

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW - COLORADO VS. THE WORLD

2025 Rules of Competition

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW COLORADO VS. THE WORLD** references three (3) performances of Invitational Championship Rodeo competition to be held in the Denver Coliseum on January 11, 2025. The National Western Colorado vs. the World will feature three (3) performances. There will be five (5) events featured each performance including bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, barrel racing and steer wrestling. Eight (8) contestants in each event will be featured in performance 1 and 2. The first performance will be referred to as the World Rodeo Semi-Finals, while the second performance will be referred to as the Colorado Rodeo Semi-Finals. Performance 3 (Finals) will have eight (8) contestants featuring the top four (4) contestants in each event from performance 1 and 2. The top placing contestants from the World rodeo Semi-Final will face the top placing contestants from the Colorado rodeo Semi-Final in a head to head competition. This format will result in 16 contestants per event which will mean a total of 64 cowboys and 16 cowgirls in the competition.

The National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World Event will use WPRA members, but will not count toward 2025 World Standings and will be subject (but not limited) to WPRA rules of competition.

The 2025 National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World is an independent production of the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo (NWSSR).

- 1.2. **Contestant Agreement** references the binding legal agreement (National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World Contestant Agreement) between each contestant and NWSSR. Each contestant accepted the terms of the Contestant Agreement upon entering the National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World and the Contestant Agreement was executed by NWSSR upon NWSSR's acceptance of the contestant's entry application.
- 1.3. **RODEO RULES** refers, in general, to the championship rodeo industry-accepted rules of competition in North America and, specifically, to the rules of rodeo competition that have been in practice at the NWSSR the past years. Unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this document or in the Contestant Agreement, RODEO RULES will prevail during the 2025 National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World.

2. CONFLICT OF DOCUMENTS AND RODEO RULES

Order of Precedence: In the event of conflict, the Contestant Agreement prevails over the Rules of Competition and the RODEO RULES. The Rules of Competition prevails over RODEO RULES.

3. ENTRIES

3.1 There will be no entry fees to compete in Colorado vs. the World if you have been invited

3.2 Contestants will be invited guest of Colorado vs. the World

4. ENTRY SELECTION AND INVITATION PROCESS

- 4.1 The 2025 National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World is an invitational championship rodeo featuring top cowboy and cowgirl contestants in North America. NWSSR management and staff have the sole authority and responsibility to determine the list of invitees to participate in the National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World and to determine, on a case-by-case basis, which alternate entry will replace any originally invited contestant that chooses not to enter or decides, for whatever reason, not to compete. The initial invited list (originally published at nationalwestern.com in the fall of 2025) will determine using the following criteria (see 4.2).
- 4.2 Entry Procedures: Bareback Riding, Bull Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Steer Wrestling and Barrel Racing will consist of 16 contestants each.
- (a) Contestants will be originally selected by winning rodeos in the rodeo season of 2024 that have chosen to align with the National Western on this event.
 - 1. World Team: Ft. Worth, TX, Rapid City, SD, San Angelo, TX, Austin, TX, Houston, TX, Calgary, AB, Cheyenne, WY and Dodge City, KS
 - 2. Colorado Team: Denver, CO, Elizabeth, CO, Greeley, CO, Colorado Springs, CO, Estes Park, CO, Loveland, CO, Pueblo, CO, Wild Card (committee selection)
 - (b) Alternate entries will be accepted. Entered alternates will be used to fill positions of invited contestants who did not complete the entry process or choose not to enter. NWSSR Rodeo Committee, at their sole discretion, will determine the rank order of entered alternates.
 - (c) All contestants must be in good standing with NWSSR.
- 4.3 Replacement Procedures:
- (a) NWSSR management will make best efforts to ensure that all positions within each National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World rodeo are filled with eight (8) contestants per event.
 - (b) NWSSR management also will accept alternate entries for each event. In the event that an entered contestant must turn out, prior to the first performance of his or her respective Semi Final, an alternate may advance to compete within that respective Semi Final.
 - (c) Alternates will be accepted up to 24 hours (Mountain Standard Time) prior to the start of the first Performance.
 - i. NWSSR management, at its sole discretion, may accept (in extenuating circumstances) an alternate up to four (4) hours prior to the start of any performance within a rodeo Semi-Final.

