

## PRCA RULES GOVERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK AT PRCA SANCTIONED RODEOS

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) has been enforcing rules to protect the livestock participating in their sanctioned events since 1947. Through the years, the PRCA has created the most comprehensive set of animal welfare rules in the sport of rodeo, creating a model for other rodeo associations to follow.



1. Rule 9.0. General. These rules are intended to ensure the humane treatment of rodeo animals and shall be in effect for all PRCA-sanctioned events. No animal shall be treated inhumanely by any Member.
2. Rule R 9.1. Sore, lame, sick or injured animal. Animals for all events will be inspected before the draw, and no sore, lame, sick or injured animal or animal with impaired 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.
3. Rule 9.1.1. Veterinarian. A rodeo committee shall ensure that a veterinarian is present and on-site for every performance and/or section of slack. Any rodeo committee failing to do so shall be subject to a fine of \$500 per performance and/or section of slack per rodeo.
4. Rule 9.2. Rowels. No locked rowels, or rowels that will be locked on spurs may be used on bareback or saddle bronc horses. Spurs must be dulled.
5. Rule 9.2.1. Removal of an injured animal. A conveyance must be available, supplied by the rodeo committee, and shall be used, where practicable, to remove animals from the arena in case of injury. The conveyance must be large enough to remove a horse or bull. Injured calves shall be removed from the arena in a pickup truck, calf stretcher or by conveyance. Animals removed from the arena pursuant to this section shall be placed in a situation as isolated and comfortable as possible to reduce stress.
6. Rule 9.2.1. Must be humane. Any injured livestock shall be humanely removed from the arena before continuing the rodeo contest or performance.
7. Rule 9.3. No Sharp Objects in Cinch, Saddle, Girth or Flank Straps. No sharp or cutting objects in cinch, saddle girth, or flank straps shall be permitted. Flank straps used for horses must either be sheepskin-lined or neoprene-lined and shall be of the quick release type. Sheepskin-lined or neoprene lined flank straps shall be placed on the animal so the lined portion is over both flanks of the animals. In the bull riding, a soft cotton rope at least 5/8" in diameter is acceptable as a flank strap and does not require the sheepskin or neoprene lining.
8. Rule 9.4. Prods and Other Artificial Stimuli. Standard electric prods shall be used only as specified in these Official Rodeo Rules and in the Bylaws. If a prod is used, the animal shall only be touched on the hip or shoulder area. No other artificial stimuli shall be used (with the exception of rodeo equipment and gear commonly used and accepted in connection with the respective events at PRCA-sanctioned rodeos.)
9. Rule 10.1.5. Prods. In the riding events, use of prods and similar devices is prohibited. The only exceptions shall be in the saddle bronc riding and bareback riding, and only in the case of a known chute stalling animals, and only if agreed upon by the contestant, the stock contractor and the judge before the contestant's competition begins. In this instance, the prod shall not exceed 12 inches in length. Use of a prod without the agreement of the contestant, stock contractor, and the judge before the contestant's competition begins in the saddle bronc and the bareback riding, or use of a prod in the bull riding at any time shall result in a fine of \$1000, doubling with each violation to the stock contractor and the contestant will receive the automatic option of a reride.
10. • Rule 3.2.2 No Animal May be in the Draw Twice on the Same Day. In all riding events, stock can not be placed in the draw twice in the same say, with the exception of rerides, unless approved by the event representative and the Director of Rodeo Administration.
11. Rule 4.8.3 Unsafe Arena Conditions. If the arena conditions are deemed at any time to be unsafe by the arena director, a majority of the event representatives present, any judge, or the primary stock contractor, competition may be stopped until which time the arena conditions are deemed satisfactory by the individual or individuals who initially determined that arena conditions were unsafe.
12. Rule 8.4. No Hold Overs. No cattle that have been used may be held over from one calendar year to the next.
13. Rule 8.4.1. No switching of events. No steers may switched in events unless approved by the event representative or the Director of Rodeo Administration.
14. Rule 8.5 Running of Timed Event Stock. All timed-event stock shall be run through event chutes and through the arena prior to the start of contest where conditions permit.
15. Rule 8.8. Unsatisfactory Animals. An Event Representative may declare particular animal unsatisfactory. Upon notification, either written or verbal, the stock contractor or Rodeo Committee shall eliminate such animal(s) from competition draw.

