



WCRA RODEO CAROLINA
GROUND RULES PAYOUTS, ADVANCEMENT AND TIE-BREAKERS
Mill Spring, NC – OCTOBER 5-8, 2023

KEY EVENT DETAILS

(for reference only – refer to official event grounds rules for complete event information)

- ARENAS: Tryon International Equestrian Center, 25 International Blvd, Mill Spring, NC 28756
- PERFORMANCES: THREE (3): October 6 – 7:30 PM; October 7 – 7:30 PM; October 8 – 2:00 PM
- QUALIFYING ROUNDS:
 - October 5 – Time TBD – SW, TR, TD, BAW - 2 rounds each; GBR – 1 round plus optional Buy-Back round
 - IPRA Approved (second sanction) – Timed Event Qualifying Rounds
- TOTAL PAYOUT - \$400,000.00 GUARANTEED
- PAYOUT PER DISCIPLINE: BB, SB, BR, TD, TR-HDR, TR-HLR, SW, BAW, GBR – \$44,444 per discipline
- WCRA NOMINATIONS: athletes are eligible to nominate their competitive efforts toward the WCRA Virtual Rodeo Qualifier (VRQ) for Segment RNC23 from March 20, 2023 through September 10, 2023 at 11:59pm CT.
- ELIGIBLE ATHLETES:
 - Athletes are required to have a minimum of fifteen (15) VRQ points on the WCRA Segment RNC23 Leaderboard in a discipline to be eligible to enter WCRA Rodeo Carolina.
 - BB, SB, BR – up to 10 athletes from Segment RNC23 Leaderboard
 - TD, TR-HDR, TR-HLR, SW, BAW, GBR – up to Top 36 from WCRA Segment RNC23 Leaderboard
 - #1-#6 Segment RNC23 Leaderboard athletes seeded into Progressive Rounds at no entry fee. If a seeded athlete chooses to enter and participate in the Qualifying Rounds for payout and World Points they will be required to pay the entry fee.
- ENTRY FEES:
 - Timed Events - \$250 per discipline in Qualifying Rounds – 70% jackpot payback based on Qualifying Round results
 - Barrel Racing Buy Back Round: \$250 – no payout, advancement only
 - Rough Stock- No entry fees
- TRADE DEADLINES: Event Format negates the need for trades.
- HORSE STALLS and RV PARKING – Stalls/RV are available at Tryon International Equestrian Center. Reservation details will be available at a later date.
- COMPETITION FORMAT:
 - Qualifying Rounds – Timed Events – 2 Rounds; Barrel Racing – 1 Round
 - Barrel Racing Buy Back Round – 1 Round, minimum five (5) entries required to hold round.
 - Progressive Round – all disciplines – 2 Rounds (no previous times advance except for tie breakers)
 - Triple Crown of Rodeo – 1 Round (clean slate) – 8 athletes
- DISCIPLINE FORMATS:
 - BB, SB, BR: Two (2) rounds in Progressive Round with eligible athletes advancing to Triple Crown of Rodeo round.
 - TD, SW, TR, BAW – Two (2) Qualifying Rounds with eligible athletes advancing to Progressive round
 - GBR – One (1) Qualifying Round with eligible athletes advancing to Progressive round
 - Athletes not advancing are eligible to re-enter in the Buy-Back Round for \$250.
- ADVANCEMENT TO SUBSEQUENT ROUNDS:
 - Advancement from Qualifying Rounds to Progressive Round:
 - Timed Events - Qualifying Round 1 Winner, Qualifying Round 2 Winner, Top 4 from Qualifying Rounds 2 head Aggregate
 - Barrel Racing – Top 4 Fastest Times from Qualifying Round, Top 2 Fastest Times from Buy Back Round
 - Advancement from Progressive Round to Triple Crown of Rodeo Round:
 - Progressive Round 1 Winner, Progressive Round 2 Winner, Top 6 from Progressive Rounds 2 head Aggregate
- RELIANCE RANCHES VRQ CHAMPION BONUS WORLD POINTS
 - All entered athletes will be eligible for bonus World Points toward the Reliance Ranches VRQ Champion Leaderboard. Qualifying Rounds of Rodeo Carolina are not eligible for Event World Points.
- STOCK CONTRACTOR: Various TBD



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1. SCHEDULE OF KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

- 1.1. March 20, 2023 at 12:01am CT – RNC23 nominations open
- 1.2. September 10, 2023 at 11:59pm CT – RNC23 nomination close
- 1.3. September 12, 2023 at 2:00pm CT – Preliminary Leaderboard Update
 - 1.3.1. All athletes have from Tuesday, September 12 at 2:00pm CT – Wednesday, September 13 at 2:00pm CT to email support@wcrarodeo.com to declare a dispute in the results. After this deadline, all points on the RNC23 leaderboard are final.
- 1.4. September 14, 2023 at 1:00pm CT – RNC23 leaderboard final
- 1.5. September 15, 2023 at 10:00am CT – September 18, 2023 at 3pm CT – Team Roping Pairings for RNC23 Leaderboard
- 1.6. September 19, 2023 at 12:00pm CT – RNC23 Entries Open
- 1.7. September 21, 2023 at 12:00pm CT – RNC23 Entries Close
- 1.8. September 22, 2023 – RNC23 Callbacks

