



For Immediate Release: May 1, 2020

The National High School Rodeo Association is canceling the 2020 National Junior High Finals, which were scheduled for June 21-27 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, Iowa.

The NHSRA Executive Committee made this decision due to the uncertainty of the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Multiple components played a role in the decision process, and the top concern was to protect the health and safety of our members, their families, our sponsors and corporate partners and NHSRA staff. The NHSRA spoke with sponsors and corporate partners to obtain additional input, which was taken into consideration when making this difficult decision. The association also took into account the local, state and federal government guidelines and mandates and the shelter-in-place orders that have prevented contestants from competing at rodeos before this much anticipated event.

With the cancellation of this event, NHSRA is focused on planning a healthy and safe 2020 National High School Finals Rodeo, slated for July 19-25, 2020 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The association is working diligently to compile the best possible plan to host the event, pending local, state and federal mandates.

“It is with heavy hearts we had to cancel this event, the youth are our future, and they deserve the opportunity to showcase their skills in the arena,” said James Higginbotham, NHSRA executive director, “Their health is our top concern and one of the main factors we are discussing when planning a safe event for these competitors at the 2020 National High School Finals Rodeo. If any modifications are made to the event, we will share that information on our website and social media platforms.”

For the latest information related to upcoming NHSRA events, visit www.nhsra.com

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.