

Canby Rodeo Blazes Trail in Grievance Process with PRCA

By Jim Williams, Canby Rodeo

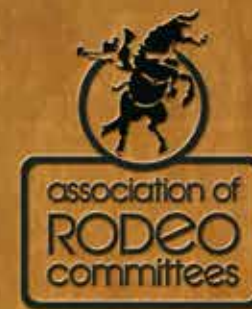
In 2012 Canby Rodeo filed a grievance related to requested ground rule changes for their rodeo. Their initial request was denied with little communication. Next Canby initiated, what is believed to be, the first grievance procedure with the PRCA. What came next creates a great learning opportunity for all committees that submit ground rule requests to event reps and PRCA. Canby's first step was denied, step 2 included a time line for filing and that was missed and the grievance was denied on procedural grounds creating another learning moment.

Fast forward to 2014 and Canby filed for 5 ground rules with their 2014 PRCA approval. After contacting the event reps 4 of the 5 ground rules were denied. This time, Canby was armed with the knowledge of having proceeded through the steps in 2012 and the board decided to go through all steps necessary. Step 1. Canby filed grievances with the Director of Rodeo Administration again all requests were denied with very minimal communication. Step 2. The request went to the commissioner who also denied all requests. Step 3. Noting the time line for all documents to be submitted per by-law B11.3 outlining the grievance procedure, Canby

asked for a ruling by June 6 which would allow them to meet the deadline for rodeo listings in Pro Rodeo Sports News. The review committee received Canby's documents on May 27 and responded quickly by scheduling a hearing for June 5th. The hearing was conducted on June 5th, 8-9am and Canby received an e-mail that day at 1:30pm notifying the committee that 2 of the 4 requests were granted. It is believed that this is the first time a committee has challenged the decision of an event rep and gone through the grievance procedure much less overturned that decision.

ARC Board Chair, Gary Williams stated, "Canby's pursuit, through the grievance procedure, to the best of my knowledge, is the first time a committee has challenged a decision, learned how to navigate the grievance process and successfully won their point of view. I truly believe that the results of Canby's groundbreaking actions can have a real positive impact on how rodeo committees work with the PRCA and event representatives."

For a full reading of the Judge's decision, go to www.rodeocommittees.org and click on Judge James L. Roeder's full Canby Grievance decision.



Committee Connection

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Register Now

2014 GLOBAL RODEO CONFERENCE

Sept. 25 & 26 Omaha, NE

2014 Conference features topics requested by committees

The 2014 Global Rodeo Conference will be held in Omaha, NE September 25th and 26th. ARC members were asked to suggest the topics they felt would benefit their committees the most. The response to the survey was huge. Here are the topics most respondents asked for:

- Co-branding/marketing of Rodeos/Networking
- Animal Welfare/Emergency Preparedness
- Production Management/Best Practices
- PRCA-Rules, Processes, Procedures, Contestants
- Future of Rodeo-competitive advantage, longevity, relevancy

EARLY REGISTRATION
\$60 for ARC Members
\$75 for non ARC Members
until September 12, 2014

LATE REGISTRATION
\$75 for ARC Members
\$90 for non ARC Members

Hotel Information

Courtyard By Marriott – 101 South 10th Street – 800.321.2211
Hampton Inn & Suites – 1212 Cumming Street – 402.345.5500
Hilton Omaha – 1001 Cass Street – 402.998.4205

Register at www.rodeocommittees.org or call Paige at 1-210-225-5851 x 103

REGISTER TODAY: Go to www.rodeocommittees.org & click on the Global Conference Registration Button



Summer 2014

www.rodeocommittees.org

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Are You Prepared for an Animal Health Emergency at your Rodeo?

By Cindy Schonholtz, PRCA Director of Industry Outreach

Since the nationwide outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) in 2011, the issue of preparedness for an animal health emergency has risen to the forefront for organizers of animal events. EHV-1 is an emerging equine disease that can be fatal to horses and negatively impact rodeos and/or other equine events if organizers are not prepared. This year the disease has been diagnosed in barrel horses in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas and California, including a horse that competed at the Clovis, California PRCA Rodeo creating more of a sense of urgency for rodeos to be prepared.

Additionally, recently there was confirmation of Vesicular Stomatitis in horses in Texas, a contagious disease which automatically causes stricter livestock entrance requirements into place in many states and has caused cancellation of rodeos in the past. All of these factors combined should convince rodeo committees to plan, prepare and be proactive regarding animal health issues to protect the livestock and viability of your event.

Every rodeo committee should:

1. Prepare the facility before the event including disinfecting all areas where animals will be housed;
2. Contact your State Veterinarian, ask to be added to their contact list to receive press releases and communications regarding contagious animal disease outbreaks;
3. Engage your rodeo veterinarian to assist in crafting a plan to put into place if there is a diagnosis of a contagious animal disease in close proximity to your rodeo or an animal becomes sick at your event;
4. Check that your rodeo's designated livestock welfare spokesperson is keeping track of recent outbreaks and is getting PRCA livestock welfare and health updates, PRCA will send out alerts when confirmation of a disease outbreak will affect our events;
5. Be familiar with state animal health regulations and how it might affect your event in the case of an outbreak or diagnosis of a contagious animal disease outbreak.