2. WCRA RODEO CAROLINA - ATHLETE PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. At the close of WCRA Segment Rodeo Carolina (RNC, RNC23) on September 10, 2023 at 11:59:59pm the top ranked eligible athletes available in each discipline of the final audited WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard as of September 14, 2023, per the totals listed below in these ground rules and who enter the event will be eligible to participate in WCRA Rodeo Carolina (RNC23).
- 2.2. WCRA reserves the right to add additional athletes via a generic qualification from select association or series leaderboards to participate in the event. Any such case may or may not be promoted to the general public outside of the association/series marketing campaigns.
 - 2.2.1. IPRA/IPRA Canada – The event champion from each eligible discipline from the 2023 Festival Western St. Tite event in St. Tite, Quebec, Canada on September 14-17, 2023 will earn a generic qualification to WCRA Rodeo Carolina. The “Canada Cup” event is not included.
 - 2.2.1.1. Eligible Disciplines to earn a generic qualification: Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Bull Riding, Tie Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping-Header, Team Roping-Heeler, Breakaway Roping and Barrel Racing.
 - 2.2.1.2. Timed Event qualifications will be placed in the Qualifying Rounds of competition. (one generic qualification per eligible discipline and leaderboard placement will be determined at time of qualification verification)
 - 2.2.2. RNC23 Leaderboard ranking supersedes a Generic Qualification. Any athlete that has earned a Generic Qualification that is also ranked in the Top 10 (Riding Events) or Top 36 (Timed Events) of the leaderboard of the generic qualification discipline, the leaderboard ranking will be used for placement in the event.
 - 2.2.3. Generic Qualifications vacated for any reason, including leaderboard qualification, will not be filled or replaced by alternate athletes.
- 2.3. Disciplines:
 - 2.3.1. Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding and Bull Riding – up to 10 athletes per discipline
 - 2.3.1.1. Bull Riding athletes must be a current member, and in good standing, of Professional Bull Riders, Inc. (PBR).
 - 2.3.1.1.1. For any questions about PBR Memberships, payments, or scheduling, you can reach Jack Holmberg at [719-242-2800](tel:719-242-2800) ext. 3235 or by email to jholmberg@pbr.com.
 - 2.3.1.1.2. PBR Velocity/Challenger Tour level points are applied to the athletes per PBR protocols.
 - 2.3.2. Tie Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping-Header, Team Roping-Heeler, Breakaway Roping and Barrel Racing – up to 36 athletes per discipline
 - 2.3.2.1. All references to a Team Roping Leaderboard position will be based on the combined team's point total.
- 2.4. All athletes eligible to enter RNC23 via the WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard will be notified by WCRA via email and text with event entry details.
- 2.5. Athletes on the RNC23 Leaderboard must have a minimum of fifteen (15) VRQ points in a discipline to be eligible to enter RNC23 and participate in the WCRA Triple Crown of Rodeo presented by Lazy E bonus program.

- 2.5.1. Athletes on the RNC23 Leaderboard that have not earned the minimum amount of VRQ points required to be eligible to enter the event, are eligible to “enter” the event as an alternate. Alternates will be added to the event per Rule 2.7 and Rule 2.7.1 of these ground rules.
- 2.6. A master event athlete list of eligible athletes will be created based on their position on the WCRA Segment RNC23 Leaderboard following the final points audit on September 14, 2023. Competition positions will be filled up to the number of available positions in each discipline as listed in this section of these ground rules during the event entry time period. Eligible athletes that enter during the event entry time period that are not placed into a competition position will be placed on the master event athlete list as an alternate in order of their WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard position.
- 2.6.1. If the RNC23 Competition Committee adds an athlete, as an alternate or for any other reason, to the RNC23 athlete roster that has not participated in the WCRA Segment RNC23 or earned the required minimum number of VRQ points during Segment RNC23, he or she must nominate the 2023 RNC23 event toward the next WCRA Segment and may be subject to an additional \$300 fee.
3. **GENERAL GROUND RULES**
- 3.1. Rules of Competition are contained in a separate document available on the WCRARodeo.com events page or by contacting support@wcrarodeo.com
- 3.2. **SANCTIONING BODIES:**
- 3.2.1. IPRA (second sanction) – Timed Event Qualifying Rounds only. Performances and Barrel Racing Buy Back Round not included. Must have current IPRA membership prior to start of event to be eligible for IPRA World Standings points.
- 3.2.2. PBR – Bull Riding is PBR approved. Must have PBR membership to be eligible for PBR points.
- 3.3. **ELIGIBLE ATHLETES:** The WCRA Rodeo Carolina (RNC23) is open to:
- 3.3.1. Timed Events: all athletes over the age of thirteen (13) years of age at the time of entry.
- 3.3.1.1. Steer Wrestling - Must be a minimum of 15 years of age to nominate and must be 16 years of age to enter and compete at the event.
- 3.3.1.2. Breakaway Roping is limited to biological female athletes only.
- 3.3.2. WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard Qualification Benefits:
- 3.3.2.1.1. WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard #1-#6 Timed Event athletes/teams will be seeded to RNC23 Progressive Round and is eligible to participate in the Qualifying Round for prize money payout without jeopardizing their seeded position.
- 3.3.3. Riding Events –
- 3.3.3.1. Bull Riding - all athletes over the age of eighteen (18) at the time of competition per PBR Rulebook.
- 3.3.3.2. Bareback Riding and Saddle Bronc Riding - Must be a minimum of 15 years of age to nominate and must be 16 years of age to enter and compete at the event.
- 3.4. RNC23 DISCIPLINES: Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Bull Riding, Tie Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping-Header, Team Roping-Heeler, Women's Breakaway Roping, and Barrel Racing
- 3.5. Competition Schedule:
- 3.5.1. WCRA Qualifying Rounds – October 5, 2023
- 3.5.2. Progressive Rounds – October 6-7, 2023
- 3.5.3. WCRA Triple Crown of Rodeo Round – October 8, 2023
- 3.6. Only actual contestant and one companion allowed gate access for ticketed rodeo performances on the day(s) the athlete is scheduled to participate.
- 3.7. RNC23 Competition Committee reserves the right to modify these ground rules whether by addition to, deletion from, or modification of any rules as it deems necessary, without prior notice, to ensure fair competition.
- 3.7.1. No rule changes will be made within a round of competition.
- 3.8. Athlete Check In:
- 3.8.1. All athletes must check-in at the rodeo secretary office to complete and sign a release of liability before competing.
- 3.8.2. ALL ATHLETES WITH HORSES – Must check-in with the rodeo secretary and present all current required North Carolina Animal Health Commission documents
- 3.9. PERFORMANCE PARKING – Athlete parking location will be provided in the pre-event information packets.
- 3.10. COVID and General Health Welfare Compliance:
- 3.10.1. The safety of RNC23 athletes, production crew, event staff, venue staff, exhibitors, spectators and everyone in the execution of this event is RNC23 staff's top priority.
- 3.10.2. RNC23 may implement safety guidelines based on recommendations from Federal, State, and Local officials along with the host venues and partner corporations' protocols in place at the time of the event. Safety guidelines will be provided to all participants (athletes, staff, etc.) prior to the start of the event.
- 3.11. **DEFINITION:** For avoidance of doubt and clarification as it applies to the RNC23 WCRA Major payout, the following defines the difference between an Event Champion and an Event Winner.

