

HOMETOWN RODEO RULES

ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD IN THE OUTDOOR ARENA

I. DEPARTMENT PROVISIONS

- A. All entrants must have read, be familiar with and comply with the Douglas County Fair & Rodeo General Competition Rules.
- B. All Douglas County Hometown Rodeo contestants must submit entry during the posted entry dates.
- C. No mail-in entries accepted.
- D. Entry fees and stock charges must be paid when entries are made at the Events Center Office.
- E. Each contestant will be required to turn in a signed waiver. Any contestant under 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian signed waiver.
- F. Age will be determined as of July 1 of current year, contestants are not allowed to age up.
- G. No draw out or substitutions of entries after entry deadline.
- H. Contestants may only enter once per event, except for Team Roping (See Team Roping Event below).
- I. Western tack and attire is required for all contestants and events.
 - 1. Western saddle and equipment is required
 - 2. Cowboy hat or helmet must be on contestant's head when crossing the start line. Disqualified if not on when start line is crossed.
 - 3. Contestants, contestant's helpers and committee helpers must wear Western attire; cowboy hat or safety helmet, long sleeved shirt with sleeves rolled down, shirt must be buttoned or snapped closed, cuffs must be buttoned, and shirt tail tucked in, (must be wrist length sleeved shirt, with collar and cuffs), western boots and long pants.
 - 4. No ball caps allowed.
 - 5. Not being ready when called—Judge shall call contestant three (3) times. If contestant is not present and prepared to compete, he/she shall be disqualified from the event.
- J. A time limit will apply to all events; the time limit is listed in individual event description. At the end of the time limit the announcer will advise time and contestant must exit arena.
 - 1. Exceeding time limits—Failure to complete an event in the prescribed time limit (excluding penalties) set for that event will result in a disqualification from that event. Contestant must leave the arena immediately upon expiration of the time limit.
 - 2. Not being mounted—a contestant must be mounted at the completion of his/her time in an event unless as an integral part of the competition, the contestant must be on foot as in tie-down roping or runner in ribbon roping. Failure to be mounted will result in disqualification from that event. Falling off

your horse in any event will result in a disqualification; you may not remount and continue.

- K. Final order of events will be posted prior to start of Hometown Rodeo.
- L. An electric eye will be used for appropriate events.
- M. Contestants must keep their horse under control at all times.
- N. Decisions of the Judges will be final.
- O. Abuse of stock. In any event; if in the opinion of the judge and/or arena director, a contestant abuses any stock, including the contestant's own horse, that contestant may be disqualified from that event. A second or subsequent violation may result in disqualification from the entire rodeo.
- P. Running into electric eye or flagger—contestant who hits the electric eye or flagger will be disqualified from that event.
 - 1. Re-crossing start/finish line—in all timed events using a start/finish line, a contestant will be disqualified for re-crossing the start/finish line prior to finishing the prescribed pattern.
 - 2. Breaking patterns—a contestant will be disqualified for breaking the pattern.
 - 3. In any roping event, throwing rope before horse's chest has crossed the barrier line is a disqualification.
 - 4. In all breakaway roping events, altering the original makeup of the string issued by the rodeo committee, i.e. thinning or stripping in any manner is an automatic disqualification.
 - 5. A re-run will be granted for any event at the sole discretion of the judge.

I. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Many events are open to everyone. Some events have age and gender qualifications.
 - 1. Bob Thomas Scholarship Age Groups. Please see Bob Thomas Memorial Scholarship Policy for rules.
 - a. 9-under
 - a. 10 - 13
 - b. 14 – 19

II. PREMIUMS

- A. All entry fees will be split:
 - 1. Top four (4) contestants – 1st-40%, 2nd-30%, 3rd-20%, 4th-10%
 - a. If only three (3) contestants – 1st-50%, 2nd-30%, 3rd-20%
 - b. If only two (2) contestants – 1st-60%, 2nd-40%
 - c. If only one (1) contestants – 1st-100%
 - 2. In case of tie, the jackpot money will be split evenly between the winners.
 - 3. All Around Award will be determined by total dollars won in two or more events.
 - 4. Winners will be paid as follows:
 - a. All jackpot winnings will be paid by check and mailed. Checks for the current year must be cashed within 90 days of the date on check. Any

check not cashed will be void. No replacement checks shall be issued after 90 days. Un-cashed checks will be forfeited after 90 days of the date on check. Forfeited funds will be returned to the general funds of the Douglas County.

