed in the top three in each event. If a student is moved into a bye position due to the ineligibility of another student, the school may, but shall not be required, to include the student moved into the bye position on the team for the CNFR. In instances where there are not enough members, who placed in the top three, to fill a team, team members may also qualify by being in the top 5/30% in each event. The 30% is based on anyone in an individual event who has earned points in regional rodeos. A team at the CNFR shall consist of not more than six (6) men and four (4) women that count for team points at the CNFR. It is the team coach's prerogative to pick which event(s) he/she wishes to use to fill the remainder of their team once all byes have been used from the top 5 or 30%. The contestants in the top 5 or 30% do not need to be selected in the order of their standings in that chosen event. If there are remaining slots left to fill on the team after utilizing the byes and the top 5 or 30%, the remaining slots may be filled by dropping below the top 5 or 30%. These contestants do not need to be selected in the order of their standings in that chosen event.
 - a) If a contestant is used to fill one of the six positions on a team as a bye, and is used in another event in which they are in the top 30%, they will fill another position on the team, thereby, they will represent two of the six positions on the men's team (four on the women's team), and if more than one person is used in this scenario, they will take up that many positions of the teams.

- b) If a coach chooses to use an all-around contestant on the team in a third event, in which they are not in the top three, they must use another position on that team.
- 3. No qualified team member may be removed from the team to create an opening to be filled by an unqualified individual.
 - a) If a contestant has not competed in at least one (1) regularly scheduled regional rodeo and placed, that contestant cannot be used to fill a team and compete as a team member at the CNFR.
- 4. If a qualifying team from any region is not able to send a full team to the championship rodeo, it may still compete as a team.
- 5. In the event that any one of the top two (2) teams cannot attend the CNFR, the next ranking team by points may attend.
- 6. No substitutions of teams may occur after stock has been drawn.
- 7. The draw out date for qualifying teams for the CNFR will be ten (10) days prior to the first performance.
- 8. The team champions at the CNFR will be decided only on the basis of points won at the CNFR.

F. INDIVIDUAL QUALIFICATION

- 1. To qualify to compete in the CNFR individuals must have placed in the top three in their event in the final regional standings counting all rodeos.
 - a. Current NIRA student directors that do not qualify under the top three or top 5 or 30% will be allowed to compete at the CNFR in the event in which they have the most points. If they are qualified in multiple events in the top 5/30%, they may select one event in which to compete.
 - b. All-Around and Reserve All-Around champions qualify in two events in which they have the most points if they do not have a bye in more than one event.
 - c. The top three headers must rope with the top three heelers (in the case of a split for 3/4 the top four heelers must rope with the top four heelers).
 - c. Non-bye student directors, all-around contestants needing a second event, and non-bye team members choosing team roping must select the next eligible team roper on the opposite side.
- 2. In the event that any one of the top three (3) individuals in any event cannot attend the CNFR, the next ranking individual by points may take his/her place. Individuals next in line to qualify (not to exceed the top 5 rule) will be notified and must be entered prior to the position draw. All CNFR requirements (eligibility, entry fees, etc.) must be satisfied. The only exception will be students with verified injuries who will be replaced before the stock draw by next eligible contestant subject to above rules.
 - a. In the CNFR, a team shall consist of members who placed in the top three in

each event. If a student is moved into a bye position due to the ineligibility of another student, the school may, but shall not be required, to include the student moved into the bye position on the team for the CNFR.

3. An individual who is entered in the CNFR and does not draw out will be fined One Hundred Dollars (\$100). If the individual fails to pay this fine, it will revert back to his/her member school, and the member school will be held liable.
4. Entry fees in each event at the CNFR will be Two Hundred Ten Dollars (\$210).
5. Veterinarian releases (for barrel racing horses only) will be treated in the same manner as regional rodeos as defined in this rulebook.
6. The individual champions for the year will be decided on the best time/score accumulated by a contestant at the CNFR.

G. COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO COMMITTEE (CNFR COMMITTEE)

1. Purpose and Duties
The purpose of the CNFR Committee will be to study the entire operation of the CNFR. They will make recommendations to the NIRA Board of Directors concerning location, dates, stock contractors, judges, bullfighters, secretaries, announcers, contract acts, entry systems, timing systems, and all other business pertaining to the operation of the CNFR. These recommendations will then be presented at an appropriate NIRA Board meeting for a final decision by the NIRA Board.
2. Commissioner
The Commissioner of the NIRA may, at the discretion of the NIRA Board of Directors, also function as the manager of the CNFR, and shall be charged with the responsibility of implementing this Article. The Commissioner shall function as the Chairman of the CNFR Committee.
3. Membership
The CNFR Committee will consist of the NIRA National Student President, the NIRA National Faculty President, and the NIRA Commissioner. Other members may be appointed at the discretion of the NIRA Board of Directors.

H. SCHOLARSHIPS

1. To promote the image of NIRA rodeo and its place in education of young people, the NIRA and/or other sources may award scholarships to the winners of the ten (10) events, and also two (2) all-around winners.
2. Scholarship awards may be delegated by the NIRA Board of Directors to corporate sponsors. The rules governing the scholarship will be determined by the sponsor and the NIRA.

XI. SPONSORSHIP/MEDIA RIGHTS

- A. In order that NIRA may obtain additional support for its activities in furtherance of the purposes of the organization, certain commercial entities may be invited to become sponsors of NIRA activities. On a

limited basis, so as to preserve the integrity of the sport of collegiate rodeo, the Commissioner shall create sponsorship programs which provide a means by which commercial entities may become associated with NIRA and support its programs. As a condition of membership in NIRA, each member school and each contestant, coach, contractor, or participant, subject to the NIRA By-Laws and Rodeo Rules, must agree to honor NIRA national sponsorship contracts, and provide certain minimum signage and media exposure to sponsors as required by those contracts.

- B. The NIRA retains all rights in and to the filming, taping, radio, or television broadcasting or reproduction in any manner or form or any of its sanctioned events. All proposals for filming, taping, televising, or radio broadcasting of sanctioned events, including local, cable, or educational television and radio, must be cleared through the NIRA National Office thirty days prior to the commencement of the event. Legitimate news coverage is exempted from this requirement. Any organization or committee obtaining NIRA approval must comply with all rules established by NIRA with respect to such matters, and must not in any way cast a negative light on the NIRA, its members, events or the sport of rodeo. If NIRA obtains a right fee for television or radio broadcast or film/video reproduction of a NIRA approved regular season rodeo, said right fee (net of direct NIRA expenses) will be apportioned 60% to NIRA and 40% to the host school.
- C. The NIRA name, logo, or marks may not be used for any commercial purposes without the consent of the NIRA Commissioner.

XII. BY-LAW S CHANGES

- A. The By-Laws may be changed by a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority vote of the duly elected members of the NIRA Board of Directors.
- B. The By-Laws may be changed by mailed ballot if requested by a majority of the membership of any one (1) region of the NIRA. When voting by mailed ballot, each member school shall have two (2) votes; one to represent the faculty and one to represent the students.

RODEO RULES

I. RODEO AUTHORIZATION & DOCUMENTS

- A. **MUST BE A MEMBER SCHOOL TO SPONSOR SANCTIONED RODEO.** Any school(s) that desires to sponsor a NIRA sanctioned rodeo must be a NIRA member school in good standing.
- B. **RODEO DATES DEADLINES** Any member school(s) that desires to produce or sponsor a NIRA rodeo must submit rodeo dates, in writing, through their regional student and/or faculty directors.
 - 1. **FALL RODEO DATES** All fall (September through December) rodeo dates must be submitted to the National Office no later than the last day of the NIRA Summer Board Meeting. These dates will be declared official on July 1.
 - 2. **SPRING RODEO DATES** All spring (January through May) rodeo dates must be submitted to the National Office no later than the last day of the NIRA Winter Board Meeting. These dates will be declared official on December 15.
 - 3. **FAILURE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION BY DEADLINE** Failure to submit rodeo dates or to make changes by the appointed deadline will result in that rodeo not being held.
 - 4. **LAST REGIONAL RODEO OF THE SEASON** All regional rodeos will end no later than directed by the NIRA Board of Directors
- C. **ALL RODEO APPROVAL DOCUMENTS DEADLINE** A completed and signed Application for Rodeo Approval, the purchase of liability insurance or a Certificate of Insurance verifying coverage, and a copy of established Ground Rules must be submitted to the NIRA National Office THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST (1st) PERFORMANCE OF A SCHEDULED FALL OR SPRING RODEO. Failure to submit the completed approval form, liability insurance coverage, and established ground rules within that thirty (30) day deadline will result in a Two Hundred Dollar (\$200) fine levied against the school(s) or region sponsoring the rodeo.
- D. **CANCELLING RODEO** A school(s) or region sponsoring a rodeo may be fined up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) if the school(s) or region cancels a rodeo. Members may compete only as individuals until such fine is satisfied.

- E. **MATCHING EVENTS BETWEEN MEMBER SCHOOLS** Any matching event between member schools must be cleared through the regional student and faculty directors and the NIRA Commissioner, and it will be approved only if it does not conflict with the best interest of the NIRA. Approval of any such contest would be for competition only and not for points in the point award system.
- F. **SPONSORING RODEO OTHER THAN AN APPROVED REGIONAL RODEO** A member school may sponsor a rodeo other than an approved rodeo if it is limited to contestants from its school and no more than one (1) other school.
- G. **TEN RODEOS PER YEAR IN EACH REGION** A maximum of ten (10) rodeos will be held each year in each region.
- H. **NIRA NATIONAL SPONSORS TO EXHIBIT PRODUCTS AT NIRA RODEOS** Unless prohibited by law or school policy the school(s)/region sponsoring the rodeo must allow the NIRA national sponsors to exhibit and sample their products. The sponsoring school(s) will be ineligible to receive team points and sponsorship money for the year in question if this rule is not followed.
 - 1. **PRE-RODEO AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICES OR SUPPORT OVER \$1500** Any entity, business or person providing services or support of any nature to a rodeo, with a value of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) or more, must receive pre-rodeo authorization from the NIRA National Office.
 - 2. **NIRA NAME, LOGO, OR MARKS** The NIRA name may not be used for any commercial purposes without the consent of the NIRA Commissioner. Any television production must be approved by the NIRA National Office prior to the televising.
- I. **PR REPORT DEADLINE** The PR Report must be submitted along with rodeo results and judges sheets within twenty-four (24) hours following the last performance of the given rodeo. Failure to submit the PR Report as directed will result in loss of good standing for the responsible college/university. The faculty and student directors of a region are responsible for submitting PR reports for rodeos sponsored by their region.
- J. **NIRA POINTS AWARD SYSTEM** There shall be fourteen (14) event categories in the NIRA point award system. Eight (8) men's events - bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, tie-down roping, team roping (header), team roping (heeler) and men's all around. Six (6) women's events - barrel racing, goat tying, breakaway roping, team roping (header), team roping (heeler) and women's all around.

II. ENTRY

- A. **CONTESTANT UNDER THE AGE OF 21** Every contestant will be required to sign a waiver of responsibility for injuries and/or damages. The waiver must be signed by both himself/herself and his/her parents or guardians, if the contestant is twenty (20) years of age or under.
- B. **ENTRY FORMS** Entry forms, if used, must be in the hands of the NIRA member schools within the region at least thirty (30) days before the rodeo date.
- C. **REGIONAL ENTRY SYSTEM** Entry systems for regional rodeos will be determined by the Regional Governing Board.
- D. **ENTRY FEES** Entry fees may be mandatory or optional. Before a team may take advantage of the optional entrance fee, they must have the written consent of the Regional Governing Board. The amount of the entry fee is to be set by the sponsoring member school(s). If the entry fee is optional, any contestant paying an entry fee in one (1) event must pay an entry fee in all events in which entered.
- E. **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS MUST BE SHOWN ON ALL ENTRY FORMS, IF USED** Each individual NIRA membership number must be shown on all entry blanks, if used.
- F. **FINE OF \$50 IF WILLFULLY USING WRONG NIRA NUMBER OR INACTIVE NUMBER** A fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50) will be assessed on the contestant for willfully giving a wrong NIRA number or inactive number. The region will collect the fine and determine its' use.
- G. **PROOF OF NIRA MEMBERSHIP BEFORE COMPETING IN A RODEO** No student will be allowed to compete in an NIRA rodeo if his/her name is not on the

Master Entry List prepared by the National NIRA Office and submitted to the rodeo and regional secretary prior to that rodeo. The listing of contestants on the Master Entry List verifies that each contestant is eligible to compete at that rodeo. The regional secretary is responsible for checking all entries at that rodeo against the Master Entry List and drawing out any contestant who is not on the Master Entry List. If the regional secretary allows a contestant to compete who is not on the Master Entry List, he/she will be fined \$100 for the first offense and \$300 for subsequent offenses. (If a name of a qualified contestant has been omitted from the Master Entry List by mistake, a phone call must be made to the NIRA National Office by the regional secretary to verify the omission. This verification must be obtained prior to the stock draw for that rodeo. If this is done, the contestant in question will be allowed to compete.

- H. CANADIAN BANKS. No checks on Canadian banks will be accepted.
- I. ENTRY FEE PAID BEFORE COMPETITION TIME. All contestants are to pay entry fees to the arena secretary prior to competition time, or they shall be subject to a Twenty-five Dollar (\$25) fine.
- J. RECEIPTS TO CONTESTANTS. Arena secretaries are responsible for giving receipts to every contestant whose fees are paid in a manner other than that contestant's own personal check i.e., cash, money order, traveler's check, prize money check or a check signed by another contestant.
- K. UNPAID FEES. All unpaid fees (for turn outs only) may be deducted from fees collected.
- L. POSTING OF ORDER OF EVENTS. Rodeos that have contest stock to run before or after scheduled performances shall post the order of events in the rodeo office.

III. PERFORMANCES

- A. GROUND RULES. All ground rules must be approved by the NIRA Office and posted at a rodeo prior to the first (1st) performance of the rodeo, and the judges must be required to have read the current NIRA Rule Book prior to the first (1st) performance.
- B. NO TEAM CHANGES ONCE STOCK HAS BEEN DRAWN. No alternate can be substituted in the place of a team member after any stock has been drawn.
- C. NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES AND NUMBER OF HEAD OF STOCK IN ANY EVENT. At all regional rodeos with a long and a short go, a two head rodeo, or a three go rodeo, contestants must have a qualified ride or time on the first head to be eligible for average points. The contestants are still eligible for go-round points. Any NIRA approved rodeo of three (3) performances or more must give two (2) head of stock in any event in which fifteen (15) or less contestants are entered; except at one head rodeos or if there are two (2) NIRA approved rodeos scheduled the same weekend in the same region. Any NIRA approved rodeo of two (2) performances with fifteen (15) or less contestants may give two head or a long and a short go.
 - 1. EVENT WITH LESS THAN TWO CONTESTANTS. An event which has less than two contestants paying entry fees and competing does not count in the point award system.
- D. AMATEUR OR PRCA STOCK CONTRACTORS. The NIRA may use amateur or Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) approved stock contractors, provided they are members of the NIRA. PRCA stock contractors must be used in the CNFR as set forth in the NIRA Constitution. The stock contractor must supply sufficient rered stock.
 - 1. No ineligible PRCA stock may be used.
 - 2. PRCA contract performers such as clowns, announcers, trick riders, etc. may be used in any NIRA rodeo.

ALL NIRA EVENTS INCLUDED IN SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES. All nine (9) NIRA contesting events must be featured in a scheduled performance unless otherwise approved as a ground rule by the NIRA Commissioner at the time of rodeo approval.

