



Virginia High and Junior Rodeo Association Contestant Guidelines 2025-2026

Table of Contents

I. Membership	3
II. Events	3
III. Grading Requirements	4
IV. Rodeo Information & Schedule	5
V. Board of Directors & Meetings	5
VI. Student Officers	5
VII. Rodeo Call In	5
VIII. Draw Outs & No Shows	6
IX. Dress Code	6
X. Entry Fees	6
XI. Rodeo Check In	7
XII. Contestant Meetings	7
XIII. Grand Entry	7
XIV. Rodeo Performance & Slack	7
XV. Rodeo Payback and Results	8
XVI. Arena Set Up & Tear Down	8
XVII. Rodeo Volunteers	8
XVIII. Sponsorship & Fund Raising	8
XIX. Queen Competition	9
XX. State Finals	9
XXI. Awards	9
XXII. Nationals	9
XXIII. Additional Information	9

I. Membership

A. To qualify for membership contestants must submit all membership paperwork, a copy of their most recent report card and membership fees. Membership fees are non-refundable. Fifth graders may enter both Maverick & Junior High by paying all fees for both divisions.

B. Divisions:

1. High School - Grades 9 – 12
2. Junior High - Grades 5 – 8
3. Maverick - Age 7 – Grade 5
4. Peewee - Age 4 – Age 6

II. Events

A. High School

1. Girls Events

- Barrel Racing
- Breakaway Roping
- Cutting
- Goat Tying
- Pole Bending
- Queen
- Reined Cow Horse
- Team Roping (partner may be boy or girl, unlimited draw partners)

2. Boy Events

- Bareback
- Bull Riding
- Cutting
- Reined Cow Horse
- Saddle Bronc
- Steer Wrestling
- Team Roping (partner may be boy or girl, unlimited draw partners)
- Tie Down Roping

B. Junior High

1. Girls Events

- Barrel Racing
- Breakaway Roping
- Goat Tying
- Pole Bending
- Ribbon Roping (boy/girl team only, limited to two draw partners)
- Team Roping (partner may be boy or girl, unlimited draw partners)

2. Boy Events

- Bareback Steer Riding
- Breakaway Roping (no Tie Down if competing in Breakaway)
- Bull Riding
- Chute Dogging
- Goat Tying
- Ribbon Roping (boy/girl team only, limited to two draw partners)
- Saddle Bronc Steer Riding

- Team Roping (partner may be boy or girl, unlimited draw partners)
- Tie Down Roping (no Breakaway if competing in Tie Down)

C. Maverick

1. Girls Events

- Barrel Racing*
- Breakaway Roping
- Calf Riding
- Goat Tying
- Pole Bending*
- Team Roping (partner may be boy or girl)
 - *Mavericks/Pee Wee siblings may share horse in barrels & poles

2. Boy Events

- Barrel Racing*
- Breakaway Roping
- Calf Riding
- Goat Tying
- Pole Bending*
- Team Roping (partner may be boy or girl)
 - *Mavericks/Pee Wee siblings may share horse in barrels & poles

D. Pee Wee

1. Events for girls or boys

- Mutton Busting (weight limit of sixty pounds)
- Pole Bending*
- Barrel Racing*
- Goat Tying
- Breakaway (will enter Mavericks and points as they place)
- Team Roping (will enter Mavericks and points as they place)
 - *Mavericks/Pee Wee siblings may share horse in barrels & poles
 - No year end all around will be awarded in the Peewee division.
 - Peeweese can be led in by one assistant.

III. Grading Requirements

Proof of grades must be submitted at the beginning of the fall season and spring season, prior to state finals and prior to attending nationals. If grades do not meet the minimum requirements the contestant will not be allowed to compete.

- A. Public/Private Schools – copy of most recent report card and/or current transcript
- B. Home School – proof of grade proficiency and home School verification form

IV. Rodeo Information & Schedule

- A. Information and the schedule are available on our website (VHSRA.org), on our Facebook Groups (VHSRA Members Only (Private), and Virginia High School and Junior Rodeo Association Official Group (Public)).
- B. A newsletter is sent out via email monthly which includes upcoming events, call in schedule and other team information. Items to be included in the newsletter should be forwarded to the Student Secretary.
- C. A detailed Rodeo Information sheet will be emailed out by the Rodeo Secretary prior to each rodeo that will provide pertinent information for the rodeo – address, weekend schedule, stall, hook up information, and special events, etc.

