

GUIDE TO
CAMPAIGNING FOR A
**Student Officer
Position**

With the

**NHSRA Junior
High Division**



PREPARED BY THE 2026 NHSRA YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Congratulations on your decision to campaign for student office in the Junior High Division of the NHSRA!

We are pleased that you have decided to make your Junior High Division experience more meaningful and that you want to play an active role in the rule and decision-making processes of the National High School Rodeo Association's Junior High Division.

Being an NHSRA Junior High Division Student Officer is a fun experience, but it is also a serious one. Officers represent more than 4000 members from 44 states, 5 Canadian provinces, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, and Guatemala which make up the NHSRA Junior High Division.

When deciding to campaign for national office, you should ask yourself a few questions:

1. Do I believe in the National High School Rodeo Association Junior High Division and its goal to improve and promote Junior High School Rodeo among young people?
2. Do I believe in the purposes and aims of the Junior High Division, as outlined in the National High School Rodeo Association Constitution and By-Laws?
3. Will I be able to commit the time and effort to serve as an officer and travel to make appearances as directed by the NHSRA Junior High Division?
4. Am I knowledgeable about the Junior High Division and the rules of the Association?
5. Am I willing to support, promote and represent the sponsors of the National High School Rodeo Association?

To campaign for a Junior High Division Student Officer Position:

1. You must have at least one full year of eligibility left in the Junior High Division.
2. NHSRA Student Officers can hold office for more than one year if they are eligible.
3. Be a member in good standing from the state or provincial Junior High Division Association in which you reside and/or attend school.
4. Must have competed at your district, state, or province finals rodeo just prior to running for office. You do not have to be a contestant in the NJHFR to campaign for office.
5. You must notify the National Office of your intention to seek office no later than by the close of the Student Delegate Meeting prior to the first performance of the National Junior High Finals Rodeo by submitting the attached form.

Your intentions to run for national office should be to improve and help the NHSRA-JH Division to the best of your ability. You will have the opportunity to meet new people and will be involved in public activities. This will require time away from home/school and can be a huge sacrifice. The student officers will spend approximately one month worth of time representing NHSRA-JH Division and are expected to uphold the grade requirements of membership.

The offices available are: President, Vice President, and Secretary. At all board of National Directors meetings, the Student Officers shall each have a vote with a total of (3) three votes. The Student Officers also serve on the Contestant Entertainment Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Membership Development Committee as well as other committees as appointed by the Adult President.

The Student President will preside over the Student Delegate Meetings at the National Junior High Finals Rodeo. The Vice President will serve in the capacity of president, in the absence of the president. The Secretary will be responsible for taking minutes at the Delegate Meetings as well as any other meetings for the Junior High Division.

The newly elected student officers will take over their duties at the close of the NJHFR in which they are elected. They shall continue in office through the following NJHFR. The student officers must attend the Mid-Winter board of directors meeting held in January. The student officers shall also take other trips and make appearances as the adult officers direct. There may be times when the student officers will travel by themselves to the event where they will meet up with a NHSRA chaperone, however if a parent(s) decide to accompany the officer, it will be at their own expense.

The student officers are to represent the student membership. Information they receive from their constituents regarding changes of the National High School Rodeo Association Junior High Division and National Junior High Finals Rodeo should be passed on to the National Board of Directors.

Your Arrival in Guthrie, OK

If you are a contestant at the NJHFR, you should proceed through contestant check-in. After you take care of your contestant responsibilities, you must check in with the Rodeo Office.

If you are not a contestant at this year's NJHFR, you still need to check in at contestant check-in and get your back number. You must still adhere to the final check-in deadline as well as all other rules for contestants. ***You must be checked in by 7 A.M., Sunday, June 21st, 2026.***

Campaigning

If you have made your decision to run for office early in the year, you have the opportunity to have your picture and a short biographical profile published in the *NHSRA Times Magazine*, the official NHSRA publication which is mailed to all NHSRA members. In addition, your information will be posted on the association's website. **Any photograph of the candidate that is submitted for publication in the *NHSRA Times Magazine* must have the candidate in full western attire.** Articles will only be published in the *NHSRA Times Magazine* once. **The deadline for submitting to the *NHSRA Times* is May 5th.**

Early candidates may have contact with each of the state's delegates and National Director. You can send out letters, brochures, and other campaign literature. A letter of recommendation from your National Director is a valuable tool for campaigning. Include your ideas for junior high rodeo and why you want to serve as an officer. The national office can supply you with the addresses of the student delegates.

