

New England Rodeo (NER) Bull Riding Rules and Contestant Information

As of June 3rd, 2024

1. The Professional Bull Riders, Junior Professional and Junior Amateur divisions are limited to male contestants, unless otherwise specified. The mini bronc division may be open to female contestants in the event that the division does not fill.
2. The Jr. Bull Riders division is limited to children ages 17 and younger (or an adult with Novice riding experience) as of January 1st of the current year. A birth certificate may be requested to provide proof of age, if in question.
3. The Mini broncs is limited to children ages 10 and younger as of January 1st of the current year. A child may be disqualified from riding if their weight would cause stress to the animal.
4. The Professional Bull Riders division is open to contestants 18 years old or older
5. Entries for the Professional and Junior divisions occur on the Tuesday before the show from 7:30pm-8:30pm. Entries are taken on a first come, first serve basis. Call in to 978-201-4552. Text messages, voicemail and/or private messages are not accepted. Call ins are accepted in both English and Portuguese.
6. Entries for the mini bronc division occur on the Monday before the show at 7:00pm. Entries are taken based on riding experience. Text in to 978-201-4552.
7. Contestants can only call in themselves except for Junior or Mini contestants. A Pro contestant may call themselves and jr. contestant and/or a mini contestant at the same time.
8. All contestants have until Thursday before the show at 7pm to un-register. If a contestant calls out after 7pm on Thursday, they will be assessed with a \$50 fine in cash. This fine must be paid in advance of being allowed to call in for another show. Contestants will be suspended from the year-end award program if there are any unpaid fines.
9. NER has the right to refuse a potential contestant entry; based upon unappropriated behavior, disrespect of cattle, or poor sportsmanship displayed at pervious NER shows or inappropriate messaging, communications, and use of social media. As a contestant, you are a representative of NER and required to act in such a fashion.
10. The Mini division is limited to 2-5 contestant, depending on the stock availability.
11. The Junior division is split into an Amateur and Professional Division based on pervious riding experience. The entire division is limited to 6-10 contestants, depending on the stock availability.
12. The Professional division is limited to 10-12 contestants, depending on the stock availability.
13. Contestants who compete in the most number of shows will be considered for the year-end awards program and a potential invitation to the NER Finals.
14. Contestants must park their vehicles in the location designated by the parking attendant.
15. All contestants must check-in when the office is open.

16. The office is approximately opened from 4pm to 5pm. No one will be added to the show after 5pm. If a contestant does not check in by 5pm, they will be considered a call out and are assessed the \$50 fine, as mentioned above. Office hours may vary at travel rodeos.
17. Entry fees must be paid for in cash to allow for a cash payout.
18. Entry fee is \$50 for the Professional division.
19. Entry fee is \$30 for the Junior Amateur and Junior Professional division.
20. Entry fee is \$10 for the Mini division.
21. The Jr. Divisions will ride in the show which starts at 7:30pm.
22. All contestants will receive a paperback or sticker number to be attached on their back.
23. Each contestant will receive a wrist band which grants them permission to enter the back of the rodeo. At the discretion of any NER Staff, the helper may be asked to remove their wristband and sit in the audience, if they are unruly or acting in unsafe behavior.
24. All contestants are required to wear western attire (i.e., boots, long jeans). Long sleeve shirts with collar, waist length and safety vest are required. Western hat or helmet. All contestants under 18 years old must wear a helmet.
25. All contestants are expected to sign a waiver or have their guardian sign a waiver prior to riding a bull.
26. All contestants must pay their entry fee, prior to competing.
27. Contestants must ride the bull chosen or be disqualified.
28. Contestants must ride bulls for 8 seconds; time to start when animal's shoulder breaks the plane of the chute for a qualified ride, unless length lowered for Junior or Mini divisions.
29. If contestant makes a qualified ride with any part of the loose rope in his riding hand, provided he has not touched the ground or has not fouled the animal with his free hand; he is to be marked.
30. Only 5 point "plain" or "notched" spur rowels (one rowel per shank) may be used during this event.
31. Contestants may only use dry rosin on glove and rope.
32. Re-rides are granted on the discretion of the Judge(s).
33. A contestant may be disqualified for any of the following:
 - a. Being bucked off,
 - b. Touching a fence with a free hand,
 - c. Touching animal or rider with free hand,
 - d. Assisting self with free arm by touching animal,
 - e. Placing spurs in rope or bell strap before leaving the chute (Catching a knot), and/or

- f. Cutting the animal with spurs. (1st Offense- \$100 fine, 2nd Offense- \$200 fine, 3rd Offense- Contestant banned for determined number of shows as Judge(s) discretion).
- 34. Riding to be done with one hand and loose roper, with or without handholds. No knots or hitches to prevent rope from coming off of animal will be permitted. Ropes may have a bell. Bell must be placed on belly of the animal.
- 35. Only contestant and one other person may pull the contestant's rope. Judge(s) has the right to control excessive pulling by asking contestant to re-do rope. Contestants are only granted one additional attempt to tighten rope an appropriate tension, afterwards the contestant will be disqualified.
- 36. All ropes must be wider than nine-sixteenth (9/16) of an inch. A rope handles is a maximum of 4 inches high. The rope must have felt. The judge(s) have the right to tell contestants to use a different rope if they believe the rope may injury the animal.
- 37. Ropes cannot be used that have wires or other aids for the purposed of placing spurs. Judge will inspect spurs to ensure compliance with rules prior to the show.
- 38. Contestants are not allowed to converse with the Timekeeper, Judges and Announcer during the event.
- 39. Contestants must compete in the go-round in which they are entered and be ready when called upon to mount the animal.
- 40. Contestant has 60 seconds from initial time on animal to secure rope and start ride. If contestant requires more than 60 seconds, they will be disqualified within reason. Considerations will be given to contestants on unruly animal.
- 41. Rules are subject to change. It's the contestant's responsibility to ensure they are in compliance with the must current set of rules. Rules will always be posted in the office.
- 42. Somewhere around the arena , there is a little kid that wants to be just like you someday. You owe it to them to be the best you can be.