III. EVENTS

GOAT TAIL UNTYING

- A. Age and Gender: This event is not gender specific. Contestants must be 9 years of age and under.
1. Time limit: 1 minute.
 2. Objective: For the contestant to ride horseback across the start line, run to where a goat is tethered, remove a ribbon from the goat.
- B. Event Rules:
1. Goats must be uniform in size and type for each age class.
 2. Equipment—3-foot long soft rope for tethering goats with a metal snap affixed to each end. Stake with tether ring. Acceptable is a stake with an eye rolled into it and with a length of rope with a loop tied in one end and attached to the stake at the eye. All adjusted so that no part of the stake protrudes above the ground and just enough of the loop of the length of rope sticks above the ground, so the tether rope may be snapped on to it.
 3. Contestant must ride horse across the start line, to where the goat is tethered, dismount, catch the goat, remove the ribbon from the goat's tail, and run back across the finish line, which will be located 10 feet from tether stake back in the direction of the start line. Contestant must finish cross line with ribbon in hand.
 4. The goat will be tethered at 100 feet from the start line and held at the point furthest away from the starting line and facing the starting line and far enough away from fences or walls that there is room to reasonably compete.
 5. The goat will be held by a goat handler facing the starting point until the start line flagger flags the start of the time. The goat handler will then release the goat and step back out of the way.
 6. Time runs from the time the start line flagger drops the flag starting the time until the judge drops the flag as the contestant crosses finish line.
- C. Automatic disqualifications will occur if:
1. The horse makes contact with the goat.
 2. The contestant handles the goat with un-necessary roughness.
 3. The contestant crossed the finish line without the ribbon in hand.
 4. If contestant is helped with dismount they will be disqualified.

GOAT TYING

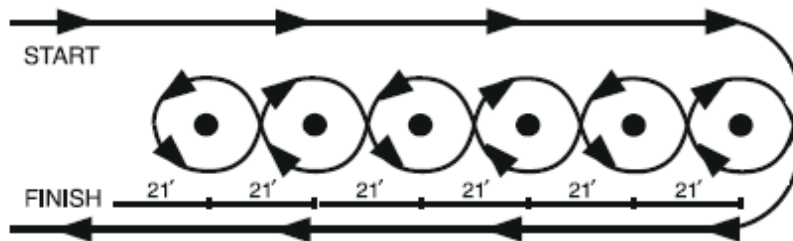
- A. Age and Gender: This event is not gender specific. Contestants must indicate age on entry form as classes will be divided into the following age categories: 10-13, 14-19 and 20 and over.

