

GHSRA

CONTESTANT & PARENT HANDBOOK

www.ghsra.com

www.ghsra.com/jrhhigh

NHSRA MISSION STATEMENT

- Promote the sport of rodeo and expose its positive image to the general public.
- Preserve the Western Heritage
- Offer a privilege of family bonding
- Offer an opportunity of continuing education
- Maintain the highest regard for livestock.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Georgia High School Rodeo! As the association starts this season, we have history of being competitive, but very family oriented organization. We are one of the 48 member states, provinces and countries that make up the National High School Rodeo Association. Since each association has things that are unique to their way of rodeo, we think it is a good idea to put out a handbook covering the policies and ground rules of GHSRA. Hopefully, this handbook will be helpful to our new and returning contestants. Also, we encourage all parents and guardians to read the book. A lot of things about grades, financial matters and State and National Finals are talked about and of these subjects will be helpful to our adult's membership.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

The purpose of the GHSRA is to provide an activity of high school students that promotes the western heritage and creates an opportunity to further their education.

ORGANIZATION

GHSRA is a member of the NHSRA and is organized under a constitution and set of bylaws. The adult membership is represented by an adult board which is elected from the adult membership. This board includes adult officers, at-large board members and are directors. Both student officers and adult board are elected at the State Meeting, held each year during State Finals. The organization is for the high school students, but the adult's board makes all major decisions, with the input from the contestants.

In January 2005, GHSRA became a charter founding member of the NHSRA Junior High Division, known as "The Junior High Division" This association is modeled after the NHSRA and follows the NHSRA rule book and specific rules for the junior high. The junior high division will operate under a board of directors that are elected during state finals.

NHSRA RULE BOOK

Each contestant is given a new rulebook when they join each year. The rulebook covers event rules, conduct rules, protest procedures, point systems, and miscellaneous rules. This is especially important concerning event rules, which may be different from PRCA and amateur association rules. Also the rules of conduct and protests are very important. In some cases, GHSRA has made a ground rule that will be consistent with, but more workable than the subject rule in the rulebook. A good example of this is our grade policy.

We have a stricter policy on grades, so that we can be consistent with local high schools policies. The grade standards in the rule **minimums only** and many states have chosen to use higher standards to be in line with their local school.

GRADES AND ACADEMICS

It is the policy of GHSRA to use the same standard for grades that is used for Georgia accredited high schools. **Currently, a contestant must meet the requirements of their local school to participate in any athletic activities.** This is a higher standard than the NHSRA rulebook states. GHSRA recognizes home schooling if the student is meeting the guidelines for Georgia. See the GHSRA State Secretary for the requirements and guidelines.

GHSRA needs to see the grades of all new members before they can compete. These can be mailed or brought to the State Secretary. No grade check is required at the beginning of the season for members that participated in the previous year state finals unless report cards were not turned in at state finals.

All contestants must turn in mid-year grades and school eligibility form to State Secretary. A date will be announced. It is the contestant's responsibility to turn in the grades and school eligibility form. Home school contestants must turn in permission slip executed by their local board of education on a quarterly basis. Failure to do so will prevent you from competing. The next grade check and school eligibility forms will be at state finals, and the same procedure will apply.

If a contestant is not meeting the state's grade requirement, they will not be allowed to rodeo until they furnish official proof they are back in good standing. This can be done with an official school stamp or seal progress report, 3 weeks after the new quarter or semester has started. The contestant must turn in all progress reports issued by the school until a report card is issued. Failure to do so will mean loss of any earned points and no more competing until good status is regained.

If a contestant lies or cheats about grades, they are out for the rest of the season, and they may be permanently expelled depending on the circumstances. This means the contestant will not be allowed in or around the arena. He or she may not work with or help any other participant at a rodeo.

Every contestant must turn in grades and school eligibility form signed by a school principal, administrator or counselor at the beginning of the season, mid-year and at State Finals.

PERMISSION SLIP

With your initial membership application you will sign the NHSRA waiver of liability. You need to turn in a permission slip at every rodeo signed by contestant and your parents or guardian. Don't expect to rodeo if you do not have this form with you.

CONTESTANT MEETING

Contestant meetings are held at some rodeos. These meetings usually start about one hour before the rodeo, and are used to give out information about upcoming rodeos, event changes, etc. It is mandatory that you attend the meeting if you are on the rodeo grounds and attendance is usually taken by roll call. You must be in full western attire and should not be on your horse.

