



Maryland High  
School Rodeo  
Association, Inc.

High School, Jr. High,  
Mustang Division  
Contestant and Parent  
Handbook  
2022-2023

[www.mdhsra.org](http://www.mdhsra.org)

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Welcome to Maryland High School, Jr. High and Elementary (Mustang) Rodeo Association! As the season begins this year, we are looking forward to an increase in membership and a season that provides quality rodeos for our membership to compete. We hope to build strong teams to represent Maryland at both the Junior High and High School National Finals. This handbook will be a resource to our new and returning contestants. We encourage all parents, guardians, and student members to read this handbook, thoroughly. A lot of information about grades, financial matters and State and National Finals are explained. All of these subjects will be helpful to both our student and adult membership this season.

## **PURPOSE AND GOALS:**

The purpose of the Maryland High School Rodeo Association (MDHSRA) is to provide an activity for High School, Jr. High and Elementary School students, promoting the sport of rodeo, sportsmanship, and education while preserving our Western heritage.

## **ORGANIZATION:**

MDHSRA and MDJHSRA Division are members of the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA) and are organized under a constitution and set of bylaws that are available upon request. The student members of the MDHSRA are led by a set of Student Officers. The adult membership is represented by an Adult Board, which is elected from the adult membership. This Board includes adult officers and at-large Board members. Both the Student Officers and the Adult Board are elected at the annual open state board meeting held each year during the State Finals or within 30 days of State Finals.

## **GENERAL RULES:**

1. Contestants should be at the rodeo and checked in at scheduled check-in time posted on each rodeo's information sheet. Information Sheets posted on the MDHSRA website.
2. Contestant meetings are mandatory and are usually held 1 hour before the rodeo is scheduled to begin. **Dress code is in effect for this meeting. Roll call will be taken.** Fines will be given for missing meeting and/or not being in dress code. (Unless otherwise cleared by the National Director or State Secretary in advance) **1<sup>st</sup> Offense, \$25 fine. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense, \$50 fine.**
3. Back numbers are mandatory on rodeo grounds from check in until one hour after the last event of the weekend. **Back numbers are to be worn on the contestants back. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense, \$25 fine. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense, \$50 fine.**
4. The 30-second rule is in effect for all roping events, steer wrestling, chute dogging and goat tying at all Maryland rodeos. The 60-second rule is in effect for the Mustang Division in these events.
5. There will also be a 30-second time limit in the barrel racing and pole bending events if contestant is not able to get their horse in the arena. The judge will determine when the clock starts.
6. Mouthpieces are mandatory for all contestants in steer wrestling, chute dogging, and all rough stock events.
7. A contestant must be in good standing and compete in 50% of the rodeos to be eligible for the year end state awards.
8. Contestants must ride in the State Finals Rodeo and have competed in the event prior to State Finals Rodeo to be eligible for High School and Jr. High National Finals.
9. **FINES – All fees and fines must be paid before you can compete in the next rodeo!**

### **NHSRA RULEBOOK:**

Each Contestant is given a national rulebook when they join. The rulebook covers event rules, conduct rules, protest procedures, point systems, and miscellaneous rules. It is the responsibility of everyone to read and know the rulebook. This is probably the most important regarding re-runs, re-rides, protests and conduct. In the event the National Rulebook does not cover an event, MDHSRA will follow PRCA rules.

### **DUES AND FEES**

**A CONTESTANT WHO HAS NOT PAID DUES OR FEES ON TIME WILL BE UNABLE TO COMPETE IN RODEO EVENTS.**

#### **NHSRA Membership Fees:**

Every MDHSRA member must pay **NHSRA membership fees** by the first rodeo of the season.

- High School Division = \$175.00 per season
- Jr. High School Division = \$131.00 per season
- Mustang Division = \$75.00 per season.

Membership fees must be paid with cash, personal check, cashier's check, money order or credit card. Membership fees cover MDHSRA and MDJHSRA membership, NHSRA membership, Supplemental medical insurance, Subscriptions to The Times and Western Horsemen. Supplemental medical insurance is with, Specialty Program Insurers. They specialize in rodeo claims. The policy is a supplemental injury policy that can be used with other injury policies or by itself. Membership fee for Mustang Division covers membership. Membership dues must be paid by the first rodeo of the season.

#### **MDHSRA Annual Dues:**

In addition, MDHSRA and MDJHSRA contestants must submit **annual MDHSRA dues** totaling \$250.00 throughout the season. The first installment of the \$125.00 is due by October 1 and the second installment is due by April 1. Members joining after November 1 are only responsible for the spring dues. Dues are paid directly to the MDHSRA treasurer and can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo.