- B. Time Limit: 1 minute.
- C. Objective: For the contestant to ride horseback across the start line, run to where a goat is tethered, dismount, catch, throw and tie any three legs.
- D. Goats will be uniform in size and type for each age class.
- E. Equipment: 10-foot long soft rope for tethering goats with a metal snap affixed to each end. Stake with tether ring. Acceptable is a stake with an eye rolled into it and with a length of rope with a loop tied in one end and attached to the stake at the eye. All adjusted so that no part of the stake protrudes above the ground and just enough of the loop of the length of rope sticks above the ground, so the tether rope may be snapped on to it. Goat thong or pigging string to be used by the contestant to tie the goat's legs together. No metal rings or wire allowed on or in thong. Thong may be leather, nylon, grass, rope or a combination of materials.
- F. Contestant must ride horse across the start line, to where the goat is tethered, dismount, catch the goat, tie the goat and signal that his/her tie is complete by raising his/her hands in the air. The goat must be tied by stringing one (1) leg first then crossing and tying any three (3) legs. There must be at least one (1) wrap around all three (3) legs and finished with a half hitch or "hooley". The contestant then must step back away from the goat at least three (3) feet.
- G. The goat will be tethered at 100 feet from the start line and held at the point furthest away from the starting line and facing the starting line and far enough away from fences or walls that there is room to reasonably compete.
- H. The goat will be held by a goat handler facing the starting point until the start line flagger flags the start of the time. The goat handler will then release the goat and step back out of the way.
- I. If the goat is down or on its knees when the contestant reaches it, the goat must be let up or lifted high enough to be given the opportunity to regain its feet. Then the contestant may throw and tie the goat.
- J. Time runs from the time the start time flagger drops the flag starting the run until the judge drops the flag as the contestant signals tie complete.
- K. Penalties: A 5-second penalty will be assessed if the horse interferes with the tether.
- L. Automatic disqualifications will occur if:
 - 1. The horse makes contact with the goat.
 - 2. The contestant handles the goat with un-necessary roughness.
 - 3. The tie does not hold, or the legs do not remain crossed for 6-seconds.
 - 4. The contestant touches goat or tie with hands after signaling completion of tie.

POLE BENDING

- A. Age and Gender: This event is not gender specific. Participants must indicate age on entry form as classes will be divided into the following age categories: 9 and under, 10-13, 14-19 and 20 and over Age Groups.
- B. Time limit: 1 minute.
- C. Objective: The contestant must run their horse through the pole bending pattern.

- D. Equipment: Shall consist of six (6) bases, each capable of holding upright a 6-foot-tall pole that will fall if hit by an Exhibitor.
- E. Set up: The course shall consist of six (6) poles set in a straight line, the first pole being set 21 feet from the start/finish line. Each pole after that shall be set 21 feet apart. No pole may be closer than 20 feet from any fence or wall. It is mandatory that the pattern be staked so that the poles will be set in the same spot for the duration of the rodeo.
- F. The Rodeo Committee will determine prior to each age class when re-rakes will be done.
- G. The contestant must cross the start/finish line and may start on either side of the pattern it is the contestant's choice. The contestant must race down alongside the poles and upon reaching the sixth or end pole they must turn around that pole. The contestant then must weave back and forth through the poles toward the first pole. Upon reaching the first pole, contestant must turn around this pole and continue the weave back and forth towards the sixth pole, round this pole, then race alongside the poles back to and cross the start/finish line.
- H. Penalties: The contestant will be assessed a 5-second penalty for each pole the contestant knocks down. The contestant may touch the pole by hand to keep it from falling if they choose to and is able to do so and no penalty will assess for touching the poles.
- I. If a pole is knocked down, and then stands back up, it is still considered knocked down and the 5-second penalty will be assessed.
- J. Diagram of pattern:

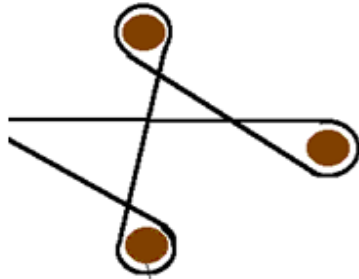


BARREL RACING

- A. Age and Gender: This event is not gender specific. Participants must indicate age on entry form as classes will be divided into the following age categories: 9 and under, 10-13, 14-19 and 20 and over.
- B. Time limit: 1 minute.
- C. Objective: The contestant shall race horse through a cloverleaf barrel pattern.
- D. Equipment: 55-gallon barrels will be used. Barrels must be closed on each end, no open end(s) on barrels will be allowed.
- E. Pattern shall be a cloverleaf pattern with barrels positioned in a triangular fashion in the arena.
- F. Measurements: A full pattern will be the following measurements and should be used when arena conditions allow: 75 feet from arena fence to the start/finish line.

60 feet from the start/finish line to a line drawn between the first and second barrel and 90 feet between the first and second barrel and 105 feet from each the first and second barrel to the third barrel. No barrel may be closer than 20 feet from any fence or wall.

