

**SD 4-H Rodeo Lay Board**  
**October 25, 2026 – Immediately following Finals Committee Meeting**  
**SDHSAA - 804 N Euclid Ave. Pierre, SD**

**AGENDA**

Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Reading and Approval of Secretary Minutes

**Old Business:**

- 1) Other old business

**New Business:**

- 1) 2027 Rodeo Dates
- 2) Proposed rule changes (see below)
- 3) Other New Business

**Election of 2027 Lay Board Officers**

President -  
Vice President -  
Secretary/Treasurer -  
Director At Large -  
Director At Large – Representative of SD 4-H Finals Board

Any additional business

Next meeting date –

Adjourn

## Proposed Rule Changes

**#1** Rule Change Proposal to be applied to barrel racing, pole bending, and flag racing Jr & Sr at regional 4-H rodeos.

If a contestant breaks the pattern, contestant must immediately exit arena without completing the pattern. This is to help our rodeos continue to run efficiently since we have seen an uptick of contestant numbers.

- Submitted by: Wall 4-H Rodeo Committee

**#2** Rule Change Proposal – Increase qualifying rodeo sanctioning fee to \$750 or \$1000. Non sanctioned Rodeos will pay \$250. New Underwood Roping Club and surrounding area

Rules & Regulations Page 3 #6

- Submitted by: New Underwood Roping Club and surrounding area

**#3** Rule Change Proposal - To enter a sanctioned 4-H Rodeo all entries for any regional rodeo must be submitted to regional secretaries by May 1. If missed deadline a \$150 late fee will be assessed per sanctioned rodeo. Last deadline to enter is July 1.

- Submitted by: New Underwood Roping Club and surrounding area

**#4** Rule Change Proposal - Online entries required for regional rodeos.

- Submitted by: New Underwood Roping Club and surrounding area

**#5** Rule Change Proposal - Pole Bending - Page 13 5th paragraph – No circling horse in arena

- Submitted by: New Underwood Roping Club and surrounding area

**#6** Rule Change Proposal - Barrel Racing - Page 12 1st paragraph – No circling horse in arena unless center gate isn't used.

- Submitted by: New Underwood Roping Club and surrounding area

**#7** Rule Change Proposal - Breakaway Roping - Page 13 1st paragraph – Replace “catch as catch can” with “a legal catch is a bell collar catch”

- Submitted by: New Underwood Roping Club and surrounding area

**#8 Rule Change Proposal - Breakaway Roping Bell Collar Catch - All breakaway roping events will require a bell collar catch after the rope has passed the nose of the calf.**

**Rationale:** The National High School Rodeo Association requires a bell collar catch in the breakaway roping event. Adopting this rule would promote consistency with NHSRA standards while encouraging proper technique and better roping by contestants.

- Submitted by: Glen King

**#9 Rule Change Proposal - Breakaway Roping Bell Collar Catch – Only Senior breakaway roping events will require a bell collar catch after the rope has passed the nose of the calf.**

**Rationale:** Implementing the bell collar catch requirement for Senior breakaway roping would encourage proper roping technique and better prepare contestants for competition under National High School Rodeo Association standards.

- Submitted by: Glen King

**#10 Rule Change Proposal - Remove junior girls flag race and senior girls ribbon roping as 4-H rodeo events. This will include removing from all areas of the 4-H Rodeo Rules and Regulations and any related rules in the South Dakota 4-H Rodeo Policies & Procedures.**

**Rationale:** Title IX does not require federally funded or assisted programs to offer the exact same number or mirror-image sets of events for boys and girls. Instead, it requires equal overall athletic opportunity and accommodation of student interests and abilities. Title IX compliance focuses on whether the total program effectively accommodates the interests and abilities of both sexes rather than maintaining identical event counts. At the 2026 State 4H Finals the total number of qualifications in girl events significantly outweighs the number of qualifications in boy events. Eliminating junior girl flags and senior girls ribbon roping would contribute to parity in the total number of entries in boy versus girl events.

- Submitted by: Latona Austin

**#11 Rule Change Proposal - There will be four performances (two long go's) of the SD 4-H Finals Rodeo, with contestants competing in either the first and fourth performance (Friday morning/Saturday night; or the second and third performance (Friday night/Saturday morning). Contestants will be run in reverse order for the second go.**

**Rationale:** Changing the performance order to two Friday and two Saturday performances with contestants competing in an event either Friday morning/Saturday night or Friday night/Saturday morning will ensure that no contestants will be competing in the same event in a single day. This will be

especially beneficial for competitors in barrel racing and pole bending who, for various reasons, need/want to avoid competing on their horse multiple times in a day. Based on the comments on the SD 4H Finals Facebook page, a majority of competitors seeking to trade performances are competitors in barrel racing and/or pole bending who had a Saturday/Saturday draw.

- Submitted by: Latona Austin

**#12 Rule Change Proposal** - To qualify for the State Finals, a contestant must accumulate 10 points in an event.

- Submitted by: New Underwood Roping Club and surrounding area

**#13 Rule Change Proposal** - 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.

**Rationale:** 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.

- Submitted by: Latona Austin

**#14 Rule Change Proposal** - 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.

Qualifying placings are:

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

**Rationale:** 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.

- Submitted by: Latona Austin