



## 2017 RODEOHOUSTON® Super Series Rules of Competition

### 1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 **RODEOHOUSTON Super Series** references 19 days (performances) of invitational championship rodeo competition to be held in NRG Stadium beginning March 7, 2017, and ending March 25, 2017 (see “2017 RODEOHOUSTON Performance Dates and Times” for the specific schedule). The RODEOHOUSTON Super Series will feature five Super Series of three rounds each (a round will be completed at each performance) with eight contestants per event; two Semifinal Rounds with 10 contestants per event each round; one Wild Card Round with 12 contestants per event; and a Championship Round featuring 10 contestants per event. This format will result in 40 contestants total per event.

The 2017 RODEOHOUSTON Super Series is an independent production of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Inc. (“HLSR”).

1.2 **Contestant Agreement** references the binding legal agreement (RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Contestant Agreement) between each contestant and HLSR. Each contestant accepts the terms of the Contestant Agreement upon entering the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series and the Contestant Agreement is executed by HLSR upon HLSR’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 RODEOHOUSTON Super Series for the past six years. In the Women’s Barrel Racing event, the WPRA Rule Book will be in effect. Unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this document or in the Contestant Agreement, RODEO RULES will prevail during the 2017 RODEOHOUSTON Super Series.

### 2. CONFLICT OF DOCUMENTS AND RULE BOOK

#### **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 RODEOHOUSTON Super Series entry fees are \$500 per contestant per event (see 3.2 immediately below).

3.2 In compensation for each contestant agreeing to the terms, conditions and grant of rights detailed in the Contestant Agreement, HLSR will pay all 2017 RODEOHOUSTON Super Series entry fees (this is in addition to other monetary opportunities detailed in the Contestant Agreement).

### 4. ENTRY SELECTION AND INVITATION PROCESS

4.1 The 2017 RODEOHOUSTON Super Series is an invitational championship rodeo featuring the top cowboy and cowgirl contestants in the sport of rodeo. HLSR management and staff have the sole authority and responsibility to determine the list of invitees to participate in each Super Series 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 is determined using the following criteria (see 4.2). Invitations and alternate entry openings will be published by HLSR in late 2016. HLSR will not be subject to entry rules and procedures of any sanctioning organizations to include, but not limited to, grace periods and office rules. Further, HLSR retains the sole authority to accept or decline the entry of any and all contestants regardless of their standings on the invitation list below.

4.2 **Entry Procedures:** Bareback Riding, Barrel Racing, Bull Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping Headers, Team Roping Heelers and Tie-Down Roping will consist of 40 contestants each (see 4.2 below).

- (a) Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Steer Wrestling and Tie-Down Roping invitation criteria:
  - i. Past four (4) RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions (2013 – 2016).  
*\*Past RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions must be actively competing professionally, in the event they won, to be invited to compete. If not actively competing, they may be invited at the discretion of HLSR Management.*
  - ii. Three Special Invitations from HLSR Management.
  - iii. Reigning Canadian Professional Rodeo Association Champion.
  - iv. 2017 San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Champion.
  - v. 2016 All American ProRodeo Finals Champion.
  - vi. Top two of the published 2017 official PRCA world standings (as of Dec. 1, 2016).
  - vii. Top five of the published 2016 official ERA world standings.
  - ix. Remaining invitations will come from the published 2016 official PRCA world standings.
  
- (b) Bull Riding invitation criteria:
  - i. Past four (4) RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions (2013 – 2016).  
*\*Past RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions must be actively competing professionally, in the event they won, to be invited to compete. If not actively competing, they may be invited at the discretion of HLSR Management.*
  - ii. Three Special Invitations from HLSR Management.
  - iii. Reigning Canadian Professional Rodeo Association Champion.
  - iv. Reigning Xtreme Bulls Champion.
  - v. Top three from the published 2016 CBR World Standings.
  - vi. Top three from the published 2016 PBR World Standings.
  - vii. 2017 San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Champion.
  - viii. 2016 All American ProRodeo Finals Champion.
  - ix. Top two of the published 2017 official PRCA world standings (as of Dec. 1, 2016).
  - x. Top five of the published 2016 official ERA world standings.
  - xi. Remaining invitations will come from the published 2016 official PRCA world standings.
  
