

## 2026 WRCA Youth Ranch Rodeo Rules

*\*underlined text denotes change in rule from previous year*

### Events

The WRCA Youth World Championship Ranch Rodeo will consist of five (5) events: Sorting, Doctoring, Trailer Loading, Branding and Wild Steer Race. WRCA youth qualifiers may alter the competition events with approval from WRCA.

### Event Rules

#### Sorting

1. Sort three (3) head in consecutive numerical order with daylight between the cattle.
2. Any wrong numbered cattle across the line is a no time.
3. One (1) designated sorter.
4. Other riders may cross the line but only one rider may sort.
5. No loping in the herd. Thirty (:30) second penalty for first occurrence and then a no time for second occurrence.
6. Sorted cattle must be held across the line. If cattle cross back equals no time.
7. Two (2) minute time limit.
8. Five (5) member team.

#### Doctoring

1. One (1) loop per member is allowed.
2. Steer is let out from the opposite end of the arena. Time starts when flagger drops flag.
3. Must head & heel steer. Legal head catches are: around the horns, half head, around the neck or neck and one front leg, and figure eight. Dally only.
4. Header must be faced when mark is made between the eyes.
5. Five (5) member team.

#### Trailer Loading

1. Sort one (1) of your numbers out and load in trailer. No roping. No extra cattle out. Line is dead once correct numbered animal is across the line. If numbered animal is sorted and returns to the herd across the line result is a no time.
2. No loping in the herd. Thirty (:30) second penalty for first occurrence and then a no time for second occurrence.
3. Load (1) horse in the back of the trailer. If trailer has mid-gate, the mid-gate must be closed between the cow and the horse.
4. All team members must be on the truck flatbed or in the cab for time to stop.
5. Two (2) minute time limit.
6. Five (5) member team.

#### Branding

1. Without loping at any time from the initial start of competition to the completion of the run they will have a two (2) minute time limit to drag one (1) calf. Thirty (:30) second penalty for loping in the herd first occurrence and then a no time for second occurrence.
2. Heel catches only. No high hocks. Flankers may enter herd to fix the loop with permission from a judge.
3. Must dally.
4. Flankers must not touch calf before it crosses the line. Calf must be flat on its side before branding. Calf must be branded on the ribs or hip.
5. Rope must be off calf before branding.
6. Five (5) member team. Two teams at a time.

**Wild Steer Race**

1. Rope will be placed on the steer in the bucking chute.
2. Steer must clear the gate before mugging and before being mounted.
3. Rider must get on before the first line and ride across the second line.
4. Two (2) minute time limit.
5. Five (5) member team. One team at a time.

Judge's decisions are final.

**Scoring**

1. All participating teams must enter all events to be eligible for the team championship.
2. One long go. Points will be awarded in each event. These points will be given as follows: The winning team will receive the same number of points equal to the number of competing ranches. Example: Six competing teams will result in first place receiving six points and sixth place receiving one point.
3. The team with the most points in the winner.
4. In case of a tie in the overall team standings, the resolution of the tie will be as follows:
  - a. Most points in branding
  - b. Most points in doctoring
  - c. Most points in trailer loading
  - d. Most points in sorting
  - e. Most points in wild steer race

**Top Hand & Top Horse Awards**

The judges for Top Hand / Top Horse will watch the events. Their job is to choose one horse and one cowboy they believe exhibits outstanding skills and judgement. The same person or the same horse cannot win the Top Hand and Top Horse awards for two consecutive years.

Top Hand cannot receive points from a team event in which he/she did not participate.

**Other**

For contestants, the minimum age is 5 and the maximum age is 16. If age 5 or 16 as of January 1 contestant is eligible for the remainder of the year. \*Note\*: WRCA Youth Qualifier Rodeos may establish a different minimum age if approved by WRCA. All other team guidelines remain in place.

WRCA Contestant Rules of Conduct & Animal Welfare Policy are in effect.