GRAND ENTRY

All contestants that have horses at the rodeo are required to ride in grand entry. This event sets the tone for the rest of the rodeo and is a good way to show our sponsors how much we appreciate them putting on the rodeo. You will be asked to carry a flag or banner, and if you can, it will be appreciated. Please do your part and cooperate. Usually the people that fuss the most having to ride end up having the most fun.

ORDER OF EVENTS

GHSRA uses the following order of events:

BAREBACK RIDING
SADDLE BRONC RIDING
GOAT TYING
CALF ROPING
BREAKWAY ROPING
STEER WRESTLING
BARREL RACING
TEAM ROPING
POLE BENDING
BULL RIDING

If we have a small number of saddle bronc riders, they will be combined with the bareback riders. In that case, calf roping will follow goat tying.

The same order will be followed by slack, **if possible and practical we do not change the order of events for the convenience of a stock contractor.**

The Queen contest is held at the state finals. Every girl in grades 9-11 is eligible to compete. Contact the GHSRA Queen Coordinator for more details.

POINT SYSTEM

GHSRA uses the point system in the NHSRA rulebook. Each go at state finals plus the finals average is worth 10 points maximum. All-Around points are paid under the same system (10 points).

APPEALS AND PROTESTS

Any contestant that wishes to appeal a decision must do so through the adult event director, the arena director and then the national director. DO NOT GO TO A JUDGE. Only the contestant can appeal.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Approved safety vests are required for the three roughstock events. Helmets are required in the bull riding. Mouthpieces are mandatory in all roughstock events. Quick release riggings in bareback are optional. Equipment will be inspected at various rodeos. **In the jr high division, contestants in the bull/steer riding must wear helmets, vest and mouthpieces.**

SEMINARS AND CLINICS

GHSRA may hold clinics and seminars each year on safety and technique. There are some private seminars available. GHSRA does not promote them but many of our contestants do attend them and they have high praise for them.

MULTI-STATE RODEOS

GHSRA has sponsored "The Southeastern Showdown" for many years. We host with other states and this is a great event. The dates are: Nov. 6th-9th, 2025. There are several other multi-state rodeos planned for the year. Remember the dress code for multi-state events. When we are the host state we need lots of help from students and adults. Please volunteer and be there.

At all rodeos we keep our points separate so point wise there is no difference from any local rodeo. Each state may have some differences in the way they do a rodeo but we will explain those before the rodeo starts.

STATE FINALS

GHSRA State Finals will be held the last weekend of May or first weekend of June. There will be two go rounds plus a championship go for the top 25

contestants in each event. The top 4 winners in each event win the right to attend and compete at the NHSFR. They also win buckles and awards.

Awards are given to the All-Around, Reserve All-Around and Rookie winners. Saddles will be awarded in each event that has an average of 4 contestants per event and each contestant at State Finals will receive an award for competing.

There will be a grade check at State Finals and an official permission slip (school eligibility form) must be given to the Rodeo officials. This was discussed earlier in this handbook.

A stock and office charge per event is paid once at State Finals. There can be a jackpot for each event.

A state meeting is held during State Finals. At the meeting, the student and adult officers are elected for the coming year.

NATIONAL FINALS

The NHSRA will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska starting July 19th-25th, 2026. The top four contestants in each event are invited to compete, and if any of them don't go we can "roll down" to the eighth place to fill the slots. This has no effect on State standings or awards at State Finals. **AT STATE FINALS PLEASE BE PREPARED TO TELL THE STATE SECRETARY WHAT EVENTS YOU WILL BE DOING AT THE NHSFR. WE HAVE TO KNOW BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE AWARDS CEREMONY AT STATE FINALS.**

GHSRA has been fortunate to be able to give our National qualifiers some travel money to help cover the costs to the NHSFR. This money is subject to the program sponsorship sales, entry fees, and other funds. **The GHSRA board of directors will decide and settle any questions concerning the distribution of the travel and stall funds. The Jr High Division board of directors will decide this for the Jr High division.**

HONEST TRY

Contestant must make an honest effort. If a contestant has qualified for and attends the NHSFR but does not compete in the first round, the

attending board members will determine whether the contestant will receive travel money. If a contestant has qualified for the NHSFR, entered, and paid fees but is unable to attend, the GHSRA board members will determine whether the contestant will receive his/her spirit pack(national shirt, national t-shirts, and national jacket, etc.)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Any senior that goes to the NHSFR is eligible to apply for financial aid. The NHSRA scholarship application must be completed online.