- (c) Barrel Racing invitation criteria:
  - i. Past four (4) RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions (2013 – 2016).  
*\*Past RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions must be actively competing professionally, in the event they won, to be invited to compete. If not actively competing, they may be invited at the discretion of HLSR Management.*
  - ii. Three Special Invitations from HLSR Management.

- iii. Reigning Canadian Professional Rodeo Association Champion.
- iv. 2017 San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Champion.
- v. 2016 All American ProRodeo Finals Champion.
- vi. Top two of the published 2017 official WPROA ProRodeo Standings (as of Dec. 1, 2016).
- vii. Top three of the published 2016 official WPROA Tour standings.
- viii. Remaining invitations will come from the published 2016 official WPROA ProRodeo Standings.

*\*Barrel Racers must be a WPROA member no later than noon on December 27, 2016 (CT), in order for their entry to be accepted and eligible to compete.*

- (d) Team Roping invitation criteria for both Headers and Heelers:
  - i. Past four (4) RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions (2013 – 2016).  
*\*Past RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions must be actively competing professionally, in the event they won, to be invited to compete. If not actively competing, they may be invited at the discretion of HLSR Management.*
  - ii. Three Special Invitations from HLSR Management.
  - iii. Reigning Canadian Professional Rodeo Association Champion.
  - iv. 2017 San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Champion.
  - v. 2016 All American ProRodeo Finals Champion.
  - vi. Top two of the published 2017 official PRCA world standings (as of Dec. 1, 2016).
  - vii. Top five of the published 2016 official ERA world standings.
  - ix. Remaining invitations will come from the published 2016 official PRCA world standings.

*The 40 headers that are selected must rope with the 40 heelers that are selected to compete. If a contestant's partner is drawn out due to qualification, the contestant who qualified will not be allowed to draw out. A replacement partner will be drawn at random from the other contestants whose partners were drawn out due to qualification.*

- (e) Alternate entries will be accepted. Entered alternates will be used to fill positions of invited contestants who did not complete the entry process or who elect not to compete, for whatever reason, to include medical release. HLSR management, at their sole discretion, will determine the rank order of entered alternates.
- (f) All contestants must be in good standing with HLSR.

#### 4.3 **Replacement Procedures:**

- (a) HLSR management will make best efforts to ensure that all positions within each Super Series rodeo are filled with eight contestants per event.
- (b) HLSR 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 Super Series, an alternate may advance to compete within that respective Super Series.
- (c) Alternates will be accepted up to 24 hours (Central Time) prior to the start of each Super Series (except in team roping).
  - i. HLSR management, at its sole discretion, may accept (in extenuating circumstances) an alternate up to four (4) hours prior to the start of each

Super Series or up to four (4) hours prior to the start of any round within a Super Series. HLSR management will not accept an alternate replacement for a contestant who is injured in a previous Super Series round unless it is completely obvious that the contestant's injury will preclude the contestant from competing again in the respective Super Series or from advancing to the Semifinal rounds.

- ii. In the event that a team roping partner must turn out within the 24 hour mark, HLSR management will work with the partner to either accept an "entered" alternate, or to select an alternate from another event, as long as the selected alternate is not competing in team roping.
- iii. In the event that a team roping partner must turn out, due to a medical release/injury, in a semifinal or wild card round, the next qualified header or heeler that did not advance, from the injured contestant's super series will advance and a new team will be formed. This team will compete together through the remainder of the competition. The injured/released contestant will not be eligible to compete any further in 2017. The new team will assume the earnings/times/standings/etc. of the original team, prior to the injury.
- iv. In the event that a team roping partner must turn out, due to a medical release/injury, in the championship round, the next qualified header or heeler that did not advance, from the injured contestant's semifinal will advance and a new team will be formed. This team will compete together through the remainder of the competition. The injured/released contestant will not be eligible to compete any further in 2017. The new team will assume the earnings/times/standings/etc. of the original team, prior to the injury.