- 3.11.1. An Event Champion is a Contestant/Team that has recorded the highest score/fastest time in the Triple Crown of Rodeo Round **and** has placed first in the final event results of his/her discipline solely by himself/herself. To be an Event Champion, Contestant/Team must meet all Triple Crown of Rodeo eligibility requirements. Contestants/Teams with tied scores/times in the Triple Crown of Rodeo Round are not considered Event Champions. An Event Champion **is** eligible for the Triple Crown of Rodeo bonus program
- 3.11.2. An Event Winner has not posted a qualified score/time in the Triple Crown of Rodeo Round **and/or** has not placed first in the final results of his/her discipline solely by himself/herself but rather is in a tied situation for first. Event Winners **have not** met the minimum Triple Crown of Rodeo requirements and are **NOT** eligible for the Triple Crown of Rodeo bonus program.
- 3.12. Splits:
 - 3.12.1. All timed event splits must be declared one (1) hour before the event start time.
- 3.13. Turn Outs and Non-Entries:
 - 3.13.1. If an eligible athlete qualified via the RNC23 Leaderboard does not enter during the designated entry time period, they will be replaced by the next eligible alternate from the master event athlete list.
 - 3.13.2. If an eligible athlete qualified via the RNC23 Leaderboard draws out of the event before entries close, their position will be filled by the next eligible alternate from the master event athlete list.
 - 3.13.3. If an eligible athlete qualified via the RNC23 Leaderboard turns out of the event after entries close, their position will be filled by the next eligible alternate.
 - 3.13.3.1. The penalty for a notified turnout is \$500.00 or forfeiture of all entry fees, whichever is greater.
 - 3.13.3.2. The penalty for a non-notified turnout is \$500.00 plus forfeiture of all entry fees and/or applicable stock charges associated with the entry.
 - 3.13.3.2.1. The athlete will not be allowed to earn a competition position at the event in the same discipline via alternate qualifying methods.
 - 3.13.4. If an athlete chooses not to participate for a “non- injury” related reason in the Triple Crown of Rodeo Round, they will be assessed a penalty for a notified turnout in the amount of \$1,000.00. The penalty for a notified turnout after the turnout deadline or a non-notified turnout is \$1,000.00 plus any applicable entry fees and/or stock charges associated with the entry.
 - 3.13.4.1. Turnout Deadline – 24 hours prior to the posted performance start time of the event.
 - 3.13.4.2. If an athlete turns out after the deadline, but before 18 hours of the posted performance time and a replacement participates in their place, the additional fees will be waived above the \$1,000 penalty.
 - 3.13.5. Any athlete the incurs a fine for a turnout or non-notified turnout, the athlete will have the option to pay the fine or be ineligible to participate in the WCRA platform for a minimum of the next WCRA segment and up to a maximum one (1) calendar year. The athlete will also forfeit any and all fees or payments made in relation to the ineligible WCRA segment.
 - 3.13.5.1. The ineligible period will be determined by the WCRA Competition Committee and an event Promoter Representative.
 - 3.13.6. Turn Out Due to Doctor Release: Athlete must give notice to Event Arena Secretary no later than 3 days before his/her scheduled Performance, or upon the occurrence of a physical injury if it occurs less than 3 days before the Performance. In order to be eligible to be Excused, the Athlete must provide, prior to Athlete’s first scheduled competition time, a written medical doctor verification on doctor’s letterhead bearing the doctor’s name, address and phone number, signed by a licensed doctor explaining the injury and recommending that the Athlete not compete in the Event. The doctor’s note must be dated no later than 3 days after the alleged injury occurred.
 - 3.13.7. Turn Out Due to Visible Injury: An Athlete may turn out due to visible injury, provided notification of such a turn out is authorized by official Event Sports Medicine trainer or Event doctor at Event.
 - 3.13.8. Turn Out Due to Vet Releases: Vet releases will only be accepted in the Barrel Racing Discipline and must be on signed letterhead from a licensed veterinarian.
 - 3.13.9. In the Team Roping, if a header or heeler notifies TO, NNTO, VIR, DR, or DO leaving an incomplete team, the next Athlete in the corresponding category (header or heeler) will be added to the team. If an alternate is not found prior to the Athlete’s competition time, the remaining partner may select another partner from among any of the Event Athletes already entered in Event, except those scheduled to compete in that same Discipline that have not already entered the maximum allowed times.
 - 3.13.10. Other: RNC23 Competition Committee may Excuse an Athlete from competing in a Performance, staying at the Performance for the designated times, or otherwise altering the terms of the Athlete Agreement, but only in its sole and absolute discretion.
 - 3.13.10.1. Due to PBR sanctioning of WCRA events, PBR Athletes that are required to participate in the PBR Unleash the Beast Tour, PBR World Finals or a PBR Teams event that also have qualified to

the final performance of a WCRA Triple Crown of Rodeo event will be excused from the final performance without penalty.

