

A Timey's Rodeo Bible

By Share LaRue/Your Competitor News

I would hope by now that you all know how to check your trucks and trailers to be "road ready." I am also going to assume that your horse is in shape and so are you. So what is left? A first class strategy to success!

In the beginning of time, the Rodeo Gods created the mind boggling entry system that creates much anxiety for many. One association to enter – not too bad. More than one – chaos starts to ensue.

First of all – how do you determine when you want to be up – by the way, this is called a preference. How do you do that? Everyone has their own way and some just point and shoot and hope for the best. **But do you follow the money?** If you are prepared to win, then the only thing left to do is to **FOLLOW THE \$\$\$\$**.

What you need

- A note book and pencil
- Results from last year
- Draws from last year (*This is where the notebook comes in. This year you will write down the draw in your event so that next year you can see what perfs most of the money came from – this is VERY important to barrel racers*).
- Your handy dandy *official newspaper or website for all associations that you are a member of*
- A calendar
- An atlas (*or Google maps*)
- A calculator

Rodeo entry 101

- Check the results from last year – what perfs did the most of the money come from?
- Team Ropers, Calf Ropers, Steer Wrestlers, Breakaway - Who has the stock and how do they react to a crowd, slack, being hauled. This is where your notebook comes in. Write down all the above info for next year.
- Barrel Racers - If you check the winning times from last year, you will get an idea of what perf had the better ground. You can also tell if the winning times are slow for the size of the course. This will let you know that the ground is probably not the best. Do you really want to run there? This is when you want to call around and find someone that has ran there and find out why the times were slow. You also need to know if it is a side gate or a center gate. Is there an ally to run in and out of or is it a shut gate? Are the barrels on the wall or out in the middle of nowhere? How does your horse deal with the set up. If it is a set up that is not the best for your horse, how does the cost of fuel and fees weigh against the amount of money you might win? If you are willing to go there anyway – you should probably enter slack for less distractions or preference the last perf so that your horse has almost a week to get over the fact that you made it run in hell.
- Now that you have followed the money and studied the stock or the set up, it is time to get out the calculator and the atlas. **ALWAYS FOLLOW THE MONEY!** You really don't want to back track and drive in big circles because this is a waste of time, money and most important – makes your horse tired. Try to plot your plan of travel based on following the money in the best way you can.
- So now that you know when you want to be up – in a perfect world – you need to plot out the backup plan – your second preferences. If you can't make it work with your 1st preference and your 2nd preference then you need to enter "or out." Not all associations let you do this – so check your rules.
- The complicated part of this is "IF" you are entering more than one association. Which association is the most important for you to make finals or place in the year-end standings? Whichever one that is – it will take priority over the others. Chart that association's rodeos first and fill in with the other rodeos.
- If you think you are almost done – YOU ARE NOT! Just because you have studied and have a plan of action does not mean that the plan will go that way or that you will always remember when to enter what rodeo. So.....
- Write down the following in your notebook in this order and check it EVERYDAY!
- **Name of rodeo**
- **Entry number**
- **The time and date the books open and close** (*make sure you pay attention to what time zone you are calling – you don't want to miss entries because you didn't account for a time difference*)
- **Your 1st preference, 2nd preference and if you need an out**

- Buddies names and card numbers
- A line to write down your confirmation number
- The time and date of callbacks
- The time and date of the perf you are up in
- A line to write down your confirmation number
- Stock contractor
- Stock notes & #'s, color for easy i.d.
- Set up
- How did your horse react to the environment?
- Your time
- Your placing
- What perfs did most of the money get paid out of
- Every detail of your run
- Any notes that will help you enter up better next year

• You now have to REMEMBER TO ENTER ON TIME!

• If you are chasing more than one association, you will need to check ALL your information for ALL of the rodeos on the same weekend EVERY TIME you call back for a rodeo to make sure that you will not foul yourself on a rodeo that has an entry date and time AFTER call backs for another. This can happen in all associations, however, here in the Northwest, you will usually enter a PRCA rodeo and have confirmation of when you are up BEFORE you have to enter another association or an Open rodeo. You might have to re-figure preferences and outs based on callbacks. Set an alarm on your phone to remind you of entry days and times.

Rodeo Travel 101

- ALWAYS give yourself more time to get there than you need. You never know when there will be a problem, flat tire, a wreck that shuts down the highway or construction.
- Figure in fuel stops, potty breaks and if on a long haul, the time it takes to unload your horse, offer water, walk it around for 15 minutes and load back up every 4 hours.
- When you are done with your perf, unless you are too tired to drive, LOAD UP AND HEAD TO THE NEXT ONE! Don't wait until the next day. You never know what tomorrow brings and if something does go wrong it gives you a bigger window to not miss your go. Most horses will also do better if they get to rest overnight in the environment they will be competing in than to be hauled and asked to be their best in only an amount of hours.

Last but not least

• YOU MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR "BIBLE" by filling it out after each rodeo! Don't assume that you will remember. Life will be soooooo much easier next year. You will rarely make more money by flying by the seat of your pants than you will by being 100% prepared.

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I would hope by now that you all know how to check your truck or cars to be "road ready." I am also going to assume that you are in shape and have been to the practice pen. So what is left? A first class strategy to success!

In the beginning of time, the Rodeo Gods created the mind boggling entry system that creates much anxiety for many. One association to enter – not too bad. More than one – chaos starts building.

First of all – how do you determine when you want to be up – by the way, this is called a preference. How do you do that? Everyone has their own way and some just point and shoot and hope for the best. **But do you follow the money?** If you are prepared to win, then the only thing left to do is to **FOLLOW THE \$\$\$**.

What you need

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- Your handy dandy *official newspaper or website for all associations that you are a member of*
- A calendar
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Rodeo entry 101

- Check the results from last year – what perfs did the most of the money come from? This can be an indication of what perfs draw the bigger crowds. Typically speaking, stock buck better, and you will ride better with an energetic crowd.
- Who has the stock and how strong is the pen? This is where your notebook comes in. Write down all the above info for next year. If there are a multiple strong stock at one rodeo over the other, you will want to be up there first when you are rested and at your best.
- Now that you have followed the money and studied the stock, it is time to get out the calculator and the atlas. **ALWAYS FOLLOW THE MONEY!** You really don't want to back track and drive in big circles because this is a waste of time, money and most important – it makes you tired. Try to plot your plan of travel based on following the money in the best way you can.
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- **Buddies names and card numbers**

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- **The time and date of callbacks**

- **The time and date of the perf you are up in**

- **A line to write down your confirmation number**

- **Stock contractor**

- **What your draw was, number, name and color**

- **How did he buck (every detail!)**

- **Your score**

- **Your placing**

- **Name of judges**

- **What perfs did most of the money get paid out of**

- **Any notes that will help you enter up better next year**

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