## 5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

5.1 **Series Competition Structure:** There will be five (5) series of preliminary (Super Series I, II, III, IV and V) rodeos in the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series.

- (a) Eight (8) contestants, in bareback riding, barrel racing, bull riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping (teams) and tie-down roping will compete in each series.
- (b) Each series will consist of three (3) consecutive performances (rounds).
  - i. Contestants will compete in drawn order.
  - ii. Each series will pay out according to the Payout Schedule.
  - ii. Official tied place payout(s) will be combined and split evenly between the tied contestants.
  - iii. In the event that only one contestant rides or scores, the entire payout will be paid to the first place winner, of that respective event round. However, only the first place published earnings will count toward RODEOHOUSTON advancement.
  - iv. In the event that no one rides or scores; the money will be evenly distributed to all contestants within that respective event round. The money will not count toward RODEOHOUSTON advancement.
- (c) *The top four (4) out of each Super Series, based on total money earned, will advance to the Semifinals.*
- (d) The five (5) series of rodeos will account for 15 total performances.

**NOTE:** Each of the five preliminary rodeos will be promoted to the general public as a Super Series rodeo. The third performance (round) of each Super

Series rodeo will be promoted as the specific Super Series Championship Round.

5.2 **Semifinal Competition Structure:** The top four (4) contestants from each series, **based on total money earned**, for a total of 20 contestants, will advance to the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Semifinals (performances 16 and 17, with 10 contestants per performance).

- (a) All contestants qualifying for the Semifinal Round will draw following the third (3) round of their series to determine which Semifinal performance they will compete in (specific performance competition order will be drawn by the Rodeo Secretary).
  - i. Contestants must arrive to the drawing location (the interviewing platform, just outside the business lounge and rodeo secretary's office), immediately following their event.
    - If the advancing contestants do not arrive within 15 minutes, their position will be drawn for them by HLSR, with no abilities to trade.
  - ii. Contestants will be given three minutes to trade their semifinal performance. (Contestants may only trade with the other contestants advancing from their respective Super Series.)
- (b) Contestants in each Semifinal will compete for prize money according to the Payout Schedule.
  - i. Official tied place payout(s) will be combined and split evenly between the tied contestants.
  - ii. In the event that only one contestant rides or scores, the entire payout will be paid to the first place winner, of that respective event round. However, only the first place published earnings will count toward RODEOHOUSTON advancement.
  - ii. In the event that no one rides or scores; the money will be evenly distributed to all contestants, within that respective event round. The money will not count toward RODEOHOUSTON advancement.
- (c) Scores do not carry over from the five preliminary (Super Series) rodeos.
- (d) Contestants will compete in drawn order.
- (e) In the event that a qualified contestant must turn out due to a medical release, the following placed contestant (from the respective series, based upon total money earned) will advance as the replacement.
- (f) *The top four (4), out of each Semifinal round, will advance to the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Championship (performance 19).*

5.3 **Wild Card Competition Structure:** The remaining six (6) contestants from each Semifinal that do not qualify for the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Championship will compete in the Wild Card performance (performance 18), with a total of 12 contestants.

- (a) Scores do not carry over from the five preliminary rodeo series, or the Semifinal rounds.
- (b) Contestants will compete in drawn order.
- (c) The Wild Card performance will pay out according to the Payout Schedule.
  - i. Official tied place payout(s) will be combined and split evenly between the tied contestants.
  - ii. In the event that only one contestant rides or scores, the winner will receive \$3,500, and all other contestants that compete will receive the \$500 performance guarantee. However, only the first place published earnings will count toward RODEOHOUSTON advancement.
  - iii. In the event that no one rides or scores; the money will be evenly distributed to all contestants within the respective event round. The money will not count toward RODEOHOUSTON advancement.