What PRCA can do to help:

1. We have several documents that will assist you in implementing the steps above and continuing to hold your event if an outbreak or diagnosis occurs, send an email to animalwelfare@prorodeo.com to obtain copies;
2. If it becomes necessary to implement stronger animal health documentation protocols and bio-security measures for the contestants that will be attending your rodeo, the PRCA will email all of the contestants entered and post these requirements on prorodeo.com and social media;
3. The PRCA maintains up to date information as necessary on prorodeo.com and on Facebook, go to Pro Rodeo Livestock Group and ask to join and if you aren't currently getting updates from PRCA on these issues send your email address to animalwelfare@prorodeo.com and add this email address to your contacts so it doesn't get sent to the spam folder.

All indications are that EHV-1 is here to stay and most of us will be dealing with its consequences until a vaccine is created. To that end your preparation now can ensure the continuity of your event and the health of the livestock that attend.

NEW RULES

ALERT – THESE PROPOSED CHANGES CAN IMPACT YOUR RODEO!!!

Those of you who receive and read this newsletter regularly know that ARC asks for your input every year on proposed PRCA rule and bylaw amendments that **will** affect the conduct of each of your rodeos. Your feedback is critical because we take a position in behalf of the ARC membership on each of these proposals with the Rodeo Committee Executive Council and our voices are heard when the vote is taken at the PRCA Board level. **But we need your input!**

2015 Rule Proposals

ADD B15.1.14 Rule R4.9 Events. This proposal restates the six standard events a committee must have in order to receive PRCA sanctioning. It was proposed as a safety net in case the Pick 5 amendment passed which it did not. **ARC suggests that it not pass because the definition of the standard events in PRCA rodeos belongs in the bylaws, controlled by the PRCA Board, not in the rules, controlled by the contestants Competition Committee.**

NEW RULE. Beginning in 2015, committees who do not already add double money in the team roping must increase the team roping purse by 30%, followed by an additional 30% increase in 2016. By 2017, both header and heeler purse must be equal to the purse in the other PRCA events. ARC has been consistent in supporting those committees who are able financially and choose to double the team roping purse, **but only if the individual committee chooses to do so. ARC suggests that we, as an organization, take that position with respect to this proposal.**

2015 Bylaw Proposals

New Bylaw. Music Director/Provider. This will create a new contract personnel category and will require each committee to hire only someone to provide music at their rodeo who has a PRCA card in this new category. **Based on the prior feedback received by ARC, many committees contract with a local sound person who does only one rodeo (theirs) per year and will not get a PRCA card for just one rodeo. ARC has previously opposed this proposed amendment and unless you tell us otherwise, we will continue to oppose the amendment.**

2016 Rule Proposals

New Rule. In the timed events, there must be a minimum of two go-rounds held to have a finals competition. **As previously stated, based on committee input, ARC opposes this proposal due to yet another attempt to take control of the format of our rodeos which work the best for our ticket buyers in our individual markets.**

Change R8.7.5 Fines for Stock Shortage. The fines for either a stock contractor or **rodeo committee** for not providing the required amount of livestock will increase by an average of 225%. **Let us know what you think, especially those committees who take the responsibility of providing their own livestock.**

Change R1.6.2 Maximum Number of Official Entries. This proposal will eliminate the current system under which a contestant may count his earnings from only a certain number of rodeos for world championship standings. In other words, contestants will be able to count as many rodeos as they want to enter for NFR points. **We don't know what impact this could have on each of our committees and our rodeos. It could benefit committees in terms of getting more well - known contestants at their rodeos. However, it may have the potential to increase turnouts at many rodeos. Let us know what you think.**

2016 Bylaw Proposals

Change B15.2.9 Co-approval For Two or More Circuits. The proposal will eliminate the geographical requirement that for a rodeo that adds \$5,000 or less per event to be approved in two circuits, the rodeo's location must be within 100 miles of the boundary of the other circuit. **In theory, this could help rodeos attract contestants. But in practice for example, Arizona rodeos under \$5,000 could count for points in the California, Wilderness and Mountain States Circuits. It could create some chaos, but what do you think?**

Change B15.3.1 Featured Events. As is currently on the books, rodeo committees have the option to feature up to three events by adding more money in these events than in the other events. The proposed change would **require** rodeo committees to add equal/double money in the team roping before they could feature any other event or events. **Again ARC has been on record as opposing mandatory equal money due to the potential financial hardship it represents for the committees who have provided input on this issue. This proposal would to further erode rodeo committees to control their own events.**

Change B15.4 Finals. In addition to the current requirements which must be met by committees in order to have a finals performance, this proposal adds the requirement of adding equal/double money in the team roping. **As stated above, ARC has opposed any bylaw or rule change which will require a committee to add equal/double money in the team roping.**

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