PENDLETON ROUND-UP®
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MEN'S INDIAN RELAY RACE RULES AND REGULATIONS

2025 entries open July 15, 2025.

Entries must be paid to the Pendleton Round-Up Administrative office prior to Tuesday, September 9th at 9:00 AM to guarantee a spot in the heats. First come first serve entries of 12 teams will be accepted and confirmed payment must be received to ensure the team's spot. Accepted methods of payment include cash, credit card, or money order. NO EXCEPTIONS. Please contact 541-276-2553 ext. 410 to enter or with questions. Up to three extra teams will be accepted for the waitlist with no fees collected until a spot becomes available. This list will be formed based on date/time of contact after the first 12 paid teams have been received.

Confirmed payment receipt by the Pendleton Round-Up Association will be considered acknowledgement and acceptance of these race rules and regulations.

Team owner or designated representative will be required to provide on-site contact (cell phone number) information for each team entered.

I. Team Members

1. There will be five members to a team.
   A. 2 holders
   B. 1 mugger
   C. 1 rider
   D. 1 alternate (rider, mugger or holder)
2. Team members must be Federally recognized Indians. All team members are subject to show proof of tribal enrollment.
3. Holders and mugger must wear matching shirts that clearly identify them as a team. No t- shirts or shirts depicting any gang affiliation are allowed.

II. Rider

1. Starting positions are on the ground at the designated starting line. Team holders will be required to assist on all starts.
2. No other team member may touch or assist the rider in mounting the horses during starts and exchanges.
3. Rider must dismount having both feet on the ground before mounting the next horse.
4. Rider must ride all three horses. No changing of riders after the race has started.
5. Rider must ride all three horses bareback, neck ropes are allowable.
6. Rider must be clearly identifiable to race judges and timers with team colors, appropriate clothing, and moccasins or athletic shoes.

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III. Horses

1. Horses must be Indian owned.
2. Limit of four (4) horses for the relay races.
3. No replacement on horses.
4. In the case of extreme emergencies, a team may borrow extra horses only with the consensus of the race officials and the Indian Relay teams that paid the relay entry fees for the current relay races. The team asking for the exceptions must comply with all other rules in this section (Section III Horses).

IV. Disqualification (Disqualification will occur in the following cases.)

1. Entry fee is not paid before the race starts or by the designated deadline.
2. If the team is not on the starting line when starting the race.
3. No team will be allowed more than one false start. Holders, riders and horses must enter the track on the west end, then turn right (toward the south grandstands), and walk up to the starting line. All starting horses must be behind the white chalk line when the gun goes off. THE RACE IS STARTED WHEN THE GUN IS SHOT, if the rider is already on his horse when the gun is shot; this is considered a disqualification.
4. If the team loses any horse or the horses leave the track.
5. If any team member is intoxicated or under the influence of intoxicating substances on the racetrack.
6. Any team not completing a race.
7. Striking another team's horse or rider.
8. Using your horse to shield another rider from entering his exchange area.
9. If a rider runs through another team's exchange area or does not dismount in his own team area. For instance, if a rider runs through another team intentionally in the process of changing horses, either coming or going out, that is grounds for disqualifications.

V. Non-Disqualification

If rider falls from their horse but does not release the horse and is able to remount the horse and complete the race, this is not considered a disqualification.

VI. Judges Decisions

1. ALL JUDGES DECISIONS WILL BE FINAL.
2. *Video recordings will not be allowed to be viewed by the judges*

VII. Conflicts

1. Harassing, fighting, intimidating, or arguing with the judges, the starters, timers, association members or other participating team members will not be allowed and may be grounds for disqualification.

VIII. Penalty

1. If the rules are not strictly adhered to, teams may be disqualified from remaining races and possibly the following year.