- (d) *The top two (2) contestants will advance to the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Championship (performance 19).*

5.4 **Championship Competition Structure:** The RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Championship (Championship round) will consist of 10 total contestants per event.

- (a) Scores do not carry over from the five preliminary series, Semifinal or Wild Card rounds.
- (b) Contestants will compete 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 Semifinal or Wild Card performance, that the original contestant advanced from.
- (d) *The top four (4) contestants will return for the Championship Shootout round, later in the performance.*

5.5 **Championship Shootout Competition Structure:** The RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Championship Shootout (Shootout round) will consist of 4 total contestants per event.

- (a) The shootout will begin immediately following the Championship round. There will be no break, pause or intermission between the final event of Championship round (Bull Riding) and the first event of the Shootout round (Tie-Down Roping).
- (b) Bareback Riding, Bull Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Tie-Down Roping contestants in the Championship Shootout run in reverse order, where the top scoring performer in the prior round goes last, the second-best scoring performer goes next to last, etc.
- (c) Barrel Racing contestants in the Championship Shootout will run in order, based upon the fastest advancing time from the prior round competes first, followed by the second fastest time second, etc.
- (d) See the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Payout Schedule for the exact payout in all events.

## 6. TIE-BREAKING METHOD

6.1 **Series Advancement:** Advancement to the Semifinals will be based on total money earned during the Super Series.

- (a) Tie-Breaking Procedures in *Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Tie-Down Roping:* Any ties which exist for advancement from the Super Series to the Semifinal rounds will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:
  - i. Determine the best aggregate score or time for an individual from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - ii. Determine the winner from each round (in the event that a tied contestant was a first place winner, he or she will advance); if still a tie,
  - iii. Determine best single score or time for an individual from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - iv. The tie will be broken by the flip of a coin.
- (b) Tie-Breaking Procedures in *Bareback Riding, Bull Riding and Saddle Bronc Riding:* Any ties which exist for advancement from the Super Series to the Semifinal rounds will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:
  - i. Determine the best aggregate score or time for an individual from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - ii. Determine the winner from each round (in the event that a tied contestant was a first place winner, he or she will advance); if still a tie,
  - iii. Determine best single score or time for an individual from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - iv. And there are no qualified rides, or not enough qualified rides, the contestant(s) with the combined longest time ridden (timed to the tenth of a second, on all super series attempts, maximum of three ride attempts) will advance; if still a tie,

- v. The tie will be broken by the flip of a coin.

6.2 **Semifinal Advancement:** Advancement to the Championship Round from each respective Semifinal Round, will be based on the best individual score or time from the respective Semifinal Round.

- (a) Tie-Breaking Procedures in *Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Tie-Down Roping*: Any ties which exist for advancement from the Semifinal rounds to the Championship round will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:
  - i. Determine the total money earned, from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - ii. Determine the overall best aggregate placing for an individual from his or her respective Super Series; if still a tie,
  - iii. Determine the winner from each round (in the event that a tied contestant was a first place winner, he or she will advance); if still a tie,
  - iv. Determine best single score or time for an individual from the Super Series; if still a tie,
  - v. The tie will be broken by the flip of a coin.
- (b) Tie-Breaking Procedures in *Bareback Riding, Bull Riding and Saddle Bronc Riding*: Any ties which exist for advancement from the Semifinal rounds to the Championship round will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:
  - i. Determine the total money earned, from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - ii. Determine the overall best aggregate placing for an individual from his or her respective Super Series; if still a tie,
  - iii. Determine the winner from each round (in the event that a tied contestant was a first place winner, he or she will advance); if still a tie,
  - iv. Determine best single score or time for an individual from the Super Series; if still a tie,
  - v. And there are no qualified rides, or not enough qualified rides, the contestant(s) that rode the longest (timed to the tenth of a second) in that respective performance will advance; if still a tie,
  - vi. The tie will be broken by the flip of a coin.

