



CENTRAL ALBERTA RODEO ASSOCIATION

2026 GUIDELINES

(Changes from previous Guidelines are highlighted in **BOLD** print)



CENTRAL ALBERTA RODEO ASSOCIATION



I. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Membership in the Central Alberta Rodeo Association shall be limited to persons interested in furthering the objectives of the Association. Membership shall consist of anyone who does not presently hold a current CPRA or PRCA membership, ALL LEVELS, excluding Novice Event and Steer Riding Event Participants. No PRCA or CPRA member, ALL LEVELS, can join the Association until their membership has lapsed for a period of one season based on the Pro Rodeo Season, and hasn't entered a CPRA or PRCA rodeo for the previous season.
2. A Junior member is defined as any member 15 years of age or under as of the first day of January of the current year.
3. A Junior/Senior member is defined as any member 15 years of age or under, that has purchased a Junior/Senior membership and can compete and qualify for points in Senior Events.
4. The annual membership fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
5. **Membership is not required to enter CARA rodeos. Entering rodeos without a membership will be known as "local entering". There is no limit to the number of rodeos that a contestant may local enter. Contestants that local enter will not earn points and cannot enter the finals rodeo.**
6. Membership in the association does not guarantee entry in the association rodeos.
7. No Points will be awarded unless the membership is paid by 8 PM on the day before entries are taken.
8. Each rodeo committee is responsible for the operation of their individual rodeos. Contestants are required to abide any rules set out by these committees.
9. Each rodeo committee shall keep track of all turnouts and provide the names to the CARA Secretary, who shall compile a list to be known as a blacklist. A copy of such blacklist will be provided to each rodeo committee for use at their discretion.
10. In the event of a default in payment to any rodeo committee or the association, no points will be awarded to the member. Clearing of those accounts will re-instate the points. However, two defaults in payments could cause the membership to be revoked at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
11. Turn Outs with no reason required, by contestants, are allowed until 8 pm the Monday before the rodeo. Any contestant who wishes to turn out without paying fees after Monday must provide the rodeo with a vet or medical certificate.
12. Any Senior or Junior member (or as a result their parent/guardian) may be fined, suspended or both, from the association for any of the following offenses:
 - a. Non-payment of entry fees.
 - b. Attempting to fix, threaten, bribe, influence or harass the judges or management at any time between the opening and closing dates of a rodeo, in or out of the arena, or for talking with a judge or timer while an event is in progress.
 - c. Conduct or speech of any kind detrimental to the best interest of the association or the sport of rodeo.
 - d. Failure to abide by or disobedience of the articles, by-laws and or rules of this association.
13. In the event of an offence being reported to the Board of Directors, a review will be held by

the Directors. The member will be notified, and a follow up letter sent to the member, specifying the particulars reported and indicate the consequences decided upon by the Board of Directors.

14. Failure to understand the guidelines will not be accepted as an excuse for non-compliance.
15. Points will be kept for members in good standing from each rodeo. All points will be awarded to members only. ***If a contestant that is a non-member places in an event, the points will roll down the next placer that is a member, and so on.*** FOR EXAMPLE, If a contestant that is non-member wins first in an event and a member places second, the member placing ***second*** shall receive placing points for ***first*** place, etc. The points will be awarded as follows:

60 points	1 st
50 points	2 nd
40 points	3 rd
30 points	4 th
20 points	5 th
10 points	6 th

16. Contestants are required to wear western attire while in the arena and chute area. Western attire is defined as: Wrist length cuffs and collars, hats (or helmets) must be worn at all rodeos and must be on head when entering the arena. At the judges or committee's discretion, if contestants are not dressed appropriately, they can be asked to leave the arena or disqualified from competing in the rodeo.
17. A horse not entering the arena, at the judge's discretion, may be flagged out.
18. All catches must be declared legal catch at each individual rodeo.
19. Any grievances or concerns must be presented in writing to the event director only.
20. High Point definitions shall be as follows:

Senior High Point: A Senior or Junior/Senior member must receive points in a minimum of two Senior sanctioned events by year end to qualify for the Senior High Point. The following events are sanctioned for Senior Members:

Saddle Bronc	Ladies Barrel Racing
Bareback	Team Roping (Header or Heeler)
Bull Riding	Ladies Cow Riding
Tie Down Roping	Ladies Breakaway Roping

Junior High Point: Junior member's total points from any sanctioned junior event will be counted for the Junior High Point. A Junior member must receive points in a minimum of two Junior sanctioned events by year end to qualify for the Junior High Point. No points from Senior events will be included.