5. SEMI-FINALS & FINALS STRUCTURE

5.1 The Colorado vs. the World structure will be comprised of (2) Semi-Finals performances, World Rodeo Semi-Final and the Colorado Rodeo Semi-Final along with one (1) Finals performance.

- (a) Eight (8) contestants, in bareback riding, bull riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling and eight (8) contestants in barrel racing, will compete in each performance.
- (b) Each Semi-Final will consist of one (1) performance.
 - i. Each Semi-Final will pay out according to the Schedule.
- (c) The overall winners of each Semi-Final will be determined by highest marked points in rough stock events and the fastest time in the timed events.
 - i. Overall places will be paid as outlined in the Payout Schedule.
 - ii. In the event that only one contestant rides or scores, the entire payout will be paid to the first place winner.
 - iii. In the event that no one rides or scores; the money will be evenly distributed to all contestants within the respective event. The contestants with the longest (timed) ride will advance.

NOTE: Each of the two preliminary rodeos will be promoted to the general public as Semifinals rodeos. The third performance of the Semi-Final rodeo will be promoted as the Semi-Final Finals Round.

*****All Semi-Final orders will be drawn*****

5.2 The top four (4) contestants from each Semi-Final, based on performance placing, for a total of 8 contestants, will advance to the National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World Finals Performance.

- a) Scores will not carry over from any previous rodeos.
- b) The contestants will run in drawn order.
- c) In the event that a qualified contestant must turn out due to a medical release, the contestant will be replaced by the following placed contestant, from the respective Semi-Final performance, that the original contestant advanced from.
- d) The top two (2) contestants will return for a Championship Shootout round later in the same performance.
- e) The contestants in the Finals Shootout will run in reverse order, where the top scoring performer in the prior round goes last, the second-best scoring performer goes first. Except in the Barrel Race where the fastest contestant will choose the order they wish to compete in.
- f) See the Colorado vs. the World Payout Schedule for the exact payout in all events.

6. TIE-BREAKING METHOD

6.1 **Semi-Final Advancement to the Finals Tie-Breaking Procedures:** Any ties which exist for advancement from the Semi Finals to the Finals rounds will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:

- (a) Each contestant will draw a number from 1-16 at check in time.
- (b) If a tie exists, the Contestant with the highest drawn number will advance to the Championship Semi-Final.

6.2 **Advancement in the Finals to the Championship Round Tie-Breaking Procedures:** Any ties which exist for advancement from the Finals to the Championship round will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:

- (a) If a tie exists to advance from the Finals to the Championship round, the tie will be broken by the best single run/ride time/score during the Semi Finals; if still tie;
- (b) The tie will be broken by the highest drawn number at check in.

7. PAYOUT AND PAYOUT PROCEDURES

7.1 **Please see the National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World payout schedule (“Payout Schedule”) posted at nationalwestern.com/rodeos/rodeo-contestants.**

7.2 Every contestant winning a check agrees to be available for a check presentation, media interview, and a minimum one-hour autograph signing session immediately following his/her event.

7.3 Each contestant must complete a W-9 and give it to the Secretary prior to his/her first competition. NWSSR will not authorize payment of prize money to any contestant who does not have a valid W-9 on file with NWSSR.

8. ORDER OF EVENTS

8.1 Semi-Finals 1 & 2 event order is as follows:

First:	Bareback
Second:	Steer Wrestling
Third:	Saddle Bronc
Fourth:	Barrel Racing
Fifth:	Bull Riding

8.2 Finals event order is as follows:

First:	Bareback
Second:	Barrel Racing
Third:	Saddle Bronc
Fourth:	Steer Wrestling
Fifth:	Bull Riding

8.3 Championship Round event order is as follows:

First:	Bareback
Second:	Steer Wrestling
Third:	Saddle Bronc
Fourth:	Barrel Racing
Fifth:	Bull Riding

NOTE: NWSSR management reserves the right to change the order of events for the entire run of the competition or for any given performance. Proper notice of a change of events will be given to the contestants along with an explanation of the reason for the change of event order.