VIII. Accidents and Injuries

All team members will be required to sign a release form stating the following:
"For and in consideration of being permitted to enter and participate in the contests of the Pendleton Round-Up held September 14 thru 18, 2021, I hereby release the Pendleton Round-Up Association from any and all claims for damages on account of injury either to persons or my stock. I further agree to conform to rules designated by the management governing contests, cruelties to animals and others. I further agree to compete when called regardless of existing weather conditions."

IX. Refunds

Absolutely no entry fee refunds to any team after Friday, September 5th, 2025.

Any non-refunded entry fees will be added to the race purse.

X. Qualification for the Championship

Entry in the championship races on Saturday will be determined by the four teams with the fastest accumulated times in the Wednesday and Thursday heats. The next four teams with fastest accumulated times will run in the consolation race on Friday.

XI. Use of Non-Traditional Devices

The use of twitches is prohibited as is "earing" a horse down. The use of these devices or techniques at any time during the Pendleton Round-Up will result in immediate disqualification. Good judgment should be used when handling horses at all times during the Pendleton Round-Up.

XII. Prize payout

Total Prize Money - Total prize money paid out will be the sum of all entry fees plus that amount of added prize money approved by the Pendleton Round-Up Board of Directors.

Qualifying Heats - Of the total sum of prize money $1,400 will be paid as prize money for each Qualifying Heat held during the Wednesday and Thursday Round-Up performances. Example – if 3 heats are held each day a total of $8,400 will be paid out as prize money for Qualifying Heats.

The Qualifying Heat prize money will be paid for placings in each heat as follows. Should a team(s) be disqualified in a Qualifying Heat the prize money for the placing that is disqualified will be equally divided among the teams that placed in the heat (not disqualified).

1st Place in Heat = $500
2nd Place in Heat = $400
3rd Place in Heat = $300
4th Place in Heat = $200

Consolation Race(s) - Of the total sum of prize money $2,000 will be paid as prize money for each Consolation Heat held during the Friday Round-Up performances. Example – if two Consolation Heats are held a total of $4,000 will be paid out as prize money for heats.

The Consolation Heat prize money will be paid for placings in each heat as follows. Should a team(s) be disqualified in a Consolation Heat the prize money for the placing that is disqualified will be equally divided among the teams that placed in the heat (not disqualified).

1st Place in Heat = 40% ($800)
2nd Place in Heat = 30% ($600)
3rd Place in Heat = 20% ($400)
4th Place in Heat – 10% ($200)

Finals Race – The Finals Race prize money will be the total sum of all prize money (entries and added money) less that paid out in the Qualifying and Consolation Heats. Example – if total prize money is $26,000 and there were 6 Qualifying Heats ($1,400 X 6 =$8,400) and one Consolation Heat ($2000 X 1 =$2,000) the total prize money for the finals would be $15,600 ($26,000-$8,400-$2,000).

The Finals prize money will be paid for placings as follows. Should a team(s) be disqualified in the Finals the prize money for the placing that is disqualified will be equally divided among the teams that placed in the Finals (not disqualified).

1st Place in Heat = 40%
2nd Place in Heat = 30%
3rd Place in Heat = 20%
4th Place in Heat – 10%

XIII. Other

The draw for heats and positions will take place in Indian Relay Camp area on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 at 10:00 AM. The Pendleton Round-Up Competitive Events Director or designee will oversee the draw.

Team owners and/or their representatives are invited to attend the draw.

In the event a paid team withdraws from competition prior to their qualifying heats (Wednesday/Thursday), the remaining teams may be allowed to form a team to replace the withdrawn team; this will ensure four teams per heat.

ABSOLUTELY NO PRIZE CHECKS WILL BE CASHED BY THE PENDLETON ROUND-UP ASSOCIATION.

All team associated spectators must be wearing their team's colors to be allowed into the Pendleton Round-Up arena. Round-Up officials will ask individuals not wearing team colors to sit in the stands.

Children under the age of 18 will be asked by Round-Up officials to sit in the stands during the races.

The Pendleton Round-Up Indian Relay Race is HNIRC accredited.