6.3 **Wild Card Advancement:** Advancement to the Championship Round from the Wild Card will be based on the best individual score or time from the Wild Card Round.

- (a) Tie-Breaking Procedures in *Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Tie-Down Roping*: Any ties which exist for advancement from the Wild Card round to the Championship round will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:
  - i. Determine the total money earned, from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - ii. Determine the overall best aggregate placing for an individual from his or her respective Super Series; if still a tie,
  - iii. Determine the winner from each round (in the event that a tied contestant was a first place winner, he or she will advance); if still a tie,
  - iv. Determine best single score or time for an individual from the Super Series; if still a tie,
  - v. The tie will be broken by the flip of a coin.
- (b) Tie-Breaking Procedures in *Bareback Riding, Bull Riding and Saddle Bronc Riding*: Any ties which exist for advancement from the Wild Card round to the Championship round will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:
  - i. Determine the total money earned, from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - ii. Determine the overall best aggregate placing for an individual from his or her respective Super Series; if still a tie,

- iii. Determine the winner from each round (in the event that a tied contestant was a first place winner, he or she will advance); if still a tie,
- iv. Determine best single score or time for an individual from the Super Series; if still a tie,
- v. And there are no qualified rides, or not enough qualified rides, the contestant(s) that rode the longest (timed to the tenth of a second) in that respective performance will advance; if still a tie,
- vi. The tie will be broken by the flip of a coin.

6.4 **Championship Round Advancement:** Advancement to the Championship Shootout, from the Championship Round will be based on the best individual score or time from the Championship Round.

- (a) Tie-Breaking Procedures in *Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Tie-Down Roping*: Any ties which exist for advancement from the Championship Round to the Championship Shootout Round will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:
  - i. Determine the overall best placement for an individual, from his or her respective Semifinal; if still a tie,
  - ii. Determine the total money earned, from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - iii. The tie will be broken based on the best single score or time during any round of the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series.
- (b) Tie-Breaking Procedures in *Bareback Riding, Bull Riding and Saddle Bronc Riding*: Any ties which exist for advancement from the Championship Round to the Championship Shootout Round will be broken with the procedures and in the order as follows:
  - i. Determine the overall best placement for an individual, from his or her respective Semifinal; if still a tie,
  - ii. Determine the total money earned, from all previous rounds; if still a tie,
  - iii. The tie will be broken based on the best single score or time during any round of the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series; if still a tie,
  - iv. And there are no qualified rides, or not enough qualified rides, the contestant that rode the longest (timed to the tenth of a second) in that respective performance will advance.

6.5 **Championship Shootout:** The RodeoHouston Super Series Champion will be determined based on the best individual score or time from the Championship Shootout Round.

- (a) Tie-Breaking Methods in *Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Tie-Down Roping*: Any ties which exist for first place in the Championship Shootout Round will be broken with the following procedures:
  - i. The contestants will compete again, on one additional head, to determine the champion (Super Series Champion); if still a tie,
  - ii. Co-RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions will be named.
  - iii. Ties for second or third place will be treated and reported as ties.
  - iv. Official tied place payout(s) will be combined and split evenly between the tied contestants.
- (b) Tie-Breaking Methods in *Bareback Riding, Bull Riding and Saddle Bronc Riding*: Any ties which exist for first place in the Championship Shootout Round will be broken with the following procedures:
  - i. The contestants will compete again, on one additional head, to determine the champion (Super Series Champion); if still a tie,
  - ii. And there are no qualified rides on the additional head, the contestant that rode the longest (timed to the tenth of a second) will be named champion; if still a tie,
  - iii. Co-RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Champions will be named.
  - iv. Ties for second or third place will be treated and reported as ties.



- v. Official tied place payout(s) will be combined and split evenly between the tied contestants.

## 7. PAYOUT AND PAYOUT PROCEDURES

- 7.1 Please see the **RODEOHOUSTON Super Series payout schedule (“Payout Schedule”)** posted at **rodeohouston.com**.
- 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 submit the completed form to HLSR administration prior to his/her first competition. HLSR will not authorize payment of prize money to any contestant who does not have a valid W-9 on file with HLSR.