All Event winners at the NHSFR also receive scholarships and these are held for the winner until they graduate.

At the GHSRA finals, we award several scholarships to seniors. This program has grown dramatically and last year all the seniors that applied were awarded at least \$500 each for school expenses. An application needs to be completed and turned in along with a copy of the transcript. Interviews are held during the weekend. Any senior in GHSRA can apply for a State scholarship.

RODEO ENTRY

To participate in a qualifying GHSRA rodeo the contestant must enter through the on-line entry system. A link will be posted on the GHSRA website with the schedule.

There are 8-10 slots allocated for performance, and these must be filled first. After these positions are filled, the rest of the contestants compete either before or after the performance in “slack”. Please cooperate with the Rodeo secretary if they can’t place you where you want to be. They try to accommodate everyone, but with the numbers we are working with, it is impossible to place everyone where they want to be.

SIGN-IN

Sign-in will begin one hour before performance or slack. Sign-in will CLOSE after the first events ends in the performance or slack. **ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE SIGNED IN BY THE CLOSE OF SIGN-IN!**

NO SHOW POLICY

If you can't be at a rodeo after you have called-in, you must let the rodeo secretary know at least 24 hours in advance. This lets us plan with the stock contractor and event personnel so that the rodeo goes on smoothly. If you don't let us know you can't be there, no show fees will be charged, and no more competing is allowed until all fees are paid in full.

A sick horse is a valid reason for a late call out if you have a written vet's excuse. No-show fees are \$10 for the 1st time and \$25 for the next time. This is addition to entry fees.

If the GHSRA goes to another association (example: Cleveland or Andalusia) for a rodeo and a GHSRA contestant call-in for that rodeo he/she IS entered. There will be **NO DRAW OUTS** for these rodeos. The contestant will be responsible for paying the entry fees. These entry fee MUST be paid before contestant is allowed to compete at the next rodeo.

RODEO PERSONNEL

It takes a lot of people to make a rodeo go smoothly. There are many duties and jobs that go on behind the scenes and in the arena, and most of these jobs are done by parents and friends, who receive **no pay** for their time. GHSRA always needs and welcomes volunteers and will be glad to train anyone for any job. The following is a partial list of the many positions that are filled each year:

Rodeo Secretary, Points Secretary, Sign-In Assistants, Timers and assistants, Scorekeepers and assistants, Goat Handlers, Cattle Loaders, Barrel and Pole Spotters, Event Directors and assistants

This is not a complete list, so as you can see, there are many slots to be filled. Please volunteer if you feel that you have the time.

The paid personnel at the rodeo are the stock contractors, the judges, the bullfighters, the pickup men, and the announcer (sometimes the announcer is an unpaid volunteer) usually the stock contractor will furnish all of these in a package deal, but the sponsor may hire them individually.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

We encourage parents and guardians to be a part of GHSRA. Everyone can be an Associate Member of GHSRA and we encourage everyone to also volunteer for any of the jobs that need to be done to make the rodeo work.

Associate Member forms are at all rodeos and on the website. When you join, you will receive any information for GHSRA, the right to vote at the State meeting and the right to hold office. Membership must be completed by April 1 of each years to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

To volunteer for a position, please see the GHSRA President or the GHSRA National Director.

www.ghsra.com

This is the website for our association. A complete schedule, all points and standings, and call-information will be posted on this site. This information is updated as it is received.

AREA DIRECTORS

The State is divided into areas, and each area has an adult representative on the GHSRA board. Area Directors coordinate rodeos, keep in touch with members in their area, and represent their area on the GHSRA board. Get to know your Area Director and call him or her with any potential rodeos or questions.

PRODUCING RODEOS

We are constantly asked what it takes to put on a rodeo. There are so many different situations that it is impossible to have one answer for this question. Saddle clubs, social groups and service clubs are all good prospects for sponsoring rodeos. Your Area Director can answer questions and work with local committees.

WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO

A lot of money comes into the GHSRA, and all of it goes back to our contestants in one form or another. All of the money that we receive is given out in the form of awards, travel money for Nationals, fees to put on non-sponsored rodeos, clinics, family picnics and various dues and fees.