- F. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS IN AN EVENT IN A PERFORMANCE. There shall be no more than twelve contestants per event in a performance.

IV. PRIZES

- A. CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM TROPHY Each school(s) or region which sponsors a rodeo is encouraged to award a championship team trophy to the winning team. (If the home team is the winning team, it shall be awarded the trophy.)
- B. LIST OF PRIZES ON ENTRY FORM A list of prizes that are to be awarded at a NIRA approved rodeo must be on the entry blank for the rodeo or in the separate material that is mailed out with entry blanks. The NIRA member school that is sponsoring the rodeo is held fully and completely responsible for the awarding of these prizes to the winners of the rodeo.
- C. RODEO AWARDS AND TROPHIES Rodeo awards such as team trophies or national team trophies, if won, automatically become the property of the institution that sponsored the rodeo team. Rotating trophies shall follow the plan of the originator of the award and may be held by an institution for only a short period of time or may become the permanent property of the college/university.
- D. PRIZES. Prizes will be awarded to the regional and national men's & women's champions in all standard events and the all around. If a situation arises that is not covered by these rules, the regional Student Director or his/her designated student representatives shall refer to current PRCA Rule book as a guide, but shall not be bound by it.

V. EXPLANATION OF POINT SYSTEM

- A. NIRA APPROVED RODEOS INCLUDE TEN EVENTS There will be a minimum of ten (10) point award events represented in the program of events of an approved NIRA rodeo, namely: 1) bareback riding; 2) saddle bronc riding; 3) bull riding; 4) steer wrestling; 5) tie-down roping; 6) team roping, (header); 7) team roping, (heeler); 8) women's barrel racing; 9) women's goat tying; 10) women's breakaway roping.
- B. 24 HOUR RESULTS RULE The person responsible for points in each region must fax or email the entire rodeo results packet (event sheets, participation reports, judges reports, PR report, and the final rodeo report) to the NIRA National Office within twenty-four (24) hours of the last performance of that rodeo, unless granted an extension by the national office. Failure to comply will result in a Twenty-five Dollar (\$25) fine being assessed for the first (1st) offense; Fifty Dollars (\$50) for the second (2nd) offense; and One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for the third (3rd) and subsequent offenses. The fine slate will be wiped clean at the end of the CNFR unless fines have not been satisfied.
- C. CORRECTIONS All rodeo result corrections must be handled in a timely manner, or the responsible person will be subject to a fine.
- D. POINTS FOR EACH NIRA APPROVED RODEO Each NIRA point award event shall be assigned 630 (six hundred thirty) points for each NIRA approved rodeo.
- E. ALL-AROUND POINTS. To qualify for regional all-around standings, a contestant must qualify by accumulating a minimum of 200 points in each of two events. Subsequent to meeting the qualifying standard of 200 points in two separate events, all points earned in all other events are added to arrive at the total points earned in the all-around. A contestant must be entered in two or more events to qualify for all-around points at a given NIRA rodeo.
- F. POINT SYSTEM. Six hundred thirty (630) points are assigned to each point award event in each NIRA approved rodeo. (632 at a one-go rodeo). The correct division of points is given below for an event with three (3) go-rounds. When two (2) or more contestants tie or split, places that are tied should be added together and divided by the number of contestants who split or tied.

ONE GO-ROUND EVENT

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1st - 23% of 630 points | 145 points |
| 2nd - 20% of 630 points | 126 points |
| 3rd - 17% of 630 points | 107 points |
| 4th - 14% of 630 points | 88 points |
| 5th - 11% of 630 points | 69 points |
| 6th - 8% of 630 points | 50 points |
| 7 th - 5% of 630 points | 32 points |
| 8 th - 2% of 630 points | 13 points |

TWO GO-ROUND EVENT

Six places in each go-round and average.

First go-round – 210 points total:
1st - 29% of 210 points 60 points
2nd - 24% of 210 points 50 points
3rd - 19% of 210 points 40 points
4th - 14% of 210 points 30 points
5th - 9% of 210 points 20 points
6th - 5% of 210 points 10 points

Second go-round - 210 points total:
1st - 29% of 210 points 60 points
2nd - 24% of 210 points 50 points
3rd - 19% of 210 points 40 points
4th - 14% of 210 points 30 points
5th - 9% of 210 points 20 points
6th - 5% of 210 points 10 points

Average - 210 points total:
1st - 29% of 210 points 60 points
2nd - 24% of 210 points 50 points
3rd - 19% of 210 points 40 points
4th - 14% of 210 points 30 points
5th - 9% of 210 points 20 points
6th - 5% of 210 points 10 points

THREE GO-ROUND EVENT

Six places in each go-round and average.

First go-round - 158 points total:
1st - 29% of 158 points 46 points
2nd - 24% of 158 points 38 points
3rd - 19% of 158 points 30 points
4th - 14% of 158 points 22 points
5th - 9% of 158 points 14 points
6th - 5% of 158 points 8 points

Second go-round - 158 points total:
1st - 29% of 158 points 46 points
2nd - 24% of 158 points 38 points
3rd - 19% of 158 points 30 points
4th - 14% of 158 points 22 points
5th - 9% of 158 points 14 points
6th - 5% of 158 points 8 points

Third go-round - 158 points total:
1st - 29% of 158 points 46 points
2nd - 24% of 158 points 38 points
3rd - 19% of 158 points 30 points
4th - 14% of 158 points 22 points
5th - 9% of 158 points 14 points
6th - 5% of 158 points 8 points

Average - 158 points total:
1st - 29% of 158 points 46 points
2nd - 24% of 158 points 38 points
3rd - 19% of 158 points 30 points
4th - 14% of 158 points 22 points
5th - 9% of 158 points 14 points
6th - 5% of 158 points 8 points

COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Eight places in first (1st), second (2nd) go-round, third (3rd) go-round, and the average. Four places in short go-round.

First go-round:
1st - 80 points
2nd - 70 points
3rd - 60 points
4th - 50 points
5th - 40 points
6th - 30 points
7th - 20 points
8th - 10 points

Second go-round:
1st - 80 points
2nd - 70 points

3rd - 60 points
4th - 50 points
5th - 40 points
6th - 30 points
7th - 20 points
8th - 10 points

Third go-round:
1st - 80 points
2nd - 70 points
3rd - 60 points
4th - 50 points
5th - 40 points
6th - 30 points
7th - 20 points
8th - 10 points

Short go-round:
1st - 40 points
2nd - 30 points
3rd - 20 points
4th - 10 points

Average:
1st - 120 points
2nd - 105 points
3rd - 90 points
4th - 75 points
5th - 60 points
6th - 45 points
7th - 30 points
8th - 15 points

- G. TIE IN MEN'S/WOMEN'S ALL-AROUND OR MEN'S/WOMEN'S ROOKIE OF THE YEAR. In the event of a tie in the Men's All-Around, Women's All-Around, Men's Rookie of the Year, and Women's Rookie of the Year the following steps will be used to declare a champion:
1. Number of events entered.
 2. Number of times placed in events.
 3. Highest placing in each event.
- H. NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS ON EACH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAM. In all NIRA approved rodeos, a team shall consist of from one to six men. Individuals competing from non member schools are not eligible for team championships. There shall be a women's team consisting of from one to four members.
- I. TEAM DUES MUST BE PAID BEFORE POINTS WILL BE COUNTED. No team Points will be counted until member school dues are paid. All members will be considered off team until such dues are paid.

VI. DRESS CODE/VESTS/HELMETS

- A. MUST WEAR WESTERN ATTIRE. All contestants and coaches must be properly dressed in western attire while in the arena, one hour before the performances and during the performances, or be subject to a fine at the discretion of the regional faculty and/or student directors.
- B. MUST WEAR VEST WITH LEGIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF SCHOOL. All contestants must wear a vest with legible identification of their school on the front and back. The contestant must have his/her vest on at all times during the rodeo including slack when they are in the arena. This applies to hazers and pushers. A vest is described as an open front sleeveless garment. If a contestant is not so identified, he/she will be fined Twenty-five Dollars (\$25). The fine must be paid before the conclusion of the rodeo in question. The fine must be imposed by a faculty, student, Event Director, or judge before official conclusion of the rodeo in question. If the fine is not paid at the rodeo in question, the contestant must be disqualified and considered suspended until the fine is paid.
1. AESTHETIC DESIGN OF VESTS. It is mandatory that NIRA members give aesthetic consideration to the design of their vests.
 2. NO TAPE ON VESTS. Identification cannot be taped onto vest.
- C. PROTECTIVE VESTS & HELMETS IN RIDING EVENTS. Each student member shall wear a protective vest while competing and practicing in any of the rough stock events. Each student member shall also wear a helmet with a face mask

while competing and practicing in bull riding. Selection of protective equipment shall be the responsibility of the student member and shall be of a design, construction, and condition reasonably likely to protect against risks of injury inherent in the event in which the student member is participating. The adequacy of protective equipment shall be subject to the approval of the faculty Director and his/her designated representative. As school vest shall be worn over the protective vest if the protective vest does not meet the requirements for a school vest. All student members are encouraged to wear protective equipment reasonably likely to protect against the risks of injury inherent in the event in which the member is competing or practicing.

- E. SPONSORSHIP OR ADVERTISEMENT IN ARENA. Contestants while competing may wear only sponsorship/advertisements from individual sponsors that have been cleared with the NIRA National Office through the Patch Program. Only individual contestant members of the NIRA who are in good standing are eligible to participate in the patch program. Schools, coaches-advisors, stock contractors, contract personnel or others are not eligible to participate. The terms and conditions of these rules and regulations shall be enforceable within the competition arena of every regional rodeo or other NIRA sanctioned event, unless otherwise specified in these rules and regulations.
- i. The patch program shall be in effect on an NIRA school year basis.
 - ii. Contestants may not display an individual sponsorship in the arena at any NIRA rodeo of that is in competition with, opposes or demeans any product or service of the national NIRA sponsors.
 - iii. Patches must represent legitimate businesses or individuals. Sponsorship patches cannot be worn or displayed on any part of the required school identification vests or protective vests worn in any event.
 - iv. Approved sponsorship patches can be worn or displayed at regional rodeos (where permitted), and at the CNFR.
 - v. Sponsorship patches cannot be worn or displayed at any televised rodeo, at any regional rodeo where signage is restricted or where such sponsorship patches are prohibited by the school producing the rodeo. Any school can prohibit the display of patches at a regional rodeo sponsored by them if this restriction is prominently stated in the announcement for the rodeo.
 - vi. Only national sponsor patches, no larger than 4 square inches, may be worn on headgear (e.g, patches on hats or protective helmets, sponsor hat bands, etc., in the competition arena, except that no headgear patches will be allowed at the CNFR.
 - vii. Individual patch sponsors cannot be announced or acknowledged over the public address system at any NIRA sanctioned rodeo. Only national sponsors and approved sponsors of the individual rodeo may be so acknowledged.
 - viii. Patch sponsors cannot claim any NIRA endorsement nor can they use the NIRA trade name, logos, trademarks, service marks or sponsor identifications in any manner (except recognized national sponsors in accordance with their NIRA sponsorship agreements). A statement to this effect must be given to each commercial sponsor obtained by an individual.
 - ix. Each individual contestant is responsible for obtaining her/his own sponsors.
 - x. Patches may feature sponsor logo and/or lettering. Patches may not exceed the following size limitations: Sleeve patch – sixteen square inches, Collar patch – five square inches, Chap patch – sixteen square inches, Saddle blanket – sixteen square inches on each side, Breast Collar patch – ten square inches maximum, Headgear Patch – four square inches (only NIRA national sponsors).
 - xi. Patches may be worn or displayed only in the following areas and may not exceed the following

- numbers: Two sleeve patches (one per sleeve), Two shirt collar patches (one per side), Four chap patches (two per leg for the riding contestants), Two breast collar patches (one on either side of the horse for the timed event contestants).
- xi. Patches must be firmly attached on clothing or equipment used for display – not attached with safety pins.
 - xiii. JACKET PATCHES: If a student competes in a region where jackets are allowed in the arena, patches worn on the jackets must be approved through the patch program.
 - xi v. These rules and regulations prohibit the wearing of shirts with brand or other name in large letters on the sleeve or collar except for the NIRA national sponsors. Wearing of such shirt is a violation of these rules and will result in penalties.
 - xv. Coaches, advisors, or sponsors of rodeo programs at member schools are responsible for ensuring that their NIRA contestant members follow these rules and regulations. Any coach, advisor, sponsor, college or university, because of policy or other restrictions, may prohibit their contestant members from soliciting commercial sponsorships or wearing sponsorship patches. Such a decision is final and individual NIRA members may not appeal such a ruling to the NIRA under the grievance procedure.
 - xvi. Rodeo judges will not be responsible for policing or enforcing the rules and regulations of the patch program. The regional student and faculty director, assisted by the elected event directors, have full authority and responsibility to police and enforce these rules and regulations at all regional rodeos and to levy appropriate fines and/or other penalties as provided in these rules and regulations.
 - xvii. Any contestant found in violation of these rules at a regional rodeo will be requested by the regional student or faculty director to remove or cover sponsorship patches before they compete, and the appropriate fine will be levied. If, after being warned, the contestant competes with, or appears again in the arena with a patch in violation of these rules and regulations, the subsequent fines and penalties outlined will be levied. First offense: Any contestant who violates any of these patch program rules will be assessed a \$50 fine. Subsequent offenses: The fine will double and disqualification from that rodeo may also be ordered. Disqualification from the rodeo, in addition to the doubled and re-doubled fine, is mandatory for the third and subsequent offenses. Violation of these rules by wearing sponsor patches that are not approved by the NIRA national sponsors will result in fines.

VII. DRAWING POSITION

- A. RANDOM DRAW. All NIRA rodeos will use a random draw in all events for 1st go-round. If not drawn at a region's Central Entry Office, plastic poker chips must be used. Random computer draw may be utilized with prior approval of the National Office.
- B. TWO HEAD OF STOCK IN THE SAME EVENT DURING THE SAME PERFORMANCE. No contestant will compete on two (2) head in the same event during the same performance, except for rerides in the riding events.
- C. MULTIPLE GO-ROUNDS. In the case of multiple go-rounds:
 For all events the positions are drawn for the first go-round, with the positions in the timed events of the second go-round being the reversal, with the exception of the barrel racing which will be random.

 For second and subsequent go-rounds in the riding events as well as the third and subsequent go-rounds of all events, positions are drawn.

- D. **SUBSEQUENT GO-ROUND IS THE REVERSAL OF THE PREVIOUS GO-ROUND.** In those events where a subsequent go-round is the reversal of the previous go-round: if a go-round ends and the next one starts during the same performance, contestants finishing the go-round will be dropped off and start the next performance for their next head of stock. This same procedure will be followed if drawing of positions results in a contestant drawn twice for the same performance.
- E. **TRADING POSITIONS.** Positions shall remain as drawn for all go-rounds at non-preference rodeos. Contestants may trade positions in the second and subsequent go-rounds of a performance-preference rodeo, if and only if such trading is in accordance with the procedures defined in the NIRA Rule Book.
- F. A go-round must be finished before the next go-round starts, with the following exceptions:
 1. Rerides in the riding events.
 2. Riding events with a go-round finishing and the next one starting during the same performance.

