

STARK-MORTON SADDLE CLUB ASSOCIATION GENERAL RULES 2026

Website: www.starkmorton.com

1. **Entry Deadline:** Entries accepted online only. Online entry system is available at www.starkmorton.com Online entries MUST be completed on or before the Monday prior to the rodeo and the entry fees MUST be received to the respective clubs by rodeo start time.
2. **Entry Fees:** Entry fee and stock charge money will NOT be refunded except in Team Events or with a 24-hour notice. A person in a team event will have their money refunded if their partner does not show, and they cannot find a partner at the show. A person can draw out of any or all events by letting the show secretary know 24-hours before the show starts. Ground money will not be refunded. Anyone writing a non-sufficient funds check cannot enter another Association Rodeo until the check is made good.
3. **Stock Charges:** Stock charges will be taken from the entry fee, as on the entry form. If needed, any amount over is to be paid by the hosting club. Current stock charges are \$20.00 for a roping, calf riding and steer riding event and \$5.00 for goat events.
4. **Members:** Only club members of any one of the Stark-Morton Association Clubs will be allowed to participate. Membership must include the name and birth date of every member and be turned in to the Secretary by June 1st of the current year. Contestants are to conduct themselves in a sportsman like manner, to include no mistreatment of their horse and/or rodeo stock. Judges may have the authority to disqualify, at their discretion, any contestant for “unsportsmanlike” conduct.
5. **Dress Code:** All contestants except Beginners and PeeWees must wear a western hat, long sleeved shirt and boots, and or cowboy tennis shoes, when they enter the arena to participate in their event. Wearing hats on windy or rainy days will be up to the judges. The decision to not wear a western hat will be announced at the show. **If the western hat rule is waived only then will you be allowed to wear a cap or go bare head.
6. **Beginner Events:** Beginner members, ages 6 and under by June 1st of the current year, may stay in their age group no matter how many times they win or advance only if they want to. Once you enter a higher division for that year, you must stay in the higher division for that year and all upcoming years in that event. Beginner contestants can ride any horse.
7. **Peewee Events:** Peewee members, ages 7-10 by June 1st of the current year, may stay in their age group no matter how many times they win or advance only if they want to. Once you enter a higher division for that year, you must stay in the higher division for that year and all upcoming years in that event. Peewee contestants can ride any horse.
8. **Junior Events:** Any youngster who has just graduated from the 8th grade or is still in grade school, is eligible for all junior events. If you are a junior and win a junior event, you can still compete in the junior division. Once you enter a higher division, you must stay in the higher division for that year and all upcoming years in that event.

9. **Barrels:** All barrel racing events are open with five divisions: upper, lower, junior, peewee and beginner. Barrels are staked according to NDHSRA rules and painted white or any other light color. A Horse can only make one run in Barrels unless a peewee or beginner contestant is also using that horse. All runs will start at the gate or in the alley way if the arena has a center entry gate. You do not need to wait for the gate to close. The gate will be closed during the run. Raking will occur after 10 contestants. Knocking over a barrel is a 5 second penalty per barrel.
10. **Upper & Lower Divisions:** In calf roping, team roping, barrels, and poles, no person may enter the upper and lower divisions. Once you enter the upper division you must stay in the upper division for that year and all upcoming years. Once you win the lower division buckle, you must enter the upper division. This does not pertain to Junior, Pewee or Beginner division events. Anyone who has participated in any division of the NDRA, MHA, any other semi-pro or pro rodeo or has participated as a junior or senior in high school rodeo or the Open division of Rough-Rider Rodeo Association rodeos must enter the upper division in the events they participated in. Any other events they may enter the lower division. Lower division events are for contestants who have just graduated from the 9th grade and older who have not competed in any NDRA, MHA, other semi-pro or pro rodeos, or have competed as a junior or senior in high school rodeo or the Open division of Rough-Rider rodeos in those events.
11. **Musical Chairs:** Two or more judges will be selected for this event due to the criticism of this event. All participants must mount their horse BEFORE the music begins and bring their horse to a minimum of an extended trot or they will be disqualified. No adults will be allowed in the arena except the judges. Any participant, who attempts to control the pace and forces the other riders to line up behind them, will be disqualified. No rider may go past a tire more than the standard 6 foot rein length on their horse. The last two contestants will determine the winner by racing their horses from the circle to one end of the arena, dismount, touch the fence, and race back on foot to the circle, leading their horse. If the judges see any horse trying to kick another horse during the event, the judge will disqualify "that horse" from this event. Lead ropes or tie downs will not be allowed to be used for a third rein.
12. **40 YRS & Over Breakaway:** Contestants 40 years and over may compete in this event. There will be an 8 ft barrier. There will be a maximum time of 30 seconds allowed. After 30 seconds expires, the roper is disqualified if they fail to make a legal head catch. Legal head catch is according to team roping catches: horns, ½ head, or whole head catches. Ropers may carry two loops, NO rebuilding. The gate will be OPEN in this event. There will be a 10 second penalty for breaking the barrier.
13. **Breakaway Roping:** Boys up to 14 years of age by June 1st of the current year, who are prohibited to compete in Jr. Roping due to participation in Semi-Pro, etc. divisions (see rule #25) may compete in the open division with the girls in this event. Two Divisions: Open and Junior, with the same rules applying to both divisions. Ropers may carry two loops or they can rebuild. There will be a maximum time of 30 seconds allowed. After 30 seconds expires the roper is disqualified. In order to make a legal catch, the calf's head must pass through the loop first. And 8 ft score line will be used for the Junior division. An 8 ft barrier will be used open/upper division and they will abide by the NDHSRA rules. The gate will be open in this event. Participation in breakaway does not prohibit contestant from entering calf roping.