The money to finance all of these expenses come from entry fees, dues, fundraisers and miscellaneous fees and from grants and sponsorship sales. Volunteers of all of the set-up on the State Finals program and a lot of postage, telephone, and office supplies are donated.

A financial statement for the year is given at the State Finals meeting. You must be a GHSRA associate member in order to receive report.

Reports are given when they are requested thru out the year. A copy of the previous year's IRS filings will be presented at the General Membership Meeting each year.

Each year we expand our awards and scholarship programs. In the past four years, we have made it possible for each State Finalist to receive an award at State Finals, and we will continue to try and benefit more contestants in the future. Also, we are trying to have more seminars and clinics for safety and technique.

COMMITTEES 2025-2026

AWARDS

Haley O'Neal-CHAIRMAN
Christie Briscoe
Holli Sapp

BUDGET

Haley O'Neal-CHAIRMAN
Trista Hooten-Wilson
Scott Briscoe

HOSPITALITY

Alice Levering

NOMINATING

Holli Sapp-CHAIRMAN

RULES

Haley O'Neal-CHAIRMAN

SCHOLARSHIP

Jolyn King-CHAIRPERSON

Haley O'Neal

QUEEN COORDINATOR

Kecia Garland

PUBLICITY/WEBSITE

Julie Townsend

GROUND RULES

Theses have to be reaffirmed each year.

Cutting Horse Event and Reined Cow Horse will use the NHSRA option rule for the current season.

Each contest must meet the requirements of their local school that would allow them to compete in the athletic events at their school.

At State Finals the top 25 in each event will compete in the first and second go rounds and also in the championship go (short-go). This applies to the Jr. High division also.

Contestants will pay a \$20.00 ground fee for the rodeo weekend to defray the cost of the rodeo. This is one fee for the entire weekend, even if there are two rodeos.

Cutting and Reined Cow Horse contestants will pay a cattle charge plus their entry fees.

When we have two rodeos in one weekend, contestants must pay for both days when they sign-in (if they have called-in for both performances).

GHSRA will not accept or participate in a rodeo on Easter Sunday.

The GHSRA Queen will have her entry fees paid during her reigning year. She will be responsible for hauling all Grand Entry equipment. She will be given double travel money for her trip to the NHSFR if she meets all requirements according to the sponsorship program which is the same as all contestants.

GHSRA will accept checks for payment of fees. A bad check will result in a \$25 fine; a 2nd bad check will result in a \$50 fine and then a CASH only policy for that contestant (family). The contestant will not be allowed to participate from that point (when the bad check is returned to GHSRA) until check is made good.

In the event of a tie, duplicate awards will be given. One contestant will have to wait until the duplicate is received. A coin toss will decide who gets the award that is available.

For a saddle to be awarded in any event, there must be an average of four contestants in that event throughout the year. Saddles will be awarded to event winners who have competed in at least 50% of the rodeos that he/she are eligible to enter. If there are not enough contestants to give a saddle, there will be \$300 per contestant awarded for a year end award unless a single event saddle sponsorship is sold for that event.

Nationals RV hook-ups will be assigned based on the amount of sponsorship sold by contestants.

Each contestant must sell a minimum of \$300.00 raffle tickets or sponsorships to be able to participate in State Finals. National Qualifiers must sell \$500 in sponsorships/raffle to be able to receive any travel money to NHSFR. Hookups for nationals will be assigned based on the larger amount of add\sponsorship sales. All money raised for State Finals and Southeastern Showdown counts towards this. The ad copy and money must be turned in by March at the Franklin Rodeo 2025.

Money counting toward State Finals and Nationals travel money requirements must be turned in before the start of the last rodeo weekend before State Finals.

The GHSRA National Director has discretion to decide about contestant transfers in and out of GHSRA.

Scholastic Award buckles will be given to the leading boy and girl contestant exhibiting academic excellence. The award will be based on the student's academic achievements and an interview if needed. These awards are open to any grade level contestant.

We will use the Team Roping Draw Box option. A contestant may use the draw box during the qualifying rodeos. In a draw box situation only the paid entry will receive payout since the drawn partner is paying no entry fee. The contestant must declare a partner during state finals.

There is a one loop/jump in breakaway, tie down and steer wrestling. In breakaway, it must be a bell collar catch or it will be a no time. Refer to WPRA rules. 2 loops in the team roping.