4. Athlete Replacement Policy

- 4.1. If the #1-#6 Leaderboard Athletes in a discipline chooses not to participate in the Qualifying Rounds, the vacated position will be NOT filled by the next eligible athlete/team from the alternate list.
- 4.2. Any replacements for an advancing open/vacated position in a subsequent round of competition of the event will be filled by the next eligible athlete/team from the previous section of competition (Qualifying Rounds or Progressive Rounds) standings of the performance the vacated position originally came from, if available.
 - 4.2.1. If athlete replacements have been exhausted or no replacement is available from the performance with the vacated advancement position, the next available athlete with the highest score or fastest time from the overall event will be eligible to fill the vacated position.
- 4.3. WCRA Competition Committee will determine when an athlete/team needs to be replaced and who the replacement athlete/team will be.
- 4.4. WCRA reserves the right to issue a replacement, at any time, to ensure a competitive field for competition.
 - 4.4.1. Honest Effort - If an athlete does not compete fairly and in good faith, in a sportsmanlike and competitive manner, the WCRA Competition Committee may take action which may include disqualification from the event.
- 4.5. In the event an athlete is injured in Progressive Round and unable to participate in the TCR Round, the next highest score or fastest time will advance.
 - 4.5.1. The injured athlete will receive the equivalent of the last place payout for the event. The advancing athlete that replaces the injured athlete in the TCR Round will receive the payout based on their performance in the TCR Round.
 - 4.5.2. In the team roping, if a partner is injured in Progressive Round and unable to complete in the TCR Round, the next athlete from the aggregate standings in that respective discipline will then advance and replace the injured athlete in the TCR Round.
- 4.6. Trades: The RNC23 event format negates the need for trades.
- 4.7. Timing & Scoring
 - 4.7.1. Timed Event competition will start behind a rope barrier and will be timed by handheld plungers from the PBR Scoring System.
 - 4.7.1.1. Times in the Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Tie-Down Roping, and Breakaway Roping will be recorded to the hundredths of a second.
 - 4.7.2. Barrel Racing times will be recorded to the thousandths of a second by electronic eyes. Dual timer eyes will be used. The primary set of timer eyes (PBR scoring system) will be the primary recorded time. The secondary timer eyes (FarmTek) will be the first back up time used. Handheld stopwatches will be the second backup if needed.
 - 4.7.3. If backup times from stopwatches are required to be used at any time during the event competition a minimum of two (2) handheld stopwatches will be used and averaged to record times to the tenths of a second.
 - 4.7.4. Riding Event disciplines will be scored in half points for both athlete and animal.
 - 4.7.4.1. Two field officials will mark both athlete and animal.
 - 4.7.4.2. Two back judges will start the ride time and watch for fouls.
- 4.8. Stock Draw
 - 4.8.1. Timed Events:
 - 4.8.1.1. Stock will be drawn at least two hours prior to the start of the competition each performance.
 - 4.8.1.2. The stock will be drawn in order of:
 - 4.8.1.2.1. Qualifying Rounds - athlete's WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard ranking per performance.
 - 4.8.1.2.2. Progressive & Triple Crown of Rodeo Rounds – based on advancement order
 - 4.8.1.3. Triple Crown of Rodeo Round stock will be from the fastest runs from the combined Progressive Round performances. If not enough qualified times, the combined Qualifying Rounds times will be used.
 - 4.8.1.4. If a timed event animal escapes, or a re-run is due for any other reason during a performance, the extra will be used. Only escaped animals go back into the herd
 - 4.8.1.5. RNC23 Competition Committee reserves the right select the appropriate stock from the competition herd to be used in the Triple Crown Round. Selection of this stock may or may not be based on previous competition times within a discipline. RNC23 Competition Committee will consult with athletes in each discipline to set these herds.
 - 4.8.1.6. Misdraw procedure will be determined by the event officials.
 - 4.8.2. Riding Events:

- 4.8.2.1. The stock will be drafted in order of:
 - 4.8.2.1.1. Progressive Rounds - athlete's WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard ranking per performance.
 - 4.8.2.1.2. Triple Crown of Rodeo Rounds – based on advancement order
 - 4.8.2.1.3. Athletes must be present prior to the start of the performance to draft their stock. If not present, the stock will be randomly drawn for the athlete after the draft concludes.
 - 4.8.2.1.3.1. Progressive Round stock draft – estimated at 5:00pm each day
 - 4.8.2.1.3.2. Triple Crown of Rodeo stock draft – estimated at 11:30am
 - 4.8.2.1.4. Stock Draft Proxy – An athlete that is scheduled to compete in another rodeo on the day of his/her scheduled RNC23 Performance may opt to use a proxy to perform the stock draft on athlete's behalf. To use the proxy option, the athlete must notify the Rodeo Secretary with the name of his/her proxy a minimum of eight (8) hours prior to the performance start time on Contestant's scheduled Performance day and provide confirmation the athlete competed at the conflicting rodeo on that day. If athlete does not notify the Rodeo Secretary prior to the deadline and provide the competition verification in advance of the scheduled draft time, athlete will not be allowed to use a proxy to draft his/her stock.
 - 4.8.2.1.4.1. A callback email or photo of judges' sheets with Contestant's score are acceptable forms of competition conflict verification.
- 4.8.2.2. Livestock will be designated to each performance.

5. BARREL RACING GENERAL RULES

5.1. Barrel Racing Tractor Drag/Hand Rake

5.1.1. All competition rounds

- 5.1.1.1. Drag prior to start of discipline
- 5.1.1.2. Drag after 4
- 5.1.1.3. Hand rake after every run

