



Dear NHSFR Contestant:

Congratulations! You have qualified to compete for a National Championship at the World's Largest and Best Rodeo. I look forward to seeing you at Sandhills Global Event Center in Lincoln, Nebraska for the 78th Annual National High School Finals Rodeo July 19-25, 2026.

The following items must be done:

- a. If you are bringing horses to the NHSFR, they must have **health certificates and Coggins** tests to get into Nebraska. Be sure to check with your state vet on what tests are needed to get them back home. All horses must go through horse check-in; brand inspections are not required. **Horse ID papers** are required at horse check-in!
- b. You **MUST** enter the NHSFR using the **NEW online entry portal** – www.equestevent.com. Optional Added Money Jackpot and Mandatory Video Fee must be paid using EQE Dashboard.
- c. Be sure you **complete** the paper Contestant Entry Form and have the **Minors Release** form **notarized** on the back page.
- d. Be sure you **sign** the contestant form **yourself** on the front and back. Your State/Province Secretary must receive your form **immediately following your State/Provincial Finals** to meet all required deadlines.
- e. Your State/Provincial Secretary must mail it to the National Office within five (5) days of your State/Provincial Finals in order for your entry to be accepted.
- f. **Stalling & camping reservations need to be made through your State/Provincial Secretary immediately following your Finals.**
- g. **W-9 forms are REQUIRED if you are entering the Optional Added Money Jackpot.** You must provide your social security number to be entered into the rodeo performance jackpot. This is different than the practice / jackpot arena that is put on by the stock contractor. You will sign up for the practice / jackpot arena upon your arrival.
- h. You **MUST** check in at the NHSFR **before 7 am Sunday, July 19, 2026.** A **MANDATORY** Contestants Meeting will be Sunday, July 19 at 11 am in the Main Arena Grandstands.

DON'T FORGET, if you have trouble en route and may not be able to make the 7 am check-in deadline, be sure and call the Rodeo Office and speak to the Rodeo Secretary. You may not be excused but you need to discuss your situation with the Rodeo Secretary.

You must check in and pick up your back number and information by 7 am, Sunday, July 19!

Rodeo Office: (402) 441-1810. Keep this phone number with you.

I look forward to seeing you in Lincoln for the 78th NHSFR. Travel safe!

Best of Luck,

James Higginbotham

NHSRA Executive Director