After checking in with the Rodeo Office, you will receive instructions about the designated campaign areas. Each candidate will be given a table to display their campaign message and distribute promotional items. Space is limited so the displays should be kept to a reasonable size.

When campaigning, remember:

- ✓ CAMPAIGN GIVEAWAYS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE DISPLAY AREAS ONLY!
- ✓ No campaigning will be allowed in the arenas or work areas.
- ✓ No campaign propoganda or campaign gifts can be distributed at the student delegate meetings.
- ✓ No campaign gifts are to be given to the voting delegates.
- ✓ Posters are to be hung in designated areas at the facility.
- ✓ This facility does not allow stickers or glue-on items.
- ✓ Flyers or notices cannot be placed on the windshield of vehicles.
- ✓ Stickers placed on contestant's back numbers cannot cover any part of the contestant number and must not be larger than 2 1/2" in diameter/length/width.
- ✓ Talk to the student delegates, they can be identified by a sticker on their back number. They cast the votes!
- ✓ Please avoid materials which could be used as noisemakers or could be used to deface property.

Past NHSRA-JH Student Officers will tell you that the quality of your campaign is what is important, and not the quantity of give-a-ways. Try to keep in mind that your personal contact with the student delegates, contestants and membership is much more important than what material offerings you might have. Last, but not least, be considerate and respectful of the host facilities' property and their rules.

Meetings at Nationals

Your first Student Delegate meeting with the current Student Officers and delegates will be on **Sunday, June 21st at 9:30am in the West Grandstands of the Lazy E Main Arena**. At this meeting, all the states within the NHSRA Junior High Division will have four student delegates in attendance. As a candidate for office, you will be asked to introduce yourself- name, state, and what position you are running for (no speeches during the introductions). The election of student event directors will also take place at this meeting.

Student officer candidates will be introduced at the Mandatory Contestants Meeting. This meeting is also on **Sunday, June 21st, at 11am at the Lazy E Main Arena**. Please make your way down to the arena floor and look for the rodeo secretary, NHSRA employee, Kaitlyn Russ.

The third meeting you will need to attend, as a candidate, will be held on **Friday, June 26th at 1:00pm in the West Grandstands of the Lazy E Main Arena**. This will be for all student delegates, student officer candidates, and current junior high school student officers. During this meeting, the youth campaigning for office will be asked to give a campaign speech relating to their goals and reasons for seeking office. Speeches are to be done without props or videos, and last for approximately two minutes. The election of the 2026-2027 NHSRA Junior High Student Officers will take place at this time. The results of the election will be announced immediately following the tally of the votes.

The by-laws outlining the procedure for electing student officers, the student delegates and policies for student officers are outlined in Article V of the NHSRA Constitution and By-Laws. Please refer to a current NHSRA rulebook for those procedures.

Newly elected student officers and their parents must meet with a representative from the NHSRA Junior High Division Youth Advisory Committee and the NHSRA Executive Director immediately following the Student Delegate Meeting. At this time, some paperwork will need to be filled out and policies and procedures will be presented to the new officers, so they know what is expected of them over the next year. You and your parents will be required to sign an agreement outlining behavior policies and conduct expectations as well as possible disciplinary actions if any rules, policies, and procedures are violated. A copy of this agreement is included so that you and your parents/guardians have time to review it prior to being elected. You will be required to sign a confidentiality non-disclosure agreement. All candidates need to understand that the integrity of the NHSRA rests with the National Student Officers.

The newly elected officers will be introduced prior to the Grand Entry of the Friday Night Performance, June 26th.

As a NHSRA Junior High Division Student Officer your opportunities can be endless. Familiarize yourself with the Constitution and "Mission Statement" of the National High School Rodeo Association. Know that you can be part of the solution and make this the best youth organization in the world.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the current NHSRA Junior High Division Officers; Gus Dyer – Student President, Antonio Montoya – Student Vice President or Trevor Williams - Student Secretary. You can also contact Youth Advisory Co-Chairpersons: Holli Sapp, National Director of Georgia or John Mancini, National Director of New York. Their contact information can be found in the *NHSRA Times Magazine* or the NHSRA website.

