

YOUTH HORSE CLUB OF THE HILL COUNTRY, INC.

Rules and Regulations

1) GENERAL RULES

- a) All contestants and parents/guardians are encouraged and responsible for reading the rules carefully, particularly those relating to the contests or events in which the contestant is entered.
- b) All spectators, participants, members and all other persons taking in an event connected with the YHCHC should understand the Club's involvement with any competition or event is merely organizational. YHCHC is not responsible for any animals, competitor's equipment, portions of the arena and/or any portion of the event site. As with any competition, certain rules and regulations must be enforced in order to preserve the organization of the event so all participants, spectators and other persons can enjoy the event.
- c) All members, participants, contestants and other persons taking part in the event do so at their own risk and should understand they are responsible for the care, inspection, custody and control of the animal, the equipment and all other aspects of the event, including the area where the event will take place. The participant prior to participation should make any inspections and/or checks for dangerous conditions.
- d) Contestants and parents/guardians are expected to support the purpose and goals of the YHCHC.
- e) For the safety of contestants, their horses and the spectators, running horses outside the arena will not be allowed. If a contestant is reprimanded more than 2 times, they will be disqualified from participating in the remaining events of the current rodeo and could be prohibited from future rodeos and/or series.
- f) For any venue, the rules of that facility and/or announcements made during the event shall govern these activities.
- g) A Director may reprimand a participant for any activity considered by the Director to be unsafe. If the same participant is reprimanded more than once, the Board of Directors may prohibit that participant from future rodeos and/or series.
- h) Rule changes for safety reasons or for clarification during the course of the year will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Any rule clarifications and/or decisions needed during the course of a rodeo will be decided by a majority vote of at least three (3) YHCHC directors. The Board of Directors will be responsible for approving and amending these rules according to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and/or historical practices followed by the YHCHC.
- i) Re-runs will not be granted due to contestant's tack or equipment failure. Re-runs will not be granted should a horse fall or if a contestant should fall off during an event.
- j) Rodeo Judges and Arena judges may inspect any contestant's equipment before, during or after a rodeo performance for safety. If equipment is found to be faulty, the Judge and/or Director can prohibit contestant's participation in future events until the tack/equipment problem is corrected.
- k) *Under Texas law (Chapter 87, Civil Practice and Remedies Code), an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risk of equine activities.*
- l) *You MUST have with you a current (within 12 months of the event) an official NEGATIVE Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) test document, a VS10-11, for each horse brought on to the grounds.*

2) CONTESTANT QUALIFICATIONS

- a) All contestants shall be members in good standing of the Youth Horse Club of the Hill Country, Inc. (YHCHC). Membership applications available at each rodeo.
- b) All participants, other than pre-school age, must be enrolled in elementary, junior high (middle) or high school during the spring semester of the current school year. Participants enrolled in or eligible for enrollment in a college or post secondary school during that same spring semester are ineligible unless they are still enrolled in high school.
- c) All contestants and parents/legal guardians are required to sign a hold harmless agreement releasing the YHCHC, Inc., its Board of Directors, officers, sponsors, volunteers and any other entity involved in the operation of the facilities used by the YHCHC.
- d) All contestants and parents/legal guardians are required to sign an insurance, medical history and release form before participating in any rodeo events.
- e) *In order for a contestant under 18 years of age to participate in rodeo events, there must be a parent, legal guardian or parent-assigned adult responsible for supervision of the contestant on the premises.*
- f) A parent-assigned adult responsible for supervision must have written authorization from the parent/legal guardian to sign membership forms and hold harmless agreements. Parent-assigned adults may enter member contestants and pay contestant entry fees.

