



National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Statement of Position on Animal Welfare

RULES TO INSURE HUMANE TREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK:

- A. **INJURED LIVESTOCK.** All injured livestock must be removed from the arena before continuing the rodeo contest or performance.
- B. **SPURS AND ROWELS.** No locked rowels, or rowels that will lock on spurs, or sharpened spurs, may be used on bareback horses or saddle broncs. Spurs must be dulled. Violation of this rule shall receive a fine in the amount of Fifty Dollar (\$50).
- C. **WOODEN PADDLES.** No wooden paddles. Straps are permissible.
- D. **SWITCH.** The no switch rule shall be in effect at all NIRA sanctioned rodeos. Switch shall be defined as over backwards, with animal landing on his back or head with all four feet in the air. Switch infraction shall be fifty dollars (\$5-) on the first offense and every offense thereafter.
- E. **STEER WRESTLING.** The placing of fingers in eyes, lips or nose of steers while wrestling same is forbidden.
- F. **ANIMAL INSPECTION.** Animals for all events will be inspected before the draw, and no sore, lame, sick or injured animal, or animal with defective eyesight, shall be permitted in the draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or be injured between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled to be used in competition, that animal shall not be used in competition and another animal drawn for the contestant as provided in the NIRA Rule book. A veterinarian shall be present or on call for every performance and/or section of slack. Failure to do so shall result in a fine to the school of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per performance.
- G. **USE OF PRODS AND SIMILAR DEVICES.** In all events the use of prods and similar devices is prohibited. The only exceptions are: (1) a known chute-stalling animal (horse events only), only with contestants, contractors and judges approval, and should be administered by a qualified member, and (2) a prod may be used to move livestock in pens and alleys, with prod use ceasing completely when the animal enters the competition chute. In this instance, the prod shall not exceed twelve inches (12") in length. The fine for violation will be a minimum of \$250 per infraction.
- H. **USE OF A CONVEYANCE.** A conveyance must be available and shall be used, where practicable, to remove animals from the arena in case of injury. Conveyance must be large enough to remove a horse or bull. Injured calves shall be removed from the arena in a pickup truck, calf stretcher, or conveyance. Animals removed from the arena shall be placed in a situation as isolated and comfortable as possible to reduce stress.
- I. **NO SHARP OR CUTTING OBJECTS.** No sharp or cutting objects in cinch, saddle girth, or flank straps shall be permitted. Only sheepskin lined flank straps shall be used on bucking stock and shall be of the quick release type. Sheepskin lined flank straps shall be placed on the animal so the sheepskin covered portion is over both flanks and the belly of the animal. No bull tails will be allowed under flank straps.
- J. **BAREBACK RIDING.** No "loose ropes" allowed in bareback bronc riding.
- K. **NO STIMULANTS OR HYPNOTICS.** No stimulants or hypnotics are to be given to any animal used for contest purposes.
- L. **CHUTE CONSTRUCTION.** Chutes must be constructed as to prevent injury to stock. Maintenance men and equipment shall be stationed at chutes to assist in removal of any animal should it become caught. The arena shall be reasonably free of rocks, holes and obstacles.
- M. **BULLFIGHTERS.** Bullfighters are not to abuse stock in any fashion.
- N. **NO SMALL ANIMALS OR PETS IN ARENA.** No small animals or pets allowed in arena where restraint is necessary, or where subject to injury or attack by another animal.
- O. **REMOVAL OF LIVESTOCK AFTER COMPETITION.** Livestock is to be removed from arena after the completion of each run.
- P. **FIREWORKS.** Use of fireworks to frighten animals is prohibited.
- Q. **ABUSE OF ANIMAL BY NIRA MEMBER.** If a NIRA member abuses an animal by any unnecessary non competitive or competitive action, anywhere on the rodeo grounds, he/she may be disqualified and fined up to \$250 for the first offense, with that fine progressively doubling with each offense thereafter. Officials will immediately inform the announcer that the contestant has been disqualified and the spectators will be informed of the disqualification due to unnecessary roughness to livestock.
- R. **CONFINEMENT OF STOCK.** No stock shall be confined or transported in vehicles beyond a period of twenty four (24) hours without being unloaded, and properly fed and watered. Failure to abide by this shall subject the stock contractor or contestant involved to a Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) fine for the first offense and a progressively doubling fine for every offense thereafter.
- S. **EXCESSIVELY EXCITED STOCK WHILE IN CHUTE.** Any animal that becomes excessively excited so that it gets down in the chute repeatedly, or tries to repeatedly jump out of the chute, or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring itself, should be released immediately.
- T. **MISTREATMENT OF ANIMAL ON RODEO GROUNDS.** Any NIRA member, including stock contractor, guilty of mistreatment of livestock, anywhere on the rodeo grounds, may be fined up to \$250 for first offense, with that fine progressively doubling with each offense thereafter.
- U. **VETERINARIAN REQUIREMENTS.** All NIRA rodeos must have a veterinarian on call. The veterinarian's name and telephone number must be posted in the rodeo office.
- V. **HORN WRAPS ON TEAM ROPING STEERS.** All team roping steers must have horn wraps that extend four inches down the jaw from the base of the horns.