TIMED EVENTS GROUND RULES

1. Anyone circling or arriving late in the arena will be assessed a Fifty Dollar ($50) fine. Rider must go directly into the box.
2. Goat Tying and Barrel Racing contestants will enter the arena through the designated entry gate on the timed event end of the arena ON THE RUN. The gate will be closed behind each barrel racer.
3. All Timed Event contestants will exit through the designated gates, immediately after competing.
4. Goat Tying contestants, after competing must leave through the arena as directed. No walking through the center or side of the arena.
5. Team Roping contestants, (Headers and Heelers) and breakaway contestants will exit immediately following their run through the designated contestant exit gate.
6. (SPLITS) All Timed Event contestants, using the same horse or horses, including hazers, will be required to confirm this with the Rodeo Secretary ONE HOUR before the start of the rodeo or slack.
7. Timed Event contestants will be required to furnish their own pusher and hazer who must be a NIRA member in good standing and who has his/her school vest on and visible. Livestock must not be pushed past the end of the chute gate. Hazers must request an application for the CNFR, follow all entry form deadlines and CNFR & NIRA Rules and Guidelines.
8. There will be two loops in all go rounds in the team roping with a 25 second time limit.
9. There will be one loop in the breakaway roping with a 25 second time limit.
10. There will be one loop in the tie down roping with a 25 second time limit.
11. There will be a 25 second time limit in goat tying.
12. There will be one jump in the steer wrestling, with a 25 second time limit.
13. A Twenty-five Dollar ($25) fine will be assessed to a contestant who loses her hat during her run in the Barrel Racing.
14. Barrel Racing: Stopwatch time will be official if timer fails.
15. There will be a tractor drag after half of the scheduled barrel race contestants have run during each performance.
16. All contestants must follow the directions of the chute boss and arena director.
17. If a contestant is not ready when called, Timed Event Chute Boss may fine contestant $50 for first offense, that fine progressively doubling with each subsequent offense. By definition, “ready when called” shall mean that the contestant must be ready to run into the arena as soon as called by the Chute Boss.
18. Horses entering the arena without a rider will receive a “no time” on that particular ride.
19. Horses that are unsafe for the rider or contestants in the alley before entering the arena may receive a “no time” on that particular ride.
20. In a performance, an escaped animal will be replaced by the extra. In slack, an escaped animal will be brought back.
21. Each contestant will draw an individual goat in round 3.
22. The timed event stock for the short-go will be selected by the fastest times from the rodeo throughout the week, by event. The total number of stock needed for the event in the short-go will be used, plus 3.

RIDING EVENT GROUND RULES

1. Two (2) rerides will be drawn for each performance and will be brought up and ridden during the same performance.
2. The only one permitted behind the bucking chutes during all performances will be the contestants that are up and contestant’s coach and/or helper. Rider must have on school vest.
3. Cinches must be pulled from the back side. Keep front of gates clear.
4. Rider must exit the arena immediately after the ride.
5. If a contestant is not ready when called, either the Chute Boss (in agreement with the officials) or the officials, may fine contestant $50 for first offense, that fine progressively doubling with each subsequent offense. Likewise, if a stock contractor or stock contractor’s flank man is not ready when called, the Chute Boss (in agreement with the officials) or the officials may fine the stock contractor $50 for the first offense, that fine progressively doubling with each subsequent offense.
6. Stock contractors are not allowed to use a hot shot on animals from underneath. Violators will be fined $250 for the first offense, with said fines progressively doubling thereafter.
7. Riding event livestock must be delivered with a readable permanent ownership and number brand. In addition, bulls must be tipped. Failure to abide by these regulations will result in a fine of $50 per head, per offense.
8. All bareback riggings that are not freaks can be used at CNFR.