6. TEAM ROPING PAIRING & LEADERBOARD RULES

- 6.1. Athletes are not allowed to have more than one (1) identical Header/Heeler pairing combination at any time during the event.
 - 6.1.1. A paired combination must maintain the pairing during any advancement rounds the team has qualified to participate in as long as there are no identical team pairings participating in the event.
- 6.2. Once the competition pairings are set from the WCRA Leaderboard qualifiers; entries will open, and each individual Header and Heeler must enter the event through the Rodeo Logistics entry tool – EntryTool.com.
- 6.3. Headers/Heelers competing in the WCRA Qualifying Rounds
 - 6.3.1. In the event there is an uneven number of headers/heelers, any vacancies must first be filled with the eligible headers/heelers from the master athlete alternate list.
 - 6.3.2. Once all eligible headers/heelers have declared a partner and all alternates have been exhausted, the remaining headers/heelers without a partner will be allowed to choose a partner from the remaining field of entered athletes.
 - 6.3.2.1. Once an eligible athlete selects a competition partner from the field of entered and eligible athletes to complete the team pairing, the selected partner athlete will be required to pay all applicable nomination/entry fees. The added athlete will be eligible for all payouts and advancement opportunities.
- 6.4. WCRA Leaderboard –
 - 6.4.1. Each eligible athlete's individual point total from the final audited WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard as of September 14, 2023 will determine eligibility to participate into the RNC23.
 - 6.4.1.1. Segment RNC23 Leaderboard – up to the top 36 Headers and up to the top 36 Heelers will be eligible to participate in WCRA Rodeo Carolina.
 - 6.4.1.1.1. Combined partner point totals after the pairing deadline will determine the team's competition placement in the Qualifying Rounds.
 - 6.4.1.1.2. The #1-#6 teams based on combined leaderboard points will be seeded into the RNC23 Progressive Round.
 - 6.4.1.1.3. The #1-36 teams based on combined leaderboard positions will qualify to participate in the WCRA Qualifying Round.
 - 6.4.1.2. All references to a Team Roping ranking and/or competition position once the pairings have been confirmed will be based on the combined team's point total.
 - 6.4.2. At the conclusion of the segment cut off, all Headers and Heelers will first declare their partners via email prior to entries opening. A link to a live sheet will be shared with all header/heelers to see the pairings as they are sent in.
 - 6.4.2.1. A deadline will be set for those headers/heelers to confirm their partner.
 - 6.4.3. Once all pairings are declared, competition placement will be determined based on the combined point totals between each team. The qualifications are as follows:

- 6.4.3.1. All entered teams will be eligible to participate in the WCRA Qualifying Round with the competition order in reverse order of the Combined Points Leaderboard in each performance.
- 6.4.3.2. The #1-#6 Leaderboard positions (based on combined points) are seeded into the Progressive Round of competition and are not required, but are eligible, to participate in the Qualifying Round.
- 6.5. Any heeler 55 years of age or older in addition to any female may tie on hard and fast.
- 7. **WCRA NOMINATION AND OPEN ENTRY DATES/FEE:**
 - 7.1. All RNC23 entries will be through the Rodeo Logistics entry application – EntryTool.com.
 - 7.2. WCRA Segment RNC23 Nominations
 - 7.2.1. Open – Monday, March 20, 2023 @ 12:01am CT
 - 7.2.2. Close – Sunday, September 10, 2023, at 11:59pm CT
 - 7.3. RNC23 Entries
 - 7.3.1. Entries Open – September 19, 2023 at 12:00pm CT
 - 7.3.2. Entries Close – September 21, 2023 at 12:00pm CT
 - 7.3.3. All Disciplines: maximum of one (1) entry per eligible athlete per discipline
 - 7.3.4. Competition format negates the use of Priority Preferences while entering.
 - 7.3.5. Entry Fee –
 - 7.3.5.1. Riding Events: complimentary entry for all eligible positions
 - 7.3.5.2. Timed Events:
 - 7.3.5.2.1. RNC23 Leaderboard #1-#6 Leaderboard athletes seeded into Progressive Rounds with complimentary entry for all eligible positions
 - 7.3.5.2.1.1. If a seeded athlete/team chooses to enter and participate in the Qualifying Rounds for payout and Event World Points they will be required to pay a \$250 entry fee. They will not jeopardize their seeded position by participating in the Qualifying Rounds.
 - 7.3.5.3. RNC23 Leaderboard #7-#36 - \$250 per discipline in Qualifying Rounds – 70% jackpot payback based on Qualifying Round results
 - 7.3.5.4. Barrel Racing Buy Back Round: \$250 – no payout, advancement only

COMPETITION FORMAT, ADVANCEMENT & TIE-BREAKERS

****Tie Breakers are for advancement purposes only – monies will remain split if tied****

- 8. **COMPETITION LOCATION:** Tryon International Equestrian Center, 25 International Blvd, Mill Spring, NC 28756

9. QUALIFYING ROUNDS

9.1. TIMED EVENTS – TIE DOWN ROPING, TEAM ROPING, STEER WRESTLING, BREAKAWAY ROPING

9.1.1. CONSISTS OF:

- 9.1.1.1. Two (2) full rounds of competition
- 9.1.1.2. Up to 37 athletes/teams (includes St. Tite generic qualification)
- 9.1.1.3. Competition Order
 - 9.1.1.3.1. Round 1 - Reverse order of the WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard
 - 9.1.1.3.2. Round 2 – Reverse order of Round 1

9.2. TIMED EVENTS – BARREL RACING

9.2.1. CONSISTS OF:

- 9.2.1.1. ONE (1) full round of competition
- 9.2.1.2. Up to 37 athletes/teams (includes St. Tite generic qualification)
- 9.2.1.3. Competition Order
 - 9.2.1.3.1. Round One – based on WCRA leaderboard positions (top of the leaderboard, top of the ground)
 - Example - based on 36 athletes in a round with a drag after 4:
 - 9 drags will occur in the round.
 - The first 8 athletes based on the WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard position will be placed in the 1, 6, 11... positions so they are the first to compete following a drag.
 - The next set of athletes will be placed in the 2, 7, 12... positions so they are the second to compete following a drag.
 - The same process would be used for each run position until all athletes are placed in the round based on their Leaderboard position.

