

Virginia Junior Rodeo Association
Junior High Division
2023-2024

Dear Parents,

We are very glad you have chosen to be a part of the Virginia Junior Rodeo Association. We have an exciting year planned for our cowboys and cowgirls. Below you will find a set of instructions and forms that need to be completed. All forms must be completed (signed and notarized) and uploaded to the online membership software, www.nhsra.com member login. All forms must be uploaded and completed prior to first call in.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your VJRA secretary Julie Hitt, at vjrsecretary@gmail.com or by phone at (804) 651-8168.

Member Eligibility Requirements:

1. Must currently be attending school grades 5, 6, 7 or 8. A copy of the member's birth certificate is required with the application. If you are a second-year contestant, your birth certificate is on file. Contestants in 5th grade may join both Maverick and JH divisions if they choose but will be responsible for all membership requirements (paperwork/fees/sponsorship) for both divisions.
2. Must maintain a passing grade in 70% of your classes throughout the year. Please include the member's most recent report card with the application. Typically, this would be the last report card of the previous grade/year. Future report cards will be requested during the season. End of year report card is required prior to going to Nationals if your child qualifies.
3. The \$95 National membership fee must be paid online through the NHSRA site when you log in to complete your membership. There will be a 6.75% convenience fee added. An additional \$50 for state dues is to be paid directly to the state by going to the website VHSRA.org and clicking on forms and payments at the top of the screen then choosing Membership/Sponsorship. This will take you to an option to either enter a card for payment or pay through PayPal. Checks MUST be received prior to the call in for your first rodeo. Mail Checks to VJRA Secretary, Julie Hitt, 15355 Old Ridge Road, Beaverdam, VA 23015.
4. A minimum sponsorship fee of \$200 is due throughout the season. The first installment of \$100.00 is due September 1, 2023. The second installment is due April 1, 2024. Contestants will not be permitted to call in to any rodeo until sponsorship fees are received if they are not received by the due dates.
5. Must participate in our annual fundraisers.

Paperwork to be submitted prior to first fall rodeo:

- NHSRA Junior High Division Membership Application 2023-24. This form will be generated from your NHSRA account once you log in and pay your fees at www.nhsra.com. Go to member login, **if your child was a JH contestant last year, they have an existing profile do not set up a new one.** Contact the State Secretary (Julie Hitt vjrsecretary@gmail.com) and she can give you the username if you have forgotten. If one parent has sole custody, then please submit custody documents to your State Secretary. You must write on the line for the parent not signing why they are not signing i.e., father (mother) has full custody, father (mother) deceased, etc.
- Annual Dues: \$145.00 (\$95 National dues/ \$50 State dues). Please see above for payment information

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- NHSRA Minor Release Form – signed by contestant and both parents - **must be notarized.** This form will be generated from your NHSRA account once you log in and pay your fees at www.nhsra.com. If one parent has sole custody, then please submit custody documents to your State Secretary. You must write on the line for the parent not signing why they are not signing i.e., father (mother) has full custody, father (mother) deceased, etc.
- Copy of most recent report card (*last report card from previous year/grade*)
- If the contestant is home schooled, please complete the Home School Verification Form (attached here) and applicable proof of grade proficiency (testing report)
- VHSRA Volunteer Form (attached here)
- Signed Grade & Consent Form (attached here)
- Virginia High School and Junior Rodeo Association Contestant Guidelines and Rules of Conduct and Contestant Responsibilities Attestation (attached here)
- Copy of Birth Certificate (new members)

General Information:

Generally, we have two performances in one rodeo weekend/day. There is a **MANDATORY** contestant meeting one hour before the start of each rodeo. There will be a roll call at the contestant meeting. During the contestant meeting contestants must be in dress code with no horse. Contestants must remain in dress code the duration of the rodeo. There will be a Check-In for contestants at the first rodeo of the season and the State Finals rodeo. Contestants must be in dress code at Check-in.

