

2026 NHSFR KNOWLEDGE BOWL

COMPETITION RULES

- 1) Each state/province association is invited to enter one team. A team consists of three players and two alternates.
- 2) **State/province secretary must submit entry to the NHSRA Office by July 1, 2026.**
- 3) All team members must be current NHSRA members in good standing and need not have qualified for the NHSFR in a rodeo event.
- 4) Questions will be derived but not limited from the following categories: horsemanship questions, rodeo questions, NHSRA Rulebook, horse health questions, current events, etc....
- 5) Only participants and coach/director will be allowed in competition building during the preliminary rounds with Parents and Visitors welcome during the championship final.
- 6) Once competition begins, team members will have no contact with any other individuals other than the assigned competition officials.
- 7) Cell phones, tape recorders or any other type of electronic devices including music players and games will not be allowed in the playing rooms or preparation area.
- 8) Copying of the questions via electronic means or writing by hand will not be permitted during the competition.
- 9) Order of team will be a random draw. This will be a single elimination competition.
- 10) Following the final question, the team with the highest number of points shall be declared the winner of that match. In the event of a tie after the designated number of questions, (5) additional regular questions will be asked. If a tie still remains after the overtime, the first team to win a point (or because of a loss of a point by the other team, has a 1-point advantage) will be declared the winner. Once the moderator has declared a winner based on the scores, there shall be no protest. There shall be no protest of any questions or answers following the declaration of the winner.
- 11) Protests or Questions and/or Answers - Only protests that are made in a courteous, respectful manner will be acknowledged. A protest of a question or answer to a question may be made only by one of the team captains and then only at the time a particular question is read or the answer is given. The moderator and the referee judges will consider the protest, and their decision in all cases is final. When a protest is made, play will be stopped until the protest is resolved. A penalty equal to the value of the question will be assessed if the protest is not upheld. To sustain a protest, at least two members of the designated judges' panel must agree, to keep or replace a question or to determine the validity of an answer. If the protest is sustained by the officials, the moderator and/or the score keepers will take one of the following actions: a) If the question is determined by the officials to be a poor question, it will be replaced and open to a specific chair on each team or to all contestants seated at the game table, depending on the type of questions (one-on-one or open). If the answer to the question received a call for verification, the designated judges' panel will determine the validity of the answer. Points will then be awarded or subtracted as appropriate. If a question is protested after an answer is given, it is the responsibility of the team protesting, to show the judges any other verifiable answer in the approved sources. The designated judges' panel will then determine the validity of the protested question. If the validity of the question is allowed, points will be awarded or subtracted as appropriate. If not, the question will be replaced. In this competition, every effort will be made to be fair and courteous and understanding to the contestants. Abuse of this protest provision by any contestant, will result in one or more of the following: a) Dismissal of any contestant from the competition; b) Dismissal of an entire team from the competition, with forfeiture of points or standing. Spectators, **Parents and Visitors may not protest any question, answer or procedure. No source of information is infallible.** There may at times be answers given to questions that are in agreement with the recommended sources, which are in fact erroneous. Every effort shall be made to eliminate such questions, but in the event of such occurrence, the referee judges and moderator may challenge the answer and if there is unanimous agreement, may elect to accept only the correct answer or to discard the question with no loss or gain of points to either team.
- 12) Awards for both teams will be presented. Scores will be kept for all teams.
- 13) **NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN THE COMPETITION ROOMS!**
- 14) Any person caught writing down questions will result in that team being disqualified.
- 15) All decisions of judges, scorekeepers, referee-timers and the committee are final.

