

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 competing in an 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. Qualifying placings are:

- a. 21 or more entries in an approved event: top four places with a qualified time or ride.
- b. 11 to 20 entries in an approved event: top three places with a qualified time or ride.
- c. 10 or less entries in an approved event: top two places with a qualified time or ride.

All contestants in a tying 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 qualified placing** at a Regional Rodeo with a qualified ride or time to be eligible to compete at the 4-H State Finals Rodeo.

Justification:

There are many qualifying rodeos with 10 or less contestants in an event. Allowing 4 qualified placings when there are a limited number of entries means that a large percentage of contestants may qualify for state finals. Limiting state qualifiers for events with small entry numbers helps maintain the competitive integrity of the finals. This proposed rule change may also help limit the number of contestants at a finals that is currently pushing the limits of its venue.