14. **Calf Roping:** People who will be contracting calves should try to keep them about the same size. Ropers must take their calf when called. Anyone not coming to rope when called will lose their chance to rope. The gate will be open, a 60 second time limit will apply. Lower: 40 years and over may stay in lower calf roping. A score line of 8 ft will be used. Upper: Upper division calf ropers will abide by NDHSRA rules. In Upper an 8 ft barrier will be used. There will be a 10 second penalty for breaking the barrier. Roper must carry two loops, no rebuilding will be allowed in either division. Roper will be flagged No Time for touching the calf, or string, or by touching the rope to train his horse after giving the finished signal, or by dragging the calf after he remounts his horse.
15. **Team Roping:** There will be 3 divisions: Family, Novice and Open Team Roping. There will be 3 legal head catches: both horns, half a head, and around the neck. There will be an 8 ft barrier measured from the nose of the steer. There will be a 10 second penalty for breaking the barrier. There will be a 60 second time limit and an open gate. **THREE LOOPS** will be allowed in the **family** and **novice** divisions. **TWO LOOPS** for the **open** division.
- In team roping, any healer 55 years or older, or women have the option to tie hard and fast. It is the ropers responsibility to let the judge know they are 55 years or older and will be tying hard and fast. They must untie when covering to head the steer. Also a physically handicapped person can tie hard and fast.
 - Family Division** will consist of a parent and child, siblings or a husband and wife or child and grandparent. Children are considered 18 or under and may only enter twice. The parent may enter family team roping with more than one child.
 - Novice Division** will consist of a roper who must not have won more than \$200. No age limit but must abide by rule #25. The Novice Roper pays the total entry fee and wins any money or prize related to this event. The Novice Roper is responsible for finding their partner. The Novice cannot enter both the open/upper division and the novice division. They must choose because Novice is considered a lower division. Once a roper wins the novice division they will move to the open/upper division.
 - Open Division** Contestants in this division may enter twice. They will need to switch ends or partners in order to enter twice.
16. **Jr. Steer Riding:** Jr. Steer Riding will be judged. All riders MUST wear a helmet and protective vest to be able to participate in this event. A flag will be used to start the timers. Judges time is official. A 6 second ride is a qualified ride. All riders must use only one hand to ride with. At the crack of the gate, parents/persons assisting the rider are NOT ALLOWED to hang on to the rider. Parents will be able to draw their child out of this event on the day of the show if they feel the stock is unsuitable to them. This must be done before the show begins and the entry fee will be refunded. PeeWee riders must choose either Jr. Steer Riding or PeeWee Calf Riding. Need to draw for steer numbers for riders. All rough stock is to be flanked by the contractor.
17. **Rescue Race:** Run in heats of not more than 4-6 teams. Top 3 teams from each heat will run off for winners. Need All Places recorded. You must be dismounted with the reins in your hand to start the race. The partner must straddle the horse after being picked up and when crossing the finish line. One rein must be on each side of the horse's head when crossing the finish line. Event open to Juniors and over ONLY!

