



## 2023 Frequently Asked Questions

**How old does my child need to be to rodeo?** There are three age divisions separated by their grade in the SIJRA. These divisions are the K-1-2; 3-4-5; 6-7-8. Their grade for the rodeo year is determined by what grade they are in on January 1st of the rodeo year. However, if a child turns 5 by May 1, he or she may participate that summer even if they were not in kindergarten on January 1. That member will be able to participate 4 years in the K-1-2 division.

**My child isn't 5 until after May 1 but wants to participate. Does SIJRA offer anything for him or her?** We offer a Pre-K division. There is no minimum age limit. These kids do not use horses, but will work on their skills in the Lil' Cowpokes' Arena. They will rope and tie dummies as well as run stick horse barrels and poles. They also do a grand entry on foot right after the big kids.

**How much does the Pre-K division cost?** You will pay a one-time membership fee of \$15. Each rodeo then has a \$10 entry fee that enters them in all of the events. They must participate in at least 3 rodeos to earn an award at the end of the year. They may also pick up a participation cup at the rodeo. They are not required to turn in sponsorship, but will receive the same sponsor awards as the big kids if they want to turn in sponsor money.

**How much does it cost to rodeo in K-8 events?** Membership is \$30 and is paid at the first rodeo. Minimum \$100 sponsorship is due by your second rodeo weekend. Entry fees at the rodeo are \$15 for non-stock events and \$20 for events with stock (except Bull riding it's \$25). There is a \$10 office fee per contestant at each rodeo.

**Why is it important that I let the secretary know that I am not coming to the rodeo (draw out)?** There are approximately 400+ entries at every rodeo. If we don't know that your child isn't coming, we will be calling for them and looking for them throughout the day. All deletes and adds to the day have to occur the hour before the rodeo starts, to keep all of the officials on "the same page". Leaving a contestant in the computer and on the Announcer, Timer & Judges' sheets only allows for mistakes and adds considerable time to an already long day.

**When are the entry fees due?** All entries fees are due no later than check in. However, checks will not be cashed until the Monday after the rodeo.

**What/When is check in?** All contestants must check in the evening before (when the rodeo secretary arrives) or the morning of the rodeo (between 7 and 8 am) at the announcer's stand to do several things: (1) Let the secretary know that you are coming; (2) Settle up on any missed fees; and (3) Pick up run-sheet to double check that they are entered in the correct events and are listed on the run sheet. The secretary needs time to add and delete kids, to update and print the Judges' sheets, Timers' sheets, Arena Director's sheets and the run sheets posted at each gate. If you know that you are NOT coming, the secretary needs to know. There will be no scratches or additions after 8AM so be on time for check-in.

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**How do I get a refund of entry fees?** If you draw out by the entry deadline, you can either get a refund or apply your payment to the next rodeo. However, after the 14 day entry deadline, a refund of fees will only be given IF you bring a signed Doctor statement that the contestant is too sick or injured to rodeo, or a Veterinarian's statement that their horse is too sick or injured to rodeo. If you are drawing out after the entry deadline for another reason (truck break down, death in family, etc...) you can fill out an application for refund and the board will review the circumstance and make a decision concerning a refund of fees. If approved, a check will be issued and can be picked up at the next rodeo (minus the office fee).

**What if I miss the entry deadline?** Contact the rodeo secretary (Deon Carr) by texting her at (502) 819-7136, as soon as you know you missed it. It is at the discretion of the rodeo secretary whether late fees will be added.

**We are a new family. Can we enter the day of the rodeo?** The answer is technically no because the run order is already made as of the day of the rodeo. However, we want everyone to be able to rodeo. So, if you are new and are not entered, call or text Deon Carr at (502) 819-7136 or Gary Allen (502) 905-7431 and talk to them about your options.

**We have never tied a goat...roped a dummy.....etc. What do we do?** ASK someone at the rodeo. We have some great older kids that will be glad to take your child aside and help them learn. We also have some great board members that would be glad to help. It is our hope that we can help you learn! No question is a bad question....unless is it answered on the FAQ page and you didn't take the time to read it.

