



2026 NLBFR Ground Rules



These Ground Rules are in effect throughout the National Finals Rodeo. Violation of any Ground Rule may result in disqualification. Ground Rules are subject to change. Please read carefully.

Contestant Information

1. All contestants must attend the mandatory contestant meeting. Failure to attend will result in disqualification. Contestants will receive a sticker for their back number to verify attendance. This must be visible on your back number during the duration of the finals.
2. All contestants must wear their back numbers at all times, including during activities off rodeo grounds (restaurants, shopping, tourist attractions, etc.).
3. Purchase of a souvenir back number does not replace the requirement to wear the assigned number issued by the National Office.
4. Replacement back numbers are available for \$25, payable at the National Office. Verification of meeting attendance is required.
5. All contestants must have the appropriate back number and adult helpers must have the appropriate wristband. They must wear full western attire on the arena floor and in the warm-up arena. This does not apply to spectators.

Golf Carts, Etc.

1. The only authorized Golf Carts are the ones rented through the authorized rental agency and personal golf carts. Personal Golf Carts must have the appropriate sticker purchased at the golf cart office.
2. Golf carts and approved motorized vehicles may not be operated by contestants or anyone under the age of 18, even after competition is completed. First Offense Violations will result in disqualification from the current round. Second Offense Violations will result in disqualification from the next round and a \$250 fine. All violations after the competition of your finals events will result in a one rodeo suspension, the following rodeo season, and a \$500 fine. Unpaid fines will result in suspension of membership until fines are paid.
3. Golf carts are not allowed in buildings or stall barns after noon on Saturday, 6/27/2026. Violations will result in fines: \$250 (first offense), \$500 (second offense), \$750 (third offense), etc.
4. Designated golf cart parking will be available on both sides of the OG&E Coliseum, as well as other designated areas.
5. Adults must sign all golf cart contracts and follow all stated rules.
6. Four-wheelers, ATVs, UTVs, and similar vehicles are restricted to staff access only.
7. Electric bikes and segways are allowed outside of OG&E Coliseum, Barn 6, and Barn 8.

Champions

1. Finals Champions and World Champions must participate in the television interview immediately following the awards ceremony.
2. World Champions must complete an information sheet for the Finals Recap Magazine. This is contained in your winners packet.

NLBFR Awards

1. Winners of in-kind awards must pick them up at the awards ceremony. Availability after the ceremony is not guaranteed.
2. Only award winners and the photographer are allowed in designated photography areas during the ceremony.
3. In the event of a tie, notify the NLBRA Office by August 1 to ensure proper awards are available.
4. Finals Champions (events and all-around) and World Champions (events and all-around) must participate in the television interview immediately following the awards ceremony.
5. Award winners unable to attend must notify the NLBRA Office.
6. Award winners may arrange for another contestant to pick up awards with prior notice to the NLBRA Office.

Round Pens

1. Round pens are available for use. If others are waiting, limit use to 30 minutes.
2. Do not leave horses unattended.



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Lost and Found

1. Lost items will be kept in the National Office and may be mailed at the owner's expense.

Injury

1. Report all injuries to the Secretary's Office to obtain proper paperwork and insurance coverage.

Stalling

1. Trash polycarts are available in all barns and must be used for disposal of manure and waste.
2. Outside shavings are not allowed. Please see the feed store for approved options.
3. Stalls must be kept clean throughout the week to assist with fly control.
4. Do not cut, remove, disassemble, or otherwise damage stalls or panels. If the stall is assigned to you, you are responsible for any damage. A \$150 fine will be assessed per damaged or removed panel.

Rodeo

1. The day sheet is not considered official. The official draw is posted by the Finals Secretary's Office. We will a QR code to link you to the official draw.
2. Every performance will be filmed. All contestants are expected to maintain appropriate conduct.
3. Riding bareback, riding double, or riding with halters is prohibited. Violations may result in disqualification.
4. No protests on a judge's call. Appeals must be submitted to the NLBFR Appeals Committee with a \$100 fee. If granted, the fee will be returned. If denied, the fee will go to the NLBRA Scholarship Fund.
5. Abuse of stock will result in disqualification.
6. Horses must be tied properly. Do not tie horses to trees, water lines, electric lines, or similar structures.
7. Roping Rules for the 1st and 2nd Go: 1 loop for Breakaway, Tie Down, and Ribbon Roping. 2 loops for Team Roping.
8. Only 1 jump is permitted in Steer Wrestling.
9. Roping Rules for Short Go: 2 loops for Breakaway, Tie Down, and Ribbon Roping. 3 loops for Team Roping.
10. Contestants and adult helpers must adhere to Patch Program rules (Pg. 57 of 2025–2026 NLBRA Rulebook).

*separate sheet for rules for Junior High (see website)

*separate sheet for rules for check in (see website)

*check out the schedule for details on activities (see website)

*entrance/egress information separate (see website)