

RODEO JUDGES COMMITTEE

November 9, 2007, Kansas City

9 people representing 8 associations attended the committee meeting.

Discussion topics on Friday included the ongoing effort for consistency, the need to recruit more students so that we can expand the pool of available judges, the benefits of the expanded rookie program, and a suggestion that judges (or at least one judge) carries a radio. We also spent considerable time discussing chute dogging, and would love to see an investigation of the feasibility of adapting high school rodeo rules for IGRA dogging. We recognize that there may be some logistical issues to work out, but feel this might be an issue for Mr. Beck's vivid imagination to examine for future rodeo rules committee consideration.

In light of the aforementioned ongoing effort for consistency, we recommend that judges confer before the start of a rodeo, or prior to a particular event on the day, and review the event requirements in an effort to insure that we are all on the same page.

Throughout the year, we made a number of recommendations to the Rodeo Rules Committee. One suggestion that we are particularly enthusiastic about is a change to chute dogging wherein the contestant must maneuver all four feet of the steer over the 10 foot line in order to earn a whistle signal from the line judge (which is their signal that "it's okay to dog now"). We firmly believe that this is a positive and necessary rule change which should eliminate a lot of ambiguous "dogs" by contestants, as well as make the event easier to officiate. We encourage the delegates to support this change.

The year-round committee has been very busy. The communication between the members has been extremely frequent and productive. Seminars were held in Phoenix, Oklahoma City, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Kansas City in 2007.

The trustees have recertified all 11 judges who fulfilled the requirements and applied for recertification for 2008. We also have a number of students in various stages of training. Given the "graying" of our current group of judges, we are particularly anxious to develop some new judges. Please help us spread the word. If you or someone you know has an interest in becoming IGRA judges, please contact Rick or myself.

Many thanks to Thom and Brian for all their hard work with us this year, as well as to the convention committee for their valuable suggestions and input.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the 2007 Finals judges: Amy, Rick, Frank and Kyle.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Griffin & Rick Jones