

2026 WRCA Youth Ranch Rodeo Team Contestant Qualifications

Changes from year prior will be underlined

The goal of the WRCA youth ranch rodeo program is to provide an opportunity for interested youth to participate in a **WRCA** recognized activity and to perpetuate the ranching lifestyle to the next generation.

- All contestants must be **WRCA** Members (at any level). A youth level is available, but any **WRCA** membership is acceptable. Memberships must be obtained through **WRCA** prior to entry into a **WRCA** youth ranch rodeo qualifier.
- Minimum age for all contestants is five (5). Maximum age for all contestants is sixteen (16). If five or sixteen as of January 1, contestant is eligible for the remainder of that year. *Note: WRCA Youth Qualifier Rodeos may set a different minimum age if approved by WRCA. All other team guidelines remain.
- Youth ranch rodeo teams shall consist of five (5) team members. All five (5) members must participate in every event at an entered rodeo. Maximum combined age of all team members may not exceed 65.
- Contestants may compete on one team at each qualifier rodeo. The winning team at a qualifier must be made up of the same contestants at the WRCA Youth World Championship Ranch Rodeo (**YWCRR**). Substitutions after qualifying may be made in unique circumstances by approval of the WRCA board of directors.
- Contestants do not need to meet any other criteria to be on a youth ranch rodeo team or to compete in a **WRCA** youth ranch rodeo qualifier or the **YWCRR**.
- Youth Ranch Teams must identify their team members at the time of entry into a **WRCA** youth ranch rodeo qualifier. The team must be comprised of five (5) members who hold a current year **WRCA** membership, and the team must meet the 65-year maximum age limit.
- Contestants may change teams from rodeo to rodeo as long as the team is set at the time of entry. Changes to the team after entry date are only allowed if approved by the event host. Changes to the team the day of the event are only allowed if approved by the event host – (if allowed, any child involved in a substitution must already have a current WRCA membership).

All **WRCA** youth ranch rodeo teams agree to abide by the **WRCA** Humane Treatment of Livestock and Contestant Rules of conduct policies.

HUMANE TREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK

GENERAL:

These rules are intended to ensure the humane treatment of all livestock and shall be in effect. No animal shall be treated inhumanely by any contestant. **No Exceptions.**

SORE, LAME, SICK OR INJURED ANIMALS:

Animals for all events will be inspected before the draw, and no sore, lame, sick or injured animal or animal with defective eyesight, shall be permitted in the draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or incapacitated between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled to be used in competition that animal shall not be used in competition and another animal shall be drawn for the contestant.

REMOVAL OF INJURED ANIMAL:

A conveyance must be available (tractor & sled) and shall be used, where practical, to remove any injured animal from the arena. Conveyance must be large enough to remove a horse or cow. Any injured livestock must be humanely removed from the arena before continuing the performance.

CONTESTANT RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Anyone (contestant or otherwise) entering the arena shall be wearing long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, boots and a cowboy hat. Chaps are required for all events except optional in wild steer race.
2. Abuse of either personal animals or event animals (kicking, whipping, tripping, gouging of eyes, or any action which is totally unnecessary) is strictly prohibited. **No Exceptions!**
3. Interference with another team's competition in an event will result in the disqualification of the interfering team and possible expulsion from WRCA in accordance with the WRCA suspension policy.
5. No loud, obnoxious or unsportsmanlike conduct.
6. The violation of any conduct rule could result in Team disqualification.