9. TIMED EVENTS

9.1 General

- (a) Each Semi-Final will be drawn 2 hours (Mountain Standard Time) in advance of each performance.
- (b) Stalls are available on-site location (Denver Coliseum) and will be assigned to contestants at arrival on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost of stalls are \$10 per stall beginning January 10, 2025 and ending January 12, 2025 (Colorado vs. the World contestants only).
- (c) Contestants with animals must check in at the Check-in trailer located in the Contestant parking area at the Denver Coliseum.
- (d) All horses are required to have a current health and Coggins papers.
- (e) Contestants must abide by NWSSR rules and regulations for entry and exit with animals. Individuals who violate animal entry policies will be subject to immediate ejection from the premises.
- (f) No contestants/non-contestants may be in the arena during events except for the contestant(s) actively involved in a ride or run. Contestants violating this rule may be subject to disqualification from the event.
- (g) No more than two (2) people may stand in either timed event box during timed events. Judges and NWSSR management and staff have the authority to stop the competition to remove extra people from the boxes or the arena floor.
- (h) If a steer is injured during competition (the injury must be obvious to the judge) the run will immediately stop (signaled by the judge flagging the contestant out). The contestant will be required to maintain control of the steer until the Timed Event Chute Boss or the Show Veterinarian excuses him. The injured animal will immediately be removed from the arena for assessment and treatment.
 - i. If the judge flags the contestant out due to animal injury, the contestant will be granted a re-run (whether the animal actually was injured or not).
 - (i) If a timed event animal escapes or a re-run is granted for any other reason, the extra will automatically be used and become part of that

herd, and the escaped animal will become the extra. All re-runs must compete in that performance during that respective event.

- (i) All times in the Barrel Race will be recorded in 1000ths
- (j) All times in the Steer Wrestling will be recorded in 100ths

9.2 Steer Wrestling

- (a) If a steer dog falls, the contestant is to immediately allow and/or assist the steer back to his feet before completing the run with a flat fall. Failure to do so will result in the contestant being flagged out and receiving a no time.
- (b) *All other rules issues will be governed by GENERAL RODEO RULES.*

9.3 Barrel Racing

- (a) The National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World Event will use WPRA members, but will not count toward 2025 World Standings and will be subject (but not limited) to WPRA rules of competition.

10. RIDING EVENTS

10.1 General

- (a) Rough stock will be drawn up to 3 days in advance of the first Semi-Final round.
- (b) Any and all re-rides granted must be taken during the same performance, during that respective event.
- (c) Per NWSSR's standards of humane treatment of animals, the use of hot shots, electrical prods and/or sharp instruments, *excluding spurs*, are strictly forbidden in the chute areas and within the confines of the arena.
- (d) Scoring: two judges will be used. The two (2) judge's totals will be added together to half points.
- (e) *All other rules issues pertaining to Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding and Bull Riding will be governed by GENERAL RODEO RULES.*

11. GENERAL

- a) Contestants agree to abide by all posted premises rules and regulations of NWSSR.
- b) Contestants must wear back numbers and/or arm bands which are visible at all times upon entrance to, and when in, the arena, whether competing or not.