**My child wants to ride sheep or calves but we don't want to invest in the helmet and vest, etc. until we know he or she likes it?** SIJRA does NOT provide rough stock equipment but we do have a box of donated items that you are welcome to use at the rodeo at your own risk. A few experienced contestants who own their own equipment will also loan equipment on a limited basis. You MUST provide your own mouthpiece. The best thing to do is to head to the rough stock end of the arena and ask the rough stock director for help.

**Do you give awards the day of the rodeo?** Yes. If you win a class you can stop by the award's table and pick up a blue cup and trophy OR choose \$10. Second place gets a red cup, third gets a yellow cup. Every contestant can pick up a participation cup for each event entered.

**What year-end awards are given?** We give Event Awards to the top 5 in each Event. We also give All Around Cowboy and All Around Cowgirl and Rookie Cowboy and Cowgirl for each of the three age divisions.

**What happens if my child is retained a year in school?** They would need to advance to the next level in the SIJRA.

**How are year-end awards calculated?** Each rodeo event is placed at each rodeo with 1st-10th place with 1st place receiving 10 points, 2nd place 9 points, etc. At the end of the year, the computer will add up a member's top 5 event scores and add them together for their Event total.

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(We count their best 5 of 7 scores). For Rookie and All Around awards, the computer will choose their best 5 events.

**What events count towards the All Around and Rookie Awards?** Only events in your child's age division, and only their best 5. "Step-up" events are NOT counted toward All Around or Rookie.

**My child only participated in one rodeo this year. Will they be considered a Rookie next season?** No, once you pay membership and participate in an SIJRA rodeo, then that is considered your Rookie Season.

**What if my child wants to do an event that isn't offered in their age division?** A contestant can "step up" and compete in an event NOT offered in their age division. For example a contestant in K-1-2 goat flank can step up to the 3-4-5 goat tie, because goat flank is the only goat event in K-1-2. They can compete for year-end event awards in a step up class, but only events in their age division are used to calculate All Around and Rookie awards.

**What is a run sheet or day sheet?** A run sheet, sometimes referred to as a day sheet, is the order in which the kids will run. The computer "processes the draw" after the secretary enters all of the kids. The order in which they run is random. We process the draw on Tuesday before the rodeo weekend, so the copies can be made and picked up to take to the rodeo.

**My run sheet shows that my child follows John Smith, but they skipped right over John Smith at the rodeo. What happened?** Most likely John Smith scratched or "drew out" after the run sheets were copied and is still included on the run sheet that you picked up at check in. The gate, announcer, timers and judges will have accurate sheets, but you will not. So you still need to be paying attention to the announcer.

**How often do you drag the arena during barrels and poles?** As a general practice, we drag at the beginning of every age division and after every 10 runs. However, the Arena Director and/or Judges have the authority to drag after fewer or more runs based on arena conditions and the number of contestants in an age division.

**My child is 11th on the run sheet, but they called her right before the drag. I was hoping for "fresh dirt". What's up?** The Arena Director and/or Judges will determine when we drag. For example, if there are 30 kids, it will most likely be every 10. If there are 36 kids, it will most likely be every 9. If there are 21 kids, it may be after 11. So, if there is a scratch before your child's turn to run, they may be moved before the drag, which is not shown on your copy of the run sheet. Our Judges and Arena Directors will make decisions based on safety and arena conditions.

**Do the barrel kids run the exact same pattern every rodeo?** The Arena Director, Judges & Board will make decisions based on the arena conditions about moving barrels to a different set of stakes. In some rodeos, the K-1-2 division may run a smaller set. Some rodeos, all divisions may run a different set. Our goal is to provide the safest footing possible and not to "dig holes" around the barrels.

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**According to the run sheet, my child was in line to tie the goat on the right, but now they are sending her to the goat on the left?** Just like in barrels, if there is a scratch, your child will move up a spot. And again, your run sheet is not the same as the run sheet the Judges, Announcer and Timers are using. So, listen to the announcer and be ready!