VIII. DRAWING STOCK

- A. **DRAWING STOCK.** If not drawn at region's Central Entry Office, plastic poker chips must be used.
- B. **TIME OF THE DRAW.** A complete go-round of riding events must be drawn in it's entirety not less than one and one half hours prior to the start of the first go-round, at a well publicized time and place. The time, place, and supervision of the draw must be approved by the Regional Faculty and/or Student Director. One (1) or more judges must be present at the drawing, or with approval of regional directors, an alternative person may be designated to draw.
- C. **STOCK DRAWN BY NUMBER.** All stock in contest events must be drawn by number by a judge, including team roping cattle. Any arrangements to the contrary for team roping must be approved by the team roping director prior to the first performance of the rodeo. There must always be at least four exact copies made of the draw: one to be posted, one copy for each judge, and one or more copies for the arena secretary's records. The draw at all rodeos shall be posted where contestants can examine it. Receptacle containing numbers to be drawn must be held above the drawing judge's head and numbers shaken between each number drawn. Drawing must be conducted so that any entrant may witness the draw.
- D. **STOCK DRAW FOR CONTESTANT THAT HAS BEEN DISQUALIFIED OR IS TURNING OUT.** In all events, stock shall not be drawn for a contestant if he has notified that he is turning out in that go-round, or has been disqualified. If additional timed-event cattle are needed, cattle to be run will be drawn from those remaining in that performance's pen, with a record of the times and names of persons running these cattle posted for reference.
- E. **SAME STOCK TWICE AT ANY ONE RODEO IN THE SAME EVENT.** No contestant may compete on the same head of stock twice at any one rodeo in the same event, except in the case of a reride in the riding events.
- F. **COMPETING ON STOCK DRAWN.** A contestant must compete on the stock drawn for him/her unless he/she has been awarded a reride or rerun by the judges. In the riding events, competing on an animal not drawn for that contestant will result in a disqualification. There will be an exception granted in the goat tying. The goat tying contestant will be awarded a rerun if they run the wrong goat.
- G. **BAREBACK AND SADDLE BRONC RIDING STOCK CANNOT BE USED TWICE IN ONE DAY.** In bareback and saddle bronc riding events, stock cannot be out twice in the same day with the exception of rerides. The designated reride must be different from those animals out that given day.
- H. **NO DOUBLE-BACK BULLS IN SLACK AT TWO (2) PERFORMANCE RODEO.** In the bull riding, there will be no double-back bulls in slack at two (2) go-round rodeos, progressive rodeos or rodeos with finals or short go, unless otherwise approved by the bull riding director.
 1. In the bull riding, the designated reride must be different from those animals out that given performance.
 2. For every time a riding event animal is in the slack twice at a given rodeo, that same animal must be included in the performance draw at least once.
 3. At certain specified rodeos, whenever deemed necessary, the NIRA Board of Directors may implement a ground rule requiring that any riding event

stock used in slack competition must also be used in the performance competition at that rodeo.

I. PROCEDURE FOR DRAWING BUCKING STOCK

1. Pens set by stock contractor: Stock contractor shall set one more animal per performance than the number needed for competition. A single animal will be drawn from each pen and will be considered the designated reride for that performance. Two-thirds of the animals per performance may be featured, but must be so indicated prior to reride draw, and thus held out of the reride draw. (EXAMPLE: two-thirds of 9=6; two-thirds of 12=8.) After the reride for a given performance has been drawn, all feature animals for that performance are to be returned to the draw.
2. Pens drawn, not set: The stock contractor may feature a maximum of three animals per performance. These animals may be set and are held out of the reride draw. Enough animals are drawn to allow one more animal per performance than the number needed for competition. A single animal will be drawn from each pen and will be considered the designated reride for that performance. After the reride for a given performance has been drawn, the feature animals for that performance are to be returned to the draw.

J. DESIGNATED RERIDE. In the case of riding event stock injuries or animals not shipped after the draw has been made, replacement stock should be the designated reride for the performance for which the injured animal was scheduled for competition. Any reride thereafter will be drawn from doctor releases and turn outs for that performance, provided those animals have not been mounted. A replacement designated reride should be drawn immediately from the notified turn outs for that performance. If there are not any turn outs, use the procedure set forth in this rulebook.

K. DRAW OF RERIDE ORDER. Prior to each performance or section of slack, judges will draw a reride order, using the designated reride (if not already awarded because of an injured animal or an animal that had not been shipped) as the first reride. All notified turned out or doctor released animals will constitute the balance of the reride pen from which the order is drawn. Contestants given a reride will receive the animal that directly correlates with the order rerides were accepted. Animals mounted out shall be used in the reverse order of the reride position draw with the first two animals in the reride order remaining available for rerides until after the last contestant who is entered has competed. Failure of the stock contractor to abide by this mount -out order shall subject the stock contractor to a fine of \$100 per offense. Up to five hours prior to each performance, judges may draw a reride order using available turn out/doctor release notifications. At least two animals must be brought to the arena for rerides (including the designated reride), provided there is one or more turn out/doctor release notification. When final turn out notifications are received for that performance, all animals then at the arena who have been turned out/doctor released will be drawn for a reride order, with the designated reride always being the first reride if not already used for an animal that is injured or that has already been shipped

1. ANIMALS DRAWN FOR A RERIDE. Any riding event animal drawn for a reride, but not used in that go-round, may be held out of the draw for rerides in the following go-round along with the feature animals, then will be returned for the go-round draw after the rerides have been drawn. An animal can be drawn for a reride only one time in a go-round.
2. PROCEDURE WHERE MORE RERIDES ARE AWARDED THAN THERE ARE ANIMALS AVAILABLE. If more rerides are awarded than there are animals in that performance or slack reride draw, the remaining contestants who have not received a reride animal will be drawn rerides from the performance immediately following that performance or section of slack when the contestant originally competed in, using the same procedure as outlined in R 9.10 and R 9.10.1. This procedure will be repeated until all contestants awarded rerides have been drawn rerides. These rerides will be competed on during the performance or section of slack the animals were designated to be bucked, or at a time mutually agreeable to both stock contractor and contestant.
3. LAST GO-ROUND. In the case of the last performance of a go-round, if there are more rerides awarded than there are animals in reride draw, then all animals bucked the last day of the rodeo shall be declared exempt and the rerides will be comprised of all unused rerides (both designated rerides and turned-out stock) from prior performances and slacks in that go-round.
4. LIST OF AVAILABLE RERIDES FOR LAST PERFORMANCE. In the last performance of a go-round, when all rerides from previous performances have been used, the stock contractor must provide the judges with a list of available animals from which reride animals can be drawn. These animals

must have been in the original draw of this rodeo in this event. The stock contractor can exempt 1/3 of available animals prior to the reride draw.

5. FINALS. In a finals, should more rerides be needed than those available, 1/3 of the animals from the short go-round pen can be featured, and additional rerides necessary will be drawn from that finals pen.
6. STOCK INJURED AFTER DRAW HAS BEEN COMPLETED. In the case of stock injuries after the draw has been made, replacement stock will be the designated reride for the performance the injured animal was scheduled for competition. A replacement designated reride should be drawn immediately from the notified turn outs for that performance. If there are not any turn outs, a reride should be drawn from all available animals.

- L. TIMED EVENT STOCK WILL BE DRAWN NOT MORE THAN ONE-AND-ONE-HALF HOURS BEFORE PERFORMANCE. Stock in timed events shall be drawn by either judge of that event not more than one-and-one-half hours before the performance or section of slack.
- M. NO DRAWN STOCK CAN BE HELD OVER. In timed events, no drawn stock can be held over from one performance to the next or overnight.
- N. NO TIMED EVENT PENS DRAWN MORE THAN ONE DAY IN ADVANCE. No pens of stock in the timed events may be drawn for more than one day in advance. Pens of stock shall be drawn by the judge, and arena secretary shall provide each judge with an exact copy of the draw.
 1. If a judge is not available at the time it is necessary for a pen of cattle to be drawn for the first section of competition, the stock contractor and secretary may draw that pen providing a timed event contestant witnesses the draw.
- O. TIMED EVENT STOCK DRAWN BUT NOT USED. In timed events, stock already drawn in a pen, but not used, shall be placed with those animals not already included in competition draw or a pen draw.
- P. IN ALL EVENTS, STOCK WILL NOT BE DRAWN EXCEPT ONE RUN AND ONE GO-ROUND AT A TIME. All stock in the draw will be used one time before any stock will be run twice. When this procedure becomes impossible due to a split performance, the draw will include remaining cattle that have been run the least number of times. Any animal drawn and not competed on or exhibited on will be considered used. Extras may be added only if run an equal number of times at that rodeo.
- Q. DRAW FOR FINAL OR SHORT GO-ROUND. In a final or short go-round, draw will be made from last position to first position.
- R. TEN HEAD OF STOCK WILL BE USED IN ALL TELEVISED RODEOS. At least ten (10) head of stock will be used in the finals at all televised rodeos, unless otherwise specified at time of rodeo's approval. In any final or short go-round, contestants in riding events may draw their own animals in presence of judges if approved at time of rodeo approval.
- S. BUCKING STOCK FOR FINAL GO-ROUND. Selection of individual bucking stock for a final go-round of the rodeo will be accomplished by a mutual agreement between a Riding Event Director or his duly designated appointee, the rodeo stock contractor, and judges. At least two (2) head of additional stock will be available for rerides. Rerides for the short go-round may be designated by the Event Director or his appointed representative, and the stock contractor.
- T. TIMED EVENT CATTLE FOR FINAL GO-ROUND. All timed-event cattle competed on at a rodeo by finalists will be used when drawing for the final round. The number of head of animals with the fastest times (plus an extra) will be used in the draw for the finals.
- U. SHORTAGE OF CATTLE FOR SHORT GO-ROUND. If not enough cattle are available for a short go-round after using all the cattle brought in by the finalists, those remaining in the herd with the fastest times will be used.

IX. MISDRAW S

- A. MORE THAN THREE HEAD OF MISDRAWS. If more than three head are misdraws, all stock shall be put back in the draw box and all redrawn.
 1. Timed-Event Misdraw Definitions
 - a. Definition of misdraws: Any animal that must be replaced will be considered one misdraw.

- b. Definition of herd: Herd shall be defined as those animals designated prior to the start of the first go-round to be used in a given event. No animals other than these pre-designated animals shall be considered qualified stock for said rodeo.
 - c. Definition of extra: If pens are drawn from the pre-designated herd (according to Rulebook), at least one more animal than the number of contestants should be drawn to be used in the case of a misdraw. Following the cattle draw, that animal (or animals) remaining shall be considered the extra(s). In case the extra(s) are not used for that given performance or section of slack said extra shall be placed with those animals not already included in competition draw or a pen draw.
2. In case of a misdraw discovered prior to a performance, or any time during the slack
- a. If an extra (s) is available, all animals below the misdraw up to the end of the run on the cattle are used. One animal is drawn, that being the animal assigned to the contestant who originally had that animal will be assigned an extra.
 - b. If no extra(s) is available, all animals below the misdraw up to the end of the run on the cattle are used, with the last animal drawn in that run designated the extra. In this instance, the last man to have originally drawn an animal in that run requires a repeat of the misdraw procedure that applies, but will not be considered an additional misdraw.
3. In case a misdraw is discovered after the start of a paid performance:
- a. If an extra(s) is available, the contestant involved will automatically be assigned the extra, regardless of a possible difference in runs on the cattle.
 - b. If no extra is available, the contestant involved will not compete as scheduled, but later in the performance or immediately after. A replacement animal will be drawn from all animals left in the run.

X. JUDGES

- A. **CHANGES DURING THE COURSE OF THE RODEO.** Neither timers, barrier judge, field flag judge nor riding judge may be changed during the course of the rodeo, except in the case of sickness or by request of a NIRA official in agreement with stock contractor and rodeo committee.
- B. **TALKING TO JUDGE DURING AN EVENT.** No contestant or coach may approach any rodeo official about a call without being accompanied by a student director or faculty director. Any question must be raised by the end of that event for that performance. Any contestant or coach violating this regulation will be reported to the regional secretary and is subject to a fine.
- C. **TIMER DURING ROUGH STOCK EVENTS.** Both judges will use a stop watch in the bull riding. Regions may require both judges to use a stop watch in the bareback and saddle bronc riding. The latch side watch shall be the official time.
- D. **JUDGES DOCUMENTATION.** Judges are required to mark on their books anyone turning out stock, and which animals were mounted out or run in the timed events. Judges shall report same, in full, to arena secretary. The secretary is required to report such infractions to the NIRA office along with the results of that rodeo.
- E. **MARKINGS IN RIDING EVENTS.** Markings in the riding events shall be totaled by both judges and the arena secretary, and posted after each performance.
- F. **BARRIER JUDGES.** Barrier judges shall keep a record of all barrier fines. They will be furnished a complete list of contestants by the arena secretary, and their records and the arena secretaries must correspond.
- G. **JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.** The decision of the judges will be final and may not subsequently be overturned by action of the NIRA, its officers or directors, or any other party. Any judge, however, who does not perform his duties in compliance with these rules, or who otherwise abuses his position, will be subject to disciplinary action by the NIRA

Board. Penalty for such improper conduct shall be a minimum fine equal to one performance judge's pay for that rodeo and/or ineligibility to judge.

- H. **AUTHORITY TO REQUEST PERSON EXCUSED FROM ARENA.** A judge has the authority to request that any person be excused from the arena if that person, in the judge's opinion, is interfering with the contest event.
- I. **INJURED ANIMALS.** Judges must check and determine that a satisfactory injured animal conveyance exists prior to the beginning of all NIRA rodeos.

XI. POSTPONEMENT AND CANCELLATIONS

- A. **POSTPONED OR CANCELLED RODEO.** A rodeo performance may not be postponed or cancelled unless agreed to by the committee chairman, stock contractor and NIRA official that it be a physical impossibility to hold the performance. In the event no NIRA official is present, a NIRA contestant member should represent the contestants.
- B. **PERFORMANCE OR SECTION OF SLACK POSTPONED.** Only that performance or section of slack that had to be postponed will be rescheduled.
- C. **RESCHEDULED POSTPONED PERFORMANCE.** That postponed performance must be rescheduled within forty-eight (48) hours or prior to the start of the subsequent go-round, whichever comes first.
- D. **NO DRAW OUTS BECAUSE OF POSTPONED PERFORMANCE.** Contestants will not be permitted to draw out because of a postponed performance.
- E. **ORDER OF COMPETITION.** In case of postponement, the order of competition for that postponed performance will be maintained exactly as drawn.

XII. GENERAL RODEO ACTIVITY

- A. **AMBULANCE AND CERTIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL.** The sponsoring school of each NIRA approved rodeo shall be required to provide a transport ambulance and licensed EMT/Paramedic personnel to be on site for all performances and supplementary contesting time to the performances.
- B. **RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY.** The sponsoring school assumes no responsibility or liability for injury or damage to the person, property or stock of any owner, contestant, or assistant or participant. By the act of his/her entry the contestant waives all claims against the sponsoring school for injuries he/she or his/her property may sustain.
- C. **RECEIVING STOCK BEFORE OR AFTER EVENT.** No stock in any event, except for rerides, may be taken before the first section of that event on the program, and no stock in that event can be held beyond the end of the event on the program for the performance. Any deviation from this that may be deemed necessary to prevent production delay (chute fighting or stalling animal, escaped timed event cattle, etc.) may only be authorized by the judge.
- D. **RECEIVING STOCK IN SLACK.** In slack, no stock in any event may be taken before that event is scheduled. All animals drawn for that event must be run as scheduled prior to the start of the next event, where facilities permit. Likewise, no stock may be held beyond the end of the draw (or run) in that event.
- E. **CONTESTANT ILLNESS OR INJURY.** If a contestant is unable to compete at a rodeo due to sickness or injury, he may be held until later in the go-round with the consent of both judges and stock contractor.
 - 1. If held back, contestant may not compete at any other rodeo until he has competed in the performance to which he was held.
- F. **CONTESTANTS IN TIMED EVENTS WHICH ARE SICK OR INJURED.** In the timed events, sick or injured contestants shall not be held back past the end of the run on the cattle.
 - 1. The end of the run on the cattle cannot be rescheduled because of a held-back contestant. The "designated end of the run" will be

determined by the original number of contestants and the original number of cattle. No contestant will be held back beyond that "designated end of the run."