- c) No family members (including children), guests, escorts, etc., will not be allowed in chute or arena areas.
- d) NWSSR will only admit contestants who are entered in the competition to all facilities at no charge. Regardless of membership in various professional rodeo associations and rodeo sanctioning bodies, members who are not NWSSR contestants will not be given free admission, nor may they enter any area restricted only to contestants without proper NWSSR credentials.
- e) Contestants must enter facilities via Contestant Check in trailer. The Rodeo Hospitality Services Committee will assist with distribution of credentials and family entrance.
- f) ***If a contestant who enters NWSS Colorado vs. the World chooses not to compete for a “non-injury” reason, that contestant will be in breach of the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo Contestant Agreement and will be ineligible to compete in any NWSSR Colorado vs. the World event in 2025 and 2026. NWSS Colorado vs. the World and its management retains the right to void the contestant agreement and turn any contestant out of the rodeo at any time, should they deem necessary.***
- g) Contestants should be aware that NWSSR is a family event. Contestants will perform in a manner that is not offensive to any social or ethnic groups and that is suitable for a family audience. Contestants will be mindful that the arena floor may be covered by video cameras and microphones.
- h) NWSSR is represented in the arena by the Arena Floor Director and the Rodeo Producer. Their decisions on non-scoring, production, performance and procedural issues are final.
- i) As stated in the Contestant Agreement, all decisions of NWSSR judges are final. All scores, once tabulated and certified by the judges and the rodeo secretary, are final.
- j) Contestants must refrain from speaking to the judges while in the arena unless a judge initiates the conversation. Contestants must refrain from attempting to persuade or to intimidate the judges inside or outside of the arena – to include appeals for a re-ride. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a breach of the Contestant Agreement, disqualifying the offending contestant from any further competition in NWSSR Colorado vs. the World events in 2025 and 2026.
- k) Any contestant protests or appeals may only be filed with NWSSR management; whose sole decision is final.
- l) Contestants and traveling companions/assistants (whether entered at NWSSR or not) must comply with all NWSSR animal welfare rules and regulations as they pertain to their personal animals, the animals of NWSSR’s stock contractors or any other animals with which they may come in contact. NWSSR’s animal welfare, animal care, and animal injury rules and regulations will be posted at multiple locations in the contestant areas in the Denver Coliseum. Failure to comply with these rules and regulations will result in breach of the Contestant Contract and may result in criminal prosecution or citation if local and/or state animal welfare laws are violated.

- m) NWSSR has strict policies prohibiting the use of animal prods of any type (to include, but not limited to, sharp instruments, hotshots, other electric shocking devices, joy buzzers or vibrators) within the confines of The Denver Coliseum prior to, during, or after any NWSSR performance. Designated representatives of NWSSR's general stock contractor/rodeo producer may carry hotshots for use in the alleys, pens and dock loading areas to facilitate movement of animals if there appears to be imminent danger to any humans or animals. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in breach of the Contestant Contract.
- n) Requests for "approved" release of the Contestant Agreement (to include medical and hardship) will be handled on a case-by-case basis by NWSSR management and each case will be evaluated on its merit and substantiation. All such decisions by NWSSR are final and binding.

12. Appearances, Press and Media

- (a) Contestants may be photographed by NWSSR photographer and videographer at the time of entry check-in. These photos may be used for big-screen presentation, television and website.
- (b) Contestants agree to be available to NWSSR staff for media interviews during the day/evening of the National Western Stock Show Colorado vs. the World rodeos.
- (c) As stipulated in the Contestant Agreement, contestants agree to participate in promotional activities at The NWSSR complex and the Denver Coliseum (upon request of NWSSR staff and management) which may include receptions, breakfasts, dinners and cordial "meet and greet" appearances in sponsor/client areas. NWSSR will be judicious in these requests and will limit the amount of time and number of requests made upon the contestants.
- (c) Contestants agree to make "best case" efforts to be available for public appearances that may be outside of NWSSR Complex and the Denver Coliseum. NWSSR agrees to cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Contestant in conjunction with appearances outside of NWSSR Complex plus an honorarium of \$100 per appearance if scheduled by staff/management of NWSSR. If the appearance is not conducted on a day/evening in which the Contestant is competing (at NWSSR), an additional honorarium may be negotiated.
- (d) Autograph Sessions:
 - i. NWSSR contestants agree to sign autographs immediately following their event, for a minimum of 25 minutes if requested.