The following events are sanctioned for Junior Members:

7 - 12 Steer Riding	13 - 15 Steer Riding
12 & Under Barrel Racing	13 - 15 Barrel Racing
12 & Under Breakaway Roping	13 - 15 Breakaway Roping

21. In the event of a tie for points for the Year End Prize the tie will be a rope-off, ride off or run off, depending on the event; if still tied, a toss of the coin will decide. High point ties will be decided by coin toss.

22. In all team events, only members with CARA memberships will be awarded points.
23. ***Junior or Junior/Senior members who are entered in Barrel Racing, Breakaway Roping and Steer Riding may only enter one event (age group) per rodeo. The member may change from Junior to Senior events in separate rodeos if they hold a Junior/Senior membership.***
24. Rodeo Committees may take up to a maximum of 20% off entry fees for payout.
25. These general rules and regulations for membership and event guidelines may be amended or added to upon the agreement of the Board of Directors.

II. FINALS GUIDELINES

1. Qualification

- a. In order to compete at the Finals Rodeo, in any event, a contestant must have competed in that event in at least THREE of the current season CARA Sanctioned Rodeos as a member.
- b. It does not matter if the contestant bucked off or didn't catch, they just must have paid entry fees and competed.
- c. Contestants must be members in good standing.

2. Pay Out

- a. ***Points will be awarded on the first day of the finals in the same way as the other rodeos. No double points.***
- b. If there are no qualified rides or times in an event, no money will be paid out. This money is not rolled into the other day or average payout.
- c. Buckles for the Finals Rodeo winner will be awarded to the aggregate winner of Saturday and Sunday results. If contestants are tied, winner will be decided by a coin toss.
- d. The payout will be:
 - i. Day 1 = 40 % of entry fee;
 - ii. Day 2 = 40% of entry fee;
 - iii. Average 20 % of entry fee + added money.
- e. Day Pay Out will be:
 - i. Less than 10 – 3 places
 - ii. 10 – 19 – 4 places
 - iii. 20 – 29 – 5 places
 - iv. 30 – 39 – 6 places
 - v. 40 – 49 – 7 places
 - vi. 50 plus – 8 places
- f. Average Pay Out will pay double scores or times first, then single scores or times.
- g. Average Pay Out will be:
 - i. Less than 10 – 3 places
 - ii. 10 – 39 – 4 places
 - iii. 40 or more – 6 places

III. GENERAL ROUGHSTOCK EVENT GUIDELINES

1. General

- a. The rider must have rein hand on same side of horse's neck as the rein.
- b. The rider must have spurred the stock for a re-ride to be awarded.
- c. No nylon latigos, only leather.
- d. No excessive tightening of the cinch. Excessive tightening of the cinch prior to the chute boss giving direction to pull your cinch will be considered "soaking" and will be grounds for disqualification. Prior to the start of the event front and back cinches should remain loose to no more than snug, where a minimum of two fingers may slide between the cinch and the stock with ease.
- e. The stock contractor has final say on halter and rein placement or use.
- f. A halter must be plain with one rein.
- g. Points will be given: ½ for contestant and ½ for stock.
- h. Stock will be ridden for 8 seconds.
- i. A double grab will result in disqualification.
- j. Using sharp or locked spurs will result in disqualification.

2. Humane Treatment of Livestock

- a. Excessive abuse of ANY livestock will result in disqualification and/or a fine of \$100.00.
- b. No locked rowels or sharpened spurs may be used on bareback or saddle bronc horses.
- c. A conveyance must be available and used, to remove injured animals from the arena.

