

2026 IPTA Rodeo

Schedule of Events



FRIDAY, JUNE 19

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Participant & Judge/Volunteer Check-In
Location: Prairie Meadows Casino and Hotel
Address: 1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona, Iowa 50009

HOTEL ROOMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 4:00 P.M.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Participant Practice & Judge Practice
Location: Prairie Meadows Casino and Hotel
Address: 1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona, Iowa 50009

Both small and large bus competitors can practice anytime 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The course is located across the street from the Prairie Meadows Hotel, in the employee parking lot.

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Appetizers & Cocktails
Location: Prairie Meadows Casino - Pavilion - (near racetrack)
Address: 1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona, Iowa 50009
Go through main floor of Prairie Meadows to the back towards the race track entrance. The Pavilion is a separate building located near the racetrack.

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Dinner & Driver Awards at Prairie Meadows Pavilion

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

NO SHUTTLES WILL BE RUNNING ON SATURDAY.

6:30 a.m. Course Set Up

8:00 a.m. Participant & Judge Check-In
Location: Prairie Meadows Casino and Hotel
Address: 1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona, Iowa 50009

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Participant & Judge Orientation

9:30 a.m. Competition Begins

HOTEL CHECKOUT IS AT 11:00 A.M.

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:00 p.m. Awards Announced (timing may vary based on course activity)



SUMMARY

Here's What to Expect

Welcome to the 38th Annual IPTA/Iowa DOT State Rodeo! Get ready for a thrilling day of competition, camaraderie, and celebration of Iowa's finest transit professionals. The Rodeo is more than a competition – it's a showcase of skill, precision, and pride. Drivers from across the state have come to put their abilities to the test, connect with peers, and enjoy some well-earned fun. Who will steer their way to victory? The top drivers in each category – Large Bus and Small Bus – will earn the honor of representing Iowa on the national stage. Let the challenge begin!

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Participant Practice

Hotel rooms will not be ready when you arrive in Altoona, Iowa at Prairie Meadows Casino and Hotel until 4:00 pm. The competition course will be available to all Rodeo participants from 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. for practice. All participants will be responsible for respectfully practicing in the equipment and on the course they will be using on the day of the competition. Each driver will be responsible for resetting the course for the next driver's practice session. Participants should be mindful of their practice time and others waiting. The course can be converted between large bus and small bus between participants and staff will assist in coordinating the switchover.

Parking

Rodeo participants are welcome to park in the general parking lot near the hotel or Meadows Event Center within the Prairie Meadows Casino. The course is walking distance from the hotel.

Driver of the Year Celebration Dinner & Awards Ceremony

A celebration dinner for all Driver of the Year recipients, Rodeo participants, and transit personnel will be held at Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino at the Pavilion located in the back near the racetrack. A connected hallway from the hotel to racetrack area is available. Once in the main floor of the casino walk towards the racetrack entrance. Go outside and the Pavilion will be a separate building with its own entrance.

Starting at 5:30 p.m., attendees are welcome to enjoy cocktails, appetizers, and view horse races that will be going on. Dinner will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and the awards ceremony will begin around 7:30 p.m.



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Hotel Checkout

Due to a full hotel schedule, late checkout is not available for our group. Everyone must be checked out of the hotel by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Staying any additional days beyond Friday night is the responsibility of the participant and will not be covered.

Parking

Shuttles will not be running on Saturday morning. All Roadeo participants, spectators, and volunteers should drive themselves or walk to the north side of the parking lot, where you will see tents, tables, and the course setup outside of the hotel. You may park anywhere where there is guest parking.

Breakfast

Breakfast will be available prior to the start of the Roadeo, beginning at 8:00 a.m. All participants, family members/guests, judges, and transit personnel are welcome to attend at no additional charge.

Check-In

All participants need to check in to receive their number and any final instructions. Judges: please also plan to check in prior to the judges/volunteer meeting taking place from 8:30 a.m. The competition will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch & Awards

A boxed lunch will be provided following the completion of the competition, beginning around 11:30 a.m. All participants, family members/guests, judges, and transit personnel are welcome to attend at no additional charge. Awards will be announced and presented following lunch and the completion of the competition.



RULES OF CONDUCT

The following rules of conduct will apply to the competition:

- Following the initial walk-through of the course, drivers will not be allowed on the driving course for any reason (except for their actual competition).
- Drivers must remain outside of the pre-trip and/or wheelchair-securement area until they are called to participate in this event.
- Drivers are not to engage in unnecessary talking with judges.
- No alcoholic beverages will be permitted at the Roadeo site.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes profanity, aggressive behavior toward another contestant or official, abuse of equipment, and unsafe driving maneuvers.
- Once completed with the competition, drivers are not to discuss the competition with drivers who are still waiting to compete.
- Violations of the rules of conduct are to be reported to the Chief Judge as soon as possible.
- The Chief Judge shall have the sole authority to determine if a violation has occurred and the corrective action to follow. Depending on the severity of the infraction, the corrective action may include either deduction of points from a contestant's score or suspension from the competition.
- Drivers on the obstacle courses will be required to honk their horns when they place the bus in reverse.
- Drivers are required to wear the seatbelt during the competition.
- Driver uniforms are optional, but professional dress, similar to clothing worn while on duty, is required. Competitors are encouraged to wear their black and white Roadeo polo.

iowa public transit association



ROADEO

Course Map

