

## 2017 GROUND RULES

# Wrangler Champions Challenge *presented by Justin Boots*

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### 1. QUALIFIERS

- A. All qualified contestants are required to complete a Champions Challenge Agreement to be eligible to enter and compete at any 2017 Champions Challenge Event. Agreements will be available online at [www.prorodeo.org](http://www.prorodeo.org) under member self-services and are available for online submission. All qualified contestants will also be required to confirm competition participation by calling PROCOM for each 2017 Champions Challenge event as listed in the Pro Rodeo Sports News Business Section. All WPRA qualified contestants will be contacted and provided a Champions Challenge Agreement at least 14 days prior to each Champions Challenge Event.
- B. Contestants who qualify as a drafted contestant who are not confirmed by the listed entry closing time as printed in the PSN Business Section for each Champions Challenge Event will be automatically entered by PROCOM and may be fined \$150 per occurrence.
- C. Contestants who qualify in any fill position on any team who do not confirm their intent to compete in a Champions Challenge event by the listed entry closing time, will be contacted by PROCOM. If said contestant accept and confirm entry at that time, they will be subject to a \$50 fine.
- D. By the receipt of a signed agreement and confirmed entry to compete in the 2017 Champions Challenge, a contestant agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of these ground rules, the **PRCA Properties Patch Sponsorship Rules and Regulations** and all other addenda and exhibits to these ground rules, the PRCA Bylaws and Official Rodeo Rules, and for barrel racers, the WPRA Bylaws and Official Rodeo Rules, and any other applicable rules, **including all releases of liability set forth in these documents**. In addition, All Champions Challenge contestants will be required to sign a Champions Challenge specific liability waiver prior to receiving their contestant back number.

Any eligible contestant in the top 15 of the 2016 PRCA World Standings who does not elect to execute a 2017 Champions Challenge Contestant Agreement prior to the first draft or participate if drafted or otherwise selected, cannot later participate in any subsequent 2017 Champions Challenge Event.

Eleven qualifiers (11 contestants) in each competition event for the Champions Challenge shall comprise 11 Teams for the 2017 Champions Challenge. Each Team will be comprised of a minimum of 4 drafted contestants from the 2016 PRCA World Standings/WPRA Standings prior to the 2017 Champions Challenge season. Each of the remaining non-drafted positions on each Team will be filled according to position ranking in the 2017 PRCA World Standings (to be determined 14 days prior to each Champions Challenge Event)/WPRA Standings.

Should any contestant who qualifies for a fill position on any team previously qualify, that position will be filled by the next highest position in the 2017 PRCA World Standings (to be determined 14 days prior to each Champions Challenge).

Should a contestant who qualifies for a drafted position resign from Champions Challenge participation **prior to the entry close of the first** 2017 Champions Challenge Season Event, the declined position shall then be filled by the next highest ranking contestant in the 2016 PRCA World Standings/WPRA Standings who signed the contestant agreement prior to the initial draft. That contestant who fills that position will be considered a drafted contestant from that point forward.

**After entries have closed for the first** 2017 Champions Challenge Event, if a contestant qualified in any drafted position resigns from Champions Challenge participation, that position, for each remaining 2017 Champions Challenge season event, will be filled by the next highest ranking contestant in the 2017 PRCA World Standings/WPRA Standings (as of 14 days prior to the Champions Challenge Event).

Should, a qualifying drafted position be invalid due to an injury, that qualifying position will be filled by the 2017 PRCA World Standings/WPRA Standings (as of 14 days prior to the Champions Challenge event).

Should, a qualifying rotating position be invalid due to an injury or resignation from participation or a prior qualification, that qualifying position will be filled by the 2017 PRCA World Standings/WPRA Standings (as of 14 days prior to the Champions Challenge event).

Each person who qualifies and confirms his/her intent to compete must also complete and sign a "Choice of Venue" form, and for barrel racers, the "WPRA Release and Waiver and Choice of Venue" (contained in Addendums B and C respectively), and these documents must be received by the Rodeo Secretary prior to the first scheduled competition in order to be eligible to compete. This must be completed for each and every 2017 Champions Challenge Event.