3. Re-Rides

- a. The matter of re-rides shall be totally at the discretion of the judges, however, should be awarded in the following situations:
 - i. An animal runs off or stops during the ride.
 - ii. The rider is fouled at the chute or in the arena and the rider declares himself by double grabbing and does not try to go on with the ride.
 - iii. If the rider makes a qualified ride and the flank strap comes off.
 - iv. If an animal deliberately throws itself or falls.
 - v. If a rider makes 3 honest attempts to get on a chute fighting animal and is unable to do so.
- b. At no time should a re-ride or re-run be given if the contestant's own equipment breaks or fails.
- c. All horned cattle must be tipped to the size of a toonie to be used in any riding events.
- d. Any of the following offences should disqualify a rider
 - i. Being bucked off.
 - ii. Pulling leather.
 - iii. Losing a stirrup.
 - iv. Touching the animal, self, or rein with free hand.
 - v. Fouling the animal by holding the gate.

4. Two Head Average and Points

- a. If contestants are provided two head of stock at a rodeo, the points will be awarded on the two head average. If only one head of stock is ridden by all contestants, points will be awarded to the highest individual rides.

IV. SPECIFIC ROUGHSTOCK EVENT GUIDELINES

1. Saddle Bronc Riding

- a. To qualify, the rider must have the spurs over the break of the shoulders and touching the horse when the horse's front feet hit the ground on the first jump out of the chute.
- b. If a horse turns out backward or stalls from the chute, the spurring out rule shall be waived.
- c. One arm and hand must be free at all times.
- d. Minimum age for saddle bronc riding is 15 years old as of the 1st of January of the current year.

2. Bareback Riding

- a. To qualify, the rider must have the spurs over the break of the shoulders and touching the horse when the horse's front feet hit the ground on the first jump out of the chute.
- b. If a horse turns out backward or stalls from the chute, the spurring out rule shall be waived.
- c. One arm and hand must be free at all times.
- d. Minimum age for bareback riding is 15 years old as of the 1st of January of the current year.

3. Ladies Ranch Bronc Riding

- a. All saddles will be stock saddles with no excessive alterations to standard Ranch Saddle. (Ladies Ranch Bronc Director's discretion)
- b. Points will be given for spurring and fanning with the contestant's hat.
- c. The contestant can use free hand to hold saddle horn or night latch/rope.
- d. The loss of a rein or switching hand holding the rein will result in disqualification.
- e. ***It will be up to the individual rodeo committees whether or not to include this event in their rodeo. It is NOT a sanctioned CARA event. There will be no points tracked. There will be no saddle awarded.***

4. Bull Riding

- a. The rope must have a bell, and the bell must be under the belly of the animal.
- b. One arm and hand must be free at all times.
- c. All horned cattle must be tipped to the size of a toonie to be used in any riding events.
- d. Minimum age for bull riding is 15 years old as of the 1st of January of the current year.

5. Steer Riding

- a. All horned cattle must be tipped to the size of a toonie to be used in any riding events.
- b. The rope must have a bell, and the bell must be under the belly of the animal.
- c. The rider may use one or two hands.
- d. If one hand slips out while riding with two hands, the rider can keep riding.
- e. A two-handed rider will be disqualified if any part of their upper body comes into contact with the animal.
- f. The duration of the ride shall be 8 seconds.
- g. All steers will be flanked.
- h. All riders are required to wear a helmet and protective vest.
- i. Riders must be at least 7 years old as of January 1st of current year.

6. Ladies Cow Riding

- a. Must be female and a minimum of 15 years old as of January 1st.
- b. All riders are required to wear a helmet and protective vest.
- c. Stock must be of appropriate size.

- d. All horned cattle must be tipped to the size of a toonie to be used in any riding events.
- e. The rope must have a bell, and the bell must be under the belly of the animal.
- f. The rider may use one or two hands.
- g. If one hand slips out while riding with two hands, the rider can keep riding.
- h. A two-handed rider will be disqualified if any part of their upper body comes into contact with the animal.

V. GENERAL TIMED EVENT GUIDELINES

1. Barriers

- a. Barriers should be inspected before each timed event.
- b. If the barrier neck rope flies up and hits the contestant or his rope, impairing him, the contestant may declare himself and if so, must be given a re-run. A contestant shall so declare himself by not throwing his rope.
- c. A contestant, at the discretion of the judge, can be flagged out of the event after breaking the barrier for the third time.

