

South Dakota 4-H Rodeo Rules & Regulations

<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2026-01/P-00019-v8.pdf>

Official Rules and Regulations – Rule 5

Current rule:

4-H rodeo contestants that won one of the first four places in any approved event at an approved South Dakota 4-H rodeo are qualified to compete at State 4-H Rodeo Finals only in those events in which they qualified . All contestants tying for fourth place are considered qualified contestants. Only one set of winners per rodeo will qualify for the State Finals regardless of go-rounds.

Proposed rule:

4-H rodeo contestants that won **one of the first three places** in any approved event at an approved South Dakota 4-H rodeo are qualified to compete at State 4-H Rodeo Finals only in those events in which they qualified . All contestants tying for **third** place are considered qualified contestants. Only one set of winners per rodeo will qualify for the State Finals regardless of go-rounds.

Corresponding rule change proposal:

South Dakota 4-H Rodeo Policies & Procedures

<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2026-01/P-00015-v4.pdf>

IV – 4-H STATE FINALS RODEO

IV – 1 Qualification

Current rule:

2. A contestant must earn a first through fourth place at a Regional Rodeo with a qualified ride or time to be eligible to compete at the 4-H State Finals Rodeo. (SD 4-H Finals Annual Meeting 10/29/2016)

Proposed rule:

2. A contestant must earn **a first through third place** at a Regional Rodeo with a qualified ride or time to be eligible to compete at the 4-H State Finals Rodeo.

Justification:

While it is truly amazing that youth rodeo is growing in South Dakota, there are now so many regional qualifying rodeos that in 2025 approximately 50% of 4-H rodeo participants qualified for the state finals. This diminishes the prestige of a state qualification and results in a state finals that no longer fits the venue. Unless a larger venue could be utilized, the participant numbers at the state finals need to be decreased to allow for adequate parking, camping, and stalling.