- G. When arena conditions do not allow a full pattern to be used, the pattern may be shortened as necessary provided that it remains the same throughout the rodeo. It is mandatory that the 20 feet from any fence or wall safety zone be maintained even with a reduced pattern size.
- H. Diagram of barrel pattern.



1. The contestant will enter the arena, race across the start/finish line and proceed to either the left or right barrel. If the right barrel is used as the first barrel, the contestant will make a right hand turn around that first barrel and then proceed to the second barrel. The contestant will make a left hand turn around the second barrel and then race to the third barrel. The contestant will make a left hand turn around the third barrel and then race back across the start/finish line. The opposite will occur if the contestant chooses to go to the left barrel first.
2. Knocking over a barrel will result in a 5-second penalty being assessed.
3. If a barrel is knocked down, and then stands back up, it is still considered knocked down and the 5-second penalty will be assessed.
4. The contestant may reach down and touch a barrel in order to keep from falling over if the contestant chooses to and is able to do so.
5. If a barrel falls after the contestant crosses the finish line, it will be considered a qualified run and no penalty will be assessed.
6. The Rodeo Committee will determine prior to each age class when re-rakes will be done.

COWHIDE RACE

- A. Age and Gender: This team event is not age or gender specific.
- B. Time limit: 5 minutes.
- C. The contestants' saddle and all tack will be placed on the raw hide at start/finish line. The horse and contestants will be placed in the roping boxes. When the line judge says go, the contestants will lead their horse to their tack and saddle. The contestants saddle their horse and with 1 contestant on the cowhide, rider pulls the hide and contestant to the other end of the arena around a cone and back to the start/finish line where their time will stop.

1. The only tack on the horse at the start is a halter with lead rope.
2. Teams are made up of 2 contestants' one-horse rider and one rawhide rider.
3. Contestants must both be on the horse and rawhide when they go around the cone at the other end of the arena or they will be disqualified.
4. Time will start when the line judge says go and the time will stop when the team crosses back across the start/finish line.
5. Automatic disqualification will occur if in the judge's opinion unsafe situations or conditions are present and the contestants will be stopped immediately.

TEAM ROPING

- A. Age and Gender: This event is not age or gender specific.
- B. Time limit: 1-minute, open gate.
- C. Each contestant will be allowed to carry only one rope. Only two loops per team shall be allowed (one loop at each end with an open gate). Roping steers without turning loose the loop will be considered no catch. Contestant must rope, dally and change direction of steer. Any heeler 50 years of age or older may tie hard and fast.
- D. All headers shall start from behind a barrier. A 10-second penalty will be added for breaking or beating a barrier.
- E. Field judge shall drop flag when steer is roped by its head and heels, and both horses are facing steer in line with ropes dallied and tight. Horses' front feet must be on ground and contestants must be mounted for flag to drop. Steer must be standing up when roped by head and heels.
- F. Throwing Heel Loop. The direction of the steer's body must be changed before the heel loop can be thrown. However, if the steer stops, it must only be moving forward for the heel loop to be legal. Any heel loop thrown before the completion of the initial turn will be considered a crossfire and no time will be recorded.
- G. Steer Roped by One Horn. If steer is roped by one horn, contestant is not allowed to use hands to remove loop or put loop over other horn or head.
- H. Heeler Roping Front Foot. If the heeler ropes a front foot or feet in the heel loop, this is a foul catch. Neither contestant may remove the front foot or feet from the loop by hand. However, should the front foot or feet come out of the heel loop by the time the field judge drops the flag, time will be official.
- I. Legal Head Catches. There will be only three legal head catches:
 1. Around both horns.
 2. Half a head.
 3. Around the neck.
- J. Illegal Head Catches. The following shall be illegal head catches:
 1. If hondo passes over one horn and the loop over the other;
 2. If loop crosses itself in a head catch.
 3. If loop is in the steer's mouth.
- K. Heel Catches.