COMMIT TO BEING A STUDENT OFFICER

NHSRA is excited about your decision to run for a national office and congratulate you for your actions. We feel we need to let you know some of your responsibilities and requirements prior to taking this step.

- **TRAVEL:** Successful candidates will be expected to be in attendance on the following trips. Travel arrangements will be made by and paid for by NHSRA for student officers. A parent traveling with the officer will be responsible for their own expenses. You will be met at the event by an NHSRA chaperone.

December 4th-13th, 2026 –NFR Cowboy Christmas –Las Vegas, NV
(sell Bloomer/Weatherby Rifle raffle tickets in sponsor shared booth)

January (Tuesday- Saturday), 2027– NHSRA Mid -Winter Meeting- Montana
(normally the 3rd or 4th week of January – dates and location will be determined following Annual Meeting at NHSFR)
(Serve an active role in decision making on full board and selected committees)

Late March / Early April 2026 – Sponsor Trip- TBD
(promote NHSRA / Sponsor engagement and events)

June 20st - June 26th, 2027 – NJHFR – Guthrie, OK
(duties include but are not limited to presiding over delegate meetings, presenting flags horseback in the arena at each performance)

- **SPONSOR OBLIGATIONS:** Successful candidates will be expected and required to be in NHSRA **Sponsor apparel** when representing NHSRA at any event.

Cinch Jeans & Shirts, Hyer Boots, and American Hat

- **AGREEMENTS:**
Successful candidate and parents or guardian will be required to sign a
Conduct and Behavior Policy Agreement.

Successful candidate will be required to sign a

Confidentiality Non-Disclosure Agreement.

YOU ARE KEY REPRESENTATIVES FOR YOUR PEERS, THE ASSOCIATION, AND OUR SPONSORS!! There may be things not outlined in this guide that you will be asked to perform or do that fall within the responsibility of being a Student Officer.

**NHSRA Junior High Candidate
Campaign Filing Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

State/Province Junior High School Rodeo Association:

2025-2026 Junior High Division Membership Number: _____

Student Officer Position I am Seeking: _____
(President, Vice President, Secretary)

I hereby certify that I am a member in good standing of the above-mentioned state/province junior high school rodeo association during the 2025-2026 junior high school rodeo year and that I have a minimum of one year of eligibility left in the Junior High Division and hereby am eligible to campaign for a national student officer position with the NHSRA Junior High Division. I fully understand that holding a Junior High Division National Officer position is a big responsibility and that I will be a role model for other youth and that my actions not only reflect upon myself but upon the entire membership of the National High School Rodeo Association Junior High Division, Inc. I am fully prepared to be held to a higher standard than most members and am accepting the responsibility of the office I am seeking.

Member Signature:

Date: _____

As the parent or guardian of the above named NHSRA Junior High Division member, I hereby give my permission for my son/daughter to seek the position of National Student Officer and understand that the position comes with serious responsibilities.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Please return this completed form to:

Kaitlyn Russ, NHSRA National Office
12011 Tejon Street, Suite 900
Denver, CO 80234
Email: kaitlyn@nhsra.org

NOTICE From Lazy E Arena

Policy regarding campaign materials distributed at the NJHFR: No campaign propaganda, posters, signs, or campaign gifts can be put up in or taken into the student delegate meeting area. You will not be allowed to give gifts to the delegates. Campaign giveaways are restricted to the display areas only.

DO NOT hang posters or other campaign materials on any other areas of the Lazy E, including:

- Trade show areas.
- Both competition arenas and stock pens.
- Official posting areas – where the official draw, results and notices are posted or other facility bulletin boards.
- Stalling Barns.

Posters must be hung with BLUE PAINTERS TAPE!!!

Campaign posters can ONLY be hung in designated areas:

- ♣ Campaign Tables outside of the Foundation Office in the hallway leading into the tradeshow.
- ♣ Campaign materials such as staked signs only around your designated campsite area.

