

WHSRA Rules for the Parents of Contestants

Unfortunately it has been brought to my attention that some parents have been approaching the judges at some rodeo's and voicing an opinion to them about a call that had been made against their child and attempting to get that call changed or getting the call changed. This is a violation that can, and should, be penalized with disqualification of the contest in question.

In the current NHSRA rule book, beginning on page 29, under the heading "**CONTESTANT DISQUALIFICATIONS**", subheading **a. CONDUCT** rule #7 on page 31, states;

Any contestants or parents attempting to fix, threaten, bribe, influence, harass or coerce any rodeo official any time between the opening and closing of a rodeo.

Any contact with a Judge at a rodeo that is in progress shall be done through the event representative or acting representative, the arena director and the contestant at the completion of the event in question, not while the event is in progress as this could lead to the judge missing a call that needed to be made. Anything other than this approach is grounds for the disqualification of the contestant. ***At no time are the parents of any contestant allowed access to the judges while a rodeo is in progress. The parents of contestants for the most part are spectators first, and advisors second. They can however instruct their child to approach the event representative and or the arena director to enquire about a particular call that was made.*** I also feel that judges should be asked about questionable calls in an appropriate manner and allow them to explain what they saw, but I feel that an active arena director is the person to be asking for those explanations and if they feel that the judge was wrong, document it in detail with what they saw and what the judge said he saw, contact me and I will follow up with the judge. I am going to say this, 99.999% of the time I will support the judge that makes a call based in the rules, and in his opinion was correct at the time. It makes no sense to me or to the judges on the list to have every tough call that is made scrutinized so much that they will be hesitant to make any calls at all.

I also know what it is like to be second guessed by the person at the top and not supported on the decisions that you made in the blink of an eye based on the rules and your position to make the call. I have often wondered why we try to put judges in the best position to see what is necessary to be seen at every given moment in the arena, when it seems that spectators, parents and other contestants all have a better position from the bleachers, the catch pen or the back of the roping box to make all the calls that are necessary for the contest, perhaps we should put the judges in those same positions, they might not miss as much.

I know from experience that calls are going to be missed and mistakes made from time to time, and it is incumbent upon me to try to make sure that all of the judges hired by the committees are the best that we can get at any given time, I am working toward that end. This subject is up for discussion, suggestions and solutions for the future and I will instruct all judges of the new policy and procedure.