

Report of the Contestant Liaison Committee to the 26th Annual IGRA Convention Saturday, November 13, 2010

The Contestant Liaison Committee met on Friday November 12, 2010 from 10:45 am to 11:45 am. A total of 20 persons attended the meeting, 16 of which were voting members.

Overview of the Business Conducted

Briefly, the committee reviewed the role of the Contestant Liaison (CL), what they do, and who they can be, especially at the local association level.

Last year, a proposal was passed that mandated the IGRA Contestant Liaison Chair, or their designate, attend the new contestant meetings at all IGRA sanctioned rodeos. This was to assist the new competitors in what they needed to know, and provided a venue for all competitors to ask questions and request support if required.

Over the past year this was shown to be very valuable and worthwhile in solving a number of issues before they became problems or protests. This committee recommend this be continued in the future.

I would like to thank all of those who acted as alternate Contestant Liaison throughout the year at various rodeos!

Recommendations

One of the focuses for this committee was to review how having the IGRA Contestant Liaison added to the rodeo experience, what worked, what didn't, and any suggestions they may have:

- Attending the new competitor meetings was demonstrated to be very worthwhile. While it was done verbally this year, it is recommended that the CL Chair or designate be provided with written guidelines outlining items new competitors may need to have highlighted. Suggestions included:
 - Comments on shared rigging
 - How a protest form is completed and handled
 - If there is a logistics issue with two events, who to approach to resolve it
 - Ensure competitor number is on competitor's back, and only safety equipment can cover number without disqualification
 - Reminder of contestant surveys
 - Ensure new competitors breathe, and have FUN
- Review and update the Contestant Comment Form to include the actual events contestant entered, Rodeo "name" versus Rodeo Association, etc. This would assist Rodeo Directors in evaluating comments.
- Review and add to the back of the protest form (suggested) two main items. First, a clear description as to what the intent of a protest is and when it should be filed. Second; develop a flow chart that based on the rules, clearly and simply showing how a protest is

handled and resolution is achieved. This would be good for new competitors as well as a refresher or reminder for those with more experience.

- It was suggested that a reminder, included on the registration form, a check box indicating shared rigging is required. At registration this would act as a check to ensure proper shared rigging paperwork is completed.
- Encourage Trustees thoroughly review the rodeo rules. It was noted during the year that had rules been followed as currently presented that some issued and or protests could have been avoided.
- Encourage associations to contact new competitors after the rodeo directly asking for input as to what went well, and what could be improved.
- Encourage associations to develop their own local Contestant Liaison resource.

I would sincerely like to thank the members of this committee for their input and support now and thought the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Somers
IGRA 2010 Contestant Liaison Chairman