V. Board of Directors & Meetings

- A. There is one Board of Directors that oversees the VHSRA & VJRA
- B. The board consists of 10 Adult Board Members and the 4 HS Student Officers.
- C. Adult board members are elected at the General Membership meeting at State Finals. The Board of Directors elect the Adult Executive Board Members
- D. The initial term of an adult board member is 1 year and the succeeding terms if re-elected are 3 years.
- E. Board Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Monday of every month beginning at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held via conference call.

VI. Student Officers

- A. There are 4 HS Student Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian) and 2 JH Ambassadors.
- B. Officers are elected at state finals for the following rodeo year.
- C. High School Officers must be a member of the VHSRA at the time of the elections and be rising 10th, 11th, or 12th graders. JH Ambassadors must be 6th, 7th, or 8th graders.

VII. Rodeo Call In

- A. Call-in will be open from 12:01 a.m. on Friday to 11:59 p.m. Monday on the designated date, which can be found on the website VHSRA.org.
- B. All information including events, stalls, campsites, etc. need to be included on the google form response. You will receive a confirmation email back when your email has been received.
- C. Be prepared with entry events and any additional information that may be required for the rodeo (stalls, hook ups, tickets, etc.)
- D. Call In Secretary names and phone numbers are posted on the website.
- E. If a contestant fails to call in to a rodeo during the 4-day open call-in window the contestant is allowed a one-time pass if the rodeo secretary is contacted within 24 hours of the closed rodeo call in. A one-time pass will only be allowed once in a contestants rodeo career with VHSRA/VJRA.
- F. No late call ins will be permitted beyond 24 hours of the call-in closure time.

VIII. Draw Outs & No Shows

- A. Once you call in for a rodeo you are responsible for all fees associated with that rodeo.
- B. A contestant may vet out of a rodeo if their Horse is deemed sick or lame by your vet. A note is required from the Vet including reason for the vet-out, the contestants name, horses registered name, and the rodeo or event that the contestant wishes to vet-out of needs to be sent to the rodeo secretary.
- C. A contestant may med out of a rodeo if the contestant is deemed sick or unable to compete. A note from the doctor including reason for the med-out, the contestants name, and the rodeo or event that the contestant wishes to med-out of needs to be sent to the rodeo secretary.

IX. Dress Code

- A. Dress code is applicable to all contestants and anyone in the arena/back pen or working an arena position.
- B. All Contestants must be in dress code from the time they check in until completion of the rodeo.
- C. Dress code must be in accordance with the NHSRA Rulebook page 35 section 6(a)1-6 to include western hat, long sleeved shirt (must be wrist length sleeved shirt, with collar and cuffs. No sweatshirts, T-shirts or pullover sweaters allowed), western boots, and western trousers.

X. Entry Fees

- A. Entry Fees must be paid the Monday prior to the rodeo.
- B. Entry Fees per performance:
 - 1. Peeweeps
\$25: Barrel Racing, Goat Tying, Mutton Busting, Pole Bending
 - 2. Mavericks
\$25: Barrel Racing, Goat Tying, Mutton Busting, Pole Bending
\$35: Breakaway Roping, Calf Riding, Team Roping
 - 3. Junior High
\$25: Barrel Racing, Goat Tying, Pole Bending
\$35: Chute Dogging, Roping Events
\$75: Rough Stock
 - 4. High School
\$75: Rough Stock
\$35: All Others

- XI. Rodeo Check In
- A. Rodeo check-in begins 2 hours prior to the first rodeo of the weekend and lasts for 1 hour. Typically check-in happens at the first rodeo of the season and at finals.
 - B. If you have not checked in and paid your fees prior to the end of check in, you will not be permitted to rodeo.
 - C. Specific check-in times and location will be included in the rodeo information sheet.
 - D. Contestant must be in dress code to check in.
 - E. Contestants will check in with the check-in secretary for their division.
- XII. Contestant Meetings
- A. Contestant Meetings are mandatory. If you are not in attendance at the contestant meeting when roll is called, you will be required to miss one go of the next rodeo unless otherwise discussed with your division secretary.
 - B. Contestants must be in dress code for the Contestant Meetings.
 - C. Contestants should not bring their horses to the meetings.
 - D. If you have information you would like to have discussed at the contestant meeting, you can notify the student president to have it added to the agenda.
- XIII. Grand Entry
- A. Grand Entry is conducted prior to the start of each rodeo performance.
 - B. The Queen or Student Officers will lead the Grand Entry
 - C. Contestants are required to participate in Grand Entry – contestants who do not have horses should still be at the arena during the Grand Entry
 - D. Contestants who can carry flags should line up first to help carry our sponsor flags. We are required to present our sponsor flags during our rodeos.
- XIV. Rodeo Performance & Slack
- A. Draw will be posted 1 hour prior to the start of the rodeo and will be posted at both ends of the arena.
 - B. Anyone in the arena (including behind the chutes) must be in dress code.
 - C. Contestants should know the draw order and be prepared to enter the arena for their event when their name is called. If the contestant does not enter the arena by the third call, they will miss the event.
 - D. For Rodeos where an admission is charged, we may be required to have a slack dependent on the number of entries.
 - E. Slack is a random draw – a contestant cannot request to be in or not be in slack. The only exception is if a contestant must request slack due to graduation requirements (i.e., ACT/SAT exam, Graduation ceremony)