GENERAL GROUND RULES

1. All officials, workers, and contestants must have proper identification.
2. No coach’s credentials will be issued to anyone under 21 years of age.
3. All abuses of credentials issued under the auspices of the NIRA will be adjudicated by the CNFR Committee. The committee decision is final.
4. Contestant horses for all timed events will be allowed in the building through the southwest entry. This will be regulated by a doorman.
5. Only identified workers and officials will be allowed in the arena.
6. Contestants will be responsible for their own equipment at all times.
7. Dress code will be enforced. All contestants and coaches must be properly dressed in western attire while in the arena, one hour before the performances and during the performances. If you are on the dirt, you are in the arena. If a CNFR contestant loses his/her arm band, there will be a $100 fine.
8. All disorderly conduct or mistreatment of animals will result in an infraction.
9. All fines are to be paid to the NIRA Office by CASH ONLY.
10. ALL CONTESTANTS MUST ATTEND THE ARM-BAND CEREMONY. Failure to attend the arm-band ceremony will result in a $100 fine.
11. Anyone not complying with the CNFR Ground Rules will be assessed a Fifty Dollar ($50) fine which can be assessed by the Judges, CNFR Officials, Regional Directors, CNFR Chute Boss and CNFR Arena Director. A contestant will not be permitted to continue competing until the assessed fine has been paid in full.

12. All infractions will be posted at the RODEO SECRETARY'S office. Please pay in NIRA Office.
13. The top three contestants in each event who qualify for the short go will be required to report for final television headshots on Saturday, June 20th, at 8:00 a.m. Failure to comply will result in a One Hundred Dollar ($100) fine.
14. CNFR scheduled contestant events are mandatory. CNFR contestants who do not attend these events are subject to a fine, including, but not limited to, opening practices.
15. Stalls will be $150 and must be cleaned daily. Please clean stalls upon departure from the Central Wyoming Fairgrounds.
16. Contestants' horses are not allowed in restricted areas (areas that are posted) at the Central Wyoming Fairgrounds.
17. Designated riding areas at the Ford Wyoming Center must be used to exercise horses. Anyone caught riding on the grass will be fined $250 for the first offense and the fine will double for every additional violation of riding on the grass.
18. Anyone wearing or possessing feathers from protected birds must be in compliance with the regulations/requirements of the US Department of Fish and Wildlife.
19. Team designations will be considered final after the stock draw has been completed.
20. The CNFR Champions will be determined by the most head ridden with the highest score or lowest time (in timed events).
21. Contestants and coaches are not allowed to video in the arena, mote, in the box, or behind the chutes. Subject to fines.

CNFR TURNOUTS An injured contestant may turn out, with a doctor's release from an official CNFR medical staff official. Such a turnout will not eliminate the contestant from competing in any consecutive go-round or the average. If the contestant is entered in any other event, he/she may continue to compete if he/she is able to do so, subject to CNFR approval. Contestants must notify the secretary of his/her intent and provide official documentation 3 hours prior to the performance. Failure to do so will result in a $100 fine. If a contestant turns out in any go-round at the CNFR without a proper doctor's release from an official CNFR medical staff official, he/she will not be eligible to compete in the short go at the CNFR and will not be eligible for any average points.

CNFR FINAL TOP 12 SHORT GO

1. The Top 12 qualified contestants in each event (Top 12 teams in the Team Roping event) will compete in the CNFR finals on Saturday, June 20th. Should the rodeo be lacking a qualified contestant in any event for the finals, the next highest ranked available contestant may take his/her place. Contestant will receive stock drawn for replaced individual.

2. The standard procedure for selecting finals contestants shall be: The Top 12 qualified contestants in each event (Top 12 teams in the Team Roping event.) All ties will be allowed to compete in the short go at the CNFR.

CNFR POSITION DRAW In the event that any one of the top three (3) individuals in any event cannot attend the CNFR, the next ranking individual by points may take his/her place. Individuals next in line to qualify (not to exceed the top 5 rule) will be notified and must be entered prior to the position draw. All CNFR requirements (eligibility, entry fees, etc.) must be satisfied. The only exception will be students with verified injuries who will be replaced before the position draw by the next eligible contestant subject to above rules.

CNFR ELIGIBILITY Students qualify for the CNFR per the NIRA rulebook. Official transcripts or Proof-of-Enrollment must be conferred by the NIRA National Office before the contestant armband ceremony at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 13th.

2026

College National Finals Rodeo

Ground Rules

CNFR
CASPER, WYOMING

National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association

2033 Walla Walla Ave
Walla Walla, Washington 99362
Phone (509) 529-4402
Fax (509) 525-1090
After June 5th, 2026, visit us at the
Ford Wyoming Center