- G. QUALIFIED CONTESTANTS FOR FINAL GO-ROUND. Only the contestant in the qualifying positions including ties, specified prior to the first performance, for a short or final go-round will be eligible to receive the final head.
- H. ALL TIMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED. All times shall be announced in the timed events during a performance or slack.
- I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARKINGS IN RIDING EVENTS. Markings shall be announced in the riding events at all times during the contest whether before, during or after the paid performance.
- J. CONTESTANTS OUT OF ARENA. If the management provides satisfactory seats for the contestants, the NIRA will urge contestants to stay out of the arena when they are not scheduled to compete.
- K. SUPPLEMENTARY CONTESTING TIMES CONDITIONS THE SAME AS PAID PERFORMANCES. Supplementary contesting times will be run under the same conditions as a paid performance. Stock contractor may be reported for violation of this rule at the discretion of the judge(s). First offense will constitute a warning; 2nd and subsequent offenses will constitute a \$250 fine for each offense.
- L. CONTESTANTS ON THE BACK OF THE BOX OR ARENA. At the discretion of the arena director, contestants on the back of the box or arena fences may be requested to move if they are obstructing the view of paying spectators.
- M. ANY OFFICER OR DIRECTOR SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ANY PART OF THE RODEO ENCLOSURE OR ARENA. Any officer or director of the NIRA shall have access to any part of the rodeo enclosure or arena when representing the NIRA on official business, if official identification card is presented.
- N. CONTRACT ACTS. Contract acts not pertinent to rodeo will be excluded from the arena.
- O. ADVERTISING IN ARENA. Any advertising in the arena shall be subject to NIRA approval.
- P. CONTRACT PERSONNEL SHALL NOT INTERFERE WITH COMPETITION. Contract personnel shall not interfere with competition. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action at the Board of Directors' discretion.
- Q. CONTESTANTS SHALL NOT INTERFERE WITH BONAFIDE PRESS OR PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS. Contestants in the arena must not interfere with the work of bonafide press and professional photographers, or within the view of the spectators.
- R. PHOTOGRAPHERS NOT REQUIRED TO WEAR HATS. Photographers will not be required to wear a hat while working in the arena.
- S. REQUIREMENT OF TWO BULLFIGHTERS AND TWO PICK-UP MEN. A NIRA-approved rodeo is required to have two (2) bullfighters and two (2) pick-up men.
- T. UNSAFE ARENA CONDITIONS. If the arena conditions are deemed by a majority of the event representatives present, judges and a stock contractor to be unsafe, competition can be stopped until such time as the arena condition is deemed satisfactory.
- U. CONTESTANT NOT READY TO COMPETE. In any event, a contestant not ready when called during a performance or section of slack will be fined \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, and \$100 for the third and subsequent offenses, and/or may be disqualified from the rodeo where the offense is committed. The judges are the final authority.
- V. PERSONS ALLOWED IN ARENA.
The only people allowed in the arena during performances and slack should be NIRA members, coaches and rodeo production personnel. This includes boxes, working pens and behind the chutes. Parents and all others should

not be in the arena unless they meet the aforementioned status. Contestants who are deemed responsible for such individuals will be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense, progressively doubling for any offense thereafter, and/or may be disqualified from said rodeo.

XIII. TURN OUT AND DOCTOR RELEASE PROCEDURES

- A. **TURN OUT TIME REQUIREMENTS.** The rodeo entry office shall be notified by contestants no later than three (3) hours prior to the performance that he/she is turning out. Should circumstances change that make it possible for a contestant to compete after a turn out notification has been made, it will be his/her responsibility to notify that rodeo individually. If his/her stock is available, the contestant may be allowed to compete. If timed event stock has already been drawn excluding this contestant, it shall not be redrawn. A contestant who notifies the rodeo secretary no later than three hours prior to the performance and turns out will not be fined for a turn out penalty; however, will still be responsible for his/her entry fees and any other regional fees and stock charge. If the contestant is unable to contact the rodeo secretary for what ever reason, he/she will be fined accordingly. A contestant who does not notify the rodeo secretary will be responsible for his/her entry fees as well as a \$25 fine. Fines will be established by the individual regions.
- B. **TURN OUT DUE TO VISIBLE ILLNESS OR INJURY.** A contestant may turn out due to a visible injury or illness, providing notification of such a turn out is authorized by a judge at the given rodeo, or the rodeo secretary is notified by the contestant no later than three (3) hours prior to the performance that he/she is turning out. In this instance, the contestant shall remain eligible to enter or compete in any NIRA rodeo following the performance in which he/she has turned out because of a visible injury or illness. Entry fees will remain in the payoff, but all turn out fines and mount monies will be waived providing:
- C. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.** A doctor verification form, or NIRA visible injury or illness form signed by the judge of a given rodeo, is received by the rodeo secretary no later than seven (7) days following the last performance of the given rodeo.
- D. **DOCTOR RELEASE.** A contestant may doctor release, thus waiving all obligations for entry fees, turn out fines and mount monies, providing:
- E. **DOCTOR RELEASE TIME REQUIREMENTS.** The rodeo secretary is notified of the intended doctor release no later than three (3) hours prior to the performance for which the contestant's first (1st) go-round competition is scheduled; or the doctor release is authorized by the judge of a given rodeo.
- F. **DOCTOR RELEASE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.** A doctor verification is received by the rodeo secretary within seven (7) days of the date of the last performance of the first (1st) rodeo for which the doctor release is intended.
- G. **ELIGIBILITY AFTER DOCTOR RELEASE.** A contestant who is doctor released shall not be eligible to participate or compete in that event in another rodeo for five (5) days after the performance for which the release was turned in. It will be that contestant's responsibility to notify the rodeo secretary of rodeos already entered so that he/she will be drawn out. (EXAMPLE: If release is used for competition scheduled for the fifth (5th) of the month, the first (1st) day the released contestant is eligible to participate or compete will be the tenth (10th) of the month.)
- H. **DOCTOR RELEASE ONE EVENT.** A contestant who is doctor released in one (1) event may compete in another.
- I. **CONTESTANT TURN OUT AT ANY TIME.** A contestant turning out at any time will receive no time or marking for that go-round and will not be eligible for any average payoff. To receive average points a contestant must have competed in all go-rounds of the event in question.
- J. **ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE ON OTHER STOCK AT RODEO.** A contestant will be eligible to compete on all other stock at the rodeo in question.
- K. **TURNED OUT STOCK.** Stock so turned out will not be brought back.

XIV. VETERINARIAN RELEASE PROCEDURES

- A. TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR VET RELEASES. If a contestant is vet releasing out of a NIRA rodeo he/she must notify the rodeo secretary no later than (3) hours prior to the performance he/she is up, that he/she is sending a bonafide vet release to the designated recipient.
- B. VET RELEASES CAN BE USED ONLY IN THE BARREL RACING. Vet releases can be used only in the barrel racing.
- C. LIMITATIONS OF VET RELEASES. Vet releases are limited to two (2) a year. Additional vet releases will result in rule violation. Competing following 5 day period voids release.
- D. DOCUMENTATION OF VET RELEASES. To be valid, a vet release must be written on the veterinarian's stationary and sent to the designated recipient office within five (5) days of the turn out. The letter must be postmarked no later than five (5) days from the performance the contestant is releasing. A contestant may not compete in any NIRA barrel races held during the entire period of the event for which she is using the vet or doctor release.
- E. ELIGIBILITY AFTER A VET RELEASE. A contestant who vet releases shall not be eligible to participate or compete in another NIRA event for five (5) days beginning with the first performance the release is used. A contestant is allowed two (2) vet releases per year, which have to be rodeo specific.
- F. ONCE VET RELEASE IS USED CONTESTANT IS OUT OF THE ENTIRE RODEO. Once a contestant vet releases out of the barrel racing in a rodeo, she is out of the barrel racing for the entire rodeo. Vet release may not be used by go-rounds only.
- G. JUDGE CAN AUTHORIZE A TURN OUT OR DRAW OUT ON VET RELEASE. A judge can authorize a turn out or draw out on a vet release. Seven day time period to begin on first day release is used.
- H. ENTRY FEE REFUND:
 - 1. IF NOTIFIED BEFORE COMPETING IN AN EVENT BECAUSE OF INJURY TO CONTESTANT. If a secretary is notified of withdrawal because of injury to contestant prior to her competing in an event, her entry fee is not to be included in payoff.
 - 2. IF NOTIFIED BEFORE COMPETING IN AN EVENT BECAUSE OF VET RELEASE. If secretary is notified of withdrawal because of vet release prior to her competing in an event, her entry fee is not to be included in payoff.
- I. VISIBLE INJURY:
 - 1. ENTRY FEES. Entry fees will remain in the payoff, but all turnout fines will be waived.
 - 2. DOCUMENTATION OF VISIBLE INJURY FORM. A vet verification form, NIRA visible injury form signed by the judge of a given rodeo, must be received by the designated authority no later than five (5) days following the last performance of the given rodeo.
 - 3. TIME LIMITATIONS FOR VISIBLE INJURY TURN OUT. If a contestant turns out of a performance or section of slack of a given rodeo with a visible injury, she may not compete in that event at another rodeo during the same time period.

XV. TRADE OUT/GROUND MONEY/DRAWING OUT/ENTRY FEE REFUND

- A. TRADE OUT RULE. The trade out rule will be allowed only to prevent a hardship upon a student or upon an institution. A petition to trade out must be submitted to the rodeo secretary of the sponsoring rodeo before the stock is drawn. Such a petition must be made by an official of the school desiring the trade out. Trade out ruling is a regional problem which shall be governed by the regional directors and the Regional Governing Board.
- B. POINTS WILL BE DROPPED WHEN GROUND MONEY IS PAID. When ground money is paid in any event, the points for these places will be dropped and no contestant or team may receive them. A note of any points dropped must be reported to the regional Student Director along with the results. In the event of a two (2) or three (3) go-round rodeo, the

average points will be awarded on a one (1) or two (2) head basis. To receive average points a contestant must have competed in all go-rounds of the event in question.

- C. TEAM ROPERS MUST HAVE PARTNERS AT ENTRY CLOSING TIME. Team ropers who are entered but do not have partners at entry closing time will have their names removed from the list. No position will be drawn for a single name.
- D. TEAM ROPER THAT TURNS OUT PRIOR TO THE FIRST GO-ROUND OF COMPETITION. If a team roper notifies of a turn out prior to first go-round competition, in accordance with the NIRA turn-out procedures, the person entered with him/her may either get another partner from among any of the contestants already entered at the rodeo, except those scheduled to compete the maximum number of times in the event; or he/she may draw out, if and only if, he/she is present at the rodeo and personally notifies the rodeo secretary prior to the cattle draw of first go-round competition.
- E. FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF TURN OUT. If a team roper's partner fails to notify of a turn out, but does not appear prior to first go-round competition, the person entered with him/her may get another partner from among any of the contestants entered at the rodeo, except team ropers already scheduled to compete the maximum number of times in the event; or he/she may draw out providing he/she is present at the rodeo and the draw out is approved by the judges of that rodeo.
- F. ALTERNATE TEAM ROPING CONTESTANTS ENTRY FEES. If an alternate team roping contestant is replacing a partner who has turned out (either notified or non-notified, that replacement will not be required to pay entry fees. If an alternate team roping contestant is replacing a partner who has doctor released or been officially drawn out, that replacement will be required to pay entry fees.
- G. NON APPEARANCE AFTER POSITIONS ARE DRAWN. In the instance that a member of each of two (2) teams does not appear after positions are drawn, the remaining two (2) team members may compete as a team.
- H. NOTIFICATION TO THE SECRETARY PRIOR TO CATTLE DRAW OF FIRST GO-ROUND COMPETITION. If the arena secretary has been notified of a team roper's turn out, doctor release, or draw out, the secretary must be notified prior to cattle draw of first go-round competition if the partner is drawing out, or who his/her replacement partner will be. If the secretary is not notified, the contestant will be subject to entry fee payment, will be disqualified from the team roping for that rodeo, and no cattle will be drawn.
- I. REPLACEMENT PARTNER IN TEAM ROPING. If a team roper's partner is unable to compete in the second or subsequent go-round due to a visible injury or doctor release, the remaining partner may obtain a replacement partner from among those contestants entered in that rodeo who are not already entered in the team roping; providing that the originally entered team competed in the first go-round. The originally entered contestant wins only short round points, but no average points. The replacement partner earns no points. The replacement partner shall not be responsible for entry fees.
- J. REFUND OF ENTRY FEES. No rodeo that completes its contract shall be responsible for the returning of a contestant's entry fees if he/she has contested in an event once during the rodeo. If he/she is entered in other events in which he/she is unable to contest, the entry fees for those events must be returned.
- K. REFUND OF ENTRY FEES DUE TO INJURY TO CONTESTANT. If a contestant is injured while competing in the first go-round and has not been disqualified up to the point of injury, his/her entry will be refunded if a reride or rerun is due.
- L. POSTPONED PERFORMANCE. Contestants will not be permitted to draw out because of a postponed performance.
- M. DRAW OUT DEADLINE
Draw out deadlines are a regional issue, which shall be governed by the Regional Directors and the Regional Governing Board.

- A. LEASING OF RIDING-EVENT STOCK. Stock contractors will not be allowed to lease riding-event stock from non-NIRA stock contractors at NIRA rodeos. In the event of hardship, there may be consideration only by contacting the National Office and Event Representative for the event in question no less than ten (10) days prior to the particular rodeo. The penalty for violation will be Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) per head times the amount of animals in the draw.
- B. NUMBERING OF LIVESTOCK. All livestock must be numbered by hot iron (except calves), and no duplicate numbers shall be permitted. Duplicate numbers shall result in a One Hundred Dollar (\$100) fine per duplication. Any exceptions must be approved by specific Event Representatives. If numbers are blurred or haired-over, they must be clipped or renumbered so as to be readable at all times.
- C. TIMED EVENT CATTLE NUMBERING. All timed event cattle must be identified with numbers. No duplicate numbers will be permitted.
- D. RIDING EVENTS IDENTIFICATION. In riding events, paint numbers may be used at a maximum of three (3) rodeos, unless otherwise approved by the Director. The description of the animal and the paint number to be used must be submitted at the time stock is submitted for a given rodeo. Any stock contractor that uses an animal that does not have a readable hot-iron brand at more than three (3) rodeos, without approval of the Director will be fined One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per animal per rodeo.
- E. ALL TIMED-EVENT STOCK SHALL BE RUN THROUGH EVENT CHUTES. All timed-event stock shall be run through event chutes, and through arena, prior to start of contests, where conditions permit.
- F. FRESH CALVES. At all rodeos, fresh calves shall be tied down, with such tying down to be completed no later than two (2) hours prior to the beginning of the performance or section of slack in which they are scheduled to be used, unless there is one (1) calf for each entry. This should be overseen by the judge of that rodeo, and shall be the responsibility of the contestants scheduled to compete in that performance or section of slack. If after this procedure is used, a calf appears objectionable, it may be eliminated from competition.
- G. MISSED TIMED-EVENT STOCK. If a stock contractor is to require contestants to throw down or rope missed timed-event stock, it will have to be previously specified in the ground rules at time of rodeo approval.
- H. NUMBER REQUIREMENTS OF TIMED EVENT STOCK FOR ALL RODEOS. At all NIRA approved rodeos, the minimum number of cattle will be one-third of the number of entries rounded up to the nearest whole number; with a minimum of 15 head of usable and desirable cattle, unless that number causes livestock to be run more than two times in 24 hours with the exception of the short-go. The number needed will be according to the daily number of runs. Should there be fewer than 15 entries, there must be no less than one animal for each entry plus one extra. No stock in the timed events may be used more than twice in any given day, excluding the short round. Any less numbers will need to be approved by the directors.
- I. STOCK SHORTAGE FINES. In the event of stock shortage, the contractor will be fined as follows:
- | Offense | Fine |
|---------|------------------------------|
| First | \$ 25 for each animal short; |
| Second | \$ 50 for each animal short; |
| Third | \$100 for each animal short. |
- J. NUMBER REQUIREMENTS FOR PAID PERFORMANCE. There shall be a minimum of ten (10) head in the riding events and ten (10) head in the timed events at each paid performance in all events where slack is run, unless approved otherwise by the Directors.
- K. UNSATISFACTORY ANIMALS. An Event Director may declare particular animals unsatisfactory. Upon notification, either written or verbal (verbal notification supported with documentation), stock contractor shall eliminate such animal from competition draw. Continued use of said animal(s) after notification will result in a One Hundred Dollar (\$100) fine per competition.