2. Breaking Barriers

- a. A ten second penalty will be added for breaking or beating the barrier.
- b. A barrier should not be considered broken unless the ring drops within ten feet of the post.

3. Barrier Failure

- a. If the barrier malfunctions in any way, the contestant must take a re-run, provided the contestant has made a qualified run. If, in the judge's opinion, the barrier malfunction causes the contestant to be disqualified, the contestant will be allowed a re-run.
- b. If the barrier fails to work and official time has not started, the contestant will get stock back, if a qualified run is made.

4. Scoreline

- a. Local rodeo committees will determine the length of the score line at their rodeo.

5. Time Limits

- a. The time limit for completing a run in the tie down roping, breakaway roping and team roping should be 30 seconds.

6. General Roping Guidelines

- a. The Roping Box shall be part of arena during roping events.
- b. Once score line has been set in timed events, it will not be changed in that go, nor can length of box be changed.
- c. Lap and Tap - No barrier to be used. If a barrier judge is used to flag the start, the animal shall be flagged when it's nose crosses the starting line.
- d. The line judge must have a tape measure in their possession in case the short end of the barrier is carried. The pigtail of the barrier shall not exceed 10 inches in length. A longer pigtail on a barrier will often be carried when the barrier should have been broken. If the pigtail is carried more than 10 feet from the pin, the barrier may be waived, providing the contestant did not obviously beat the barrier. However, if the contestant has obviously broken the barrier, a beating-the-barrier penalty may still be imposed.
- e. Should the barrier break at any point other than designated breaking point, the decision is up to the barrier judge.

- f. If an automatic barrier does not work, but time is recorded, the contestant will get time. There will be no penalty for broken barrier.
- g. If an automatic barrier fails to work and official time has not started, contestant will get stock back if stock is qualified on in the field, therefore entitling contestant to a re-run without penalties.
- h. If an automatic barrier fails to work, and stock is brought back, contestant must take the same animal over during or immediately after the same performance.
- i. If barrier equipment hangs on animal and the contestant tries the animal, they accept the animal. If the contestant pulls up, they will receive the same animal back.
- j. The animal belongs to the contestant when they call for it, regardless of what happens, with the following exceptions:
 - i. In any timed event, if an animal escapes from the arena, the field judge will drop the flag and all watches will be stopped. The contestant will receive the original animal back with a lap and tap start. Time already accumulated will be added to time used to complete the qualifying run. If time is not recorded, the contestant will receive a 10 second penalty for any jump or any loop used.
 - ii. In case of mechanical failure.
 - iii. If, in the opinion of the line judge, the contestant is fouled by the barrier, the contestant shall get their animal back, providing contestant declares themselves, by pulling up.
- k. Time to be taken between two flags.
- l. It shall be the arena director's responsibility to see that each contestant competes on the stock drawn for them. In the event of a mistake, stock drawn for must be run during that performance and only that time or score taken.
- m. Cattle are deemed to be horned if the length of the horn is more than two inches.***
- n. In the event that horned cattle are used (Team Roping or Breakaway Roping) then there will be 3 legal catches:
 - i. Both horns;
 - ii. Half a head; or
 - iii. Around the neck.

VI. SPECIFIC TIMED EVENT GUIDELINES

1. TIE DOWN ROPING

- a. The contestant will only be allowed one loop.
- b. The stock belongs to the contestant when they call for it, regardless of what happens, except in cases of mechanical failure.
- c. The contestant must receive no assistance in the field of any kind from outside.
- d. Rope must be tied hard and fast.
- e. The contestant must dismount, go down and throw the stock by hand and cross and tie any three feet with at least one wrap and a half hitch.
- f. If the stock is down when the rope reaches it, the stock must be let up to it's feet and it must be thrown by hand.
- g. The rope must hold the stock until the contestant gets their hand on the stock.
- h. The tie must hold until passed on by the judge.
- i. The contestant must not touch the stock or the rope after giving the finish signal until the judge has completed their examination.
- j. If the tie comes loose or the stock gets to it's feet before the tie has been ruled a fair one, the contestant will be marked a no time.

