

**2025 GARY J. DANIELS SUNBELT RODEO –  
RULES AND REGULATIONS WITH EXPLANATIONS**

**ELIGIBILITY:** The Gary J. Daniels Sunbelt Rodeo is open to all intellectually disabled or otherwise handicapped persons regardless of race, creed, or sex. All participants must have a current physical and signed release form and must be officially entered in the rodeo.

**RULES COMMITTEE:** The Rules Committee of each local rodeo shall be comprised of representatives of the sponsoring organization, together with representatives of the local community, and at least one Rodeo participant.

The rules and regulations of the Sunbelt Rodeo are approved and determined by the Gary J. Daniels Sunbelt Rodeo Board of Directors of each individual state and shall be subject to modification only by the Rules Committee.

In the event of complaints, protests, or problems, the Rules Committee shall also serve as a Board of Appeals and shall make all final decisions concerning their local rodeo, so long as they do not violate the goals of the Sunbelt Rodeo.

The Rules Committee shall be responsible for the organization, coordination, and implementation of their local rodeo. They shall appoint all judges, scorekeepers, and officials.

**THERE WILL BE NO OUTSIDE HORSES ALLOWED THIS YEAR!**

**COMPETITION LEVELS:** Contestants will be divided into separate divisions according to riding abilities. The responsibility for the assignment of a contestant to the proper division shall be determined by the coach or the Rodeo Committee. The decisions of the Rodeo Committee are final.

**OUTSTANDING RED DIVISION.** Red division is designed for persons who are capable of riding a horse at a faster pace and are able to run event patterns without assistance.

**GREEN DIVISION:** **MAY BE DIVIDED INTO TWO DIVISIONS THIS YEAR** if there are enough entries to warrant two divisions. Group A will be for persons who are capable of riding a horse at a trotting pace and able to run event patterns with only verbal assistance. Group B is designed for persons who are capable of riding a horse at a walking speed and are able to run event patterns with only verbal assistance. Steps may be used to mount the horse, but you must be able to get on the horse yourself or with minimal assistance. **Due to aging horses, your entrant, and volunteer safety, riders must be under 250#.** For those that are over this, they may participate in the yellow division or non-riding events. Entrants must compete in only one division for all events.

**YELLOW DIVISION:** This division is designed for persons who are capable of walking, trotting, or running the horse while leading the horse through event patterns.

PURPLE CHARIOT DIVISION: This division is designed for persons who use a wheelchair or walker for mobility. Riders will be safely secured in a wagon being pulled by horse and driver. To ensure safety, two Rodeo staff will be with the rider as they go around the loop and return to the arena.

EXPLANATION OF OUTSTANDING (RED) COMPETITION: Both Friday go-rounds will consist of three events: Pole Bending, Barrels and Flag Race. The six accumulated times of these events will be used to rank finalists and to determine the Top Cowboy/Cowgirl for the buckle.

EXPLANATION OF REGULAR (GREEN & YELLOW) COMPETITION: In the Green Regular Division and Yellow Regular Division, Go-Rounds #1 and #2 times for each event will be totaled for each contestant. Total scores of each event will be ordered and the top 5 Males and top 5 Females will receive awards.

EXPLANATION OF PURPLE CHARIOT COMPETITION: In the Purple Chariot Division, contestants will be given an opportunity to experience the thrill of riding while being safely secured in a wagon. The wagon will be pulled by horse and driver. To ensure safety, two Rodeo staff will be with the rider as they go around the loop and return to the arena. No scores are recorded; each rider will be given a participation award.

HORSES ASSIGNED: Participants will ride the horses they are assigned. No outside horses will be allowed this year to protect our horses. The decision to re-run "bad horses" will be the sole discretion of the judges.

CHANGES IN DIVISIONS: Any changes in color divisions should be reported BY COACHES to the secretary's tent!!

EXPLANATION OF REGULAR & OUTSTANDING COMPETITIONS

Coaches will choose **ONE** of the 5 divisions below for each participant. You cannot compete in both walking and trotting in the green division. You must do ALL walking or ALL trotting

1	OUTSTANDING RED DIVISION	MALE OR FEMALE
2	REGULAR COMPETITION, GREEN DIVISION (TROTTING)	MALE OR FEMALE
3	REGULAR COMPETITION, GREEN DIVISION (WALKING)	MALE OR FEMALE
4	REGULAR COMPETITION, YELLOW DIVISION	MALE OR FEMALE
5	PURPLE CHARIOT DIVISION	MALE OR FEMALE

Red Division: This group is designed for more advanced riders who are capable of riding a horse at a faster pace and are able to run event patterns without assistance.

Green Division: This division MAY be divided into two groups this year. One group will be for trotting speed and one group at a walking speed. The rider must be able to run event patterns with only verbal assistance. You must do all events in the same group. Steps may be used to mount the horse but you must be able to get on the horse yourself or with minimal assistance. **Due to aging**

**horses, individuals and volunteer safety, riders must be under 250#.** For those that are over this, they may participate in the yellow division.

Yellow Division: This division is designed for persons who are capable of walking, trotting, or running the horse while leading the horse through event patterns with only verbal assistance. Please note that YELLOW HORSEMANSHIP will now be YELLOW SHOWMANSHIP.

Purple Chariot Division: This division is designed for persons who use a wheelchair or walker for mobility. Riders will be safely secured in a wagon being pulled by horse and driver. To ensure safety, two Rodeo staff will be with the rider as they go around the loop and return to the arena.

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REGULAR COMPETITION

Competitors will choose 3 events offered in that color division:

<b>GREEN</b> DIVISION EVENTS MALE AND FEMALE Barrell Racing <b>OR</b> Key Hole Pole Bending <b>OR</b> Flag Race Goat Tie Bucking Machine Trail Course	<b>YELLOW</b> DIVISION EVENTS MALE AND FEMALE Barrel Racing Flag Race Trail Course Showmanship Goat Tie Bucking Machine
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In all events, there will be 2 Go-Rounds for times. BOTH Go-Rounds will be taken while mounted on the horse for the GREEN division. Yellow Division will have one go-round in the morning and one go-round after lunch on Thursday. Combined points from Go-Rounds #1 and #2 will determine the finalists for the medals and Top Cowboy and Cowgirl buckle awards.

OUTSTANDING COMPETITION

Competitors within the Red Division will all participate in the same events. Both Friday go-rounds will consist of three events: Pole Bending, Barrels and Flag Race unless changed by the Rodeo Committee. The six accumulated times of these events will be used to rank finalists for the Awards and Top Cowboy Buckle.