- L. TRIMMING THE HORNS OF STEERS. Stock contractors will be expected to cooperate in trimming the horns of steers that are not able to pass through the steer wrestling chute.
- M. USE OF ANIMALS USED IN CONTEST EVENTS. An animal used in the contest events of a NIRA rodeo may not be used in any way, other than in the contest events of that rodeo, until the last time that animal has been used in the contest events at that rodeo.
- N. COMPETING ON TIMED EVENT CATTLE. Timed event cattle cannot be competed on 36 hours prior to the first performance or slack, excluding NIRA sanctioned rodeos.
- O. ANIMAL FAILS TO APPEAR AT RODEO. If an animal fails to appear at a rodeo by the scheduled time for the competition stock draw in the event for which the animal is to be used, or is shipped from a rodeo after it has been drawn, but before it has been competed on, the stock contractor shall be fined One Hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per animal, or One hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per out drawn.
- P. LEASING OF RIDING-EVENT STOCK. Stock contractors will not be allowed to lease riding-event stock from non-NIRA stock contractors at NIRA rodeos. In the event of hardship, there may be consideration only by contacting the National Office and Event Representative for the event in question no less than ten (10) days prior to the particular rodeo. The penalty for violation will be Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) per head per times animal is in the draw.
- Q. LIGHTING OVER THE TIMED-EVENT CHUTES. The sponsoring school is responsible for checking that there is an adequate light over the timed-event chutes at all indoor and night rodeos. The judge(s) will notify the school of any lighting deficiency.
- R. PERSON OR COMPANY WITH STOCK AT ANY RODEO. The person or company who owns stock will be listed as the Stock Contractor of Record or Timed-Event Stock Contractor on the official rodeo approval at any rodeo where his stock is used.
- S. ALL RIDING EVENT ANIMALS MUST BE TRIED AT LEAST ONCE. All animals in riding events must have been tried at least once as a bucking animal before being put into the draw. Failure to abide by this will subject stock contractor to a Two Hundred Fifty Dollar (\$250) fine per animal.
- T. ANIMALS IN ARENA. No electric prods or whips may be used on an animal while competed on in the rodeo arena.

XVII. RULES TO INSURE HUMANE TREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK

- A. INJURED LIVESTOCK. All injured livestock must be removed from the arena before continuing the rodeo contest or performance.
- B. SPURS AND ROWELS. No locked rowels, or rowels that will lock on spurs, or sharpened spurs, may be used on bareback horses or saddle broncs. Spurs must be dulled. Violation of this rule shall receive a fine in the amount of Fifty Dollar (\$50).
- C. WOODEN PADDLES. No wooden paddles. Straps are permissible.
- D. SWITCH. An intentional or unintentional switch will result in a minimum \$50 fine imposed by the region. The contestant will be fined, but no loss of points or forfeiture of money will occur due to this offense.
- E. STEER WRESTLING. The placing of fingers in eyes, lips or nose of steers while wrestling same is forbidden.
- F. ANIMAL INSPECTION. Animals for all events will be inspected before the draw, and no sore, lame, sick or injured animal, or animal with defective eyesight, shall be permitted in the draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or be injured between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled to be used in competition, that animal shall not be used in competition and another animal drawn for the contestant as provided in the NIRA Rule book. A veterinarian shall be present or on call for every

performance and/or section of slack. Failure to do so shall result in a fine to the school of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per performance.

- G. USE OF PRODS AND SIMILAR DEVICES. In all events the use of prods and similar devices is prohibited. The only exceptions are: (1) a known chute-stalling animal (horse events only), only with contestants, contractors and judges approval, and should be administered by a qualified member, and (2) a prod may be used to move livestock in pens and alleys, with prod use ceasing completely when the animal enters the competition chute. In this instance, the prod shall not exceed twelve inches (12") in length. The fine for violation will be a minimum of \$250 per infraction.
- H. USE OF A CONVEYANCE. A conveyance must be available and shall be used, where practicable, to remove animals from the arena in case of injury. Conveyance must be large enough to remove a horse or bull. Injured calves shall be removed from the arena in a pickup truck, calf stretcher, or conveyance. Animals removed from the arena shall be placed in a situation as isolated and comfortable as possible to reduce stress.
- I. NO SHARP OR CUTTING OBJECTS. No sharp or cutting objects in cinch, saddle girth, or flank straps shall be permitted. Only sheepskin-lined flank straps shall be used on bucking stock and shall be of the quick-release type. Sheepskin-lined flank straps shall be placed on the animal so the sheepskin-covered portion is over both flanks and the belly of the animal. No bull tails will be allowed under flank straps.
- J. BAREBACK RIDING. No "loose ropes" allowed in bareback bronc riding.
- K. NO STIMULANTS OR HYPNOTICS. No stimulants or hypnotics are to be given to any animal used for contest purposes.
- L. CHUTE CONSTRUCTION. Chutes must be constructed as to prevent injury to stock. Maintenance men and equipment shall be stationed at chutes to assist in removal of any animal should it become caught. The arena shall be reasonably free of rocks, holes and obstacles.
- M. BULLFIGHTERS. Bullfighters are not to abuse stock in any fashion.
- N. NO SMALL ANIMALS OR PETS IN ARENA. No small animals or pets allowed in arena where restraint is necessary, or where subject to injury or attack by another animal.
- O. REMOVAL OF LIVESTOCK AFTER COMPETITION. Livestock is to be removed from arena after the completion of each run.
- P. FIREWORKS. Use of fireworks to frighten animals is prohibited.
- Q. ABUSE OF ANIMAL BY NIRA MEMBER. If a NIRA member abuses an animal by any unnecessary non-competitive or competitive action, anywhere on the rodeo grounds, he/she may be disqualified and fined up to \$250 for the first offense, with that fine progressively doubling with each offense thereafter. Officials will immediately inform the announcer that the contestant has been disqualified and the spectators will be informed of the disqualification due to unnecessary roughness to livestock.
- R. CONFINEMENT OF STOCK. No stock shall be confined or transported in vehicles beyond a period of twenty-four (24) hours without being unloaded, and properly fed and watered. Failure to abide by this shall subject the stock contractor or contestant involved to a Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) fine for the first offense and a progressively doubling fine for every offense thereafter.
- S. EXCESSIVELY EXCITED STOCK WHILE IN CHUTE. Any animal that becomes excessively excited so that it gets down in the chute repeatedly, or tries to repeatedly jump out of the chute, or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring itself, should be released immediately.
- T. MISTREATMENT OF ANIMAL ON RODEO GROUNDS. Any NIRA member, including stock contractor, guilty of mistreatment of livestock, anywhere on the rodeo grounds, may be fined up to \$250 for first offense, with that fine progressively doubling with each offense thereafter.
- U. VETERINARIAN REQUIREMENTS. All NIRA rodeos must have a veterinarian on call. The veterinarian's name and telephone number must be posted in the rodeo office.

- V. HORN WRAPS ON TEAM ROPING STEERS. All team roping steers must have horn wraps that extend four inches down the jaw from the base of the horns.

XVIII. RULES GOVERNING NIRA TIMED EVENTS

- A. MEASUREMENTS OF BARRIER. A ten (10) foot tape must be on hand for the barrier judge. Height of barrier in timed events shall be from thirty-two (32) to thirty-six (36) inches, measured at the center of the box. In timed events where automatic barriers are used, automatic stack catchers are to be eliminated. Knot behind pulley is required on all barriers.
- B. COMPETITION MUST BE FROM SAME BOX. All timed-event contestants must compete from the same box designated for their event.
- C. AUTOMATIC TRIP GATE. All timed event chutes shall be an automatic trip gate with horizontal bars, unless otherwise approved by the NIRA Commissioner.
- D. TIMED EVENT CHUTE. The timed event chute must have at least 28 inches clearance inside the chute, and at the gate when in an open position.
- E. HORSES USED DURING EVENT. Only the horses needed during actual competition in the event will be allowed in the boxes during any timed event and/or non-competitive runs. Offender is subject to a \$25 fine for the first offense, with that offense progressively doubling thereafter.
- F. BARRIER STRING CHANGES. Barrier judge is responsible for changing barrier string whenever it may have been weakened, or on request of next contestant.
- G. BARRIER LENGTH DOCUMENTATION. Barrier judge shall keep a record of the length of the barrier trip rope each performance, to assure the same start for contestants each performance. Adjusting length of barrier trip rope will be accomplished only by tying knots in the rope on either end.
- H. BREAKING THE BARRIER. A ten (10) second penalty will be added for breaking or beating the barrier.
- I. INSPECTION OF BARRIER. Barrier equipment must be inspected by the judge before each timed event. If equipment is faulty, it must be replaced. Judge shall adjust barrier equipment at any point in the contest when it has changed from the original position. Should barrier break at any point other than designated breaking point, decision is up to barrier judge. If contestant obviously beats barrier, but the staples are pulled, or barrier rope is broken and string unbroken, barrier judge may assess a ten (10) second fine. Otherwise, this will not be considered a broken barrier.
- J. BARRIER FLAGMAN. If barrier flagman is used, animal is to be flagged when animal's nose crosses the starting line, or deadline in front of flagman.
- K. TAMPERING WITH BARRIER EQUIPMENT. Barrier judge shall be sure that nobody can stand close enough to barrier or barrier equipment to tamper with same.
- L. LENGTH OF BOX. Unless otherwise approved by the regional faculty director and NIRA Commissioner, the box for each timed event is suggested to be at least sixteen (16) feet in length, and the width and length of both boxes must be the same.
- M. CHANGE OF SCORE LINE. Once score has been set in timed events, it will not be changed at that rodeo, nor can length of box be changed.
- N. BARRIER FLAG. In order for time to be considered official, barrier flag must operate. The barrier flag should be on the barrier pole or barrier instead of on the neck rope of the timed event cattle whenever possible.
- O. AUTOMATIC BARRIER DOES NOT WORK BUT TIME IS RECORDED. If automatic barrier does not work but time is recorded, contestant or team will get time, but there will be no penalty for broken barrier, providing judge rules barrier was not beaten.

- P. AUTOMATIC BARRIER DOES NOT WORK WITH TIME NOT STARTED. If automatic barrier fails to work and official time has not started, contestant or team will get stock back if stock is qualified on in field.
- Q. CONTESTANT FOULED BY BARRIER. If, in opinion of the line judge, contestant is fouled by barrier, contestant shall get their calf or steer back providing contestant declares himself by pulling up immediately.
- R. TIMED EVENT STOCK ESCAPES FROM THE ARENA. In any timed event, if an animal escapes from the arena, flag will be dropped and watches stopped. Contestant will get animal back with lap-and-tap start, and time already spent will be added to time used in qualifying.
- S. FLAG JUDGE. The decision of the flag judge shall be final.
- T. LAP-AND-TAP WITH ROPE ON. If rope is on animal, roper will get animal lap-and-tap, with rope on it in chute.
- U. ANIMAL ESCAPES BEFORE CONTESTANT CALLED FOR ANIMAL. During any performance, if an animal in timed events escapes the chutes or pens before it is called for by contestant, or if the automatic barrier fails to work and stock is brought back, contestant must take same animal over, during, or immediately after, the same performance; and that animal will be returned by the arena director and the labor crew during, or at the end of, that performance in the same manner he was originally worked or brought to the pens for contesting. At least several head of animals will be brought back together. No animal may be penned by itself. Decision will be made by arena director about when stock is penned.
- V. POSITION OF FLAG JUDGE. Flag judge shall position himself for tie-down roping at the end of the arena allowing him to come towards the roper. In steer wrestling and team roping, field flagger shall place himself against the wall on the left-hand side of the timed-event box. Arena conditions must be taken into consideration.
- W. SICK OR CRIPPLED TIMED EVENT CATTLE. If an animal that is drawn in a pen in the timed events becomes sick or crippled before it is out that time, a judge must pass on the animal's inability to be used before it can be shipped or replaced in the draw.
- X. PERFORMANCE COMPETITION CHANGES. All performance competition order changes must be made with arena secretary or timed-event chute boss if splitting of horses is necessary. Contestants can only be moved far enough to accommodate the split on a horse. All splits must be confirmed by a judge.
- Y. CONFINES OF TIMED-EVENT BOX. Within the confines of the timed-event box, it is the privilege of a contestant to dismiss someone from the box or have up to three (3) persons in the box for assistance, which shall cease at the nod by the contestant. He/She may instruct the judge to either remove or allow other people in the box. A timed event contestant cannot have assistance holding their horse back during the scoring process: i.e. coach or another contestant pulling back on a horse so the entered contestant doesn't break the barrier. The person holding the breast collar will be fined \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense and the third offense will be a possible disqualification. The third offense will be at the judges' discretion as to whether a disqualification applies. If a disqualification is not applied, the person holding the breast collar will be fined \$200.
- Z. PUSHING CATTLE. The person pushing cattle in the timed events cannot leave the mouth of the box until the animal has crossed the score line. Penalty for failure to abide by this rule will be a (\$25) fine charged to the contestant.
- AA. ELIGIBLE PUSHERS. Pushers shall only be NIRA student members in good standing.
- BB. RATTLING OF CHUTE. A timed event contestant may not have someone rattle the chute for him/her. This applies in both the performance and the slack. Rattling of the chute will result in a Twenty-Five Dollar (\$25) fine to the rattler and/or the contestant.
- CC. NUMBER OF STOCK TO THE CHUTE. Stock contractors shall bring at least three (3) head of stock in the timed events in to the chute, according

to position drawn, at the start of each go-round, unless contestants are riding the same horse. In that case, the first contestant draws a position not riding the same horse shall be moved up to the position to be split. This pertains to scheduled and unscheduled performances.