3) CONDUCT OF CONTESTANTS, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

- a) Contestants must comply with the dress code (see “5) DRESS CODE” below).
- b) Contestants, parents/legal guardians or parent assigned adults quarreling, fighting and/or using profanity within the surrounding rodeo grounds at any time or any place during the duration of the rodeo will be grounds for disqualification of the contestant for the remainder of the current and future rodeos.
- c) Contestants and parents/guardians will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with good sportsmanship behavior. Should any contestant or parent attempt to threaten, bribe, influence, harass or coerce any YHCHC Director or rodeo official at any time, the member in question shall be disqualified from the rodeo series and forfeit any and all awards, cash prizes and titles. In addition, the contestant or parent may be banned from participating in any future YHCHC sponsored events at the discretion of the YHCHC Board of Directors.
- d) Any horse that poses a threat to the safety of the contestants, arena attendants and/or spectators may be banned from participating at YHCHC functions. Any horse deemed unsafe by Arena Judge will not be allowed to participate.
- e) **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE ARENA AT ANY YHCHC FUNCTION.** The consumption of alcoholic beverages in the arena by a parent/legal guardian of a contestant during an YHCHC event will be grounds to disqualify the contestant from all events of the current rodeo. Consumption of alcoholic beverages by a contestant will be grounds for disqualification from the current and/or all future YHCHC rodeos. If, in the sole discretion of any three (3) Directors, a parent/legal guardian of a contestant or a contestant is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and causing a nuisance or compromising the safety of anyone in anyway, they may be asked to leave the event venue and may result in the disqualification of the related contestant.

4) RODEO ENTRIES

- a) Contestants must complete an entry form **and** pay the required entry fees prior to the rodeo entry deadline in order to compete. Contestants who arrive/enter late may be allowed to “EXIBITION” only. Contestant must pay the exhibition fee but will not receive any participation or placing points.
- b) Books to enter events will be open one (1) hour before published start of rodeo and close fifteen (15) minutes before published start of rodeo.
- c) Someone other than the contestant may make entries, but all entry fees must be paid by close of books or contestant will not be allowed to participate.
- d) **WORK POINTS:** (*We must have volunteers to put on these rodeos*)
 - 1) **Pee Wee and Novice:** Parents/legal guardians or parent assigned adults are required to work two (2) segments or age groups of an event or events in order for their child to receive their placing and participation points. A contestant will not be penalized should they be injured while competing in an event prior to their parent’s work duty.
 - 2) **Juniors and Seniors:** Juniors and Seniors are personally required to work two (2) segments or age groups of an event or events in order to receive their placing and participation points for the current rodeo. A junior or senior will not be penalized should they be injured while competing in an event prior to their work duty.
 - 3) **Signed Worksheet:** Parents/legal guardians or parent assigned adults for Pee Wee and Novice contestants must sign the worksheet to guarantee credit for their volunteer service. Junior and Senior contestants must sign the worksheet to guarantee credit for their volunteer service. (***NO WORKSHEET SIGNUP = NO WORK POINTS***)
 - 4) **Family members of the YHCHC Board of Directors are exempt from the above work point requirements.**

5) DRESS CODE

The following items are required to be worn while in the arena:

- (a) Collared shirts with sleeves, tucked in, and long pants (No shorts or cut-offs allowed).
- (b) Western boots or sport shoes with heels. No tennis shoes will be allowed.
- (c) Headgear is optional.

6) AGE DIVISIONS (Age as of January 1st)

- a) Novice: 7 and under
- b) Pee Wee: 8 to 11
- c) Junior: 12 to 14
- d) Senior: 15 to 19

7) AWARD POINT SYSTEM

- a) One participation point will be awarded each contestant for each rodeo event entered provided contestant enters arena for the event.

- b) No participation points will be awarded in the event of a disqualification. However, a no time will receive a participation point.
- c) Placing points will be awarded as follows:

i) First:	20 points	xi) Eleventh	10 points
ii) Second:	19 points	xii) Twelfth	9 points
iii) Third	18 points	xiii) Thirteenth	8 points
iv) Fourth:	17 points	xiv) Fourteenth	7 points
v) Fifth:	16 points	xv) Fifteenth	6 points
vi) Sixth:	15 points	xvi) Sixteenth	5 points
vii) Seventh	14 points	xvii) Seventeenth	4 points
viii) Eighth	13 points	xviii) Eighteenth	3 points
ix) Ninth	12 points	xix) Nineteenth	2 points
x) Tenth	11 point	xx) Twentieth	1 point

There shall be no prorating of points, regardless the number of entries. Speed events include, goat ribbon pulling and tying, cloverleaf barrels, straight barrels and pole bending. Roping events include breakaway roping, tie down roping and ribbon roping. Roller roping is a stand-alone event for Novice and Pee Wee.