You may hang campaign posters in the designated areas ONLY and you must use blue tape to adhere them - no glue or self-adhesive backing and absolutely no staples or nails. The following campaign items ARE NOT ALLOWED by the facility: **Stickers or glue-on items, flyers or notices placed on the windshields of vehicles**. It is important to be considerate of the host facilities and adjoining property, so please do not hang posters outside the designated areas.

You can use other forms of promotion, such as pens, fans, buttons, etc., which may be distributed from your display table to state/province student delegates, contestants, directors, adults, and any interested individuals on the grounds. Each candidate will have the opportunity to put up a display to campaign and distribute information using a table in the Campaign Set Up area in the hallway outside of the Foundation office.

Respect the signs and/or campaign materials of other candidates hung or placed in similar areas as yours! Be sure before you leave to go home, go back through the grounds and pick up all of your campaign materials to help alleviate the work of the clean-up crew! This is much appreciated.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ASSOCIATION- JUNIOR HIGH DIVISION, INC.

CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR POLICY AGREEMENT

As a National Student Officer of the NHSRA-Junior High Division Inc you will be a representative of the Association and symbolic of its reputation, principles and interests to other students and adults in your local community and the nation. Because of the importance of your position and what your appearance and behavior say to others about you and the Association, it is imperative you understand the expectations and responsibilities that accompany your position. You will be expected to comply with the dress code and other requirements of the Association and behave in accordance with the standards provided in the Rules, Bylaws and Constitution of the Association.

The Rules, Bylaws and Constitution provide that acts of insubordination, misconduct, or acts, which are detrimental to the reputation, principles, and interest of the Association, will subject a member to discipline. Disciplinary action can include a variety of penalties – even removal of title or office, suspension, or expulsion.

Activities for which discipline has been and will be imposed include (but are not limited to) any association with or use of alcohol, drugs, smoking, use of vape products or immoral or lewd conduct. Regardless of the permissive laws of your state or the indulgence or permission of your parents or legal guardian, these activities will not be permitted while you are attending local or national Association events, meetings or functions or serving as a representative of the Association in any way. **BE AWARE THAT THESE BEHAVIORS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. ANY MEMBER FOUND OR REPORTED TO BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH MISCONDUCT OR DETRIMENTAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM ANY EVENT, MEETING OR FUNCTION, AND, SENT HOME AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS OR HER PARENT OR GUARDIAN.** There will be no questions asked and no opportunity to explain the conduct.

The Association will investigate all alleged offenses, and the incident will be reported to the Member's parent or guardian. A hearing pursuant to the Disciplinary Action or Disqualification provisions of the Rules, Bylaws and Constitution will be scheduled at which the Member will have the opportunity to present a defense to the charges.

At the end of your term, or upon the imposition of Disciplinary Action requiring relinquishment of the position, or suspension or expulsion from the Association, all of the property of the Association must be returned to the Association within 7 days at the Member's expense.

During your term in office, you will be required to adhere to all NHSRA-Junior High Division policies and procedures for travel, making appearances, attending official functions, meetings, activities and any other national or local events. You will be expected to fulfill all responsibilities of your office or position and meet all requirements and expectations that are outlined to you during the annual Student Officer Orientation or that are outlined to you at any other time throughout the year by the governing boards, individuals, or committees of the NHSRA-Junior High Division.

Student Officers should be aware that posting photographs, comments, or statements on any website such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Tik-Tok, BeReal or any other website or internet page that associates them with the NHSRA-Junior High Division is not allowed without the permission of the NHSRA-Junior High Division. They should also be aware that any statements, comments, or photographs posted that sheds a negative light on the NHSRA-Junior High Division or is detrimental to the NHSRA-Junior High Division, its mission, or the sport of rodeo in any way could subject them to disciplinary action resulting in censure, probation, removal, suspension, or expulsion.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have read and am familiar with the rules pertaining to dress code and conduct contained in the Rules, Bylaws and Constitution of the Association as well as the policies contained herein. I agree to the conditions of this Conduct and Behavior Policy Agreement and assume responsibility for my actions.

Member's Signature Date

I accept full responsibility for the conduct of my child/ward and agree to action by the Association described above should he/she fail to meet the policies and conditions contained in this Conduct and Behavior Policy Agreement.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

ACCEPTED BY:

James Higginbotham, NHSRA Executive Director Date