#### **Event Entry Fees:**

Entry fees (for all divisions) are posted on the event sheet before each rodeo. Entry fees are paid at each rodeo before the rodeo begins and **MUST BE PAID IN CASH OR CREDIT. CORRECT CHANGE IS PREFERRED.**

- **NO-SHOW AND TURN-OUT FINES are \$25.00 per event per rodeo. This is in addition to entry fees.**
  - **NO-SHOW:** When a contestant is called in for a rodeo and fails to show up.
  - **TURN-OUT:** When a contestant is called in for a rodeo, comes to the rodeo but refuses to take his/her ride or animal.
- **BACK NUMBERS** are mandatory on rodeo grounds from check in until one hour after the last event of the weekend. Back numbers are to be worn on the contestants back. **1<sup>st</sup> Offense, \$25 fine. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense, \$50 fine.**
- **DRAW-OUT:** (not a Med-Out) must pay entry fees but will not be assessed a fine. A draw-out is when a contestant is called in for a rodeo and before the rodeo begins, discovers he/she cannot be at the rodeo. **The contestant must contact the Rodeo Secretary at least 24 hours in advance of the rodeo.** This lets us plan with the stock contractor and event personnel so that the rodeo goes on smoothly. **If you do not contact the Rodeo Secretary, the no-show fees and fines will be charged.**

- **MED-OUT:** Your entry fees will be returned. Med- out is when a contestant or the contestant's horse has an injury or sickness that prevents them from competition in an event. The Arena Director must be notified before that event begins. To avoid losing points for the entire rodeo, a doctor's or vet's excuse must be presented to the State Secretary within five working days of that rodeo. If it is a visible injury, occurring at the rodeo, refer to the 2020-2022 NHSRA rulebook, page 35; Section: Contestant Disqualifications; #6. subsection c. RODEO, (2)(c) which states: "A contestant with a visible injury or illness may turn out of any event at a rodeo without a doctor's written excuse, provided notification of turn-out is authorized by a judge or National Director at that given rodeo. **If a contestant has drawn out with a visible injury, he/she must have a doctor's release to resume competition.**"
- **EVENT DIRECTORS:** Event Directors are to be on the arena floor at the time of your designated event. If for some reason you cannot be present, you must find someone to fill in for you. Not showing up for your event during the performance and in slack will result in a fine -1<sup>st</sup> Offense verbal warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense \$10.00 fine. If a performance has slack and you do not show up for performance or slack, the fine is double (\$20).

**FINES – All fees and fines must be paid before you can compete in the next rodeo!**

**GRADES AND ACADEMICS:**

All MDHSRA members must be in good standing at school and must have passing grades in at least 70 percent of the classes taken or meet the state activity requirements. See the latest NHSRA Rulebook for more information.

- Report Cards will be uploaded to the Membership portal at the beginning of the season and prior to state finals. Mustangs will submit to the State Secretary. **Only official report cards (or official reports on home school letterhead) are acceptable. Progress reports will NOT be accepted.** 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 suspension means that the contestant will not be allowed in or around the arena. He or she may not work with or help any participant at a rodeo.

MDHSRA recognizes **home schooling** as long as the student is meeting the guidelines for taking the qualifying and standardization tests that are required by the State.

**CONDUCT:**

The NHSRA is very clear concerning contestant conduct. Please read the rules concerning disqualifications in the National rulebook. These rules apply to both contestants and their parents/guardians.

Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vaping, profanity, animal abuse, cheating, fighting and bad sportsmanship have no place in high school, junior high, or elementary rodeo. All of these will result in disqualification from an individual rodeo and/ or from MDHSRA entirely.

Association with non-members or members that are using alcohol and drugs is considered the same as doing it yourself. Smoking or Vaping in the arena is not allowed by either contestants or adults. Arguing with judges and officials is not allowed by contestants, parents, guardians, or family/ friends. In the case of illegal activity, law enforcement will be involved.

Social media is a part of our association. We maintain a Facebook group and an Instagram account that are monitored by the MDHSRA Board of Directors. Inappropriate comments/posting may also result in disqualifications or further disciplinary action as determined by the MDHSRA Board of Directors

**Contestants you are responsible for your parents; they are expected to follow the code of conduct rules as well.**

### **APPEALS AND PROTESTS:**

Any contestant wishing to appeal a decision, must do so through the event director. **DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO A JUDGE or A TIMER.** Only contestants may appeal. We will not review videos and do not hear appeals on mark outs or rough stock scores. The MDHSRA will follow the latest NHSRA rulebook in handling hearings and appeals.

