

# 2026 Canadian Wild Horse Race Association

## Rules and Regulations



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### Objectives of the CWHRA

The objectives of the Canadian Wild Horse Race Association (CWHRA) are to:

- maintain and assist in the betterment of Wild Horse racing as a sport,
- promote and encourage junior and amateur Wild Horse Racers and Mutton Busting participation,
- provide for the recreation of the members and to promote and afford opportunity for friendly and social activities,
- encourage and promote amateur sports and exercises
- generally, encourage, foster, and develop among its members recognition of the importance of agriculture and heritage in the rural community

## **GR. General Rules**

GR1. Contestants must sign a CWHRA waiver to compete in a CWHRA sanctioned event

GR2. All Contestants must have a current membership in good standing to compete in a CWHRA event for points to count.

GR3. Entry fees must be paid prior to competing in any CWHRA event.

GR4. A maximum of three (3) team members per horse is allowed.

GR5. Each team must supply a shank rope, halter, and saddle as per rules B1-B5.

GR6. If any team's horse should become free from their chute due to opening their gate prior to the start signal, they will be disqualified.

GR7. Entire horse must cross finish line within the time limit to count as a finish. The finish line is at the center of a barrel placed 20 feet or 7 paces from the fence (prior to the race) and may be crossed in either direction. The finish line does NOT move if the barrel moves during the race.

GR7a. A marker will be placed underneath the barrel prior to the race. This ensures that contestants can identify where the finish line is, in the case that the barrel gets knocked out of place during the race.

GR7b. Any contestant that intentionally moves the barrel during the race will be disqualified.

GR8. Both the rider and a clipped and cinched saddle between the withers and the flank must be on horse when crossing finish line, in order to qualify for placing.

GR8a. The rider must have both legs around the girth of the horse, in order to qualify for placing.

GR9. No saddling on the finish line is allowed.

GR10. A video camera will be placed on the finish line, when available, to record teams crossing; line infractions and times from start to finish of a race. Competing captains can review the video one-half hour after the judges' review/decision is made.

GR11. Contestants are expected to always act accordingly and respectful. Profanity in or around the rodeo arena will not be tolerated and will be subject to fines or suspension(s).

GR12. Contestants must wear western style long sleeved shirts, western hats, and western style footwear, work boots or appropriate boots when competing or representing the CWHRA in the arena or behind the chutes.

GR13. All rules are subject to the Board of Directors discretion.

GR14. Any competitor showing signs of intoxication or impairment before the race will disqualify competitor and subject to fine.

GR15. At a rodeo with multiple heats, each team entered will be randomly placed into each

heat.

GR16. Each team captain will be provided a physical rule book at or before the first rodeo of the season.

## **A. Animal Health & Wellness**

- A1. Absolutely no biting of horse's ears, punching or kicking the animal.
- A2. No choking with the rope, half hitches, or trip ropes are allowed.
- A3. The shank rope must be on the same side of the horse's head as the contestants when the chute gate is opened. No willful busting is allowed.
- A4. If a horse has a visible injury in the chute the chute boss must be notified immediately.
- A5. If a horse is visibly injured during a performance, the team must abandon the race effort and seek assistance from the chute boss and stock contractor.
- A6. Rodeo arenas must have all gates and panels clearly marked with banners and/or flags so that the horses do not attempt to run through the fence. The Stock Contractor is responsible for ensuring that the arena will be suitable for his stock.
- A7. All spurs are to be free rolling. Bull spurs or locking rowels are not permitted in the arena.

## **B. Equipment**

- B1. Halters must be leather or of a nylon fabric without a chain attached, tacks inserted, wire, or any other pressure devices added.
  - B1a. Handles on halters are permitted as long as they do not pose any injury to horses.
- B2. Shank rope must be cotton or twine construction with minimum 3/4" standard and not longer than 16' from halter to end of shank. All other construction subject to board discretion.
- B3. Saddles will be in good condition and must contain front swells and a cantle. There must be a protective material between the saddle and the horse so as not to injure the horse (sheepskin, foam, etc.)
- B4. A quick cinch is acceptable if it is attached to a proper belly cinch and is not harmful to the horse.
- B5. CWHRA directors can at any time ask teams to have their equipment inspected and equipment in violation of above rules will be disallowed.

## **C. Membership**

C1. Any person, who is under the age of 18 years old, is required to have a release signed by their parents or legal guardian before a membership will be granted by the CWHRA.