**What if I think there was an incorrect call by the judge?** You must first approach the Arena Director. DO NOT approach a judge directly. If you cannot find the Arena Director, you can grab a Board Member and they will help you find the Arena Director. This must be done immediately, and before the event ends. The Arena Director is a qualified judge and may make the call, or they may approach a judge for clarification. The Judge/Arena Director's decision is final.

**Do I have to wear my number?** It is not required but STRONGLY ENCOURAGED! We like to support our Arena Sponsor, Kalmbach Feeds. We also have printed your child's name on their back number. With an association of 140+ members, being able to learn names and recognize kids is difficult. So please wear your number.

**What is a lap and tap?** In a roping event, if there is some type of issue such as a malfunction of the timer, or a flag is dropped to early, or a calf gets out, etc.....you may be given a lap and tap- as decided by the judge. Basically, you get a rerun with no barrier with the time starting where the flag was dropped, or a rerun with no barrier with the time starting your run at 0 seconds, as decided by the Judges. Any barrier penalties will carry with you.

**What happens if the timer quits in the middle of a barrel or pole run?** We have a back-up timer in place and that will be your official time. If the back-up timer malfunctions, then you will receive a rerun, but will carry any penalties to your rerun.

**What if both the timers malfunction during a goat run?** Basically, you will be given a rerun on the same goat, unless your goat got up on the run, then you will receive a no time. If you are given a rerun, you can choose to go immediately or at the end of your age division.

**What if my bridle breaks during a run and I have to stop, or I go off pattern?** Unfortunately, it will be a no time.

**What if it breaks right before my run?** We will do our best to let you run, but there is no guarantee. It will be up to the discretion of the Arena Director and/or Judge whether we can wait, you are disqualified, or you can run at the end.

**What are sponsorship tiers?** Each member is required to turn in a \$100 sponsorship by their second rodeo weekend. If you have a family of 2 or more, we only require you to turn in \$200 total for the entire family, which will make each member eligible for a membership award, as well as year-end awards. However, if your child would like to earn more sponsorship prizes, the following tiers are in place: \$300 in sponsorship-a member will receive a member award and a jacket. \$750 in sponsorship-a member will receive a membership award, a member jacket and a trophy knife. \$1000 in sponsorship-a member will receive all of the above plus an SIJRA buckle

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with his or her name on it. We also give a top sponsor award for the member bringing in the most money.

**Can my Pre-K member earn those awards?** Yes, they will earn the same sponsor awards as the K-8 members if they choose to turn in sponsorship money.

**What if we turn in \$750 or \$1000 in sponsorship and don't really want a buckle or a knife?** You can opt for a \$100 gift card to Discount Boots & Tack, Country Saddlery or Ropes for Less in place of the buckle. You can opt for a \$75 gift card at the \$750 level in exchange for the knife.

**If I turn in \$300 for both of my kids, does one get a jacket?** No. The money would be split between them. For a member to earn a jacket, he or she must turn in \$300 in just his or her name. Their sibling would have to turn in an additional \$100 to get their membership award or an additional \$300 to get a jacket.

**If I turn in \$200 for my two K-8 members, does my Pre-K member also get a membership award?** Yes, we would count them as part of your family.

**What is the difference between a Membership awards and a Sponsorship award?** A Membership award is given when the Member turns in the minimum \$100 sponsorship (which also allows him/her to rodeo for points). A sponsorship award is given when that Member turns in additional sponsorship monies above and beyond the minimum requirement at the \$300, \$750 or \$1000 levels. They would then earn sponsorship awards as discuss above.

**At the end of the Season, how do I tell the Board what my child wants for his award if he/she has earned a spot in the Top 5 of an event, Rookie, Reserve All Around or All Around?** All Members who have paid their minimum \$100 sponsorship fee will have an opportunity to fill out an Award Survey at the last rodeo. The Rodeo Secretary will refer to this form when obtaining sizes for your child, award preferences, colors, etc.