



For Immediate Release: May 29, 2020

Based on orders received from the Lincoln / Lancaster County Health Department, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National High School Finals Rodeo will not be able to proceed as planned in Nebraska.

The state's notice reads, "This decision is based, in part, on the risk of the spread of COVID-19 that would be posed to the citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County that would result by bringing thousands of people from dozens of states and, potentially, several countries together. In addition, the large number of people expected to attend, the close proximity those individuals would be in, and the length of time individuals would be at the event are some of the factors causing serious concern with the LLCHD. Because this event has the potential to overwhelm the health resources of the community, not allowing the event to take place is necessary to control the spread of COVID-19 in Lincoln and Lancaster County."

The National High School Rodeo Association is evaluating options for other venues to host the 2020 National High School Finals Rodeo.

"We are disappointed that we will not be able to host the 2020 National High School Rodeo in Nebraska; however, we also respect the decisions made by the state regarding the event," said James Higginbotham, NHSRA executive director. "The youth are our future, and they deserve the opportunity to showcase their skills in the arena. Therefore, NHSRA leadership is evaluating the possibility of holding the event at a different location, while adhering to social distancing mandates to protect the contestants and exhibitors. We will share updates at www.nhsra.com as more information is available."

For further updates, please follow the NHSRA website and social media channels for the latest information.

About the National High School Rodeo Association

The National High School Rodeo Association, the #1 youth rodeo association in the world, was founded in 1949, the mission of the NHSRA has existed first and foremost to promote and support education and to develop the essential attributes of leadership, dedication, commitment and responsibility in high school students. While preserving the western heritage, the NHSRA teaches its members to maintain the highest regard for each other and their livestock. The NHSRA's mission does not stop on the high school level, as the Association also strives to impart to its members the advantage of higher education and the desire to never stop learning. The NHSRA supports their dreams by annually awarding more than

\$550,000.00 in scholarships at the national level and \$1.9 million in scholarship cumulatively on the international level. With over 70 years of history behind the NHSRA and continued growth and success, the organization is preserving the past and preparing for a successful future.