9.2.2. BUY BACK ROUND – BARREL RACING

9.2.2.1. CONSISTS OF:

- 9.2.2.1.1. ONE (1) full round of competition – must have a minimum of five (5) entries to hold round.
- 9.2.2.1.2. Barrel Racing athletes not advancing to the Progressive Round are eligible to re-enter in the Buy Back Round.
- 9.2.2.1.3. Competition Order
 - 9.2.2.1.3.1. Round One – Random order

9.2.3. ADVANCEMENT FROM THE QUALIFYING (BUY BACK) ROUNDS TO PROGRESSIVE ROUNDS:

- 9.2.3.1. Timed Events – Tie Down Roping, Team Roping, Steer Wrestling, Breakaway Roping
 - 9.2.3.1.1. Qualifying Round 1 Winner
 - 9.2.3.1.2. Qualifying Round 2 Winner
 - 9.2.3.1.3. Top 4 from Qualifying Rounds 2 head Aggregate
- 9.2.3.2. Timed Events – Barrel Racing
 - 9.2.3.2.1. Top 4 Fastest Times from Qualifying Round
 - 9.2.3.2.2. Top 2 Fastest Times from Buy Back Round
- 9.2.3.3. If a seeded athlete from the WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard (#1-#6) places in an advancement position the advancement position will be vacated and the next eligible athlete/team from the round/aggregate with the vacated position will advance to the Progressive Rounds.
- 9.2.3.4. Any tied advancing positions will be broken by the tie breakers.
 - 9.2.3.4.1. Buy Back round for Barrel Racing is not an eligible round of competition for tie breakers.

9.2.4. TIE-BREAKERS:

- 9.2.4.1.1. Timed Events:
 - 9.2.4.2. Fastest time in WCRA Qualifying Round 2
 - 9.2.4.3. Fastest time in WCRA Qualifying Round 1
 - 9.2.4.4. Highest ranked athlete/team on the WCRA RNC23 Leaderboards

10. PROGRESSIVE ROUNDS

10.1. ALL DISCIPLINES – BAREBACK RIDING, SADDLE BRONC RIDING, BULL RIDING, TIE DOWN ROPING, TEAM ROPING, STEER WRESTLING, BREAKAWAY ROPING, BARREL RACING

10.1.1. CONSISTS OF:

- 10.1.1.1. Two (2) full rounds of competition
- 10.1.1.2. Eligible Athletes:
 - 10.1.1.2.1. Riding Events - Up to 11 athletes from the RNC23 Leaderboard (includes St. Tite generic qualification)
 - 10.1.1.2.2. Timed Events – Up to 12 athletes
 - 10.1.1.2.2.1. 6 - RNC23 Leaderboard #1-#6
 - 10.1.1.2.2.2. 6 - Advancing athletes from the Qualifying (Buy Back) Rounds
- 10.1.1.3. Competition Order
 - 10.1.1.3.1. Riding Events: Random order, based on stock draft
 - 10.1.1.3.2. Timed Events:
 - 10.1.1.3.2.1. Round 1:
 - 10.1.1.3.2.1.1. Competition Positions 1-6 – Reverse order of advancing athletes based on aggregate position from the Qualifying Rounds
 - 10.1.1.3.2.2. Competition Positions 7-12 – Reverse order of the RNC23 Leaderboard #1-#6 seeded athletes
 - 10.1.1.3.2.3. Round 2 – Reverse order of Round 1 competition results
 - 10.1.1.3.3. Barrel Racing:
 - 10.1.1.3.3.1. Competition Positions 1-6 – In order of the RNC23 Leaderboard #1-#6 seeded athletes
 - 10.1.1.3.3.2. Competition Positions 7-12 – In order of advancing athletes based on the merged results from the Qualifying and Buy Back Round
 - 10.1.1.3.3.2.1. Athletes that participate in the Buy Back Round will void their Qualifying Round time for the purpose of competition order in the Progressive Round.
 - 10.1.1.3.3.3. Round 2 – In order of Round 1 competition results

10.1.2. ADVANCEMENT FROM PROGRESSIVE ROUNDS TO TCR ROUND

- 10.1.2.1. Progressive Round 1 Winner
- 10.1.2.2. Progressive Round 2 Winner
- 10.1.2.3. Top 6 from Progressive Rounds 2 head Aggregate
 - 10.1.2.3.1. In the event an athlete is injured in Progressive Round and unable to participate in the TCR Round, the next eligible athlete from the round/aggregate with the vacated position will advance.
 - 10.1.2.3.2. In the team roping, if a partner is injured in Progressive Round and unable to participate in the TCR Round, the next athlete in that respective discipline from the round/aggregate with the vacated position will then advance and replace the injured athlete in the TCR Round.
 - 10.1.2.3.3. If there are no qualified times in a Progressive Round performance, no athlete(s) will advance based on that performance's results. The vacated advancing position will be based on the aggregate results of the combined Progressive Round performances.

10.1.2.3.4. If no qualified times or not enough qualified scores are available, from the combined Progressive Round performances, all remaining advancing positions will be based on the RNC23 Leaderboard rank.

10.1.2.4. In the Riding Events:

10.1.2.4.1. If there are no qualified scores in a Progressive Round performance, no athlete(s) will advance based on that performance's results. The vacated advancing position will be based on the aggregate results of the combined Progressive Round performances.

10.1.2.4.2. If no qualified scores or not enough qualified scores are available, from the combined Progressive Round performances, all remaining advancing positions will be based on the RNC23 Leaderboard rank.