1. Behind Both Shoulders. Any heel catch behind both shoulders is legal if rope goes up heels.
 2. One Hind Foot. One hind foot receives a five-second penalty.
- L. Inspection of Catches. Any questions as to catches in this contest will be decided by the judges. If a field judge tells the header to hold the steer so the field judge may inspect the head catch, and the header does not do so, the team may receive a “no-time”.

DARREL BELL MEMORIAL OPEN TEAM ROPING

- A. Contestant may enter twice. If contestant enters twice they must compete with different contestants or switch ends.

FAMILY TEAM ROPING

- A. Contestant may enter up to three (3) times with different family members.
- B. Family members for the Family Team Roping are described as: mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild, spouse, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or cousin.

DALLY RIBBON ROPING

- A. Age and Gender: This team event is not age or gender specific.
1. Time limit: 2 minutes, closed gate.
 2. Objective: Team will consist of 1 “roper” and 1 “runner”. The roper is required to rope to the calf, dally around the saddle horn and hold the calf while the runner removes a ribbon from the calf’s tail and carries that ribbon across the barrier line of the box the roper left.
- B. Rules:
1. The roping box and barrier are to be used as in the other roping events.
 2. The ribbon for the calf’s tail is to be a uniformly colored unbreakable ribbon, 1 inch wide and 12 inches long. Tied to the calf’s tail with a rubber band that is strong enough to hold the ribbon in place but weak enough to break easily when grabbed by a contestant.
 3. The roper is to start from the right-hand box as you face the arena.
 4. A 10-second penalty will be assessed for breaking the barrier.
 5. The runner may wait anywhere in the arena.
 6. Roper must rope the calf, dally around the saddle horn and hold the calf for the runner until runner has removed ribbon from calf’s tail. Catch as catch can is a legal catch.
 7. Runner must remove the ribbon from the calf’s tail and carry the ribbon back to the box the roper left from. Time will run from the time the calf releases the barrier rope until the barrier judge flags the runner crossing the barrier line.
 8. The roper may carry only one (1) rope but may rebuild one (1) loop if no catch is made with the first loop. Only two (2) loops total allowed.

9. If the ribbon comes off the calf's tail after the roper has made a catch, the roper must dally off and hold the calf; however, the runner must go to where the ribbon came off, pick it up and then carry it back across the barrier line. Roper must hold dally until the runner has picked up the ribbon.
- C. Automatic disqualifications will occur if:
1. Roper fails to complete and hold a dally.
 2. Roper drops or loses rope.
 3. Runner touches rope or calf before rope is dallied.
 4. Roper drags calf to runner. When roper makes a catch; roper must dally off and wait for the runner.
 5. Runner crossing barrier line without ribbon.

STEER DAUBING

- A. Age and Gender: This event is not gender specific, ages 10 to 19. Contestants must indicate age on entry form as classes will be divided into the following age categories: 10-13 and 14-19.
- B. Time limit: 1-minute, with an open gate.
- C. Cattle and a roping box with barrier are required for this event.
- D. The contestant backs into the heading box with a 4-foot daubing stick dipped in paint. The contestant signals readiness for the steer and rides after the steer upon its release. The contestant must leave paint on the steer, behind the point of the shoulder, then raise the stick to call for time. Score line will be determined by the Rodeo Committee.
- E. Automatic disqualifications will occur if:
1. The contestant daubs the steer in front of the point of the shoulder (ex: head or neck).
- F. A 10-second penalty will be assessed for breaking the barrier.

BREAKAWAY ROPING

- A. Age and Gender: This event is not gender specific, ages are 10-13 or 14 and up.
- B. Time limit: 1-minute, closed gate.
- C. Objective: The contestant must rope a calf from the back of a horse, and have the rope, which is tied to the saddle horn with a piece of string, break away from the saddle.
- D. Equipment: The contestant must use a standard catch rope with a white flag, a minimum of 24 inches in length and 2 inches in width tied to end of rope (no tail) and end of rope must be tied to saddle horn with a piece of string (#24 polycotton twine OR #18 nylon—150# test) furnished by the Rodeo Committee.
- E. The contestant will start from behind a barrier in the right-hand box and will nod to the gate man to indicate when she is ready for the calf to be released. The calf will be given a pre-determined head start and beating or breaking the barrier will result in a 10-second penalty, and penalty will be documented by barrier judge.