- E. In the team roping, any drafted header or heeler must rope with the partner they were drafted with for the duration of the 2017 Wrangler Champions Challenge Season. For all other non-drafted team ropers, contestants may designate their partner at the time of entry for each Champions Challenge. If either partner of an entered team does not qualify, a partner will be assigned to the remaining contestant from eligible qualified contestants.
- F. Should there be a tie for any qualifying spot(s) in any event, only 11 will qualify, and the tie will be broken in favor of those with the highest total **official** money won at PRCA and, for barrel racers, WPRA sanctioned rodeos in that event during the 2017 PRCA Rodeo Year at PRCA-sanctioned rodeos which end on or before **14 days prior to the event**. If still tied, the tie will be broken in favor of those with the highest total (official & unofficial) money won at PRCA and, for barrel racers, WPRA sanctioned rodeos in that event during the 2017 Rodeo Year at PRCA-sanctioned rodeos which end on or before 14 days prior to the event. If still tied, PROCOM will do a random draw to determine the qualifier for the position.
- G. Contestants will not be ranked for competition position as each competition position will be determined by random draw at the time of stock draw.
- I. Current health papers are required for all contestant horses and will be checked by Champions Challenge Staff prior to entry onto grounds.

2. CONTESTANT INFORMATION

- A. **Check-In:** Champions Challenge Contestants, Champions Challenge Stock Contractors and Champions Challenge Officials are required to check in with the Rodeo Secretary for each Champions Challenge Event. **Specific Location and time will be emailed to all qualified contestants after entry closing.** All Champions Challenge personnel except for Champions Challenge contestants will be required to have an arena specific credential to be allowed on the competition arena floor. Back numbers will be distributed at the time of check-in. Failure to attend contestant check-in will result in a fine of \$500 per occurrence.
- B. **Autographs:** All Champions Challenge Contestants will be required to attend up to two autograph sessions to be determined 14 days prior to each event. **Specific Location and time will be emailed to all qualified contestants after entry closing.** Failure to attend any and/or all autograph sessions will result in a fine of \$500 per occurrence.
- C. **Contestant Stock Draw:** Champions Challenge Riding and Timed Event contestants may be required to participate in the contestant stock draw to be held following contestant check-in. Riding Event Contestants may draw their stock from a set pen selected by the respective event selection committee. Timed Event Contestants may draw their stock from a set pen selected by the respective PRCA Event Representative. Failure to participate in a scheduled contestant stock draw may result in a fine of \$250 per occurrence.
- D. **Tickets:** Contestants and stock contractors will receive no more than one complimentary ticket for each performance to be picked up at the rodeo secretary's office.
- E. **Hazers:** Steer Wrestling contestants are to report the name of their hazer to the Rodeo Secretary at the time of check-in. **All designated hazers must be active, eligible PRCA Members. Failure to designate an active, eligible PRCA Member as a hazer will result in a fine of \$500 per occurrence and may subject you to suspension from the remainder of 2017 Champions Challenge events.** Any hazer who is not already a contestant must have a back number and is required to sign all releases and any other required documents. The back number entitles only that person access to the arena area.
- F. **PRCA & Event Patches:** One Champions Challenge patch and two Team Sponsor patches will be distributed at the time of check-in and must be worn at all times in the arena and at all Champions Challenge related functions. For the barrel racers, one Champions Challenge patch and two Team Sponsor patches will be distributed at the time of check-in and at least 1 Team patch and 1 Champions Challenge patch must be worn at all times in the arena and at all Champions Challenge related functions. Failure to wear and both the PRCA & Event Patch will result in a fine of \$500 per occurrence.
- G. **Team Sponsor Patches:** All Teams are required to wear Team Sponsor patches. They may be worn in any available position that is approved under the PRCA Patch Program Rules and Guidelines. All CC and Team Sponsor patches will not count against the qualifiers allotment of regular PRCA Patch Program sponsors. Failure to wear Team Sponsor patches will result in a fine of \$500 per occurrence.

3. LIVESTOCK

- A. Stock must be inspected by the Livestock Superintendent at time of arrival and must be accompanied by current certified veterinary health papers and certificates as required by the law of the state in which the Champions Challenge is being held. No sick, sore, lame, or injured animal will be accepted or paid for. This includes any animal with a wound which, at the PRCA's sole discretion, is cosmetically questionable. Any bull requiring tipping of horns shall subject stock contractor to a fine of \$100 per horn needing attention.
- B. In accordance with Rule R8.13.1.3 of the PRCA Rulebook, all riding event livestock must have an ownership brand of the PRCA-member Stock Contractor furnishing the livestock. Failure to do so will result in a fine for each animal not so branded.
- C. No horse or bull on which a bareback rigging, saddle, or bull rope normally cannot be placed and/or cinch pulled prior to being loaded in the chute will be eligible for the Champions Challenge. If such animal is brought, and thus causes a delay in production, the stock contractor may be fined.
- D. Each respective PRCA Event Representative shall notify PROCOM of the selected livestock pens no later than 5:00 PM (Mountain Time) of the day of each entry closing. Contestants will draw their animals in accordance with the contestant stock draw as referenced in 2.C.
- E. Top Stock Bonus: A bonus of \$1000 will be paid to the top scoring livestock in each of the riding events. This bonus will be paid directly to the PRCA Stock Contractor who maintains ownership of said livestock.