- DD. NO CONSECUTIVE RUNS ON THE SAME HORSE. In timed events, provided there are other qualified horses on the rodeo grounds, no consecutive runs shall be allowed on the same horse, or horses, unless approval is granted by the arena director, arena boss and/or stock contractor.
- EE. DROPPED ROPE. In roping events, a dropped rope that must be recoiled to be rebuilt is considered a thrown rope.
- FF. NECK ROPE. Neck ropes must be tied with string. No metal snaps or hardware shall be used on neck ropes in the timed events. Adjustable slide shall be used on all neck ropes for cattle used in the timed events.
- GG. ANIMAL BELONGS TO CONTESTANT WHEN CALLED FOR. Animal belongs to contestant when called for, regardless of what happens, except in cases of mechanical failure. If contestant accepts animal, it is accepted as sound.
- HH. SCORELINE LENGTHS. All score line lengths are to be set by the Judges and the Event Director, in accordance with the NIRA Rule book, arena conditions and cattle unless otherwise approved.
- II. TWO TIMERS, BARRIER JUDGE, AND FIELD FLAG JUDGE. There shall be two (2) timers, a barrier judge and a field flag judge. Time to be taken between two (2) flags.
- JJ. INTERFERENCE BY ARENA PERSONNEL. If any arena personnel (pickup men, bullfighters, announcers, etc.) interfere with a timed event competition, at the discretion of the judge, contestant may receive a rerun providing he/she has made a qualified run up to the point of interference and contestant declares at the time of interference.
- KK. FAILURE OF ANIMAL TO PULL NECK ROPE. In the timed events, if an animal fails to break the neck rope and time is officially started by the contestant, that animal belongs to the contestant. However, if time is started by the animals and contestant (tie-down roper, steer roper, steer wrestler, and hazer of header and heeler) remains behind the plane of the barrier for approximately 10 seconds, that animal should be considered a sulking animal and replaced using the misdraw procedure.
- LL. TIMING. Two hand-held digital watches must be used in the timed events. All digits beyond tenths will be ignored. Official time shall be the average of the two times, ignoring any digit beyond the tenths. All times in the timed events are to be recorded in 10ths of a second. If one of the two timers misses the start or if the watch used by one timer malfunctions, that timer shall declare the problem to the other timer and only the time recorded by the other timer will be used.
- MM. ELECTRONIC TIMERS/SCOREBOARDS. Any rodeo using electronic timers for NIRA approved events shall be required to use a minimum of two back-up hand-held stopwatches.
- NN. POSITIONING OF TIMERS. Timers will work from the same location during all competition in NIRA events.

XIX. RULES GOVERNING MEN'S TIE DOWN ROPING

- A. TIE-DOWN ROPING RULES. Rope will be tied hard and fast. Contestant must rope animal, dismount, go down rope and throw animal by hand and cross and tie any three (3) feet. To qualify as legal tie, there shall be at least one (1) wrap around all three (3) legs and a half-hitch. If animal is down when roper reaches it, the animal must be let up to his feet and be thrown by hand. If roper's hand is on the animal when animal falls, animal is considered thrown by hand. Rope must hold animal until roper gets hand on animal. Tie must hold and three (3) legs remain crossed until passed on by the judge, and roper must not touch animal after giving "finished" signal until after judge has completed his examination. The field flag judge will pass on the tie of animals through use of a stopwatch, timing six (6) seconds from the time the rope horse takes his first step forward after the

roper has remounted. Rope will not be removed from animal, and rope must remain slack until field judge has passed on tie. In the event a contestant's catch rope is off an animal after completion of tie, the six (6) second time period is to start when roper clears animal. Flagger must watch animal during the six (6) second period and will stop watch when an animal kicks free, using the time shown on watch to determine whether animal was tied long enough to qualify. Roper will be disqualified for removing rope from animal after signaling for time, until the tie has been passed on by the field judge. If tie comes loose, or animal gets to his feet before tie has been ruled a fair one, the roper will be marked "no time."

- B. ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION. Animals may be identified with permanent, factory-numbered ear tags and/or hot-iron brand, which must be on the right side.
- C. ROPING ANIMALS REQUIREMENTS. All roping animals must be either native, Brahma, or of a similar cross. Weight for the animals shall be a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) pounds and a maximum of two hundred-forty (240) pounds with fresh animals. Any deviations must be approved by the Directors and the Animal Roping Representative. There can be no more than a fifty (50) pound deviation in weight from the smallest to the largest animal in a given herd. Any questionable animals will be taken out of the draw at the judge's discretion prior to the first draw. Any contestant may present the judge with the number(s) of the animal(s) in question. Failure to abide by the guidelines above may subject the stock contractor to a fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50) per animal.
- D. ROPING ANIMALS MUST BE THE SAME BREED OR CROSS-BREED. All roping animals must be of the same breed and cross-breeds must be of the same cross. If there is any deviation from this, it must be approved by the animal roping director and regional directors. If not adhered to, the stock contractor is subject to a One Hundred Dollar (\$100) fine for the first offense. Subsequent offenses will subject the stock contractor to an additional One Hundred Dollar (\$100) fine per rodeo.
- E. NO SWITCH. The no switch rule shall be in effect at all NIRA sanctioned rodeos. Switch shall be defined as over backwards, with animal landing on his back or head with all four feet in the air. Switch infraction shall be fifty dollars (\$50) on the first offense and every offense thereafter.
- F. TWENTY-FIVE SECOND TIME LIMIT. There will be a twenty-five (25) second elapsed time limit in the tie-down roping. A whistle indicating "no time" shall be blown by timer at the end of the twenty-five (25) second span. Deviations must be approved at time of rodeo approval.
- G. MISTREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK. If a tie-down roper ropes animal after 25-second whistle has sounded, he will be subject to disciplinary action for mistreatment of livestock.
- H. NECK ROPE. A neck rope must be used on the horse, and contestant must adjust rope and reins in a manner that will prevent horse from dragging animal. Contestant must receive no assistance of any kind from outside. If horse drags animal excessively, field judge may stop horse. The fine for unintentionally dragging an animal excessively shall be \$25 for the first offense; \$50 for the second offense; and \$100 for the third and subsequent offenses. Excessive dragging is defined as five feet or more. Intentionally dragging an animal regardless of distance, shall result in a minimum of a \$150 fine for each offense, plus possible disqualification. Intentional shall be defined as caused by contestant. The offense is considered on a "per year" basis.
- I. AUTOMATIC BARRIER AND SCORE LENGTH. Automatic barrier must be used at all rodeos for tie-down roping. At indoor rodeos, length of score will be the length of the box minus three (3) feet. The minimum length of score at outdoor rodeos will be the length of the roping box minus two (2) feet. All score line lengths are to be set by the judges and Event Director in accordance with the NIRA Rulebook, arena conditions and cattle unless otherwise approved.
- J. RIGHT HAND BOX. Tie down ropers must leave from the right hand box.
- K. LINED ANIMALS IN TIE-DOWN ROPING. Tie-down roping animals must be lined.

XX.

RULES GOVERNING MEN'S STEER WRESTLING

- A. **CONTESTANT MUST FURNISH OWN HORSES.** Contestant must furnish own hazer and horses. Steer must be caught from horse. Only one (1) hazer allowed.
- B. **STEER WRESTLING RULES.** Contestant will have one jump. If steer gets loose, dogger may take no more than one (1) step to catch steer. After catching steer, wrestler must change direction or bring steer to a stop and twist down. If steer is accidentally knocked down, or thrown by wrestler putting animal's horns into the ground, it must be let up on all four (4) feet and then thrown. Steer will be considered down only when it is lying flat on its side, or on its back, with all four (4) feet and head straight. Wrestler must have hand on steer when flagged. The fairness of catch and throw will be left to the judges, and their decision shall be final.
- C. **HAZER.** Hazer must not render any assistance to contestant while contestant is working with steer. Failure to observe this rule will disqualify contestant. Contestant and hazer must use the same two (2) horses they leave chute with. Hazer will be disqualified for jumping at steer.
- D. **WEIGHT LIMITATION OF STEER WRESTLING CATTLE.** A weight limit shall be placed on steer wrestling cattle: a minimum of four hundred (400) pounds, and a maximum of six hundred (600) pounds per head. At televised rodeos, steers in contest events will weigh at least five hundred (500) pounds each.
- E. **STEER WRESTLING CATTLE IDENTIFICATION.** Steer wrestling cattle must be identified on the left side.
- F. **STEERS BRANDED ON BOTH SIDES.** Steers with numbers branded on both sides may not be used in the steer wrestling.
- G. **HORNS OF STEER WRESTLING CATTLE.** The horns on steer wrestling cattle must be blunted to the size of a dime. Failure to abide by this may result in the stock contractor being fined Fifty Dollars (\$50) per head per run.
- H. **USED CATTLE CANNOT BE HELD OVER.** Any cattle that have been used cannot be held over from one (1) year to the next in steer wrestling, except by Event Director approval.
- I. **FRESH STEERS.** Fresh steers, added to a bunch that has been used, must be bulldogged from horseback and thrown down. It is the responsibility of steer wrestlers to throw the cattle, at a time mutually agreed upon with the stock contractor.
- J. **TEN SECOND PENALTY.** A ten (10) second penalty shall be assessed in any case in which a flag judge rules that a bulldogger's feet touch the ground before flag line is crossed.
- K. **LIMITATIONS OF USE OF CATTLE.** Cattle used for steer roping, cutting or other events shall not be used for steer wrestling.
- L. **CLEARANCE OF CHUTE.** The steer wrestling chute must have at least twenty-eight (28) inches clearance inside the chute, and at gate when in an open position.
- M. **STEER WRESTLER LEAVES FROM LEFT SIDE BOX.** Steer wrestlers must leave from the left side box and hazers leave from right side of box.
- N. **LENGTH OF SCORELINE.** In steer wrestling, at all rodeos, the score may be no longer than the length of the steer wrestling box minus five-and-a-half feet. All score line lengths are to be set by the judges and Event Director in accordance with the NIRA Rule book, arena conditions and cattle unless otherwise approved.
- P. **HAZERS MUST BE NIRA MEMBERS.** Hazers must be NIRA contestant members in good standing. Hazers must haze in the region in which they are competing, except at the CNFR.
- P. **TIME LIMITATIONS.** All regional rodeos and the CNFR Rodeo shall have a time limit set in the steer wrestling. Time limits at regional rodeos shall be twenty five (25) seconds.

XXI.

RULES GOVERNING MEN'S & WOMEN'S DALLY TEAM ROPING

- A. MAY ENTER TEAM ROPING ONE TIME. A team roping contestant may enter the team roping one time per rodeo. This includes the CNFR.
- B. ENTERING TEAM ROPING. Roper must enter as a header or a heeler.
- C. START BEHIND THE BARRIER. Contestants will start from behind a barrier. In all rodeos with a mechanical barrier, header must start from left side of box.
- D. NUMBER OF LOOPS. Each contestant will be allowed to carry one (1) rope and use one (1) loop.
- E. CONTESTANTS MUST DALLY. Roping steers without turning loose of the loop will be considered no catch. Contestant must dally to stop steer.
- F. TIME. Time will be taken when steer is roped, and both horses are facing steer in line with ropes dalled and tight. Horses' front feet must be on ground and contestants must be mounted when time is taken. Steer must be standing up when roped by head or heels.
- G. HANDLING STEERS ROUGHLY. Steer must not be handled roughly at any time. The contestants may be disqualified, if in the opinion of the field judge, the contestants have intentionally done so.
- H. NO CROSSFIRE. The steer's body must be changed and moving forward before the heel loop can be thrown. However, if the steer stops it must only be moving forward for the heel loop to be legal. Any heel loop thrown in the switch will be considered a crossfire and no time will be recorded.
- I. BROKEN ROPE OR DROPPED ROPE. Broken rope or dropped rope will be considered no time, whether time has been taken or not.
- J. TEAM ROPING CATTLE. All team roping cattle of either sex must be horned with wraps.
- K. TEAM ROPING CATTLE IDENTIFICATION. Team roping cattle must be identified with a brand on the right side.
- L. WEIGHT LIMITATION OF TEAM ROPING CATTLE. A weight limit shall be placed on team roping cattle; a minimum of four hundred (400) pounds and a maximum of six hundred (600) pounds. All team roping cattle used at NIRA-approved rodeos shall be protected by horn wraps.
- M. STEER ROPED BY ONE HORN. If steer is roped by one (1) horn, roper is not allowed to use his hands to place loop over other horn or head.
- N. HEELER ROPES FRONT FOOT OR FEET IN THE HEEL LOOP. If the heeler ropes a front foot or feet in the heel loop, this is a foul catch. Neither contestant may remove the front foot or feet from the loop by hand. However, should the front foot or feet come out of the heel loop by the time the field judge drops his flag, time will be counted.
- O. TEAM FLAGGED WITH ONE MORE LOOP COMING. If the field flag judge flags a team that still legally has one (1) or more loops coming, the judge may give the same steer back lap-and-tap, and a ten (10) second penalty will be assessed for each loop already thrown.
- P. LENGTH OF SCORELINE. The length of the score will be determined by arena conditions. The minimum length of the score at all rodeos will be the length of the roping box minus two feet (2'). All score lengths are subject to the Team Roping Director's approval.
- Q. NO STEER WRESTLING CATTLE CAN BE USED IN TEAM ROPING. No steer wrestling cattle may be used in team roping without approval of the Event Director.
- R. LEGAL CATCH DECISION MADE BY JUDGES. Any questions as to catches in this contest will be decided by the judges.
- S. ILLEGAL HEAD CATCHES:
 - 1. If hondo passes over one horn and the loop over the other.
 - 2. If loop crosses itself in a head catch.
 - 3. If loop is in the steer's mouth.

- T. LEGAL CATCHES. There will be only three (3) legal head catches:
1. Around both horns.
 2. Half a head.
 3. Around the neck.
- U. TIME LIMIT. All regional rodeos shall have time limit set in the Team Roping of twenty five (25) seconds. The CNFR rodeo shall have a time limit.

XXII. RULES GOVERNING MEN'S RIDING EVENTS

- A. RIDE AND ANIMAL ARE TO BE MARKED SEPARATELY. Ride and animal are to be marked separately. Ride will be marked according to how much rider spurs the animal. Figures used in marking the riding events shall range from one (1) to twenty-five (25) on both the animal and rider, using the full spread.
- B. JUDGES MARKINGS. Judges in the riding events at all NIRA rodeos will hand in their markings for that event for that performance, and these shall be termed the official markings. These markings shall not be changed.
- C. SPUR-OUT RULE. To qualify for a marking, bareback or saddle bronc rider must have the rowels of the spurs touching the horse above the break of the shoulders when horse's front feet hit the ground on its initial move out of the chute.
- D. HORSE STALLS. If a horse stalls coming out of the chute, either judge shall tell rider to take his feet out of the horse's neck and spur-out rule will then be waived.
- E. FOLLOWING JUDGES INSTRUCTIONS. Rider shall be disqualified for not following judge's instructions to take feet from neck of horse stalled in chute.
- F. RIDER FOULED AT THE GATE. If, in the opinion of the judges, rider is fouled at the gate, at the judge's discretion a reride may be given or the spur-out rule be waived.
- G. FLAGS USED FOR VIOLATION OF THE SPUR-OUT RULE. Rodeo judges will use flags to indicate a violation of the spur-out rule and all other disqualification violations. Judges are to indicate disqualification violations by established hand signals.
- H. PREPARATION OF RIGGINGS, SADDLES, AND ROPES. Contestants may pull riggings, cinch saddles, and pull ropes from either side in all riding events. Middle flank belongs to bronc rider.
- I. SICK OR INJURED LIVESTOCK. If an animal that is drawn in a riding event, or is drawn in a pen, becomes sick or injured before it is out that time, a judge must pass on the animal's inability to be used before it can be shipped or replaced in the draw.
- J. EIGHT SECOND TIME REQUIREMENT. All riding events shall be timed for eight (8) seconds; that time to start when animal's inside front shoulder passes the plane of the chute.
- K. USE OF PRODS. In the riding events, use of prods and similar devices is prohibited. The only exceptions shall be in the saddle bronc riding and in the bareback riding, and only in the case of a known chute stalling animal, and only if agreed upon by the contestant, the stock contractor, and the judge before the contestant's competition begins. In this instance, the prod shall not exceed twelve (12) inches in length. Use of a prod without the agreement of the contestant, stock contractor, and the judge before the contestant's competition begins in the saddle bronc riding and the bareback riding, or use of a prod in the bull riding at any time, shall result in a fine of \$250.00 to the stock contractor of record, and the contestant will receive an automatic option of a reride. Use of a prod in excess of twelve (12) inches in length shall result in a fine of \$100.00 charged to the stock contractor of record.
- L. RIDING CONTESTANT HOLDING ON TO THE CHUTE GATE. Riding event contestant holding on to the chute gate, and thus preventing the gate from being opened, after he has indicated he is ready, will be fined \$50 for the 1st offense, progressively doubling thereafter.