### **DRESS CODE:**

All contestants need to be in western attire at least one hour before a performance begins. You need to stay in western attire during the complete rodeo, even if you are not competing, until 1 hour after the rodeo. At MULTI-STATE rodeos, you must be in western attire during the entire slack performance. At local qualifying rodeos, only competing personnel have to be in western attire during slack. Western attire is a western shirt with wrist length sleeves, cuffs and a collar, a western belt, western jeans, western boots, and a western hat. The shirt must be tucked in – no short or cropped shirts. You may remove the belt while you are competing, and rough stock riders may roll up the sleeve on their riding arm while they are competing. Athletic shoes designed to look like western boots are not western attire. **Your back number is part of your dress code. The back number must be worn on your back and visible at all times.** This means if you wear a jacket or vest, the back number must be on the outside. According to the latest NHSRA rulebook, the back number must be on your back when at the rodeo, on rodeo grounds or rodeo functions and at a motel. A back number will be assigned to you at the beginning of the year. If you lose a back number, there is a **\$10.00 replacement fee.** Anyone, including parents, who comes in the arena to help in any way, (including leading a rider into the arena), must be in dress code. Baseball caps, short sleeves, etc. are not allowed. The visitor will be asked to leave the arena and return to the spectator area. No alcohol or tobacco patches, stickers or advertising is allowed on contestants' attire or equipment.

### **CONTESTANT MEETINGS:**

Contestant meetings are held before our rodeos. These meetings will be posted on the rodeo information sheet, typically 1 hour prior to rodeo start, and are used to give out information about upcoming rodeos, event changes or ground rules. It is mandatory that you attend the meeting. Attendance is taken, by roll call, before the meeting begins. You must be in western attire for the meeting. A **\$15 fine** will be given for **no shows and those not in dress code (unless otherwise approved by the State Secretary or National Director.)** No horses are allowed during the contestant meetings.

### **GRAND ENTRY:**

All contestants with horses are encouraged to ride in the Grand Entry. You will be asked to carry a flag if you are able. This event sets the tone for the rest of the rodeo and is a good way to show our sponsors how much we appreciate putting on the rodeo. The MDHSRA Queen oversees the grand entry. Please cooperate with our queen. Only MDHSRA members are permitted to ride in grand entries except at multi-State rodeos when the other states are participating.

### **EVENT DIRECTORS:**

Each rodeo, the Student President will coordinate the event directors for each event. The event director must know the rulebook and must be present for a contestant to contest a call. The event director is the liaison between the contestant and the arena judge. It is the director's duty to be in the arena during the event for the rodeo/ slack. **If the event director cannot be present for their event, it is their responsibility to arrange a suitable replacement and notify the Student/ Adult President prior to the rodeo start.** The Student Officers will oversee this process.

### **POINT SYSTEMS:**

ALL rodeos that are MDHSRA sanctioned will be pointed. If MDHSRA offers choices for rodeos that must be declared, MDHSRA will post the options and procedures at the beginning of the rodeo season.

### **\*\*\*CONTESTANTS HAVE 10 DAYS AFTER POINTS HAVE BEEN POSTED BY THE STATE SECRETARY TO SUBMIT A GRIEVANCE**

The National High School Rodeo Association has implemented one point system to be used by all associations.

For State Finals: Points coming into the finals plus points for each go round and, in the average, will determine the event champions. Bonus points will be added only to determine All-Around Champions and Rookies. These points will be awarded based on where you finished for the season. (Event champion gets the most bonus points) The number of points available at state finals will be dependent on the number of regular season rodeos. Please direct any questions to your National Director.

### **SAFETY EQUIPMENT:**

Beginning in August 1995, approved safety vests are required for the rough stock events. Beginning 2014, industry approved helmets are required for both bull riding and steer riding. Mouthpieces are mandatory in all rough stock events, steer wrestling and chute dogging events. A contestant will be subject to disqualification for failure to utilize proper safety equipment.

### **PARENT VOLUNTEERS:**

There are many duties and jobs that go on behind the scenes and in the arena. Most of this work is done by volunteers. MDHSRA always needs and welcomes volunteers. We will train anyone for any job. The following is a partial list of the many positions that need volunteers for each rodeo:

- Barrel and Pole Spotters
- Grand Entry Assistants
- Goat Handlers
- Gate / Admission
- Merchandise Sales

Each rodeo, we will have sign up for volunteers in the areas that are needed. We encourage our parents to help and get to know the kids of the association and in turn, we want the kids to meet the parents. **We ask that a member of each family volunteer at least (2 ½ hours) during the rodeo season.** For those families that have an able-bodied family member and do not volunteer, we will ask you to make a \$75 donation to the association in the place of not volunteering. Please note, this does NOT help the rodeo run smoothly. All Volunteers must be in dress code if in the arena.

### **TRIAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

Anyone interested in participating in a rodeo is welcome to do so. A one- time only trial membership can be purchased for \$25. Regular event fees then apply. Trial members are not eligible for points. Trial members may also participate in State Finals events but are not eligible for year-end awards.

### **MEDICAL SUPPORT:**

It is the policy of the MDHSRA to always have an EMT or higher qualified medical personnel on site at each rodeo.