4. GENERAL

- A. Official Rodeo: Per Rule R1.6.2.1 of the PRCA Rulebook and, for barrel racers, WPRA rule 10.4.1.8 each Champions Challenge Event will be counted as an "Official Entry" rodeo unless contestant designates it as an "Unofficial Entry Rodeo" at time of competition confirmation or unless contestant has previously met the maximum number of allowable "Official Entry" rodeos.
- B. Championship Points. All prize money earned at each Champions Challenge Event will count as Championship Points in accordance with Bylaw B12.1.1 of the PRCA Rulebook and, for barrel racers, rule 14.1 of the WPRA Rulebook and will be applied to 2017 PRCA World Standings and, for barrel racers, 2017 WPRA pro rodeo standings, unless contestant designated the Champions Challenge Event as an "Unofficial Entry Rodeo" at time of entry. The \$400 appearance fee/stipend will not count towards Championship Points.
- C. NO CIRCUIT POINTS. Dollars won at the Champions Challenge Event will not count toward circuit standings.
- D. Doctor Releases: ONLY Valid doctor releases will be accepted. Visible Injuries will not be accepted. Should it be necessary to doctor release, contestants are to follow procedures outlined in Part 7 of the PRCA Rulebook and, for barrel racers, Chapter 10 of the WPRA Rule Book. Failure to follow those procedures will result in fines pursuant to Section 5B of these Ground Rules. A contestant using the doctor release procedure shall also be subject to the ineligibility periods as set forth in the PRCA Rule Book; for the barrel racers, the WPRA Rulebook.

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- E. Determination of Event Champion/Event Winners: The Event Champion will be that person who has the highest score or fastest time at the conclusion of the Event. In case of a tie the Event Champion will be determined from crowd/audience selection.
- F. Victory Lap: The event winner for each performance should be prepared to take a victory lap following their event. Failure to take the victory lap or to be available for introduction following the performance may result in a fine of \$500 per violation.
- G. All Contestants Introduced: All contestants should be prepared to be introduced during opening ceremonies or during closing ceremonies immediately following the introduction of the winners of each event. Failure to be available for this contestant introduction will subject contestant to a fine of \$500 per occurrence.
- H. Patch Sponsorships: No Champions Challenge participant may wear or display in the Competition Arena or anywhere during the promotion of the Champions Challenge (including the areas behind the chutes and the moat, any special event, autograph session or interviews, etc.) any patch or Signage (as defined in the "Rules and Regulations Governing Advertising in an Arena") which is in conflict with PRCA's and/or Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Properties, Inc.'s National Sponsors.
- I. Back Numbers: Each contestant will be furnished with a Champions Challenge back number, which must be worn and displayed in its entirety, at all times when in the Competition Arena. If a contestant has an existing patch sponsorship involving the cantle/yoke of the shirt, then that contestant may wear the Champions Challenge back number immediately below the existing cantle/yoke patch. If a contestant elects to wear a protective vest or jacket, then that contestant must wear the Champions Challenge back number in the same location on the vest or jacket. Failure to wear the assigned Champions Challenge back number will result in a fine of \$500 per occurrence and/or disqualification from the Champions Challenge Event.

### 5. TURN OUT OR DOCTOR RELEASE SUBSTITUTIONS PRIOR TO COMPETITION

- A. If after confirmation of event participation a contestant is unable to compete due to a valid doctors release, the next contestant in the 2017 PRCA World Standings and, for barrel racers, the 2017 WPRA Standings (as referenced in 1.C of these ground rules) in the event will fill the position. The injured contestant will then be eligible for further competition at future Champions Challenge events upon the expiration of the applicable doctor release. Contestants must notify PROCOM of any doctors release.
- B. If after confirmation of event participation a contestant is unable to compete due to a valid emergency such as a cancelled flight, extreme weather conditions preventing travel, etc., the next contestant in the 2017 PRCA World Standings and, for the barrel racers, the 2017 WPRA Standings (as referenced in 1.C of these ground rules) in the event will fill the position. The emergency released contestant will then be eligible for further competition at future Champions Challenge events upon the receipt of appropriate documentation validating emergency. Contestants must notify PROCOM of any emergency release.