Rodeo Dress Code:

- Western hat/helmet
- Long sleeve western shirt
- Belt
- Jeans
- Boots
- Back number (*provided at first attended rodeo*)

Entry Fees:

There is a \$10 administrative fee that each contestant will have to pay per rodeo weekend. Entry fees are required for EACH rodeo and are to be paid via the website VHSRA.org you can access payment for entry fees by clicking on Events/Call-in at top of the screen then choosing Pay Online for the respective rodeo date. This will take you to an option to either enter a card for payment or pay through PayPal. Entry fees will be due the Monday prior to the rodeo. We will no longer accept checks for entry fees. Multi State Rodeos will have earlier due dates for fees and dates will be listed when the rodeo information is sent out. Entry Fees are as follows: Rough Stock Events \$55/go, Calf Roping \$35/go, Chute Doggin \$35/go, Breakaway \$35/go, Team Roping \$35/contestant/go, Ribbon Roping \$35/contestant/go, Goat Tying \$25/go, Barrels \$25/go, Poles \$25/go. Additional details about upcoming events, call-in dates, etc. can be found on the website at VHSRA.org

Call -In:

Call-in will be completed using an online link that will be provided on our website. Call-in will be open from 12:01 a.m on Friday to 11:59 p.m Monday on the designated date which can be found on the website VHSRA.org by clicking on Events/Call-in at top of the screen. Call-in will generally be on the Friday 2 weeks prior for Virginia only rodeos but will be earlier for any multi-state rodeos. After call-in is complete a spreadsheet will be shared showing total owed for each contestant for that rodeo.

VHSRA/VJRA Home School Verification Form

Contestant Qualifications, page 30, Rule #1

In accordance with the NHSRA rulebook pertaining to contestant qualifications, students who attend a homeschool, private school, religious school or correspondence school are eligible for membership if the school is recognized and approved by the state/province board of education or National Board of Education in the state/province the member is applying for membership. The contestant would need to show proof that the school they are attending is accredited and that they have met the grade requirements.

If the school the student is attending is not accredited by the State or National board of Education the student shall demonstrate composite grade level academic proficiency on any State Board or National Board of Education recognized achievement or other mechanism as provided for in State or National Board of Education rules. A student shall be eligible if they achieve a minimum composite score or survey test score within the average or higher than average range as established by the test service utilized on any nationally normed test.

Contestant Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Please check one that applies:

____ My child is enrolled in a homeschool program that is registered with my State Department of Education.
School Name _____
Address _____

____ My child is enrolled in a homeschool program that is NOT registered with my State Department of Education. *Please attach verification of grade appropriate proficiency.*
Testing Center Name _____
Address _____

Current proof of grade proficiency is required at start of season and prior to registering for Nationals.

By signing this verification form, we the parents of _____, certify that our child meets these requirements to be eligible for high school/junior high rodeo. We also authorize the National Director or representative to contact the school/agency to ensure that the student is meeting proficiency requirements. *Please attach school system approval letter from the county in which you reside.*

