



### Saddle Bronc Riding

Saddle bronc riding is a reflection of the work that was required to break and train horses to work the cattle ranches of the Old West. This event requires strength, style, grace, and precise timing. Every move the rider makes must be synchronized with the horse's moves.

Riders must "mark out" their horses on the first jump from the chute. This means that the cowboy must have both heels touching the animal above the point of the horse's shoulders. If the rider does not do this, he will be disqualified and receive no score. A saddle bronc rider only has a thick rein attached to his horse's halter. The cowboy uses one hand to try to stay seated in his saddle. If he touches any part of the horse or himself with his free hand, he will be disqualified and will not receive a score.

Judges score saddle bronc riding based on the horse's bucking action, the cowboy's control of the horse, and the cowboy's spurring action. The cowboy works diligently to keep his toes turned outward while he spurs the horse from the points of the horse's shoulders to the back of the saddle. In order to score well, the rider has to keep this spurring action throughout the eight second ride. The bucking ability of the horse is built into the system; a smooth, rhythmic ride is sure to score better than a wild, uncontrolled effort.

### Show What You Know

1) What are the two ways a cowboy can be disqualified?

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2) What jobs does this event reflect from the Old West?

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3) What are the main goals of every cowboy competing in saddle bronc riding?

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4) How is a rider judged?

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5) How is saddle bronc riding different from bull riding?

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