## 8. ORDER OF EVENTS

The event order is as follows:

First:	Tie-Down Roping
Second:	Bareback
Third:	Team Roping
Fourth:	Saddle Bronc
Fifth:	Steer Wrestling
Sixth:	Barrel Racing
Seventh:	Bull Riding

**NOTE: HLSR 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. GENERAL

- 9.1 Contestants agree to abide by all posted premises rules and regulations of RODEOHOUSTON.
- 9.2 *If a contestant who enters RODEOHOUSTON chooses not to compete for a “non-injury” reason, that contestant will be in breach of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Contestant Agreement and will be ineligible to compete in any HLSR event in 2017 and 2018.*
- 9.3 Requests for “approved” release of the Contestant Agreement (to include medical and hardship) will be handled on a case-by-case basis by HLSR management and each case will be evaluated on its merit and substantiation. All such decisions by HLSR are final and binding.
- 9.4 RODEOHOUSTON Super Series contestants agree to attend a mandatory meeting at “Rodeo Village”, HLSR’s Almeda Road facility (off-site location), at 1 pm on weekdays, and 11:30 a.m. on weekends in the Cowboy Bistro tent, prior to the first performance of their Super Series. RODEOHOUSTON judges will attend these meetings to answer contestant questions regarding the Rules of Competition.
- 9.5 Each round will be drawn 24 hours (Central Time) in advance of each performance.
- 9.6 Stalls are available at “Rodeo Village”, HLSR’s Almeda Road facility (off-site location) and will be assigned to contestants upon arrival on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 9.7 RV hook-ups are available at “Rodeo Village”, HLSR’s Almeda Road facility (off-site location), and will be assigned to contestants upon arrival on a first-come, first-served basis.

- 9.8 Contestants must wear their 2017 RODEOHOUSTON back numbers which are visible at all times upon entrance to, and when in, the arena, whether competing or not.
- 9.9 No family members (including children), guests, escorts, etc., will be allowed in chute or arena areas.
- 9.10 HLSR 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 RODEOHOUSTON contestants will not be given free admission, nor may they enter any area restricted only to contestants without proper RODEOHOUSTON credentials.
- 9.11 Contestants must enter NRG Park (NRG Stadium facilities) via Gate 11 off of Kirby Road. The Rodeo Contestant Services Committee will assist with parking.
- 9.12 RODEOHOUSTON 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.
- 9.13 As stated in the Contestant Agreement, all decisions of RODEOHOUSTON judges are final. All scores, once tabulated and certified by the judges and the rodeo secretary, are final.
- 9.14 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 HLSR events in 2017 and 2018.
- 9.15 Any contestant protests or appeals may only be filed with HLSR management, whose sole decision is final.
- (a) Protests or appeals must be filed immediately (within 12 hours) of notification.
- 9.16 Contestants should be aware that RODEOHOUSTON 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 is covered by video cameras and microphones, with eight large center screens and monitors projecting throughout the clubs and public areas of NRG Stadium.
- 9.17 Contestants and traveling companions/assistants (whether entered at RODEOHOUSTON or not) must comply with all HLSR animal welfare rules and regulations as they pertain to their personal animals, the animals of HLSR's stock contractors or any other animals with which they may come in contact. HLSR's animal welfare, animal care, and animal injury rules and regulations will be posted at multiple locations in the contestant areas in NRG Stadium and the Rodeo Village/Alameda Road facilities. Failure to comply with these rules and regulations will result in breach of the Contestant Agreement and may result in criminal prosecution or citation if local and/or state animal welfare laws are violated.
- 9.18 HLSR 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 NRG Stadium prior to, during, or after any RODEOHOUSTON performance. Designated representatives of HLSR'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 Agreement.