- k. The contestant **will** be disqualified for a jerk down. A jerk down means that stock is jerked straight over backwards landing on it's back.
- l. The field judge will pass on the tie of the stock, timing six seconds from the time the rope horse takes it's first step forward after the contestant has remounted. The rope will not be removed from the stock and the rope must remain slack until the field judge has passed on the tie.
- m. If the stock is dragged more than ten feet the contestant **will** be disqualified.
- n. The contestant **will** be disqualified for:
 - i. Roping the stock before the barrier is released by the stock.
 - ii. The contestant's feet touching the ground before the horse has crossed the score line.
- o. Stock should be tied at least once before the start of the rodeo.
- p. At each Rodeo Committees discretion, tie down stock may be drawn for. Tie Down stock will be drawn for at the Finals.

2. BREAKAWAY ROPING

- a. Ropes are to be tied to the saddle horn with string.
- b. A flag that is visible to the flagman or judge must be attached at the knot end of the rope.
- c. The rope may not be run through a bridle, tie down, neck rope or any other device.
- d. String will be provided and will be inspected by designated official before each contestant competes.
- e. **Legal catches:**
 - i. **Junior events**, the stock's head must pass through the loop. The loop must draw up on any part of the stock's body behind the head. (all age categories)
 - ii. **Ladies event, a "bell collar" catch where the rope must pass completely over the stock's head and settle cleanly around it's neck, without catching legs or tail, will be the only qualified catch, unless the stock is deemed to be horned. If the stock is deemed to be horned the 3 legal catches outline in guideline V. 6. N. will be applied.**
- f. The rope must be released from the contestant's hand to be a legal catch.
- g. The horse must clear the box before a loop is thrown.
- h. Contestants must be mounted when time is taken.
- i. Breakaway Contestants may only enter one age category per rodeo; they may change the age category they enter in separate rodeos.

A. TEAM ROPING

- a. The header will start behind the barrier using either box, and must throw the first loop at the head.
- b. The heeler must start from behind the barrier line.
- c. Each contestant will be allowed to carry only one rope.
- d. Each contestant will be allowed only one throw.
- e. Roping stock without turning loose the loop will be considered a no catch.
- f. "Dally" means one complete turn around the horn.
- g. Contestants must be mounted when time is taken.
- h. If the loop crosses itself in a head catch, it is illegal. This does not include heel catches.
- i. Any heel catch behind both shoulders is legal if the rope goes up the heels.
- j. Catching only one hind foot receives a 5 second penalty.
- k. Cross fire catches will receive a no time. If in the opinion of the field judge, a heel loop is thrown before the header has dallied and changed directions of a steer, the team shall receive no time.

- l. The stock must not be handled roughly at any time. Contestants may be disqualified if, in the opinion of the field judge, they have intentionally done so.
- m. Female heelers can tie on at the age of 50 years, males at the age of 60 years; persons of any age with physical disability can provide documentation to CARA board for approval to tie on.

B. BARREL RACING

1. Regulation barrel distances are:
 - a. 90 feet from barrel 1 to 2;
 - b. 105 feet from barrels 1 to 3; and
 - c. 105 feet from barrels 2 to 3with a 60-foot score line and a minimum stopping distance of 35 feet. At some rodeos this measurement will be adjusted to fit the size of the arena.
2. Either barrel 1 or 2 may be taken first, but a contestant will be disqualified for not following the cloverleaf pattern.
3. A running or standing start can be used.
4. The contestant may, from a riding position, hold a barrel from falling.
5. If a horse re-crosses the starting line at any time before the pattern is completed, the pattern will be considered broken and the run will receive a no time.
6. A 5 second penalty will be assessed for each barrel knocked over.
7. All horses shall be free from the effects of stimulants.
8. If there is a malfunction with the timer the rodeo timer will continue on with a stopwatch.
9. A hat/helmet must be on the head when entering the arena. If a hat/helmet is not on the head of the contestant when entering the arena, the penalty WILL be disqualification.
10. Raking the pattern after 5 runs on the ground is suggested, but will be determined by the committee, ground conditions and equipment.
11. Contestants may only enter one age category per rodeo; they may change the age category they enter in separate rodeos.
12. The same horse may be run in different age categories by different riders but not in the same age category.