- F. The contestant must then chase after the calf. In order to be a legal catch, the loop must pass cleanly over the calf's head. Once the loop has passed over the calf's head, loop may draw up on any part of calf's body behind the head.
- G. Time is to begin when the calf releases the barrier rope and ends when the field judge flags the rope breaking away from the saddle horn. Calf must break rope away from saddle horn—contestant would receive a no time should they break rope away from saddle horn themselves.
- H. Once the contestant has given up on their first loop and have started to compete on their second loop, if the first loop becomes a legal catch and breaks away, it WILL NOT be flagged as a time. The contestant will be flagged on their second loop.
- I. Automatic disqualification will occur if:
 - 1. The contestant breaks the string by hand rather than letting the calf pull the rope and break it away from the saddle horn.
 - 2. The contestant fails to release the loop from hand before catching calf.

TIE DOWN ROPING

- A. Age and Gender: Contestant must be 14 years of age or older. This event is not gender specific.
 - 1. Time Limit: 1-minute, closed gate.
 - 2. General Requirements: Contestant must rope calf, dismount, flank calf by hand and cross and tie any three legs. To qualify as legal tie, there shall be at least one wrap around all three legs and a half-hitch. If calf is down when contestant reaches it, the calf must be let up to his feet and be thrown by hand. If contestants' hand is on the calf when calf falls, calf is considered thrown by hand. Rope must hold calf until contestant gets hand on calf. Three legs must remain crossed and tied for six seconds, as timed by the judge, from the time the rope horse takes his first step forward after the contestant has remounted, until approved by the judge. Contestant must not touch calf after signaling that contestant is finished and until after the judge has completed an examination. Rope must remain slack until field judge approves the tie. Unless instructed to do so by the judge, contestant will be disqualified for removing rope from calf after signaling for time, until the tie has been passed on by the field judge. In the event a contestant's catch rope is off a calf after completion of tie, the six-second time period is to start when contestant clears calf. Flag judge must watch calf during the six second period and will stop watch when a calf kicks free, using the time shown on the watch to determine whether calf was tied long enough to qualify. If tie becomes illegal by calf kicking, or calf gets to his feet before tie has been approved by the judge, the contestant will be marked "no time."
- B. Two Loops Permitted. Two loops will be permitted, catch-as-catch- can, and should the contestant miss with both, contestant must retire and will be marked "no time." Roping the calf without releasing the loop from the hand is not permitted. If contestant intends to use two loops, contestant must carry two ropes and must use second rope for second loop.

1. No Dragging of Calf. A neck rope must be used on the horse, and contestant must adjust rope and reins in a manner that will prevent horse from dragging calf. Contestant must receive no assistance of any kind. If the horse drags the calf at least five feet, field judge may stop horse and the contestant will be disqualified.
2. No Jerk Down. Intentional Jerk Down's will result in the disqualification of the contestant.

STEER STOPPING

- A. Age and Gender: This event is not age or gender specific.
- B. Time limit: 1-minute, open gate.
- C. A timed event started with an electric eye or barrier.
 1. Contestant must use head box.
 2. A 10 second penalty will be added for a broken barrier.
 3. The steer must be roped with a legal head catch
 4. Both horns
 5. Full head
 6. Half head with one horn
 7. All other catches will be disqualified with a no time
 8. After roping the steer, contestant must dally to saddle horn and stop the steer.
 9. The steer and horse must be facing - both stopped with front feet on the ground to be flagged.
 10. Only one loop allowed.

Thank you, 2018 Hometown Rodeo Award Donors!

Your support helps to benefit exhibitors, support education, and facilitate better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation.

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