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- C. If after confirmation of event participation a contestant (in any qualifying position) turns out (notified or non-notified turnout) of a Champions Challenge event, that contestant will not be eligible to compete for the remainder of the Champions Challenge current season. In this case, the competition position will be filled by the next contestant in the 2017 PRCA World Standings and, for barrel racers, the 2017 WPRA Standings (as referenced in 1.C of these ground rules) in the event.
- D. In the Team Roping event, should a partner doctors release, turn out or file a valid emergency release, the remaining partner will be required to compete and will not be granted a draw out for that Champions Challenge Event. The remaining partner will be required to compete as a team with the member who fills the position in accordance with 1.E. of these ground rules.
- E. Once confirmation of intent has been made the following release consequences/fines will apply:

<i>Notified turn out</i>	<i>Disqualification from participation for 2017 CC Season AND \$1000.00 fine</i>
<i>Non-Notified turn out</i>	<i>Disqualification from participation for 2017 CC Season AND \$3000.00 fine</i>

Notification of turn outs or doctors releases MUST be called into PROCOM during their regular business hours. All turnout deadline times are Mountain Time.

\*Any Doctors Release that removes a contestant from competition at a Champions Challenge Event will result in that contestant's ineligibility from all PRCA Sanctioned Events per the PRCA Rulebook and for barrel racers, the WPRA Rule Book.

\*NO VISIBLE INJURY WILL BE ACCEPTED at any Champions Challenge Event.

6. FORMAT

- A. Champions Challenge will be a one go-round, one performance event. Contestants will not be ranked for competition position as each competition position will be determined by random draw at the time of stock draw.

7. PAYOFF

- A. Should there be fewer qualified rides or times than the number of places to be paid, the payoff, shall be handled per Rule R5.5.3 of the PRCA Rulebook.
- B. Payoff, per event \$11,600.00
  - 1<sup>st</sup> \$3,944.00 (per man in TR)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> \$3,016.00 (per man in TR)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> \$2,204.00 (per man in TR)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> \$1,508.00 (per man in TR)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> \$928.00 (per man in TR)

- C. Appearance Fee. Contestants must attend each scheduled WCC Event check-in, stock draw, meetings and autograph session as well as compete in the event to be eligible to receive a \$400 appearance fee that will be paid through Rodeo Pay. No appearance fee monies will count towards PRCA World Standings.

8. TIMED EVENTS

- A. Stock selection: Cattle used in the timed events shall be selected by the Champions Challenge host PRCA Rodeo Committee, with the approval of the respective Event Representatives. For each pen of cattle, a minimum of 2 extras must be designated.
- B. Timed Event contestants will enter and exit the arena as directed by the Arena Director.
- C. No more than one man in the box if so requested by contestant.
- D. Only one horse in the box.
- E. A contestant must have hat on head while in box, with no assistance in keeping on or taking off said hat by another person.
- F. The judges have the authority to designate a replacement for an animal fighting or sulking in the chute.
- G. Time limits (not including penalties):
  - Tie-Down Roping: 25 seconds
  - Steer Wrestling: 60 seconds
  - Team Roping: 30 seconds
- H. Tie-down animals may be tied prior to the performance to be determined by the Arena Director, the Event Representative and the Director of Rodeo Administration.
- I. If a timed event animal escapes the chute prior to the contestant calling for him, that contestant will automatically receive the first extra and will compete on that animal in the performance. The originally drawn animal will remain in the herd.
- J. In the Tie-Down Roping Event, only 1 loop per contestant will be permitted.
- K. In the Team Roping Event, only 2 loops per team will be permitted.
- L. In the Steer Wrestling, only 1 jump per contestant will be permitted.

9. RIDING EVENTS

- A. Two judges will be used to score each ride and half points will be used.
- B. Stock selection: Stock for the Champions Challenge will be selected by each respective PRCA Event Representative with approval of PRCA Rodeo Administration. Selected stock must be submitted to

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PROCOM no later than 5PM (Mountain Time) on the day of entries closing for each respective 2016 Champions Challenge Event.

- C. Pens must be set to have a minimum of 4 animals with the same delivery designation.
- D. No bareback or saddle bronc with a history of having to be pulled out of the chute will be used for the Champions Challenge.
- E. If a Stock Contractor or Stock Contractor's flankman is not ready when called, the Chute Boss (in agreement with the Judges) or the Judges may fine the Stock Contractor. For flankmen, the definition of "ready when called" means he/she must have the flank adjusted, gloves on if used, and ready when previous animal (flag/sponsor horse) leaves the arena or as instructed by the chute boss and/or judges.
  - 1. The Chute Boss has the authority to assign a flankman in the absence of the livestock owner or his designated flankman.
- F. Once pens have been set, there will be no changing of those pens unless the changes conform to the Champions Challenge Ground Rules. Any changes on delivery must be by mutual agreement of a Riding Event Representative, livestock owner, or his representative and the chute boss or arena director.
- G. Any turned-out animal shall be considered the first re-ride animal. Should there be more than one turned-out animal, an order will be drawn. If more re-rides are required, the designated re-ride(s) will be used. Should more re-rides be needed than those available, 1/3 of the animals from the short go-round pen can be featured and additional re-rides necessary will be drawn from that finals pen.