- d) All-around/high point awards: All-around and/or high point awards will be determined by the Board of Directors and will be announced to the membership prior to the end of the series.
- e) Contestants must participate in at least three (3) rodeos to be eligible for year-end awards.
- f) All membership/participation requirements must be met to receive year-end awards. To collect awards, the contestant must be present at the awards presentation or make arrangements to have a representative collect the awards. If after 30 days from the date of the awards presentation no arrangements have been made to collect the award(s), the award(s) will revert back to YHCHC.
- g) Rodeos maybe jackpotted in lieu of year-end awards. If rodeos are jackpotted, each age group will be subjected to payout formulas determined by the Board of Directors.

8) TIE BREAKING

- a) Individual Rodeos
If two or more contestants have identical scores or times, the total of the points allowed for each place will be split between the contestants.
- b) Year End Awards
At the discretion of the Directors, duplicate awards may be given if two or more contestants are tied. If duplicate awards are not given and two or more contestants have the same number of points for any single award at the end of the rodeo season/series, the winner will first be based on the greatest number of rodeos attended during the season/series. If a tie still exists, the winner will then be determined by coin toss.

9) JUDGES AND FLAGMEN

- a) All judges and flagmen should be knowledgeable in the rules of the event they judge and/or flag.
- b) It is desirable that the Arena Judge and/or Flagman be current or past competitors in the event they judge.
- c) Arena and/or Event Judge decision is final. Judge may call for a three (3) director panel for assistance making a final decision.

10) EVENTS (No lead lines in the Pole Bending)

- a) Novice: Cloverleaf Barrels, Straightaway Barrels, Pole Bending, Goat Hair (ribbon) Pulling, Roller Roping.
- b) Pee Wee: Cloverleaf Barrels, Straightaway Barrels, Pole Bending, Goat Hair (ribbon) Pulling, Roller Roping or Breakaway Roping, with the option for Pee Wee Boys of entering Tie Down Calf Roping & Ribbon Roping for Junior points.
- c) Juniors: Cloverleaf Barrels, Straightaway Barrels, Pole Bending, Goat Tying, Tie Down Calf Roping, Ribbon Roping, Breakaway Roping.
- d) Seniors: Cloverleaf Barrels, Straightaway Barrels, Pole Bending, Goat Tying, Tie Down Calf Roping, Ribbon Roping, Breakaway Roping.

11) EVENT RULES

- a) In the event that a specific situation is not covered in these rules or if a judge, flagman or director needs clarification for a ruling, the rules of the NHSRA will apply. A panel of at least three (3) directors will decide any issue not covered by the YHCHC and/or NHSRA rules. YHCHC rules take precedence over NHSRA.
- b) Contestants participating in roping events will have a reasonable time limit (approximately 3-minutes) to enter the roping box. If after the reasonable time the horse is not in the roping box and in the correct, safe position, the contestant will receive a no time. Contestant will receive his/her participation point but no placing points.
- c) Speed event (Cloverleaf Barrels, Pole Bending, Straightaway Barrels and Goat Ribbon Pulling and Goat Tying) contestants will be discouraged from making running starts from outside the arena alleyway. Contestant must enter alley and have control of his/her horse *prior to* the contestant beginning his/her run. The arena gate will be closed after the contestant has cleared the entry gate and will remain closed until contestant completes his/her run. Any contestant

who crosses the start line (eye or flagged) is considered to have started his/her run and time begins. Contestant will receive his/her participation point but no placing points for a broken pattern or crossing the start line before completing the pattern.

- d) If the contestant is not at the gate after 3 calls of their name, with 20 seconds in between each call, it will be assumed that contestant is not present and the contestant will be disqualified from such event. If the contestant is not present, contestant **will not** receive his/her participation point.
- e) Speed Event Contestants who are at the entry gate and having difficulty with their horse will have a reasonable time limit (approximately 3-minutes) to enter the arena. If after the 3 minutes the horse is not in the arena, the contestant will receive a no time. Contestant will receive his/her participation point but no placing points.
- f) Speed Event Contestants will enter arena through the center alley and exit through one of the designated exit gates.