### **FUNDRAISERS:**

MDHSRA relies heavily on the fundraising efforts throughout the year. Fundraisers may include, but are not limited to, 50/50 sales, t-shirt sales, jackpot roping, barrel racing jackpots, etc. The MDHSRA is always open to new ideas for fundraising. Please contact MDHSRA Adult Board Members with any ideas.

Some MDHSRA fundraisers are mandatory, meaning that each contestant must raise a certain amount of money or pay the required amount themselves. For example, for a raffle fundraiser, the contestant must either sell a required 10 tickets at \$10 a piece or pay \$100 to MDHSRA, if tickets are not sold. For families with multiple contestants, MDHSRA requires participation from only two contestants.

### **WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?**

Money from fundraisers and events benefits our contestants. Some of our expenses are awards, stock contractors, workers, insurance, advertising, and operating expenses. If the money is available, the national finalists will be given travel money to help defer the costs of going to the National Finals. The money to finance all these expenses comes from the entry fees, ad sales, fundraisers, donations and sponsorships.

### **PRODUCING RODEOS:**

To produce a rodeo, you need an arena large enough to run our events, a stock contractor, and a way to draw a crowd of paying spectators. Each stock contractor has their own fee schedule. We have a list of approved contractors and will be glad to share this information with anyone interested in producing. Other paid personnel at the rodeo are the judges, bullfighters, pickup men, and the announcer. Many times, the stock contractor will furnish all of these in a package deal or the MDHSRA will have to pay them.

If you have a facility in your area, please contact the State President or National Director.

### **STATE FINALS:**

MDHSRA State Finals will be held in May. There are three go-rounds for all contestants in each event. There will be awards for Event winners and Average winners. The top four winners in the high school division and junior high division will receive awards and the right to compete at the National Finals. There will also be awards for all-around cowboys, all-around cowgirls, all-around rookie cowboys and all-around rookie cowgirls. Mustang Division will receive awards at this time. Queens's contest will also be held during State Finals.

**Members MUST enter and compete in all three (3) go rounds at state finals in order to be eligible for State and National awards.**

### **NATIONAL FINALS:**

If any of the top four winners cannot go to the NHSFR or NJHFR, we can "roll down" to eighth place to fill the slots. (Please refer to your National Rulebook to clarify questions). This has no effect on state standings or awards at State Finals. Travel monies are given to our national finalists based upon availability of funds. In the case we are able to award travel monies to contestants going to National finals, the money will be given at Nationals after the Mandatory Contestant meeting. If a competitor chooses to not compete in events while at Nationals, for any reason other than a med-out or vet-out, they will be responsible for giving back a portion or all of their travel money to MDHSRA.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Scholarships are available to qualifying students on both the state and national levels.

**\*State Level:** At the end of each rodeo year, the MDHSRA awards scholarships to deserving seniors planning to further their education. Scholarships are based on academics, years of membership and letters of recommendation. Transcripts must be contained in a sealed envelope and can be mailed after final grades are issued at the end of the school year. **The application must be submitted by the advertised deadline for consideration.**

Scholarships are awarded based on the following:

1. Must be a member in good standing of the MDHSRA
2. Must be a full-time student and enrolled in a full schedule of classes.
3. Must be a graduating high school senior at the time of application.
4. Awarded scholarships will be held in trust for a maximum of two (2) years from the time offered.
5. Scholarships will be paid on receipt of application, showing proof of enrollment in college or approved trade school. Checks will be made payable to the student and college of choice.

**\*National Level:** Any senior participating in the NHSFR is eligible for scholarship monies. This form can be found in the "NHSRA Times" and needs to be accompanied with a copy of your transcript. The student applying is responsible for turning in the scholarship applications at Nationals, according to the instructions provided by the National Scholarship Committee. The National Director will be available for assistance when asked. You are responsible for having the National Director sign your application.

The exceptions to these scholarships on both the state and national levels are contestants that are in home-school programs. The criteria used to award these scholarships are not available from home school programs.

All event winners at the NHSFR receives a scholarship. It is held until graduation. Please see the NHSFR Website for more information and available scholarships.

**THE FUTURE:**

MDHSRA is growing each year. These are exciting times to be involved in the sport of rodeo, especially with the high school rodeo. Our contestants are the future of rodeo and the furthering of Western Heritage. As we grow in numbers, we will grow in ability. With increased membership and a higher level of competition, we should see our teams improve each year, as well as our ability to offer more money, scholarships, and awards.







Maryland High School Rodeo, Inc.  
High School, Jr High and  
Mustang Rodeo Association

I hereby attest that I have read the Maryland High School Rodeo, Inc. Contestant and Parent Handbook. Therefore, I understand and am aware of the contents of this handbook.

Contestant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Good Luck this season!