16. Rule 8.8.1. No Change of Events. If an animal has been declared unsatisfactory for an event, that animal may not be used for another event without the approval of the Event Representative.
17. Rule 8.9.1. Trimming the Horns. Stock contractors and the Rodeo Committee will be expected to cooperate in trimming the horns of steers that are not able to pass through the timed event chute.
18. Rule 8.9.2. Steer Wrestling Cattle. The horns on steer wrestling cattle must be blunted to the size of a dime.
19. Rule 8.9.3. Steer Roping Cattle. Plaster and rebar must be placed around the horns of steer roping cattle prior to contesting, and all such steers should have horn wraps that extend 4 inches down the jaw from the base of the horns. The horns must be blunted to the size of a quarter.
20. Rule 8.8.4. Team Roping Cattle. All team roping cattle shall be protected by horn wraps. The horns on all team roping cattle must be blunted to the size of a dime.
21. Rule 8.9.5.1. Blunting of Bulls Horns. All horned animals used in the PRCA bull riding shall have their horns blunted to at least the diameter of a half-dollar.
22. Rule 8.10.1. No Use Other Than Contest Events. An animal used in the contest events of a PRCA rodeo may not be used in any way, other than in the contest events of that rodeo, until after the last time that animal has been used in the contest events at that rodeo, unless otherwise approved by the Event Representative.
23. Rule 8.11.2. Injured Animals at Rodeo. The stock contractor of record shall be responsible for notifying the Central Entry Office of riding event stock that becomes injured and is in the draw for later competition time.
24. Rule 11.2.1. Ineligibility Time. If a riding event animal is replaced in the draw at a rodeo, that animal cannot be used for a period of 48 hours following the first performance that the animal was replaced.
25. Rule 8.12.1. Roping Calves. All roping calves must be either native, brahma, or of a similar cross. Weight for the calves shall be a minimum of 220 pounds and a maximum of 280 pounds with fresh calves not to exceed a maximum of 260 pounds.
26. Rule 8.12.2. Steer Wrestling Cattle. All steer wrestling cattle must be Mexican Corriente steers. All steer wrestling cattle must weigh a minimum of 450 pounds and a maximum of 600 pounds.
27. Rule 8.12.3. Team Roping. The maximum weight for animals that are to be used in team roping is 650 per head and the minimum is 450 per head. All team roping steers must be Corriente steers.
28. Rule 8.12.4. Steer Roping. All steer roping steers must be Mexican Corriente steers. All steers used in the steer roping event must weigh a minimum of 450 pounds and a maximum of 600 pounds.
29. Rule 9.5.1 Construction of Chutes. Chutes must be constructed to prevent injury to an animal. Maintenance men and equipment shall be available at chutes to assist in removal of any animal should it become necessary.
30. Rule 9.5.2. Conditions of Arena. The arena shall be as free as possible of rocks, holes and unnecessary obstacles.
31. Rule 9.5.3. No Small Animals. No small animals or pets allowed in the arena, unless part of a contract act.
32. Rule 9.5.4. Removal of Livestock after Competition. Livestock must be removed from the arena after each competition is completed.
33. Rule 9.6. Neckrope Must be Used in Tie-Down Roping. In tie-down roping, a neckrope must be used. Calves may not be intentionally flipped backward. Contestant must adjust rope and reins in such a manner that will prevent horse from dragging calf. Rope to be removed from calf's body as soon as possible after "tie" is approved. Roping calves shall be strong and healthy.
34. Rule 9.7. No Stimulants or Hypnotics. No stimulants or hypnotics may be given to any animal used for contest purposes.
35. Rule 9.8. Animals Excessively Excited in Chute. Any animal that becomes excessively excited and lays down in the chute repeatedly, or tries repeatedly to jump out of the chute, or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring himself, may be released immediately.
36. Rule 9.9. Confinement and Transportation. No stock shall be confined or transported in vehicles beyond a period of 24 hours without being unloaded, properly fed and watered.
37. Rule 9.10. Abuse of Animal. If a member abuses an animal by any unnecessary non-competitive or competitive action, he may be disqualified for the remainder of the rodeo and fined \$250 for the first offence, with that fine progressively doubling with each offence thereafter.
38. Rule 9.11. Mistreatment of Animal. Any member guilty of mistreatment of livestock anywhere on the rodeo grounds shall be fined \$250 for the first offense, with that fine progressively doubling with any offense thereafter.
39. Rule 9.12. Tie Downs Covered. All chain, metal and wire tie-downs and bosals must be covered.