18. **Sack Race:** In this event the only contact between riders is to be through the sack. Two judges must stand back to back in the center of the pattern. Any tipped barrel will cost the team a 5 second penalty. No reruns will be granted. A parent may enter the sack race with more than one child. A child can only enter once, so if they enter with their parent that is considered their one time.
19. **Goat Tying:** Two divisions: Open and Junior. The rules will be the same as NDHSRA rules. The goat must be staked at ground level. There will be a 30 second time limit. The goat must stay tied for 6 seconds. No time for touching the goat or goat string after the finish signal is given. If contestant's horse comes in contact with the goat or rope or steps over the rope or goat, a 10 second penalty is assessed.
20. **Goat Tail Tying:** Beginner and PeeWees only. The goat will be staked with a 3 ft rope at ground level and held. The contestant must have an open string when they enter the arena and when tying the tail.
21. **Pole Bending:** 5 divisions: Upper, Lower, Junior, PeeWee and Beginner. Poles must be staked according to NDHSRA. All runs will start at the gate or in the alley way if the arena has a center entry gate. The gate will be closed before and after each run. A horse can only make one run in Poles unless a PeeWee or Beginner contestant is also using that horse. Raking will be done after 10 contestants. Knocking over a pole will result in a 5 second penalty per pole.
22. **PeeWee Calf Riding:** Children 10 years and younger by June 1st of the current year AND **80 lbs and under**. All riders MUST wear a helmet and protective vest to participate in this event. The event will be judged. A six second ride is a qualified ride. Time of ride will also be kept and if there are no qualified rides places will be determined by time. A flag will be used to start the timers. Judge's time is official. At the crack of the gate, parents/person assisting the rider are NOT allowed to hang on to the rider. \$1.00 will be give back to each rider after the ride. PeeWee riders must choose either Jr. Steer Riding or PeeWee Calf Riding. All rough stock is to be flaked by the contractor.
23. **Buckle Winners:** To qualify for a buckle, you must participate in three or more shows in that event. If nobody participates in three or more shows, the buckle will not be awarded. In team events (family team roping) the buckle will be awarded to the high point winning team. Other event buckle winners will be determined by the high point winning individual. In case of a tie, the buckle will be awarded to the contestant according to total # of shows and run times. ONLY ONE BUCKLE WILL BE AWARDED. Buckles will be awarded in all the lower, junior, peewee and Beginner events as well as Family Team Roping, Sack Race and Rescue Race. Average Buckles for open and upper events will be obtained if funds are available for the buckles in those events. The Stark Morton secretary will have the number of contestants in each event, amount of points, and times. At the end of the 4 shows the buckles and other prizes will be awarded. ***In PeeWee Calf Riding the buckle will be determined by qualified rides – which is a 6 second ride. If there are no qualified rides, points by time will determine the winner.
24. **Judges and Timers:** Judges should be at the show ½ hour before the show begins so rules can be gone over with them. Each club is responsible for having at least 1 local judge and 1 out of town judge at their show. Each club is to determine who from their club is to be the timer and there must also be one out of town timer. The standard fee, unless other arrangements are made, is \$25 for out of town judges and timers.

25. **Participation:** Anyone who has participated in any division of NDRA, MHA, any other semi-pro or Pro Rodeo or has competed as a Junior or Senior in High School Rodeo or the Open division of the Roughrider Rodeos must enter the upper division in the event they participate in at those rodeos. Any other event you may enter in the lower division. Anyone participating in lower events when they should be in Upper may be barred from further participation in the shows and lose a buckle. Please indicate what events you participate in on the above divisions on the entry form. This is to help avoid conflicts. Contestants may enter each event only once, unless otherwise specified.
26. **Schedule of Events:** The schedule of events will follow the order as given on the entry form at all shows. A schedule of events with names of contestants will be accessible to contestants.
27. **Ambulance:** An ambulance must be present at all Stark-Morton Shows. Due to uncontrollable circumstances an ambulance may have to leave during the show. This service should then call or notify backup service the rodeo and let the announcer know they need to leave. Each club needs to make the ambulance service aware of the above statement.
28. **Annual Meeting:** At least one delegate from each club must attend the annual meeting and special meetings. If one club is not represented they may be dropped from the association. If needed, there will be a meeting at each rodeo to deal with complaints with the officers of the Association and the president or assigned delegates of each club and the ONE PERSON who has the complaint.
29. **Exhibitions:** There will not be any exhibitions run or rides allowed during the shows. There will be no early or late taking of any runs, allowed prior or after the events. (Unless granted prior approval by delegate's special meeting.)
30. **Payout Rules % and Points:** Pay-out percentage rules will be as follows:
- a. To allow for even pay-outs, the percentage for all events except item (b) will be:
 - i. 1st=44%, 2nd=33%, 3rd=23%
 - b. ENTRY EVENTS THAT DO NOT HAVE A STOCK CHARGE WITH 15 OR MORE ENTRIES WILL PAY 4 PLACES, with the percentages as follows:
 - i. 1st=40%, 2nd=30%, 3rd= 20%, 4th = 10%
 - c. Points will be awarded for the 1st thru 6th place for all events. Money will be awarded for places mentioned above under (a) and (b). No money will be awarded for 5th and 6th place, only points. Points will be awarded as follows:
 - i. 1st=16pts, 2nd=12pts, 3rd=9pts, 4th=6pts, 5th=3pts, 6th=1pt.
 1. If you tie for a place, the points will be combined and divided.
 2. Team/partner events will be awarded points for the TEAM.
 3. You cannot carry individual points from one team to the next.
 4. If you end up with a new partner in your event, it is a new team.
 - d. If there is an event where only one person qualifies, the winner will be awarded the "POT" after stock charges, etc, are taken out. if two people qualify, divide the total "POT" 60%, 40% after stock charges.
 - e. If there are only 7 entries or less, pay only 2 places pay with a 60%, 40% payout after stock charges are taken out.
31. **Prize Fee:** A charge of \$1.00 per person per event per show will be added to entry totals to help defray the cost of prizes each year. Within two weeks of their show, each club is to send this entire prize fee to the Stark-Morton secretary, who will set up a committee to get prizes for the last show.