C2. Membership dues are as follows for the membership classes:

C2a) Competing member: \$200, includes voting privileges and one (1) companion card,

C2b) Rookie competing member: \$100, includes voting privileges and one (1) companion card,

C2c) Associate membership: \$50, without voting privileges, or

C2d) Weekend competing permit: \$50, valid for one weekend or rodeo and without voting privileges

C3. A Rookie competing member is a competing individual who has not previously competed in five CWHRA sanctioned events. They will remain a rookie until they have competed in a total of five CWHRA sanctioned events (This is NOT including the CWHRA National Finals)

C4. A Rookie teams consists of three (3) contestants on a team who are rookie competing members.

C5. An Annual General Meeting will be held at the CWHRA National Finals each year.

C5a. A member must be physically present to vote at the CWHRA Annual General Meeting

## **D. CWHRA Sanctioning Rules**

D1. All CWHRA rules must be adhered to at all CWHRA sanctioned events.

D2. A rodeo must be sanctioned and posted on the CWHRA website [www.wildhorseracing.ca](http://www.wildhorseracing.ca) at least thirty (30) days prior to the rodeo, or if time restraints do not permit enough notification time, all team Captains must be notified via telephone from a member of the Board of Directors.

D3. A minimum of three (3) CWHRA teams must be entered in order for a Wild Horse Race to be counted towards the standings.

D4. The CWHRA will administer entries, entry fees, and payouts with administration fees deducted accordingly.

D5. CWHRA sanctioned wild horse races must have a chute draw.

D6. Draw will be made by chute numbers placed into a hat and drawn from the hat.

D7. All races must be started with one (1) horn or whistle.

D8. Finish line will be a barrel placed directly across the arena from the centre of the chutes. It will be positioned 20' or 7 paces from the fence.

D9. The time allowed for the horse race is 2 minutes from the starting horn. After 2 minutes a horn will sound to signal the end of the race.

D10. Minimum of \$1500 added money or \$1000 per performance, whichever is more.

D11. Added Money cannot be changed after entry date.

## **E. Entries**

E1. Entries will be accepted on the posted entry date between 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Mountain Standard Time. The entry number is provided on the CWHRA website. Call backs are directed to the Regional Representative and draws will be posted on the website 2 days after entry date.

E1a. First priority goes to paid member of the CWHRA.

E1b. Second priority in entries will go to CWHRA teams with the highest standings.

E1c. Third priority in entries will go to teams with the most attended rodeos in current season.

E1d. Fourth priority will go to any local entries within a 150 kilometer radius.

E1e. Last priority will go to call-in times.

E2. Any team member may call in entries; however, the team captain must confirm on call back.

E3. Any three members can compete for a team, but they are not permitted to enter 2 rodeos simultaneously, under the same team's name.

E4. A local team may enter a CWHRA sanctioned event if they are not members. Monies earned will not count towards the CWHRA standings.

E5. When cross entering CWHRA Sanctioned Rodeo's, teams must clarify any Cross entry and enter under a different name. The team's cross-entry will be held until entry closing and if required, the cross-entries will then be drawn randomly from a hat by a minimum of two (2) CWHRA Directors until all of the chutes are full.

E5a. An administration fee of 10% will be taken out of all added and entry fee monies. The remaining 90% is considered the total prize money.

E5b. An administration fee of \$100 will be charged on all NSF cheques

E6. The entry fee is \$150 per team unless otherwise posted on the CWHRA website at least 30 days in advance of the rodeo

E7. In the event additional teams are required to fill the chutes, team captains will be contacted

by the Regional Representatives in the order of current year's standings until chutes are filled.

E8. If there are more entries than chutes available:

E8a. If a second performance is an option, the Wild Horse Race will be timed over the two performances. The top four times will be paid 40%, 30%, 20%, and 10% of the total prize money.

E9. In the case that chutes are not filled after entry day, a late entry will be accepted.

E10. If there are any cross entered teams, they will be placed randomly in the open slot of the randomized heats.

E10a. Team captains can request to trade a team slot between heats. They must bring it forward to the CWHRA board of directors. Both teams that are switching heats must be in agreement before the heats are officially changed.

E8b. If a second go round is not an option, the number of chutes will dictate the number of teams accepted. Priority first goes to paid members, secondly to the number of rodeos each team has entered throughout the rodeo season, and lastly call-in order.

## **F. Track Race**

F1. Stock will be a gate run. (Horses will be randomly run into chutes)

F2. Chutes will be drawn by each team, not horses.

F3. No one is allowed to touch the horse in the chute, until the horn is blown.

F4. There is to be no interference on the track.

F5. The horse must be standing when being mounted.

F6. There is a six (6) minute time limit, unassisted.

F7. Riders are allowed to mount more than once in the arena but NOT on the track.

F8. The finish line will be at the opposite entrance (into the arena) of the track.

F9. Once the first rider makes it  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way down the track, the initial entrance gates will be closed and the finish line gates will be opened.

