



**National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association  
2015-2016 Patch Program  
Annual Application**

Please fill out the entire application (back side signature) and enclose a money order for \$25 for each patch for which you are applying (\$250 per team). You must read and sign the agreement on the reverse of this form. Sponsors will not be approved for sponsors that are in competition with NIRA sponsors, with the exception of apparel sponsors. If you are granted approval for your sponsor, this application will be good for one NIRA school year.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NIRA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor patch requesting (Only one sponsor per application):

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a \$25 Handling Fee - (Money Orders Only)**

**\*\*\*\*Office Use\*\*\*\***

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Denied:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Patch Program Agreement

**All patch agreements must be approved by the NIRA National Office before contestant is allowed to wear patches in arena.**

Only individual contestant members of the NIRA who are in good standing are eligible to participate in the patch program. Schools, coaches-advisors, stock contractors, contract personnel or others are not eligible to participate. The terms and conditions of these rules and regulations shall be enforceable within the competition arena of every regional rodeo or other NIRA sanctioned event, unless otherwise specified in these rules and regulations.

The patch program shall be in effect on an NIRA school year basis. It is subject to existing and future sponsorship agreements between NIRA, the foundation, and the CNFR.

Contestants may not display an individual sponsorship in the arena at any NIRA rodeo of any company that is in competition with, opposes or demeans any product or service of the national NIRA sponsors. If an individual enters into a sponsorship agreement which complies with these rules and regulations, and the sponsor subsequently develops a product or service in competition with a national sponsor, the individual may continue to honor the terms of such sponsorship only until the end of the current rodeo season.

Patches must represent legitimate businesses or individuals. Thus, cartoon character or similar designs on patches will be allowed only if they are legitimately tied to a specific sponsor. Sponsorship patches cannot be worn or displayed on any part of the required school identification vests or protective vests worn in any event. Only the college or university identification, as described in the NIRA Rulebook, may be on the team vest or protective vest. Wording or design of sponsorship patches cannot be obscene or in poor taste.

Sponsorship patches can be worn or displayed only at regional rodeos (where permitted). Sponsorship patches may be worn or displayed at the CNFR. Subject to national office approval.

Sponsorship patches cannot be worn or displayed at any televised rodeo, at any regional rodeo where signage is restricted or where such sponsorship patches are prohibited by the school producing the rodeo. Any school can prohibit the display of patches at a regional rodeo sponsored by them if this restriction is prominently stated in the announcement for the rodeo.

Only national sponsor patches, no larger than 4 square inches, may be worn on headgear (e.g, patches on hats or protective helmets, sponsor hat bands, etc., in the competition arena, except that no headgear patches will be allowed at the CNFR.

Individual patch sponsors cannot be announced or acknowledged over the public address system at any NIRA sanctioned rodeo. Only national sponsors and approved sponsors of the individual rodeo may be so acknowledged.

Patch sponsors cannot claim any NIRA endorsement nor can they use the NIRA trade name, logos, trademarks, service marks or sponsor identifications in any manner (except recognized national sponsors in accordance with their NIRA sponsorship agreements). A statement to this effect must be given to each commercial sponsor obtained by an individual.

Each individual contestant is responsible for obtaining her/his own sponsors. This program is a privilege intended to help individual with finances. It is not a right. No specific dollar figures can be given that a sponsor should pay to an individual. However, individuals are urged not to cheapen the program by frivolous sponsorships or those with little or no monetary benefit to the contestant. If abuses occur, the program could be discontinued. As a guideline, a commercial or individual sponsor should pay no less than \$500 per year/\$50 per rodeo.

Patches may feature sponsor logo and/or lettering. Patches may not exceed the following size limitations: Sleeve patch – sixteen square inches, Collar patch – five square inches, Chap patch – sixteen square inches, Saddle blanket – sixteen square inches on each side, Breast Collar patch – ten square inches maximum, Headgear Patch – four square inches (only NIRA national sponsors).

Patches may be worn or displayed only in the following areas and may not exceed the following numbers: Two sleeve patches (one per sleeve), Two shirt collar patches (one per side), Four chap patches (two per leg for the riding contestants), Two breast collar patches (one on either side of the horse for the timed event contestants).

Patches must be firmly attached on clothing or equipment used for display – not attached with safety pins.

**JACKET PATCHES:** If a student competes in a region where jackets are allowed in the arena, patches worn on the jackets must be approved through the patch program.

These rules and regulations prohibit the wearing of shirts with brand or other name in large letters on the sleeve or collar except for the NIRA national sponsors. Wearing of such shirt is a violation of these rules and will result in penalties.

Coaches, advisors, or sponsors of rodeo programs at member schools are responsible for ensuring that their NIRA contestant members follow these rules and regulations. Any coach, advisor, sponsor, college or university, because of policy or other restrictions, may prohibit their contestant members from soliciting commercial sponsorships or wearing sponsorship patches. Such a decision is final and individual NIRA members may not appeal such a ruling to the NIRA under the grievance procedure.

Rodeo judges will not be responsible for policing or enforcing the rules and regulations of the patch program. The regional student and faculty director, assisted by the elected event directors, have full authority and responsibility to police and enforce these rules and regulations at all regional rodeos and to levy appropriate fines and/or other penalties as provided in these rules and regulations.

Any contestant found in violation of these rules at a regional rodeo will be requested by the regional student or faculty director to remove or cover sponsorship patches before they compete, and the appropriate fine will be levied. If, after being warned, the contestant competes with, or appears again in the arena with a patch in violation of these rules and regulations, the subsequent fines and penalties outlined will be levied. First offense: Any contestant who violates any of these patch program rules will be assessed a \$50 fine. Subsequent offenses: The fine will double and disqualification from that rodeo may also be ordered. Disqualification from the rodeo, in addition to the doubled and re-doubled fine, is mandatory for the third and subsequent offenses. Violation of these rules by wearing sponsor patches that are not approved by the NIRA national sponsors will result in fines.

**I have read the above rules and regulations and agree to abide by such:**

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