12) TIE DOWN CALF ROPING

- a) This event is open to the Junior and Senior Divisions only with the option for Pee Wee contestants to enter in the Junior Division and compete for Junior points.
- b) The Roping Director may prohibit a contestant from participating if he/she has safety concerns regarding a contestant not being properly equipped to make a qualified run. Should a contestant not be allowed to participate for safety concerns, the contestant will not receive any participation points and will be entitled to a credit or refund of his/her entry fee.
- c) Rope must be tied hard and fast to the saddle and a neck rope must be used.
- d) Any catch with a rope is legal.
- e) Calf must be attached to rope until the roper dismounts and touches calf.
- f) If a calf is down when roper gets to calf, roper must make an attempt (satisfactory to the judge) to get the calf to its feet and throw by hand. If calf is up when roper touches calf and then falls, the calf will be considered thrown by roper.
- g) Any three feet can be tied.
- h) Time stops when roper waves hands free of pigging string. Roper will receive a no time if after signaling completion of the tie, roper re-grasps the string tied to the calf.
- i) Calf must remain tied for a period of 6 seconds after roper rides slack into the rope. Failure to remain tied will result in a no time.
- j) A broken barrier carries a 10 second penalty.
- k) If calf is not thrown within 20 seconds from time roped or if the judge determines that it is unsafe to continue without assistance, arena personnel may assist roper by throwing the calf.
- l) For the safety of contestant, horse and calves, arena personnel may hold the reins of any horse while contestant is completing their run.

13) RIBBON ROPING

- a) This event is open to the Junior and Senior Divisions only with the option for Pee Wee contestants to enter in the Junior Division and compete for Junior points.
- b) The Roping Director may prohibit a contestant from participating if he/she has safety concerns regarding a contestant not being properly equipped to make a qualified run. Should a contestant not be allowed to participate for safety concerns, the contestant will not receive any participation points and will be entitled to a credit or refund of his/her entry fee.
- c) Rope must be tied hard and fast to the saddle and a neck rope must be used.
- d) Any catch with the rope is legal.
- e) Calf must be attached to rope until the roper dismounts and touches calf.
- f) After a catch, the roper must be dismounted and have his/her hands on the calf prior to the runner removing the ribbon. Once the runner has the ribbon, he/she must run back across the finish line with the ribbon to stop the timer.
- g) The roper and runner must be a boy/girl team. No participation points will be given to runners/muggers.
- h) Ribbon runner must be in the same age group as the roper. If there is no runner from the same age group available, a runner from a different age group may run provided the change is cleared before the event with the event director.
- i) Runner must present proof of ribbon to judge after crossing finish line.
- j) If no ribbon is on the calf, runner must bring hair from the calf and show it to the judge.
- k) A broken barrier carries a 10 second penalty.

14) BREAKAWAY ROPING

- a) This event is open to the Pee Wee, Junior and Senior Divisions only
- b) The rope must pass over the nose and ears of the calf resulting in a "bell-collar" catch prior to breaking away from the saddle.
- c) Rope must be tied to saddle horn with string. Rope must break away from the saddle horn by momentum of the calf. A roper disconnecting the rope by force of his/her hand will receive a no time.
- d) A visible cloth or flag **must** be attached to the end of the rope at the saddle horn.
- e) A broken barrier carries a 10 second penalty.

15) GOAT RIBBON PULLING

- This event is open to the Novice and Pee Wee Divisions only.
- Contestant must remove ribbon from goat tail before running across the finish line. In the event a ribbon falls off of goat during the run, contestant may pull hair from goat and complete the run. Contestant must pull and show part of the ribbon if it is attached to goat.
- Contestant must show the ribbon or hair to flag judge after crossing finish line. Contestant will receive a no time if he/she cannot show judge part of the ribbon or hair.
- Contestant will receive a no time if the contestant's horse comes into contact with the rope and/or the goat.
- The judge may allow the contestant to complete their run before being flagged out for a no time.