Parent's Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

VIRGINIA JUNIOR RODEO ASSOCIATION
RULES OF CONDUCT AND CONTESTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

I UNDERSTAND AND WILL ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING RULES OF CONDUCT AND ALL RULES IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RULE BOOK AT ALL HIGH SCHOOL RODEOS AND HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. Be in rodeo attire prior to check in or contestant meeting (whichever is first), during the rodeo and 30 minutes after the rodeo. Dress code includes hat, long sleeve shirt (buttoned and tucked in), back number, western boots, and jeans. Belts may be removed prior to a performance run for safety but must be put back on immediately following that run. No clothing can be worn with another trademark that conflicts with the National Sponsors. (This means that the logo can be read from outside the arena when you are competing). Any logo on your shirt should not be any more than one inch.
2. Be on time for posted rodeo check in and contestant meeting. **Contestants must check themselves in not parents or friends.** If an unforeseen circumstance will cause me to miss the posted check in time it is my responsibility to notify the rodeo secretary.
3. No profanity of any kind on the rodeo grounds. I will always display team support and good sportsmanship.
4. No alcohol, tobacco or illegal substances will be used.
5. I will not discipline my horse in the arena nor abuse any stock in any way. Training my horse should take place at home and not in front of spectators.
6. I understand that I will help pick up trash after the rodeo.
7. I will be on the rodeo grounds a minimum of 1 ½ hours prior to the rodeo and will help put up banners and or help take them down or any other arena duties defined. I understand that it is mandatory to attend all student meetings at the rodeo. There will be student meetings at every rodeo. If I am not in attendance at the meetings, I understand that I will receive a warning for the first missed meeting and will be disqualified from one rodeo performance for a second missed meeting.
8. I will be responsible about call in. I will have needed information (stalls, campsites, etc. needed) and call in on the appropriate date and time for each rodeo I am performing in.
9. I will be responsible for any and all fees. If I am unable to attend a rodeo which I have called in for, I will contact the rodeo secretary as soon as possible. I will be responsible for entry fees unless otherwise excused due to injury of my horse or myself. In cases of injury or sickness, I will provide a signed excuse from a doctor or veterinarian prior to rodeo beginning. I will not be able to med out or vet out for out of state rodeos, I understand that I will still be responsible for my fees. If it is a med out or vet out for an out of state rodeo you still need to submit doctor/vet note so you will not be subject to a turn out fee by the other state.
10. I understand that payback money will be available only after the rodeo is complete.
11. I understand that parent and guardian misconduct will not be tolerated.
12. I understand if I turnout of an event, I must pay my entry fees plus an additional fee of \$25/event I turn out of or lose my points for the entire rodeo in all events I competed in.

VIRGINIA JUNIOR RODEO ASSOCIATION
2023-24 Grade & Consent Form

I certify that this student meets the National High School Rodeo Association's GRADE and CONDUCT qualifications (passing grades in at least 70% of the classes taken).

Signed: _____
(Superintendent, Principal, Designee or National Director)

We, the parents or guardians of: _____(Contestant Name) give the local hospital and/or medial facility and the physicians on the medical staff of the hospital or medical facility permission to administer NECESSARY EMERGENCY treatment for injuries he or she may incur while participating in the Virginia High School Rodeo. We understand that each contestant must be and is covered by medical insurance. We hereby release the hospital and/or medical facility, physicians on the medical staff, rodeo sponsors, promoters, contractors, VHSRA Board members, volunteers and workers from all liability except for negligence.

We give permission for our child and their equine partner to be photographed and his/her photo may be used on educational bulletin boards, newsletters, websites, social media including all advertisements for NHSRA/VHSRA/VJRA

Signed _____ Date _____
Parent or Guardian

Signed _____ Date _____
Parent of Guardian

Signed _____ Date _____
Member

Emergency Contact:

Name: Phone:

Name: Phone:

List any medications or allergies we should know about:

Virginia High School and Junior Rodeo Association
Contestant Guidelines and Rules of Conduct and Contestant Responsibilities
2023-2024
Attestation

We hereby attest that we have read and received copies of the Rules of Conduct and Contestant Responsibilities and the Virginia High School and Junior Rodeo Contestant Guidelines. We are Therefore, acknowledging that we have made ourselves aware of the contents of the guidelines and understand the rules and regulations of VHSRA. We understand that the first time abusing any of the rules or rules outlined in the National High School Finals Rule book or Virginia Conduct & Contestant Responsibilities will result in a warning and the second offense will result in removal of any and all points.

Please sign and return to the State Secretary.