## **10. TIMED EVENTS**

## 10.1 All Events:

- (a) Contestants with animals must check in at “Rodeo Village”, the Alameda Road facility, and present the following to be admitted entrance:

**Texas Animal Health Commission:** The following guidelines are established in compliance with the Texas Animal Health Commission Regulations governing admission of livestock into fairs and exhibitions and additional rules imposed by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to ensure the health and well-being of animals exhibited at the Show.

*Equine may enter Texas for shows, fairs, exhibitions, or assembly purposes when accompanied by a valid interstate passport or equine identification card and a completed VS Form 10-11 showing negative results to an official EIA test within the previous six (6) months or a certificate of veterinary inspection and a completed VS Form 10-11 showing negative results to an official EIA test within the past 12 months. (\*The veterinary certificate of inspection will be accepted as valid within 30 days.)*

- (b) Contestants must abide by RODEOHOUSTON rules and regulations for entry and exit with animals. Individuals who violate animal entry policies will be subject to immediate ejection from the premises and disqualification.
- (c) Contestants are prohibited from riding, leading, tying or stalling horses anywhere on the designated landscaped or lawn areas. The first violation of this rule will result in a stern warning from HLSR. Failure to comply immediately to HLSR staff or management, or subsequent violations of this rule, will result in breach of the Contestant Agreement (the offending contestant will be disqualified from any further HLSR competition in 2017 or 2018).
- (d) No contestants or contestant teams may be in the arena during events except for the contestant(s) actively involved in a ride or run.
- (e) No more than two (2) people may stand in the roping box during timed events. Judges and HLSR management and staff have the authority to stop the competition to remove extra people from the roping box or the arena floor.
- (f) If a calf or 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 or team out and the timer sounding the horn upon the judge flagging the contestant to stop the run). The contestant will be required to maintain control of the calf or 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 or team out due to animal injury, the contestant or team will be granted a re-run (whether the animal actually was injured or not).
    - 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.

## 10.2 Tie-Down Roping:

- (a) *Legal Catch/Official Time.* The tie must be legal with three legs crossed and fully tied with a half hitch.
  - i. Once the tie is complete the contestant must step back from the animal;

- ii. A three-second time/clock will begin after the contestant's first step towards his horse, where the animal must remain tied for three-seconds;
  - iii. Upon completion of the three-seconds, the run will be complete (the animal will be untied as soon as the contestant mounts his horse)
- (b) **No Jerk Down.** If a tie-down animal is jerked down (straight over backwards, landing on its head or back) the contestant will be disqualified from that round.
  - (c) Intentional dragging of tie-down animals shall result in a disqualification from that round; excessive dragging and/or multiple occurrences will result in breach of the Contestant Agreement (the offending contestant will be disqualified from any further HLSR competition in 2017 or 2018).
  - (d) **On-Site Conditioning of Calves.** Tie-Down roping contestants will be allowed to "condition" calves at 10 a.m. at the Alameda Road Stock Facility, on the first day of each respective super series, and the first day of both semifinal rounds. Contestants will be given the opportunity to flank the calves once and tie twice (within that respective super series/semifinal). A RODEOHOUSTON Official Judge and Stock Contracting Representative must be present at all times.
  - (e) *All other rules issues will be governed by the RULE BOOK, subject to the provisions of the Contestant Agreement and, if applicable, the LOA.*

### 10.3 **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) **On-Site Conditioning of Steers.** Steer Wrestling contestants will be given the opportunity to "condition" steers at 10:30 a.m. at the Alameda Road Stock Facility, on the first day of each respective super series, and the first day of both semifinal rounds. Contestants will be given the opportunity to throw the steers once (within that respective super series/semifinal). A RODEOHOUSTON Official Judge and Stock Contracting Representative must be present at all times.
- (c) All hazers must check-in with the rodeo secretary's office, prior to the performance to sign a Release of Liability and obtain a hazing back number.
- (d) *All other rules issues will be governed by the RULE BOOK, subject to the provisions of the Contestant Agreement and, if applicable, the LOA.*