10.1.3. TIE-BREAKERS:

10.1.3.1. Timed Events:

10.1.3.1.1. Fastest time in Progressive Round 2

10.1.3.1.2. Fastest time in Progressive Round 1

10.1.3.1.3. Highest ranked athlete/team on the WCRA RNC23 Leaderboards

10.1.3.2. Riding Events:

10.1.3.2.1. Highest Score in Progressive Round 2

10.1.3.2.2. Highest Score in Progressive Round 1

10.1.3.2.3. Highest total combined athlete score in any Progressive Rounds

10.1.3.2.4. Highest ranked athlete on the WCRA RNC23 Leaderboards

10.2. TCR ROUND FORMAT:

10.2.1. CONSISTS OF:

10.2.1.1. One (1) full round of competition

10.2.1.1.1. No scores/times advance from previous rounds except for use in tiebreakers

10.2.1.2. Up to 8 athletes/teams

10.2.1.3. Competition Order –

10.2.1.3.1. Riding Events – random order, based on stock draft

10.2.1.3.2. Timed Events - in reverse order of Progressive Round aggregate qualification (except for Barrel Racing)

10.2.1.3.3. Barrel Racing competition order

10.2.1.3.3.1. Fastest Aggregate Time from Progressive Round Performances

10.2.1.3.3.2. 3rd Fastest Aggregate Time from Progressive Round Performances

10.2.1.3.3.3. 5th Fastest Aggregate Time from Progressive Round Performances

10.2.1.3.3.4. 7th Fastest Aggregate Time from Progressive Round Performances

10.2.1.3.3.5. ---DRAG---

10.2.1.3.3.6. 2nd Fastest Aggregate Time from Progressive Round Performances

10.2.1.3.3.7. 4th Fastest Aggregate Time from Progressive Round Performances

10.2.1.3.3.8. 6th Fastest Aggregate Time from Progressive Round Performances

10.2.1.3.3.9. 8th Fastest Aggregate Time from Progressive Round Performances

10.2.2. The TCR Round will consist of a total prize money payout of \$28,000 in each discipline (inclusive of guaranteed appearance fee). The payout table is listed in the Payout section below.

10.2.3. All athletes competing in the TCR Round are guaranteed a minimum payment of \$500 each.

10.2.4. If there are no qualified scores/times in the TCR Round, there will not be an event champion.

10.2.5. If, in the TCR Round, no athletes make a qualified score/time, the athletes will earn the minimum payment and the remaining will not be paid out.

10.2.6. TCR ROUND TIE BREAKS:

10.2.6.1. TIMED EVENTS:

10.2.6.1.1. Highest placing aggregate position from Progressive Rounds

10.2.6.1.2. Fastest time in any Progressive Round

10.2.6.1.3. Highest placing aggregate position from Qualifying Rounds

10.2.6.1.4. Fastest time in any Qualifying Round

10.2.6.1.5. The highest ranked athlete on the WCRA Leaderboard (Segment RNC23) (In Team Roping, the total combined Team points RNC23 Leaderboard will be used to determine a team's ranking.)

10.2.6.2. RIDING EVENTS:

10.2.6.2.1. Highest placing aggregate position from Progressive Rounds

10.2.6.2.2. Highest total combined score in any Progressive Rounds

10.2.6.2.3. Any one official with the highest ride score in the Progressive Rounds

10.2.6.2.4. The highest ranked athlete on the WCRA RNC23 Leaderboard

10.3. PAYOUT: listed below in the Payout section of these ground rules

11. INSTANT REPLAY RULING CHALLENGE

- 11.1. INSTANT REPLAY RULING CHALLENGE (IRRC): Instant Replay will be in effect for all rounds of competition. The IRRC rules are included in the WCRA Rules of Competition available at www.WCRArodeo.com or at [RULES LINK](#).

12. WCRA RODEO CAROLINA PAYOUTS

*All athletes are subject to US tax law regarding withholdings from payout.

*ALL non-US resident athletes must complete a W-8BEN tax form, 30% of any earnings due will be withheld.

12.1. QUALIFYING ROUND PAYOUT:

12.1.1. Payouts will be jackpotted based on the total entries.

12.1.2. Payout will be 70% of entry fees not including transaction fees

12.2. PROGRESSIVE ROUNDS PAYOUT:

12.2.1. PROGRESSIVE ROUNDS per performance (\$4,000 per discipline)

12.2.1.1. 1ST – \$1,600

12.2.1.2. 2ND – \$1,200

12.2.1.3. 3RD – \$800

12.2.1.4. 4TH – \$400

12.2.2. PROGRESSIVE ROUNDS AGGREGATE (\$8,000 per discipline)

12.2.2.1. 1ST – \$3,200

12.2.2.2. 2ND – \$2,400

12.2.2.3. 3RD – \$1,600

12.2.2.4. 4TH – \$800

13. TCR ROUND PAYOUT:

13.1. The TCR Round will consist of a total payout per the chart below in each discipline (inclusive of the guaranteed appearance fee).

13.2. The TCR Round of competition will pay the following in every discipline:

13.2.1. 1ST – \$15,000

13.2.2. 2ND – \$6,500

13.2.3. 3RD – \$2,500

13.2.4. 4TH – \$1,000

13.2.5. 5TH – \$1,000

13.2.6. 6TH – \$1,000

13.2.7. 7TH – \$500 (guaranteed appearance fee)

13.2.8. 8TH – \$500 (guaranteed appearance fee)

14. GROUND MONEY

14.1. In the case of not having enough scores or times in an event discipline, there will be ground money.

14.2. The definition of ground money is unclaimed prize money by go round that will be divided evenly between the athletes with qualified times or scores within their respective pools.

14.3. If there are no qualified scores or times within a round of competition, no ground money will be paid out.



RELIANCE RANCHES VRQ CHAMPION BONUS WORLD POINTS

15. VRQ CHAMPION BONUS WORLD POINTS

15.1. The World Champions Rodeo Alliance, LLC (the "WCRA") introduced the Reliance Ranches VRQ Points Champion Bonus (the "VRQ Champion Program") in 2022. Beginning in 2023, the annual award program will pay out \$405,000 cash bonuses ("Award", "Awards") to individuals ("Athletes") that are in the top four (4) places of the Reliance Ranches VRQ Points Champion leaderboard based on the cumulative points earned across all eligible WCRA Segments in their respective discipline during the program year. The Awards will be available to Athletes who voluntarily nominate their competitive rodeo efforts in their respective discipline through the VRQ. The official rules, terms, and conditions (these "Program Rules") that govern the VRQ Champion Program can be viewed at ([PROGRAM RULES](#)). In addition to the Program Rules set forth below, an Athlete's participation in the VRQ Champion Bonus Program will be subject to all other rules of the WCRA, including the competition rules applicable to all WCRA sponsored events and the any agreements between the Athlete (and his or her parent or legal guardian if the Athlete is a minor) and the WCRA. In addition, any use of our website or VRQ application (the "VRQ App") is subject to the terms of use that can be found on our website at <https://app.wcrarodeo.com/terms-of-use> ("Terms of Use") and privacy policy that can be found on our website at <https://app.wcrarodeo.com/privacy-policy> ("Privacy Policy"). A copy of any of the foregoing materials may be requested by emailing info@wcra.com.