- M. HORSE TURNS OUT BACKWARDS. If a horse turns out backwards and the contestant makes a qualified ride, he will receive an option for a rерide.

XXIII. RERIDES

- A. DRAWING STOCK. Refer to "Drawing Stock" for additional information, as well as individual riding event categories. (See R.9.)
- B. DISCRETION OF THE JUDGE. Rерides will be given at the discretion of a judge. Reasons for possible rерides include the following: if an animal stops or fouls rider, stock contractor's equipment fails, performance of animal is inferior, or, if by stock contractor's or flankman's own admission, the flankman did not flank the animal properly. No rерide will be given if a contestant's own equipment breaks.
- C. ARENA PERSONNEL COME IN CONTACT WITH BUCKING HORSE. If any arena personnel (pickup men, clowns, announcers, etc.) comes in contact with a bucking horse before qualified time has elapsed, contestant will be given a marking with an option of rерide, providing contestant made a qualifying ride up to the point of infraction.
- D. INFORMING CONTESTANT OF RERIDE. If rерide is given, judge shall inform contestant of his marking and an option of a rерide. Contestant may refuse rерide and take marking. Contestant must notify judge immediately of his decision to accept or reject the option.
- E. INFLUENCING THE JUDGE. Contestants shall not influence the judges by asking for a rерide at any time.
- F. ANIMAL THAT RUNS OFF. If an animal that runs off is drawn for another contestant, that contestant must qualify on that animal before rерide is given.
1. TAKING ANIMAL OUT OF THE DRAW. If, in the opinion of the stock contractor and judges, that animal needs to be taken out of the draw, the second contestant who had him drawn will automatically get the designated rерide.
 2. TWO HONEST EFFORTS TO GET CHUTE-FIGHTING ANIMAL OUT. If, in the opinion of the judges, a rider makes two (2) honest efforts to get out on a chute-fighting animal and is unable to do so, he may have a rерide drawn for him.
- G. RERIDE ON ANIMAL ALREADY DRAWN FOR ANOTHER CONTESTANT. If an animal that is drawn for a rерide already is drawn for another contestant in that or a later go-round, the contestant with the rерide in the prior go-round will take the animal first.
- H. RIDING-EVENT-STOCK INJURIES. In case of riding-event-stock injuries after the draw has been made, replacement stock should be the designated rерide for the performance in which the injured animal was scheduled for competition. A replacement designated rерide shall be drawn immediately from the notified turn outs for that performance. If there are not any turn outs, a rерide should be drawn from all available animals.
- I. RIDING-EVENT ANIMAL STOPS AFTER INITIAL START. If a riding-event animal stops after an initial start, and any outside help is used to start it again, contestant will not be required to qualify in order to be awarded a rерide.

XXIV. RULES GOVERNING MEN'S BAREBACK RIDING

- A. ONE-HANDED RIGGING. Riding to be done with one-handed rigging.
1. RIGGING REQUIREMENTS. Rigging shall be leather and shall not be less than 10 inches in width at hand-hold and not over 6 inches at the "D" ring. Latigo cannot be blocked in "D" ring. Riggings will use a standard "D" ring to be set to sit flat on horse's back when cinched. No freaks allowed. Only rawhide may be used under the body of the hand-hold. That rawhide will be a maximum of 10 inches wide, tapered back to 6 inches deep, with

- no more than one layer of rawhide. A 4 inch strip of rawhide (2 inches on each side) with a maximum width of 1 inch will be allowed at each D ring rivet.
4. CINCHES AND LATIGOS. Cinches on bareback riggings shall be made of mohair or neoprene and shall be at least eight (8) inches in width at the center, but may be tapered to accommodate cinch-"D" or rings. Latigos shall be leather only.
 5. NO QUICK TRIPS. No quick trips allowed on bareback riggings.
- B. BAREBACK PADS. Required bareback pads are to completely cover the underside of the rigging, and are to extend a full two (2) behind the rigging.
1. PADS MUST COVER UNDERSIDE OF RIGGING. Pads used under riggings must be leather-covered on both sides. No hair pads will be allowed. Only a high-density foam pad, at least ¾ inches thick will be allowed. In addition, the pad must have leather over the bars 3/15 inch thick, extending at least ½ inch on either side and back of the handle bars.
 2. PAD REQUIREMENTS. In addition to the pad, a piece of leather a minimum of 3/16 inch thick and 4 inches square must be glued or sewed to the pad, and centered in comparison to the total body length of the rigging. This piece of leather shall be placed so that ½ inch of it extends behind the rigging and the remaining 2 inches are under the rigging.
- C. SPUR ROWELS. Spur rowels must have five or more points. First reported offense shall subject contestant to a warning; every offense thereafter shall result in disqualification in that event for the following two rodeos.
- D. APPROVAL OF RIGGINGS AND PADS. Stock contractors will have the right to have judges pass on whether riggings and pads satisfy the requirements listed above. Judges shall determine whether pads are satisfactory. If judges rule the pads are not satisfactory, contestant will be warned for the first offense. Any offense thereafter shall result in an immediate \$100 .00 fine.
- E. RIDER'S GLOVE. The rider's glove will be a plain glove with no flaps, rolls, wedge or gimmicks. An extra piece of leather may be used at the base of the little finger only. It must be on the inside of the glove and is not to extend out from the seam more than 5/8 inch and can be no more than 5/8 inch thick.
1. PALM PIECE. A palm piece may be used in glove, which will be at least one (1) inch wide and three (3) inches long, and will be glued in.
- F. ADHESIVE MATERIAL. There will be no adhesive material other than dry resin used on rigging or on rider's glove. Benzoin may be used.
- G. FLANK BREAKS IN BAREBACK RIDING. Rider may be given a reride on same horse if flank comes off or breaks. A bareback rider may have the option of a reride or of accepting a marking if flank comes off the animal, provided the contestant has completed a qualified ride. A contestant will only have the option of a reride if flank comes off the animal and the contestant did not complete a qualified ride, but was qualified up to the point of the flank coming off.
- H. ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WILL DISQUALIFY A RIDER:
1. Riding with rowels too sharp, or locked, in opinion of the judges.
 2. Being bucked off.
 3. Touching animal, equipment, or person with free hand. One arm must be free at all times.
 4. Rigging comes off horse, with or without breaking.
 5. Not having spurs above the break of the shoulders and touching horse when horse's feet hit the ground his initial move out of the chute.
 6. Rider may not take any kind of finger tuck, finger wrap, or shall not use finger tape. Violators shall be disqualified and may also be subject to fine.
 7. Judges may disqualify bareback rider who has been advised he is next to go, if he is not above the animal with his glove on when previous horse leaves the arena.

- I. INABILITY TO FREE HAND. If, in the opinion of the pickup men and/or stock contractor, a bareback rider is unable to free his hand from the rigging after a qualified ride or after declaring by double grabbing, he shall be fined One Hundred dollars (\$100). A contestant fouled or bucked off before or after the whistle will not be fined. Judges are required to report the offense.

XXV. RULES GOVERNING MEN'S SADDLE BRONC RIDING

- A. SADDLE MUST MEET NIRA SPECIFICATIONS. Riding to be done with saddle that complies with NIRA specifications listed below.
- B. CONTEST SADDLE SPECIFICATIONS:
 1. Rigging: Three-quarter double; front edge of "D" ring must pull not further back than directly below center of point of swell. Standard E-Z or ring-type saddle "D" must be used, and cannot exceed 5-3/4 inches outside-width measurement.
 2. Swell Undercut: Not more than two (2) inches -- one (1) inch on each side.
 3. Gullet: Not less than four (4) inches wide at center of fork of covered saddle.
 4. Tree: Saddles must be built on PRCA-approved tree.
Specifications:

| | |
|--------|--|
| Fork | Fourteen (14) inches wide |
| Height | Nine (9) inches maximum |
| Gullet | Five-and-three-quarters(5-3/4)inches wide |
| Cantle | Five (5) inches maximum height; Fourteen (14) inches maximum width. |
 5. STIRRUP LEATHERS. Stirrup leathers must be hung over bars.
 6. MEASUREMENTS. Saddle should conform to the above measurements with a reasonable added thickness for leather covering.
 7. NO FREAKS. No freaks allowed.
 8. CINCHES AND LATIGOS. Front cinch on bronc saddles shall be mohair, and shall be at least eight (8) inches in width at the center, but may be tapered to accommodate cinch "D" or rings. Latigos shall be leather only.
- C. STANDARD HALTER. Standard halter must be used, unless agreement is made by both contestant and stock contractor.
- D. HALTERS FURNISHED BY STOCK CONTRACTOR. Stock contractors must furnish their own halters and contestants must use them, subject to approval of judges on fitness of halter. Halters must have adjustable nose bands.
- E. REIN AND HAND MUST BE ON SAME SIDE. Riding rein and hand must be on same side.
- F. POSITION OF SADDLE ON HORSE. Horses to be saddled in chute. Rider may cinch own saddle. Saddles shall not be set too far ahead on horse's withers. Either stock contractor or contestant has the right to call the judges to pass on whether or not horse is properly saddled and flanked to buck its best. Middle flank belongs to rider, but contractor may have rider put flank behind curve of horse's belly. Flank cinch may be hobbled.
- G. FLANK OR HALTER FAILURE IN SADDLE BRONC RIDING. A saddle bronc rider may have the option of a reride, or of accepting a marking if flank comes off the animal, provided the contestant has completed a qualified ride. A contestant will only have the option of a reride if flank comes off the animal, but the contestant did not complete a qualified ride, but was qualified up to the point of the flank coming off. If a flank comes off, rider may have reride on same horse. If halter breaks, rider may have a reride, provided the contestant made a qualified ride up to the time the halter breaks, and provided that the halter does not belong to the contestant.
- H. HORSE THROWS HIMSELF. If, in the opinion of the judges, a saddle bronc deliberately throws himself, the rider shall have the choice of the same horse again or he may have a horse drawn for him from the reride horses.
- I. ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WILL DISQUALIFY A RIDER:

1. Changing hands on rein.
2. Losing or dropping rein before pre-designated time.
3. Wrapping rein around hand.
4. Pulling leather.
5. Losing stirrup.
6. Touching animal, equipment or person with free hand.
7. Riding with locked rowels, or rowels that will lock on spurs, in the opinion of the judges.
8. Not having spurs above the break of the horse's shoulders and touching horse when horse's front feet hit the ground his initial move out of the chute.
9. Dry resin may be used on chaps and saddle. Anyone using any other foreign substance shall be disqualified and declared ineligible for thirty (30) days; also subject to fine. (The judges will examine clothing, saddle, rein and spurs, and exception will be made if local rules make it necessary for the covering of spur rowels.)
10. Judges may disqualify bronc rider who has been advised he is next to go, if he is not above the animal with his glove on, if used, when previous horse leaves arena.

XXVI. RULES GOVERNING MEN'S BULL RIDING

- A. **ONE HAND AND LOOSE ROPE.** Riding to be done with one hand and loose rope, with or without hand-hold.
- B. **NO KNOTS OR HITCHES.** No knots or hitches to prevent rope from falling off bull when rider leaves animal.
- C. **BELL.** Rope must have bell located under bull belly.
- D. **NO HOOKS OR POSTS.** Hooks or posts shall not be used on bull ropes.
- E. **RIDER KNOCKED OFF BY GATE.** Riders who are knocked off at the chute, or if bull falls, are entitled to a reride at discretion of judges.
- F. **FLANK COMES OFF A BULL.** A bull rider may have the option of a reride, or of accepting a marking, if flank comes off the animal, provided the contestant has completed a qualified ride. A contestant will only have the option of a reride if the flank comes off the animal, and the contestant did not complete a qualified ride, but was qualified up to the point of the flank coming off. The reride may be given on the same animal, if the stock contractor is willing, or a reride animal if so requested by the contestant.
- G. **JUDGES DECIDE ON RERIDES.** The matter of rerides shall be decided by the judges, regardless of performance.
- H. **ANY PART OF ROPE IN HAND FOR QUALIFIED RIDE.** If rider makes qualified ride with any part of rope in riding hand, he is to be marked.
- I. **SHARP SPURS OR PLACING OF SPURS OR CHAPS UNDER ROPE.** Rider may not use sharp spurs, or place spurs or chaps under the rope when rope is being tightened.
- J. **BULL TAILS.** No bull tails will be allowed under flank straps.
- K. **TWO MEN LIMITATION TO PULL CONTESTANT'S ROPE.** No more than two (2) men may be on chute to pull contestant's rope.
- L. **HORNED ANIMALS USED IN BULL RIDING, BULLFIGHTING, OR CLOWN EVENTS.** All horned animals used in the NIRA bull riding, bullfighting or clown events shall have their horns blunted to at least the diameter of a half-dollar. Upon direction of the NIRA Bull Riding Representative or his duly designated appointee, any animal's horns may be shortened to any length deemed necessary for competition. If the above specifications are not adhered to, said animal shall be removed from competitive status. Judges are to inspect bulls' horns at least two hours prior to performance. If bulls are not available at that time, inspection will be allowed up to time of competition. If horns are considered too sharp, stock contractor must immediately tip or contestant has the option of a reride. If the bull isn't tipped immediately, there will be a \$50 fine for the first offense. That fine will progressively double thereafter. This charge will be against the stock contractor. Judges are to notify the Faculty and/or Student Director of the bulls that need to be tipped. If those bulls are not tipped by the next time they are out, the fine to the stock

contractor will be \$100 for the 1st offense, progressively doubling thereafter.

M. ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WILL DISQUALIFY RIDER:

1. Being bucked off.
2. Touching animal, equipment or person with free hand.
3. Using sharp spurs, or placing spurs or chaps under the rope when rope is being tightened.
4. Not having a bell on bull rope.
5. Judges may disqualify a bull rider who has been advised he is next to go, if he is not above the animal with his glove on when previous bull leaves the arena.