In goat tying, one goat will be drawn for three contestants. The goat will be changed out according to the draw not according to runs on the goat. This is for all qualifying rodeos and Southeastern Showdown. State Finals goats will be rotated with every contestant. There will only be one goat in the arena during goat tying.

In team roping, should one partner not be able to complete, the able partner may select another partner. This new partner must be someone entered in the rodeo but not entered in the team roping. Should two or more teams have unable partners from these teams may pair up. The Jr High Division will follow this rule.

In the Jr High Division the same format will be followed for Ribbon Roping.

Georgia will participate in the NHR Foundation \$250.00 Matching Funds program. This money will come from the scholarship fund of GHSRA not the general fund.

In case of an immediate family death, a contestant maybe allowed to compete in a special slack between rodeos on a weekend where two rodeos are scheduled at one arena. This is to be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

State Finals for barrels and poles. Each contestant will draw for their position in the final round.

At all qualifying rodeos and State Finals:

PLEASE HAVE CURRENT COGGINS TEST PAPERS AND ALL REQUIRED HEALTH PAPERS.

State inspectors were at several of our rodeos last season, and they will be at more this year. We are required to tell them when and where each of our rodeos will be held.

If you are asked for your horse health and Coggins papers and do not have them, you will not be allowed to unload your horse, and you may cause all of the stock at the rodeo to be quarantined.

CONDUCT

Dress Code-You must be in full western attire during the performance and slack at each rodeo if you are in the arena, stock area or bleachers. You must be in full western attire when you pick up your pay-out. There is a \$50 fine for not following dress code rules. Fine must be paid before contestant can enter the next rodeo.

Logos- See current NHSRA Rule Book

Parents and friends that come into the arena to help you have to follow the dress code. Baseball caps, short sleeves, etc. are not allowed in the arena.

Tobacco and Vaping products are not allowed in the arena. This applies to contestants, friends and adults.

Animal abuse in or around the arena can result in contestant disqualification.

Alcohol and drug use are strictly forbidden at all times. Contestants are responsible for the action of their parents.

Foul language and cursing anywhere on the rodeo grounds is prohibited, and repeat warnings will result in disqualification.

There are many other rules concerning appeals and protests, safety equipment, contestant meetings and grand entry. These are not rules of procedure. Your Arena Director or any board member can explain this in detail.

GHSRA Raffle AND SPONSORSHIP

This is our major fundraiser of the year. We use the proceeds to purchase awards, pay for clinics and give travel money to our National Finalists.

Each member must sell a minimum of \$ 300.00 raffle tickets that they are issued to be allowed to compete at State Finals- A National Qualifier must get \$500 in sponsorship or raffle tickets or the contestant will not receive any travel money.

All sponsorship money must be turned in by March 21, 2026 at the Franklin, GA rodeo. Certain commitments from past years may be honored if we have a verbal commitment by Feb. 20, 2026.

Chute gate signs and other sponsorships at Southeastern Showdown and State Finals may be used to fulfill the above required numbers.

Everyone who gets over \$500 or more in **AD** sponsorships will receive 10% of the amount they obtain above the \$500. You will be given a sponsorship packet at the first rodeo, so please make your contacts early to obtain your sponsorships. Many businesses do their budgets before January, so it is a good idea to go ahead and ask them now.

Sponsored Rodeos that are paid for in full, except for goats and insurance, will be considered for up to \$3000.00 in sponsorship money and will be allowed to divide between as many contestants of their choosing. The students will receive no 10% back allowance on this money for any money raised over the \$500.00 required to receive travel money and it only counts for consideration in the way parking spots are allocated at Nationals. The producer of the rodeo will declare the contestants that will

*receive the credit. If only one person is declared by the producer then he or she will receive the \$3000 credit. The producer of the rodeo will declare students to receive credit at the start of the rodeo weekend that they are producing; this information will be given in writing to the State Secretary. The students must still meet the minimum for the State Finals in money raised. The producer of a sponsored rodeo may be allowed to use **half** the grounds fee money when extreme needs requirements are met.*

GJHSRA

The sponsorship requirements are as follows:

Each member must sell a minimum of \$ 300.00 raffle tickets that they are issued to be allowed to compete at State Finals. A National Qualifier must get \$500 in sponsorship or raffle tickets or the contestant will not receive any travel money.