F10. ALL OTHER STANDARD CWHRA BARREL RACE RULES APPLY

## **G. Payouts**

G1. Any rodeo held without Finals will pay out top four (4) teams overall by placing, if every team competes in each performance of the rodeo, or by combined times if teams compete in split performances. The payouts are as follows: 1st place-40% of total prize money, 2nd place-30% of total prize money, 3rd place-20% of total prize money, 4th place-10% of total prize money.

G2. Any rodeo holding a final round to determine the champion, will take a predetermined number of teams to the final round by points, followed by times in previous go-rounds. The total prize money will be combined and paid out as follows: 1st place-40% of total prize money, 2nd place-30% of total prize money, 3rd place-20% of total prize money, 4th place-10% of total prize money.

G3. CWHRA rodeos of more than two days or head can pay day-money for points. If the Board determines that a rodeo will be paid out as day-money, it will be posted at least one month in advance of the rodeo on the CWHRA website.

G4. If no teams place during the entire rodeo, no money will be paid out. Entry fees will be retained by the CWHRA for administration. Added money will be retained and put towards the added money payout at the finals.

G4a. If there are buckles at a rodeo where no teams place, the rodeo committee is to decide



what to do with the buckles – if they choose not to keep the buckles or choose a winner, then at least two members of the CWHRA Board of Directors will draw a winner out of a hat, based on teams that were mounted on their horse.

G5. Ground money is no longer paid out and will go towards finals.

## **H. Standings and Points**

H1. All points earned at a CWHRA sanctioned rodeo, will be counted towards the CWHRA standings.

H1a. Point system will be based on how many teams are entered in the rodeo. (ex. If 6 teams are entered, first placed will start at 6 points, and last place will get 1 point.)

H2. Qualifying points will start to count from the date that a membership is purchased.

H3. The CWHRA regular season ends on the entry day of the Finals. The following will determine which teams are invited to attend the Finals:

H3a. Standings at the end of the regular season will determine the top teams who are eligible for the finals,

H3b. A team must compete at a minimum of five (5) rodeos (not including the CWHRA finals) in order to qualify for the CWHRA finals, and

H3c. The number of teams competing in the finals will depend on the venue.

H4. In the event of a tie after the final performance, the teams that are tied will compete against each other on another horse to determine the Finals Champion.

H4a. In the case of a tie breaker, any first-place prizes will be determined by overall times.

H5. At the CWHRA Finals, points will be doubled. Placings will be determined by the fastest timed crossing. Ex: With 16 teams, first place (or fastest time) will receive 32 points.

H5. Ties will only be broken when there is a tie for first place and prizes are involved. Champions will be decided by whoever has the MOST placings. If equal horses covered by the tied teams, the highest placing will determine the final champion placing.

H6. 'Invitation only' rodeos or special events shall not count towards season standings.

H7. The end of September long weekend will be the end of year for points. Any points won after will be added to next season.

## **I. Awards and Eligibility**

I1. A Team and/or Individual must compete in a minimum of five (5) rodeos to qualify for a Year End Award. The CWHRA will present the following awards at the Annual General Meeting each year:

I1a. CWHRA Canadian Champions: Three (3) Championship Awards will be presented to the CWHRA Year End Season Leaders including the finals rodeo. Based on total monies earned.

I1b. Rookie Team of the Year: Three (3) Awards will be awarded to the rookie team who is leading the other rookie teams in the standings at the end of the current season.

I1c. Rookie of the Year: One (1) Award will be awarded to the highest earning rookie based on current year end standings.

I2. A Rookie member's winnings from any CWHRA approved rodeo with paid members will count towards rookie standings.

## **J. Turnouts, Releases and Substitutions:**

J1. Turn out fines will be issued to a team turning out of an event. The team must pay entry fee for that show plus an additional entry fee as a penalty.

## **K. Grievances, Appeals and Blacklist:**

K1. Members will submit \$50.00 with each grievance filed. If the grievance brought forward results in disciplinary action, the \$50.00 will be refunded to the member filing the grievance.

K1a. Members need to wait 30 minutes after the performance to inquire about an objection to the race, and have up to 24 hours to file a grievance.

K2. In the event of an alleged infraction, a director will notify the Board and the discretion of the Board will decide appropriate action established within the current rulebook.

K3. The accused member will be notified of the infraction and recommended sanction by way of telephone call followed by a letter.

K4. The member will then have seven (7) days to appeal the charge. A written letter must be sent to the CWHRA office stating defense. The board will review the appeal and notify the

member of the results of the review.

K5. After 3 disciplinary actions against a member the involved member will lose his membership for the remainder of the season. If the member is a team captain, his team may register under another name and carry their points over to their new team.