### 10.4 **Team Roping:**

- (a) Two (2) loop maximum.
- (b) *All other rules issues will be governed by the RULE BOOK, subject to the provisions of the Contestant Agreement and, if applicable, the LOA.*

### 10.5 **Barrel Racing:**

- (a) **WPRA Equine Drugs and Medications.** The 2017 WPRA Equine Drugs and Medications Rules and testing will be in effect. Testing samples will be collected at random, as specified by the WPRA Equine Drugs and Medications Rules and

according to protocols developed by WPRA. A positive test for a Class 1 or Class 2 drug, irrespective of whether WPRA issues a Responsible Member penalties, will be considered evidence of an independent violation of HLSR's animal welfare, animal care, and animal injury rules. HLSR reserves the right to issue penalties for such violation, including prohibition from competition at any future HLSR event, up to and including the first subsequent HLSR event or performance for which a Responsible Member qualifies.

- (b) The NRG Stadium arena will be open for practice daily. Monday – Friday the arena will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.; Saturday – Sunday the arena will be open from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m.
- (c) *All other rules issues will be governed by the WPRA RULE BOOK*, subject to the provisions of the Contestant Agreement and, if applicable, the LOA.

## **11. RIDING EVENTS**

11.1 Rough stock will be drawn 24 hours (Central Time) in advance of each respective round.

11.2 Any and all re-rides granted must be taken during the same performance, during that respective event.

- (a) In the event that there are more re-rides granted than there are re-ride horses, the remaining contestants who have not received a re-ride, will be drawn a re-ride from the original performance herd draw (horses used in that particular performance).

11.3 Per HLSR'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.

11.4 Scoring: Four judges will be used. The four (4) judges' sub-totals will be added together.

- (a) Two (2) judges will solely score/mark the spur (rider), and the other two judges will solely score the stock performance.

11.5 Contestants will not be disqualified for failing to spur-out a horse. The judges will have the discretion to deduct points for failing to spur-out a horse.

11.6 *All other rules issues pertaining to Bareback Riding and Saddle Bronc Riding will be governed by the RULE BOOK.*

11.7 *All other rules issues pertaining to the Bull Riding will be governed by the RULE BOOK.*

## **12. Appearances, Press and Media**

12.1 Contestants must be photographed by RODEOHOUSTON photographer and videographer at the time of entry check-in. These photos will be used for big-screen presentation, television, rodeo contestant wall, social media and website.

12.2 Contestants agree to be available to HLSR staff for media interviews during the days/evenings that they are participating in the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series rodeos, the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Semifinals, the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Wild Card Performance and the RODEOHOUSTON Super Series Championship.

12.3 As stipulated in the Contestant Agreement, contestants agree to participate in promotional activities at NRG Stadium (upon request of HLSR staff and management) which may include receptions, breakfasts, dinners and cordial "meet and greet" appearances in sponsor/client suites.

HLSR will be judicial in these requests and will limit the amount of time and number of requests made upon the contestants.

12.4 Contestants agree to make “best case” efforts to be available for public appearances that may be outside of NRG Stadium and, on occasion, outside the boundaries of NRG Park. HLSR agrees to cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Contestant in conjunction with appearances outside of NRG Stadium plus an honorarium of \$100 per appearance if scheduled by staff/management of HLSR. If the appearance is not conducted on a day/evening in which the Contestant is competing (at RODEOHOUSTON), an additional honorarium will be negotiated.

12.5 Autograph Sessions and *Bonus Fees*:

- (a) RODEOHOUSTON contestants agree to sign autographs in the “Fan Zone presented by Texas Farm Bureau” (contestant autograph areas) immediately following their event, for a minimum of 20 minutes.
  - i. Contestants will be paid \$100 per performance (in which they’ve competed only, and must be paid immediately following the autograph session). In the event that a contestant does not advance from his or her Super Series to a Semifinal round, and he or she has signed autographs all three performances of his or her Super Series, he or she will be given a \$200 bonus following the third performance autograph signing.

***Championship round contestants will be required to sign autographs.***