16) GOAT TYING

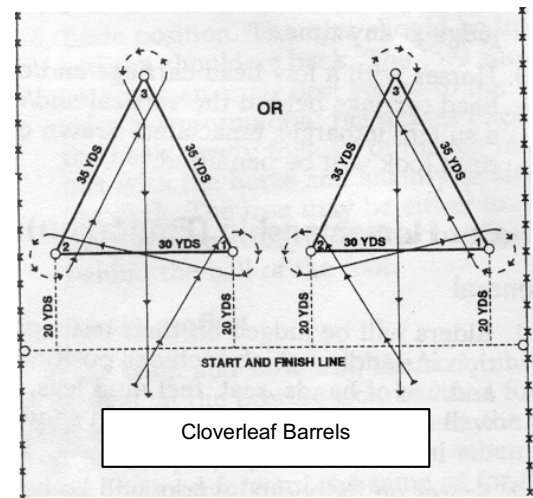
- This event is open to the girls & boys in the Junior and Senior Divisions only.
- Goat must be day-lighted from the ground.
- Arena personnel may throw goat for contestant if not thrown in 30 seconds.
- Goat must remain tied for a period of 6 seconds after contestant completes run. Failure to remain tied will result in a no time.
- If the contestant's horse comes into contact with the rope and/or the goat, the contestant will receive a no time.

17) ROLLER ROPER RULES

- A Novice contestant who ropes in Pee Wee breakaway roping will not be allowed to rope in the Novice Roller Roping.
- A Pee Wee contestant who ropes in Pee Wee breakaway roping or any Junior roping event will not be allowed to rope in the Pee Wee Roller Roping.
- Roper must qualify by catching calf dummy at least 1 out of 3 tries on ground. All qualifiers proceed to finals by then roping Roller Roper from their horse.
- Roper's horse must be in the calf-roping box and be starting behind the barrier line. "Roller Roper" will start from front of calf chute.
- Roper will notify puller and flagman when ready. Roper must wait on "Roller Roper" to move before starting. Flagman will begin time when "Roller Roper" starts moving.
- Roper must clear calf box barrier line before throwing loop.
- Roper is limited to one attempt and must make a clean neck catch to receive time.
- Chest of horse must be even with or behind the "Roller Roper" tail when loop is thrown.
- Roper must rope before horse reaches the end of arena opposite the roping boxes.
- All decisions/judgments are to be made by the Flagman who is the event judge.

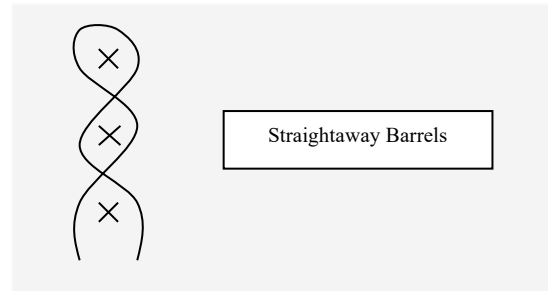
18) CLOVERLEAF BARREL RACING

- Contestants compete for the fastest time in running a triangular, cloverleaf pattern around three barrels.
- Time begins and ends upon crossing a visible starting line.
- Touching a barrel by horse or rider is permitted.
- Knocking over a barrel shall carry a 5-second penalty.
- The pattern can be started either from the left or right. The rider can choose to start on either of the front two barrels. A pattern that starts with a right turn around the right hand barrel must be followed by two left turns for the second and third barrels. A rider who chooses to go left first must make two right hand turns for the second and third barrels.
- Contestants must follow the pattern and maintain a forward motion after crossing the start line and must maintain a forward motion until the run concludes at the finish line. (See figure.)
- Contestants who fail to follow the cloverleaf barrel pattern and/or fail to maintain forward motion during the run will receive a no time.***
- There will be a "no time" issued to any horse and rider who breaks the regulation cloverleaf barrel pattern. Breaking the regulation barrel pattern consists of, but is not limited to, going around the wrong side of the barrel, going around the wrong barrel, circling a barrel more than once or failing to maintain forward motion.
- Contestant must maintain reasonable control of their horse. Time will begin when the horse passes the start line.
- The pattern shall be set as close to dimensions illustrated in the figure below, but may be adjusted to fit the arena. Each barrel shall not be less than 20 feet from the arena fence and the course will be set to allow ample room for stopping.
- An electric timer should be used for official time when possible. However, if one is not available, the average time of at least two watches will be the official time.