16. VRQ CHAMPION BONUS PAYOUTS

16.1. The total amount of the Awards eligible for payment during the VRQ Champion Program is \$405,000.00.

16.1.1. Bonus Payout - \$45,000 per Discipline:

- 16.1.1.1. 1st Place - \$25,000.00
- 16.1.1.2. 2nd Place - \$10,000.00
- 16.1.1.3. 3rd Place - \$7,500.00
- 16.1.1.4. 4th Place - \$2,500.00

16.2. The following disciplines will be eligible for an Award:

- 16.2.1. Bareback Riding,
- 16.2.2. Saddle Bronc Riding,
- 16.2.3. Bull Riding,
- 16.2.4. Tie Down Roping,
- 16.2.5. Steer Wrestling,
- 16.2.6. Team Roping Header,
- 16.2.7. Team Roping Heeler,
- 16.2.8. Ladies Breakaway Roping, and
- 16.2.9. Barrel Racing

16.3. Each Award will be awarded based on the total cumulative VRQ points earned in the eligible WCRA or Women's Rodeo World Championship ("WRWC") segments; (ii) bonus Event World Points earned at WCRA and WRWC events; and (iii) Reliance Ranches VRQ Points Champion finale (Rodeo Carolina) held in October during the applicable time period below.

17. VRQ CHAMPION BONUS ELIGIBILITY

17.1. Athletes are required qualify, enter and participate in a minimum of one (1) WCRA/WRWC major event to be eligible to earn an Award payout.

17.1.1. Athletes are not required to participate in the Program Finale to earn an Award payout.

17.2. To be eligible to earn VRQ points towards an Award, eligible Athletes must voluntarily nominate the events they participate in on the VRQ platform and pay the applicable VRQ nomination fee for each individual event nominated.

17.2.1. Nominations must occur during the following time periods to be eligible for VRQ points towards that year's VRQ Champion Program: November 28, 2022 – September 10, 2023

17.2.1.1. Any event nomination that occurs outside of the above time periods will not count towards the current year's VRQ Champion Program.

17.3. The following WCRA segments are included in the 2023 Reliance Ranches VRQ Champion Program:

- 17.3.1. 2023 Rodeo Corpus Christi – May 10-13, 2023 (Segment RCC23)
- 17.3.2. 2023 Women's Rodeo World Championship (Segment W23 events nominated on or after 11/28/22)
- 17.3.3. 2024 Stampede at the E (Segment SATE24 events nominated through 9/10/23)

- 17.3.4. 2024 Women's Rodeo World Championship (Segment W24 events nominated on or before 9/10/23)
- 17.3.5. 2023 WCRA Rodeo Carolina – October 5-8, 2023 (Segment RNC23)
- 17.3.5.1. RNC will be the finale (Program Finale) for the 2023 Reliance Ranches VRQ Champion bonus program.

18. BONUS EVENT WORLD POINTS APPLIED TOWARD THE RELIANCE RANCHES VRQ CHAMPION LEADERBOARD

18.1. Bonus Event World Points – “regular season” events

- 18.1.1. Bonus Event World Points will be available to Athletes that qualify, enter and participate at the eligible program events as listed in Section 17.2 of these ground rules will be automatically eligible to earn Event World Points without a nomination for any disciplines at the event.

EVENT WORLD POINTS – “REGULAR SEASON” EVENTS					
Standard PTS	D3 Level		D2 Level		D1 Level
	Qualifying Rounds		Progressive Rounds		Triple Crown of Rodeo Round
Place	Rounds	Aggregate	Rounds	Aggregate	
1	200	350	300	500	675
2	150	262	225	375	506.5
3	120	210	180	300	405
4	108	189	162	270	364.5
5	97	170	146	243	328
6	87.5	153	131	218.5	295
7	78.5	138	118	197	265.5
8	71	124	106.5	177	239
9	64	111.5	95.5	159.5	215
10	57.5	100.5	86	143.5	193.5

18.2. Bonus Event World Points – Finale (RODEO CAROLINA)

- 18.2.1. Elevated Bonus Event World Points (4X multiplier) will be available to Athletes that qualify, enter and participate at the WCRA Rodeo Carolina, in Tryon, NC held on October 5-8, 2023 will be automatically eligible to earn Event World Points without a nomination for any disciplines at the event.
- 18.2.2. The Qualifying Rounds are not eligible for Event World Points at the Finale event.

EVENT WORLD POINTS – RRVRQ FINALE			
4X PTS	D2		D1
	Progressive Rounds		Triple Crown of Rodeo Round
Place	Rounds	Aggregate	
1	1200	2000	2700
2	900	1500	2026
3	720	1200	1620
4	648	1080	1458
5	584	972	1312
6	524	874	1180
7	472	788	1062
8	426	708	956
9	382	638	860
10	344	574	774

- 18.3. Event World Points are bonus points applied to the cumulative Reliance Ranches VRQ Champion Leaderboard and are not VRQ leaderboard points toward qualification toward a specific WCRA segment. Athletes may voluntarily nominate the WCRA/WRWC events they participate in towards an open segment to earn standard VRQ points toward that segment.

- 18.3.1. The Event World Points above only apply to the 2023 VRQ Champion Bonus Program. WCRA reserves the right to modify the Event World Points values for the 2023 VRQ Champion Program following the conclusion of the 2023 WCRA Rodeo Carolina.

18.3.2. Event World Points Tiebreakers

- 18.3.2.1. Most World points earned from a combination of points from all available segments per the VRQ Champion Program Rules ([PROGRAM RULES](#)).
- 18.3.2.2. Most World points earned at the WCRA Rodeo Carolina event
- 18.3.2.3. Most prize money earned in the WCRA Rodeo Carolina event