Contestant Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Mandatory Volunteer Guidelines

1. There are two types of volunteer positions. Arena Event Positions & Whole Rodeo Positions.
 - A. Arena Event Positions include:
 - Back Gate: Rope Removal
 - Entry Gate: Flags/Poles/Barrels/Goats
 - Goat Holder/Switcher
 - Pole/Barrel Set Up
 - Rope Box
 - Rough Stock: Gate Puller
 - B. Whole Rodeo Positions include:
 - Back Up Timing
 - Arena Director
 - Tractor Driver
2. Each family is required to fill out the volunteer form in the welcome package. It is not guaranteed the family will draw in the position they requested but we will do our best to match families up in areas they are comfortable in.
3. Each rodeo will be done on a random draw system with the volunteer form taken into consideration.
4. The volunteer draw will be done the week of the rodeo and posted on the team Facebook page and through email. It is the family's responsibility to have the position they are drawn for covered. If you have someone else covering your position you are drawn for, please let the Volunteer Secretary know who is expected to be working. Please ensure that the individual fulfilling the volunteer position can fulfill the position and its requirements. If a child chooses to help work an arena position and they aren't fully able to fulfill the needs their parent/adult will need to be present and accompany the child. However, for multistate rodeos the arena positions need to be filled by high school contestants or adults.
5. Rough Stock, Arena Director & Tractor Driver may be the same person or group of people for the entire season as these are positions that require more experience.
6. Board members, National Director, rodeo secretaries & payback secretaries are exempt from working the Whole Rodeo Positions but are required to work the Arena Event Positions. However, these positions are not able to donate their time to another family unless they work the Whole Rodeo Position.
7. There is no limit on how many times each family will need to work each volunteer position. We will pull from all families entered in the rodeos and will recycle once everyone has been assigned and fulfilled the first round of volunteers.
8. A list will still be kept and published for all to see as to who worked their volunteer positions. This will help to make sure the volunteer positions are distributed evenly throughout the association.
9. It is mandatory for each family to volunteer to fulfill the student's membership requirements. If you are unable to fulfill your volunteer requirement and unable to find someone to fill your position each position is a \$100 fine that will be assessed upon each occurrence.



VHSRA Volunteer Form

Our rodeos do not happen without volunteers. There are several volunteer positions that need to be filled for each rodeo to run as efficiently as possible. Please complete the following form and return it to your state secretary.

Contestant Name _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

I am interested in Volunteering for the following positions:

- Back Gate: Rope Removal
- Entry Gate: Flags/Poles/Barrels/Goats
- Goat Holder/Switcher
- Pole/Barrel Set Up
- Rope Box
- Rough Stock: Gate Puller

I have read and understand the Mandatory Volunteer Positions form that was found within my membership packet. I understand it is not guaranteed that I will draw the position I have requested, but the volunteer secretary will do their best to match me up in a position I am comfortable in. I will be responsible for looking at the volunteer draw when it comes out the week of the rodeo and it is my responsibility to have the position, I was drawn for covered. If I have someone else covering my position, I will let the Volunteer Secretary know who is expected to be working prior to the start of the rodeo.

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL & JUNIOR RODEO

SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES

Annual Sponsorship Requirements: An annual sponsorship is due from all members. Sponsorship can be in cash or paid by check payable to the association. Half of the sponsorship is due in the fall (by 9/1) and the second half of the sponsorship is due in the spring (by 4/1). New members who join after completion of the fall rodeos are only required to pay the spring portion of the sponsorship. If sponsorship is not paid and received by the next call in after the above stated dates, then member will not be allowed to call in.

- High School: \$250
- Junior High: \$200
- Maverick: \$100

Individuals or businesses that contribute to a member's annual sponsorship will be updated on the contestant sponsor page of the website.

If a contestant collects sponsorship in excess of the minimum requirements listed above – 1/2 of the excess will be returned to the contestant at the end of the season.

Any sponsorship that a member collects to be used for their own personal entry fees or expenses should be received by the contributor in cash or a check made out to the contestant – not to the association.

Member information cards will be handed out at the beginning of the season. If updates are needed to the cards throughout the year to revise individual sponsorship information, please notify one of the secretaries prior to the contestant meeting so there is time to have the information updated before the rodeo starts.