K6. A member filing a grievance will notify the CWHRA in writing no later than seven (7) days after the event leading up to the grievance. The letter should contain any information pertinent to their case.

K7. Once a member is notified of a fine owing, the member has 30 days to pay their fines before they are listed on the CWHRA Blacklist. For each week the fine remains outstanding, the member will be ineligible to enter or compete in any CWHRA events for the amount of weeks equal to the period the fine remains outstanding. If a fine reaches 90 days past due, the member will forfeit their privilege to compete in that year's season.

K8. The CWHRA Board of Directors has the discretionary right to refuse the privilege of a CWHRA membership to any person or persons, who they feel may harm the integrity of the Canadian Wild Horse Race Association.

K9. If there are any reported physical offences that involve a CWHRA member, while wearing any CWHRA merchandise, within 48 hours of the incident, there will be an automatic \$500 fine as well as a 3 rodeo suspension.

K9a. Any disciplines to a member will be based on board discretion.

## **L. Release Clause**

L1. No rodeo committee, director, representative, or sanctioning organization can be held responsible for injuries or loss sustained by a contestant, livestock or property of either representing or competing in any manner in a wild horse race. Each contestant is free to make a choice governing their safety and understands this clause. The contestant releases all entities mentioned above by any entry into a wild horse race.

## **M. Logo and Copyright**

M1. All rights are reserved, for both the logo and the name, Canadian Wild Horse Race Association. The Board of Directors must approve any use of the CWHRA title and/or logo, for any and all uses, whether it is for personal use or financial gain. Any member using the name or logo without permission may be subject to a fine and/or legal action. Any non-member using the name or logo of the CWHRA without permission may be subject to legal action. Only the Board of Directors has the legal use of the name and logo, and the majority of the Board must approve that use.

## **N. Board of Directors**

N1. CWHRA Directors will coordinate with rodeo committees and assist with entries. Duties will also include providing local media with information on events, as well as monitoring the conduct of wild horse race contestants. A CWHRA Director will investigate any complaint involving a CWHRA member. If it is found that an infraction has occurred, the rules regarding discipline and fines will be followed.

N2. The Board of Directors meetings will occur on a monthly basis. If a director is unable to attend, he/she will contact another Director, and have them address any pressing issues on his/her behalf.

N3. The President is a two (2) year term and shall act as the chairperson at all meetings of the CWHRA, including the meetings of the Board of Directors.

N3a. In the event of a misunderstanding among the directors, the President shall serve as the mediator, compiling the facts regarding the dispute. The President upon careful consideration will recommend a solution.

N4. The President will be the spokesperson for the CWHRA. Any inquiries from rodeo associations, committees or press should be directed to the spokesperson.

N5. The Vice-President is a two (2) year term and shall act on behalf of the President in the event that the President is unable to attend a meeting or function. In the event that the president is unable to fulfill his/her duties, the Vice President will take over the duties of the President, until the following annual election.

N6. The Treasurer is a two (2) year term and shall administer all clerical duties regarding the CWHRA.

N6a. The Treasurer duties will also include all financial responsibilities of the CWHRA including keeping updated financial reports, bank statements, year-end bookkeeping, deposits, entries, payouts, and membership.

N7. The Secretary is a two (2) year term and shall record accurate minutes of each meeting.

N8. Regional Representatives have a two (2) year term and are whom regional members direct questions and concerns to. They are responsible for keeping members in their region fully informed. Their responsibilities also include promoting the CWHRA in their region by assisting with sponsorship, rodeos, mentoring new members, conducting chute draws, and collecting entries.

N9. All board members are allowed to vote throughout the season.

N9a. The president is to vote if there is a tie in a CWHRA board of directors meeting. (This does not include the AGM.)

N10. The Board of Directors consists of the following positions, having voting privileges unless otherwise noted:

- President,
- Vice President,
- Secretary,
- Treasurer,
- Statistical Director,
- Sponsorship / Marketing Director,
- Northern Alberta Regional Representative,
- Southern Alberta Regional Representative
- Saskatchewan Regional Representative,
- Northern British Columbia Regional Representative, and
- Southern British Columbia Regional Representative.

N11. The 2026 CWHRA Board of Directors are:

- President – Colton Brown
- Vice President – Seth Fairholm
- Secretary – Daycie Bohning
- Treasurer – Jyllian Fairholm
- Statistical Director – Zaine Helland
- Sponsorship / Marketing Director – Wilfred Titanich
- Northern Alberta Regional Representative – Orrin Roessler
- Southern Alberta Regional Representative – Austin Henderson
- Saskatchewan Regional Representative – Taylar Roberts
- Northern British Columbia Regional Representative – Frank Paulin
- Southern British Columbia Regional Representative – Mitchell Allan