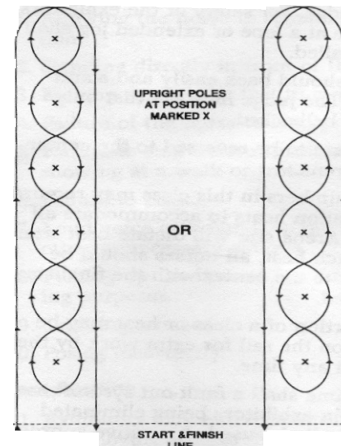
19) STRAIGHTAWAY BARREL RACING

- a) Except for the pattern—see illustration—the same rules for Cloverleaf Barrel Racing will apply to Straightaway Barrel Racing.
- b) Barrels will be set as close to 45 feet as possible while still allowing a minimum of 30 feet from the last barrel to the end of the arena. The first barrel will be placed 20 feet from the start/finish line.
- c) The pattern may be run starting to the right or left of the first barrel.
- d) There will be a “no time” issued to any horse and rider who breaks the regulation straightaway barrel pattern. Breaking the regulation straightaway barrel pattern consists of, but is not limited to, going around the wrong side of the barrel, going around the wrong barrel, circling a barrel more than once or failing to maintain forward motion.



20) POLE BENDING

- a) The pole-bending pattern must be run as illustrated.
- b) The poles are to be set 21 feet apart with the first pole 21 feet from the starting line.
- c) Time begins and ends upon crossing a visible starting line.
- d) Contestant must maintain reasonable control of their horse. Time will begin when the horse passes the start line.
- e) **Failure to follow the pattern and/or maintain forward motion shall result in a no time.**
- f) There will be a “no time” issued to any horse and rider who breaks the regulation pole pattern. Breaking the regulation pole pattern consists of, but is not limited to, going around the wrong side of the pole, going around the wrong pole, circling a pole more than once or failing to maintain forward motion.
- g) A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.
- h) Knocking over a pole shall carry a 5-second penalty.
- i) The pole-bending event is a timed event.
- j) An electric timer should be used for official time when possible. However, if one is not available, the average time of at least two watches will be the official time.
- k) Touching a pole with the hand or body is NOT a disqualification.



21) PROTESTS

- a) Protests are allowed only in the event of a rule violation and must be made within 10 minutes after the completion of an event segment. **ONLY THE COMPETITOR INVOLVED MAY PROTEST.**
- b) The event judge and at least two (2) directors will review protests. **THEIR DECISION WILL BE FINAL.**

ADDITIONAL NOTES AND/OR DEFINITIONS

- Definition of forward motion:
 1. A horse stopping will be acceptable in the definition of forward motion.
 2. A horse that stops and backs up, at any point during the run, would not be acceptable and therefore the contestant would receive a no time.
- There will be no carry-over of entry fees from a previously entered rodeo.
- Entry fees will be returned to a contestant for a rodeo rainout for all uncompleted events.
- Any contestant who has entered a rodeo and does not “show” will not receive a return of entry fees.
- End of Series Award Categories
 - Novice Speed (includes total cumulative points in Goat Ribbon Pulling, Cloverleaf Barrels, Straight Barrels and Poles for Boys and Girls combined).
 - Novice Roller Roping (includes total cumulative points in Roller Roping for Boys and Girls combined).
 - Pee Wee Speed (includes total cumulative points in Goat Ribbon Pulling, Cloverleaf Barrels, Straight Barrels and Poles for Boys and Girls combined).
 - Pee Wee Roller Roping (includes total cumulative points in Roller Roping for Boys and Girls combined).
 - Pee Wee Breakaway Roping (includes total cumulative points in Breakaway Roping for Boys and Girls combined). YHCHC may award high point Girls and Boys separately in this event if the number of contestants warrants such.

- Junior Speed (includes total cumulative points in Goat Tying, Cloverleaf Barrels, Straight Barrels and Poles for Boys and Girls combined).
- Junior Roping (includes total cumulative points in Tiedown Roping, Ribbon Roping and Breakaway Roping for Boys and Girls combined). YHCHC may award high point Girls and Boys separately in this event if the number of contestants warrants such.
- Senior Speed (includes total cumulative points in Goat Tying, Cloverleaf Barrels, Straight Barrels and Poles for Boys and Girls combined).
- Senior Roping (includes total cumulative points in Tiedown Roping, Ribbon Roping and Breakaway Roping for Boys and Girls combined). YHCHC may award high point Girls and Boys separately in this event if the number of contestants warrants such.