XXVII. RULES GOVERNING WOMEN'S CLOVER LEAF BARREL RACE

- A. **BARREL RACING IS A TIMED EVENT.** Barrel racing is a timed event. The start and finish line and the position for the barrels must be marked permanently for the entire rodeo. The contestant is allowed a running start. Time shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line.
- B. **FIVE SECOND PENALTY FOR KNOCKED OVER BARREL.** Contestants will be assessed a five (5) second penalty for knocking over a barrel.
- C. **NOT FOLLOWING PATTERN.** Contestants will be disqualified for not following the pattern, or not being ready to contest when name is called. Touching barrel is permitted.
- D. **KNOCKED OVER BARREL SET BACK UP.** Should barrel be knocked over and it sets up on opposite end, a five (5) second penalty will be assessed. Barrel must be set back on mark.
- E. **BARRELS NOT PLACED ON MARKERS.** Should, for any reason, the barrels not be placed on the marks or the flagman not be in the correct place, things must be put in correct order and all contestants who ran on the incorrect course must be rerun without penalty.
- F. **ONE CONTESTANT HORSE IN ARENA.** There is to be only one (1) contestant horse in the arena at a time during the barrel race, without exception.
- G. **GATES.** The starting gate or gates will remain the same throughout the entire rodeo.
- H. **RUNNING START.** The contestant is allowed a running start, and will be required to run in and out of the arena only when an acceptable, centrally located gate or gates safely permits, or by event and regional directors approval.
- I. **NO CIRCLING HORSE.** No circling horse in arena. One spin or pivot in either direction is acceptable if centrally located gate is not used. When contestants are not required to run in and out, they must keep forward motion toward first barrel, prior to crossing scoreline.
- J. **GROUND PREPARATION.** Committee is required to prepare ground in the arena to be consistent throughout the event.
 1. **DURING PERFORMANCE.** No more than twelve (12) contestants shall run during the performance without the ground being worked with a tractor. If more than twelve (12) are run in a performance, the following guidelines will be used, unless by approval from the NIRA Commissioner: If there are thirteen (13) or fourteen (14) contestants to run during a performance, the ground will be worked after seven (7); If there are fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) contestants to run during the performance, the ground will be worked after eight (8), etc. Vet and doctor releases will be included in the count.
 2. **DURING SLACK.** In the slack, ground around the barrels must be worked with a tractor immediately before the barrel race and after the equivalent number of contestants drawn for a performance have competed.
 3. **GROUND THE SAME FOR SLACK AND PERFORMANCE.** The ground in slack will be dragged after the equivalent number of contestants drawn for a performance have competed, and will be dragged in the same position.

4. SLACK BEFORE FIRST PERFORMANCE. When there is no rodeo performance to use as a guideline, the ground around the barrels shall be worked immediately before the barrel race and after not more than twelve (12) contestants have run.
- K. BARREL RACING IN THE SAME ARENA AS OTHER EVENTS. At rodeos where barrel racing is held in the same arena as all other events, for the arena conditions and safety of all contestants, barrel racing will be the last timed event in a performance.
- L. ONE HOUR BETWEEN END OF GO-ROUND AND SLACK. When a go-round ends and next one begins in the same slack section, there shall be at least a one (1) hour break before the go-round begins.
- M. CLOVER LEAF PATTERN DISTANCES:
1. Minimum distances on barrels 1 and 2 must be at least 15 feet from the sides of the arena. In extra small arenas they may be less. Barrel 3 should be no closer than 25 feet to the end of the arena.
 2. If arena size permits, barrels must be set 60 feet or further apart.
 3. Barrel patterns should be set in proportion to arena size and/or condition.
 4. In small arenas it is recommended the pattern be reduced proportionately to a standard barrel pattern.
- O. MEASUREMENT TO JUDGE OR RODEO SECRETARY. Persons measuring and marking the barrel position must give a copy of the measurements to the rodeo secretary or judge.
- P. HORSE FALLS. There shall be no reruns given at a rodeo when a horse falls; unless it is posted in the rodeo office before the first (1st) performance as a special NIRA approved ground rule of that particular rodeo. A rerun will then be decided at judge's discretion.
- Q. WATCHES. All rodeos are required to use watches in tenths (10ths) of a second. When electric timer is not used, time must be recorded and paid off in tenths (10ths).
- R. HELD BACK DURING PERFORMANCE DUE TO SICKNESS OR INJURY. A contestant may be held back at a performance in barrel racing due to sickness or injury.
- S. BARREL RACING RUNNING OUT OF ORDER. Contestants changing their position at a rodeo (running out of order) without the approval or action of the judges, regional secretary, or event directors, shall be subject to a fine of \$100 for the first offense, a \$100 fine and a one rodeo suspension for the second offense, and a \$200 fine and a disqualification for a third or subsequent offense.
- T. TIE DOWNS COVERED. All chain, metal and wire tie-downs and bosals must be covered. The fine for failure to do so will result in \$25 for the first offense, that fine doubly progressing thereafter.
- U. MARKING BARRELS.
1. Brightly colored fifty-five (55) gallon steel drums with both ends in must be used. There shall be no rubber or plastic barrels or barrel pads used.
 2. If barrel covers are used they should be used in slack as well as performance.
 3. The barrels must be marked using a one hundred (100) foot measuring tape.
 4. The person measuring the barrel pattern must make an arc on the ground from barrel 1 to barrel 3 and then from barrel 2 to barrel 3. Where the arc crosses is where the third barrel marker must be placed. This will insure equal distance for barrel racers who run to either the right or left barrel first.
 5. The starting line must also be correctly measured back from barrel 1 and barrel 2, so the distance is the same to insure barrel racers going either to the left or right the same opportunity. Permanent markers shall be placed on both sides to indicate starting line.
 6. A pointed metal stake, horse shoe, or can with a chain or rope attached to the end of it may be used. The object must be covered leaving only the chain or rope on top of the ground. In certain cases, lasers can be used in lieu of permanent stakes.

7. Markers should be buried at the location of each barrel, so the barrels will be in the same place during each complete go-round.
8. If an electric timer is used, permanent markers (or permanent lasers) should be set for it also.
9. Barrel racing is a standard event in the NIRA. Committees bear the responsibility to prepare for the event, (set markers, etc.) as in any other event. All marker placements must follow rulebook specifications and are subject to review and change by the directors and judges.
10. The barrel marker shall be held upward and the barrel be placed directly against the rope on the inside of the marker.
11. Horses shall not be worked around official pattern with or without barrels. Barrels shall be set not less than ten (10) feet off markers.

V. ELECTRIC TIMERS.

1. Equipment necessary -- complete electric eye timer plus one (1) extra timing clock or stop watch to be operated manually.
2. Complete electric timer must be backed up by a flagman who will stand directly behind one (1) timer post in the arena. One (1) timer will record the times that appear on the electric eye controlled readout. The second (2nd) timer will operate the backup manual clock or stop watch and will record the time which is shown thereon. That person will operate from the flagman's signals, and record the time in tenths (10ths).
3. Permanent markers should be put in the ground for the electric timer. Electric timers should be placed on the scoreline no closer than the width of the first (1st) two (2) barrels for the electric eye to be centered in each performance.
4. Line on fence for flagman should be well marked. These markers should be checked every performance along with the barrel markers and restaked if pulled out by the tractor or other vehicle.
5. The barrel race may be timed in one hundredths (100ths), but never in one thousandths (1000ths) under any circumstances, when an electric eye is used.
6. Contestants may be requested to help set up electric eyes.
7. Set timer the same height and position and lock the legs each performance.
8. The person setting the timer should stand back at least six feet (6') from the timer, unless a mechanical failure occurs.

W. ELECTRIC FAILURES.

1. MANUAL TIMES. Regional Directors will make a decision prior to the first (1st) performance whether manual backup times will be the official times or a rerun will be given, in the event of an electronic failure. This information will be posted prior to the first (1st) performance.
2. FAILS TO WORK FOR A MINORITY. When the electric eye fails to work for a minority (less than 1/2) of contestants during a performance, the manual backup times will be used for those electronically missed, with a zero (0) added to the tenths (10ths). The electric eye controlled times will remain unaltered.
3. FAILS TO WORK FOR A MAJORITY. When barrels are set on official markers, and the flagger is stationed correctly but the electric eye does not work for the majority in a performance, contestants in the performance that is not a complete go-round that the electric eye does not work on, will at their option, be given a rerun, if so posted.
4. FAILS FOR ENTIRE GO-ROUND. If the electric eye fails to work for a majority of the contestants in an entire go-round, the backup (manual) recorded times will be the official times for all contestants in that go-round.
5. RERUN. A rerun must be called for immediately following the event, and contestants must be notified. If a contestant decides to rerun, there will be no penalties assessed from previous runs. Those contestants who are not present at the rerun, or choose not to rerun, must take the time reported on the first (1st) run.

X. MINOR VIOLATION FINES.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Hat Fine | \$ 10.00 |
| Vet release/Doctor release | \$ 10.00 |
| Unnecessary roughness of horse | |
| during competition | \$250.00 |
| Working horse on markers | \$125.00 |

Failure to remove barrels
(during practice, if allowed) \$ 25.00

XXVIII. RULES GOVERNING WOMEN'S GOAT TYING

- A. DISTANCE BETWEEN STARTING LINE AND GOAT. There is no set distance from the starting line to the goat. Arena conditions should govern distance.
- B. GATES The starting gate or gates will remain the same throughout the entire rodeo.
- C. RUNNING START. Contestant is allowed a running start, and will be required to run in the arena only when an acceptable, centrally located gate or gates safely permits, or by event and regional directors approval.
- D. CIRCLING HORSE. No circling horse in arena. One spin or pivot in either direction is acceptable if centrally located gate is not used. Once the contestant has crossed the scoreline the time has started. There is no exception to this rule.
- E. STAKE. The goat is to be tied to a stake with a rope ten feet (10') in length from snap to snap. The stake is to be pounded completely into the ground with no part of it visible. The stakes are to be placed in the ground for the entire rodeo.
- F. REQUIREMENTS. The contestant must be mounted on a horse and must ride from the starting line to the goat, dismount from her horse, throw the goat by hand, cross, wrap and tie at least three (3) feet together with a leather string or other type string. No wire is to be used in the goat string. To qualify as a legal tie, there will be at least one complete wrap around at least three (3) legs, and a half hitch, hooley or knot.
- G. RUNNING OUT OF ORDER IN THE GOAT TYING. Contestants changing their position at a rodeo (running out of order) without the approval or action of the judges, regional secretary or event director, shall be disqualified.
- H. STAND BACK THREE FEET AFTER TIE. The contestant must stand back three feet (3') from the goat before judge will start the five (5) second time limit on the tie for the goat's legs to remain crossed and tied.
- I. GOAT MUST BE CLEARED OF THE GROUND BEFORE TIE. If the goat is down when the contestant reaches it, the goat must be elevated high enough that it has the opportunity to gain its feet.
- J. HAND ON GOAT WHEN FALLS. If contestant's hand is on the goat when goat falls, the goat is considered thrown by hand.
- K. DISTANCE OF GOAT STAKE FROM BACK FENCE. Goat stake should be a minimum of fifty feet (50') from back fence.
- L. HORSE/ROPE VIOLATION. Should the horse run over, or touch the rope, stake, or goat, the contestant will be given a ten second penalty. If the violation occurs after flagman has signaled for time, there will be no penalty.
 - 1. If a horse/rope violation is declared but timer fails to get time, and a rerun is awarded, a ten (10) second penalty will go with contestant on rerun.
- M. TOUCHING TIE ONCE SIGNALLED COMPLETE. Once a contestant has signaled her tie complete, she may not again touch the tie or the goat. Any attempt to enhance competitive opportunity after signaling for time will result in disqualification.
- N. GOAT MUST BE HELD BY THE COLLAR. The goat must be held by the collar at the end of the rope in a vertical position from the starting line until time begins.
- O. RUNS ON A GOAT. No goat will have more than three (3) consecutive ties made on them. Three paid ties (non-notified turnouts and doctor releases included) will constitute a run on the goat. Each goat must be "run" before any goat can be "run" the second and subsequent times. No splits will be allowed in goat tying.

- P. GOAT HOLDERS. Goat holders must be NIRA members in good standing and knowledgeable of goat tying rules. It is suggested they not be contestants at that rodeo. At the CNFR holders must be an official.
- Q. GOAT DRAW. All goats must be drawn not more than one and one half (1 1/2) hours before all performances and slack. The goat tying draw should be administered as any other event. In no situation should pens be set. The total number of goats to be used at an approved NIRA rodeo is based upon contestant entry number to be kept consistent with the third of enough policy.
- R. DRAWING EXTRAS IN GOAT DRAW. In a performance, one extra goat shall be drawn. In the short go, two extras will be drawn. In slack, no extras will be drawn. There is no need for runs on the goats that are extras.
- S. GOAT HERD. The total number of goats to be used in the herd at an NIRA rodeo shall be based upon contestant entry number in the event. The following scale shall be used:
- | <u>Contestants</u> | <u>Goat Herd</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 to 36 | 5 |
| 37 to 45 | 6 |
| 46 to 54 | 7 |
| 55 to 63 | 8 |
| 64 or more | 9 |
- T. SHORT-GO DRAW. A minimum of four (4) goats that score at/or above with the best times are to be used in the short-go round draw. In the event four goats are not qualified back all goats used in the long go-round will be used in the short-go round draw regardless of qualification.
- U. BILLIES AT CNFR. No billies will be used at the CNFR.
- V. MISDRAW PROCEDURE IN THE GOAT TYING. The following shall be used in the event of a misdraw in the goat tying at any NIRA rodeo - Definition of a misdraw: Any animal which must be replaced will be considered one misdraw. Example of possible reasons for replacing an animal are:
1. Injured or unhealthy animal.
 2. Animal not properly numbered or distinguishable.
 3. Animal not on premises after being drawn.
 4. Duplicate tags and animals not distinguishable prior to draw.
 5. Contestant left out of draw.
 6. Animal drawn incorrectly due to clerical error.
- Due to the nature of the event, if a misdraw occurs in the goat tying, all animals drawn from the point of the misdraw and below will be redrawn.
- W. WEIGHT OF GOATS. Goats shall weigh between forty (40) to fifty (50) pounds. There shall be a fine of \$50 per head for goats who are overweight or underweight.

XXIX. RULES GOVERNING WOMEN'S BREAKAWAY ROPING

- A. NUMBER OF LOOPS. A contestant is allowed one (1) loop in any of the go rounds.
- B. TIME LIMITATIONS. All regional rodeos shall have a time limit set in the breakaway roping of twenty-five (25) seconds with gate closed. CNFR shall have a time limit of twenty-five (25) seconds set with gate closed.
- C. ROPES. Ropes are to be tied to saddle horn with nylon string. A knot must be at the end of the rope with the string tied at the knot. There will be no tail. A flag that is visible to the flagman or judge must be attached at the knot at end of the rope. Nothing may be used on the rope to keep loop from drawing tight.
- D. NO KNOTS IN BREAKAWAY ROPES IN FRONT OF THE TIE STRING. No knots in breakaway ropes in front of the tie string.

- E. ROPE MUST BREAK AWAY FROM HORN. The animal must break the rope away from horn. The contestant will receive a no time should she break rope from saddle horn herself.
- F. HORNED ANIMALS. No horned animals will be used in breakaway roping, with horns longer than 2 inches, unless passed by rodeo committee, regional faculty director, and event director.
- G. ANIMALS MUST BE RUN AND/OR FOLLOWED ON HORSEBACK. Animals used must be run and/or followed on horseback at discretion of the breakaway roping director.
- H. LEGAL CATCH. The only legal catch will be a bell collar catch. Any other catch will be called a "no time". A bell collar catch is defined as the animal's whole head with no extremities. The loop must first pass over the animal's head.
- I. HAT ON HEAD WHILE CALLING FOR ANIMAL. A girl must have a hat on her head while calling for her animal.
- J. FOULED NECK ROPE. Contestants fouled by neck rope or neck rope stays around the animal, will be given a rerun if the foul is declared immediately by pulling up. If rope is thrown, no rerun will be given.
- K. UNIFORM ANIMALS. Uniform animals will be used in the breakaway roping. Weight for the animals shall be a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) pounds and a maximum of three hundred fifty (350) pounds.
- L. MEN'S TIE-DOWN ROPING RULES. Anything not covered in the above rules will be covered by the men's tie-down roping rules.
- M. USE OF BREAKAWAY ANIMALS. The animals used shall be different from the animals used in men's tie down roping.
- N. BREAKAWAY ANIMALS MUST BE LINED.

REV. 2015.12.14

The Official NIRA Rules as recorded herein shall govern all NIRA approved rodeos. If a situation arises not covered by these rules, the regional director or his/her designated representative shall refer to the current PRCAs or WPRA rulebooks.

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