40. Rule 9.13. Apparent injury during competition. Should a riding event animal show evidence of injury inflicted by a contestant during competition, that contestant will be fined \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for the second offense, and \$1000 for the third and subsequent offenses.
41. Rule 9.13.1. Delay Further Use of Animal Injured. Should a riding event animal be apparently injured by a contestant during competition, thus resulting in the contestant being reported for such a violation, that animal cannot be used until such time the injury has completely healed.
42. Drawn Animal Becomes Sick or Crippled. If an animal that is drawn in a riding event becomes sick or crippled before it is competed on, a judge must pass on the animal's inability to be used before it can be shipped or replaced in the draw.
43. Rule 10.4.2. Bareback Riding. Cinches and Latigos. Cinches on the bareback riggings shall be made of mohair or neoprene and shall be at least eight inches in width at the center, but must be tapered to accommodate cinch "D" rings. Latigos must be of leather only.
44. Rule 10.4.2.1. Bareback pads. Required bareback pads are to completely cover the underside of the ridding, and are to extend a full 2 inches behind the rigging.
45. Rule 10.4.2.2. Pads Must Cover Underside of Rigging. Pads used under riggings must be leather-covered on both sides. No hair pads will be allowed. Only a high density foam pad, at least ¾ inch thick will be allowed. In addition, the pad must have leather over the bars 3/19 inch thick extending at least ½ inch on either side of the handle bars.
46. Disqualification. A rider shall be disqualified is riding with rowels too sharp or locked.
47. Rule 10.4.6.1. Spur Rowels. Spur rowels must have five or more points.
48. Rule 10.5.5. Saddle Bronc Rider Disqualification. A saddle bronc rider shall be disqualified for riding with locked rowels, or rowels that will lock on spurs, and/or rowels not dulled.
49. Rule 10.6.3.1. Bull Riding. No Bull Tails Under Flank Straps. No bull tails will be allowed under flank straps.
50. Rule 10.6.4. No Sharp Spurs. Rider shall not use sharp spurs.
51. Disqualification of a Bull Rider. A bull rider shall be disqualified for using sharp spurs.

#### TIMED EVENT RULES

52. Rule 11.1.4.1 Lining for Timed Event Boxes. In order to protect the contestant's horse, the back and the side opposite the timed event chute of the timed event boxes shall either have a lower rail which is no less than 3' above ground level and have no obstruction in the area from the ground level up to the lower rail or be lined from the ground level up to a minimum of 3' high with a solid panel. Box pads are likewise required for each timed event box.
53. Rule 11.3.8. Drawn Animal Becomes Sick or Crippled. If an animal that is drawn in a pen in a timed event becomes sick or crippled before it is competed on, a judge must pass on the animal's inability to be used before it can be shipped or replaced in the draw.
54. Rule 11.3.13.2. No Consecutive Runs on Same Horse. In timed events, provided there are other qualified horses on the rodeo grounds, no consecutive runs shall be allowed on the same horse, or horses, unless approval is granted by the arena director, arena boss and/or stock contractor.
55. Rule 11.6.3. Tie-Down Roping Time Limit. There will be a 25-second elapsed time limit in the tie-down roping. A whistle indicating "no time" shall be blown by the timer at the end of a 25-second span. Roping a calf after the 25 second whistle has sounded shall be a Class III Offense for mistreatment of animals.
56. Rule 11.6.4 No Dragging of Calf. A neck rope must be used on the horse, and contestant must prevent horse from dragging calf.
57. Rule 11.6.5. No Jerk Down. Rodeo Committees have the option to request a special ground rule for "no jerk down" in the tie down roping.
58. Rule 11.7.8. Steer Wrestling Time Limit. There will be a 60-second elapsed time limit in the steer wrestling. A whistle indicating "no time" shall be blown by the timer at the end of the 60-second span.
59. Rule 11.8.10 Team Roping Time Limit. There will be a 30-second elapsed time limit in the team roping. A whistle indicating "no time" shall be blown by the timer at the end of the 30-second span.
60. Rule 11.9.10. Excessive Dragging of Steer. Steer Roping Contestant, who in the opinion of the judge, excessively drags a steer may be disqualified and/or fined.