XV. Rodeo Payback and Results

- A. Payback will be available 30 minutes after the end of the rodeo from the payback secretary for their division.
- B. Unofficial results will be posted at the end of each rodeo for in state multi-state rodeos.
- C. Official results will be posted on the website within 5 days.

XVI. Arena Set Up & Tear Down

- A. Some locations require us to set up and tear down the arena. When this is required, the setup is done a few days prior to the rodeo. We request that families in the rodeo participate in the set up and then ask that families that live outside the area assist in the tear down after the rodeo.
- B. Information will be emailed out to members when arena set up is required. The more people that we have assist the quicker this can be completed.

XVII. Rodeo Volunteers

- A. We are a volunteer organization. None of our Officers, Secretaries or Board Members are paid. We rely on our parent volunteers to keep the rodeo running efficiently.
- B. Each rodeo will be done on a random draw system with the volunteer form taken into consideration. The volunteer draw will be done the week of the rodeo and posted on the team Facebook page and through email. It is the family's responsibility to have the position they are drawn for covered. If you have someone else covering your position you are drawn for, please let the Volunteer Secretary know who is expected to be working. Please ensure that the individual fulfilling the volunteer position can fulfill the position and its requirements. If a child chooses to help work an arena position and they are not fully able to fulfill the needs their parent/adult will need to be present and accompany the child.
- C. If you are working in the arena, you must be in dress code. There is no limit on how many times each family will need to work each volunteer position. We will pull from all families entered in the rodeos and will recycle once everyone has been assigned and fulfilled the first round of volunteers.
- D. It is mandatory for each family to volunteer to fulfill the student's membership requirements. If you are unable to fulfill your volunteer requirement and unable to find someone to fulfill your position each position is a \$100 fine that will be assessed upon each occurrence.

XVIII. Sponsorship & FundRaising

- A. Contestants are required to obtain sponsorship each year. ½ of the sponsorship is due September 1st and ½ of the sponsorship is due April 1st.
- B. Contestants that do not join until after December are only required to pay the second ½ of the sponsorship.
- C. Sponsorship Fees:
 - 1. High School: \$250.00
 - 2. Junior High: \$200.00
 - 3. Maverick: \$100.00
- D. Sponsorship Fees are Non-Refundable.
- E. Contestants will also be required to participate in various fundraisers throughout the year.

XIX. Queen Competition

- A. The Queen Competition is conducted in the spring of each year – just prior to or at our state finals.
- B. To compete in the Queen Competition a girl must be a current member of the VHSRA and be in the 9th – 11th grade.
- C. An information session will be conducted early spring for anyone interested in participating.
- D. Questions regarding the Queen Competition should be forwarded to the Queen Coordinator – contact information is posted on the website.

XX. State Finals

- A. To compete in an event at State Finals a contestant must have competed in that event during the current season and satisfied all other membership requirements.
- B. You must compete in all performances of the state finals to be eligible to compete at Nationals or receiving year end awards.
- C. State Finals consists of three performances for the High School and Junior High and two performances for the Mavericks/Peeweews.

XXI. Awards

- A. An awards banquet will be conducted after the state finals.
- B. To be eligible for awards a contestant must compete in the state finals.

XXII. Nationals

- A. There is a Nationals competition for Junior High and High School Contestants.
- B. The top four contestants in each event after state finals are automatically qualified to attend Nationals.
- C. If a contestant in the top four does not wish to attend the next contestant will be offered the position down to eighth place.
- D. Additional information about the National Finals including dates and locations can be found on the Nationals Website (www.nhsra.com)

XXIII. Additional Information

- A. Contestants/Parents should not enter the secretary's booth during the rodeo.
- B. Contestant information is announced from the cards that are completed when you join each year. If you need to make updates to this information, please be sure to do so prior to the start of the rodeo.

Please note: If we are attending a multi-state rodeo sponsored by another state there may be some variation in the information provided above related to call in, entry fees, payback, etc. This information will be provided to you by our State Secretary prior to the call in for the event.